



# West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

June 2022

Member Call

## SUMMARY

June 10, 2022

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### 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)

**State Staff:** Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office), Maren Farnum (CA SLC)

**Tribal Members/Staff:** Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Garrett Gray (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians), Illeana Alexander (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians), Sara Shen (Strategic Earth, listening on behalf of Trinidad Rancheria), Andrea Sumerau (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Chairwoman Lousie Ramirez (Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation),

**Federal Staff:** David Croxton (EPA), Paul Michel (NOAA), Becky Smyth (NOAA), Necy Sumait (BOEM), Kris Wall (NOAA), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM), Bridgette Lohrman (EPA), Sara Conrad (USCG), Maggie Dour (Navy), Ken Clark (BOEM), Logan Newsom (EPA), Stef Stavrakas (USFWS), Alden Lundy (BOEM), Frank Pendleton (BOEM), Michael Huber (Navy), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), Lisa Gentry (BOEM), Patricia Perez (DOE), Katie Wrubel (NOAA – OCNMS), Steve Duboyce (Navy)

### CALL SUMMARY

#### WCOA Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP) Funding Proposal Review

*NOAA staff provided an update on the NOAA ROP Funding Process.*

- Becky Smyth (NOAA): NOAA's funding spend plan was approved by Congress in mid-May and we have been working with the Department of Commerce and OMB to finalize the funding announcement as well as a number of other details. I'm hopeful that we will

see it this summer, in the next month to six weeks. This timeline is for the ROP opportunity and the direct Tribal support opportunity.

- Kris Wall (NOAA): Based on the comments we've been receiving, I'm not seeing any really significant changes from the initial information sheet we provided you.
- John Hansen (WCOA): Is the expectation still that the proposal will be due 30 days from the opportunity announcement?
  - Becky Smyth (NOAA): We're talking about that, as we're hoping to make funding available as soon as is feasible.
- John Hansen (WCOA): I would defer to the group on the confidence of our ROP funding strategy. I'm always eyeballing the calendar and looking at how far we have to stretch funding to make this work.
  - Kris Wall (NOAA): Initially we were hoping to be able to make these awards by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Given the current timeline, that's not going to happen. Considerations for the larger group are: Do we have enough funding to sustain this group, your role, data portal, and other activities we have now? What are we going to do if there is a gap? What is the plan for the approval process for this group on submitting the application?
  - John Hansen (WCOA): If we're pushing into later this year, early next year we're going to have to work on that.
- Patty Snow (OR DLCD): It looks unlikely October would be the release date. Do you think December is the most likely?
  - Kris Wall (NOAA): This an active discussion right now. I think December 1<sup>st</sup> is a potential. We're trying to understand what's going to be possible. There are many factors in there to work around.
- Marisa Nixon (WCOA & WCODP): As far as funding goes, we have enough funding in the FY22 data sharing initiative funds that could go to support maintaining the processes of this group that John supports. I have questions about whether this is inline enough with the specifications of that funding. I'll talk to CSSF (fiscal sponsor) about it.

*John Hansen (WCOA) provided an overview of the second version of the WCOA ROP funding proposal draft.*

- The document has not changed much from V1 to V2. The process side has not changed. If folks want to see specifically what changed from version one to version two, I do have a document with track changes and you can request a copy of it from me.
- The key changes are:
  - Added a column for desired outcomes. In addition to deliverables, what are the outcomes we want to see?
  - We added a good amount of strategic planning funding. We initially had \$100,000. As a quick background, there is a need to assess the needs of this group, what we want to accomplish, and how we can do that effectively. Based on feedback from our members and Exec. Committee, we currently have \$300k allotted for that to adequately address the scale of our region and membership.
  - We have more language about the need for stakeholder outreach, in-person workshops, and assessing new priorities.
  - I got feedback about prioritizing our link to the Federal Ocean Policy Committee, as members see potential to leverage national-level policies to link to the West Coast region.
  - In the first draft we had language about developing a strategy for offshore wind. We shifted away from developing a strategy to convening a workshop. Perhaps the Alliance could be a convenor that could bring our members together but also

- bring in other non-government partners whether that's industry, NGOs, academia, or other stakeholders.
- We added another staff person. My role would continue as Executive Director of the Alliance but we would bring on a staff person to manage the overall functioning of the Alliance and link to other work. We are hiring a Tribal Coordinator as well so we'd have a team of staff that helps lead the Alliance but also supports projects and provide capacity to Alliance members. A comment came in to shift away from contractors to have in-house staff.
- We have the Sea Grant fellowship still included. We envision that starting in year two.
- Lastly, the Data Portal has a sizeable portion of funding for maintenance, expanding the Ocean Health Dashboard project, and a few other things that the WCODP team is working on defining.
- I have not received a lot of feedback in the last few weeks so I think we're on track. If you have feedback, please reach out to me.
- Kris Wall (NOAA): Format-wise, this will need to be in a more narrative format and not the chart. I just wanted to give you and everyone else a heads up. If you haven't worked on a NOAA award recently, I suggest reaching out to someone who has. We require a project narrative and a budget narrative. I would recommend starting to work those into more of a narrative format. We are planning on putting together a task outline template. That will include a task description, timeframe, outcomes, and impacts of that activity.
  - Patty Snow (OR DLCD): I can send you our most recent work program that we submitted to NOAA.
- John Hansen (WCOA): The next steps in this process are:
  - Ongoing feedback from WCOA members. This can be 1x1 calls, during office hours, Caucus meetings, etc.
  - Once the formal NOAA funding announcement comes out we'll have about a 30-day turnaround to get the proposal in.
  - We will finalize the proposal using the NOAA guidelines and look to ExComm for final approval.

### **Offshore Wind Update**

*Sara Guiltinan (BOEM) provided an update on offshore wind.*

- I (Sara) am currently serving as the renewable energy specialist and project coordinator for California.
- California update:
  - At the end of May, COEM announced the availability of the Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) in California. The PSN contains details about the lease locations, the proposed lease conditions and stipulations, bidding credits that could be available, and the proposed auction format and procedures, and a lot of other stuff. There's a section dedicated to specific questions on which BOEM is seeking feedback.
  - All of the lease locations are located within the previously dedicated call areas.
  - BOEM will conduct simultaneous auctions for the lease areas within each wind energy area. BOEM also proposes a multiple factor bidding format, meaning the bidding system would be a combination of monetary or cash bids and non-monetary factors. Those non-monetary factors could be a 20% bidding credit for bidders who commit to support workforce training programs and/or development of a domestic supply chain, plus, potentially, a 2.5% bidding credit for bidders

- who commit to establish a community benefit agreement for communities or groups directly impacted by activities in the lease areas.
- The 60 day public comment period ends on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The PSN is the only document that has a public comment docket. We've also made the five proposed leases, maps, bidders financial forms and other related materials available on the BOEM website and we welcome comments on all of those pieces. Finally, the goal remains to hold a lease sale in late 2022.
  - The PSN was the most recent topic of conversation in the last California Task Force Meeting. The slides and recording will be posted on the BOEM website in the coming weeks.
  - Focusing in on the North Coast, on May 5<sup>th</sup> BOEM issued the final Environmental Assessment and found no significant impact for the Humboldt Wind Energy Area.
  - Moving down to the Central Coast, the draft Environmental Assessment for the Morro area was released on April 6<sup>th</sup> and the comment period closed on May 16<sup>th</sup> so BOEM is now revising that EA and continuing consultations.
  - Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): You stated BOEM is the one that separated these areas into the five different lease sales. I can't read this map very well that tells what the different colors mean. What was the reason behind separating them out?
    - Sara Gultinan (BOEM): The different colors within the wind energy areas are the different proposed lease areas. BOEM delineated those. We are asking for feedback on how the lease areas were delineated. That decision was informed by an assessment of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. They assessed things like physical site conditions, bathymetry, and also potential project characteristics.
  - Oregon update:
    - Dr. Whitney Hauer is the BOEM Oregon Renewable Energy Specialist.
    - The call for information and nominations was announced on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Again, the purpose of call is to assess commercial interest in the areas and to get input from the public and anyone interested on the site conditions, the resources, the multiple uses in and around the call areas.
    - Oregon has two call areas: Coos Bay and Brookings. There was a third proposed area, the Bandon Call Area, but that was ultimately not included. In coordination with the State, BOEM is considering 3gw for the first leasing activities offshore Oregon. BOEM will use the information and feedback from the call to inform the delineation of the Wind Energy Areas. The public comment period is open until June 28<sup>th</sup>.
    - OROWindMap is the mapping tool used in Oregon through the Ocean Data Portal. BOEM is inviting commentors to use the OROWindMap tool to supplement comments. In addition to narrative written comments, we're welcoming using this mapping tool to share information on the different layers and the use of the area. It's a good use of the Portal.
    - There's a lot of engagement and outreach happening around to the call. Next week, BOEM is meeting with the Oregon Trawl Commission, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative, and potentially other fishing sectors.
    - Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): What is the agenda for your meetings with the fishing sector?
      - Necy Sumait (BOEM): The goal is to continue to gather information. This is to help us refine the data that we have, get more data, and have an engagement with the fishing community so our information can be further

- refined. Andy (WCODP Co-Chair, OR DLCD) has been with us trying to get data. Andy will be there and can probably shed more light.
- Andy Lanier (WCODP Co-Chair, OR DLCD): One of the things we heard loud and clear from Oregon stakeholders was that actually participating in the comment process may be challenging for individual fishermen. The agenda is set up to present the call, present information about how to respond to the call. There's also a Court Reporter who will be there and can collect oral comments on the record.
  - Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): I think that's a great approach. You probably realize the reason why I'm interested. If there's areas that are taken out of fisheries that are valuable to fisheries then that's going to shift effort elsewhere. It potentially could be in the area that I'm concerned with. I think that's a really awesome approach as far as trying to capture the oral record. Through the years I've seen many comments that are not written down just get lost.
- Bridgette Lohrman (EPA): Is BOEM asking for comments about the Port development or on the Port side or navigation side related to these call areas or is the information really related to the areas we see on the map?
    - Sara Guiltinan (BOEM): Overall, all comments are welcome as they relate to existing uses, existing infrastructure, resources, etc. We're not requesting that comments be strictly limited to the specific call areas. This is all going to inform BOEM's process and future decisions. The near-term purpose will be to delineate appropriate Wind Energy Areas from the call areas. Any comments that relate to wind project development, which comes years down the line, we keep that information and hold on to it. It may not necessarily directly inform the Wind Energy Area designation but it's key information for overall wind energy planning, leasing, and development.
- Washington update:
    - Ken Clark is the Renewable Energy Specialist for Washington.
    - BOEM has received two unsolicited lease requests for offshore wind development in areas off the southern coast of Washington south of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. BOEM is performing completeness reviews on both of those requests.
    - Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): At this point do you have any timelines associated with that Washington piece?
      - Ken Clark (BOEM): These are ongoing. We've done the initial reviews. We're now in the process of asking questions of the requestors. It depends upon how long the turnaround takes. It could take another couple months depending on how long it takes to get the information to us.

### **Blue Pages Tool Kick-off**

*John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the Blue Pages Tool.*

- The tool is being developed through Ecotrust with funding from BOEM. I am on a subcontract with them to provide direct support and be the conduit between the Ecotrust team and the West Coast Ocean Alliance Membership. We hope by fall you will be able to start using the tool.

- The tool will bring you to a map of the West Coast that will allow you to click on an area and populate a list of all relevant contacts from federal, Tribal, and state government. That's a short descriptor which is subject to change.
- I welcome feedback on how to get the information into the tool and what the information should look like. As soon as next week I'm going to start requesting feedback. The early phases are going to be a bit messy but we'll figure out how to shape this. It's up to us to figure out how best to gather the information then Ecotrust takes that and develops the tool.
- The main way this tool will be developed will be through adding contacts. WCOA members can add contacts. I will add member contact information. What's important is selecting the topics and geographical area for which it's appropriate to contact you.
- We're still having discussions about how public the information will be, preferred contact methods, etc. If you want to help me answer some of these questions, please reach out.
- The whole point of this tool is how complicated it is to provide a recipe in terms of coordinating so it's going to take a lot of work but I think this tool is going to be a really useful path to make it more efficient and easy to make connections.

### **West Coast Ocean Data Portal**

*Marisa Nixon (WCODP & WCOA) provided an update on WCODP activities.*

- We continue to work on the West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard.
- I recently presented at the SCCOOS and CeNCOOS stakeholder engagement meeting and connect with folks there around further development of the dashboard.
- We're working on framing out the dashboard, timeline, and budget for the next three years.
- We'd love to have an inaugural report and completed dashboard be finished by the fourth year of ROP funding and working on communication around its rollout under the fifth year of ROP funding.
- We have our monthly Portal coordination calls. We've been using those calls to talk about development of the dashboard. Many of you have expressed interest in the kelp indicator and this month we'll have a presentation from Christina Frieder with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project because she's been leading our efforts to develop that indicator. I encourage you to join us. That meeting has been scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> but I only recently realized that is the observed holiday for Juneteenth so we will be changing the date.

### **Roundtable Updates**

- John Hansen (WCOA):
  - We were contacted by some folks working on a funding proposal to NSF regarding ocean data governance specifically around offshore wind. Kate Wing, who some of you might have crossed paths with, is working with a team around the US exploring ocean governance tools and models and how to manage data, make it available, integrate it into portals, etc. She specifically contacted us about our work with Tribal governments. We committed to exploring working together if they receive funding. I was in contact with our Tribal Caucus and we decided to explore this if the funding is approved. They'll get a decision on funding later in the summer. We haven't committed to working with them unless our Tribes choose to do so, but we will facilitate further discussions if funding is approved.

- An upcoming roundtable hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as well as the Ocean Policy Committee. They have requested proposals to include brief lightning round updates to this Subcommittee on Ocean, Science and Technology to have updates around how federal agencies can better address climate change, advance resilient ocean science and technology infrastructure and/or make the blue workforce more diverse and inclusive. They've extended the deadline to next Friday. There's a google form to submit proposals. If selected, folks will be given three minutes to present to this group. It would be a great chance to get three minutes in front of a high level federal group. The roundtable is on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

END CALL