

2024 Summary

Who We Are

The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) was created as the Governor's advisory body on coastal resource management for Washington's Pacific Coast.

2024 in Numbers

Meetings

- **5** Advisory Council Meetings (*Streamed on TVW*)
- **7** Offshore Wind Technical Committee Meetings

Members

- **7** New WCMAC Members Appointed:
 1. *Stephanie Bowman, Commerce Seat*
 2. *Brian Blake, Commercial Fishing Seat*
 3. *Molly Bold, Port Seat*
 4. *Phil Anderson, Recreational Fishing Seat*
 5. *David Beugli, Shellfish Aquaculture Seat*
 6. *Bobbak Talebi, Ecology Seat*
 7. *Kate Little, WA Sea Grant Seat*

Actions and Accomplishments of 2024

1. Engagement with Gridworks & Letter of Recommendation

Contributed to the Gridworks Report, *A Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement Framework for Washington State*, by providing input through discussions at WCMAC meetings, technical committee meetings, and interviews. On July 10, 2024, WCMAC held a Special Meeting, where members voted to submit a [letter](#) outlining collective comments, concerns, and recommendations on the report. This letter builds upon WCMAC's *Principles of Engagement* [letter](#) from Jan. 10, 2023, reinforcing its commitment to thoughtful offshore wind project engagement.

2. Support for the Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative

Hosted a presentation on this initiative and provided a letter of support to the Department of Ecology, contributing to the successful \$73.6 million funding award. This work advances the resilience and adaptive capacity of Washington's marine shorelines and coastal communities to climate hazards. The initiative builds on past NOAA and state-funded habitat restoration work while reducing risks to frontline communities, public infrastructure, and ecosystems. It will support multi-benefit projects in diverse and underserved coastal areas, enhance knowledge exchange and local capacity, and strengthen long-term inter-organizational partnerships to improve future projects, state policies, and partner initiatives.

3. Collaboration with the Coastal Hazards Organizational Resilience Team (COHORT)

Preparing for a meaningful partnership with COHORT efforts, which were developed in response to coastal communities' requests for state support in addressing the increasing severity of natural hazards. COHORT representatives presented at the Dec. 2024 WCMAC meeting, and facilitated discussions on the criteria that will be used to prioritize projects and enhance coastal resilience.

4. Recommendations for the Governor's Budget

WCMAC reviewed relevant state agency requests and made recommendations to the Governor in advance of the Governor's proposed biennial budget (2025 – 2027).

WCMAC supported budget priorities from four state agencies:

Department of Ecology	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Department of Natural Resources	Washington State Parks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal Resilience Capacity Grants Aquatic Permitting and Aquaculture River Migration Mapping for Salmon European Green Crab Research BIL/IRA Federal Authority (Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant) Floodplains by Design Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Budget: Hatchery Work, Improving Safety & Climate Resilience of Hatcheries WDFW Staff & Volunteer Safety Restoring Washington's Biodiversity Supported funding requests for ongoing and new initiatives related to monitoring, policy, management, and enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic Resources Conservation Corps Derelict Structure Removal Program (Operating) Derelict Structure Removal Program (Capital) DVRP Large Vessel Removal Managing European Green Crab on State-Owned Aquatic Lands Watershed Resilience Program Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responding to Climate Change Resource Adaptation & Management South Beach Area Administration and Maintenance Facility (Agency Priority #6) Twin Harbors State Park Renovation (Agency Priority #35)

5. Provided a forum sharing scientific research and information relevant to coastal communities

WCMAC hosted presentations and discussions that covered key topics, including updates from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, BOEM, and the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area. Experts also discussed ocean acidification monitoring (OASeS), marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR), and the impacts of harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification on coastal ecosystems.

6. Approved the drafting and submission of an introductory letter to Governor Ferguson and Commissioner of Public Lands Upthegrove, to be completed in 2025.

7. WCMAC Meetings

WCMAC meetings are broadcast live by TVW and recorded. Recordings are publicly available after the meeting, increasing public access to WCMAC meetings. Livestreams and archived recordings are linked on Ecology's WCMAC website.

WCMAC meets quarterly, primarily via Zoom with an in-person option. At least once a year, WCMAC will hold an in-person meeting to encourage in-person collaboration.