

Regional and State Ocean Activities Summary

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort by the members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission to advance the pace of change for meaningful ocean policy reform consistent with the two Commissions' recommendations. Since early 2005, the Joint Initiative has been engaging leaders in Congress and the Administration on critical ocean policy reform issues. It has also been working closely with Governors and other state leaders, as well as a variety of networks of people involved in local, state, and regional ocean issues, facilitating progress in the regions in order to build durable support for the Initiative's national priorities. For more information, please visit www.jointoceancommission.org.

The following tables provide summary information on regional ocean governance activities in the U.S. The document focuses on regional and state-level initiatives that reflect in many respects the recommendations of the Commissions with regard to implementation of ecosystem-based management. The first section summarizes initiatives begun prior to release of the Commissions' reports; the second focuses on those initiated afterward and includes a subsection on recent state-level activities. The third highlights several examples of processes initiated by nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, or by public-private partnerships.

This is a living document that is updated as existing initiatives evolve and new ones begin. It is not intended to capture all ocean management activities, but instead is a highlight of current progress. For example, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Fishery Commissions, and many state-level coastal management activities, although important, are not included in this summary. This document was prepared by Meridian Institute, which serves the secretariat for the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. To facilitate periodic updates, Meridian Institute would appreciate notification of amendments or additions. Please contact Laura Cantral of Meridian Institute (202-354-6444 or lcantrol@merid.org).

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I. Initiatives Begun *Prior* to U.S. Ocean Commission and Pew Oceans Commission Reports

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
NORTHEAST REGION			
<p>Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment</p> <p>http://www.gulfofmaine.org/</p>	<p>The 1989 Gulf of Maine Agreement on the Marine Environment.</p> <p>Members include two cabinet-level officials from each of the states and provinces surrounding the Gulf, U.S. and Canadian federal officials, and one private sector/NGO representative from each of the five jurisdictions.</p>	<p>“The mission of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment is to maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Gulf of Maine to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.”</p>	<p>Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulf of Maine Action Plan 2007-2012 • Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative • Gulfwatch monitoring program • <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> • Translating science into management • Increasing public awareness
<p>Long Island Sound Study</p> <p>http://www.longislandsoundstudy.net/</p>	<p>U.S.EPA and the states of New York and Connecticut formed the Long Island Sound Study in 1985.</p> <p>A bi-state partnership consisting of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound.</p>	<p>The Study works to protect and improve the health of the Sound by implementing the Sound’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan completed in 1994.</p> <p>The Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative was established in September 2006, with \$6M in research funding.</p>	<p>Members work on seven issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low dissolved oxygen (hypoxia) • Toxic contamination • Pathogen contamination • Floatable debris • Living resources and habitat management • Land use and development • Public involvement and education

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
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MIDATLANTIC REGION

<p>Chesapeake Bay Program</p> <p>http://www.chesapeakebay.net/</p>	<p>Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1983.</p> <p>In addition to Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, members include the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, U.S. EPA, and citizen advisory groups.</p>	<p>Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Highest priority is restoration of the Bay’s living resources by reducing the amount of nutrients—primarily nitrogen and phosphorous—that enter the Bay.</p>	<p>The Bay Program works within a collaborative organizational structure. Members from partner organizations participate in a series of committees that drive and implement the Bay Program’s efforts.</p>
<p>Delaware River Basin Commission</p> <p>www.state.nj.us/drbc/</p>	<p>Established in 1961 by interstate compact legislation signed by President Kennedy and the Governors of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.</p> <p>Comprised of the Governors’ offices mentioned above, as well as a federal representative appointed by the President.</p>	<p>The 1961 law creates “a regional body with the force of law to oversee a unified approach to managing a river system without regard to political boundaries.”</p>	<p>Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed planning and management • Agency coordination • Regulatory review (permits) • Flood and drought management • Recreation • Resolving interstate disputes <p>Providing venues for information exchange and public discourse</p>

GULF OF MEXICO REGION

<p>Gulf of Mexico Program</p> <p>www.epa.gov/gmpo/</p>	<p>Created in 1988 by U.S. EPA.</p> <p>Members include federal agencies (with U.S. EPA lead), Gulf states, and stakeholder groups.</p>	<p>“To facilitate collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Region.”</p> <p>The Program emphasizes</p>	<p>The partnership provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination among federal, state, and local programs • A regional perspective to access and provide information and address research needs
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Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
Gulf of Mexico Program -continued		voluntary, non-regulatory solutions, the use of sound science, and coastal state and community leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A forum for affected groups, public and private educational institutions, and the general public

GREAT LAKES REGION

<p>Great Lakes Commission</p> <p>www.glc.org/</p>	<p>Established by the Great Lakes Compact, a joint legislative action of the Great Lakes states in 1955. A Declaration of Partnership established associate membership for Canadian provinces in 1999.</p> <p>Members include the eight Great Lakes states with associate member status for the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Québec. Each jurisdiction appoints a delegation of three to five members comprised of senior agency officials, legislators, and/or appointees of the Governor or Premier.</p>	<p>“Dedicated to the use, management and protection of the water, land and other natural resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system.”</p> <p>Legislative priorities for FY 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic invasive species • Funding for Great Lakes Regional Collaboration blueprint • Coastal health • Toxic pollutants • Habitat restoration 	<p>Communications, policy research, and advocacy around environmental protection, resource management, transportation, and economic development.</p>
<p>International Joint Commission</p> <p>www.ijc.org/</p>	<p>1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between the U.S. and Canada.</p>	<p>“The International Joint Commission prevents and resolves disputes between the United States of America and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists with implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement • Rules upon applications for approval of projects affecting boundary or transboundary waters • Seeks improvement of transboundary air quality

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
International Joint Commission -continued			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alerts the governments to emerging issues along the boundary that may give rise to bilateral disputes • Pursue strong “Accountability Framework for Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement” (13th IJC Biennial Report, March 2007)
Council of Great Lakes Governors www.cglg.org	Formed in 1983. The Governors of the eight Great Lakes states serve on the council.	<p>“To encourage and facilitate environmentally responsible economic growth.”</p> <p>Pursuing passage of Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact into law.</p>	<p>Major focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating Great Lakes water policy on issues of quantity and quality • Environmental stewardship • Economic development

WEST COAST REGION

CALFED Bay-Delta Program www.calwater.ca.gov	<p>In 1994, the state of California and the United States signed a “Framework Agreement” pledging cooperation on a long-term plan.</p> <p>Members include 25 state and federal agencies.</p>	Charged with “providing accountability, ensuring balanced implementation, tracking and assessing program progress, using sound science, assuring public involvement and outreach, and coordinating and integrating related government programs.”	<p>Agency coordination, annual planning, program assessment, public involvement, and an integrated grant processes to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply reliability • Ecosystem restoration • Water quality • Levee system integrity
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II. Initiatives Begun *After* the U.S. Ocean Commission and Pew Oceans Commission Reports

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
NORTHEAST REGION			
Northeast Regional Ocean Council	<p>August 2005 by resolution at the Annual Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers.</p> <p>Membership includes Governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as premiers of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.</p>	To coordinate scientific, commercial, and environmental issues related to the oceans.	<p>The NROC will collaborate in an Oceans Working Committee with the five Eastern Canadian Premiers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster international cooperation • Facilitate the exchange of information • Seek partnerships to facilitate existing initiatives and encourage new initiatives • Address related environmental issues <p>Provide a vehicle for cooperation on all aspects of oceans management</p>
MID-ATLANTIC REGION			
Oceans and the Future Symposium	Convened September 2005 by Urban Coast Institute at Monmouth University.	Bring attention to the two Commissions' reports, the Administration's Ocean Action Plan, and the Governor's Coast 2005 Initiative. Also, further discussions about improving ocean and coastal management in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region.	

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SOUTHEAST REGION

<p>Coastal Conference on Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Management in the Southeast Region</p> <p>http://www.uncw.edu/dpscs/031906aHome.htm</p>	<p>Convened March 2006 by the University of North Carolina Wilmington.</p>	<p>Address marine science issues related to the Southeast Shelf Regional Ecosystem. Identifying key technical issues and regional priorities, defining geographic scope and scale of these priority issues, and examining a suite of economical and socio-economic indicators to assist with ecosystem-based management.</p>	<p>Conference addressed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish, fisheries, and protected species • Coastal habitats • Pollution and connections to ecosystems and human health • Socio-economic assessment of the southeast ecosystem <p>Water supply and water flow special presentations</p>
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GULF OF MEXICO REGION

<p>Gulf of Mexico Alliance</p> <p>www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/</p>	<p>Spring 2004 by invitation from Governor Jeb Bush of Florida to the other Gulf governors.</p> <p>Membership includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and the Gulf of Mexico States Accord (facilitating Mexican involvement).</p> <p>NOAA and the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program co-chair a 13-agency Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnership Federal Workgroup, supporting state leadership and coordinating an integrated federal response to regional needs identified by the Alliance.</p>	<p>Five Priority Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality for healthy beaches and shellfish beds; ▪ Wetland and coastal conservation and restoration; ▪ Environmental education; ▪ Identification and characterization of Gulf habitats; and ▪ Reducing nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems. 	<p>Sharing science, expertise and financial resources and striving to create a workable, achievable, and comprehensive strategy for enhancing the protection and conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p>The Alliance released the <i>Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts</i> in March 2006, a focused plan to achieve “on the ground” results within 36 months.</p> <p>Public workshops were held between June 2005 and February 2006. <i>A Community Workshop</i></p>
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Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
Gulf of Mexico Alliance -continued			<i>Summary Report</i> summarizing priority issues identified at the workshops was released in August 2006.
Gulf of Mexico Summit www.hri.tamucc.edu/summit.html	<p>Convened by invitation from Governor Rick Perry of Texas to the Governors of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi.</p> <p>Hosted by Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.</p> <p>Co-hosts included state Governors, private industry, state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and academic institutions.</p>	<p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase international knowledge of the Gulf of Mexico • Expand awareness of the socioeconomic and ecological value of the Gulf of Mexico, • Build partnerships for proactive management • Establish a strategy for ensuring the ecological and socioeconomic health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico 	<p>On March 28-30, 2006, the Summit brought together top leaders in all sectors and brought media attention to the Gulf region.</p> <p>Organizers published a report on the state of the Gulf and an action agenda for future efforts.</p>

WEST COAST REGION

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health	In September 2006, Governors Schwarzenegger (CA), Kulongoski (OR), and Gregoire (WA) launched this regional collaboration among the three West Coast states.	<p>To address shared priorities on critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues facing all three states.</p> <p>Priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches • Protecting and restoring ocean and coastal habitats 	<p>Within six month of formation, the three states aim to implement the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call upon federal leaders to provide sufficient funding for nonpoint source pollution control • Send a joint message to federal leaders reinforcing opposition to oil and gas development off of the West Coast
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Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health -continued</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting effective implementation of marine ecosystem-based mgt. • Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development • Increasing ocean literacy • Expanding scientific information, research, and monitoring • Fostering sustainable economic development in coastal communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support development of regional research plan for the West Coast in coordination with research institutions • Request of the White House CEQ help in acquiring technical assistance from federal agencies to address issues of regional significance <p>By Fall 2007, the states plan to announce a more extensive set of specific regional recommendations and initiatives for action.</p>

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

<p>Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Forum</p> <p>www.spc.int/piocean/forum/New/forum.htm</p>	<p>Held February 2-8, 2004 at the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji.</p> <p>The Forum was attended by over 200 people from more than 20 countries.</p>	<p>Purpose was to gather input from stakeholders regarding the actions needed to implement the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, a statement of vision, goals, and principles for ocean management by the Pacific Island communities.</p>	<p>The discussions held at the Forum provided the basis for the implementation framework of the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Framework for Integrated Strategic Action.</p> <p>The four central principles of the framework relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of the ocean • sustainable development and management of ocean resources • health of the ocean • peaceful use of the ocean
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GREAT LAKES REGION			
<p>Great Lakes Regional Collaboration</p> <p>www.glrc.us/</p>	<p>Created by Presidential Executive Order in May 2004 at the request of the Great Lakes congressional delegation. The order created the Great Lakes Interagency Taskforce and directed U.S. EPA to convene a regional collaboration.</p>	<p>Eight priority areas act as the organizing principle for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy released December 2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of concern restoration/sediment • Coastal health • Habitat/species • Indicators and information • Invasive species • Nonpoint source • Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBT) reduction • Sustainable development 	<p>The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy prioritizes actions associated with the eight problem areas and suggests strategies for greater stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>Governor Bob Taft of Ohio and Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago have requested additional federal funds for implementation.</p>

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STATE INITIATIVES

<p>Alaska Ocean Policy Cabinet</p> <p>http://www.adfg.state.ak.us/special/oceans/policy.php</p>	<p>Established by Administrative Order in December 2004.</p> <p>Membership includes four state agency commissioners, the Director of State/Federal Relations, and the Governor’s fishery policy advisor. Directed by the Department of Fish and Game.</p>	<p>To respond to the USCOP recommendations for regional ocean governance.</p>	<p>Facilitating coordination and communication related to common ocean research and management goals, priorities, and results.</p> <p>Working with North Pacific Fishery Management Council on Aleutian Islands Fishery Ecosystem Plan.</p>
<p>Protection Our Ocean: California’s Action Strategy</p> <p>www.resources.ca.gov/copc/</p>	<p>Comprehensive ocean strategy released by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in October of 2004.</p> <p>The Governor directed the development of this plan of action for ocean and coastal management that would address actions at all levels of government, academia, public interest groups, and philanthropic interests.</p>	<p>Mission: To improve the protection, management, and restoration of California’s ocean and coastal ecosystems for their intrinsic value and for the benefit of current and future generations.</p> <p>Goals relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Economics and funding • Research, education, and technology development • Stewardship 	<p>Plan sets for 13 specific actions for the state to address the four goals.</p> <p>California hosted the <i>California and the World Oceans</i> conference on September 17-20, 2006.</p>
<p>California Ocean Protection Council</p> <p>www.resources.ca.gov/copc/</p>	<p>Established in 2004 pursuant to the requirements of the California Ocean Protection Act.</p> <p>Members include the Secretary for Resources, Secretary for Environmental</p>	<p>Coordinate and improve the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources and to help implement Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s plan <i>Protection</i></p>	<p>The council is tasked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate activities of state agencies • Coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data • Identify and recommend

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<p>California Ocean Protection Council -continued</p>	<p>Protection, Chair of the State Lands Commission, and two ex-officio legislative members.</p>	<p><i>Our Ocean: California's Action Strategy.</i></p>	<p>changes in state and federal law</p> <p>Ocean Research Strategy adopted September 2005.</p> <p>Ecosystem-based Management Initiatives announced January 2006.</p> <p>5-year strategic plan released August 2006, with themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Research and monitoring • Ocean and coastal water quality • Physical processes and habitat structure • Ocean and coastal ecosystems • Education and outreach <p>Marine debris reduction and prevention resolution adopted February 2007.</p>
<p>Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council</p> <p>www.dep.state.fl.us/oceanscouncil</p>	<p>Established by the state legislature in 2004.</p> <p>Fifteen council members were appointed in August 2005 from various stakeholder, academic, and government organizations.</p>	<p>Develop priorities for ocean and coastal research, establish a statewide ocean research plan, and coordinate public and private ocean research for more effective coastal management.</p>	<p>The council was to have established a statewide ocean research plan and made management recommendations to the state legislature, but original funding vetoed by former Governor Bush.</p> <p>Current Governor Charlie Crist has included \$8M in funding in</p>

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<p>Massachusetts Oceans Act, S.2308</p>	<p>Prompted by the final recommendations of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force.</p> <p>This legislation passed the Massachusetts Senate in July 2006, but the legislative session ended before the House was able to consider it. It will be re-filed in the next legislative session with a big push expected to get it passed in 2007. **</p>	<p>Calls for the development and implementation of an ocean management plan that would govern development activities and foster environmentally sustainable uses in Massachusetts waters, while protecting valuable marine resources.</p> <p>If enacted, the legislation would be the first of its kind in the nation.</p>	<p>A broadly representative ocean management advisory board would assist the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in designing an ocean management plan. A separate ocean science advisory council would assist the Secretary in gathering and analyzing the best available scientific information.</p>
<p>New Jersey Coast 2005</p> <p>www.state.nj.us/dep/cmp/czm_zone.html</p>	<p>Established in 2005 by former Governor Richard Codey.</p>	<p>Strengthen protections for water quality, habitat, and the ocean.</p>	<p>The initiative has three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target grants to accelerate projects that improve coastal water quality • Strengthen standards for ocean dischargers • Enhance plans and strategies for coastal growth management
<p>New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council</p> <p>Press release: www.ny.gov/governor/press/06/0809061.html</p>	<p>Established in August 2006 by the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act.</p> <p>The nine-member council is comprised of the heads of state agencies and chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.</p> <p>The Act stipulates that it shall be the</p>	<p>Council responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote understanding, protection, restoration, and enhancement of NY's ocean and Great Lakes ecosystems while promoting economic development • Ensure that community needs are addressed 	<p>The council will complete a report to the governor and legislature by November 2008 defining government actions needed to integrate ecosystem-based management with existing programs.</p> <p>It will create an atlas of ocean and coastal resources to help ensure</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council -continued</p>	<p>policy of the state to: “conserve, maintain, and restore coastal ecosystems so that they are healthy, productive, and resilient and able to deliver the resources people want and need.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and implement an adaptive approach • Integrate and coordinate EBM with existing laws and programs • Develop guidelines for agency programs and activities • Encourage scientific research and information sharing to inform EBM • Integrate academia and non-profits more effectively to advance marine EBM • Facilitate regional coordination and cooperation to address cross-jurisdictional issues 	<p>accurate information is available at all levels of government.</p> <p>Governor Pataki announced a \$3 million appropriation for the council’s activities.</p>
<p>Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council</p> <p>http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPA/C/</p>	<p>Reconstituted by the Oregon legislature in early 2005 (had existed previously from 1991-2002).</p> <p>Members are the directors of seven state agencies and 16 other members, who are appointed by the Governor.</p>	<p>Created to give coordinated policy advice to the governor, state agencies, and others and to prepare a plan for Oregon’s Territorial Sea.</p>	<p>Has no authority to directly regulate ocean activities, manage resources, or to enforce its plans or policies. However, once its plans and policies are approved by the Land Conservation and Development Commission, state agencies are required to carry them out or act consistently with them.</p> <p>Currently has three working groups that highlight most pressing ocean policy issues in Oregon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Reserves Working

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Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council -continued			Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Sanctuary Working Group • Wave Energy Working Group
Puget Sound Partnership www.pugetsoundpartnership.org	Established by Governor Christine Gregoire of Washington in December 2005. Members include elected and public officials, tribal leaders, business interests, and environmentalists.	To achieve a clean and healthy Puget Sound by 2020 by “accelerating protection and restoration of Puget Sound and Hood Canal.”	The 2006 supplemental budget included over \$50 million in funding for initial clean-up activities. The Partnership released its final report and recommendations in December 2006, including a 2020 action agenda with five priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean areas with septic problems • Habitat protection • Habitat restoration • Accelerate control and cleanup of toxic pollution • Reduce polluted stormwater runoff Legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to formally create a permanent Puget Sound Partnership as a new state agency (HB 1374 / SB 5372).

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group</p> <p>http://courses.washington.edu/ocean.gov/OPWG.html</p>	<p>In mid-2005, the state legislature provided funding for Governor Gregoire's office and three state agencies to develop a policy advisory group. The funding was approved after a bill to establish an ocean council (promoted by a handful of legislators) failed in 2005.</p> <p>Twenty members, made up of agency heads, legislative members, the Governor's office, and tribal representatives.</p>	<p>Identify recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy appropriate for immediate implementation and recommend areas for improved coordination, management, legislation, and finance of ocean resource management and protection by Washington State.</p> <p>Six focus areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Marine Resource Stewardship • Sustainable & Resilient Communities • Coastal Vulnerabilities from Marine Sources • Ocean Research, Observation & Education 	<p>Charged to develop two reports on priority ocean resource management topics.</p> <p>The first report, <i>Action for Washington's Ocean: Initial Steps to Enhance Management of Washington State's Ocean and Outer Coasts</i>, was released in December 2005.</p> <p>Conducted stakeholder outreach to coastal communities for feedback during spring 2006.</p> <p>The final report was released in December 2006 and included 60+ recommendations in the six policy focus areas.</p> <p>Legislation has been introduced in the current session to formally create a Washington State Ocean Policy Advisory Council.</p>

III. Nongovernmental and Public-Private Partnerships

The following are examples of NGO, academic, and public-private partnerships that are working toward change in regional ocean policy. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative welcomes input on other examples.

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
University of Washington Regional Ocean Governance Project http://courses.washington.edu/oceangov/project_summary.html	August 2004 Members include NOAA (funding), University of Washington Professor Marc Hershman, and The Nature Conservancy.	Working to assess the potential for a regional ocean governance pilot project in the Pacific Northwest.	Coastal Zone '05: Regional Ocean Governance Workshop TCS20 Conference: Regional Ocean Governance Workshop Final Project Report available winter 2007.
The California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/	In 1999, state legislation directed the state to develop a system of MPAs. The California Resources Agency and California Department of Fish and Game are partnering with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation.	Design and manage a network of marine protected areas in order to protect marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities.	Task Force Initiative Phase II announced February 2007. Task Force charged with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee regional project to develop MPA proposals for north central coast • Prepare recommendations for coordination with federal agencies • Provide guidance for use of funding

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Florida Ocean Alliance</p> <p>www.floridaoceanalliance.org/</p>	<p>Formed in 1999 from the work of the Florida Governor’s Ocean Committee.</p> <p>Members include a broad spectrum of stakeholders from the private and public sectors.</p>	<p>Bring together government, academic, and private sectors to protect and enhance ocean and coastal resources.</p>	<p>Serves a clearinghouse for information on key ocean and coastal issues and monitors and publicizes actions related to the oceans and coasts.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and education • Conferences, studies, and papers • Testimony to state and federal agencies
<p>The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Planning Marine Initiative</p>	<p>Includes NOAA (funding), NOS Coastal Services Center (grant implementation), TNC Marine Initiative</p>	<p>Developing conservation plans and strategies to improve the role and availability of socio-economic and geo-political data in ecoregional planning and decision-making.</p>	<p>Produces ecoregional plans and provides training and guidance for implementing this new approach.</p> <p>The first Marine Ecoregional Plan was completed for the northern Gulf of Mexico.</p> <p>Other marine ecoregional plans for Willamette Valley/Puget Trough/Georgia Basin (Pacific Northwest), Southern California, Mid-South Atlantic, Central and South Florida and Northern California are in progress.</p>