

OVERVIEW

For fiscal years 2022 to 2023, \$20.5 million will be used to fund 13 awards under the Regional Ocean Partnerships provision of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These awards are designed to address regional interstate and intertribal ocean and coastal management issues in several ways, including improved data sharing and integration. Four awards have been made to tribal entities, all of which are engaged with the [West Coast Ocean Alliance \(WCOA\)](#), the designated Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP) for the West Coast. The summary below highlights the tribal entity projects.

➤ **Enhancing the Makah Tribe's Engagement in Regional Ocean Planning and Management**

The goal of this award is to enhance the Makah Tribe's ability to execute regional ocean planning initiatives by increasing their mapping capabilities. The Makah Tribe is an active participant in the West Coast Ocean Alliance. However, limited staffing capacity affects their ability to analyze the impacts of projects and programs that could affect their ocean and coast-related treaty rights and resources. This funding will attempt to address this by 1) hiring an ocean mapping specialist; 2) identifying Makah information needs and gaps in the West Coast Ocean Alliance Data Portal; and 3) developing data products, sharing lessons learned, contributing to tribal-focused data products, and identifying needs for future research. As a strong partner of the West Coast Ocean Alliance, the Makah Tribe's efforts will also provide immediate and tangible benefits to the alliance.

➤ **Quinault Indian Nation Participation and Engagement with the West Coast Ocean Alliance, a Regional Ocean Partnership**

This award will be used to enhance the Quinault Indian Nation's ability to engage with federal and state agencies on ocean usage by providing the means for tribal leadership and staff to participate, in person, in West Coast Ocean Alliance efforts. This tribe has been a member of this regional ocean partnership since the partnership's inception. Tribal leadership has been attending meetings remotely due to the pandemic, but the gradual return to in-person activities, and even more importantly, the increasing demand for ocean resources, makes it imperative that Quinault Indian Nation leadership attend in person to properly engage as decisions are being made regarding ocean use in their territory. With this funding, the Quinault Indian Nation will host one West Coast Ocean Alliance-related meeting, and tribal leadership and staff will be able to attend the annual meeting, as well as other ancillary forums, such as the tribal caucus meeting, the data portal meeting, and other tribe-related meetings.

➤ **Quileute Indian Tribe Real-Time Hypoxia Monitoring Moorings**

This funding will be used to better understand and predict hypoxia events along the Washington shelf. To do this, the Quileute Tribe and the Applied Physics Laboratory, University of Washington, will improve real-time hypoxia monitoring and prediction by refurbishing and redesigning the two existing monitoring systems and building one new system. These systems will measure and report existing near-bottom oxygen concentration, and will predict the movement of hypoxic conditions. Data processed through the laboratory will supply critical information needs identified through the West Coast Ocean Alliance and the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

➤ **Enhanced Data Management Capacity among the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, its Four Member Tribes, and the West Coast Ocean Alliance**

This award will enhance the ability of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and its four member tribes to participate in regional data sharing and upgrade their existing data management and sharing infrastructure. In addition to more tribal engagement with West Coast Ocean Alliance data activities, the funding will be used to improve the tribes' centralized data management systems to include enhanced user interfaces, more thorough metadata, improved data exchange standards, and the inclusion of more traditional ecological knowledge fields. Additional tribal data sets will also be added. Additionally, the project will increase the capacity of the tribes to effectively share data with regional repositories like the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

For more information about the West Coast Ocean Alliance please visit our website at www.westcoastoceanalliance.org or contact WCOA Executive Director John Hansen at John@westcoastoceanalliance.org.