Ocean Research Priorities
Plan
Implementation Strategy
The CA state & Industry Roles

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California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) created in September, 2004

5-Year Strategic Plan was released in September, 2006 following extensive review
California’s Ocean Economy

- The CA “Ocean Economy” is $43B - the largest ocean economy in the US
- In order by sector:
  - Tourism/recreation
  - Transportation
  - Shipbuilding
  - Minerals
  - Living Resources
  - Construction
CA Climate Change Center

- Funded by California Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program
- Scripps and UCB
- Impact of sea level rise will have a major impact with as much as 3 ft rise by 2100.
Vision

- In part:
  - The State and Nation invest in the necessary scientific tools and technologies. A widespread network of observing and monitoring stations provides a steady stream of useful data.
Themes

- Governance
- Research and Monitoring
- Ocean and Coastal Water Quality
- Physical Processes and Habitat Structure
- Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems
- Education and Outreach
Governance

- Federal & Regional Associations actions:
  - Maintain CA’s moratorium on offshore oil & gas leasing
  - Support CA’s non-point source pollution program
  - Call for the ratification of the LOS Treaty
  - Support CA’s ocean observing systems
  - Reauthorize a strong Coastal Zone Management Act
  - Support adequate funding for state and federal coastal programs
COPA requires OPC to
- Establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data related to coast and ocean resources between agencies.

Performance
- By 2011, consistent monitoring data are accessible to resource managers and the public
Research Objectives

- Make research part of OPC’s funding strategy
- Make CA’s ocean observing system a national model
- Seek federal support for CA’s research needs
- Through monitoring and data acquisition provide critical baselines for measuring future changes in ocean and coastal ecosystems
Specific State Investments

- California Ocean Current Mapping Program (COCMP) - $21M/3yr
  - HF Radar array with data available in real-time
  - CA State Coastal Conservancy & Resources Agency
- Complete seafloor maps of all state waters - distribution of marine habitat and substrate maps for design of MPAs
Federal & State Themes

- Stewardship of our natural & cultural ocean resources
- Increasing resilience to natural hazards
- Enabling marine operations
- The ocean’s role in climate
- Improving ecosystem health
- Enhancing human health

- Governance
- Research & Monitoring
- Ocean & coastal water quality
- Physical processes and habitat structure
- Ocean & coastal Ecosystems
- Education & Outreach [Information, Research, and Outreach (IRO)]
Ocean Research Priorities Plan Research

- Development of research priorities in six federal themes led to some common scientific & technical threads:
  - Increasing understanding and capability to forecast ocean processes
  - Developing scientific information to facilitate ecosystem-based management of resources, especially those found in coastal and nearshore ecosystems
  - Deploying ocean observing technologies that will accelerate forecasting and management capabilities.