



West Coast
OCEAN ALLIANCE

2023 Activities Update

John Hansen

WCOA Executive Director

IOOS Advisory Committee Meeting

MBARI – June 28, 2023



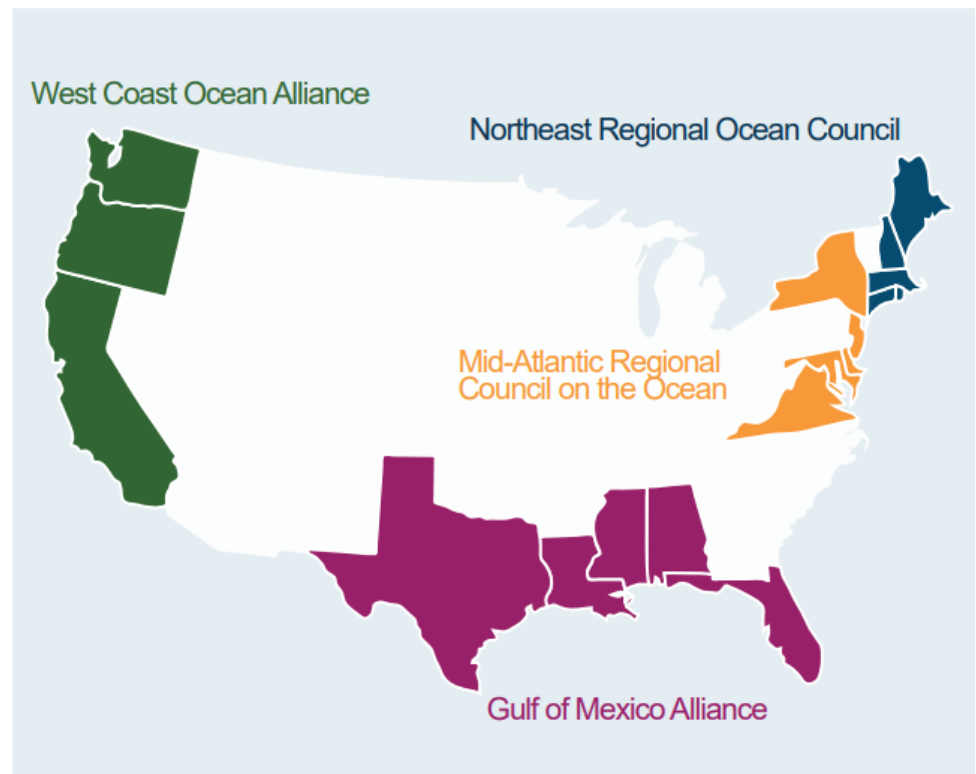


ROPs focus on **issues that are priorities for their region** (ROPs ensure activities are centered around the unique needs of their regional members regardless of national priorities).

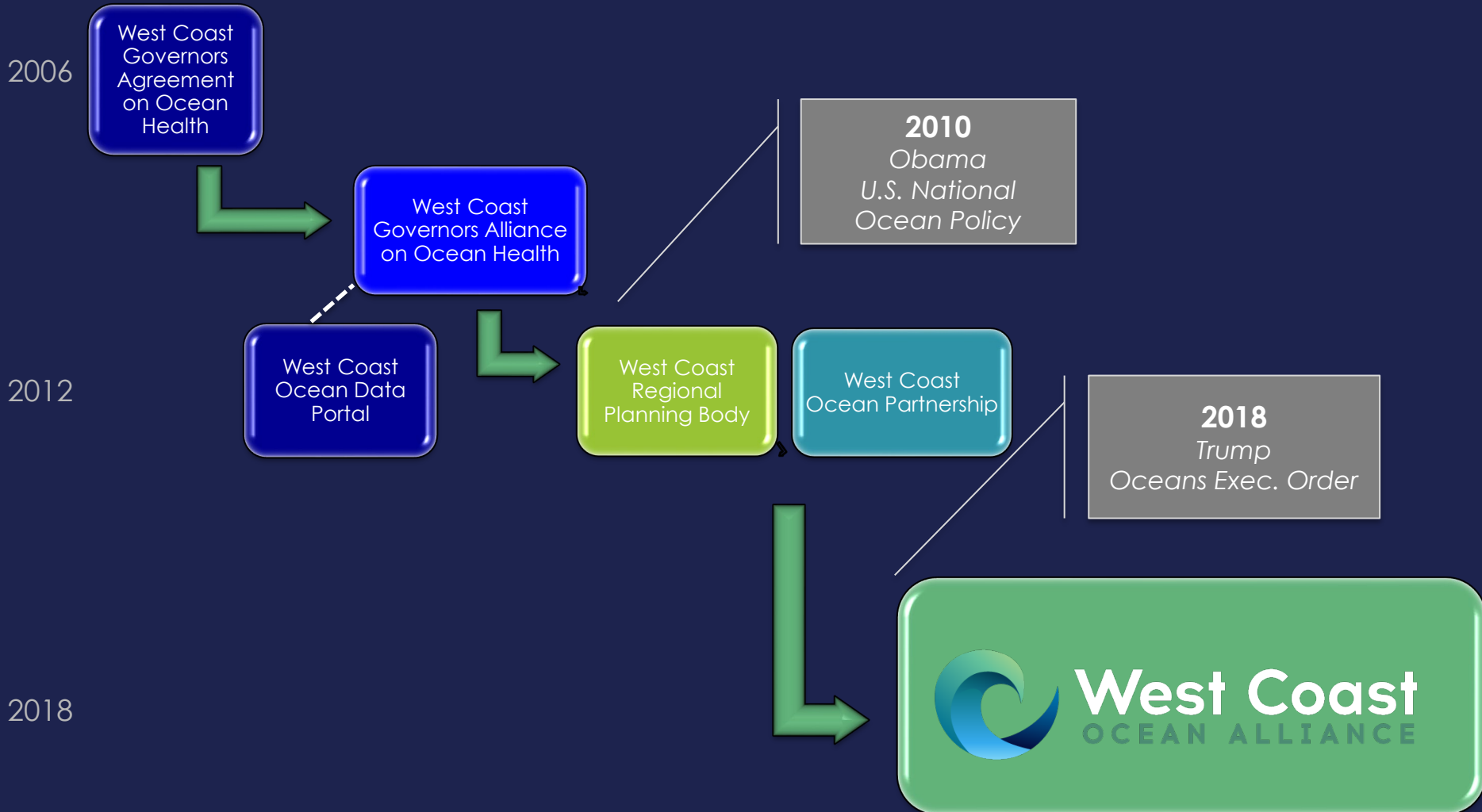
They **are inclusive and provide a voice for a wide variety of government partners and stakeholders**, including state, federal and tribal governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, and business and industry.

ROPs provide **intentional and inclusive coordination and collaboration** (sustained collaboration among regional stakeholders does not happen without active facilitation).

They have the ability to **leverage public and private funding** to accomplish multi-agency common objectives for the priorities of that region.



U.S. West Coast Evolution



West Coast Ocean Alliance

- TRIBAL, STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS
- REGIONAL & SUB-REGIONAL COORDINATION
- WEST COAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL
- FLEXIBILITY + RESPONSIVE TO REGIONAL NEEDS
- NON-REGULATORY



West Coast Regional Vision



Our Regional Vision

Ocean conditions are changing, new uses of the sea are emerging, and the authorities for ocean management are complex and overlapping. These West Coast-wide challenges are best evaluated holistically rather than as individual management entities. Our work will support healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems and communities that thrive on ocean resources.

Our Goals & Objectives

• COMPATIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE OCEAN USES

- Increase understanding of past, current, and future interactions among ocean uses and the ocean and coastal ecosystem
- Proactively engage federal, tribal, state and local authorities to assimilate current and emerging regional ocean issues

• EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING

- Host an intergovernmental forum that supports open, transparent, and equitable dialogue based on a common vision for the West Coast
- Develop a clear, collective understanding of all co-management responsibilities and jurisdictions
- Avoid duplication in planning by building on existing efforts and including all relevant management entities

• COMPREHENSIVE OCEAN AND COASTAL DATA

- Facilitate ongoing discovery of, connectivity to, and sharing of data and science from all relevant entities through the West Coast Ocean Data Portal
- Include traditional knowledge in databases as appropriate
- Identify core data sets and produce synthesized data products to incorporate in decision-making
- Identify data gaps and collaborate to fill them

• INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF AND RESPECT FOR TRIBAL RIGHTS, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES AND PRACTICES

- Improve understanding of tribal rights and trust responsibilities
- Ensure inclusion and consideration of traditional knowledge in ocean management and decision-making as appropriate
- Improve awareness and recognition of traditional ocean uses

For federally-recognized Tribes along the West Coast, each its own sovereign nation, there are numerous languages, differing histories, and varying relationships with the ocean and resources therein. It is each tribe's inherent right and responsibility to continue acting as stewards of the ocean, as they have since time immemorial. For Tribes, the ocean is home, a life force, a source of strength, and a foundation of tribal health and well-being. It is in the Tribes' best interests to strengthen partnerships with other managers and increase tribal capacity to address shared concerns and responsibilities for the ocean.



New Federal Support

- BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW
 - NOAA ROP FUNDING: \$10M/YR x 5YRS (2023-2027)
 - ~\$2M ANNUALLY PER REGION
 - \$1M ANNUALLY FOR TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT & PLANNING
- NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
 - REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION



2023 West Coast Projects

- WCOA 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
- WCOA STAFF & CAPACITY
- TRIBAL CAPACITY AND SUPPORT
- NEW WEST COAST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
- REGIONAL OCEAN SUMMITS
- WEST COAST AQUACULTURE INVENTORY
- TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT TRAINING
- WEST COAST OCEAN HEALTH DASHBOARD
- DATA PORTAL SUPPORT & MAINTENANCE



Offshore Wind Engagement

- ONGOING OSW PLANNING
UPDATES & INFORMATION SHARING
- OFFSHORE WIND WORKING GROUP
- OFFSHORE WIND SUMMIT (2024)
- TRACKING WEST COAST OSW
SCIENCE ENTITY DEVELOPMENT



WCOA +
West Coast
Ocean Data Portal

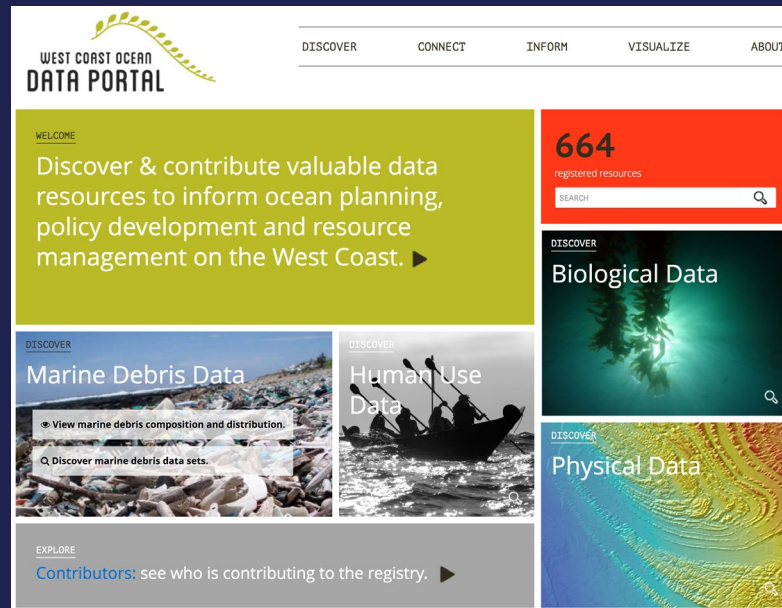


WCOA Goals & Objectives

1. Compatible and sustainable ocean uses
2. Effective and transparent decision-making
3. Comprehensive ocean and coastal data
4. Increased understanding of and respect for tribal rights, traditional knowledge, resources and practices



Comprehensive ocean and coastal data



“Facilitate ongoing discovery of, connectivity to, and sharing of data and science from all relevant entities through the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.”





West Coast
OCEAN ALLIANCE

Thank You!

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