



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

April 2019

Member Call

SUMMARY

Friday, April 5, 2019

ACTION ITEMS

- Contact John if you would like to participate in the review and/or interviews of candidates for our new support position.
- Review the draft WCOA Compatible and Sustainable Ocean Uses work plan and provide feedback to John.
- Interested tribes can contact BOEM if they would like to engage in development of a programmatic agreement around offshore wind energy in California.
- If you would like to help in planning for the WCOA 2019 Annual Meeting please contact John.

UPCOMING DATES

- Friday April 12: Deadline for applications for new WCOA & WCODP Support position
- Wednesday April 24: Oregon-Northern CA Sub-region Monthly Call
- Tuesday May 7: WCOA Executive Committee Monthly Call
- Friday June 7: Next WCOA Full Membership Call

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (WCOA Coordinator)

West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) Staff: Andy Lanier (WCODP Co-Chair), Allison Bailey (WCODP Contractor), Paul Smith (SCCWRP)

State Staff: Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office), Katrina Lassiter (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. of Ecology) Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Deanna Caracciolo (OR DLCD), Andy Lanier (OR DLCD), Caren Braby (ODFW / Pacific Fishery Management Council), Jenn Eckerle (California Ocean Protection Council), Jen Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Maren Farnum (CA State Lands Commission)

Tribal Members/Staff: Mike Kennedy (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Janet Niessner (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians), Abby Gomes (Kashia Band of Pomo Indians), Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria), Larissa Ritzman (Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe), Kevin Mealue (Elk Valley Rancheria), Carl Merckle (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation)

Federal Staff: Carolyn Winters (Navy Region NW), Kris Wall (NOAA), LT Ernest Saponara (US Coast Guard), LCDR Robert Cole (US Coast Guard), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM), Bill Douros (NOAA), Jeff Ferguson (NOAA Office of Coast Survey), Marnie Riddle (White House Office of Science, Technology and Policy), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation, Washington DC), Jon Gornick (Army Corps of Engineers), Doug Garcia (Bureau of Indian Affairs), LCDR Cara Hoy (US Third Fleet), Bill Standley (BLM CA Coastal National Monument)

Federal FY19 Funding Update

Becky Smyth (NOAA) provided an update on recent federal funding to support regional data activities around the U.S., including the West Coast.

- **FY19 Budget Update:** The federal Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), which is a NOAA partner entity, received a \$1.5M budget increase for fiscal year 2019 to support regional ocean data portals around the U.S. The funding is meant to support data coordination and data portals' link to regional ocean partnerships, and also connect regional ocean partnerships with IOOS more effectively. Guidance and funding mechanism info should be released by May.
 - **Question:** Will the funding be competitive? **A:** Its non-competitive, every region will get funding based on required work plans before it can be awarded.

Washington D.C. Outreach Update

John Hansen (WCOA) provided a recap of recent outreach meetings in Washington DC on behalf of the WCOA with other regional ocean partnerships and Congressional staff.

- **Links to Other Regions:** Over recent months there have been discussions between staff from the WCOA, Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA), Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC) and Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Oceans (MARCO) about common activities, and potential links to interested Congressional offices supportive of regional ocean partnerships. In early March regional staff and regional state representatives met in Washington DC, coinciding with a Coastal States Organization meeting, to discuss areas for collaboration and possible Congressional outreach. There may be interest in developing legislation that could authorize and/or appropriate funds for regional

ocean partnerships, but discussions are still ongoing about how that might fit for the four regional ocean partnerships engaged in this dialog.

- Congressional Outreach: John met with Congressional staff interested in supporting regional ocean activities during this trip to Washington DC. The meetings were focused on sharing basic information about the West Coast Ocean Alliance in its new role as a regional ocean partnership for the West Coast, links to other regions, and focus areas around intergovernmental coordination, tribal engagement, and data-sharing. Congressional offices met with included:
 - House Natural Resources Committee
 - Senate Commerce Committee
 - Sen. Shaheen (NH)
 - Rep. Huffman (CA-2)
 - Rep. Jayapal (WA-7)
 - Rep. Lowenthal (CA-47)
 - Rep. Bonamici (OR-1)

New West Coast Support Position

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the recent announcement for a new support position that will work with the WCOA and WCODP, to be set up as an Oregon Sea Grant Scholar.

- West Coast Position Announced: Last Friday we released the request for applicants for our new support position that will be a full-time staffer to support both the WCOA and the WCODP. Funding for the position was included in our last grant from the Moore Foundation. Details of the position are included in the announcement, and exact tasks and roles will be developed based on the candidate and evolution of regional activities. Applications are due Friday April 12, with the final hiring hopefully in place in May. Final decision on the position will be made by the WCOA Exec Committee and staff, along with WCODP Co-Chairs. If you would like to participate in interviews or candidate selection, please contact John.
- Oregon Sea Grant: The position will formally be an Oregon Sea Grant Scholar, facilitated through Oregon Sea Grant with funding facilitated by our fiscal sponsor, Coastal States Stewardship Foundation. This set up allows us to target appropriate candidates, but tailor roles and hiring of the position to our needs.
- Host Offices: We have requested the candidates to be based somewhere on the US West Coast, but otherwise are flexible on where the person may work from. It could be remote or could also be hosted at a WCOA / WCODP member office. Some have already volunteered to be a possible host, but if you are interested in hosting please contact John.
 - Question: What is required of a host office? A: At a minimum would be desk space and some minimal availability to answer questions and/or provide supervision. If able to provide equipment or other support, that is open for discussion.

Sup-regional Team Updates

Updates on the recent activities of the Washington Coast and Oregon-Northern CA sub-regional teams.

Oregon-Northern California: Recent efforts have been focused on the development of a coordination framework tool, which is based on the stated desire of the sub-regional team members to find better ways to coordinate and increase efficiency in communication around existing and emerging ocean uses. Allison Bailey (WCODP Contractor) provided an overview of the development of the coordination framework, including technical tasks related to databases of contact information, geography and management priorities for the sub-regional area. Next steps will include requesting input from sub-regional team members to fill out various elements of the framework, and review of initial drafts of the tool.

- Comment: Jennifer Hennessey (WA Gov): We are likely interested in something similar to this in Washington and we should probably discuss how it might be applicable to the Washington Coast too.
- Comment: Andy Lanier (WCODP): This was really driven by the group's overall desire to increase early coronation and notification, and while many details are still to be worked out we think this tool is a great fit to accomplish this task.

Washington Coast: Jennifer Hennessey (WA Gov) provided a recap of the recent meeting between state, tribal and federal staff on Feb 25th in Montesano, WA. The focus of the meeting was to bring together state and tribal staff, and also appreciated federal staff able to join. The group wants to confirm how to work together and what topics we'll focus on. The process is being drafted in a 'Terms of Reference' document, and tasks are being organized into a sub-regional work plan. The group hopes to pursue a project notification framework and a 'Project Tracker' tool. Data remains a priority, both sub-regionally and federally to increase overall access to data that links to our priorities. The third area for the group is focused on tribal engagement and recognition of tribal rights, and engaging in development of tribal best practices for the region and sub-region. The group's next in-person meeting is likely to be in May or June.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Andy Lanier (WCODP Co-chair) provided an update on the latest efforts of the WCODP.

West Coast Position: WCODP has been very involved in supporting the recruitment of the new position to support to the WCOA and Portal and we look forward to having this person join our team and help continue to grow our efforts.

Coordination Framework: As discussed previously we continue to support the coordination framework-type tools for the Northern CA, Oregon and WA coasts. We are still investigating how a similar tool may be developed for the rest of the CA coast, but will only do so if WCOA members express a desire to do so.

WCODP Teams: The various teams of the WCODP have continued to identify overall needs and development of the Portal moving forward, including needed upgrades to our technology to improvements that will allow the Portal to more effectively integrate data and other tasks. We are working towards an agreement with Ecotrust to help perform these enhancements over the next year, including more thematic groups of data, more of a focus on sub-regional needs, and other priorities identified by WCOA membership.

Benthic Infaunal Data: We continue to support analysis of benthic infaunal data in the southern California area to determine how it might be useful as indicator for habitat disturbance. Steve Weisberg at SCCWRP is helping lead that effort.

Individual Member Updates

Individual WCOA member updates on any activities relevant to West Coast or otherwise.

BOEM: Sara Gultinan provided an update on the [Ocean Reporting Tool](#) of the federal Marine Cadastre on/around April 22nd. It will be available for all marine areas of the US, and will allow you to create custom areas to get instant reports on a wide range of information or data (jurisdictions, infrastructure, economics, biological, ecological, etc.). If you would like a demonstration or presentation on this tool, BOEM staff is available to help with this. Federal partners hope to continue to grow tools like this and the Marine Cadastre to continue to be more responsive to regional data needs. Next, BOEM announced a [summary of the 14 nominations](#) for offshore wind energy development in California. BOEM has also asked all tribes in CA to develop a programmatic agreement on offshore wind, and interested tribes should contact BOEM. Last, BOEM's proposed OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program is still being developed and can be expected 'in the coming weeks.'

CA Ocean Protection Council: Jenn Eckerle (CA OPC) highlighted that the OPC recently released a [new draft strategic plan](#) to guide the Council's efforts over the next 5yrs. The plan has not significantly changed since the last draft, but two major differences include better integrating climate into all work and a new focus area on a sustainable ocean economy. Public comment is open until April 19th.

NOAA Marine Sanctuaries: Bill Douros (NOAA) shared that NOAA is revising management plans for 3 of the 5 sanctuaries on the West Coast, starting with a condition report for the Olympic Coast that will last approximately a year. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary will release a draft of its updated plan later this year. Channel Islands just finished its condition report and will begin updating its management plan following that. To track more closely visit the individual sanctuary webpages.

State of Oregon: The Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) met recently and recommended that the state Land Conservation & Development Commission adopt updates to Part 3 of the Territorial Sea Plan focused on rocky shore habitat, and to Part 5 focused on renewable energy. These amendments will likely be adopted at the May meeting of OPAC. More information is available at oregonocean.info.

Federal Budget: The President's budget for FY20 is starting to roll out, and it should be noted that there is a request for \$4M to support regional ocean data portals. Fed partner will keep the group updated on how budget discussions proceed through Congress.

2019 Annual Meeting

John Hansen (WCOA) provided a quick reminder to the group on 2019 Annual Meeting Planning

2019 Annual Meeting: We hope to formally initiate planning for our 2019 Annual Meeting soon, using the funding in our current grant to support the organization, travel and facilitation of our in-person meeting. The meeting will most likely happen in Washington State (as our previous two meetings were in OR and CA) in the fall. If you would like to participate in the meeting planning efforts, please contact John.

Compatible & Sustainable Ocean Uses Work Plan

John Hansen (WCOA) shared an abbreviated update on the draft work plan for the WCOA Regional Goal: Compatible and Sustainable Ocean Uses.

Draft Goal 1 Work Plan: WCOA members have all received a draft of the WCOA Work Plan focused on the group's first (of four) regional goals included in its regional vision, Compatible and Sustainable Ocean Uses. The work plan will be used to define specific actions and deliverables associated with objectives included under the broad goals of the Regional Vision. This first draft was developed by WCOA staff and volunteers from the WCOA Executive Committee, with WCOA members now invited to review the draft and provide feedback. Pending any feedback, initiation of these tasks will likely begin in the next few weeks and updates on the implementation of this work plan will be shared with the group in the coming weeks. Look for drafts and discussion of future goal work plans on our next call in June.

END CALL

Comment: Jennifer Hennessey (WA Gov): We are likely interested in something similar to this in Washington and we should probably discuss how it might be applicable to the Washington

- Question: Will the work on tribal engagement best practices include focus on federal consistency? A: To be determined, but likely will focus more on broad principles and approaches to tribal engagement, and less on specific federal consultation or permitting requirements.

- Question: Will the funding be competitive? A: Its non-competitive, every region will get funding based on required work plans from each region before it can be awarded.

- Government Engagement Best Practices document: Udall Foundation will be working with a tribal caucus work group over a few months to develop a government-to-government engagement best practices document for marine management.
- BC Tribal Exchange Session: A British Columbia tribal exchange session would provide the Tribal Caucus with the opportunity to receive feedback on best practices document.
- WCOA Training and Tribal Consultation and Engagement: The Udall Foundation has a tribal consultation and engagement 2-day training that Stephanie Lucero will deliver, ideally at the next in-person WCOA meeting. The training would be tailored to the WCOA and best practices guidance document for the West Coast.
- Comments: John Hansen (WCOA Coord.) and Kris Wall (NOAA) noted that our state and federal partners already have some tribal engagement guidance documents, trainings, and efforts underway that could tie into this work.
 - Jenn Eckerie (California Ocean Protection Council) asked if there is a date set for the tribal exchange session because she would like to share the information at the next California Fish and Game Commission tribal committee meeting. John Hansen (WCOA Coord.) replied that there is no date set, but likely summer.
 - Andy Lanier (WCODP) asked if data or data sharing would be a topic of interest for the BC tribal exchange. The WCODP worked with Canadian partners to establish an initial catalog connection and knows there is a significant amount of tribal capacity in many BC first nations. Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe) replied that they are still working on the agenda, but believe data sharing, tools and technology will be a key component.

British Columbia First Nations & U.S. West Coast Tribal Exchange Planning

- John Hansen (WCOA Coord.): We have funding in our new grant to support travel of tribal members to British Columbia, as well as paying for meeting venue,

and other costs for a British Columbia first nations and U.S. West Coast tribal exchange meeting that would potentially take place this summer. The Tribal Caucus is working on meeting goals and objectives right now. If you would like more info or have suggestions on meeting topics, or links to BC First Nations, contact John Hansen or Katie Wrubel.

WCOA Executive Committee: Additional Tribal Representative

- Please contact Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe) if you would like to be part of the Tribal Caucus as a tribal representative for the region, and/or a co-tribal coordinator with Katie. The West Coast Regional Planning Body had a formal process for being involved on the executive committee, but the WCOA process may be less formal without an official charter.

WCOA Caucus Updates

State Caucus

- Patty Snow (Coastal Program Manager, OR DLC): Discussions are underway between regional staff from the Gulf of Mexico, Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and West Coast on possible approaches to pursuing federal appropriations and/or authorization for Regional Ocean Partnerships. Through its membership the [Coastal States Organization](#) may be interested in helping with any initial dialogs. CSO state members appear supportive, as long as funding for regional ocean partnership grants wouldn't impact state coastal management grants. Caren Brady (PFMC representative for WCOA) is also very active in the [Pacific Fisheries Management Council](#) (PFMC) and will be briefing them on March 7th about the WCOA (materials needed by 2/11).

Federal Caucus

- Joan Barminski (BOEM): The federal Ocean Policy Committee's (OPC) last meeting was held on December 18th, 2018. The OPC is administering the federal aspects of the new oceans Executive Order through the Science and Technology Subcommittee and the Ocean Resource Management Subcommittee (ORMS). ORMS is managing the data sharing partnership. The following outcomes were produced:
 - The national data sharing effort produced a final document: [Science and Technology for America's Oceans: A Decadal Vision](#).
 - [Phase I](#) of identifying federally sourced data needs was completed in fall 2018 including regional interviews. It was produced in the [Regional Data Platform Scoping Study: Federal Data Task Report](#), released in 2018. It includes the top 10 ocean and coastal issues and federal data needs:
 - **Top 10 Ocean and Coastal Issues** (ranked by number of regions reporting)

1. Offshore aquaculture siting
 2. Fisheries management
 3. Community resilience and climate adaptation
 4. Offshore renewable energy siting and leasing
 5. Sand and sediment management
 6. Species and habitat management
 7. Water quality, including marine debris, ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms, and oil spills
 8. Oil and gas exploration and extraction
 9. Ocean disposal
 10. Maritime and navigation safety
- **Top 10 Federal Data Needs** (ranked by number of regions reporting)
 1. Jurisdictions and regulated areas (varied)
 2. Abundance and distribution of marine species (NOAA, DoD, BOEM, FWS)
 3. Synthesized oceanographic parameters (NOAA, NASA)
 4. Commercial fishing effort – Vessel Monitoring System (NOAA NMFS)
 5. Vessel traffic – automatic identification systems (USCG, MARAD)
 6. Human and cultural use areas (NPS, BIA, NOAA)
 7. Commercial fishing effort – Vessel Trip Report (NOAA NMFS)
 8. Bathymetry (NOAA, USGS)
 9. Sand and borrow sites (BOEM, USACE)
 10. Species and habitat locations (NOAA, BOEM, USGS, FWS)
 - Phase 2 will look at regional-scale data sharing. The team will identify and review federal agency data availability and develop a plan to prioritize the release of those data sets. The deadline for that is July 2019, although it may take longer due to the federal shutdown.
 - Other Ocean Policy Committee Items include the submission of letters of support of federal involvement from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ocean Council and Northeast Regional Planning Body. On the West Coast, the federal family continues to be supportive of the WCOA.
 - Next Federal Caucus Call is planned for February 28th (pending future shutdowns) where federal representatives will discuss support of Phase II of the data sharing work.
 - **Comment:** Jen Hennessey (WA Governors Office) will work with Joan Barminski (BOEM) to compile a request for Stacy Aguilera-Patterson (Office of Science, Technology and Policy, Washington DC) to bring to the Phase II team to incorporate broader input from states and tribes for the West Coast region. Andy Lanier (OR DLCD) emphasized that the West Coast, given its size and diversity of topics and focus areas, needs to have follow up conversations on the specifics of the data and resources needed by the sub-regions and how customizations of

a large federal dataset may benefit the region more than a standardized national approach.

Individual Member Updates

- BOEM Conventional Oil & Gas Update (by Joan Barminski, BOEM): The next step in our [National OCS Oil and Gas program](#) is a program release.
- BOEM Offshore Wind Update (by Joan Barminski, BOEM): The call for information and nominations was issued by BOEM in December 2018 and the comment period closed on the January 28, 2019 for California. The two sites include one in northern CA (off Humboldt bay) and one off central California (offshore Morro Bay and offshore Diablo Canyon). We are now analyzing the comments for information and data. We had nominations that came in as well. We will soon have those comments published to our website. The next step is to look at area identification where BOEM and the state of California identify offshore wind energy areas.
- New California Administration (by Jenn Eckerie, California Ocean Protection Council): California has a new Governor (Governor Newsom) and Secretary for Natural Resources (Wade Crowfoot) that the Ocean Protection Council is getting up to speed with their work.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Andy Lanier (WCODP) provided an update on the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

- New Hire for WCODP Support: The WCODP will be hiring someone collaboratively with the WCOA to help staff both efforts on a full-time basis. We have a scope of work established and somebody in mind; the federal government shutdown has delayed the effort. If our first choice doesn't work out, we will be reaching out, possibly via RFP, to see who fit that role.
- Washington Sub-Regional In-Person Meeting: Andy Lanier will be attending the in-person meeting next week to discuss follow-up actions.
- Upcoming Projects: The WCODP will work on how we access and display priority data and themes of information, similar to the Mid-Atlantic or Northeast Data Portals. There are also some continuing work program areas within the sub-regions. One will be continuing to review data and data gaps available within the sources that are already providing data to the WCODP. We will have data contacts review existing WCODP data to help identify existing datasets that need updates and information that is missing. We will be working with connecting Washington Marine Spatial Plan catalogs and a database system in California to the WCODP. Finally, a "spatial coordination framework" has been identified as a top priority for the Oregon-Northern California sub-regional group. This will essentially be as smart database of entities and their interest areas that can support the broader regional goal of increasing coordination and communication around different kinds of management activities.

- Introduction of Steve Weisberg (SCCWRP): Steve Weisberg is the Executive Director of the [Southern California Coastal Water Research Project \(SCCWRP\)](#) who has been asked to participate in a contract BOEM has given us to:
 - (1) Have Steve Weisberg assist Andy in the running of the WCODP community,
 - (2) Provide hardware and software support for maintaining the WCODP itself, and
 - (3) Helping pull together datasets that we can put into the WCODP, with initial focus on benthic infauna invertebrates. We chose this because they are widely used in assessment of conditions (i.e. for wind farm assessment, regional Santa Monica Bay estuarine program, national EPA reports, etc.). It is an interesting challenge to put into a regional dataset because there are many groups that collect this data and they don't all use the same gear, methods, or naming conventions. The hope to enhance those conversations and get people interacting in ways to create more consistent and accessible data.

Sub-regional Team Updates

Oregon-Northern California

John Hansen (WCOA Coord.) gave an overview of the last in-person Oregon-Northern California sub-regional meeting and the new draft work plan.

- The meeting in June 2018 brought state, federal, and tribal representatives together to discuss the Oregon-Northern California Action Plan. The three tasks laid out from this meeting were:
 1. Spatial Coordination Framework – Short term; how are states, tribes, and federal entities coordinating on projects and work
 2. Tribal Engagement Best Practices – Short term; need for more effective tribal engagement and defining best practices
 3. Offshore Project Tracker – A longer term effort to develop a tool that tracks real-time projects and proposals offshore, building on Spatial Coordination Framework.
- A draft Oregon-Northern California Sub-regional Work Plan that includes action items and products for the three tasks listed above was sent to the ORNC work group for review. It will be discussed on their next call on Weds Feb 27th.

Washington Pacific Coast

- Jen Hennessey (WA Governor's Office): An in-person Washington Coast sub-regional meeting will take place on February 8th. Given the federal government shutdown, we haven't been able to reach out to the federal folks that we would like to invite to attend. For those outside of Washington, let me know if you would like to attend. We will be talking about how we want to work together as a team sub-regionally and begin to think about a draft work plan. There is some overlap with what the Oregon-Northern California sub-regional group is talking about and

we have invited Andy to come and attend our meeting. An agenda will be sent out to those interested.

- ***NOTE: this meeting was rescheduled for Feb 25th.***

END CALL

NEXT CALL: Friday, April 5, 2019 at 10 am