West Coast Regional Marine Planning Update

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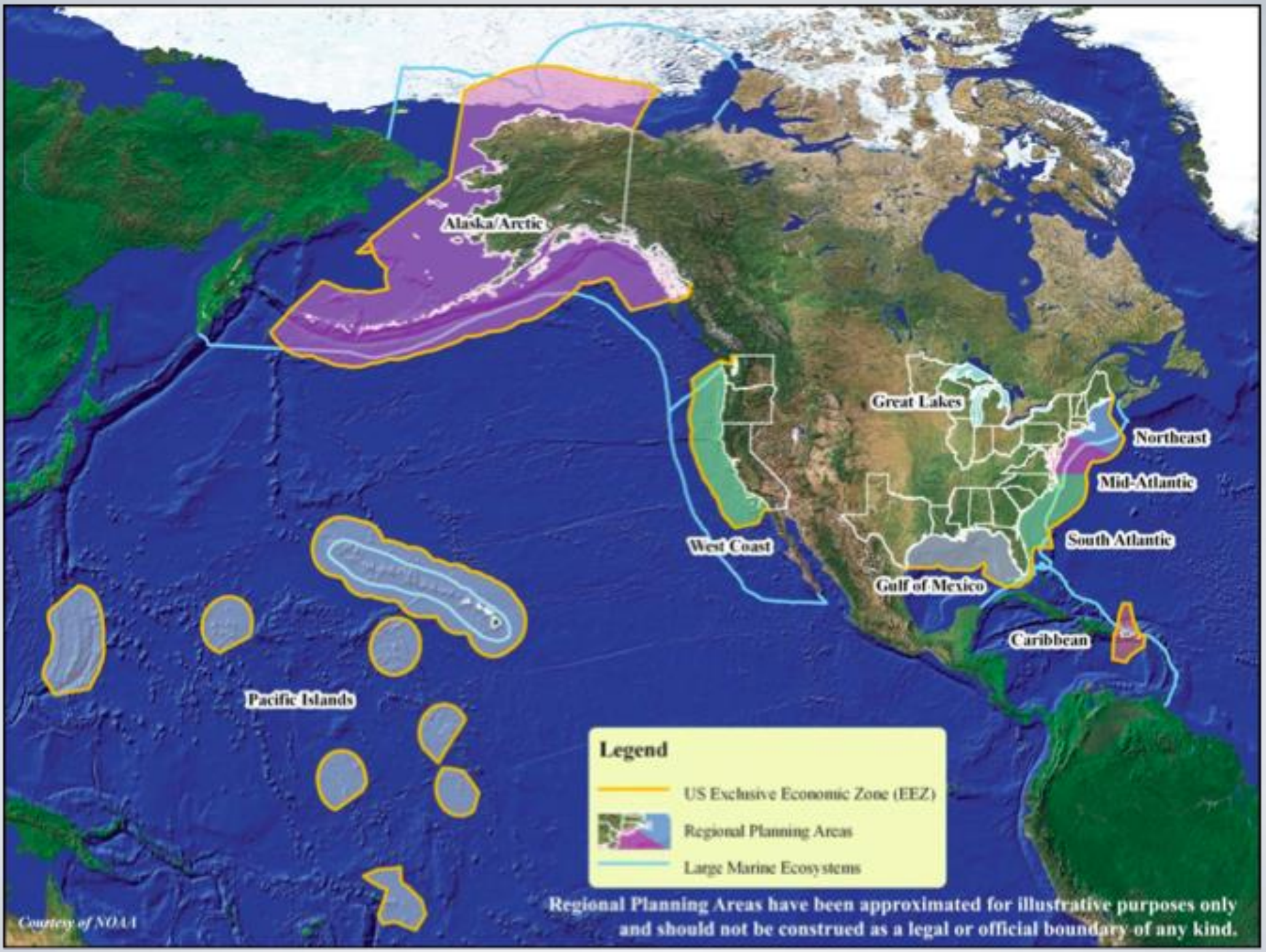
“Marine Planning”

Marine planning is a science- and information-based approach to address specific management challenges associated with multiple uses of the ocean.

Benefits of Marine Planning

- Reduce conflicts among uses
- Increase predictability and certainty
- Facilitate compatible uses
- Preserve critical ecosystem services/natural capital

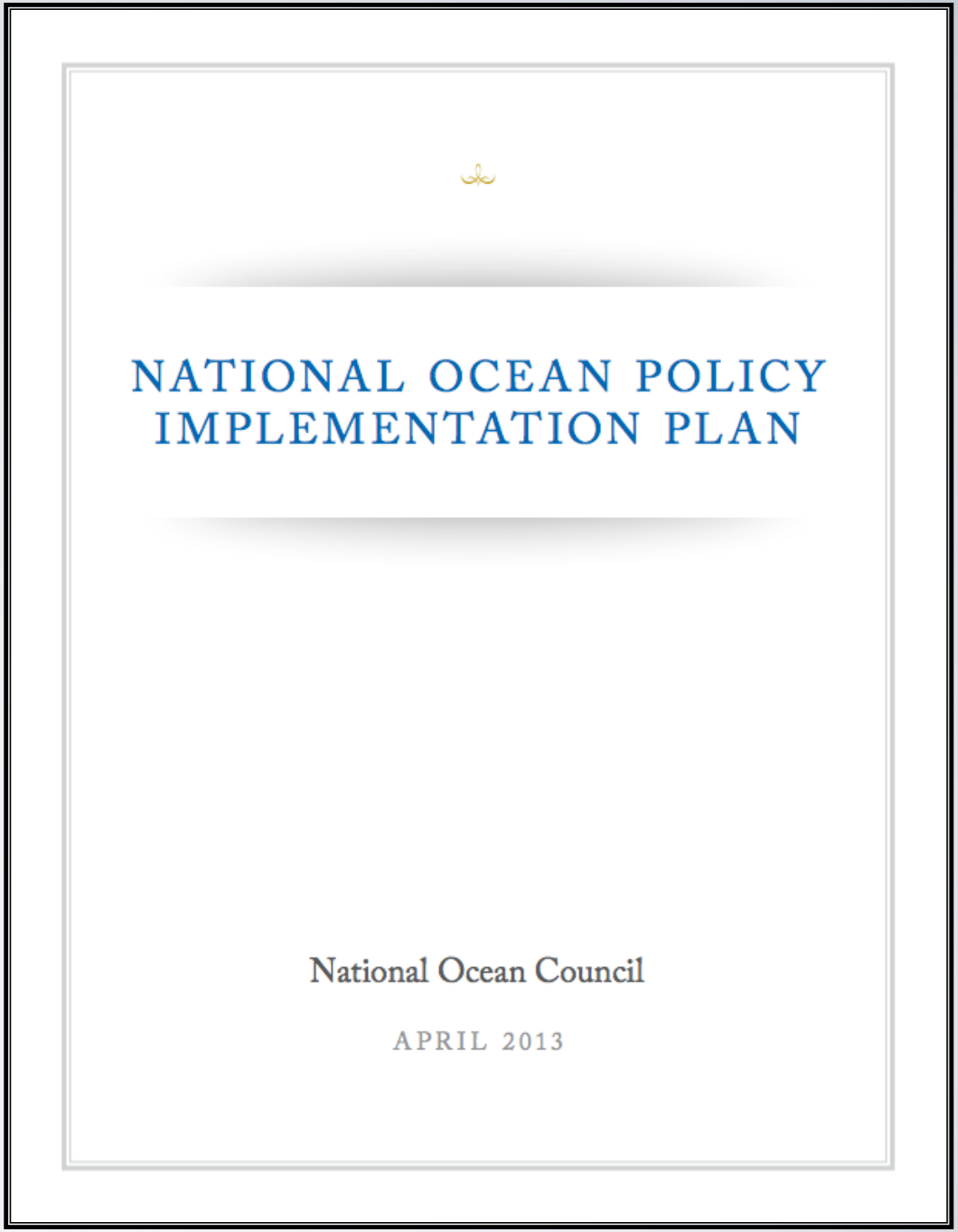

Alaska/Arctic
Great Lakes
Northeast
Mid-Atlantic
West Coast
South Atlantic
Gulf of Mexico
Caribbean
Pacific Islands
Legend
US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
Regional Planning Areas
Large Marine Ecosystems
Regional Planning Areas have been approximated for illustrative purposes only and should not be construed as a legal or official boundary of any kind.
Courtesy of NOAA

National context

- July 2010: **Executive Order** 13547 - National Ocean Policy
- April 2013: National Ocean Policy **Implementation Plan**
- July 2013: Marine Planning **Handbook**

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

- Released by White House April 2013
- Shared ocean priorities of 27 members of the National Ocean Council (NOC)
- Encourages regions to identify their ocean priorities through voluntary marine planning



Marine Planning Handbook

- Operational guide for regions choosing to establish Regional Planning Bodies (RPB)
- National consistency of marine planning efforts while encouraging regional flexibility
- Presents options for RPB membership with tribal, state and local governments
- Recognizes the trust responsibility of the Federal Government and preserves government-to-government consultation with federally-recognized tribes

West Coast Approach

- A big geography – logistical challenge
- Let issues and priorities drive the approach
- Recognize existing efforts, potential constraints, identify leverage points
- Identify engagement approach through outreach to tribal, state, local partners
- Form RPB with appropriate

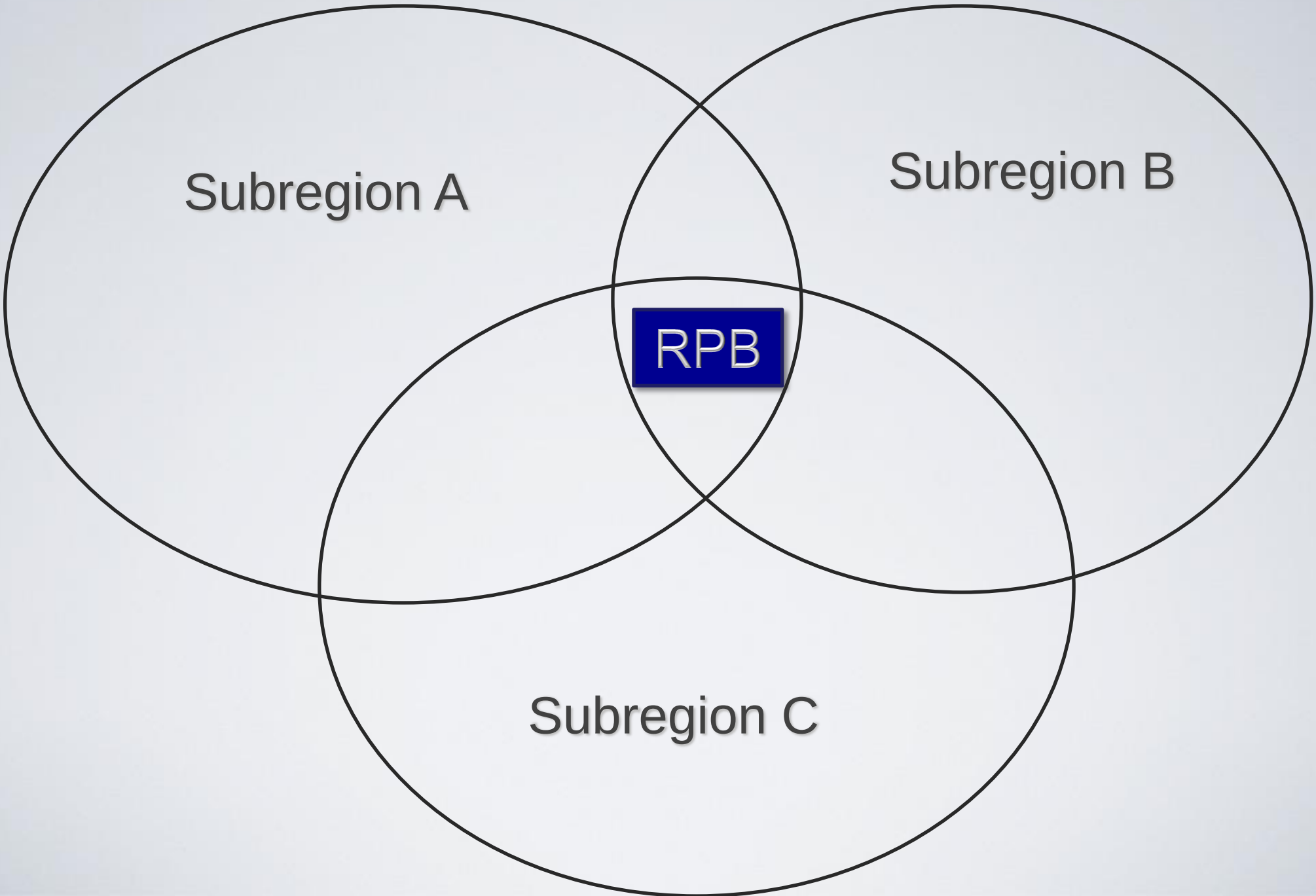
Regional planning body

- Base Elements:
  - Three “Co-Leads”: One Federal, One Tribal, One State
  - RPB members made up of appropriate federal, tribal government, state and PFMC representatives
  - Local government represented through state participation or directly with RPB membership
  - Ex-officio and work groups added as needed
- RPB develops a coast-wide and/or subregional marine plan(s) that address regional planning priorities and capacity
- RPB allows for flexibility in responsibility and tasks based on roles of regional partners

West coast flexibility

- Coast-wide planning approach a “heavy lift”
- Tap into ongoing efforts – essential
- Priorities defined by sub-region
- West Coast issues (come up often):
  - Marine Renewable Energy Siting
  - Climate change / sea-level rise
  - Changing ocean chemistry / hypoxia
  - Marine transportation corridors
  - Others...
- Coast-wide data coordination – valuable

A Sub-regional RPB Model?



Thank you!

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