

Ocean Resources Management Program  
California Natural Resources Agency

**Position Description:**

The California Ocean Resources Management Program (Oceans Program) is part of the California Natural Resources Agency and is responsible for the coordination of all state ocean resource management programs. Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Brian Baird, directs the Program and is the Natural Resources Agency lead for state ocean policy. In July 2009, Brian was appointed as Acting Executive Policy Officer of the California Ocean Protection Council. He also serves as the *Chair Emeritus* of the national Coastal States Organization and various other boards and panels. The Ocean Program's broad scope will allow a Sea Grant Fellow to have unprecedented interaction with a broad cross-section of state and national leaders in ocean protection, management, and research. To date, the Ocean Program has hosted seven Sea Grant fellows, all of whom went on to pursue careers concerning ocean, coastal, or Great Lakes protection, management, or research.

As the gubernatorial election will take place in November 2010, the Sea Grant fellow will have a unique opportunity to view first-hand the transition of the administration. The Oceans Program will work in 2010 on ensuring that Governor Schwarzenegger's highest ocean and coastal priorities are accomplished as well as helping with the transition to a new administration. Potential projects include:

**California Ocean Protection Council (OPC).** Assist Brian as Acting Executive Policy Officer of the OPC and staff Secretary Chrisman in his role as Chair of the Ocean Protection Council. Specific activities may include participating in weekly OPC staff calls, reviewing staff recommendations, reviewing grant proposals, and attending OPC quarterly meetings. <http://www.opc.ca.gov/>

**West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.** Assist the Ocean Program in implementing this landmark regional action agreement between the states of California, Oregon, and Washington. Specific activities may include participation in all Executive Committee conference calls, participation in one of ten workgroups formed to implement the Action Plan, development of letters and other policy statements by the three Governors or the Executive Committee, review of implementation plans and accomplishments reports, and preparation of speaking points for the Executive Committee to promote the partnership. <http://www.westcoastoceans.gov>

**California and the World Ocean 2010 (CWO '10).** Assist with planning the next conference which brings together representatives from government, academia, industry, and the public to positively influence the course of ocean and coastal protection. CWO '10 is tentatively planned for August or September 2010 in the San Francisco Bay Area and will highlight Governor Schwarzenegger's ocean legacy as well as influence the agenda for the next administration. Logistical support will largely be provided by an outside organization with direction from the Ocean Program. Specific activities may include general support for conference planning, participation in the development of the agenda and concurrent sessions, development of the call for abstracts and review of submissions, development of speaking points for Secretary Chrisman and Brian, and support to VIP conference attendees.

**Resources Agency Sea Grant Advisory Panel (RASGAP).** Assist Brian as Chair to coordinate the RASGAP review of proposals for ocean and coastal research by California's two

Sea Grant programs. Specific activities include managing the membership of RASGAP, support for meeting arrangements, review of pre-proposals and proposals, and participation in technical review panels held in San Diego.

**Coastal States Organization (CSO).** Assist with the responsibilities of a member of the Executive Committee of CSO in developing and implementing national ocean policies. CSO represents thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths and territories on national legislative and policy issues. CSO is particularly engaged in President Obama's June 2009 presidential memo forming an Interagency Ocean Task Force to create a national ocean policy and explore issues around marine spatial planning. Specific activities may include participation in CSO conference calls and development and review of CSO policy statements. <http://www.coastalstates.org/>

**Thank You Ocean.** The Thank You Ocean campaign is a joint partnership between the State of California and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to raise awareness about the importance of the ocean and to engage the public in stewardship. The campaign's website was relaunched in May 2009 and focuses on four specific threats to the ocean and uses social media tools to engage the public in the campaign. Specific activities may include development or review of campaign materials (such as podcasts, web content, and social media), overall project management, and fundraising. <http://thankyouocean.org/>

**Pacific Coast Collaborative.** In July 2008, the Governors of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and the Premier of British Columbia signed on to the Pacific Coast Collaborative which commits its members to meet annually to initiate joint efforts on a variety of issues. The first meeting of the Pacific Coast Collaborative is tentatively scheduled for Fall 2009 in California where oceans and climate change will be significant parts of the agenda. Specific activities in 2010 may include continued participation in conference calls amongst the five regions, implementation of the actions agreed to in the Fall 2009, and preparation for the 2010 meeting. <http://www.pacificcoastcollaborative.org>

**Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).** The Marine Life Protection Act of 1999 calls for the evaluation and possible redesign of California's system of marine protected areas. Since 2005, implementation of this law has been aided by a public-private partnership known as the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. Ocean Program staff general do not engage in the day-to-day activities of MLPA implementation but do get involved in issues where coordination with a variety of state agencies is required. Specific activities may include setting agendas for groups involved in coordination and providing advice to Brian and Secretary Chrisman. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>