



## **WCGA approves formation of West Coast Data Network Action Coordination Team**

The December 2011 “West Coast Regional Data Framework” workshop brought together 60 state and federal agency staff, tribal representatives, and non-governmental organization and academic staff from California, Oregon, and Washington to discuss the establishment of a West Coast Regional Data Network. The attendees discussed the scope, scale, audience, and vision statement of a Regional Data Network and ideas for a Regional Data System for linking West Coast geospatial information. By the end of the two-day workshop, the group had established a Network and three technical working groups focused on issues related to Data, Information Technology (IT), and Outreach, outlined key tasks and a timeline for completing those tasks, and identified potential partners and funding sources. [A draft summary of the workshop can be found here.](#)

One of the first successful actions for the Network was the approval of a [proposal](#) to the West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health (WCGA) to create an Action Coordination Team (ACT) to support the information needs of the other WCGA ACTs. This proposal was a recommendation from the Outreach technical working group at the workshop to establish a formal body to represent the Network. Inclusion under the WCGA will make it easier for the Network to seek grants and take advantage of the WCGA’s fiscal sponsor to leverage other funds for priority action items while capitalizing on existing resources. The existing ACTs also provide a ready group of consumers and managers of scientific and geospatial data that the Regional Data Network ACT could engage as it prioritizes, gathers, manages, and disseminates data sets and information products of regional importance. Finally, the WCGA has a relationship with West Coast stakeholders and has established communication mechanisms for issues of regional significance, which can provide the Network with a clear avenue for both input and feedback on its efforts.

In January of 2012, the WCGA Executive Committee approved the formation of a Regional Data Network ACT and gave the go-ahead to hold member nominations and develop a work plan.

## **The nomination process for membership on the WCGA Regional Data Network ACT is now open**

The WCGA seeks self-nominations of motivated data managers, developers, collectors, and users with a vested interest in regional data management and sharing to serve on the Regional Data Network ACT. The ACT will coordinate the activities of the three technical working groups (Data, IT, and Outreach), consult with the broader West Coast Data Network and its partners, oversee the finalization of an ACT work plan, and

communicate with the WCGA Executive Committee. The ACT will consist of a maximum of 15 members and include one agency representative from each West Coast state, appropriate federal agency and tribal representatives, and additional technical experts from academia, non-governmental organizations, and industry as described in the [WCGA Charter](#). A leader from each of the three technical working groups will also participate in the ACT. These members shall be “connectors and communicators” with relevant background and interest on the topic and the ability to facilitate involvement of necessary technical experts and/or staff.

This is a great opportunity to help the WCGA shape regional data coordination activities to inform regional ocean issues and to forge new relationships among West Coast data experts and users. We invite interested and qualified applicants who can commit to this effort over the next one to two years to submit nominations. We anticipate that the initial time commitment will be more significant as the ACT develops, holds biweekly conference calls and a March kickoff meeting, and finalizes a work plan. Once the work plan is finalized, the time required from ACT members will likely decrease to regular monthly or bimonthly conference calls. Please consider this when applying.

Nominations will be accepted between **Feb.6<sup>th</sup>** and **Feb.24<sup>th</sup>**. A subcommittee of the Network will evaluate candidates according to the details below. The ACT membership roster will be announced in early March. Please send nominations to [apply@westcoastoceans.org](mailto:apply@westcoastoceans.org).

### **Nomination details**

**Membership:** The ACT should include representatives from the following entities:

- CA, OR, WA state agencies (3)
- Federal agencies (NOAA, BOEM, EPA, USGS, DOD, etc.) (1-5)
- West Coast Tribes (1-3)
- Academic Institution (1)
- NGO (1)
- Industry (1)
- Data, IT, and Outreach technical working group representatives (3)

### **Selection criteria:**

- West Coast data manager, collector, developer, or user representing one or more of the entities listed above
- Necessary experience (at least 3 years managing, collecting, or coordinating ocean and coastal data)
- Familiarity with data management software, metadata standards, geospatial data analysis and decision support tools, and other relevant experience will be considered
- Managerial support
- Time available to commit (1-2 year commitment, including workshop in early spring 2012 and regular conference calls)

The Nomination Committee will also consider persons recommended by the WCGA Executive Committee and other ACTs.

**Required application materials:**

- Statement of interest that describes nominee's reasons for serving on the ACT and includes nominee's qualifications based on the selection criteria described above
- CV/resume (2 page max) and a letter of support are not required but will aid the Nomination Committee in evaluating candidates

**Background Information**

- [Draft Workshop Summary](#)
- [ACT Proposal](#)
- [WCGA Charter](#)