

## West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda Frequently Asked Questions

*(March 2025)*

### **What is the West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda?**

It is a collaborative effort consisting of federal and state agencies, Tribes, academic institutions, researchers, non-governmental organizations, and others to describe ocean and coastal research and monitoring priorities, identify commonalities in priorities at a variety of scales, and amplify those priorities for funding. The goal is to accelerate strategic investments in ocean and coastal research along the U.S. West Coast.

### **Won't this be just another long list of ocean and coastal research priorities?**

No. The West Coast Ocean Science Action Agenda outcome is a framework, not a list. Moving beyond a list of questions and needs, the Agenda will articulate research and monitoring priorities, and the aligned public-private investments in infrastructure, technology, and workforce development that is necessary to deliver on those priorities.

### **How will Washington entities be engaged if there is no Washington Ocean Science Trust?**

The California and Oregon Ocean Science Trusts are engaging with the West Coast Ocean Alliance to create efficiencies in engaging with Tribes and government agencies in Washington. We are also actively reaching out to universities and science institutions in Washington State and look forward to deepening our partnerships in the state.

### **Is the Agenda a document about ocean policy and policy priorities?**

The Agenda is focused on amplifying ocean and coastal **science** priorities, including research, monitoring and technology. We will engage policymakers throughout the region to understand the science and data needs that may help inform ocean policies and management.

### **If my organization's priorities are not highlighted in the Agenda, does that mean they are not important?**

No. To attract significant additional financial resources to the U.S. West Coast, we must speak with one voice on some issues. The Agenda is intended to amplify a subset of U.S. West Coast ocean priorities, especially those that crosscut numerous organizations, interests, and needs. Even if one or more of an organization's priorities is not realized in the Agenda, the act of convening, listening, and discussing priorities will likely result in new/enhanced partnerships that will benefit all organizations.



**How will you incorporate Tribal science/Traditional Ecological Knowledge and capacity needs of Tribes in the Agenda?**

Each individual Tribe will be welcomed to highlight any ocean and coastal research priorities/needs regardless of the source or type of that science or knowledge.

**Given the current reductions in staffing and budgets at the federal level for ocean-related agencies and programs, is this the appropriate time to initiate this Agenda?**

Yes. Convening U.S. West Coast entities, engaging in listening sessions, fully articulating ocean and coastal research needs, and identifying crosscutting priorities is estimated to take 2-3 years. During that time, we'll be working with Congressional leaders, philanthropic interests, and others to invest in the creation of the agenda and build momentum and support for implementation beginning in 2028.

**I'd like to share my ocean and coastal research priorities; how can I get involved?**

In the coming months we will be creating new venues to share science needs and interests, attending existing events, and reaching out to entities along the U.S. West Coast. If you would like to sign up to receive newsletter updates on the Action Agenda, please visit [here](#).