Regional Ocean Partnerships

What are Regional Ocean Partnerships?
Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) are regional organizations voluntarily convened by the governors in collaboration with other governments and stakeholders to address ocean and coastal issues of common concern in that region. ROPs have operated in several regions for a decade or more and through many state and federal administrations. The recent Executive Order 13840 recognizes the function of ROPs as one that provides for interagency engagement and collaboration on cross-jurisdictional ocean and coastal matters.

Specifically, ROPs:
(1) Focus on issues that are priorities for that region (each region has different priority issues, so ROPs ensure that the activities are centered around the needs of the member states and other participants, regardless of national priorities).

(2) Are inclusive and provide a voice for a wide variety of stakeholders, including state, Federal and tribal governments, academia, non-governmental organizations, and business and industry.

(3) Provide intentional and inclusive coordination and collaboration (sustained collaboration among regional stakeholders does not happen unless someone actively facilitates it).

(4) Have the ability to leverage public and private funding to accomplish multi-agency common objectives for the priorities of that region.
Who are the ROPs?

Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)

**est. 2004**
A state partnership network convened by the governors to address cross-jurisdictional ocean and coastal issues in collaboration with our partners from Federal agencies, academia, NGOs and industry.

**Contact**
State chairs: Kevin Claridge, FL • Kevin.Claridge@dep.state.fl.us
Gareth Leonard, FL • Gareth.Leadenard@myfwc.com
Staff: Laura Bowie, Executive Director • Laura.Bowie@gomxa.org

**Priorities**
- Coastal resilience
- Education & engagement
- Water resources
- Marine debris

**www.GulfofMexicoAlliance.org**

Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)

**est. 2005**
A state and federal partnership convened by the governors to address cross-jurisdictional ocean and coastal issues in collaboration with other regional partners.

**Contact**
State co-chair: Steve Couture, NH • Steven.Couture@des.nh.gov
Federal co-chair: Regina Lyons, EPA • Lyons.Regina@epa.gov
Staff contact: Nick Napoli • nnapoli@northeastoceancouncil.org
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**Priorities**
- Coastal resilience
- Ocean planning
- Ocean & ecosystem health
- Data & monitoring
- Habitat resources
- Wildlife & fisheries
- Ecosystem services

**www.NortheastOceanCouncil.org**
**www.NortheastOceanData.org**

Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)

**est. 2009**
A state partnership convened by the governors to address shared regional priorities and provide a collective voice.

**Contact**
State co-chair: Elizabeth Semple, NJ • Elizabeth.Semple@dep.nj.gov
Staff contact: Nick Napoli • NickNapoli01@gmail.com

**Priorities**
- Climate change adaptation
- Renewable energy
- Ocean planning
- Marine habitats
- Water quality
- Data/Regional data portal

**http://MidAtlanticOcean.org**
**http://Portal.MidAtlanticOcean.org**

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA)

**est. 2019**
(re-launched as WCOA, building on previous efforts dating to 2007)
A state, tribal and federal ocean partnership building on previous regional coordination and planning activities that provides a forum for coordination, dialog and consensus-building regarding common ocean management priorities for government co-managers on the West Coast.

**Contact**
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**Priorities**
- Compatible ocean uses
- Ocean and coastal data
- Effective & transparent decision-making
- Tribal rights, knowledge, resources & practices

**www.WestCoastOceanAlliance.org**