

Regional Ocean Partnership Model

Summary – State-led partnership established by the Governors with an Action Plan that guides collaboration through standing technical teams.

Membership

- Membership is primarily through participation on the issue-focused teams, which are open to all interested parties.
- There are no dues for membership.

Leadership

- Leadership is hierarchical:
 - Executive Group – Governors
 - Steering Group – leadership (Commissioners, Secretaries) from state environmental and natural resource agencies appointed by the Governors.
 - Federal Co-Chairs - senior executives from lead federal agencies, as appointed by the White House Council on Environmental Quality.
 - Executive Planning Team – leadership appointed from state and federal agencies, regional partners, academic, and non-profit partners.
- Leadership of the partnership rotates through the states and federal agencies on an annual or bi-annual basis and follows through at each level of the hierarchy.
- Role – leadership directs the activities of technical teams and staff to implement the Action Plan.

Meetings

- Technical teams hold calls monthly to discuss and plan for progress on Action Plan items. In person meetings for all teams are held twice a year.
- Executive Planning team holds monthly calls to review progress on the Action Plan, direct or redirect activities, and discuss the national and regional impact of the partnership's work, such as the need for new partners, funding sources, or resources that can be leveraged. In person meetings are held twice a year.
- Steering Group holds quarterly calls or meetings to review progress on the Action Plan, refine or revise Action Plan priorities to reflect the priorities of the governors, and identify opportunities for political and funding support for high-level ocean and coastal challenges.
- All hands meeting held once a year to present progress on Action Plan priorities to a broad array of stakeholders, build partnerships, and explore hot topics or new priorities with regional experts.

Activities

- Identification of shared challenges, including research and data gaps and planning or policy issues.
- Providing a common platform for communicating regional priorities through the Action Plan and other identified priorities.
- Collaborative projects, as guided by the Action Plan and funding availability.

Funding

- Grants pursued by staff and fiscal agent in coordination with states and willing partners.
- In-kind salary for most members
- Congressional line item appropriations rare in recent years
- Members may contribute as a meeting sponsor and/or in-kind
- Dues and meeting registrations are not required of members to reduce the fiscal burden of participation.

Budget Estimate

- Approximately \$200,000 - \$250,000 per year for staff, supplies, extended travel support, meetings, support for standing technical teams, and indirect costs.
 - \$90,000 for staff salary and fringe, includes \$5,000 for student intern.
 - \$5,000 for office supplies, technology hardware, software, and subscriptions
 - \$10,000 for professional communication services (materials design and printing in multiple formats; websites, branding, newsletter, etc)
 - \$20,000 for travel support for fiscal agent and staff
 - \$5,000 per team for technical team meetings, travel, and other needs (sponsorships, communications or technical support, etc)
 - \$60,000 for meetings and travel for meeting participants
 - \$10,000 indirect costs (state agency rates)