



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

June 2023

Member Call

SUMMARY

June 2, 2023

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (Executive Director), Bri Goodwin (Project Coordinator), Margaret Corvi (Tribal Coordinator)

West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP) Staff: Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP), Laura Bliss (WCODP Coordinator)

State Staff: Brittany Poirson (WA DNR), Mai Aoki (WA Dept. of Ecology), Scott Groth (ODFW), Katie Robinson-Filipp (CA State Lands Commission)

Tribal Members/Staff: Mark Healy (Coquille Indian Tribe), Illeana Alexander (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians), Carl Merkle (Confederated Umatilla Tribes), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Megan Rocha (Resighini Rancheria), Louise Ramirez (Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation), Sheryn Olson (CRITFC), Tina Calderon (Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous People), Dwayne Pecosky (Quileute Tribe), Jiaming Yang (CRITFC), Andrea Sumerau (CTSI), Elaine Harvey (Yakama Nation)

Federal Staff: Necy Sumait (BOEM), Kris Wall (NOAA), Stef Stavrakas (USFWS), Bridgette Lohrman (EPA), Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), David Croxton (EPA), J. Lilah Ise (NOAA NMFS), Jack Culotta (DOE), John Mosley (BIA), Paul Michel (NOAA NMS), Jessica Curran (Navy), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Toby Garfield (NOAA NMFS), Steve Dubois (Navy)

Strategic Earth Consulting (strategic plan consultants): Sara Shen, Noelia Aponte-Silva, Scarlett Schroeder

CALL SUMMARY

WCOA Strategic Planning

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Strategic Planning contract.

- One of the big elements of our new NOAA funding is a strategic plan. This is important for our organization to understand the needs and roles for us moving forward. The strategic planning effort is going to be a yearlong deep dive and we're excited to hit spring of next year with a comprehensive plan on moving forward.
- Strategic Earth Consulting has been selected to develop the WCOA 5-Year Strategic Plan. We appreciated the flexibility in their approach and felt they were the best team for this effort. We are still going through contracting, but should have that done soon.
- We will be creating a Strategic Plan Working Group which will be open to broader members. Reach out to staff for more information.

Sara Shen (Strategic Earth Consulting) provided more information about their team and the strategic plan.

- We appreciate everybody on the WCOA team. The selection process was a lot of work and we are grateful and honored to have been selected.
- Strategic Earth Consulting (SEC) has worked with a lot of diverse voices across the West Coast ocean community including native nations, state and fed agencies, and academia with an ultimate goal of mutually beneficial outcomes. We've been in the natural resource space with a focus on ocean for some time. We're excited to bring in that experience and relationships to support this effort.
- SEC has designed many strategic planning processes. We're hoping to co-create this – setting goals, priorities, and answering what does it look like for us all to come together and create workplaces that are implementable?
- The approach is focused on relationship building and moving at the speed of trust and also being efficient. We know there's a number of existing calls and in-person meetings. We'll be efficient and thorough to leverage those meetings and calls. Ultimately, we'll try to get as much as we can from you without asking too much of your time.
- There will be some sort of working group that can be the guiding light and a place to get into the nitty gritty. We'll leverage these meetings for updates and getting feedback so we can move from a draft strategic framework to a draft plan then a final plan.
- We've mapped out what conversations in focus groups might look like. For instance, the Wind Summit might be general information and as we move into the Membership Meeting we might be sharing the draft framework and getting your feedback.
- We're really into transparent communication and are looking forward to having a quarterly e-newsletter to keep everybody informed on what's going on so you can be informed. We'll always be available for informal ways to connect - we call them cups of tea.
- We'll also create a work plan to guide implementation of the strategic plan.
- We're so grateful you've put your trust in us. We feel very excited about that the future is going to look like.
- I also wanted to introduce the other SEC team members on the call.
 - Scarlett is based in San Francisco and has a background in marine science. She worked in coastal ecosystems before SEC.

- Noelia is located in Denver, CO and has a background in management of natural resources and community engagement.
- Sara is based in Redondo Beach and has a PHD in Biological Oceanography from Scripps.

2023 Project Funding Update

The WCOA Team (John Hansen, Bri Goodwin, and Margaret Corvi) provided an update on the 2023 WCOA Project Suite.

- We've been hard at work getting a lot of projects up and running. I want to acknowledge the Leadership Team for all of their work in reviewing documents, advising on project design, approving contractors, and more. It's been a sprint to get everything launched.
- Aquaculture Inventory & Best Practices:
 - RFP focuses on inventory which is a Year 1 project but allows consultants to also apply for the Best Practices project which wouldn't start until December 1.
 - The RFP is currently under review by the Leadership Team and will be published in mid-June
- Communication Support:
 - We received some strong proposals and are currently evaluating them. We hope to begin a contract by mid- to late-June.
- Meeting Support:
 - The RFP for the Offshore Wind Summit Support has closed and the WCOA staff team recommended a consultant to the Leadership Team.
 - The RFPs for the Annual Meeting and Tribal Summit will go to the Leadership Team in the next few days for their review before being published later this month.
- Tribal Training:
 - We had a training before aimed at getting NOAA trained. Tribes developed the curriculum for that. The current funding is for a strategic plan for a training program. We're currently putting together an RFP for that.
 - Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation): NOAA funded training development and Moore Foundation funded the creation of the guidance document.
- Tribal Engagement:
 - The grant has funding to help Tribes participate in WCOA, including supporting participation in the strategic plan process. We know this is a burden on Tribes but we really need their participation. We haven't totally sorted out the funding mechanism for that yet. Some Tribes have provided feedback that funding mechanisms are an administrative burden so we're looking at other funding mechanisms.
- Tribal Summit:
 - The Tribal Summit will be paired with the Member Meeting. We're starting to develop meeting topics and the Tribal Caucus will continue that discussion in June.

WCOA Fellowship Launch

Bri Goodwin (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Fellowship Program.

- Our program is being paired with an Oregon Sea Grant (OSG) program, allowing applicants to apply for both programs at the same time. We received feedback from Tribal Nations that some of the requirements are barriers to applicants they'd want to work with so we are not requiring a graduate degree for our program but some hosts have education requirements.
- We have nine host projects:
 - 2 Tribes (both in CA)
 - One OR state agency
 - One WA state agency
 - 4 with federal agencies
 - 1 with SCCWRP to focus on the WCOA Ocean Health Dashboard
- All of the projects focus on data, tribal engagement, aquaculture, or offshore wind
- Our internal next steps are to:
 - Finalize timelines and advertising with OSG
 - Submit Special Award Condition paperwork to NOAA
 - Execute the contract with OSG
- We can't promise a fellow for everyone. We have nine projects but can only host five fellows.
- Fellows are placed with Hosts to get experience of being in their office receive mentorship. Ultimately, these will benefit WCOA and come back to us. We're working through how information will be flowing among fellows, hosts, and WCOA.
- We want this to be a new sustainable fellowship program that we can continue running.
- Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe): When will we see the projects and know if the Fellow can do work to support our group?
 - Margaret Corvi (WCOA): We put in some components of presenting out and sharing information. We talked with all of the hosts about and I think there is an expectation that they will be coming to meetings and sharing what they're doing. While this has to be a benefit to WCOA, it also needs to benefit the host and also these Fellows. This is an opportunity for them for career development. I think in the future this will probably be a priority for WCOA.
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA): As the announcements get finalized, we'll share the project descriptions.

Tribal Caucus Update

Margaret Corvi (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Tribal Caucus.

- The Tribal Caucus has been meeting monthly. Tribal Nation staff coming to those meetings are driving those agendas. Next month is a closed meeting about offshore wind, the Summit, and other future meeting topics we want to put into our agendas. Federal agencies have been invited to some of those meetings.
- I've been holding several intro calls with Tribal Nations. I'm totally open to intro calls at any time. These meetings have been with federally recognized and unrecognized sovereigns, tribal servicing organizations, and partner organizations that want to learn more about my role.
- I expect to be traveling a little this summer and hope to keep traveling. I'll be at several upcoming summits and conferences. Please reach out if you'll be at them, too.
 - Salish Summit, Indigenous Aquaculture Collective, June 4-6
 - ATNI Tribal Clean Energy Summit, June 13-15
 - ATNI Changing Currents Tribal Water Summit, June 26-30

- I am happy to share information with the Tribal Caucus, so please send information to me and I'll collect and send to the Caucus.
- Another focus is we're trying to make sure we have enough travel funding for everyone to attend WCOA meetings.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP) provided an update on the Ocean Data Portal.

- We've selected a new WCODP Project Coordinator, Laura. Thank you to the staff at the Alliance for all of the help you've provided me to get through the application process and to Tanya, Steve, and John for the interview process. Laura was clearly the top candidate. I'd like to have Laura introduce herself.
 - Laura Bliss (WCODP): I'm finishing PhD at University of Manitoba. Through my PhD and Masters, I've collaborated with a ton of different stakeholders including NOAA teams and others. My background in spatial ecology and biogeography.
- We were excited about the breadth and depth of her experience.
- We've finalized and signed the contract with Ecotrust on technical enhancements. Their work will be focused on assessment of the metadata catalog. It will be good to take a look at that foundational element of our work to ensure we have the right system to move us forward. We wanted to make sure we were using the best product to date. Currently, we're using a piece of software that was developed years ago then customized. Ecotrust has begun work on the assessment. Next steps are to report back to WCODP and we'll use that report to make a decision. If anyone is interested in that decision making process, please reach out to me and I'll include you in the scheduling poll.
- There is a special award condition on Ocean Health Dashboard work. I think we're getting close to getting over the hurdle of that special award condition so hopefully that work can begin soon.
- John Hansen (WCODP): There were ongoing WCODP Coordination calls. With Laura onboard those may start up again. If anyone wants to be more engaged, the offer is open.
 - Andy Lanier: Calls will resume. We've been on a several month hiatus due to lack of capacity. Now is a time to engage. The Coordination team was for WCOA members to discuss data products. It was an opportunity for all of us to take a look at what we have in the Portal from a data and technology support perspective. It's a great time to reinvigorate that group of people.
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA) via the chat: We should have all of the data-specific fellows join the WCODP Coordination Team

Offshore Wind Update

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Offshore Wind Summit.

- We have the Summit on the calendar for August. On our LT call next week, we're going to discuss the status of that event. August is terrifyingly close. It's been difficult to find a venue in the San Francisco Bay Area. There's been an increasing number of events and a lot of activity happening in the offshore wind space. We want to find the right footing for this and do it right and make sure we're proceeding as effectively as we can. We'll follow

up after the Leadership Team meeting with an update. Please feel free to reach out if you have input.

- We're getting close to bringing a consultant on board to support the Wind Summit. We hope to have a formal announcement on that relatively soon.

Necy Sumait (BOEM) provided an update on offshore wind.

- California leases are effective June 1. We're working with state agencies in CA on Assembly Bill 525: Offshore Wind Energy Permitting Roadmap.
- Bridgette Lohrman (EPA) via chat: Any update on Oregon?
 - Necy: No, nothing to share. Not publishing anything at this point.
- Steve Dubois (Navy): Dept of Navy and Defense requested that BOEM put into the lease sale some mitigation efforts for curtailment. I don't think I saw the actual document. Did any of those DOD mitigation measures get inserted?
 - Necy: Yeah, we worked with DOD on those conditions and they are in the lease.
 - Steve: Is that doc on your website? Can I get the link?
 - Necy: They were just posted on the website.
 - Steve: Can I request a link?
 - Necy: I can put a link on the chat.
 - Steve: Please email because Navy doesn't allow zoom on our computers.

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on discussions about forming a West Coast Offshore Wind Science Entity.

- Formation of a West Coast Science entity has been going through a lot of different routes. We've had a lot of requests for WCOA to be involved. At this point we're not taking a formal role. There is a group on the East Coast (the RWSC) that came out of a lot of the early activities of the east coast ROPs. They spun off a new organization to focus specifically on these science questions and engaging around the addressing of these questions.
- For the West Coast, there have been a lot of discussions around capacity and need. We want to track as best we can but not bite off more than we can chew. The DOE Team via SEER has been very involved. It sounds like that group is looking to evolve into a backseat role. The Alliance has been a place people are looking to. NGOs are also working on this and connecting with the Alliance as well.
- There is a bill that would create a West Coast Science Entity within the state of CA. It sounds like that bill is moving and may pass. We're trying to understand what that would mean. If that were to pass it would be a more formal step coming out of California.
- Bri Goodwin (WCOA): There has been some discussion about hosting a half day meeting as part of or adjacent to our Offshore Wind Summit to discuss the science entity.
- John Hansen (WCOA): Our role is making connections, supporting priorities getting identified.

END CALL