

GRANT AWARDS



NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

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On January 10, 2012, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$6.18 million to regional partners through the Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program (ROPFP). This grant program was developed to advance effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance, including the goals for national ocean policy and comprehensive ocean planning set out in the president's *Final Recommendations of Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, July 19, 2010*. The ROPFP program supported two categories of activities: 1) implementation of a spectrum of regional ocean partnership priorities, with a focus on marine planning activities and 2) support for development and operations for Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP).

The following projects were selected for funding:

- **Northeast Region – The Association of U.S. Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council**, representing the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), was awarded a total of \$1,545,000 for the development of a first-stage regional ocean plan supporting ecosystem-based management of New England's marine environment and its human uses and to expand partnerships and public participation in NROC activities.
- **Mid-Atlantic Region – The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)** is supported by a total of \$1,569,000, including an award to Monmouth University to enhance MARCO's online Mapping and Planning Portal and an award to the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation to enable MARCO to better implement its actions and reach out to partners and the public.
- **Alaska – The Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science**, representing the Alaska Ocean Observing System, was awarded \$760,000 to develop stakeholder-driven visualization and decision-support tools for Alaska and the U.S. Arctic for a range of ocean and coastal uses.

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- **South Atlantic – The South Atlantic Alliance** supported two successful grant applications for its region for a total of \$1,062,431. The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium received both grants to support the South Atlantic Alliance’s initiative to provide a multi-state and regional framework for ocean planning in the Southeast U.S., as well as to continue the development and organization of the alliance for the Southeast region.
- **Caribbean – The Nature Conservancy**, representing the Caribbean Region, was awarded \$250,000 to support the development of a new Regional Ocean Partnership in the United States Caribbean region.
- **Gulf of Mexico – The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)** was awarded \$250,000 to support continued coordination of the GOMA Priority Issue Teams for achieving the specific priority objectives, including those concerning water quality and hazards resilience outlined in the Governors’ Action Plan II.
- **West Coast – The West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health** received \$246,400 to aid its work on regional priority development and work towards better regional data access and delivery in support of those priorities.
- **Hawaii – The State of Hawai’i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Office of Planning**, representing the Hawai’i Ocean Resources Management Plan, was awarded \$250,000 to facilitate stakeholder engagement and foster the development of the Hawai’i Sub-Regional Ocean Partnership (SOP).
- **Pacific Islands – The University of Hawai’i**, representing the Pacific Islands region, was awarded \$249,000 to support the development of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP).