

WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Summary

Friday, December 15, 2017 9:30 am – 3:30pm

Location: Port of Grays Harbor Commissioners Chambers, 111 S. Wooding St., Aberdeen, WA

All meeting materials and presentations can be found on the [WCMAC Website](#)

Council Members Present	
Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC	Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing
Rich Osborne, Science	David Fluharty, Educational Institution
Jessica Helsley, WCSSP	Randy Lewis, Ports
Casey Dennehy, Recreation	Mike Passmore, Wahkiakum MRC
Mike Cassinelli, Recreational Fishing	Rod Fleck, N Pacific MRC
Doug Kess, Pacific MRC	Michal Rechner, DNR
Dale Beasley, Commercial Fishing	RD Grunbaum, Conservation
Corey Niles, WDFW	Jeff Ward, Coastal Energy (via phone)
Brian Sheldon, Shellfish Aquaculture	

Council Members Absent	
Sally Toteff, Dept. of Ecology	Joshua Berger, Dept. of Commerce
Alla Weinstein, Energy	Tiffany Turner, Econ. Development
J. T. Austin, Governor's Office	Penny Dalton, WA Sea Grant
Mark Plackett, Citizen	

Liaisons Present	
Jennifer Hagen, Quileute Tribe	

Others Present (as noted on the sign-in sheet)	
Katrina Lassiter, DNR	Brian Lynn, Ecology
Jennifer Hennessey, Ecology (WCMAC Staff)	Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions, Facilitator
Jackson Blalock, The Nature Conservancy	Kevin Decker, WA Sea Grant
Gus Gates, Surfrider	Emily Wright, Cascadia Consulting, Note-taker

Welcome and Introductions

Garrett opened the meeting and WCMAC members and other attendees introduced themselves. Susan reviewed the agenda.

September Meeting Summary

- Susan noted one comment from Casey Dennehy was already received and incorporated in advance.
- Larry requested four changes:
 - Pg. 2, third bullet under Updates—strike "North" from Larry's comment.

- Pg. 2, fourth bullet under Coastal MRC Updates. Larry's response should read: "Larry suggested that the placemats describe in more detail the use of biodegradable replacement devices, which provide for crabs and incidental catches to escape..."
- Pg. 6, revise second bullet to read: "Larry suggested that Ocean Shores review the language of the previous north jetty rebuild project to help inform the jetty planning..."
- Pg. 10, third bullet under Other Coastal Updates should read: "Larry commented that the fishing community was pleased that the Port of Grays Harbor announced that oil shipments are off the table, but cautioned that the permits have not been withdrawn."

! The September Meeting Summary was adopted with the above changes.

Coastal MRC Updates

- Garrett shared that the **Grays Harbor MRC** held the MRC summit, which they felt was successful. They are in their new funding round and have already approved several proposals, including a teacher workshop training that will include ocean acidification and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), as well as an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) proposal from the Quinault School.
- Doug Kess updated that the **Pacific County MRC** is developing funding for projects and hopes to partner with the teacher training project. They enjoyed the summit and thought it was successful. Their next meeting is in January and they will hold the science summit on the 3rd Saturday in May. He invited suggestions for speakers on salmon and/or resiliency. Doug also mentioned that due to outcomes from the summit, he and others will meet with WDFW to try to increase flexibility in MRC funding so it can be used for administrative purposes.
- Rod Fleck shared the **North Pacific MRC** activities. They are currently reviewing proposals in response to their RFP, which include green crab monitoring and ocean-based pollution plastics management. They will announce final decisions in January.
- Mike Passmore commented that **Wahkiakum MRC** enjoyed hosting the summit. They have 12 proposals for funding, several of which involve education and outreach, including one pinniped monitoring project. Their next meeting is in January.

Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment for Grays Harbor

Jen Hennessey provided an update on the assessment. It is getting underway and they will be holding workshops this winter. Ecology hopes to attend the March 2018 WCMAC meeting to give more updates.

Discussion and questions

- Doug asked whether the assessment will cover a broader geographic area beyond Grays Harbor. Jen said they are still in the scoping phase, but it is not likely. Randy Lewis added that if there were to be a coastwide assessment, they would need additional funding for a follow-up project. He suggested discussing it when Ecology comes to the next meeting.
- Larry noted that the assessment will identify local issues regarding vessel traffic risk, among other aims.
- Dale Beasley recommended that WCMAC members read the completed Columbia vessel traffic risk assessment for reference.
- Dave Fluharty asked whether the risk is referring to an oil spill or other environmental impact. Larry clarified the study will address risk of an oil spill.
- Larry commented that he recognized the importance of and need for the assessment, but that expediting the study might not have been the best use of public funds at this time.
- Dale commented that oil spill recovery in the future is expected to be zero.
- Garrett recommended to Jen that she advise Ecology staff to be prepared to cover the Grays Harbor assessment, as well as the Columbia and Puget Sound assessments, and discuss the possibility for a coastwide study.

- Brian Sheldon commented that the coast should be of equal if not greater priority than the Puget Sound for oil spill response preparedness.

MRAC Update

Garrett gave an update on MRAC, noting that he sends ocean acidification updates as they come. He notified WCMAC members they may be asked to participate in media effort to raise awareness about the revised Blue Ribbon Panel report, which is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, December 20th.

Discussion and questions

- Doug asked whether MRAC addressed the potential legislation on carbon. Garrett replied that MRAC has not in a formal capacity yet, but it will be a part of the conversation moving forward. Doug said there has been a discussion about how to redirect a carbon tax to support fishing and rural communities.
- Randy announced that Grays Harbor County is updating its hazard mitigation plan as well as individual annexes for different jurisdictions. These documents will be available for review around February or March. WCMAC members can follow the process on the County's website under Emergency Management.
- Mike Cassinelli urged WCMAC members to lean on legislators to pass the capital budget to ensure counties and conservation groups can keep doing their work.
- Casey announced that they are in the early stages of a statewide marine debris strategic plan, including a workshop last week. He noted that this year's Surfrider Leadership Academy project is related to coastal resilience; they will launch a video competition for high school students in 2018 to highlight champions in their coastal communities.
- Doug asked whether WCMAC should put forward a resolution to urge the legislature to pass a capital budget for coastal resiliency. Rod reported that it is likely the budget will be passed in the first two weeks of the session. Brian urged WCMAC to support conservation districts in getting funding, given that they do a lot of work that supports WCMAC's goals. Rod urged WCMAC members to call their legislators at 1-800-562-6000 to urge them to pass the capital budget.
- Susan clarified that WCMAC cannot discuss a decision-item that was not on the agenda, but informal guidance is possible. She noted that funding strategies for conservation districts could be added as a discussion topic at the March meeting.
- Randy expressed that in addition to the funding designated in the budget, the authorizations (with funding from a different source) still need to be passed to do the work.
- WCMAC members confirmed support for the rapid passage of the capital budget for the benefit of coastal communities.
 - Mike clarified to ensure it was both the capital budget and bonds and authorizations.
 - Brian added that if the budget will not pass immediately, there should be temporary funding to support communities.

Other Updates

- RD announced that the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) made a unanimous recommendation to the Governor to deny Zorro the permit for an oil terminal, stating it is important given the effect it could have on marine resources.
- Dale commented on efforts in the lower Columbia to find solutions to address coastal erosion, noting that funding was not secured to continue the work.
- Larry mentioned another amendment to the September meeting minutes (*noted in the September Meeting Summary section, above*). WCMAC members approved the minutes with that correction.

Update on Ecology Grant Request

Susan introduced Brian Lynn from Ecology. Brian explained more about the proposed idea of a science-policy workshop to advance our understanding of coastal resilience, which emerged from the WCMAC Coastal Resilience Work Group discussions. He shared more about the grant program, noting that it is only available for state coastal programs and is a competitive grant program among those programs. It is not a large pool of funds. He emphasized that projects must somehow advance a coastal program. WCMAC would need to be creative in how to sell it and make it successful. He asked that WCMAC members provide confirmation today on whether or not they would like to move forward, and if so, asked for volunteers to help with the proposal.

The purpose of a 2-day science-policy workshop would be to bring scientists together with policy folks build shared knowledge and understanding of issues on the coast. It should be focused on coastal hazards in the science and management side of things, but he noted that WCMAC should decide what is important for coastal communities, because other funding sources could be tapped.

Susan clarified that the first day of the workshop would be focused on the science with outputs of papers that synthesize the science, while the second day would be focused on policy implications of that information. Brian added that there many different entities working in hazards, so this would bring them all together. He emphasized that it could take a lot of different forms, like a series of workshops addressing different topics over time, so he cautioned to not limit the idea to a 2-day workshop alone.

Discussion and questions

- Casey stated that erosion, seal level rise (SLR), and coastal flooding are the most important hazards from his perspective. He recommended focusing on those issues the first day, then looking at policies and gaps in the second day.
- Rich also recommended narrowing the scope of coastal hazards down to specific topics like erosion and SLR.
- Garrett asked about the maximum funding amount. Brian stated the grant program has a \$250,000 maximum. Garrett noted that since a 2-day workshop is not very expensive, is it worthwhile to try to fit into the specific constraints of this funding opportunity. He asked WCMAC members whether it is a goal to fund research that will be presented there.
 - Susan noted that one idea that had emerged was to fund the papers that would be presented.
 - Brian Lynn noted it would fund synthesizing research rather than collecting new research.
- Mike C. expressed agreement with Casey and added that the economic aspect of coastal resilience should be included. He recommended staying out of emergency management, but otherwise to work with existing local emergency management teams.
- Dave Fluharty asked where the funding comes from. Brian responded it is from the NOAA coastal zone management grant program specifically for coastal program enhancements.
- Rod expressed his support to pursue the grant.

Coastal Resilience Work Group Recommendations

Susan reviewed the WCMAC Coastal Resilience Work Plan and Discussion Guide, provided in the meeting materials. She asked WCMAC members where WCMAC can provide the most value, such as serving as a convener for a workshop or other meeting, which was the impetus for looking into the opportunity for Ecology to submit a grant proposal. She also asked members what other recommendations WCMAC should advocate for.

Discussion and questions

- Dale asked that more effort be done to add resilience to coastal economies, from recommendation 3.1 of the Ruckelshaus report. Rod agreed with Dale, expressing that he would hope that economic issues are included in the workshop.

- Susan clarified whether economic issues should be addressed with respect to the three hazards or more broadly. Dale clarified it should be addressed more broadly.
- Susan asked which action is most appropriate to address economic issues: including it in a workshop, adding an item to the WCMAC Work Plan, or advocating strongly at the state or other level.
 - Rod expressed support for the idea of advocating at the state level for rural economic stabilization.
- Brian expressed concern with the threat to the immigrant workforce that supports his business and the local community. He suggested that this be an economic issue to include in the discussion and that WCMAC gets it on the radar of the Governor's office that immigration issues are affecting coastal communities. Dale supported Brian's comments.
- Jess Helsley asked whether WCMAC wants to hone in on a few issues and make measurable progress or just be conveners to continue the dialogue.
- Dave recommended that in designing the workshop, they demonstrate that the Washington coast is a fairly unique social ecological system (SES) with a local economy at risk of various macro forces, as a way to be competitive for NOAA funds. He also recommended keeping an eye on energy project that Dale mentioned earlier as a possible agenda item.
 - Brian Lynn said using SES terminology wouldn't hurt the proposal, but what is more important is to frame it as producing something that will actually advance the coastal program further. The workshop alone is not sufficient—it needs to produce some action. He also noticed that for the purposed of the grant, the topic must be more focused.
- Mike C. urged WCMAC to take advocacy action around economic factors.
- Rod suggested WCMAC sponsor and hold 3 workshops in coastal resilience addressing emergency management ("surviving the storm"), economics, and natural coastal hazards (erosion, SLR, flooding), with one topic per workshop. Rod recommended that WCMAC convene the workshops and find the funding to make it happen, rather than fit with the NOAA program. Michal R. agreed with Rod and Brian Lynn's comments about getting the right people in the room to do the high priority workshops.
 - Susan clarified the concept Rod proposed and asked for feedback from other WCMAC members.
 - Doug expressed support for the idea and proposed one outcome could be bringing specific desired policies/actions to local planners and decision-makers.
 - Garrett asked whether the workshops should coincide with WCMAC meetings, which he would recommend if there were desired action items to come out of the workshops. Larry expressed agreement with Garrett's comment. He recommended that the workshops generate a product similar to but not as large as the MSP itself.
 - Rich expressed support for the workshops and recommended looking at the economic scenarios in three different time periods to evaluate whether the adaptation actions we decide on now will be sustainable in the future. WCMAC members gave thumbs up for this idea.
 - Brian Sheldon expressed support for Rich's idea but wasn't sure 3 separate meetings were needed because the topics are integrated.
 - Rod expressed support for the workshop and suggested that the outcomes could be 2 specific steps in the context of advocacy, policy, and on-the-ground action.
- Jen commented on the importance of logistics to get the right agencies and experts in the room. Garrett added that the order of the workshops will also be important. He asked Jen whether WCMAC could hold these meetings in a format that did not follow the public meeting requirements.
 - Brian S. noted that there might be a need for a fourth meeting that would look at the inter-relation between the topics. RD suggested the purpose of adding that fourth meeting could be a presentation of the outcome/output, open to the public.
 - Mike C. expressed support for the idea to have workshops that are not public meetings to allow for a more open discussion, and use a fourth session to have an open public meeting when decisions are made.

- Jen will double-check the regulations to confirm the public meeting requirements under state law for the workshops.
- Susan asked for next steps for the Coastal Resilience Work Group.
 - Brian Lynn proposed getting feedback on the proposal from the work group and creating a local steering committee to help guide the planning and proposal process.
 - Rod suggested holding each workshop 1-2 months prior to a WCMAC meeting, during which they could have discussion or action items. Dave F. added that they would need sufficient time to review recommendations.
- Garrett asked WCMAC members if there were any major objections to having 3-4 workshops held in timing related to WCMAC meeting schedule, each one with a theme on coastal issues, with the order in flux, and adding these workshops to the 2018 tasks. Garrett clarified that the work group would serve as a steering committee for the workshops, doing logistics and planning, and support Brian Lynn.
 - Brian Lynn commented that long-term success is achieved when things are mandated (e.g., MSP) and recommended identifying workshop outcomes that could support sustainable and significant change. Casey supported Brian L.'s comment, suggesting that the workshops could set the stage for legislation or another action, building on the Ruckelshaus Center's work.
 - Brian S. suggested that there needs to be some agreement on what can be expected in terms of challenges to coastal resilience in the future. Brian L. noted that Bobbak is working to get best available scientific projections for the coast. WCMAC members confirmed that the science and policy split would fit with the idea of the workshops.
- Susan asked if there were any other recommendations in Ruckelshaus report that WCMAC should advocate for.
 - Rich observed that the conversation seemed to narrow down to #4.
 - Rod suggested making #3.1 a higher priority than funding. Dale also expressed interested in moving #3.1 forward and confirmed that having a workshop on economics would help make progress.
 - Susan noted that the work group also suggested #9.1.
 - Garrett suggested giving WCMAC members more time to process what was discussed today and contact the WCMAC steering committee if they would like to add items to the March agenda, if there is not an urgency to identify more recommendations today.
 - Dave suggested discussing #10 at the March meeting. Susan referred to Randy's idea to gather ideas for specific topics via an online survey.

Public Comment #1

- Jackson Blalock (The Nature Conservancy) is working with the Washington Coast resilience project to develop probabilistic SLR projections that will be coming out soon, which could be relevant to the workshops WCMAC is discussing. Jackson is also working on a toolkit to support local planning efforts, and expressed interest in hearing any ideas or suggestions for that.

MSP Update

Jen gave an update on the status of the draft MSP and the outcomes from the public comment period, which closed on Tuesday. They had public hearings with over 50 attendees and received 18 written comment submissions. Jen reviewed the range of comments they received. Next steps are for the agencies to continue reviewing public comments and make changes accordingly. They are still on track to adopt the plan by mid-winter. Jen clarified that after adoption, the state would pursue the establishment of a geographic location description (GLD) with NOAA. The GLD provides a state authority to automatically review certain federal activities in a specific area of federal waters. The GLD does not describe what the state's response would be to those activities. She also described the connection between the Washington MSP and regional planning efforts on the West Coast, particularly in gaining better recognition for state MSP efforts by federal agencies and coordinating with federal agencies and tribes.

Discussion and questions

- Larry requested clarification on Ecology's response to public comments. Jen explained their aim is to be as thorough as possible.
- Dave F. asked for clarification regarding connection to the West Coast regional planning body. Jen commented that the vision is to have a regional plan with high-level objectives, so each state plan and sub-regional efforts could describe how their efforts address and support those objectives.
- Brian S. asked whether federal agencies could ask for changes after the public comment period. Jen noted that the proposed enforceable policies, which are in Appendix E, were an outcome of work with NOAA to get their buy-in on the content in advance of the public comment period. If public comments result in agencies making significant changes to these draft policies, Ecology would need to ensure NOAA agreed with any changes.
- Doug asked whether the MSP could be affected by the current federal administration. Jen stated that NOAA has processes for working with state MSPs.
- Dale B. asked how the comments will be incorporated into the plan. Jen explained that is what they will be doing moving forward. The next step will be to issue the final plan with any amendments from comments and with a document summarizing the response to the comments.

Seafloor Mapping Update

Jen provided an update on the seafloor mapping activities. Her presentation is available at the WCMAC website. Efforts started in the MSP process to inventory existing mapping data, create a seafloor atlas, and identify priority areas for more seafloor data. These efforts led to additional data collection in the offshore priority areas in partnership with NOAA and National Marine Sanctuary during the past two years. Nearshore areas are expensive and challenging to map. Now, agencies will discuss how to build on this initial success to continue identifying and mapping priority areas.

Discussion and questions

- Brian S. asked how the information will help the MSP. Jen noted the utility in knowing what habitat is there and what species are assembled. She clarified that the actual data is not yet available because it is undergoing QA/QC, after which they can access it and update the atlas. They anticipate seeing more diversity of habitat types.
- Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe) asked whether water column data will be mapped. Jen didn't know whether water column data was collected during mapping. She suggested asking the researchers on the vessels, since many other studies were being done simultaneously.

Coastal Resiliency and Dependence: Salmon

Garrett introduced the relationship between dependence and resiliency as a topic that suits the discussion about the workshops.

Discussion and questions

- Jen shared Jeff's comment, submitted via email, that the workshops seem like a good option, but recommends discussing the interdependencies among economic, social, and environmental issues with respect to resilience, and for outcomes, identify cross-cutting actions that would benefit all three aspects.
- Dale noted the dependence on the crab fishery weakens resiliency, and that supporting salmon populations is a way to build resiliency in the coastal economy. Several WCMAC members discussed the costs and benefits related to native salmon stocks and hatchery production. Dale expressed that he would like to be a part of the steering committee.

- Jess urged WCMAC members to consider the entire salmon life cycle, including the period spent in the ocean, and identify what part they could do, and to bring the existing entities outside of WCMAC who are working on addressing these issues into the conversation.
 - Rod echoed some of Jess's comment and noted many people who work in those spaces could bring information to this discussion. He requested to have NOAA staff at the March meeting to present on salmon survey findings.
- Corey recommended that WCMAC members watch for the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Ecosystems Working Group's Climate and Communities Initiative in 2018, which is looking at the state of West Coast communities now and looking forward to what may come with climate change.
 - Doug asked whether the organization's mission statement was the preservation of communities or fish. Corey clarified that in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it was both Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and sustained fishing participation, so both.
 - Brian S. suggested looking at each of the coastal estuaries individually and review the practices being done.
- Susan asked WCMAC members how they would like to interface with this topic—providing informal advice, formal recommendation, or convening a group for discussions.
 - Brian S. suggested that it is a part of the resiliency topic.
 - Garrett recommended that WCMAC look at issues through the marine resources lens to ensure it stays within WCMAC's scope and generates progress. He recommended finding WCMAC's niche within the topics important to coastal communities, which may not always align with individual members' passions.
 - Michal noted that WCMAC's niche is the connection to all different groups. Corey suggested that WCMAC's niche may be showing how important salmon is to coastal communities.
 - Randy suggested that WCMAC supports a better understanding of the issue and spreading the word about how to move forward, rather than coming to an agreement on an answer and action.
 - Larry expressed interest in moving forward with the discussions of coastal resiliency, which economic drivers is nested under, and within that is salmon.

Public Comment #2

- Brian Lynn (Ecology) recommended that WCMAC members visit the website of Coastal States Organization to consider signing on to letter to the U.S. Congress to secure Coastal Zone Management funding in the federal budget.

WCMAC Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Susan reviewed the handout about the WCMAC election of Chair and Vice-Chair, available at the WCMAC website. Nominations can be made via e-mail to Susan or Jen by January 15th.

Discussion and questions

- Rich asked about JT Austin's participation in WCMAC meetings. Jen explained that JT was eager to be here today, but had another meeting that conflicted. Susan noted that JT has been participating in steering committee calls.
 - Brian S. noted the low likelihood that JT could participate given her responsibilities, and that Bob was good liaison. He noted he was pleased with the current Chair and Vice-Chair, but would like to hear if others are interested.
 - Garrett suggested asking JT if there is another staff person who could attend WCMAC meetings and communicate back to the Governor's office.
- Dave F. asked whether all WCMAC appointments have been completed. Jen noted that shipping and Sea Grant representatives were outstanding.
- Doug nominated Garrett to be Chair. He expressed a willingness to serve as Vice-Chair or to give it to someone else. He emphasized the importance for someone to have the time to do the duties of either position.

- Susan clarified that the current leadership will stay in place until there is another one, so if people do not self-nominate or nominate someone else, there will be no change.

WCMAC Workplan

Susan reviewed the 2018 Workplan, available in the meeting documents at the WCMAC site, and noted that it will be updated to reflect the discussions today regarding the workshops. There were no questions or comments.

Discussion of Proposed Meeting Topics

Garrett read the topics identified for future meetings, including the NOAA Young of the Year survey, recommendation #10 from the Ruckelshaus Report, a presentation on the hydrogen energy plan, and the Ecology vessel traffic risk assessments.

- Brian S. asked to continue the discussion about the future for WCMAC in the long-term, now that the MSP is complete. Susan suggested waiting until the letter from the Governor's Office has been received. Garrett suggested the possibility of having a joint meeting with MRAC to discuss topics of mutual interest.
- Dave F. commented on an integrated ecosystem assessment would could help inform development of an indicator system. Jen noted that they are having similar discussions with the NOAA group at Northwest Fisheries Science Center.
- Dale requested adding outmigrant surveys to the NOAA survey review. Corey invited WCMAC members to look at the fishery management process to understand how those surveys are used for management.
- Dave F. noted that the West Coast regional management body meeting recordings are all online. Jen added that a written summary of that meeting will be coming out as well.

Summary of Decisions

- ! The September Meeting Summary was adopted with the changes noted above.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, March 28, 2018
- Wednesday, June 13, 2018
- Wednesday, September 26, 2018
- Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Meetings will be held in Aberdeen unless otherwise noted