

GRANT AWARDS



NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

August 2013

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On August 23, 2013, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$3.233 million to regional partners through the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP). This grant program was developed to advance effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance, including the goals for national ocean policy and comprehensive ocean planning set out in the president's *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, July 19, 2010*. The ROPFP program supported two categories of activities: 1) implementation of a spectrum of regional ocean partnership priorities, with a focus on ocean planning activities, and 2) support for development and operations for regional ocean partnerships.

The following projects were selected for funding:

- **Mid-Atlantic Region – The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)** received \$665,602 in support, including an award to Monmouth University to enhance MARCO's Mapping and Planning Portal and support spatially explicit ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic, an award to Rutgers University to advance regionally focused climate adaptation policies consistent with the goals of the National Ocean Policy, and an award to the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation to enhance capacities for MARCO to improve regional ocean governance efforts in the Mid-Atlantic related to offshore habitat, climate change, ocean planning, water quality, and offshore renewable energy.
- **Northeast Region – The Association of U.S. Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council**, representing the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), was awarded \$642,815 to undertake foundational tasks necessary to support regional ocean planning by engaging with specific stakeholders and to support continued development of data and science products. The funds will also support the management and implementation of key actions in NROC's work plans for coastal hazards resilience and ocean and coastal ecosystem health.

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- **Caribbean – The Nature Conservancy**, representing the Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership (CROP), was awarded \$385,000 to support the advancement of regional ocean planning and ocean and coastal management activities through stakeholder engagement, identifying CROP priorities and developing work plans, improvement of collaboration between regional ocean planning data managers, and developing regionally appropriate decision-support tools.
- **Hawaii – The Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism**, representing the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan, was awarded \$298,800 to draft a Sub-Regional Ocean Partnership Action Plan to focus near-term implementation efforts, align resources to support those efforts, contribute sub-regional support for and recommendations on Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP) priorities, and develop a GIS tool that can provide specific spatial data to state and county decision makers that aligns with current state regulatory criteria related to coastal and ocean uses.
- **Tribal – Alaska – The Aleut Community of St. Paul Island** received \$258,500 to coordinate and maximize the effectiveness of citizen science efforts in order to support and inform decisions that affect the Bering Sea ecosystem and to build a regional community-based coastal and ocean monitoring partnership among tribal communities in the Bering Sea and Aleutian region.
- **South Atlantic – The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**, representing the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance (GSAA), was awarded \$190,000 to support the advancement of regional ocean planning and ocean and coastal management activities to foster healthy ecosystems, working waterfronts, clean coastal and ocean waters, and disaster-resilient communities through management and execution of the GSAA Action Plan and Implementation Plan.
- **Gulf of Mexico – The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)** was awarded \$189,475 to promote effective regional ocean governance in the Gulf of Mexico through continued coordination of the GOMA priority issue teams for achieving the specific priority objectives outlined in the Governors' Action Plan II, including activities related to sustaining the Gulf economy, improving ecosystem health, mitigating the impacts of and adapting to climate changes, and mitigating the harmful effects to coastal water quality.
- **Pacific Islands – The University of Hawai'i**, representing the Pacific Islands region, was awarded \$166,250 to build regional capacity to support implementation of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP) agreement and the PROP Action Plan, including priority activities enhancing climate and disaster resilience and addressing regional needs through coastal and marine spatial planning among the states of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawai'i.
- **West Coast – The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, representing the West Coast Governors Alliance (WCGA), received \$142,500 to help strengthen WCGA's connection with tribes and local governments in the region, advance activities on shared regional priorities including climate change, marine debris, and regional data, and further develop and extend the impact of WCGA through efficient organization, planning, communication, and outreach.

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- **Tribal – West Coast – The Smith River Rancheria** received \$142,500 to explore a West Coast Tribal Regional Ocean Partnership (TROP) and invite those tribes that are interested and begin a strategic planning process toward the development of a policy and implementation plan for ecosystem-based ocean governance, National Ocean Policy regional planning body engagement, and coastal and ocean spatial planning. This will be accomplished by collaboratively developing a framework and agreement for the partnership, conducting outreach and a process for strategic planning, and developing a draft policy and implementation plan for the new partnership.
- **Tribal – West Coast – The Makah Indian Nation** received \$62,500 to support capacity building within the Makah tribe for ocean planning internally and for collaboration regionally as required of a sovereign government with treaty rights and ownership of ocean resources. In addition, the project aims to develop coastal and ocean policies, spatial plans, climate adaptation plans, and data standards with the coastal treaty tribes, State of Washington, regional ocean partnership, coastal tribes of Oregon and California, and federal trustees. The project aims to support establishment of a state-tribal forum, consisting of the four coastal treaty tribes and the State of Washington, to serve as a policy forum for regional ocean governance issues.
- **Tribal – West Coast – The Quinault Indian Nation** received \$59,834 to support capacity building within the Quinault tribe to conduct regional ocean planning and to actively represent sovereign interests in state, regional, and national policy and planning efforts. In addition, the project aims to develop spatial data and spatial plans to inform management of Quinault Indian Nation resources in light of climate change impacts. Finally, the project aims to support establishment of a state-tribal policy forum, consisting of the four coastal treaty tribes and the State of Washington, to serve as a policy forum for regional ocean governance issues.
- **Tribal – West Coast – The Quileute Tribe** received \$29,655 to support legal research on the complex regulations and jurisdictions in the project area and develop a framework that characterizes the legal and regulatory landscape relevant to ocean spatial planning on the Washington coast. The project will build off of the existing State of Washington aquatic permitting guide and specifically aims to integrate information relevant to the four treaty tribes in Washington.