



March 28, 2018

Dear WCMAC Members:

I am very grateful for all the help you provided on the draft Marine Spatial Plan. I appreciate your focus, dedication, and time spent on guiding this planning process over the past several years. Your thoughtful recommendations improved the plan, including creating a robust framework that addresses key stakeholder concerns; assuring a stronger role for notifying and involving stakeholders when projects are proposed; and providing new policies to protect people and the environment. Congratulations on completing work on this challenging and important task for the future of Washington's Coast.

As the Council continues to discuss the needs and priorities of the coast, I welcome and value your input and advice. This can be communicated as formal, consensus recommendations from the Council or informal input provided during meetings.

It is important to build on the progress you have made with the Marine Spatial Plan. As the Council considers its next steps and develops a workplan for the biennium, I ask WCMAC to continue providing advice and input on the implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan. This includes providing guidance on the development of a science and research agenda for the coast and on refining the list of ecosystem indicators.

In addition, I ask the group to apply its collaborative problem solving to develop recommendations on other key coastal waters issues. In particular, natural hazards such as flooding, erosion, and landslides continue to impact our communities. There is also a real threat that a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami event could have devastating consequences if we are not prepared. I fully support WCMAC's desire to build on the work recently completed by the Ruckelshaus Center's "Washington State Coast Resilience Assessment." It would be particularly helpful for WCMAC to identify high priority needs and actions to carry out the recommendations from the assessment regarding coastal hazards.

As always, my staff and I appreciate your leadership and guidance on coastal marine issues on Washington's Coast.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

