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## Environment Committee

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### SSB 5784

**Brief Description:** Advancing the regional ocean partnership.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters (originally sponsored by Senators Litzow, Ranker, Swecker, Hobbs, Fain, Hill, Pridemore, Nelson, Rockefeller, Regala, Shin and Kline).

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill**

- Requires the Governor to recommend to the Legislature activities and projects to be funded from the Marine Resources Stewardship Trust Account.

**Hearing Date:** 3/11/11

**Staff:** Jason Callahan (786-7117).

**Background:**

West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health.

On September 18, 2006, the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington entered into the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA). The WCGA cites a need to improve coordination among coastal governing bodies, and states a desire to advance the following goals:

- clean coastal waters and beaches;
- promote effective ecosystem based management;
- reduce impacts of offshore development;
- increase ocean awareness and literacy among the region's citizens;

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- expand ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring; and
- encourage sustainable economic development of coastal communities.

#### Marine Resources Stewardship Trust Account.

The Marine Resources Stewardship Trust Account (Account) was created in 2010 as an appropriated account that can accept grants, gifts, donations, and appropriations. Monies in the Account may be used for purposes including marine management planning, marine spatial planning, research, monitoring, and the restoration and enhancement of marine habitat or resources.

#### **Summary of Bill:**

When funds are deposited in the Account, the Governor must recommend to the Legislature, prior to the next regular legislative session, activities and projects to be funded from the Account. The recommendations must be consistent with the allowable uses of the account and the goals articulated in the 2006 WCGA.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.