



# West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

June 2021

Member Call

## SUMMARY

June 4, 2021

### ACTION ITEMS

- If you have any input on strategic planning priorities for the WCOA, or specific priorities to share with the federal administration in regard to a National Ocean Policy, contact John Hansen at [john@westcoastoceanalliance.org](mailto:john@westcoastoceanalliance.org).

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### UPCOMING DATES

- Monday July 19, 2021 2 – 3 pm WCODP Portal Coordination Call
- Wednesday July 21, 2021 10am – 12pm West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus Monthly Call (Tribal Caucus members only)

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### CALL SUMMARY

#### Attendees

**West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff:** John Hansen (WCOA Coordinator), Marisa Nixon (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. Ecology), Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Margarita McInnis (CA State Lands Commission), Jennifer Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Caren Braby (ODFW), Katie Robinson-Filip (CA State Lands Commission), Jennifer Hennessey (WA State Governor's Office)

**Tribal Members/Staff:** Rob Jacob (Elk Valley Rancheria), Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Joe Schumacker (Quinalt Indian Nation), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Carl Merkle (Confederated Umatilla Tribes)

**Federal Staff:** Sara Guiltinan (BOEM Pacific), Kris Wall (NOAA), Toby Garfield (NMFS SWFSC), Emma Ross (USACE), Irina Irvine (NPS), Doug Boren (BOEM Pacific), Chris Harvey (NMFS, NFSC), Maya Whalen-Kipp (DOE), Jim Mazza (USACE), Walt Wilson (Navy), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation),

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## 2020 – 21 California Current Ecosystem Status Report

*Toby Garfield (Southwest Fisheries Science Center) and Chris Harvey (Northwest Fisheries Science Center) presented an overview of NOAA's 2020 – 21 California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Ecosystem Status Report. **Please see attached slides** to review this presentation.*

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## Offshore Wind Planning Update

*Doug Boren (Regional Supervisor for the Office of Strategic Resources for the Pacific Region, BOEM) provided an update on offshore wind planning for the BOEM Pacific Region.*

- California
  - On May 25, 2021 an agreement to advance areas for offshore wind development off the Northern and Central coasts of California was announced: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/05/25/california-announces-historic-agreement-with-federal-partners-to-advance-offshore-wind-development/>
  - For the Central CA coast, an offshore wind energy leasing consideration area has been identified northwest of Morro Bay (399 square miles), that could support up to three gigawatts of offshore energy capacity. This area includes a portion of the original Morro Bay Call Area identified in 2018, and additional areas to the East and West.
  - For the Northern CA coast, the Humboldt Bay area identified in 2018 will move forward. The next step in this process is to move forward with an area ID, designate it as a wind energy area, and then start the NEPA process.
  - A virtual BOEM California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar to discuss these areas will take place July 13, 2021. You can register here: [https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_oBsOpaAuTWWKxrM2UCcKOg](https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oBsOpaAuTWWKxrM2UCcKOg)
  - It is likely to be a 12 – 14-month process from the call to the lease sale, so a sale could happen as soon as mid- 2022.
- Oregon
  - BOEM continues to partner and engage with the State of Oregon on data gathering and engagement in an effort to inform offshore wind energy planning in Oregon. All webinar recordings for public virtual meetings that have been held so far can be accessed here:

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/Oregon>. These meetings have had good attendance and feedback thus far.

- BOEM has invited the tribal governments in Oregon to engage with BOEM and the State, and is incorporating the Tribal Engagement Document into their engagement processes. They also invite engagement with tribes outside of Oregon, who may have interests along the coasts of Oregon and California.
- *Andy Lanier (OR DLCD)*: Engagement in Oregon has been broad to date, but we are entering a period of time where we are very focused on fisheries engagement, and will have a number of events with that community this summer. There is no date set yet, but there will be another Task Force meeting this Fall, to mark year one of the renewed Task Force and the conclusion of data gathering and engagement efforts.

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## West Coast Tribal Engagement Training & Next Steps

*John Hansen (WCOA), Kris Wall (NOAA), and Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation) provided an update on the NOAA training based on the Tribal Engagement Document, and discussed next steps for future training opportunities.*

- The three planned NOAA trainings have been completed and were well received. Highlights identified by participants were the inclusion of Tribal trainers, the focus on framing around the 'Core Principles' of the Document, and having time for discussion with Tribal members around issues and case studies. There is interest in keeping the the trainings going, but there are details that need to be figured out like structure and funding.
- The materials from the NOAA trainings (presentation and lesson plans) have been finalized into a template by the Udall Foundation and shared with NOAA and John Hansen, so they can be utilized in future trainings by the Tribal Caucus.
- There is interest from West Coast states in using the framework and materials created for the NOAA trainings for state-specific trainings, but this will require a larger conversation that involves identifying interested Tribal trainers, tailoring content to different audiences, and other logistics. Involved parties (e.g. NOAA, Tribal Caucus, interested states) will connect separately on this conversation and report back to the group.

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## West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

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

- A workplan was recently submitted for the FY21 funds of the NOAA Regional Data Sharing Initiative; this initiative has supported the data portal since FY19. The FY21 funds will support both continued improvements to the portal and work on the Ocean Health Dashboard. They will also support a full time Data Portal Coordinator, as well as some of John Hansen's time as WCOA Coordinator, which will be focused explicitly on reviewing data products with the Alliance.

- The WCODP plans to do an exercise (either virtual workshop or survey) with the Alliance sometime in the next few months to (1) get feedback on the indicators currently being developed for the Dashboard and (2) to prioritize the next round of indicators for development.

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## Wrap-up Updates

- John Hansen continues to work on strategic planning efforts for the WCOA for the next year, in particular around the topics of aquaculture, offshore wind, and tribal engagement.
- John Hansen is leading discussion efforts about how to provide West Coast-focused input on a potential new National Ocean Policy from the Biden Administration. In particular, it would be a good idea for the WCOA as a Regional Ocean Partnership to define our own regional priorities and convey those to the federal administration, so they can be considered in future executive actions.
- June 17 is the West Coast Ocean Stakeholder Roundtable, which will focus on lightning round-style updates from interested stakeholders, as well as short public-facing updates on the WCOA and WCODP. WCOA members encouraged to attend!
- *Jen Hennessey (WA State Governor's office):* What are the next steps for the 30 x 30 Conservation Initiative and are there opportunities for the West Coast network to engage in and help shape that initiative?
  - *Kris Wall (NOAA):* the next steps will be outreach and engagement with many partners and governments at multiple different levels; we will make sure that relevant information is passed on to this group.
- June is National Ocean Month as proclaimed by President Biden:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/01/a-proclamation-on-national-ocean-month-2021/>

END CALL

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 6, 2020 10:00 – 11:30 AM PST**