

Joint Appropriations Request for Regional Ocean and Great Lakes Partnerships—FY 2011

Credit: SCSGC

Regional governance mechanisms are needed to achieve a more coordinated, ecosystem-based management approach for improving ocean and coastal health. Multi-state initiatives ... can strengthen the voice of local stakeholders in communicating those needs to the federal government.

JOINT OCEAN COMMISSION INITIATIVE

Empowering Regional Ocean and Coastal Solutions

Our nation's oceans, coasts and Great Lakes provide immeasurable economic, environmental, and recreational benefits, yet we face significant challenges. Pollution, water level changes, resource depletion and conflicts between new and traditional uses affect all coastal states and territories. Reversing the decline in ocean and Great Lakes ecosystem and economic health is clearly beyond the reach of any individual state. There is an ever-growing recognition that **multi-state, regional approaches are the right solution and are needed now.** Increased federal investment in regional



ocean partnerships—now in existence representing every coastal state in the continental US—will enhance economic development, grow employment in green technologies, foster sustainable use of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, and leverage state and nongovernmental investments.

¹ The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. For more information, visit www.jointoceancommission.org.

To meet our ocean and coastal challenges, Governors have voluntarily established Regional Ocean Partnerships. As place-based organizations, Regional Ocean Partnerships serve as forums to develop shared priorities and to take critical action on a broad diversity of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes needs. While the coastal and ocean challenges that face the nation are common



to all regions, each partnership addresses them from different perspectives under diverse jurisdictional arrangements that reflect the unique character of the region—their efforts involve non-governmental stakeholders, multiple agencies within each state, multiple states, and multiple federal programs. Although their methods and approaches may differ, **Regional Ocean Partnerships are working to enhance the ecological and economic health of the regions, and ultimately the nation,**



in the belief that multi-sector, multi-state management decisions will result in an improved ocean environment and ocean-related economy.

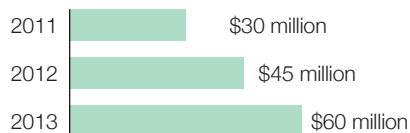
While each Regional Ocean Partnership is unique and tailored to the needs and concerns of one region, priorities are similar across regions, including **habitat conservation and restoration, planning and recovery from dangerous storms, water quality improvement, support of critical research and monitoring programs, and the need for coastal and marine spatial planning, a tool that allows all of these issues to be dealt with comprehensively.** Through these partnerships, states link their activities with federal programs to meet not only regional, but also national goals. The Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force



identified nine priorities that the nation should pursue to implement the recommended National Policy for the Stewardship of Oceans, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes and called for the establishment and support of regional partnerships to help in its implementation. Given the strong alignment between national and regional priorities, the Partnerships will be key implementing bodies for the national policy.

FY 2011 Funding Requests

Regional Ocean Partnerships: \$30 million

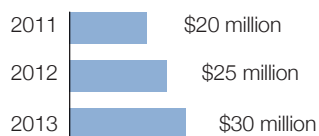


These grants will provide essential support for the development and implementation of Action Plans for each Regional Ocean Partnership. For information on projects in each region, please visit the individual Regional Ocean Partnership websites or see attached summaries.

Funding should be provided in equal shares to the regions, but awarded through a merit-based process to projects within each region. Up to 5% of the funding for each region should be available to pay for administration of the partnerships, to ensure that these entities become enduring institutions that can guide regional efforts in the long-term. These grants should be administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As these partnerships mature, funding should increase to \$45 million in FY 2012 and \$60 million in FY 2013 in order to fully meet their needs.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: \$20 million



These grants will provide funding to the states to engage in coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) in state waters, engage with federal agencies on planning in federal waters and build regional marine plans envisioned by the national strategy. Regional Ocean Partnerships will serve as organizational forums to coordinate federal and state efforts on CMSP. These grants should be administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. An equal amount of



funding should be provided to the federal agencies to engage in CMSP at the federal and regional levels.

This Funding will serve as an initial down payment on the long-term implementation of CMSP, supporting planning efforts that include the collection and analysis of data, creation and implementation of maps, information portals and consensus building tools, and the facilitation of broad public participation. As these efforts are expected to increase over the next few years, the funding should increase to \$25 million in FY 2012 and \$30 million in FY 2013.

Regional Ocean and Great Lakes Partnerships

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

Illinois
Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
New York
Ohio
Pennsylvania
Wisconsin
<http://www.glrc.us>

Governors' South Atlantic Alliance

Florida
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina
<http://www.southatlanticalliance.org>

Gulf of Mexico Alliance

Alabama
Florida
Louisiana
Mississippi
Texas
<http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org>

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
New York
Virginia
<http://www.midatlanticocean.org>

Northeast Regional Ocean Council

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont
<http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc>

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

California
Oregon
Washington
<http://westcoastoceans.gov>