



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

February 2020

Member Call

SUMMARY

Friday, February 7, 2020

ACTION ITEMS

- Provide feedback on the WCODP Ocean Health Scorecard Draft Concept document, direction of the ocean health tool, and webinar for technical updates (*see Feb 13 email from John H.*).
- State and Fed staff: identify opportunities to disseminate the forthcoming West Coast Tribal Engagement Guidance document (to be released late in late February) within your respective agency; coordinate with WCOA staff for support.
- Provide feedback to WCOA staff on how group can most effectively engage on emerging ocean issues (such as ocean energy and aquaculture) and play valuable role for your tribe/agency.

UPCOMING DATES

- **Wednesday February 26, 1pm:** NREL Webinar – ‘Introduction to Offshore Floating Wind’ (*See Feb 18 email from John H. for info*)
- **Wednesday February 26, 2pm:** Funding Working Group Call (*open to all interested parties; contact John H. if you would like to join*)
- **Tuesday March 3, 3pm:** WCOA Executive Committee Call
- **Friday April 3, 10am:** April 2020 WCOA Membership Call

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (WCOA Coordinator), 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: Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. of Ecology) Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor’s Office), Jen Mattox (WA State Lands Commission)

Tribal: Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Carl Merkle (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria)

Federal: Kris Wall (NOAA), Hudson Slay (EPA Region 9), Kim Peacher (Navy - NW Training Range Complex), Neco Sumait (BOEM), Frank Pendleton (BOEM), Walt Wilson (Navy Region SW), Kevin Adams (Coast Guard Pacific Area), Bill Stanley (BLM CA Coastal National Monument), Maggie Dour (Navy), Stefanie Stavrakas (USFW), Simon Gore (DOE), Katheryn Morrice (DOE Knauss Fellow), Charles Scaife (DOE Knauss Fellow), Irina Irvine (National Park Service), Steve Estes (ACOE LA District), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), Theresa Stephens (ACOE LA District)

CALL SUMMARY

2019 Annual Meeting: Recap

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the outcomes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (Tacoma, WA – December 2019)

- A one-page summary was sent out to the membership and a slightly longer summary is forthcoming. The full (45-page) meeting notes are available upon request.
- About 80 individuals attended the meeting over the course of the week, including WCOA members and stakeholders.
- Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe) provided an overview of 2020 priorities for the Tribal Caucus that were discussed at the Annual Meeting
 - Tribal Guidance document rollout: this document is near completion and the Caucus wants to ensure it will be disseminated widely (see later agenda item).
 - Tribal Caucus funding package proposal: this funding package would include a full time Tribal Caucus Coordinator.
 - Enhance tribal leadership engagement: this would include an increase in outreach and engagement, especially to tribes who are not already involved with the WCOA.
 - Tribal data: increased communication with the WCODP about how to incorporate tribal data into data products.
 - Continuation of sub-regional dialogues
 - Annual meeting of West Coast Tribes and BC First Nations: hope to continue and build off of 2019 exchange

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCODP) provided an update on the West Coast ocean health tool and led a discussion on the Draft Concept Document and the use of the FY 19 NOAA funding to begin developing a subset of indicators. Discussion points are edited for length and clarity. For the full transcript of the discussion, contact Marisa at marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org.

- Based on feedback from the Annual Meeting, a 'Concept Document' was created in order to better define the audience and purpose of the regional ocean health tool. (See email from John H. on Feb 6)
- Discussion:
 - Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's office): Washington state staff was able to discuss their vision for this type of tool recently, and they feel that its best purpose is as a communication tool that describes the broader picture in the ocean. It can be useful for communicating with policymakers and public about ocean health trends, but likely will not provide the detailed support necessary for a management decision. Another major theme from the WA discussion was that

there are a lot of data sources, particularly from NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), and we want to be able to use those data streams more effectively. So it is not about getting new data, but about how we tell the story of what is happening on the coast in a compelling way, especially visually.

- Steve Weisberg (WCODP / SCCWRP): Helping provide input on behalf of Jenn Eckerle (CA OPC), California is committed to doing a similar report card and would love to have something that harmonizes indicators and how they're interpreted across the West Coast. In this report card, she would like to see not just a bunch of numbers but some judgment and thresholds and at least some color coding from good to bad. In CA they are planning to hold a meeting with their team, likely around the end of March, to figure out what they want from their report card. In the conversations I've had with her the things the data portal has been considering around beach water quality, ocean acidification, etc. sound good to her, and again she'll meet with her team for more feedback, but she emphasized CA is having to communicate a lot about the status of kelp right now because they've had some large denudings. CA recognizes this is a challenging indicator to develop because of the natural variability of kelp, but they would like us to tackle a hard one.
- Caren Braby (ODFW/PFMC): I have not had a chance to read the document but I like the way Jen Hennessey framed WA's input and thinking about this as something that can speak to general ocean trends, and capitalizing on information as a communication tool to policy makers generally. This would be useful in Oregon and for the PFMC, as an even more brief and rolled up version of what comes out in the annual State of the Ecosystem Report.
- Marisa: We also have Fiscal Year 19 NOAA funding that needs to be spent by September, and our work plan was written around developing some preliminary indicators for this tool. The WCODP is exploring development of approximately three 'proof of concept' indicators this year, as well as technical enhancements to the Portal:
 - Beach water quality: could be done with relatively few resources, but is something of value to the public and to managers.
 - Ocean acidification: we heard at the workshop in Tacoma that folks from IOOS think this would be achievable, and it is high priority for the region.
 - We want to hear from this group for what the third indicator could be.
- Discussion:
 - Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria): The kelp issue is very important to the tribes and they are really following it in CA, so I think that is a good addition.
 - Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office): As a State I think we would need to get back to you. I would agree that OA is a high priority and any of the other changing ocean conditions—hypoxia, temperature, HABs. Beach water quality is not as high a priority for our state.
 - Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCODP): We are also not ignoring the human use questions that came up around fisheries and coastal economies, we are just acknowledging that those will be longer processes.
 - Kris Wall (NOAA): I am supportive of moving forward with the number of indicators that you think is reasonable with the funding and the time that you have, if that's 2 or 3 that the states and tribes identify as high priority, I think that moving forward with a few to try will answer a lot of questions that we have about what it will cost, how it will be used, how it will look, etc.

- Caren Braby (ODFW/PFMC): I think that all of these are so important and of great interest. I don't have a prioritized list but I think that one of the themes I heard at the Annual Meeting was that some of these are more ripe in terms of available data streams that lend themselves to a dashboard or scorecard approach.

West Coast Tribal Caucus – Tribal Engagement Guidance Document

Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation) gave an update on the status of the West Coast Tribal Engagement Guidance Document and plans for its distribution.

- There have been several rounds of review and input on the document draft both within the Tribal Caucus and broader WCOA group. The document should be complete at the end of February. New comments and feedback will be captured as addendums, but the document itself is done with significant revisions.
- The Tribal Caucus has been discussing the dissemination of the document and have put together an outline for an outreach strategy. This will be made available to the WCOA membership soon, and at the end of February or early March there will be a call for anyone interested in supporting distribution. The main points of the dissemination strategy are:
 - Obtain as many signatures from West Coast tribes as possible
 - Try to make the document as accessible as possible, including developing a PowerPoint template, hosting webinar and posting online
 - Disseminate broadly in Fed & State agencies
 - Incorporate document into existing agency trainings
 - Track implementation of the guidance document recommendations
- Kris Wall (NOAA): NOAA is excited to get the document again and already has ideas for how it could be incorporated into the agency. We like the idea of having a webinar.
- Patty Snow (OR DLCD): Is there an interim Tribal Caucus Coordinator?
 - Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe): No one has stepped forward, so it is likely to be John and Marisa in the short term. The Tribal Caucus will continue to discuss options for supporting the Caucus' activities moving forward.

New Regional Ocean Issues Focus Areas

John Hansen (WCOA) led a discussion on how the WCOA membership would find it useful to explore some of the topics identified at the Annual Meeting, specifically aquaculture and ocean energy.

Discussion points are edited for length and clarity. For the full transcript of the discussion, contact Marisa at marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org.

- John Hansen (WCOA): In regards to aquaculture, the State of California (through OPC) is beginning to create a management plan for aquaculture and is interested in hearing about best management practices, lessons learned, etc. from other parties on the West Coast. This could be anything from a very informal dialog or to creating working groups or specific tools—whatever the Alliance is interested in.
- Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office): I've been around regional partnerships for a long time and we have made really ambitious plans in the past. Some tasks are harder to do at the regional level. I would be hesitant to put together new formal working groups or tools, but there is clearly a benefit to sharing information and talking across the region. I am happy to facilitate connections and coordination between the right people, but I don't think that as a region we want to spin up a bunch of big new work on either of these topics at this time.

- Kris Wall (NOAA): Agree with a lot of what you said and I think the information sharing is absolutely a value I see within this group. I agree that creating new working groups at this point is unnecessary, but because these issues do seem to resonate at the regional scale I would be open to some standing update items on our agenda to report out on projects or activities that we agree are important for us to track.
- Patty Snow (OR DLCD): I agree; it's been valuable to have the updates from BOEM on energy, and aquaculture is becoming a bigger issue at the state level in Oregon so I'm interested in hearing from others. For example, I want to know what's going on in Northern CA because we are so linked geographically. I think it would be great to have those two topics as standing items and if there's nothing to report then that's okay.
- Jen Mattox (CA State Lands): Same for us in CA. Even though it's a big region and we recognize the challenge of doing some kind of coordinated action at the regional level, there's value in knowing what's happening elsewhere on the West Coast and what kinds of experiences others are having with these issues.
- Walt Wilson (Navy Region SW): I agree with a lot of what's been said. In the Navy we're very concerned about things that take up space – which aquaculture and energy do, and we're very much involved with BOEM on the energy issue, and in San Diego the aquaculture issue is a focus on work through the Port of San Diego and CA State lands. I think when it comes to taking up space it needs to be worked at on a more local level and I think that's where the sub-regional teams we have set up can get more involved.
- Mark Healy (Coquille Tribe): I am interested in everyone's future vision of aquaculture and what is proposed on the West Coast. I would like to hear all ideas for what's coming next in the region, and it would be helpful to hear about it whether its eventually approved or not.
- Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe): Aquaculture has such broad implications too. I know that there's a big focus nationally on increasing finfish aquaculture but there's a lot of nuance there whether it's shellfish, etc. Currently there is an indigenous knowledge effort between WA Sea Grant and BC and Hawaii on indigenous aquaculture, so I think it would be good to keep a standing item to hear about what is happening regionally at least on this topic.
- Kim Peacher (Navy - NW Training Range Complex): There is a grant program looking at offshore and onshore energy and we recently had a meeting with BOEM to talk about collaboration with stakeholders. So in light of all these efforts it would be great to continue information sharing.
- Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. Ecology): I was able to connect with our partners at our WA State Department of Commerce and that reminds me of the coordination / notification tool that was in discussion last year. That's something that could benefit both aquaculture and offshore energy conversation and wouldn't need to take up a lot of other time from the partners.
- Andy Lanier (WCOA/OR DLCD): Thank you Casey, I think we do intend to move forward with that coordination tool, we have been focused so far on trying to circle back around with the Alliance on the scorecard topic, but I think depending on funding that is something we'll be trying to move to completion on. So at the Annual Meeting we did promise that we would be sending an email out with a request for review; that is something that we will pick up in the near future and I would expect to see in your inboxes both the opportunity to provide comments on the geographic footprints and also the data structure.
- John Hansen (WCOA): It sounds like there is interest in the standing agenda item, but beyond that, leaving it to individual members to follow up on a specific project with an

agency or contact. If Alliance staff can be helpful in any of these contexts please don't hesitate to get in touch.

- Necy Sumait (BOEM): BOEM will continue to provide information on offshore ocean energy to the Alliance as we have in the past, and we're happy to get into more detail when there are issues that are more relevant on a regional basis. As we move ahead BOEM is certainly open to continue to discuss options and see if there's anything more that can be helpful in the future.

Quick Hits

John Hansen (WCOA) provided a brief overview of other ongoing WCOA efforts.

- ROP Legislation: In December, a companion Regional Ocean Partnership bill was introduced in the House. The House Bill is still in committee, and the Senate bill has passed out of committee. Outreach around the bills is starting to increase, and more letters of support are coming from NGOs and Gulf of Mexico stakeholders, among others. If you would like more information contact John.
- 2020 Workplan Development: John and Marisa have begun drafting a workplan for the remainder of the year and will share an early draft with the membership in the coming weeks.
- Stakeholder outreach and website improvements: Work on these items continues to move ahead; please get in touch with John and Marisa for more info.
- Funding Working Group: A new work group focused on the WCOA and WCODP funding and budget had its first call in late January, focusing on how to use remaining funding and looking at options for future funding streams. This group will have a standing call the last week of every month; please contact John if you would like to be added to the call invites.
- John's Paternity Leave: John is having twins! He will likely be out for part of March and April, and is working on a staff support plan with Marisa for when he is out of the office.

END CALL

NEXT MEMBERSHIP CALL: Friday, April 3, 10am-1130am