



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

April 2020

Member Call

SUMMARY

Friday, April 3, 2020

ACTION ITEMS

- Consider potential updates and questions related to ocean energy and aquaculture that can be input into the Emerging Topics form and discussed on the June WCOA Member call.
- Continue to consider how your agency could support the rollout of the Tribal Guidance document (forthcoming). Please send suggestions to John (john@westcoastoceanalliance.org) and Marisa (marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org).

UPCOMING DATES

- Tuesday May 5, 2020 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Executive Committee Call
- Monday May 18, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 pm, West Coast Ocean Data Portal Coordination Call
- Wednesday May 27, 2020 2:00 – 3:00 pm, Funding Working Group Call (open to all interested parties)

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: Marisa Nixon (Oregon Sea Grant Fellow, WCOA & WCODP)

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

State Staff: Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. of Ecology), Teressa Pucylowski (WA Dept. Ecology) Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Jennifer Hennessy (WA Governor's Office), Jen Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Mark Danielson (CA State Lands Commission)

Tribal Members/Staff: Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Joe Shumacker (Quinalt Indian Nation), Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria)

Federal Staff: Kris Wall (NOAA), Kim Peacher (Navy - NW Training Range Complex), Necy Sumait (BOEM), Joan Barminski (BOEM), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Kevin Werner (NOAA Fisheries), Bill Standley (BLM CA Coastal National Monument), Maggie Dour (Navy), Stefanie Stavrakas (USFW), Katheryn Morrice (DOE Knauss Fellow), Keith Hatch (BIA), Allison O'Brien (DOI), Toby Garfield (NOAA Fisheries), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM), Caren Braby (PFMC), Steve Duboyce (Navy), Doug Garcia (BIA)

West Coast Shelter in Place Impacts

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCOPD) introduced a brief discussion on how WCOA member entities may be impacted by current shelter in place orders due to COVID-19.

- WCOA and WCOPD meetings will continue as scheduled.
- The WCOA is working to stay abreast of any changes to the specific meeting platforms that WCOA partners are permitted to use.
- Most state, tribal and federal partners have transitioned to teleworking with the exception of any essential workers:
 - The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is continuing to inspect offshore oil and gas platforms, with updated safety measures.
 - The US Fish and Wildlife Service is prioritizing emergency consultations in case federal lands need to be used for additional purposes.
 - NOAA Fisheries observers continue to work on commercial vessels, though NOAA and PFMC continue to assess whether typical procedures for commercial fisheries, like the observer program, will remain unchanged.
- Some NOAA ship surveys have been cancelled, and it remains to be seen how the schedule will change moving forward.
- Some tribal partners have closed reservation access to non-tribal members.

West Coast Tribal Guidance Document Release

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCOPD) provided an update on the Tribal Guidance Document created by the West Coast Tribal Caucus.

- The document is complete and was sent out to the entire Tribal Caucus for review and sign-on by tribal leadership. The tentative deadline for signatures is May 22, but this may be subject to change because of delays caused by the response to COVID-19. John Hansen is collecting and tracking the signatures received.
- Once the Tribal Caucus has had sufficient opportunity to bring the document before tribal leadership for sign-on, the document will be shared with state and

federal partners. A webinar will accompany the release, likely some time in Summer 2020.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal

Andy Lanier (WCODP/OR DLCD) gave an update on the activities of the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

- The Portal Coordination Team continues to meet on its new regular schedule, the third Monday of every month from 2:00 – 3:00 pm PST. Anyone is welcome to join these calls, where we will continue to discuss the regional scorecard effort.
- Regional Scorecard Update:
 - WCODP will be asking for a final round of feedback on the concept document, and then will make it available to the public.
 - WCODP continues to move forward with the development of three indicators for 2020: ocean acidification, beach water quality, and kelp. West Coast IOOS Regional Associations will take the lead on an ocean acidification indicator and Heal the Bay will assist with the beach water quality indicator. More research is being done into current efforts for remote sensing of kelp distribution.
- BOEM / OR Offshore Wind Portal Update:
 - The funding that WCODP receives from BOEM will be pivoting from supporting benthic infaunal work to supporting a planning tool that will supplement the efforts of the BOEM / OR Renewable Energy Task Force. This project will involve creation of a new visualization tool with a catalogue curated to meet offshore energy planning and data needs.

2020 Funding: WCOA & WCODP

Andy Lanier (WCODP/OR DLCD) led an update on the status of the WCOA and WCODP funding streams and plans for the future.

- A funding working group (open to all WCOA members) has been examining ways to organize the funding streams for the WCOA and WCODP, with a goal to make current funding last through mid-2021.
- The three funding streams (Moore Foundation, BOEM and NOAA) should suffice to cover John Hansen's role as Coordinator, Marisa Nixon's continued involvement in supporting the WCOA and WCODP, technical upgrades to the portal, and continued support for ongoing projects through the desired timeline.
- This group will need to be active in looking for additional sources of support beyond June 2021.

West Coast Emerging Topic #1: Ocean Energy

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCODP) introduced a discussion regarding updates and questions about renewable energy development on the West Coast. Updates and questions were collected prior to the meeting via a new Google form, in order to better

facilitate information exchange during the call. This was the inaugural use of the form, which will continue to be circulated prior to WCOA member calls.

- **Andy Lanier (WCOA/OR DLCD) - Update:** The Oregon Department of Energy and Department of Land Use, Conservation and Development, along with the Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources received a grant from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment. There are similar grants happening in WA and CA. Called the OR Renewable Energy Siting Assessment, this project is focused on understanding how renewable energy projects affect military training in OR and the broader region. The goal of the project is to prepare for and avoid conflicts through a facilitator and consultant led assessment of renewable energy opportunities, costs, and uses in an area. This process will take place over the next 18 months, and is a statewide project for which Andy will lead the offshore component.
- **Joan Barminski & Necy Sumait (BOEM) – Update & Responses to submitted Questions** (*Please see attached slides for more detail on the following responses. This summary is edited for clarity and length*):
 - **Could we have an update on any fossil fuel leases or drilling planned for the West Coast?**
 - See attached slides for written response.
 - **Please give a recap of the recent CA Task Force webinar:**
 - The map in the attached slides was created and then shared at the March 9 Task Force webinar in an effort to identify additional areas that could be looked at for offshore wind in Central CA, that are compatible with Department of Defense activities, in addition to the three existing call areas. This map was the focal point of the March 9 webinar. The Task Force has a plan for public outreach surrounding these potential new areas; though all in-person meetings have been put on hold, there is a goal is to collect comments on these additional areas. The Energy Commission has released a docket where they can receive comments; this can be found on BOEM's [California Activities](#) page.
 - The map also shows a 'Discussion Area' within a National Marine Sanctuary. BOEM has no jurisdiction here; this area is delineated in order to generate public comment on it as a possibility.
 - BOEM is also conducting visual simulations from key observation points along the coast for the additional areas. BOEM is currently investigating ways to share these simulations with the public.
 - **How are the concerns of the fishing managers and industry being incorporated in areas under proposed energy development?**
 - Prior to issuing the call for CA, BOEM engaged in an 18-month process with the state for data-gathering and meeting with ocean users, including fishers. Record of these meetings can be found on BOEM's [California Activities](#) page. Fishing related data that was considered in the process can be found at the [California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway](#).

- OR is further behind in the Task Force process, but is currently working on a Data Gathering and Engagement Plan with BOEM, that will include the fishing industry as well as other ocean and coastal users.
- **Is a WA state renewable energy task force being considered at this time?**
 - See slides for a map of BOEM's leasing jurisdiction in WA State.
 - **Jennifer Hennessy (WA Governor's Office):** We are open to the idea of starting a Task Force, although from the standpoint of the Governor's Office, we would need to be informed about the specific need that creating one would fill. Right now we are not aware of any proposals coming in related to offshore wind in WA.
- **Patty Snow (OR DLCD):** How do CA and BOEM feel the Task Force meeting worked as a webinar, since OR will be looking to do the same thing in the near future?
 - **Necy:** It worked well having Kearns and West facilitate it, and using the Energy Commission's WebEx.
 - **Jen Mattox:** They did an amazing job and were very organized, and have one point person running things that makes it very streamlined.
 - **Necy:** We can continue to have Kearns and West facilitate, including future OR meetings.

West Coast Emerging Topic #2: Aquaculture

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCOPD) introduced a discussion regarding updates and questions about aquaculture development on the West Coast. Updates and questions were collected prior to the meeting via a new Google form, in order to better facilitate information exchange during the call. This was the inaugural use of the form, which will continue to be circulated prior to WCOA member calls.

- **Jen Mattox (CA State Lands) – Update:** CSLC is evaluating proposed legislation (SB1093) that would require establishment of a mariculture permitting and leasing program. There is existing statute in Fish and Game code about requiring the Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a system to permit and lease aquaculture. Efforts have been bogged down for several years and it seems as though this legislation is trying to move that along, but there is language in this legislation that reflects a lack of understanding about how leases are currently handled in CA. The legislation as written would repeal certain sections of the Coastal Act and remove the Coastal Commission's authority over mariculture—this is something that would likely be widely opposed. The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) has strategic goals regarding the blue economy and promoting aquaculture in CA, and CSLC also has a desire to remove barriers to permitting for aquaculture. So, while OPC and CSLC both endeavor to remove barriers to mariculture permitting in the state, this particular legislation needs further evaluation.
 - **Patty Snow (OR DLCD) – Question:** If someone came in today and wanted to set up a mariculture operation in CA, who would do the leasing?

- **Jen:** Right now the CA Fish and Game Commission is given water bottom leasing authority. That Commission was established in 1870 and the first statues related to aquaculture leasing came about in the 1920s. So, their authority came about before CSLC existed. In the current statutory setup in Fish and Game code, CSLC is a coordinating or consulting body in order to certify that there isn't an existing lease for other uses in that area. This is why CSLC is confused about their inclusion in the proposed legislation.

END CALL

NEXT CALL:

Friday, June 5, 2020 10:00 – 11:30 AM PST