

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.

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).

Last updated: October 28, 2008

Initiatives Begun *Prior* to U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy 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 Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, 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>Guiding Principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologically sustainable development • Ecosystem-based planning and management <p>Action Plan Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and restore habitats 2. Foster environment and human health 3. Support vibrant coastal communities 	<p>Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulf of Maine Toolkit Survey Report outlined key findings from a survey of managers on the implementation of ecosystem-based management • Gulf of Maine Action Plan 2007-2012 • Gulf of Maine Mapping Initiative • Ecosystem Indicator Partnership • Gulfwatch monitoring program • <i>Gulf of Maine Times</i> • Translating science into management • Encouraging public information and participation-based planning and management
<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 protects and improves the health of the Sound by implementing the Sound’s Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.</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 • Land use and development • Public involvement and education

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
MIDATLANTIC REGION			
<p>Chesapeake Bay Program</p> <p>http://www.chesapeakebay.net/</p>	<p>Established by 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>July 2008 EPA report to Congress Strengthening the Management, Coordination, and Accounting of the Chesapeake Bay Program outlines the Chesapeake bay Program Action Plan.</p> <p>The Action Plan is a strategic framework for integration of programs and activities. It includes activity integration plan, partner action summaries, and adaptive management process.</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 • Providing venues for information exchange and public discourse

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
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.” The Program emphasizes voluntary, non-regulatory solutions, the use of sound science, and coastal state and community leadership.</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 • A forum for affected groups, public and private educational institutions, and the general public
GREAT LAKES REGION			
<p>Council of Great Lakes Governors</p> <p>www.cglg.org</p>	<p>Formed in 1983. Members include the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, as well as Ontario and Quebec.</p>	<p>“To encourage and facilitate environmentally responsible economic growth through a cooperative effort between the public and private sectors among the eight Great Lakes States and with Ontario and Québec.”</p>	<p>Major focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating water policy • Environmental stewardship • International trade and economic development <p>By summer 2008, all eight member states passed Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact into law.</p> <p>Following a public comment period, the Regional Body adopted regional water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives. The Initiative will now assist the Great Lakes states and provinces in working together to develop specific conservation and efficiency goals.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<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>“The Great Lakes are an environmental and economic asset that merits a national investment equal to other ecosystem restoration initiatives.”</p> <p>Legislative priorities for FY 2009 presented to 110th Congress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic invasive species • Funding for Great Lakes Regional Collaboration implementation • Coastal health • Toxic pollutants • Habitat and species restoration • Indicators and information • Water resource infrastructure • Sustainability 	<p>Communications, policy research, and advocacy around environmental protection, resource management, transportation, and economic development.</p> <p>Trying to restore the Great Lakes fish and wildlife in order to “turn from toxic hotspot to vacation hotspot.”</p> <p>Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Compact was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p>Endorsed the recommendations of the Council of Great Lakes Governors to Congress and complemented the requests with own priority issues.</p>
<p>International Joint Commission</p> <p>www.ijc.org/</p>	<p>Established by the 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"> • Convenes Great Lakes biennial meetings • Assists with implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement • Rules upon applications for approval of projects affecting boundary or transboundary waters • Alerts the governments to emerging issues along the boundary that may give rise to bilateral disputes • Pursues strong “Accountability

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<i>International Joint Commission (continued)</i>			<p>Framework for Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement" (13th IJC Biennial Report, March 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Order of Approval • Released 2 reports on Canada-US transboundary air quality and seeks improvement on air quality.

WEST COAST REGION

<p>CALFED Bay-Delta Program www.calwater.ca.gov</p>	<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>	<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>	<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 and Ecosystem Restoration • Levee system integrity <p>Water Quality Program tracks drinking water access as well as the presence of harmful elements and chemicals in the ecosystem.</p>
--	--	---	---

Initiatives Begun *After* the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission Reports

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
NORTHEAST REGION			
<p>Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)</p>	<p>Created in August 2005 and May 2006 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>	<p>Created to provide the regional long-term protection of ocean resources, the balanced use of those resources for economic and ecological benefits, and a coordinated approach to finding and implementing solutions.</p> <p>NROC's goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate priority issues identified by regional entities and raise awareness through actions taken by NROC partners and the New England Governors. • Identify issues that require regional solutions and to identify appropriate partners to address them. • Identify regional data collection and assessment needs. 	<p>The 2007 Annual Report confirmed the completion of all five priority action items from the 2006-2007 Work Plan. Notably, the Council created a regional alliance for Southeastern New England's sounds similar to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.</p> <p>The Ocean Working Committee will produce an annual regional ocean management priorities statement. The Oceans Working Group was created to focus efforts on completing a long-term strategy to advance regional governance issues.</p> <p>The Council decided to form work groups to carry out Action Plans in the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean energy resource planning and management • Ocean and coastal ecosystem health • Maritime security • Coastal hazard response and resiliency

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
GULF OF MEXICO REGION			
<p>Gulf of Mexico Alliance</p> <p>www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/</p>	<p>Established in 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>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>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 • Reducing nutrient inputs to coastal ecosystems • Coastal resiliency <p>At the midpoint of the 3 year implementation of Governor's Action Plan, the next steps outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and expand partnerships • Develop farther-reaching five-year regional action plan and associated legislation • Formalize Alliance governance by adopting by-laws 	<p>The Alliance's state management teams met with representatives of the Federal Integrated Committee on Science and Resource Management Integration on August 24, 2007. The meeting's objectives were to discuss the Alliance's accomplishments and to explore avenues for strengthening state-federal cooperation.</p> <p>Governor Haley Barbour hosted a meeting of Gulf governors and federal agency representatives at the Southern Governors' Association's Summer Meeting in August 2007.</p> <p>Issued midcourse accomplishments report on 73 actions put forth in <i>Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts</i> in March 2006.</p> <p>Established Coastal Community Resiliency Working Group.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Gulf of Mexico Summit</p> <p>http://stateofthegulf.org</p>	<p>Hosted by the Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on March 28-30, 2006.</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 socio-economic and ecological value of the Gulf of Mexico • Build partnerships for proactive management • Establish a strategy for ensuring the ecological and socio-economic health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico 	<p>Governors of Five Gulf states formally agreed to an action plan for the Gulf of Mexico Alliance at this venue.</p> <p>The Summit brought together top leaders in all sectors and increased 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

<p>Alaska Marine Ecosystem Forum (AMEF)</p>	<p>In September 2006, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council signed a memorandum of understanding with 10 federal and 4 state agencies to create the AMEF.</p>	<p>“The AMEF seeks to improve coordination and cooperative understanding between the agencies on issues of shared responsibilities related to the marine ecosystem off Alaska’s coast.”</p> <p>“Through coordinated and cooperative understanding, the AMEF seeks to ensure that the interest of the people, biota, and physical environment of Alaska’s marine waters are well served.”</p>	<p>The initial focus of the AMEF will be on the Aleutian Islands marine ecosystem.</p>
---	--	--	--

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health</p> <p>http://westcoastoceans.gov</p>	<p>In September 2006, Governors Schwarzenegger (CA), Kulongoski (OR), and Gregoire (WA) launched this regional collaboration among the three West Coast states.</p>	<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 • Promoting effective implementation of marine ecosystem-based management • Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development • Increasing ocean literacy • Expanding scientific information, research, and monitoring • Fostering sustainable economic development in coastal communities 	<p>The Agreement called for the following specific actions, which have been completed or are significantly under way:</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 • 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>The states released a final Action Plan in July 2008. The report's actions focused on the Agreement's priority areas, but also called for heightened national attention to ocean issues and regional preparation efforts for the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Alternative Energy Development in the West Coast Ocean Environment workshop held in September 2008.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
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"> • Aquatic invasive species • Habitat conservation and species management • Coastal health • Areas of concern/sediments • Nonpoint sources • Toxic pollutants • Sound information base and representative indicators • Sustainability 	<p>The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy prioritizes actions associated with the eight problem areas and suggests strategies for greater stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>Draft Mercury Phase-down Strategy released in August 2007 with public comment period ending in October 2007.</p> <p>Workshops held in summer 2008 to produce a Call to Action document on Habitat and Wetlands Restoration in Fall 2008.</p>
STATE INITIATIVES			
<p>California Ocean Protection Council</p> <p>www.resources.ca.gov/copc/</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 Protection, Chair of the State Lands Commission, and two ex-officio legislative members.</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>Protecting Our Ocean: California's Action Strategy</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 	<p>Ocean Research Strategy adopted September 2005.</p> <p>Released <i>Protecting Our Ocean: California's Action Strategy</i>, a plan 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>Ecosystem-based Management</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p><i>California Ocean Protection Council</i> (continued)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recommend changes in state and federal law <p>A 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>Initiatives named in January 2006.</p> <p>Marine debris reduction and prevention resolution adopted February 2007.</p> <p>Released draft <i>Strategy to Reduce Ocean Litter</i>, proposing a statewide plastic bag and container ban. Public comments for the plan were accepted until August 2008.</p>
<p>Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council</p> <p>www.dep.state.fl.us/oceanscouncil</p>	<p>Established by the state legislature in 2005 by the Oceans and Coastal Resources Act.</p> <p>Three non-voting and 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>Four research priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Climate change • Ocean and coastal ecosystems • Tools and technology for ocean and coastal observing <p>Four funding priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council administration and operation • Legislatively-defined duties • Integrated data management and dissemination • Priority research 	<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>Released Annual Research Plans for the past 3 years.</p> <p>Launched the Geospatial Assessment of Marine Ecosystems project to gather existing biological and physical information in a web-based format to identify critical information gaps and to define and map Florida's marine ecosystem.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council</p>	<p>Created by Governor Linda Lingle in January 2005.</p> <p>Established in the Department of Land and Natural Resources with 25 members from state, federal, and local government, NGOs, and academia.</p> <p>The Ocean Resources Management Plan was submitted to the Hawaii legislature on December 28, 2006.</p>	<p>Provide advice to guide the Governor's positions on ocean issues.</p> <p>Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting land and sea • Preserving ocean heritage • Promoting collaboration and stewardship 	<p>In October 2005, upon request, the Council provided recommendations for an update of the state's Ocean Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>In February 2006, legislation was introduced (SB 2361) to formalize continuation of the Council in state law.</p>
<p>Maine Bay Management Study</p> <p>www.state.me.us/dmr/baystudy/baystudy.htm</p>	<p>In 2003, state legislation directed Maine's Land and Water Resources Council to undertake a two and a half-year study "to explore and document potential new and innovative concepts for the management of Maine's embayments."</p> <p>Work is being performed by an interagency staff-level team with input from a project steering committee consisting of members of the public with expertise in relevant fields of interest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the study is to create an improved nearshore governance system that is regional in nature, provides for improved local input, incorporates scientific information, and manages for multiple uses. 	<p>The Bay Management study has three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public participation • Pilot projects • Staff research and analysis <p>Final report released in January 2007. Main recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced regional management of nearshore waters • Increased availability of nearshore information • Improved state framework for nearshore management • Increased number and type of funding sources <p>Completed Taunton Bay Resource Plan which focused on science, local stewardship, and adaptive management.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Massachusetts Ocean Act</p> <p>www.massococeanaction.org</p>	<p>Prompted by the final recommendations of the Massachusetts Ocean Management Task Force. This legislation passed the Massachusetts Senate in July 2006 (as S. 2653), but the legislative session ended before the House was able to consider it.</p> <p>It was re-filed for the 2007-2008 legislative session, where it was reported favorably out of the joint House/Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, and Agriculture after a hearing on June 13, 2007. It was subsequently referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.</p> <p>The Massachusetts Senate passed the bill on September 27, 2007. The House passed its version of the bill on February 13, 2008. Governor Patrick signed the bill into law on May 18, 2008 before crowds at the New England Aquarium.</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>State agencies would be required to grant licenses and permits in accordance with the ocean management plan. Enforceable through existing state statutes and regulations and CZMA federal consistency review authority.</p> <p>The legislation is the first of its kind in the nation, in that it offers a spatially-based, enforceable planning mechanism.</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>Massachusetts Oceans Day was held on November 15, 2007 at the Massachusetts State House in order to encourage House and Senate action on ocean legislation.</p> <p>The 17 members of the Commission have been chosen and met for the first time on August 13, 2008.</p> <p>Public Listening Sessions held in September and October 2008 to provide input on the state's ocean management plan.</p>
<p>New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council,</p>	<p>The New Jersey State Assembly passed identical legislation to State Senate bill S. 2645 on January 7, 2008. Governor Corzine signed the bill into law on January 13, 2008</p>	<p>Council responsibilities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent depletion of marine resources by implementing ecosystem-based management 	<p>The council will hold public meetings at least once a year for public input on ecosystem-based management.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p><i>New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council,</i> S. 2645 & A. 4332 (continued)</p>	<p>establishing the New Jersey Coastal and Ocean Protection Council.</p> <p>The council will be comprised of nine agency staff and members of the public. It will make recommendations to the New Jersey Commissioner of Environmental Protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend provisions that will protect, maintain, and restore coastal and ocean resources to New Jersey Commissioner of Environmental Protection 	<p>The council is also required to present its findings, activities, and recommendations in a report to Commissioner of Environmental Protection within a year and biennially after that point.</p>
<p>New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council</p> <p>www.dec.ny.gov/environmentdec/18858.html</p> <p>www.nyoglecc.org</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 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>	<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 • 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>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>At a September 19, 2007 meeting, the Council announced New York’s adoption of ecosystem-based management as a means of conserving the state’s coastal areas and watersheds.</p> <p>The Council launched an internet-based atlas to monitor coastal ecosystem health allowing the public to incorporate hundreds of data sets of New York state’s resources. The purpose of the atlas is to aid the advancement of ecosystem-based management.</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p>Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council</p> <p>http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPAC</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 four work groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Reserves • Marine Sanctuary • Wave Energy • Territorial Sea Plan <p>After accepting and evaluating proposals for marine reserve sites the Council issued a report to the Governor on site recommendations in October 2008.</p>
<p>Puget Sound Partnership</p> <p>www.psp.wa.gov</p>	<p>First incarnation established by Governor Gregoire in December 2005. It completed its recommendations in December 2006.</p> <p>The 2007 Washington State Legislature approved over \$200 million for Puget Sound restoration and recovery, including a new agency, the Puget Sound Partnership, to manage the work. The Partnership opened its doors on July 1, 2007. The new state agency replaces the Puget Sound Action Team and will assume the functions now performed by the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound.</p> <p>The Partnership is chaired by William D. Ruckelshaus. Its</p>	<p>To achieve a clean and healthy Puget Sound by 2020 by “accelerating protection and restoration of Puget Sound and Hood Canal.”</p> <p>By law the Puget Sound Partnership will develop and carry out the Action Agenda to achieve the following eight objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect habitat • Restore habitat • Reduce toxic pollutions • Reduce human/animal waste • Better manage stormwater • Assure adequate water supply for people, wildlife • Preserve biodiversity and recover imperiled species • Build and sustain capacity for action 	<p>The original Partnership released its final report and recommendations in December 2006, including a 2020 action agenda with five priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean areas with septic problems • Habitat protection • Habitat restoration • Accelerate control and cleanup of toxic pollution • Reduce polluted water runoff <p>The Partnership is currently hosting workshops in communities to discuss local and regional priorities for the Sound and to review the initial strategies for Puget Sound recovery.</p> <p>The Partnership will create a 2020 Action Agenda that will identify</p>

Initiative	Origin and Membership	Mission/Goals	Programs/Activities
<p><i>Puget Sound Partnership</i> (continued)</p>	<p>members include elected and public officials, tribal leaders, business interests, and environmentalists.</p>		<p>and prioritize actions, name those responsible, identify funding, track progress, and report the results publicly. Every two years a short-term work plan corresponding with the state's budget cycle will be developed from the Action Agenda.</p> <p>A draft Action Agenda is scheduled for release on November 6, 2008 with a public comment period to follow before a final version is released.</p>
<p>Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group</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 and resilient communities • Coastal vulnerabilities from marine sources • Ocean research, observation and education 	<p>Charged with developing two reports on priority ocean resource management topics. 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 during spring 2006. The final report was released in December 2006 and included 60+ recommendations in the six policy focus areas.</p> <p>In 2007 Governor Gregoire signed into law legislation that created the permanent Washington State Policy Advisory Group as a vehicle for public input to the interagency Washington State Ocean Caucus.</p>

