

Save the Date!

2009 Coastal America Annual Meeting

“Forging Regional Partnerships for Action”

Semiahmoo Resort, Blaine, Washington

October 13-16, 2009



Purpose: Following the release of the Administration’s Ocean Policy Task Force Report, this meeting will focus on identifying linkages between new national Ocean Policy priorities, the evolving regional governance structures, and Coastal America Partnership efforts.

Agenda

Tuesday, October 13

- Optional Field Trips
- Regional Chairs Working Session
- **Evening Event - Opening Reception and Dinner**
 - Welcome to the Northwest Region
 - Keynote: Administration Priorities for the Oceans and Coasts

Wednesday, October 14

- Plenary Session: Supporting the new National Coastal and Ocean Policy
 - Interagency Ocean Task Force Report Panel Discussion
 - Partnership Opportunities – Regional Teams, CELCs, CWRP
- **Working Luncheon - Roundtable Discussions**
- Working Group Report
- Field Trip to Vancouver Aquarium, British Columbia, Canada
- **Evening Event – Canadian Reception and Celebration**

Thursday, October 15

- Plenary Session: Supporting Regional Governance/Partnerships
 - Regional Governance Panel Discussion
 - Regional Chairs Meeting Report
- **Working Luncheon - Roundtable Discussions**
- Working Group Reports
- Field Trip to Lummi Nation – Tribal Restoration and Protection Efforts
- **Evening Event - Traditional Salmon Barbecue at Tribal Longhouse**
 - Keynote- Northwest Issues and Concerns

Friday, October 16

- Plenary Session: Looking to the Future - 2010 and Beyond
 - Interagency Principals Panel Discussion
 - Action Plan for 2010 - 2011
- **Closing Luncheon - Leadership Awards**
- Optional Field Trips

Logistical Information and Registration Materials are available at www.coastalamerica.gov.
Questions may be directed to Katharine Dowell at 202-401-9923 or Katharine.Dowell@da.usda.gov.

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Coastal America's 2009 Annual Meeting will be held October 13-16, 2009 at the Semiahmoo Resort (www.semiahmoo.com), in Blaine Washington, near the Canadian border, on Puget Sound. Please contact the hotel directly for reservations at 360-318-2000 or 800-770-7992 by **September 13, 2009** to ensure availability, and please identify yourself as 'Coastal America'.



Agenda and Purpose of the Meeting: The Coastal America 2009 Annual Meeting will be responsive to the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report recommendations, with a focus on the theme of 'Regional Partnerships for Action'.

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report

On June 12, 2009, President Obama sent a memorandum to the heads of executive departments and federal agencies establishing an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. For information, see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/>

The Task Force is charged with developing a recommendation for a national policy that ensures protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes. It will also recommend a framework for improved stewardship, and effective coastal and marine spatial planning. The draft policy recommendations are scheduled for release in September, and the Task Force is now seeking input on its work from interested communities, governments, tribes, businesses, associations, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

Coastal America will meet following the release of the September draft to begin to address the recommendations by developing revised 2010-2011 Action Plan elements. Strategic discussions by the Partnership will include:

- Maintaining Coastal America Partnership strengths and tools in order to implement the strategic priorities of the Ocean Policy, for example, by enhancing ocean education through the CELCs and supporting Regional and Local Collaboration through CA's Regional Teams and Partnership Projects.
- Leveraging, where possible, Coastal America Partnership's regional strengths and extensive field team experience to implement the strategic priorities of the Ocean Policy and further the mutual goals of Coastal America and the many groups it represents.
- Assuring appropriate and consistent federal participation in Coastal America Partnership meetings and projects to ensure effective decision-making and implementation, and improve the integration of the Partnership with other coastal and marine programs.