



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

April 2023

Member Call

SUMMARY

April 7, 2023

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (Executive Director), Bri Goodwin (Project Coordinator), Margaret Corvi (Tribal Coordinator)

West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) Staff: Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP Co-Chair), Steve Weisberg (WCODP Co-Chair, SCCWRP)

State Staff: Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. of Ecology), Tanya Haddad (OR DLCD), Mai Aoki (WA Dept. of Ecology), Scott Groth (ODFW), Katie Robinson-Filipp (CA State Lands Commission)

Tribal Members/Staff: Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Andrea Sumerau (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Carl Merkle (Confederated Umatilla Tribes), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Haley Kennard (Makah Tribe), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Sheryn Olson (CRITFC), Louise Miranda Ramirez (Ohlone/Costanoan - Esselen Nation), Tina Calderon (Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People), Noelia Aponte-Silva (Strategic Earth Consulting for Trinidad Rancheria), Jana Ganion (Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe), Gabi Bratt (Coquille Indian Tribe)

Federal Staff: Necy Sumait (BOEM), Kris Wall (NOAA), J Lilah Ise (NOAA), Paul Michel (NOAA), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Bridgette Lohrman (EPA), Juliette Chausson (EPA), Toby Garfield (NOAA), Tricia Perez (DOE), Dave Croxton (EPA), Adam Melerski (Space Force), Laura Bloch (EPA)

CALL SUMMARY

New WCOA Tribal Coordinator: Margaret Corvi

John Hansen (WCOA) welcomed Margaret Corvi as the new Tribal Coordinator.

Margaret Corvi (WCOA) introduced herself.

- I have already started meeting with Tribal Nations and welcome anyone to reach out.

- I'm in Oregon and have worked in Oregon for a while. My past experience is working for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. I am a Hannis Coos citizen of the Tribe. I'm really interested in what Tribes are bringing forward with offshore wind and how we can help each other since we're in different stages of the process. There are opportunities where we can support each other and help each other gain knowledge.
- I'm looking forward to getting settled in the foundation of the Caucus itself and knowing what the Caucus initiatives are. I think there are some real opportunities for us to build out our vision. The Guidance document is a great resource.
- I'm still in a learning phase.

New Tribal Partners Introduction

Jana Ganion (Blue Lake Rancheria) introduced Blue Lake Rancheria as a new Tribal Nation partner.

- Blue Lake Rancheria is located in Humboldt County. The first wind auction on the Pacific Coast happened last December and there are two areas that are going to be leased off of the Wiyot ancestral territory which is where Blue Lake Rancheria is located. The Tribe is located inland but its trust lands span the Mad River and its watershed. We do water quality, air quality and species monitoring and data activities and are eager to engage more with this group in that co-management and stewardship arena.
- Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe has been engaged in offshore wind since 2016 and has served on the CA BOEM Renewable Energy Task Force. Engaged in OSW cluster which includes transmission, supply chain, environmental research monitoring, and adaptive management.
- We see participation in this group as a way to unsilo Tribes, federal and state agencies as we delve into how we're going to meet the urgency of the climate crisis and implement solutions that solve for that but also create a robust benefit stack that is equitable.
- The Blue Lake Rancheria has robust governmental goals for carbon sequestration and climate resilient infrastructure. That's another reason we wanted to join this group, is to understand points of nexus with those climate goals and objectives. And to make sure we're in alignment with technical details on things like environmental adaptive management and monitoring.

Sheryn Olson (CRITFC) introduced the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as a new partner.

- CRITFC is focused on fish as first food among our Tribes. We started in 1974 and the original purpose was to assist in enforce treaty rights for fisheries. Quickly CRITFC realized they needed a lot of attorneys to do that. In about 1986 they realized they needed data to be able to manage the fishery. Then there was a very concerning crash of the fisheries in the mid 90s so more funding has been routed towards research, management, and evaluation. The CRITFC has about 300 employees, but what we really are is a consortium of four different tribes. About 10 or 15 years ago the scientists decided they needed more engagement with tribal data that came from the ocean and estuaries. To that end CRITFC absorbed the Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction Program which mostly collects physical data in the ocean. Scientist are now trying to determine how we can do research to understand what's happening in the open ocean.

- We work with a lot of regional partners. Our Tribes work mostly in the main stem of the Columbia River. Some of them have developed some really advanced techniques working with data and to make those data available.
- We're very interested in the data side and what all of the coastal Tribes are working with.

WCOA 2023 In-person Meeting Planning

John provided an overview of our scheduled in-person meetings for 2023.

Three meetings are planned for this year:

- WCOA Offshore Wind Summit
 - Dates: August 8-10 or Aug 22-24
 - Please complete the survey to help determine the date.
 - Location: TBD
 - A Planning Committee is focused on the details of the meeting. Please reach out if you'd like to join the Committee.
 - An RFP for meeting support will be published soon.
- West Coast Ocean Alliance Annual Meeting
 - Dates: October 17-19
 - Location: TBD, likely in Portland, OR
 - We will be forming a Planning Committee for this meeting. Please let us know if you would like to join that.
- West Coast Tribal Summit
 - Dates & Location TBD
 - The WCOA Tribal Caucus will be meeting soon to start discussing the Summit.

WCOA Fellowship Program Launch

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an overview of the new WCOA Fellowship Program.

- The new WCOA Fellowship Program will host a cohort of three or four fellows. The fellowship will be 12-14 months, starting this fall. The cost of the program will be entirely covered by the Alliance, with no cost to hosts. We have been in talks with Oregon Sea Grant about administering the program. They have an ability to create a new program from scratch instead of plugging into an existing program. Hosts would be coming from our membership – Tribal governments, state agencies, or federal agencies. We can't promise each host will receive a fellow.
- The Fellowship Program is meant to support the Alliance and not just the host. However, we will not yet have our Strategic Plan in place when these Fellows start. The program is also meant to provide professional development opportunities for early-career professionals. From there, looking at project areas that have been identified and potential new priority areas.
- The potential project focus areas are: offshore wind planning, aquaculture, Tribal engagement, ocean data / ocean health dashboard, and member-identified project topics. WCOA staff will work with interested hosts to define specific project details and make sure they will benefit the Alliance as well as the host.

Bri Goodwin (WCOA) provided more specifics on the timeline for the Fellowship Program.

- We're working on a host interest form to give us an idea of which member entities are interested in hosting a fellow. Through mid-June we'll work with potential hosts to provide more information and begin developing their project. Fellowship applications will

be due mid-July. There will be a full vetting and interview process, with the potential to have potential hosts and fellows meet in person at the Offshore Wind Summit. Fellows will start Sept 1-Oct 13. We're hoping to have all fellows attend the Annual Summit in person.

- We really want to build the fellows as a cohort and support peer-to-peer connections. One other thing about Oregon Sea Grant is they will provide training for hosts on mentorship. Our fellows will also be able to plug into other Oregon Sea Grant activities.
- John Hansen (WCOA): We're really excited to start this cohort of fellows. The host interest form should come out next week. I should also mention our intention is to have more projects and/or hosts than fellows to broaden our potential matches.

WCOA Member questions and discussion:

- Tricia Perez (DOE) via chat: Sorry might have missed this, who are you hoping to serve as hosts? Does agencies include state and federal?
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA): Any members of the Alliance. So, Tribal, state, and federal government. There have been some questions about co-hosting fellows between agencies and that's something we can figure out.
- Tina Calderon (Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People) via chat: What is the time commitment for Fellows over the 12-14 months?
 - John Hansen (WCOA): The fellows are expected to work fulltime. I'm not sure of the time commitment for hosts. There's some expectation for oversight, mentorship, and support.
- Louise Ramirez (Ohlone/Costanoan - Esselen Nation) via chat: I know you're talking about educated fellows, but what about tribal members not having the degrees, but bringing that knowledge to our Nations.
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA) via chat: That is a great question, Louise. I am adding it to our list of discussion topics for developing the Fellowship Program.
 - Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): Post grad limits the opportunity for other people that might be out there. I would like to have a conversation about the qualifications and providing more opportunity for people who don't have college degrees.
 - Sheryn Olson (CRITFC) agreed via the chat.
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA): John, Margaret and I are meeting with Sea Grant this afternoon and will discuss this with them.
 - John Hansen (WCOA): I appreciate this being flagged. We don't want this to be limiting, eliminating opportunities for folks that could be a great fit.
 - Margaret Corvi (WCOA): Even if it's not something that can be addressed now perhaps we can in the future. In our funding, it says "recent grads". If not now in the future or in future funding we need to make sure we address things like that. We will discuss this with Sea Grant and will make sure this gets flagged for strategic planning and future funding opportunities.
 - John Hansen (WCOA): There is potential for Tribal Nations to create their own fellowship program under future funding if that is desired.

Project Request for Proposals (RFP)

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an overview of the current WCOA RFPs.

- The WCOA 5-year Strategic Plan RFP has been released and is due April 21. Please let us know if you want to be involved in proposal review or interviews. The Leadership

Team will be the ultimate decision makers for all of our RFPs. Our upcoming RFPs will be for Meeting Facilitation, Communications, Aquaculture Inventory, and Tribal Training Strategic Plan. Please help spread the word by sharing our webpage:
www.westcoastoceanalliance.org/workwithus

West Coast Offshore Wind Update

Necy Sumait (BOEM) shared updates on Offshore Wind.

- The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries will hold a webcast on April 13, 2023 from 3-4:30 p.m. ET. This committee was started at BOEM's request to expand improve communication with the fishing community. The virtual open session will introduce the committee to the public and discuss the standing committee goals. The registration link can be found on BOEM's website <https://www.boem.gov/newsroom/notes-stakeholders/youre-invited-standing-committee-offshore-wind-energy-and-fisheries>
- BOEM has proposed a Renewable Energy Modernization Rule to update our renewable energy regulations. The Proposed Rule was published in the Federal Register on Jan 30 and the comment period has been extended through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, May 1, 2023. We encourage WCOA members to provide comments at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/BOEM-2023-0005>.
- The Inflation Reduction Act requires that BOEM issue a lease only after there is an oil and gas lease sale of at least 60 million acres and the sale off the Gulf of Mexico happened on March 29th so within 10 days we plan to send the lease to the provisional winners. They have a few things to do before we can counter sign it.
- I don't have anything new to report in Oregon. We're still working on the next phase of the process. Nothing new to report in Washington either.

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the Offshore Wind Working Group.

- WCOA has an Offshore Wind Working Group that has been reinvigorated. They just had their first meeting next month and we plan to have monthly calls. They will be focusing on the Wind Summit in the near term. Their other priorities are sharing informational updates, informing strategic planning on OSW priorities, sharing best practices, and growing regional engagement. If you are interested in joining the working group, reach out to staff.

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the West Coast OSW Science Entity Formation.

- There's an East Coast Science Entity called RWSC (rWSC.org) that grew out of the east coast ROPs. It is a partnership among the ROPs, data portal, federal agencies, NGOs, and wind industry. They develop science priorities and questions largely linked to the wildlife specific topic in the context of regional wind planning. Conversations have started about creating a similar group for the West Coast. There's a NGO group working on this mainly based in California and many of our members are also engaged. People have been asking WCOA if this entity would be a good fit within the Alliance. There is also a bill in the CA legislature (AB 80) that would create a regional science entity focused on offshore wind. Folks seem to think that bill will move forward. Right now we are tracking the conversations.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP Co-Chair) provided an update on the WCODP.

- Steve and I have worked on a WCODP Coordinator scope of work and are recruiting for that position. Please help spread the word about this position.
- There are two pots of funding for the Data Portal in the Alliance grant. The first portion is a small amount of technical enhancement dollars for Ecotrust. We should have a signed contract with them shortly. The focus is to assess the catalog technology we've been using for almost a decade because that product is now being phased out. If anyone is interested in that work, please let me know and I'll include you in some of the advisory work.
- The next big area of work is the West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard. We're working on defining the scope of work for this year. There is a NOAA Special Award Condition before funds can be spent. We're developing the materials to submit to satisfy that condition. We will continue to focus on the dashboard indicator development. We will be completing the initial three indicators and beginning three new indicators.
- Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): For the benefit of our new members, can you list the current three indicators and the new indicators?
 - Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP Co-Chair): The three indicators we've worked on are ocean acidification, beach water quality, and kelp. Each of those are in a different phase in terms of production. The new indicators are hypoxia, marine mammals, and a social-economic indicator. Steve Weisberg has been the lead on developing the indicators.
- John Hansen (WCOA): We may have an entire day at the Annual Summit for the Dashboard and other data projects.

West Coast Blue Pages Tool

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the Blue Pages Tool.

- I shared a PDF along with a request to add yourselves to the WCOA Blue Pages Tool. Gold star for EPA – Bridgette – and Casey at WA Dept of Ecology for being my first entries. The intention is to create a list to specific content and areas so folks can find who the most appropriate contacts. It is just meant for federal, state, and Tribal government at this time. I hope it doesn't take you more than five minutes to complete. Please contact me if you have any questions or issues with adding yourself to the Tool.

END CALL