

Overview of Regional Ocean Governance and NOAA Involvement

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NOAA Coastal Services Center
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Regional Ocean Governance Efforts

	Established
Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC)	2004
Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)	2004
Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)	2005
West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA)	2006
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)	2009
South Atlantic Alliance (SAA)	2009

Many sub-regional governance efforts have been established to protect the Nation's coastal and ocean waters (e.g., Chesapeake Bay program, Gulf of Maine Council), but this presentation focuses on regional ocean governance activities.



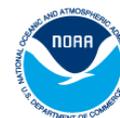
Regional Ocean Governance

	Participating States
GLRC	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin
GOMA	Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas
NROC	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
WCGA	California, Oregon, Washington
MARCO	Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia
SAA	Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina



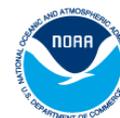
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	Priorities	
GLRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aquatic invasive species • habitat/species • coastal health • areas of concern/sediments • nonpoint source concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toxic pollutants • indicators and information • sustainable development • climate (emerging issue)
GOMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality • habitat conservation and restoration • environmental education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ecosystem integration and assessment • reductions in nutrient inputs • coastal community resilience (added in 2008)
NROC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ocean and coastal ecosystem health • coastal hazards resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ocean energy planning and management



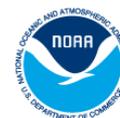
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	Priorities	
WCGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches • protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats • promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reducing adverse impacts of offshore development • increasing ocean awareness and literacy • expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring • fostering sustainable economic development
MARCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare for the impacts of climate change • promote improvements in the region's coastal water quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the sustainable development of renewable energy in offshore areas. • coordinate protection of important habitats and sensitive and unique offshore areas
SAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthy ecosystems • working waterfronts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean coastal and ocean waters • disaster-resilient communities



Regional Ocean Governance

	Strategic Documents
GLRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes</i> (2005) • <i>Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Framework</i> (2006)
GOMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts</i> (2006) • <i>Governor's Action Plan II for Healthy and Resilient Coasts: 2009 – 2014</i> (2009)
NROC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ocean and Coast Action Plan</i> (2007) • <i>Ocean and Coast Action Plan</i> (2008)
WCGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final Action Plan for the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health</i> (2008)
MARCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation</i> (2009) • <i>Actions, Timelines, and Leadership to Advance The Mid-Atlantic Governors' Agreement on Ocean Conservation</i> (2009)
SAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Governors' South Atlantic Alliance: Partnership Agreement</i> (October 2009) • <i>Governors South Atlantic Alliance Action Plan</i> (to be developed)



Regional Ocean Governance

	Federal Participation
GLRC	The federal Interagency Task Force (IATF) includes EPA, DOS, DOI, USDA, DOC, HUD, DOT, DHS, DOD, CEQ, and HHS.
GOMA	Representatives from 13 agencies form the Alliance's federal workgroup and support the overall action items of the teams. (NOAA, EPA, DOE, NSF, NASA, USDA, DOD, CEQ, DOI, DOT, DOS, HHS, USACE).
NROC	Three federal co-leads including NOAA, EPA, and DOI. Other federal involvement from USACE, USDA, and USCG.
WCGA	The three federal co-leads represent DOC, USEPA, and DOI (MMS), and work in close partnership with the state co-leads. Federal representatives participate on each of the Action Coordination Teams. Work plans developed by these teams and incorporating feedback from public review will be released by December 2009.
MARCO	MARCO asked CEQ to appoint federal lead/co-leads: CEQ has identified a POC at CEQ. Recent call with NOAA, EPA, DOI, USACE and CEQ to initiate the identification of key agency contacts.
SAA	Federal co-chairs from NOAA, USGS, and EPA Region 4.



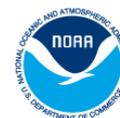
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	NOAA Role
GLRC	Director of GLERL sites of the regional working group for the IATF. The NOAA Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Team has made a concerted effort to strategically support GLRC priorities.
GOMA	Director of the NOAA Coastal Services Center serves as a co-lead of the federal workgroup. Each priority issue team has designated a NOAA employee as a federal co-lead. The NOAA Gulf of Mexico Regional Collaboration Team has made a concerted effort to strategically support the Alliance.
NROC	2010 federal co-chair for NROC, co-chair for the Coastal Hazards Resilience team; organizational support for the Executive Committee, co-lead for Northeast Federal Partners.
WCGA	As a federal co-lead, NOAA represents the Department of Commerce on the WCGA executive committee.
MARCO	Still under development.
SAA	NOAA has orchestrated a series of workshops for each state to articulate priority issues within the four theme areas. After the workshops are completed, NOAA we will host one more workshop to meld state priorities into regional priorities, providing the foundation for the first action plan.



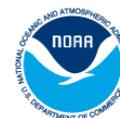
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	Funding
GLRC	The President's 2010 Budget requested \$475 million for an EPA-led, interagency Great Lakes restoration initiative, to target the most significant problems in the region (e.g., invasive aquatic species, non-point source pollution, contaminated sediment). The bill was enacted on October 30, 2009. The Initiative builds upon 5 years of work of the IATF and stakeholders, guided by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy.
GOMA	Five million of federal funding was appropriated in FY 2009, with another \$4M in 09 and \$5M in 2010. Money was distributed to each of the Priority Issue Teams (resulted in federal funding to each state.)
NROC	No federal appropriation yet. Did request federal appropriations in 2009.
WCGA	No federal appropriation yet, but in 2008 and 2009 requested \$5 million in federal funding to support implementation of the Plan.
MARCO	No federal appropriation yet.
SAA	No federal appropriation yet.



Observations

- Many regional governance efforts existed prior to the report by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (2004). Several ROGs have developed in direct response to the report's call for a series of fundamental changes to improve the uncoordinated management of our oceans and coasts.
- Each region is at a different stage of development and has its own framework and unique set of drivers. All regions share the common goal of working across political and jurisdictional boundaries to more effectively address many of the major challenges facing coastal and ocean resource managers today.
- Regional ocean governance has provided the framework for federal and state agencies to work together and, with partners, to address regional specific priorities.
- Federal investment to date has included:
 - Staff time to participate in ROG leadership and work groups
 - In-kind services
 - Some direct dollar investment in projects and activities
- ROGs are looking for federal appropriations to implement identified priorities.



ROG Challenges

ROG Challenges (with thanks to the ROG session at CZ 09):

- Insufficient data for decision making at regional, state, and local levels, and lack of coordination among entities collecting data.
- Disproportionate and overall weak investment from the federal government .
- Lack of capacity to staff and implement regional governance initiatives .
- Sustained engagement and participation from state and federal leaders.
- Competition between states as well as other regional organizations.
- Lack of a unified, compelling story hinders ability to increase support and ultimate success

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Federal Challenges:

- Sustaining federal support , especially for multiple regional ocean governance groups in the North Atlantic (GOMC, NROC, MARCO).
- Sharing lessons learned among ROGs and supporting new/evolving ROGs, as well as existing regional governance efforts.
- Intra-agency coordination
- Developing mechanism to pool resources across agencies for regional priorities.
- Defining and communicating ‘regional’ success stories.



The End.



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H.R. 21 Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act

- Introduced in January of 2009 and referred to House Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. Subcommittee hearings held in June.
- Requires the NOAA Administrator to establish or designate a Regional Ocean Partnership for each region and requires each Partnership to prepare a Regional Ocean Strategic Plan. Requires payments to coastal states for Regional Ocean Strategic Plan activities.



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