



# West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

October 2020

**Member Call**

## **SUMMARY**

Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

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### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Notify John Hansen regarding the current or future use and dissemination of the Tribal Guidance Document.
- Contact John Hansen if you are interested in joining a working group focused on pursuing future funding for the WCOA and WCODP.
- Contact John Hansen if you are interested in joining a planning committee to discuss options for a remote WCOA Annual Meeting.
- Contact John Hansen if you are interested in being part of a more robust conversation on aquaculture development and lessons learned on the West Coast, especially in regards to state activities.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

- Monday October 19, 2020 2:00 – 3:00pm WCODP Portal Coordination Call
- ~~Wednesday October 21, 2020 10am – 11pm Federal and Tribal Engagement Webinar #1 (Federal and Tribal Caucus members only)~~  
*POSTPONED*
- Wednesday October 28, 2020 2:00 – 3:00pm WCOA & WCODP Funding Working Group Meeting
- Tuesday November 3, 2020 2:00 – 3:00pm WCOA Executive Committee Monthly Call

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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)

**State Staff:** Casey Dennehy (WA Dept Ecology), Jennifer Hennessy (WA Governor's Office), Teressa Pucylowski (WA Dept Ecology), Patty Snow (OR DLCD), Jennifer Mattox (CA State Lands Commission), Maren Farnum (CA State Lands Commission)

**Tribal Members/Staff:** Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Haley Kennard (Makah Tribe), Francesca Perez (Stillaguamish Tribe)

**Federal Staff:** Kris Wall (NOAA), Bill Standley (BLM CA Coastal National Monument), Stefanie Stavrakas (USFW), Katheryn Morrice (DOE), Toby Garfield (NOAA Fisheries), Sara Guiltinan (BOEM), Irina Irvine (National Park Service), Erica Felins (Navy), Keith Hatch (BIA), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Dana Goodson (Udall Foundation), Cami Grandinetti (EPA), Dave Croxton (EPA), Paul Michel (NOAA Natl Marine Sanctuaries), Bridgette Lohrmann (EPA), Joan Barminski (BOEM), Whitney Hauer (BOEM), LT Marcia Medina (USCG District 11), Kevin Adams (USCG Pacific Area), Rachael Novak (BIA), Bruce Lambert DOT-MARAD

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## Tribal Engagement Outreach Planning

*John Hansen (WCOA) led a discussion on current efforts and outreach planning for the Tribal Guidance Document. Edited for length and clarity.*

- The Tribal Caucus' Tribal Engagement Guidance document (Guidance doc) went out in July, first to the Alliance and then to the broader WCOA stakeholder email list. We are attempting to track its use, which will be added to future appendices to the document; please let us know if / how you are using it and/or sharing it within your federal or state agency or with other partners.
- Some specific outreach efforts have been initiated:
  - Federal Caucus Outreach: A 60-minute webinar is being planned for Wednesday October 21 at 10:00 am. This webinar is meant for the WCOA Federal Caucus only, and will not be a training but an opportunity to hear an overview of the document and its content. NOAA and BOEM are leading the outreach to the Federal Caucus for the logistics of this webinar.
  - NOAA West Coast Outreach (Dana Goodson, Udall Foundation): NOAA is working with the Udall Foundation and partnering with the Tribal Caucus to deliver a series of online trainings to NOAA staff on the West Coast, learning about the Guidance Document and background concepts. We have been working with the Tribal Caucus to identify folks who would be willing to work on delivering it with us, with Dana and Stephanie taking the lead on initial trainings. In subsequent trainings, the Tribal Caucus members will take on a larger role in terms of presenting and co-training. We are planning to put that together as a proposed approach send it around to the Caucus and NOAA for final approval soon.
  - State Outreach:
    - *John Hansen (WCOA):* Each state will likely have a different way to approach this, and we are open to hear from states about what you

would prefer. We are hoping to commence on some type of outreach that is similar to the federal outreach, whether state by state or region-wide. Expect more follow-up to states soon.

- *Jennifer Hennessey (WA Governor's Office)*: On a previous call we talked about things we were planning on doing, and I know Casey [Dennehy] has been sharing the document with some other agencies here in WA State. One of the things that's still on our list is to contact the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and talk about the document and the trainings the state offers, and supplement with the Guidance doc material. I am really looking forward to seeing how the federal outreach goes and the training that NOAA is developing because I think that can serve as a model.

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## West Coast Ocean Data Portal

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

- Regional Scorecard Update:
  - The contract with NANOOS to work on the OA indicator is officially underway, with Roxanne Carini, a new postdoc, taking the lead under the direction of Jan Newton. They are going to be soliciting input and feedback from this group in the next couple of months, so stay tuned.
  - Luke Ginger, of Heal the Bay (CA), has completed his draft methodology for the bacterial water quality indicator. It has two components: a water quality assessment and a water quality monitoring program assessment. He'll be presenting in more detail on this methodology at our next Portal Coordination call on Oct 19, and we will be thinking about how we can present this information as a draft indicator in some format to the Alliance.
  - In terms of the kelp indicator, we've just received a final estimate that we were waiting on for processing some remote sensing imagery that we need to do the comparative study we are working on in Southern CA. Again, the goal of this study is to compare satellite, aerial overflight and in situ data collection methods for canopy forming kelp extent, so we can use this information to inform a broader regional effort.
  - We are also discussing with Ecotrust some work on framework and interface design for the scorecard effort. We haven't had any of our own graphics to use when discussing the project thus far, and will need a place to plug in the indicators we are working on as they are developed. They are hoping to do some 'user stories' or interactive exercises about how the product will be used with this group once that contract is in place.
- Geoportal upgrade: The geoportal update to the WCODP is nearing completion, although there are some areas related to hierarchies within the catalog where we are needing to subcontract with Esri. This has extended our timeline to the end of this month. We recently had a work session with a software engineer from Ecotrust where we reviewed how to harvest new records, and there are some new features and efficiencies that we are really excited about.

- Spatial Coordination Framework: We are hoping to begin the software development for this tool within the next couple months. We are working on a 2 – pager to better articulate the framework’s goals and intended audience.
- Oregon Offshore Wind Planner: This tool will be available through the Data Portal and will involve ingesting regional data for wind planning that could make this tool applicable region wide. We are continuing to work with BOEM staff to build this tool in support of the BOEM Oregon task force, and will be plugging layers that we have been curating and reviewing into this framework in the next month or so. We expect a beta version of the tool to be available in early November.

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## Funding Status & Outreach

*John Hansen (WCOA) and Andy Lanier (WCODP) led a discussion on the current funding status of the Alliance and WCODP, and planning for the future. Edited for length and clarity.*

- Current Funding: The Moore Foundation will fund the Alliance and Data Portal through June 2021. NOAA and BOEM continue to provide data-focused funding on a fiscal year basis; the NOAA FY19 funds have been allocated and will be spent by March 2021. The task order for NOAA FY20 funds was approved and we will need to submit a workplan by December 2021, for which we will need to do some prioritization exercises with the Alliance. The BOEM funding supports our servers at SCCWRP and some additional data development. We have an additional amount of money from BOEM for FY20 and will be thinking about prioritizing and allocating it accordingly.
- We are beginning to research additional private funding sources for the Alliance and Data Portal moving forward; please reach out to John if you have any specific connections or recommendations. There is a funding working group that meets monthly that others are welcome to join.
- Pew Charitable trust has been in touch with the WCOA through the WA Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, with some funding they may be able to support some data activities before the end of the year. Andy and John are working on a scope of work for this funding in hopes of further discussions.

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## West Coast Emerging Topics: Aquaculture

*John Hansen (WCOA) led a discussion on how the WCOA should continue to engage with the ‘emerging use’ topic of aquaculture. Edited for length and clarity.*

- Aquaculture was identified at the 2019 WCOA Annual Meeting as a priority ‘emerging issue’ for WCOA members (along with ocean energy). Specific needs identified around aquaculture were the use of WCOA as a forum for knowledge exchange about lessons learned in aquaculture, especially for states; and leveraging the data portal in some way to support aquaculture dialog and identified goals. In early 2020, it was decided that aquaculture should be a

standing update item on WCOA member calls. Now there is a desire to revisit WCOA needs around aquaculture discussions and better define WCOA's role in the conversation.

- *John Hansen (on behalf of Jenn Eckerle, OPC):* OPC has embarked on their own planning effort around aquaculture and Jenn is hoping for an informal discussion or information sharing effort around aquaculture to continue through the Alliance. The OPC just approved funding for CA to begin developing a statewide Aquaculture Action Plan, to provide a consistent and standardized approach to algae and shellfish aquaculture that protects ecosystems and supports sustainable aquaculture moving forward. She is happy to keep the group updated as that effort gets underway.
- *Jen Mattox (CA State Lands):* There is a lot of aquaculture discussion in the State of CA and it seems some potential room for improvement in how we may develop and permit aquaculture in CA waters. It seems like this fits squarely within what this WCOA group is for. How do we learn from each other? How do we potentially line up with each other and make sure we're going in the same direction? We have a little bit of a strange regulatory structure where there many unique roles for state agencies and now federal activities, and we are trying to find the best path forward. There has been a sort of a pause on it because of all those issues as we figure some of these things but I feel like learning from OR and learning from WA could be very helpful. When your states have run into permitting issues, how did you solve it? What are some things we may not have thought of? I'm hopeful we can use the WCOA to help these connections and learn from one another.
- *Jen Hennessey (WA Governor's Office):* I agree with both Jens in California. In terms of the role for the WCOA, I think that is really the whole goal, to share information about common issues that we're dealing with even though the specific permitting entities might be different and the structures might be different in each state. I agree in terms of the importance of having the opportunity to share information, but I do think it might lend itself to a subset of this very large group to dig into those details about guidance, or best practices, or information that agencies are gathering. We are doing meetings every other month with this big group, but probably there is a smaller group interested in something like aquaculture. I agree with keeping the topic on the larger meeting agendas and we can talk more about what we are doing in WA, which might be helpful to other states.
- *Patty Snow (OR DLCD):* Oregon probably has the least amount of aquaculture of the three West Coast states, but we are certainly very interested in learning from the states to the north and south and we are engaged in a number of aquaculture issues here in Oregon. Certainly we would like to keep that as an update as part of our processes; that is a niche the Alliance can fill.
- *John Hansen (WCOA):* I agree this topic doesn't necessarily lend itself to our full member calls having a standalone in-depth dialog on every call, but it definitely seems that there could be a benefit and need for the states connecting more

directly on this. We could have a call for a smaller working group – something that allows for questions and see if it lends itself to further dialog. The hope would be the Alliance can lend capacity to get started and share with the larger group as appropriate.

- *Shirley Laos (Trinidad Rancheria)*: Our CEO at the Rancheria is one of the Fish and Game Commissioners. While she is limited in promoting Trinidad Rancheria-specific information, if this is of interest I can discuss with her how this might link to the Commission's work. On a local level, Nordic Aquaculture has been doing planning to open a facility on Humboldt Bay and they have been reaching out and doing a lot of public engagement. They have been including the tribes specifically which is great.
- *John Hansen (WCOA)*: Thank you Shirley. If states are interested in talking state to state we are happy to support that, and likewise as much as tribes are interested in the topic and want to be looped in on these talks, we will include you.
- *Maren Farnum (CA State Lands Commission)*: We had a state agency call with the folks from the NOAA team that are responsible for putting together the work that's going into the federal Aquaculture Opportunity Areas. They let us know that early work has been focused on data. They are going to do a spatial planning exercise for the two aquaculture areas for both data and suitability analysis. They will be weighing different factors for how to narrow those Aquaculture Opportunity Areas down to feasible areas where different activities could take place for different types of aquaculture. We are going to try to coordinate a state review but we'll keep in touch with the Data Portal. Once that review is done they will be moving into a two year phase of developing programmatic environmental review for those areas. So that would be an opportunity for the WCOA to also stay abreast of that situation or process and maybe add in our reviews and comments as things become available to comment on. I also want to say is that we are really interested in learning from other state partners and federal partners about how we could make sure there is meaningful engagement both with stakeholders and Tribal governments. I think that's a piece that needs more support and attention. I really appreciate Shirley telling us about a robust public engagement effort up in the Humboldt area.

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## West Coast Emerging Topics: Ocean Energy

*John Hansen (WCOA) opened up the floor for members to share ocean energy updates.*

- *Sara Guiltinan (BOEM) provided several updates, moving from South to North.*
  - CA: Since February, BOEM's state planning partner for offshore energy, the CA Energy Commission (CEC), has been leading an outreach and comment solicitation effort regarding Central Coast areas under consideration for offshore wind development. This includes some areas that are outside of the identified BOEM Call Areas in Morro Bay and

Diablo Canyon. The public comment period for the CA Energy Commission's Docket on additional considerations for offshore wind energy off the Central Coast ended on September 30, and all those comments along with CEC notices can be viewed in the CEC Docket Log, 17-MISC-01, California Offshore Renewable Energy, <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=17-MISC-01>.

- *Paul Michel (NOAA Natl Marine Sanctuaries)*: There is a BOEM/CEC/NOAA/DOD working group that has been meeting to talk about the Central Coast additional areas, and Congressman Carbajal (Santa Barbara) has called for us to reconvene to take in all the comment that has just been provided. We will be reconvening that working group later this month.
- Northern CA: The Humboldt State University Schatz Energy Research Center is doing a lot of research around offshore wind and they are running a five-part series of webinars taking place every Monday. There are two more and they have also put together a really good website on all things offshore wind: <http://schatzcenter.org/wind/>, where you can find recordings of previous webinars and register for future ones.
- OR: At the most recent BOEM / OR Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting, which took place in June (virtually), BOEM and the State committed to offshore wind planning with meaningful and effective data gathering and engagement to inform the identification of one or more Call Areas appropriate for offshore wind leasing. There is a plan that outlines how data gathering and engagement will be implemented and that plan is available on the BOEM website (<https://www.boem.gov/Oregon>) along with the Task Force meeting summary, recording, materials, etc. (<https://www.boem.gov/regions/pacific-ocs-region/environmental-science/2020-task-force-meeting-eight>.)

END CALL

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 4, 2020 10:00 – 11:30 AM PST**