

West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda

Policymakers and managers need solutions-oriented ocean science to make informed decisions for coastal blue economies, sustainable fisheries, natural resources, commerce, coastal adaptation, and human well-being. Currently, the U.S. West Coast lacks adequate and strategic investments in ocean science, which is threatening our ability to advance understanding of changes in ocean conditions and coastal ecosystems. The West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda will illuminate key gaps in federal ocean science investments.

The range of issues connected to our ocean and coast is vast.

A few of the challenges that require significant investment in science and data to develop effective and responsible solutions include:

- **Emerging ocean energy infrastructure** – Understanding the benefits and consequences of offshore energy can help balance energy needs with environmental impacts.
- **Ocean-based carbon dioxide removal** – Amidst mounting interest in tapping into the ocean's ability to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, understanding the risks and benefits is essential for responsible policy development.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

- **Commercial, recreational, and Tribal fishery health and resilience**
 - Improving our understanding of changes to the ocean will inform strategies that sustain ocean fisheries critical to West Coast commercial, recreational, and Tribal fisheries.
- **Ocean acidification and hypoxia**
 - Addressing the effects of ocean acidification and hypoxia will help ocean species, such as shellfish, showing signs of distress from warmer, less oxygenated water and reduced calcium carbonate in the water, which is vital for species that build skeletons and shells.
- **Sea level rise and storms** – Understanding economic, social and ecological vulnerabilities is essential for local governments to prepare for coastal hazards and protect public safety, critical infrastructure, local economies, and coastal habitats.
- **Sand management and coastal erosion** – Studying how sand moves along the coast improves our ability to protect and better manage sediment to address coastal erosion.



One ocean, two Ocean Science Trusts, many partners

TAKING ACTION: OUR APPROACH

The nation's two ocean science trusts in California and Oregon are leading the effort to develop the West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda, in collaboration with many partners. By Spring 2027, we will describe and amplify shared ocean and coastal science priorities across California, Oregon, and Washington, establishing a decadal suite of strategies, needed funding, and timeline to address existing, emerging, and complex ocean and coastal issues.

To identify these shared priorities, we will:

- Convene and engage key policymakers, agencies, Tribes, academic leaders, scientists, and potential funders.
- Compile priorities from existing plans and reports.

The West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda will articulate research and monitoring priorities and the aligned public-private investments in infrastructure, technology, and workforce development that are necessary to deliver on those priorities.

VISIT

OceanScienceAgenda.org

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