



# West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

June 2019

Member Call

## SUMMARY

June 7, 2019

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### ACTION ITEMS

- If you have **ideas or opportunities for Marisa Nixon (new West Coast Fellow)** in terms of projects, meeting attendance, or in-person visits, please contact John and Marisa. Marisa can be reached at [marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org](mailto:marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org)
- If you would like to provide **input into upcoming data projects and outcomes**, consider joining (or suggesting data staff person join) the Portal Coordination Team. Contact Marisa to be included on upcoming calls.
- Contact Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe) if you would like to contribute to **planning of upcoming Tribal Summit in British Columbia** (Sept. 30 – Oct. 4), and/or want to **assist in developing West Coast Tribal Guidance** document.
- **Please hold week of Dec. 2, 2019** on calendars for the 2019 WCOA Annual Meeting in Tacoma, WA. Contact John or Marisa if this week is a conflict for you, if you would like to join the planning subcommittee, or if you have feedback on the initial proposed schedule overview.
- Because we ran out of time for Sub-regional and individual updates, send John anything you would like him to distribute to the group before next month's call.

### UPCOMING DATES

- Thursday June 27: 2019 Annual Meeting Planning Committee Monthly Call
- Tuesday July 2: WCOA Executive Committee Monthly Call
- Wednesday July 3: WCODP Coordination Team Call
- Friday August 2: Next WCOA Full Membership Call

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### CALL SUMMARY

#### Attendees

**West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff:** John Hansen (WCOA Coordinator), Marisa Nixon (Oregon Sea Grant Fellow)

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

**State:** 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), Jenn Eckerle (California Ocean Protection Council), Jenn Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Maren Farnum (CA State Lands Commission)

**Tribal:** Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Mike Kennedy (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Mark Healey (Coquille Indian Tribe), Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria), Joe Shumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe)

**Federal:** Carol Berthal (NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary), Commander Craig Thedwall (Navy Region NW), Yvonne Fish (Bureau of Indian Affairs), Kris Wall (NOAA), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM), Frank Pendleton (BOEM), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Walt Wilson (Navy), Bill Standley (BLM CA Coastal National Monument), Irina Irvine (National Park Service), Commander Tracy Kirby (Navy Region SW), Kris Dellapina (White House Office of Science, Technology and Policy), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation)

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## New West Coast Fellow Introduction

- Marisa Nixon: Started June 3 and will be based in Corvallis, OR at Oregon Sea Grant. Will spend one day a week (Wednesdays) in Salem with OR DLCD. You can contact Marisa at [marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org](mailto:marisa@westcoastoceanalliance.org).

## Member Discussion: Regional Data Priorities and Functions

*John Hansen (WCOA), several state staff and Steve Weisberg (SCCWRP) provided an update and context for conversations they have been having about the future direction of the data portal, and solicited member feedback. The summary below was edited for length and clarity but there is a full transcript of the discussion available; contact John Hansen (WCOA) if interested.*

- Update on Recent Discussions on State & Tribal Regional Data Needs: Overall, there is general consensus the direction of West Coast Ocean Data Portal should be clearly driven by tribes and states in the region to directly address their stated data needs. This is also a priority for the Feds through the new federal Executive Order (EO) on oceans, further emphasized by NOAA providing funding to support regional data portals, including the West Coast. The EO also spells out a process for federal agencies to prioritize access to existing federal data, but it does not seem like there is going to be a separate process by the feds to solicit additional rounds of regional input. Therefore, it is up to the West Coast as a regional partnership to initiate that conversation if we want federal data in a different format, to address what kind of data we should be providing through the portal to our community, and what we want the broader vision to be.
- **Question for WCOA Members: What is Best Role & Function of West Coast Ocean Data Portal to Support the Region?**

*\*\*Open Member Discussion\*\* (Condensed for Summary Purposes):*

Currently on the West Coast we have the opportunity of multiple sources of grant funding and renewed engagement and new staff for a range of our data projects. We are able to get things done that we have wanted to for a long time, like technical enhancements to the information

technology that supports the portal, and potentially getting better oceanographic data into the portal that captures the temporal nature of some of the seasonal processes on the West Coast. We should also be thinking about a broader vision and strategy for the next 3-5 years, not just the next 6-12 months. This stream of funding from NOAA could potentially increase, and if we establish a larger set of priorities now we can take advantage of funds as they come to fill out that broad framework.

As we develop that broad framework, this is where the data portal team really wants feedback from the larger group—what is it that state and tribal governments want to know, that will help with a local decision by providing regional context? We still hope not to duplicate efforts, and to connect to places where the information we want is being produced. This is another reason that we need partners participating in the vision; we need help filling out that framework of information so we can be the entity that pulls it together and provides it in a unique way to the region.

Some state reps and the data portal team have begun discussing the idea of focusing on multiple ecosystem indicators or a 'state of the ocean'-type report as a product that can come out of the data portal work and fit into a broader vision for how we use data regionally. This would not just be ecological indicators, like the benthic invertebrate / infaunal data we have discussed, but would include the human element and how we use that as a framing place to identify data needs. This focus could give us the ability to create data visualization products that would be helpful to decision making at multiple levels, and could fit well with current partner goals and projects—the recent E.O. from the Governor of CA asks for this type of project, and NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has been working on a condition report and selecting indicators in the same vein, which are examples that could help inform our process.

Right now, our hope is to have progressed enough in this conversation by the Annual Meeting in December so that we can have a draft product to work through there. We plan to know what the key parameters are we want to focus on, understand how their temporal aspects and access to that data may vary, and have an idea of how to scale what is available. Questions could include: is the data available in the format we desire? Does it need to be produced on a more regular cycle? Is there a gap that we have no data source for? We can then communicate with the Feds about whether we need data delivered in a different format or at a different interval. At the national level, Feds want this to be an ongoing conversation with multiple opportunities for influence. It should be clear from the start, however, exactly what questions we are going to answer with the data activities we are supporting with federal funding, and how that will develop in the future.

Proposed next steps for proceeding with this work include:

- 1. Review other 'state of the ocean'-type report cards that have been produced to see which indicators and metrics they have used; share those with members to get feedback of what areas to focus on.**
- 2. Once we have determined preferred indicators and metrics, determine how close we are to having appropriate data for those indicators, and start to fill in the pieces.**
- 3. At the Annual Meeting in December, have an initial work plan and product draft that we can use to get in-person feedback from members.**

Marisa and the data portal team will plan to reach out to individual contacts and resources as applicable during this proposed process so members are not limited to providing input on these calls. As we delve deeper into this, if you or a data staff person wants to join the portal

coordination calls, that is where we will have more regular check ins on draft products as they are developed (Contact Marisa; also listed in Action Items).

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## West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

*Andy Lanier (WCODP / OR DLCD) provided an update on other aspects of the WCODP including plans for FY19 NOAA Funding.*

- FY19 NOAA Funding: Based on the federal EO on oceans NOAA has provided funding to support regional data activities identified for data work for the regions. The West Coast has delivered a SOW (via our fiscal sponsor, Coastal States Stewardship Foundation) that initially falls in line with other regional data activities, including in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. The plan is to follow through on one of the data priorities that the region has focused on; the West Coast will need to decide if fisheries management data is something we as a region would be interested in, or if, as discussed previously, we are more interested in synthesized oceanographic data and species distribution data. We have 18 months to use the grant and put 90 days in from the start of the funds to come up with a work plan. There may be justification to push this out to December if we want to discuss it at the Annual Meeting. If we do decide to focus on fisheries data, we would need to incorporate significant outreach and engagement with fishing communities. Whatever we decide, we should consider how it fits into a broader vision that could be supported with future funding.
- Clarification of funding for WCODP versus IOOS Regional Associations: Now is a good time for us to clarify how we all contribute to a West Coast picture, and to re-engage with the three IOOS RAs on the West Coast. The fact that we have identified synthesized oceanographic data as a priority may be one way to do this; we should also think about this relationship as part of a broader framework, and how we can highlight the difference between our entities from a national funding perspective.
  - Comment: Becky Smyth (NOAA): This is the expectation of NOAA, that this could be an opportunity to bring the data portals and regional associations together to develop appropriate regional products.

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## West Coast Tribal Caucus Update

*Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe) gave updates on the Tribal Summit Meeting and Tribal Engagement Best Practices Development.*

- BC First Nations & West Coast Tribal Summit Meeting: John and Katie have been working with the Tribal Caucus planning subcommittee, the Udall Foundation, and contacts in British Columbia to set up the Summit, now tentatively scheduled for Sept 30 – October 4. The Udall Foundation will facilitate the Summit and support initial meeting logistics. The schedule will include a travel day to Vancouver, a full day of meeting in Vancouver, and then flying to Northern Vancouver Island to meet with the Nanwakolas Council for about two days before returning home. More to be discussed on upcoming Tribal Caucus call.
- Tribal Engagement Best Practices Development: The Udall Foundation is also facilitating this process and good progress is being made. Sections have been designated to be drafted by the end of this month, when they will be edited and sent out to the full Tribal Caucus for feedback. There is an open invitation for tribal members to join this process; contact Katie if interested.

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## Annual Meeting Planning

*John Hansen (WCOA) gave an overview of Annual Meeting planning and solicited input on developing the broader format.*

- Finalization of WCOA Annual Meeting Dates (Week of Dec 2) & Location (Tacoma, WA): Please let John know if you have a definite conflict the week of Dec. 2 so he can be aware of who we may be missing. State and tribal reps should know that we have funding in our grant to support your attending the meeting; we want to make sure everyone is aware of this.
- Development of Meeting Goals, Topics, Format: Right now we are working on putting together a basic schedule, with help from the meeting planning committee and WCOA Exec. Committee. Similar to past meetings, we may have one day as a public facing meeting and a half to full day Executive session that brings together members in a closed setting to work through priorities for the coming year. We have discussed having time set aside Monday afternoon for a Tribal Caucus meeting; that could also include components of a training with the Udall Foundation or other tribal focused work. Tuesday would likely be a data workshop day hosted by the WCODP, focusing on draft products as discussed in the member discussion of this call. It could be followed by a data reception of some kind that is limited to alliance members or open to the public – it is up to the group to decide. The public facing meeting would be on Wednesday, followed by a public reception, and the Executive meeting would be on Thursday. We have discussed having a field trip on Friday, though it may be a challenge with the weather in December and the distance to the coast. We are going to compile some options and then poll the group based on availability and interest.
  - Tribal Caucus meeting: Will use the opportunity of a Tribal Caucus meeting in person at the Annual Meeting to go through the close-to-final Tribal Guidance document, with time for review prior to presenting it to the full WCOA membership in one of the following two days. Will also plan to review and present a white paper from the BC exchange on lessons learned.
  - Potential Udall Foundation training: This training is envisioned for state and federal agencies regarding tribal engagement; there is the option to have some components on engaging with agencies and collaboration and consensus building for tribes as well. We will discuss this in the coming weeks to see what would be the most valuable use of that time.

END CALL

**NEXT MEMBERSHIP CALL: Friday, August 2, 2019**