

**Resolution of the California Coastal and Marine Geospatial
Work Group to Develop
Data-sharing Tool(s) for State Agencies**

August 2010

WHEREAS, California is a coastal state that is dedicated to the protection of ocean and coastal resources and human enjoyment of the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the California Ocean Protection Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (to be superseded by the National Ocean Council) recognize that geospatial information is essential comprehensive planning and decision-making for improved management of marine resources, including marine spatial planning; and

WHEREAS, other states on the West Coast, including Washington and Oregon, possess online statewide Coastal Atlases containing all manner of coastal and marine geospatial information, from bathymetric data to water quality indices and recreational access points; and

WHEREAS, California agencies possess a plethora of geospatial data on coastal and marine resources, human uses, and existing and potential environmental conditions relevant to coastal management, but currently do not possess a coordinated statewide system for sharing and accessing this data;

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for improved geospatial data sharing and management among state agencies, the California Coastal and Marine Geospatial Work Group (CCMG-WG) formed in early 2010 as an advisory work group to the California GIS Council to lead the way in recommending relevant policies and tools for managing and sharing state coastal and marine geospatial data;

WHEREAS, the CCMG-WG has convened its participants, consisting of relevant state agency staff members, a minimum of once per month to discuss, assess, and prioritize geospatial data relevant to state agency efforts; existing tools to assist agencies with planning and management; and policies to improve statewide geospatial data management and sharing.

NOW, THEREFORE, the California Coastal Marine Geospatial Work Group hereby:

RESOLVES to urge the state of California to expediently fund a stakeholder scoping study and development of an online data-sharing network and access tool, ideally in the form of a data portal, that allows for the efficient management, sharing, and downloading of coastal and marine geospatial information for the benefit of natural resource management agency staff, decision-makers, and the greater public; and

FURTHER RESOLVES to support state efforts and policies leading to improved geospatial information management and sharing through technical input, staff support, and sharing of geospatial data.