

**California Ocean Protection Council - Five Year Strategic Plan
Action Status April 2007**

A. GOVERNANCE

A goal of OPC is to enhance the capacity and performance of government programs to meet the goals of COPA.

Performance Measures:

⇒ By 2011, ecosystem-based management approaches guide government policies and programs that affect ocean and coastal ecosystems.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Funding. Maximize the effectiveness of funding spent to protect and conserve coastal resources.	
Action: By February 2007, complete a comprehensive study of all state agency budgets for ocean and coastal protection activities. The study shall include: an assessment of existing special funds and whether those funds have been fully expended in existing operating budgets; an assessment of the range of existing and potential uses for any identified funds; and an assessment of whether there is a duplication of funding efforts.	Completed no later than December 2007
Action: By February 2007, complete a comprehensive study of all potential new funding sources for ocean and coastal protection.	Completed no later than December 2007
Action: By May 2007, work with all relevant state agencies to develop necessary regulations, legislation or other tools to improve the way ocean-related activities are funded.	To be completed after previous two studies
Objective 2: Inter-agency Collaboration. Maximize the effectiveness of state agency efforts to protect and conserve ocean and coastal resources.	
Action: By December 2006, inventory laws and identify gaps or overlapping jurisdictions affecting priority ocean and coastal issues.	√
Action: By May 2007, work with all relevant state agencies to develop necessary regulations, legislation or other tools to improve ocean governance.	In progress

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Objective 3: Enforcement. Improve the enforcement efforts of CA's ocean and coastal protection laws.	
Action: By December 2006, identify all ocean and coastal protection enforcement authorities, programs and budgets and convene a task force to provide recomms to OPC on more efficient ways of conducting and coordinating enforcement.	√
Action: By May 2007, work with all relevant state agencies to develop necessary regulations, legislation or other tools to improve the enforcement of ocean and coastal protection laws.	In progress
Objective 4: Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM). Develop practical approaches to implementing ecosystem-based management and encourage implementation throughout the state.	
Action: By May 2007, work with all relevant state agencies to develop proposed regulations, legislation or other tools to integrate EBM principles into agency operations.	√
Action: Support the development of ecosystem-based management pilot programs in several regions throughout California.	√
Objective 5: Federal Influence. Engage federal government support for CA's priorities.	
<p>Action: Actively engage on the following issues by working with the President, Congress, Council on Environmental Quality, National and Western Governors' Associations, and Coastal States Organization to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain California's moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing • Support California's non-point source pollution program • Call for the ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty • Support California's ocean observing systems • Reauthorize a strong Coastal Zone Management Act • Support adequate funding for state and federal coastal programs 	Ongoing
Objective 6: Regional Coordination. Pursue regional governance approaches to improve coordination of ocean management along the West Coast.	
Action: By September 2006, adopt a tri-state agreement between the states of California, Oregon and Washington that focuses on initiatives by all three states to improve ocean and coastal management.	√

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B. RESEARCH AND MONITORING

A goal of the OPC is to improve understanding of ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Performance Measures:

- ⇒ By 2011, the state has sufficient scientific understanding of biological, physical and socio-economic processes to implement ecosystem-based management statewide.
- ⇒ By 2011, consistent monitoring data is accessible to resource managers and the public.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Research. Improve scientific understanding of our ocean resources.	
<p>Action: Implement the IRO recommendations and information and research priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make research part of the council's funding strategy • Make California's ocean observing system a national model • Seek federal support for California's research needs 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Additional \$1 million grant to the Sea Grant Programs in 2007</p>
Objective 2: Monitoring. Monitor and map the ocean env. to provide data about conditions and trends.	
<p>Action: Create state-sponsored ocean observing programs that will work with the federal Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), the Regional Associations (RAs) and other entities to plan and build an integrated ocean observing system in California.</p>	<p>√</p>
<p>Action: Pursue funding and partnerships to complete sea floor maps of all state waters. Information on the distribution of marine habitats and substrates is critical to effective management of fisheries, design of marine protected areas and other management efforts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Central coast and north central coast data collection completed</p>
<p>Action: Support the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring program focused on Marine Protected Areas established under the Marine Life Protection Act and structured to be beneficial to other programs, including the Marine Life Management Act. Ensure that this monitoring effort is integrated with other state and federal monitoring programs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">√</p> <p>\$2 million grant to Ocean Science Trust</p>

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C. OCEAN AND COASTAL WATER QUALITY

A goal of OPC is significant improvement in ocean and coastal water quality.

Performance Measures:

- ⇒ By 2011, water quality is improved such that the number of beach closures is decreased by 75 percent from 1999.
- ⇒ By 2011, tonnage of debris along the coastline and in coastal waters is decreased by 50 percent from 1999.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Enforce Pollution Controls. Coordinate and support the personnel and programs needed to enforce existing water quality standards.	
Action: By December 2006, evaluate the efforts of all agencies that enforce water quality laws.	√
Action: By May 2007, work with all relevant agencies to develop regulations, legislation or other tools to improve and streamline enforcement efforts.	In progress
Action: Support funding for additional enforcement personnel as warranted.	
Objective 2: Innovation. Support the development of new technologies and approaches to reduce non-point source pollution.	
Action: Work with the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program to develop and implement innovative approaches to address non-point source pollution. Encourage innovative approaches to improve storm water management (such as increased permeable surfaces that allow storm water to percolate into the soil rather than flow to the ocean).	Ongoing \$10 million proposed for LID projects in fall 2007
Objective 3: Once-through Cooling. Work to eliminate the harmful environmental impacts of once-through cooling at coastal power plants.	
Action: Implement OPC's "Resolution Regarding the Use of Once-Through Cooling Technologies in Coastal Waters" as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By December 2007, complete an engineering study of the existing coastal power plants to assess the possibility of implementing alternative technologies and operational changes • Urge the State Water Resources Control Board to implement the most protective controls 	Ongoing Study to be completed summer 2007 Coordinating committee established

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ACTION	STATUS
<p>to achieve a 90-95 percent reduction in impacts of entrainment and impingement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an interagency coordinating committee to coordinate the activities of regulatory authorities that address once-through cooling • Investigate possible non-regulatory incentives that can accelerate desirable conversions away from once-through cooling 	
Objective 4: Water Quality Testing. Improve water quality testing programs and warning systems.	
<p>Action: Develop and implement rapid indicators of pathogen contamination to provide for more timely notice of beach closures and openings.</p>	<p>Water Board research projects ongoing</p>

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D. PHYSICAL PROCESSES AND HABITAT STRUCTURE

A goal of OPC is to significantly improve the quantity and quality of ocean and coastal habitat in California.

Performance Measures:

⇒ By 2011, there will be measurable and significant improvements in the quantity and quality of the state's ocean and coastal habitat types.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Habitat Restoration. Restore and maintain valuable ocean and coastal habitats and resources.	
Action: Fund priority habitat restoration projects, including those involving wetlands, eelgrass, kelp, and native oyster.	
Action: Implement actions to remove barriers to fish passage identified in the CalFish database, and work toward measuring and monitoring stream flows on key coastal streams.	
Action: Support efforts to restore riparian corridors such as the Ventura River, Klamath River and the San Francisco Bay-Delta.	
Objective 2: Regional Sediment Management. Support the implementation of regional sediment management throughout California as a means of protecting, restoring and enhancing California's coastal sediment/beach resources.	
Action: Work with the CSMW and local partners to complete and implement the California Coastal Sediment Master Plan.	
Objective 3: Impacts of Climate Change. Support state efforts to detect the impacts of Climate Change and to develop strategies to respond to them.	
Action: Work with the Climate Action Team to investigate the long-term impacts of sea-level rise and develop statewide adaptive management policies that will help agencies deal with these impacts.	Ongoing Slated for discussion at June OPC meeting

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E. COASTAL AND OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

A goal of OPC is to significantly increase healthy ocean and coastal wildlife populations and communities in California.

Performance Measures:

⇒ By 2011, California will have significantly reduced the number of over-exploited species.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Marine Life Protection Act. Help complete and implement a statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).	
Action: Identify and fill critical needs in executing the MLPA. OPC will support the Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Game Commission in implementation of the MLPA beyond the central region to other areas in the state and will help secure funding that the Department of Fish and Game will need to manage a statewide network of MPAs.	Ongoing \$8 million appropriated in 06/07 budget
Action: Make resources available to design and implement a comprehensive MPA monitoring program that can be implemented statewide, and that will measure changes in these ecosystems and inform future management decisions.	√ \$2 million grant to Ocean Science Trust
Objective 2: Marine Life Management Act. Help establish ecologically and economically sustainable fisheries.	
Action: Support implementation of FMPs adopted under the MLMA and the development of new FMPs for priority fisheries.	Ongoing
Action: Make resources available to support DFG's work on the MLMA.	Ongoing \$8 million appropriated in 06/07 budget
Objective 3: Invasive Species. Significantly increase the capacity of government agencies and the private sector to reduce and respond to invasive species.	
Action: By November 2006, complete the California Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan and the state rapid response plan. OPC will support the full implementation of these plans and the California Noxious and Invasive Weed Action Plan.	Report due summer 2007

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Objective 4: Market-Based Fisheries. Support market-based fishery management approaches.	
Action: Develop a California Fisheries Fund or similar strategy that will facilitate a transition to fishing levels that match the amount of fish caught to the amount of fish produced, and develop new fishing techniques to reduce bycatch.	√
Objective 5: Encourage Sustainable Economic Activity. Encourage emerging coastal and ocean economic activities that will provide new economic opportunities for the state, can be conducted in a sustainable manner, and are consistent with the goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Act.	
Action: Encourage and support new or innovative economic activities that can be conducted in a sustainable manner along or offshore the California coast.	Ongoing
Action: Preserve working harbors through investments in infrastructure such as small-scale fish processing facilities.	Ongoing Resolution approved November 2006

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F. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

A goal of OPC is to promote ocean and coastal awareness and stewardship.

Performance Measures:

- ⇒ By 2011, as measured by polling data, a majority of Californians: are aware of their individual impact on the coast and ocean; and practice conservation principles in their home, work and recreational activities.

ACTION	STATUS
Objective 1: Public Awareness. Increase public awareness of ocean and coastal issues and encourage individual stewardship.	
<p>Action: Implement the recommendations and priorities on outreach in the IRO Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to and coordination of ocean and coastal information through a comprehensive ocean and coastal web portal • Incorporate ocean and coastal science into K-12 and adult education programs by supporting Cal/EPA's Education and the Environment Initiative • Build a public media campaign with the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Ocean Communicators Alliance 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Thank You Ocean launch September 2006</p>