



State of Washington ~ Province of British Columbia Coastal and Ocean Task Force



Terms of Reference

Mandate:

The Washington-British Columbia Coastal and Ocean Task Force (COTF) is established to provide a mechanism to enhance collaboration between the State of Washington and the Province of British Columbia on coastal and oceans issues. The geographic area of interest includes Puget Sound, the Georgia Basin, and the outer coasts of Washington and British Columbia.

Task Force Goals:

- *Increase communication between governments on ocean and coastal issues.*
- *Foster collaborative activities to improve the health of shared marine waters.*
- *Monitor and report on progress to protect our marine waters.*

Objectives:

To provide a transboundary forum to share information and collaborate on activities that:

- *Protect and restore coastal and marine habitats;*
- *Encourage the development of ecosystem management approaches for ocean and coastal resources; and*
- *Foster sustainable coastal communities and development.*

Activities:

The Task Force will undertake activities to:

- *Promote the exchange of technical and scientific information;*
- *Identify priority transboundary issues and recommend collaborative actions; and*
- *Sponsor and participate in international conferences and workshops on issues of mutual interest.*

Task Force Membership:

Washington and British Columbia will appoint co-chairs who will be responsible for ensuring broad representation on the Task Force from coastal and ocean resource management agencies in respective jurisdictions.

Task Force Operations:

The Task Force will develop an annual work plan for approval by the British Columbia-Washington Environmental Cooperation Council.

The Task Force will develop action plans and status reports on priority issues.

The Task Force will generally meet twice a year or as required.

Reporting:

The Task Force will report to the Governor and Premier through the British Columbia-Washington Environmental Cooperation Council, and report on progress at an annual meeting of Washington and British Columbia governments.

AGREED as to form and content and signed and dated in two (2) duplicate originals in Seattle, Washington, this _____ day of June, 2007

Jay Manning
Director of Ecology
State of Washington

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Province of British Columbia