



PISCO

Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans

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PO Box 40002
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Via electronic mail to Mr. Brian Baird, Ms. Kathleen Drew, and Ms. Jessica Hamilton

RE: PISCO Comments on the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health Draft Action Plan

Dear Governors Schwarzenegger, Kulongoski, and Gregoire,

Thank you for your work to develop the draft Action Plan for the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health and the opportunity to comment on the plan. As part of the public comments on the Agreement, The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) submitted extensive comments on the discussion paper in August 2007¹. We again submit these comments, as an attachment to this letter.

The draft Action Plan addressed a number of points raised on our previous set of comments. We agree with these changes and, in general, conclude that the resulting draft Action Plan is substantially stronger than the discussion paper. For example, Priority 3 now accurately describes the opportunities and challenges of ecosystem based management along the West Coast.

In addition to our comments submitted on August 15 (2007) , we recommend that the final Action Plan:

- a) Incorporate adaptive mechanisms into each Priority that (i) allow periodic review, updates, and response to new opportunities and unanticipated challenges or progress, and (ii) protect states' long-term commitments to this plan. Adaptive policies are mentioned in the issue statement and analysis for Priority 3 and should be an objective for the workshop outlined in Action 3.2.
- b) Identify funding mechanisms for each Action, and list in Appendix A. Funding is mentioned in several activities, but should be explicit for each issue.

¹ PISCO commented on the document entitled "West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, Discussion paper regarding the seven priority areas, assessment of possible actions," Comments were dated August 15, 2007.

c) Incorporate long-term monitoring of biological communities and ecological functions as part of the Regional Marine Research Plan (Action 6.1).

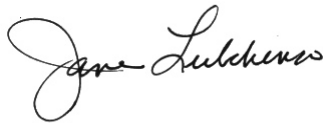
d) Ensure that the regional research agenda is based on a broad approach with strong leadership, contribution by all interested stakeholders, and clear goals for improving research and management. Finding 6A identifies the SeaGrant process as the means to acquire a plan for relevant regional marine research. We agree that the SeaGrant process is an important component. While it will help to identify monitoring and research priorities, it may not fully address the vision and goals of the Agreement.

It is unclear, at this time, about how the process will provide a roadmap to support of regional marine research. We thus urge the states to have a clear plan for how to evaluate the results of the SeaGrant process, decide how to incorporate results into a state-based agenda, and address any possible gaps.

e) Incorporate a broad emphasis on data management and information synthesis as integral part of the Final Action Plan. Specific goals for data management, information synthesis and application should be reflected in Action items 2.1, 3.2, 6.1 and 6.2. It would be appropriate to develop a Finding focused on this topic for Priority 6.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the WCGA Draft Action Plan. We look forward to future discussions as the planning proceeds. For more information about the PISCO program and these comments, please contact Kristen Milligan at (541)737-8862 or Kristen.Milligan@science.oregonstate.edu.

Sincerely,



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