

This Comment on the West Coast Governors' Agreement web site is from:  
Name: Peter Strutton  
State(s): Oregon

Regarding Topic Areas:

- \* Clean coastal waters and beaches
- \* Scientific information, research, and monitoring

Comment/Suggestion:

Im a biological oceanographer in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) at Oregon State University with research interests that include harmful algal blooms (HABs). Since 2004 I have been funded, with Michelle Wood at the University of Oregon, to study the oceanographic processes that generate HABs off Oregon, and to develop satellite-based techniques to better predict and track HABs.

With potential funding from NOAA (currently under negotiation) we hope to establish a state-wide monitoring program that includes collaborators from OSU, UO, Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture and the NOAA Fisheries lab at Newport. We would also have strong collaborative links to the NOAA CoastWatch node in Pacific Grove, California, who disseminate satellite data. This program

1. Consolidates what is currently a somewhat disjoint group of monitoring efforts for Oregon,
2. Develops links to similar programs in Washington and California, and
3. Is relevant to the possible action items under the heading of Ensure Clean Coastal Waters and Beaches in the Governors discussion paper.

The purpose of this message is to make the WCGA aware of current and planned HAB research in OR and links to WA and CA. Our potential funding from NOAA represents a unique opportunity to create a unified, science-based monitoring program that will benefit coastal managers concerned with protecting human health. Throughout the course of the next 5 years we need to explore possibilities for transitioning our monitoring efforts to a state-supported model, or help the WCGA seek federal funding for a unified west coast consortium of monitoring programs.