

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.



Regional multi-jurisdictional collaboration around coastal management issues



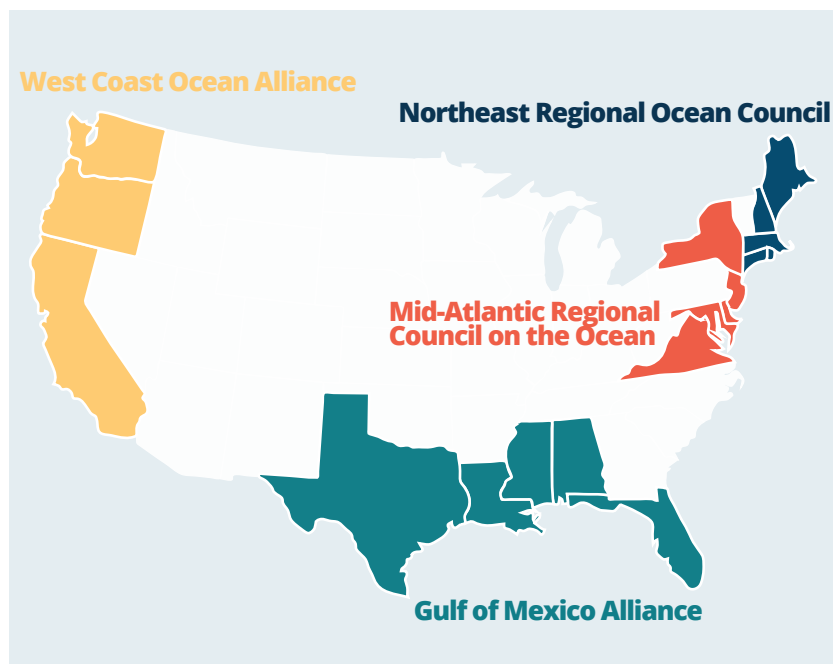
Stakeholder engagement



Accessible data products and regional data portals for priority issues



Ability to leverage public and private funding to achieve regional objectives



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

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Gareth Leonard, FL • Gareth.Leonard@myfwc.com

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AL, FL, LA, MS, TX

www.GulfofMexicoAlliance.org

Priorities

Coastal resilience

Education & engagement

Water resources

Marine debris

Data & monitoring

Habitat resources

Wildlife & fisheries

Ecosystem services

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

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ME, NH, MA, RI, CT

DOI, EPA, NOAA, USDA, ACOE, & USCG

www.NortheastOceanCouncil.org

www.NortheastOceanData.org

Priorities

Coastal resilience

Ocean planning

Ocean & ecosystem health

Data/Regional data portal

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

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NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA

<http://MidAtlanticOcean.org>

<http://Portal.MidAtlanticOcean.org>

Priorities

Climate change adaptation

Renewable energy

Ocean planning

Marine habitats

Water quality

Data/Regional data portal

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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CA, OR, WA, & 11 tribal governments

www.WestCoastOceanAlliance.org

Priorities

Compatible ocean uses

Ocean and coastal data

Effective & transparent decision-making

Tribal rights, knowledge, resources & practices