



February 2021

Member Call

SUMMARY

February 5, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

- Please consider your feedback on:
 - State or Tribal priorities for the WCOA to be shared with the new federal administration;
 - ideas about future funding for the WCOA or interest in joining the funding working group;
 - and / or specific thoughts about what to include in the WCOA March 24 roundtables and March 26 strategic planning session.
 - Send feedback to John Hansen at john@westcoastoceanalliance.org.

UPCOMING DATES

- Tuesday March 2, 2021 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Executive Committee Call
- Monday March 15, 2021 2:00 – 3:00 pm, West Coast Ocean Data Portal Coordination Call
- Wednesday March 17, 2021 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus Monthly Call (Tribal Caucus members only)
- Wednesday March 24, 2021 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, WCOA: Emerging Issue Roundtable – Ocean Energy
- Wednesday March 24, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 pm, WCOA: Emerging Issue Roundtable – Aquaculture
- Friday March 26, 2021 9:30 am – 12:45 pm, WCOA: 2021 Strategic Planning Meeting

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees

John Hansen (WCOA), Jim Weigand (DOI BLM), Theresa Stevens (USACE LA District Regulatory Division), Maggie Dour (Navy), Patty Snow (Oregon Coastal Program), Joe Schumacker (Quinalt Indian Nation), Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA's Office of Coast Survey), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM Pacific), Kevin Adams (USCG), Andy Lanier (Oregon Coastal Program / WCODP), Jim Jacobson (Economic Development Administration, Seattle), Danielle Page-Pattison (Navy Region NW Tribal Liaison), Kris Wall (NOAA), Katie Robinson-Filipp (CA State Lands Commission), Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCODP), Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), Abreanna Gomes (Kashia Band of Pomo Indians), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Brad Bird (USACE), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Katie Morrice (DOE Water Power Technologies Office), Carol Bernthal (NOAA/Olympic Coast NMS), Haley Kennard (Makah Tribe), Stefanie Stavrakas (USFWS, PAC NW Region), David Croxton (EPA Wetlands and Oceans Section), Bill Douros (NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast), Bill Standley (BLM, CA Coastal National Monument), TJ Moore (NOAA), Caren Braby (PFMC / ODFW), Maya Whalen-Kipp (DOE Water Power Technology Office), Katrina Lassiter (WA DNR), Jennifer Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Carl Merkle (Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Reservation).

Federal Administration Transition

John Hansen led a discussion on the recent transition of the federal administration and asked Federal Caucus members to provide any relevant updates.

- The new administration is in place, and we are watching as they unveil new priorities and appointments. We are in particular staying tuned to see if there is an Executive Order (EO) regarding a National Ocean Policy or similar that might have any link to the WCOA. There may be things that the WCOA could do regarding outreach about our efforts to make sure the new administration is up to speed on our West Coast efforts.
- **Becky Smyth (NOAA):** There is a climate-related EO that is quite long, but there are probably three things for this group to be aware of: a goal of doubling offshore wind energy by 2030; a section about the building capacity of fishermen and fishing communities to adapt to changing fisheries from climate impacts, which was all encouraging to see. There is the '30 by 30 Initiative' which crosses a number of federal agencies, probably primarily DOI, and NOAA, with a goal of protecting 30% of America's lands and waters by 2030. NOAA is working on ways to get public input and input from key stakeholders as well as Tribal governments. That's in early discussion.
- **Bill Douros (NOAA NMS):** Having more of the NOAA leadership team in place soon will also get things moving; the direction is clear now but I think we are still figuring that out. There are also other directives that came out of the appropriations bills for us that may or may not interrelate with 30 by 30, about designating more of the sanctuaries that are in the inventory. How do those fit into this? What's the timing supposed to be? So it feels like in two or three months, it'll be a lot clearer, at least for us as we're trying to interpret these things.
- **Kevin Werner (NOAA/NWFSC):** I think Becky and Bill are right; we spent some time at NMFS this week reading through the Executive Orders, and we're still waiting for most of our political leadership to be announced at NOAA.
- **Becky Smyth (NOAA):** From the political leadership side, we have a couple of senior people but not the administrator of NOAA nominated. So far, they've

primarily been people who work in the ocean and coastal fields and are very familiar with our mission and work. And the Secretary of Commerce is Gina Raimondo, who is the former governor of Rhode Island, the Ocean State. So she has some knowledge of ocean issues and actually did permit the first wind energy farm in the US as Governor of Rhode Island, so she's very familiar with offshore wind.

- *Sara Guiltinan (BOEM)*: The effort on National Ocean Mapping, Exploration and Characterization is also continuing; this stems from a 2019 ocean mapping, and those have not been rescinded. Two weeks ago on behalf of the National Ocean Mapping Exploration and Characterization (NOMAD) Council, BOEM helped to convene a Tribal listening session on strategy efforts.
- *Theresa Stevens (USACE)*: There's a fair number of regulations that were put through rulemaking under the Trump administration that are either going to be rescinded in some cases or at least reviewed and possibly rescinded. But the ones that went through rulemaking might have to go back through rulemaking again. Stay tuned for that, but these efforts encompass a fair amount of the Corps's regulatory program, ranging from jurisdiction to policies such as aquaculture and ocean policy.
- *Becky Smyth (NOAA)*: I would encourage the State and Tribal leadership of the WCOA to consider how they want to act on some of these initiatives; we know there'll be opportunities provide input on all of this, including and especially if the Regional Ocean Partnership bill passes in this Congress. And so what is it that this group wants to do if the opportunity presents itself, rather than waiting to see what we're told to do?
- *Jen Hennessey (WA Governor's Office)*: I think this is a good question. I appreciate that the Feds probably can't participate in shaping what the State and states collectively and Tribes might want to say. But that may be something to think about convening a group of us to talk through a little bit more about what our perspectives are on the priorities and opportunities and messages that we might want to send to the new administration. The question I had was for the Corps in particular the aquaculture issue has been on our list of conversations and topics of interest. I know that the Corps finalized the nationwide permit that covers aquaculture in the final days of the Trump administration. And I just wanted to ask if that was one of the decisions that is under review? And if there's any insights on the kind of the next steps yet on for local permitting?
- *Theresa Stevens (USACE)*: I believe that the nationwide permits that were recently rolled out will be looked at; I have no information as to whether there is talk about rescinding. What we've heard from management is that if we have any issues with those we need to just let our managers know. You can imagine how complicated it would be to have two different sets of nationwide permits with two different sets of conditions and two different timelines. So, stay tuned.
- *John Hansen (WCOA)*: Yes we need to discuss what role the Alliance wants to take in terms of different themes, and also how best to highlight the work we're doing now as a regional group for the West Coast. We can look to what the priorities of the group are and how we could be proactive instead of reactive. This also connects to the March 26 strategic planning session, which we will discuss

later. We should also highlight our strengths around tribal engagement, which is different than most other regions.

Tribal Caucus: Tribal Engagement Update & 2021 Activities

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on Tribal engagement activities.

- We had a successful webinar in December with our federal partners on tribal engagement, over 80 federal staff on the line. It was encouraging to see the broad federal awareness and engagement via that webinar, and we hope that's a starting point. You can find a recording of the webinar, and the document itself, at <https://westcoastoceanalliance.org/tribal-engagement>.
- As a reminder, there is a training being developed specific to NOAA on the West Coast, via NOAA funding, developed by Tribal Caucus members and supported by Udall Foundation staff. We hope this training may be used as a template by other federal partners in the future.
 - *Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation)*: It is going to be a half day training, and we've contracted with several Tribal trainers who are members of the Tribal Caucus. Our first training is coming up on February 22 and we've also got the two trainings scheduled for March and April. It's the same training being given three different times to different NOAA audiences. The idea is that once we're done with that, we'll be able to hand it off to the Tribal Caucus and to NOAA, so that they will be able to tailor it and use it for other purposes.
 - *Carol Bernthal (NOAA/Olympic Coast NMS)*: Is the training open to all NOAA staff?
 - *Kris Wall (NOAA)*: I'm happy to follow up with you on this. It's starting with the NOAA West regional collaboration team, and then we're having them nominate staff from different line offices who would benefit most from it. We have a limited number of slots, but we're in the soliciting names section right now, so I'm happy to follow up.
- *Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria)*: Before I forget, I just wanted to mention, on behalf of the Tribal Caucus, I was pleased when Becky spoke that she separated Tribal governments from key stakeholders, and she named them both. That is the correct manner by which almost all Tribes that I've engaged with want to be addressed since we are governments, not stakeholders. And then I was pleased also to hear Sara's comment that a tribal listening session has already been scheduled with BOEM. I think that just reinforces what you mentioned earlier, that Tribes are a key component of this West Coast group. Last I wanted to mention that the California Fish and Game Commission is hiring a Tribal Advisor for the Tribal Committee. The Tribal Committee has been enacted already in state statute, but we didn't have a Tribal Advisor like the other two commission committees. So soon there will be a full fledged Tribal Committee under the California Fish and Game Commission with a Tribal Advisor full time.
- *John Hansen (WCOA)*: That's great to hear. This reinforces the theme of how important Tribal engagement and leadership for us on the West Coast has been from the start of our regional efforts.

Funding Status & Outreach

John Hansen provided an update on current WCOA funding and funding outreach efforts.

- Currently, we have funding coming in at the federal level through NOAA and BOEM, which is mostly focused on data. There was an increase from 1.5 million to 2.5 million for total nationwide funding for the NOAA data efforts for FY21.
- Additionally, we have funding coming through a Moore Foundation grant, which supports John's time as WCOA Coordinator and has supported previous meetings, the Tribal Caucus Guidance Document, etc. This grant is winding down but we were able to stretch funds to cover John's time through the end of 2021. If you would like more information on how these funds have been allocated, please contact John at john@westcoastoceanalliance.org.
- We are starting to look at future funding sources through other private foundations, and have made some connections and cold calls. In particular, we have had initial conversations with Pew Charitable Trusts and the Packard Foundation. We have gotten feedback on their specific areas of interest, which include Tribal engagement and climate among other topics, but we have not have any specific conversations about moving forward. The Executive Committee is providing input here, and we have a small funding working group that is open to others to join.
 - *Joe Shumacker (Quinalt Indian Nation)*: The Walton Family Foundation in particular is soliciting input from a selected group of folks that have been in the fishing industry. And I've been approached to take a big survey with them to to line up their funding strategy for the next five years for oceans.
- *Sara Guiltinan (BOEM)*: The new administration has highlighted the importance of Government to Government consultation and upholding all the federal government obligations to tribes. So to the extent that funding opportunities can build capacity and potential increases in consultation, collaboration, co-production of information, may be an area to explore. If an organized organization like the Alliance can help with that, I think that would benefit many of us.

Spring 2021 Meeting Planning

John Hansen provided an overview of Spring Meeting planning for 2021.

- We have spring meetings set for March 24 and 26. These meetings will include roundtables on ocean energy and aquaculture, as well as a three-hour strategic planning session. We are currently working on the specific shape and content of these meetings, and welcome insights from WCOA members.
- We are also sending out an email to our public-facing list to solicit interest in a stakeholder meeting that would be similar to the 'lightening round' updates at our 2019 meeting. This will likely happen in late spring or early summer.
- We also still anticipate some stand-alone Data Portal workshops to happen later in the year, based on the Ocean Health Dashboard.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Marisa Nixon (WCOA/WCODP) shared an update on the activities of the WCODP.

- West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard: We are working with the design team at Ecotrust on developing a visual framework and some website comps for the Dashboard and we look forward to sharing those efforts soon. In terms of the water quality indicator, Heal the Bay has finished their Phase I report at the end of 2020 and we're in the process of finalizing a contract with them to complete grades for one year for the West Coast based on that methodology. In terms of the ocean acidification indicator, NANOOS completed Phase I of indicator development at the end of January. They proposed two indicators for OA; one biological and one chemical, and different options for using modeling and in situ data. What we're doing now is working on the best way to present this information to you, the broader Alliance group, in order to gather your input. Finally, in terms of kelp, the data processing for the pilot project that we're working on in Southern California is almost complete. Upon completion of this project, we're working toward convening West Coast kelp experts in a virtual workshop later in the spring or summer.
- OROWindMap: This is the tool that we're working on in support of the BOEM/ Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force, and their data gathering and engagement process. We are continuing to build a curated catalog of data layers in that tool, that support offshore wind planning. There will be an introductory webinar highlighting this tool on March 11, from 10 - 11:30am. Access information can be found at: <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/regions/pacific-ocs-region/renewable-energy/OROWindMap-Webinar-Agenda-Mar-11-2021.pdf>.
- There will be a presentation at the Coastal Geotools conference next week on the data portal, highlighting its history, some lessons learned and its current projects: 'Dredging, Ships and Data Access session, which is on Wednesday, February 10, from 10 – 11:30 Pacific time.

West Coast Emerging Topics: Ocean Energy

WCOA Members provided updates related to ocean energy.

- *Sara Guiltinan (BOEM)*: BOEM actually has a pretty good suite of political appointees in place or in the nomination queue already. The new BOEM director will be Amanda Lefton; she comes to BOEM from the State of New York where she served as the first Assistant Secretary for Energy in the Environment. Prior to that, she worked at the Nature Conservancy.
- Becky mentioned under the new climate Executive Order a doubling of offshore wind production by 2030. It's too early to say what the implications are for the West Coast, but we will keep the WCOA updated.
- On January 19 BOEM offered it its first research lease on the OCS to Oregon State University. It's for the PACWAVE South project, which is a wave energy testing facility. This project is a little bit unique in that regulatory authority for wave energy is shared between BOEM and FERC, the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission. So while BOEM issues the lease to provide site access to OSU, FERC really handles all the construction, operation and operations issues under its licensing process. So it was FERC that developed the environmental assessment and review for the project. The BOEM lease is a prerequisite to the applicant receiving their FERC license, which hasn't happened yet. BOEM offered the lease to Oregon State University on January 19.

- We've sent out notices for the March 11 OROWindMap webinar to Task Force members and our interested party listserv. If this is the first time you're hearing of it and you're interested and would like to be added to our list, then please let me or any of the team members know.
- Regarding California offshore wind planning, BOEM is working with our state partners to incorporate a summary of the public comments received, discussions and Tribal engagement meetings, and outreach results over the past couple of years in an addendum to an Outreach Summary Report that was originally published in 2018.
- There are no announcements or updates on BOEM's National OCS oil and gas leasing program. When under the Trump administration, we were looking at increases in potential leasing for oil and gas offshore around the nation. So no movement on that and BOEM continues to operate under the approved 2017 to 2022 leasing program. Under the new climate Executive Order, there is a pause on all new OCS oil and gas leasing, pending a review and consideration of greenhouse gas emissions, climate impacts, etc.
 - *Jen Hennessey (WA Governor's Office)*: An area where the West Coast ocean Alliance is well poised to help engage BOEM on the implementation of this goal of offshore wind. I would encourage us all to be thinking about what that best role is moving forward. I know we've got meetings coming up to discuss that more.

West Coast Emerging Topics: Aquaculture

John Hansen led a discussion on WCOA's potential role in aquaculture discussions on the West Coast, and invited updates from WCOA members.

- We are still tracking national-level efforts, and as discussed previously there was an EO late in the Trump administration around Aquaculture Opportunity Areas.
- In terms of the Alliance discussion, we brought this up on a previous call around what we can do to talk about aquaculture in the group. And the three kind of top level items were:
 - Understanding the state of play around aquaculture, what's happening on the West Coast, in terms of projects, planning, policy, etc.
 - From the state perspective, there was interest in connecting states to talk about best practices; also potential for state collaboration on common goals for aquaculture.
- *Bill Douros (NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast)*: You talk about sort of the current state of affairs; has anyone produced an inventory of the aquaculture projects

we have already on the West Coast? If not, I think that would be needed, just to get a sense a baseline.

- *Theresa Stevens (USACE)*: I've been working with the NOAA National Ocean Service and NCOS on that very thing at least for Los Angeles district area of responsibility, which goes from the San Luis Monterey County line all the way down to the Mexico-US border.
- *Dave Croxton (EPA)*: There are a number of public notices for permit expansions for shellfish aquaculture in Washington that some of my staff are involved in, if anyone is interested in learning more.
 - *Theresa Stevens (USACE)*: That's related to litigation and there was a stay placed on nationwide 48, which is the shellfish nationwide permit. And this was probably before the the EO came out.
 - *Jen Hennessey (WA Governor's Office)*: Just to follow up on Theresa's point, the vast majority of the permits that are up right now are because their permits were thrown out out by a court order that happened six months ago. So shellfish aquaculture has happened in Washington for a long time and a lot of places, and they are all having to get new permits for those operations that have existed for a long time.
- *Patty Snow (Oregon Coastal Program)*: I wanted to mention we have an aquaculture siting tool we're working on in Oregon that will be complete by June 30. Also, we're working with Oregon State University and their Institute for Natural Resources, and they recently got a contract to extend the tool offshore. It should help with permitting and identifying projects.

West Coast Roundtable Updates

WCOA members shared additional updates relevant to the Alliance.

- *Dave Croxton (EPA)*: I just wanted to let people know that we're working on processing a request to dispose of or scuttle of vessel off the coast of Washington, approx. 60mi offshore. We've been working with the Coast Guard and the State of Washington; we're preparing a letter coordinate with the four coastal Tribes, and we've been in contact with the Sanctuary. There's no set time for it, but it will probably happen this Spring. It is about 300 feet long.
- *Bill Standley (CA Coastal National Monument)*: California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is hiring a Climate Change Program Manager. The application deadline is February 26, 2021. For more details and to apply, please visit: <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControllid=237128>
- *Caren Braby (PFMC/ODFW)*: There is a PFMC webinar by BOEM/NOAA on Feb 24 for the Habitat Committee. Look at pcouncil.org for more info.

END CALL