



NEWS RELEASE

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Set Science Priorities for West Coast Marine and Coastal Ecosystems

Sea Grant programs in Washington, Oregon and California are collaborating to assess the long-term marine research and information needs of the entire West Coast of the United States. The goal: to help the region move toward an ecosystem-based approach to marine resource management, research and information-sharing.

As part of this effort, Washington Sea Grant will host an open house at the University of Washington in Seattle to gather input on pressing ocean science needs. The open house is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 13, 2-7 p.m., room 207, Anderson Hall at the UW.

The event will feature a drop-in format, with Washington Sea Grant staff available to discuss issues and receive input. Brief presentations are scheduled at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to provide background and context for the planning process.

Following the meeting, participants can track the project's progress on the Web, provide feedback through a Web-based forum and have opportunities to comment on a draft report summarizing the results of various information-gathering activities.

Those who can't attend can still provide input through an online survey at www.wsg.washington.edu.

Supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the project is a response to recent national recommendations calling for a regional approach to research planning. This Sea Grant-led effort is also in collaboration with the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.

For more information, visit the West Coast Marine Research and Information Planning Project Web site at www.wsg.washington.edu/research/econcomdev/regional_plan.html, or contact Michelle Wainstein at mwain@u.washington.edu or 206.616.9568.