

GRANT AWARDS



NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program

September 2012

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In September 2012, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) awarded \$3.14 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 the 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.

The following projects were selected for funding:

- **Northeast – The Association of U.S. Delegates to the Gulf of Maine Council**, representing the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), was awarded \$625,000 to undertake foundational tasks necessary to support regional ocean planning by engaging with specific stakeholders and to support continued development of data and science products.
- **West Coast – The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, representing the West Coast Governors' Alliance (WCGA), received \$850,000 in grant awards to help engage the public, stakeholders, and tribal sovereign nations in a productive and collaborative process to support and inform ocean planning on the West Coast, update the WCGA Action Plan, and enhance the Regional Data Framework.
- **Mid-Atlantic – The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)** received \$445,000 in support, including an award to Monmouth University to enhance MARCO's Mapping and Planning Portal and support spatially explicit ocean planning in the Mid-Atlantic, and an award to the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation to enhance capacities for MARCO to improve regional ocean governance efforts in the Mid-Atlantic.

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- **South Atlantic – The South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium**, representing the Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance, was awarded \$276,000 to support continued development of the Regional Information Management System portal and to initiate two pilot-scale efforts to support ocean planning and other information management needs of the alliance.
- **West Coast – The Smith River Rancheria** received \$225,000 to build the capacity of West Coast tribes to coordinate at a regional level to engage in ocean governance and to integrate tribal science and ecological knowledge into ocean planning efforts.
- **Gulf of Mexico – The Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA)** was awarded \$225,000 to support continued coordination of the GOMA priority issue teams for achieving the specific priority objectives outlined in the Governors’ Action Plan II.
- **Pacific Islands – The University of Hawai’i**, representing the Pacific Islands region, was awarded \$225,000 to continue support for the establishment of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP) as a governance structure to implement priorities of the Pacific region, as well as the National Ocean Policy, by enhancing the regional capacity for ocean planning.
- **Great Lakes – The Council of Great Lakes Governors** was awarded \$275,000 to advance bi-national data exchange and information that supports local decision-making for adaptive coastal planning and management.