



British Columbia/Washington Coastal and Ocean Task Force Terms of Reference

Mandate:

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

Task Force Goals:

- Increase communication between governments on oceans and coastal issues;
- Foster collaborative activities to improve the health of shared marine waters; and
- 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;
- sponsor and participate in international conferences and workshops on issues of mutual interest.

Task Force Membership:

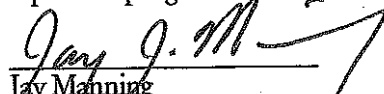
The Governments of BC and Washington will appoint co-chairs who will be responsible for ensuring broad representation on the Task Force from coastal and ocean resource management agencies in their respective jurisdictions.

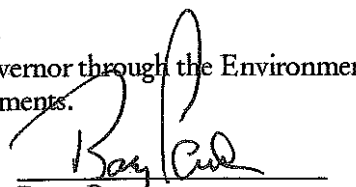
Task Force Operations

The Task Force will develop an Annual Work Plan for approval by governments.
The Task Force will develop action plans and status reports on priority issues.
The Task Force will generally meet two times a year and as appropriate.

Reporting:

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


Jay Manning
Director of Ecology
Washington State


Barry Penner
Minister of Environment
Province of British Columbia



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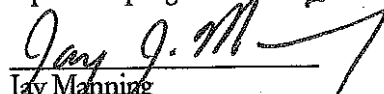
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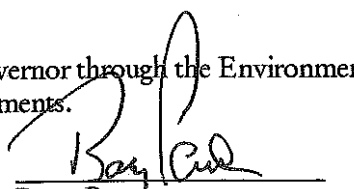
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