

Overview of U.S. State Approaches to OAH and Water Quality

**Adapted* by the OA Alliance for use of the OAA U.S. State Working Group, 2026

	California	Oregon	Washington
Responsive Authorities	California Ocean Protection Council California State Water Resources Control Board	Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development - Coastal Management Program OR Department of Environmental Quality	Washington Department of Ecology
Regulatory Approaches	Scoping amendment to the California Ocean Plan to set water quality objectives for ocean acidification .	Proposed 303(d) listings of marine waters for ocean acidification and hypoxia as part of 2024 Integrated Report under CWA Re-evaluation of nutrient reduction strategy , focused on freshwater and estuaries but not currently coastal discharge	Establishing TMDL for dissolved oxygen in Puget Sound Advanced Restoration Plan (in draft) aims to set total nitrogen targets and long-term water quality targets, including for point sources
Water Quality Criteria being developed or assessed	No standard guideline for OA	Narrative biological criteria (pteropod shell dissolution and aragonite saturation state) Narrative dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria	Narrative standards
Monitoring done directly by state at agency	Partnerships with scientific partners including the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, CalCOFI, Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies, California Current Ecosystem LTER, MBARI (development of a California OAH portal for monitoring data)	Partnerships with federal and scientific partners	Department of Ecology leads an OAH monitoring effort at 28 stations in Puget Sound and two coastal bays Co-located biological data collection: zooplankton monitoring program and Pacific Crab research group
Complimentary Non- Regulatory Strategies	Cap and Invest funding and Proposition 68 funding to support Ocean Protection Council OAH investments Ocean Acidification Action Plan (2019) ten-year vision for addressing OA California Ocean Acidification Science Task Force , recommendations for enhancing California's OAH Monitoring Network Funding of scientific research in wastewater-OA connection	Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Program Oregon Climate Action Commission Estuary restoration Funding for local adaptation	Climate Commitment Act revenue (potentially utilized for water quality enhancement). Salmon recovery Collaboration between other agencies, tribes, and local conservation districts