

ACTION PLAN

on OCEAN CONSERVATION AND COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



PREAMBLE

THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON,

Pursuant to the Memorandum to Establish the Pacific Coast Collaborative of June 2008 to which all are signatories, and as provided for in Article 6;

Sharing a diverse coastline on the Pacific Ocean comprising densely populated urban centers, rural communities and pristine wilderness;

Committed to leading the world in sustainable environmental management, and to capturing the economic benefits for our citizens;

Committed to protecting and enhancing healthy and vibrant Pacific Ocean and coastal ecosystems crucial to sustaining our economic and environmental well-being, public health, and ways of life;

Desiring to collaborate to enhance the value and success of our individual and collective initiatives on ocean conservation and climate change;

Understanding that climate change is a serious concern and poses challenges for the people, the economies and the environment of our Pacific region;

Recognizing that addressing common challenges will require first-rate scientific information, and long-term coast-wide planning; effective communication among our governments; and collaboration and communication with our citizens, business leaders, communities, tribes, First Nations, environmental advocates, and academic and scientific communities;

Seeking to minimize overlap and duplication of effort to achieve objectives that are shared;

NOW THEREFORE HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

I. Action on Ocean Health and Conservation

Direct our relevant agencies and officials to explore and engage in collaborations that will allow us to more effectively and efficiently address:

1) Prevention and clean-up of marine debris

Enhance state/province and respective federal policies and programs for achieving marine debris reduction goals, including debris prevention through expanded recycling, improved waste maintenance, public education, and enforcement of litter laws.

2) Spread of invasive species

Cooperate to prevent or reduce the spread of invasive species by:

- refining and coordinating capacity to recognize, identify, report, and rapidly respond to both newly discovered and existing invasive infestations;
- addressing pathways of introduction such as ballast water, vessel hulls of commercial ships and recreational boats, and boat trailers traveling across state and provincial boundaries; and

- supporting the efforts of the Pacific Ballast Water Group and coordinating ballast water policies.

As priorities for initial coast-wide efforts, focus rapid detection, early response and eradication efforts on non-native cordgrasses (genus *Spartina*), tunicates, and green crab, which may expand their range along the west coast via ocean currents or human activities.

3) Risks from toxins / non point source pollution

Collaborate and share best practices on:

- strategies to reduce polluted runoff from farms and urbanized areas and improve the health of Pacific Coast coastal water through state/provincial and local government programs;
- strategies to reduce pollution from toxins and nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and on-site sewage systems; and
- education of the public about the connection between air quality and ocean health in support of efforts to reduce air pollution throughout the Pacific Coastal region.

4) Sustainable fisheries management

Support the long-term health of our fisheries by:

- working with respective fisheries industries and coastal communities and within the context of existing fisheries management bodies to identify opportunities to collaborate and share best practices and tools, to facilitate sustainable fisheries management and strengthen the global reputation of Pacific Coast fisheries; and
- collaborating with our respective federal governments to establish, maintain or enhance legislative and regulatory provisions to prohibit the large-scale industrial harvesting of krill in waters off the Pacific Coast of North America.

II. Action on Coastal Climate Change Adaptation

Direct our relevant agencies and officials to explore and engage in collaborations that will allow us to more effectively and efficiently research or address:

1) Impacts from possible changes to marine and coastal environments

Share data and collaborate on research regarding the range of impacts that might be experienced from possible regional and local scale sea level change rates, cyclical oceanographic conditions, more frequent or severe weather or flooding events, and changes in the flows and temperature of salmon-bearing streams. Share information on methods and models useful in developing planning scenarios for communities, businesses and coastal resource managers considering such impacts.

2) Changes in ocean acidity

Develop strategies to share data and further regional research efforts into the effects of increasing ocean acidity. Recognize that impacts on key biological and ecological systems, which may also have profound economic consequences, are only beginning to be understood.

3) Local capacity

Collaborate on the development of communication and outreach initiatives to encourage potentially affected coastal communities to build capacity to adapt to the projected impacts of climate change.

4) Sharing of information to address adaptation needs

Share information on policies and programs that assist natural resource management, flood protection and land use decisions affecting both existing and planned uses and infrastructure.

III. Action on Ocean Research and Innovation

Encourage our relevant agencies and officials to work together, and with our respective federal governments as necessary to:

1) Support ocean observations

Support funding by our respective federal governments for the long-term maintenance of ocean observing systems and monitoring assets along the Pacific Coast. These include:

- a) the operational ocean observing systems for societal and management applications, e.g., the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems that are part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) for Washington-Oregon (NANOOS), California (CeNCOOS, SCCOOS), and Alaska (AOOS); and

- b) the scientific research-focused regional cabled seafloor observatories in British Columbia (e.g., VENUS, NEPTUNE) and the U.S. Ocean Observatory Initiative efforts in Washington, Oregon and California (e.g., RSN, MARS).

2) Combine efforts on seafloor mapping

Work with federal agencies and other funding sources to explore the feasibility of completing a seafloor map of the bathymetry, benthic substrate, relief, geology, and habitat of all tidelands and submerged lands in our valuable nearshore and coastal areas.

IV. Results

Implement a joint mechanism to track the implementation of these commitments and report results achieved at the next annual Leaders Forum of the Pacific Coast Collaborative.

V. Interpretation

This Action Plan is intended to spur finding new, smart ways for our governments, agencies and staff to work together, and with other governments and non-government partners as appropriate, to add value, efficiency and effectiveness to existing and future initiatives, and to reduce overlap and duplication of effort with the objective of reducing, not increasing, resource demands to achieve objectives that are shared.

VI. Limitations

This Action Plan shall have no legal effect, impose no legally binding obligation enforceable in any court of law or other tribunal of any sort, nor create any funding expectation; nor shall our jurisdictions be responsible for the actions of third parties or associates who may participate in activities outlined in this Action Plan.

SIGNED AT VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST
ANNUAL LEADERS FORUM OF THE PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE
AND THE XXIST OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES,
THIS 12TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010.

Original signed by

GORDON CAMPBELL
Premier of British Columbia

Original signed by

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor of Oregon

Original signed by

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor of California

Original signed by

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor of Washington