



**The National Ocean Policy,
West Coast Tribes & Regional
Marine Planning**

Indigenous Ocean Science Forum

April 23, 2013



Discussion Overview

1. What is the National Ocean Policy?
2. Tribal Engagement
3. West Coast RPB




What is the National Ocean Policy? Executive Order 13547:

Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes

- Signed by President Obama on July 19, 2010
- Objective:

“To achieve an America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations...”

The National Ocean Policy...

- Established the National Ocean Council (NOC) of 27 Federal agencies
- Directs Federal agencies to participate in the regional marine planning process
- Established the Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC)
- Called for the NOC to develop an Implementation Plan



NOP Implementation Plan

- Released by White House on April 16, 2013
- Outlines the shared ocean priorities of the 27 members of the NOC
- Encourages regions to identify their ocean priorities through voluntary marine planning



Excerpts from the NOP Implementation Plan

- “[Federal] Agencies will honor the government-to-government relationship, trust obligations, and consultation responsibilities of the Federal government with Federally-recognized tribes and expand partnerships with tribes and Native communities.” (Local Choices, page 21)



Excerpts from the NOP Implementation Plan

- “[Federal] Agencies will work with interested tribal governments to support tribal involvement in priority-setting and planning for each region, including the integration of traditional ecological knowledge and scientific data collected by indigenous groups. Agency engagement of and coordination with tribes will ensure that tribal interests, lands, treaty and other reserved rights, and co-management agreements are appropriately considered and included in each region.” (Local Choices, page 21)

Tribal Governments in Framework

1. Governance Coordinating Committee
 - 18 state, local, and tribal government representatives
 - helps NOC coordinate ocean policy issues that affect multiple governments (Fed, tribal, state, local)
 - 3 tribal representatives:
 - Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Trinidad Rancheria
 - Michael Bolt, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
 - third seat currently vacant – formerly Micah McCarty, Makah Nation



Tribal Participation – RPB's

2. Regional Planning Bodies

- RPBs are the entities that carry out marine planning under the NOP by identifying economic and conservation priorities in the region.
- RPBs include representatives from Federal, tribal, state and local governments, as well as the regional fishery council. Non-Federal participation is voluntary.
- RPBs are led jointly by tribal, state, and Federal co-leads.
- RPBs have been formally established in 4 regions: Northeast, Mid Atlantic, Caribbean, and Pacific Islands



West Coast RPB

- Under the NOP, the West Coast planning region includes CA, OR, and WA and the Exclusive Economic Zone (out to 200 nautical miles offshore).
- Establishment of the RPB is in development.
- The relationship between the RPB and the West Coast Governors' Alliance has yet to be determined: could be separate, overlapping, or the same.



West Coast RPB

- Currently forming; will be co-led by Federal, state, and tribal members
 - John Stein of NOAA (Seattle): the Federal co-lead with assistance from GCC member Jacque Hostler-Carmesin
 - State and tribal co-leads: not yet determined by the States and Tribes
 - Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Multiple tribal outreach & coordination efforts are happening, led by John Stein, as well as Jacque Hostler-Carmesin
- But what are the next steps for determining tribal representation on the RPB?



Tribal Marine Planning Efforts and Coordination

- Smith River Rancheria – NOAA Grant
 - Indigenous Ocean Science Forum – Portland, Oregon
- Trinidad Rancheria – NFWF Grant
 - Tribal Outreach and Coordination
- Federal Agency Outreach to Tribes
- State Agency Outreach to Tribes
- Non-Profit Support of Marine Planning and Outreach to Tribes
- Others?

Tribal Outreach Work Plan - NFWF

- Coordinate Existing and New Activities to Develop a West Coast framework for Native and Tribal engagement throughout the western United States
- Tribal Outreach, Qualitative Research, Tribal Ecological Knowledge, and Ecosystem-based Management to Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding and Enhance Tribal Networks
- Assess Primary and Qualitative Research Collected, Prepare Findings, and Report Formal Rollout or Consultation

Tribal Outreach Work Plan - NFWF

- Develop West Coast Tribal Outreach and Consultation Process; And Specify Next Steps and Future Actions for Tribal Engagement regarding Pacific Ocean and National Ocean Policy
- Develop and implement an overall strategy to deploy the use of social media and a tribal website in order to better communicate, receive comment, and monitor response to ocean policy and its impact to Native Americans



Tribal Outreach NFWF - Next Steps

- Coordination of Forums for Tribal Outreach and Engagement
- Coordination with States and Local Agencies
 - Washington
 - Oregon
 - California

West Coast Tribes - Next Steps?



- Local discussions/coordination are already happening - more regional discussions and coordination are needed
- How do we continue the regional discussion and move forward together?
- What efforts are needed to ensure Tribal Nations are informed and part of this process



Questions?

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