

# WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON



**Kathleen Drew**  
**Executive Policy Advisor**  
**Washington Governor Chris Gregoire**

**Pacific Ballast Water Group**  
**January 15, 2009**

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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California



Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon



Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of  
Washington

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## Seven Priority Areas

1. Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches
2. Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats
3. Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources
4. Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development
5. Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens
6. Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring
7. Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities



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## WCGA Executive Committee

### State Co-leads

- Kathleen Drew, WA
- Jessica Hamilton, OR
- Brian Baird, CA

### Federal Co-leads

- Usha Varanasi, DOC/NOAA
- Alexis Strauss, EPA Region IX
- Fred Piltz, DOI/MMS

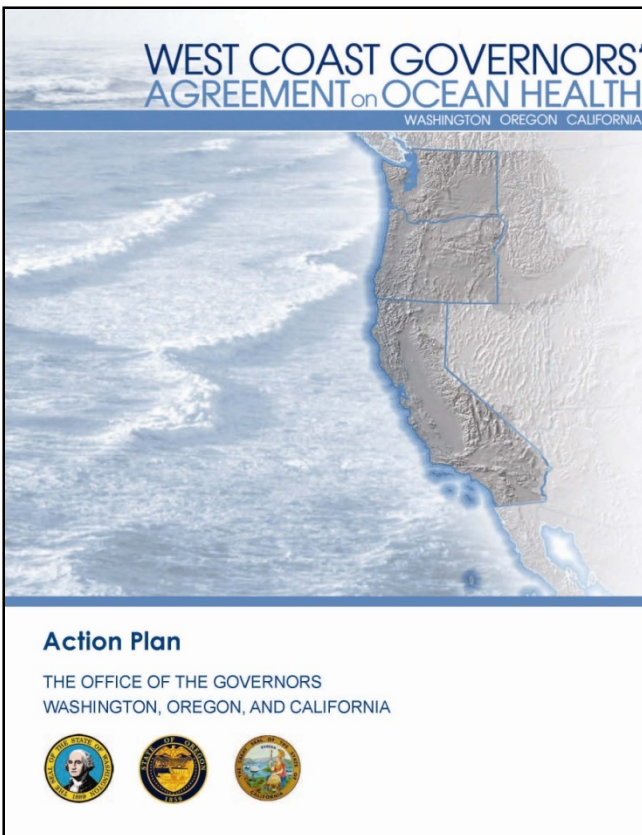
## WCGA staff

- Jennifer Hennessey, WA
- Amy Boone-Vierra, CA
- Valerie Termini, CA
- Ephraim Leon-Guerrero, EPA
- Becky Smyth, DOC/NOAA
- Becky Pollock, DOC/NOAA
- Tom Hom, DOC/NOAA

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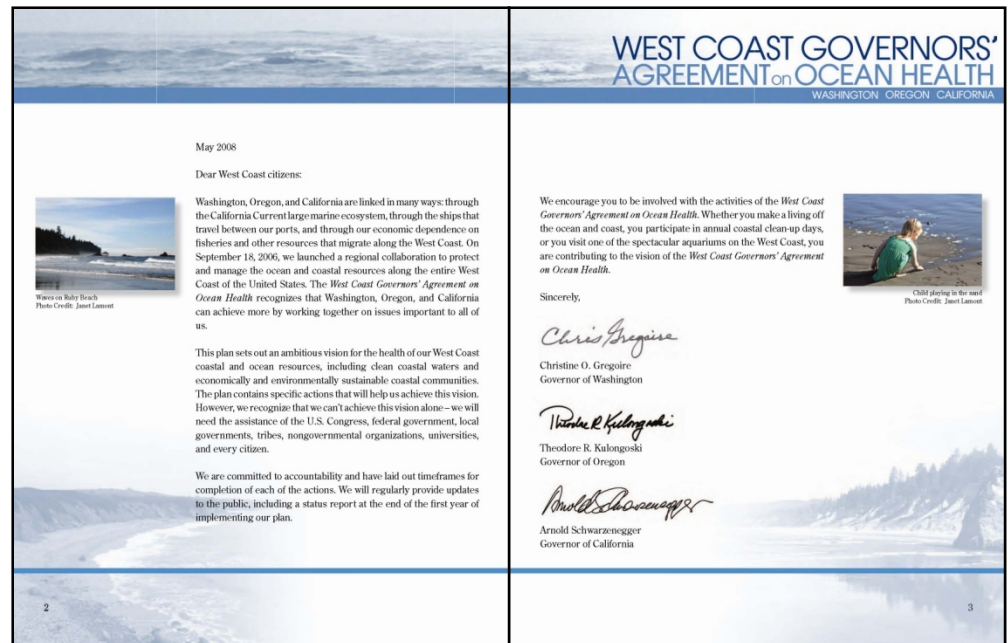

- **Draft Action Plan released in October 2007**
- **Open for public comment until December 2007**
- **Final Plan released July 2008**



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**Action Plan**


THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNORS  
WASHINGTON, OREGON, AND CALIFORNIA



WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH  
WASHINGTON OREGON CALIFORNIA

May 2008

Dear West Coast citizens:




Waves on Holly Beach  
Photo Credit: Janet Lambert

Washington, Oregon, and California are linked in many ways through the California Current large marine ecosystem, through the ships that travel between our ports, and through our economic dependence on fisheries and other resources that migrate along the West Coast. On September 18, 2006, we launched a regional collaboration to protect and manage the ocean and coastal resources along the entire West Coast of the United States. The *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health* recognizes that Washington, Oregon, and California can achieve more by working together on issues important to all of us.

This plan sets out an ambitious vision for the health of our West Coast coastal and ocean resources, including clean coastal waters and economically and environmentally sustainable coastal communities. The plan contains specific actions that will help us achieve this vision. However, we recognize that we can't achieve this vision alone – we will need the assistance of the U.S. Congress, federal government, local governments, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and every citizen.

We are committed to accountability and have laid out timeframes for completion of each of the actions. We will regularly provide updates to the public, including a status report at the end of the first year of implementing our plan.

We encourage you to be involved with the activities of the *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health*. Whether you make a living off the ocean and coast, you participate in annual coastal clean-up days, or you visit one of the spectacular aquariums on the West Coast, you are contributing to the vision of the *West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health*.



Child playing in the sand  
Photo Credit: Janet Lambert

Sincerely,

*Christine O. Gregoire*  
Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor of Washington

*Theodore R. Kulongoski*  
Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Governor of Oregon

*Arnold Schwarzenegger*  
Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California


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# WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

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## 26 Actions including...

- 
- Call for a national ocean trust fund
  - Mitigate and adapt to climate change
  - Reduce marine debris
  - Reduce air pollution from ocean-going tankers
  - Eradicate non-native *Spartina* by 2018
  - Implement ecosystem-based management
  - Explore feasibility of wave and tidal energy
  - Promote ocean awareness and literacy
  - Map the states' seafloor by 2020
  - Work for sustainable coastal communities

# WEST COAST GOVERNORS' AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH

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## Action Coordination Teams

- 
1. Climate change
  2. Polluted runoff
  3. Marine debris
  4. Spartina eradication
  5. Integrated ecosystem assessments (IEAs)
  6. Renewable ocean energy
  7. Ocean education
  8. Sustainable communities
  9. Regional research
  10. Seafloor mapping

**Comprised of members from:**

- + Each of the 3 states
- + Federal government
- + Tribal governments
- + Academia
- + NGOs
- + Industry

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## West Coast Governors' Ocean Action Team Meeting

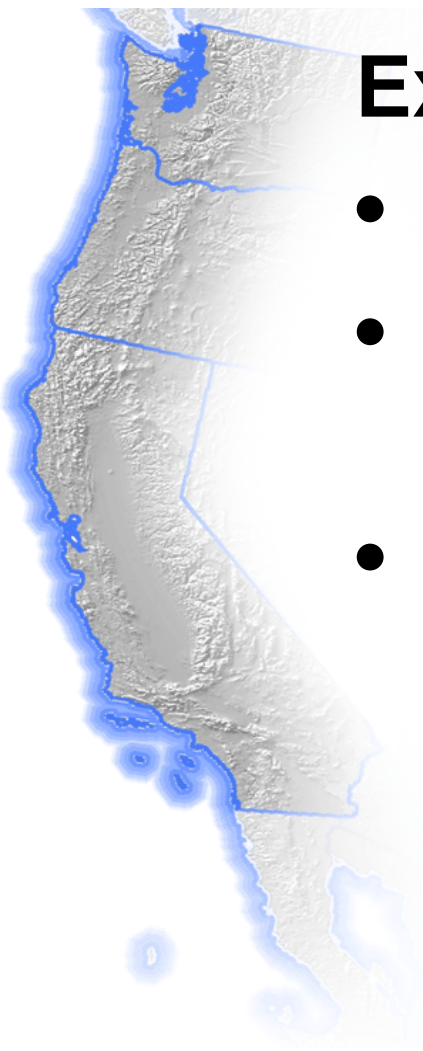
- October 27-28, 2008 in Seattle
- Targeted, working meeting to kick-off the efforts of the Action Teams
  - Face-to-face breakout sessions on work plans and timelines
- Action Plans expected Feb or March 2009
- Teams' progress will be tracked by the Executive Committee

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## **Existing work groups include:**

- Pacific Ballast Water Group
- Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force
- Community-based EBM group



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**Action 2.3: Prevent the future introduction of marine invasive species.** The states will support the efforts of the Pacific Ballast Water Group and existing state teams to coordinate their ballast water policies. They will cooperate to prevent the spread of invasive species by reducing pathways of introduction such as ballast water, vessel hulls of commercial ships and recreational boats, and boat trailers traveling across state boundaries.

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## Opportunities for collaboration

- Support for federal legislation
- Federal funding requests



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[www.westcoastoceans.gov](http://www.westcoastoceans.gov)



**Thank you!**