

BC/WASHINGTON COASTAL AND OCEAN TASK FORCE
Three Year Draft Work Plan

proposed activities	time frame ¹
<p>1. Governance Development</p> <p>a. Examine regional oceans governance models drawing from lessons learned from the Gulf of Maine Council and other transboundary or regional oceans management arrangements.</p> <p>b. Enhance information exchange with participants in the Gulf of Maine Council and similar groups through interviews, briefings, joint conference calls, or other survey mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ during 2008, the Task Force will hold a seminar inviting Gulf of Main Council representatives (provincial/state, and federal) to share their experiences and to explore the Council’s potential as a governance model for the Task Force. <p>c. Examine policies (treaties, legislation, etc.) and related factors that might influence governance options.</p> <p>d. Develop governance options for consideration by the ECC and the other participants in a potential West Coast regional effort.</p> <p>e. Explore with Coast Salish Nations and Tribes the opportunities for making mutual progress on the Coast Salish Environmental Action Plan goals and priorities.</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>MT</p> <p>ST/MT</p>
<p>2. Updating Science to Inform Policy</p> <p>a. Convene a Marine Science Panel (similar to the 1993 panel) to provide updated advice to governments on the identification of major threats/drivers of change to marine and ocean ecosystems. The time-limited Panel will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ review findings from the 1993 Science Panel for relevancy in 2008 ▪ identify new threats ▪ provide recommendations to the ECC on priorities for action ▪ provide recommendations for translating science into policy and action to influence program agendas of government management agencies including identifying barriers ▪ network with and examine priorities, findings, and reports of existing science teams in the transboundary area. ▪ disseminate findings of the Marine Science Panel to other science teams, including new groups such as the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel 	<p>S/MT</p>

¹ Short term (ST) = 3-12 months; Medium term (MT) = 12-24 months; Long term (LT) = 24+ months

proposed activities	time frame ²
<p>3. Coastal & Ocean Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct an inventory of existing indicators and state of the environment and monitoring programs relevant to the management of estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems, and provide recommendations on how the Task Force could link to these processes for joint indicator development. b. Establish protocols for information sharing that improve, harmonize, and increase the overall accessibility of information on marine resources. c. Hold a workshop/symposium to identify key regional ocean indicators. Consider holding this workshop in conjunction with similar activities by the West Coast Governors' Agreement. d. Monitor changes in coastal and marine indicators, including water quality, over time to identify problems and trends. 	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LT</p>
<p>4. Habitat Conservation & Restoration</p> <p><u>Inventory & Information exchange:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compile current conservation or restoration policies, programs, and activities in the GB/PS and outer coasts of Washington and BC. b. Share information on Rockfish Conservation Areas. c. Facilitate communication about marine habitat classification methods. Discuss issues and work towards consensus on a consistent approach. d. Examine seafloor mapping data in selected areas, comparing methods, standards, and database tools. Identify data gaps. <p><u>Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Identify additional transboundary marine areas with special conservation value that would benefit from additional protective measures and/or restoration with a focus on two areas: San Juan-Gulf Islands, and the “Big Eddy”. f. Identify activities WA and B.C. can undertake together (e.g., creosote log/piling removal, ghost crab pot removal, eradication of invasive species, oil spill response, green ports) to address key marine threats in geographic areas of high interest and opportunity– San Juan-Gulf Islands, the “Big Eddy”, and Point Roberts/Boundary Bay/Semiahmoo Bay. g. Identify costs, partners, and funding sources to carry out projects. h. Identify government and non-government marine programs and activities already underway that the Task Force could support. 	<p>ST</p> <p>S/MT</p>

² Short term (ST) = 3-12 months; Medium term (MT) = 12-24 months; Long term (LT) = 24+ months

proposed activities	time frame ³
<p>4. Habitat Restoration and Conservation, <i>cont'd</i></p> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>i. Undertake joint activities (subject to available resources) in geographic areas of interest and opportunity (San Juan-Gulf Islands, Big Eddy, Pt. Roberts, Boundary Bay, and Semiahmoo Bay). Short term, the Task Force will conduct activities that address marine threats already identified in transboundary areas. Over the medium to long-term, the Task Force will conduct activities that address key marine threats identified by the Marine Science Panel.</p>	S/M/LT
<p>5. Water Quality</p> <p>a. Address water quality as a part of numbers 2, 3, and 4, above. Separate water quality actions may be necessary at a later time, depending on results of the Marine Science Panel.</p>	S/M/LT
<p>6. Climate Change⁴</p> <p>a. Improve understanding of the regional impacts of climate change by sharing information on ecological and socio-economic impacts, and preparation and adaptation strategies for dealing with climate change.</p> <p>b. Pursue joint-actions to reduce vessel air pollution such as through the International Maritime Organization.</p>	<p>ST/LT</p> <p>ST</p>
<p>7. Fostering Sustainable Communities and Development</p> <p>a. Support sustainable communities and fisheries through habitat conservation and restoration measures suggested above. These measures will include land-use and marine impacts on coastal and ocean habitat and water quality.</p> <p>b. Examine additional ways to further this objective.</p>	<p>S/M/LT</p> <p>MT</p>

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⁴ Climate change will permeate **all** of the proposed COTF work plan activities.