

Oregon Marine Debris Action Plan Background

Over the years, Oregon's agencies, NGOs, and industry have done remarkable work to prevent and remove marine debris. Recently, the response to the Japan tsunami marine debris created additional momentum to address this perennial problem. A marine debris action plan will bring together the Oregon entities working on marine debris with the purpose of increasing coordination, adding value to existing efforts, and identifying gaps for future efforts.

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) has worked with other states and regions to establish Marine Debris Action Plans. We can learn from other regions' experience, but the Oregon Action Plan will be created by Oregon stakeholders. In general, the plans include current and desired marine debris work, gaps in marine debris projects, and specific actions for addressing marine debris in the future. NOAA MDP will facilitate and support the process to create an Action Plan (including funding the workshops and handling logistics) and will continue to support the Action Plan in the future.

The Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), recently identified marine debris as a priority. OPAC will be supporting the NOAA MDP in the planning process and will be the state lead contact.

Overview of the Marine Debris Action Plan process

- Inquire about marine debris stakeholders' interest in establishing an Action Plan in Oregon (completed – response was positive)
- Establish a planning committee to help with the logistics of setting up the first workshop
- Hold a 2-day workshop to establish the main components of Action Plan (Spring 2016)
- Following the workshop, the Action Plan will be drafted by NOAA MDP staff and interested parties. All stakeholders at the workshop will have a chance to review and edit the draft.
- A second, 2-day workshop (date TBD) will be held to finalize the Action Plan.

Note: The process outlined above is similar to the process used in other areas, but there is flexibility in the process design.

Roles within the process

NOAA MDP: Facilitate and support the process by convening the planning committee, taking care of the workshop's logistics and providing funding for the venue, and for some travel assistance. NOAA staff will also support the implementation of the Action Plan once it is established. The level and type of support will be discussed at the workshops. Leads: Nir Barnea and Briana Goodwin

OPAC: Support the Action Plan process, including stakeholders representation at the workshops, as well as help with the general workshop and process planning details. Lead: Charlie Plybon

Planning Committee: Help with workshop logistics and planning including venue, date, invite list, and agenda. The committee will not determine any content of the Action Plan and will solely focus on logistics and support.

Participants: Participants in the Action Plan process will attend the workshops to create the content of the Plan and will also review and edit the Action Plan document.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is funding this process? NOAA is funding the creation of the Action Plan by providing staff to support the process and paying for the workshops (including some travel support).

Will NOAA support the actions identified in the Action Plan? NOAA will provide some support for the implementation of the Action Plan depending on what actions fall within their mandate. Additionally, grant applications that are a part of an Action Plan may be more competitive.

What is the relationship between this process and other regional groups such as the West Coast Marine Debris Alliance? This process is viewed as complementary to the West Coast Marine Debris Alliance, which has a broader scope. The purpose of the OR Action Plan is to really focus in on issues and actions important to stakeholders in Oregon. Some of the identified actions might be a good fit for collaborating with a regional body such as the Marine Debris Alliance. There has been regional work to address marine debris, such as the creation of the West Coast Marine Debris Strategy, and this process will recognize and build on those efforts.

Who can I contact about getting involved? Please contact Briana Goodwin at 541-655-0236 or goodwin.briana@gmail.com, Nir Barnea at 206-526-6943 or nir.barnea@noaa.gov, or Charlie Plybon (OPAC Lead for the Action Plan) at 541-961-8143 or cplybon@surfrider.org.