

WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Draft Summary

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 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	
Alla Weinstein, Energy	Kevin Decker, Washington Sea Grant
Brian Sheldon, Shellfish Aquaculture	Michal Rechner, DNR
Casey Dennehy, Recreation	Mike Cassinelli, Recreational Fishing
Corey Niles, WDFW	Mike Passmore, Wahkiakum MRC
Dale Beasley, Commercial Fishing	Randy Lewis, Ports
David Fluharty, Educational Institution	RD Grunbaum, Conservation
Doug Kess, Pacific MRC	Rich Osborne, Science
Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC	Rod Fleck, N Pacific MRC
Jeff Ward, Coastal Energy	Sally Toteff, Dept. of Ecology
Jessica Helsley, WCSSP	Tiffany Turner, Econ. Development
Jennifer Hennessey, Governor's Office	Penny Dalton, Sea Grant

Council Members Absent	
Joshua Berger, Dept. of Commerce	Mark Plackett, Citizen
Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing	

Liaisons Present	

Others Present (as noted on the sign-in sheet)	
Bobbak Talebi, Ecology	Kristin Swenddal, DNR
Katrina Lassiter, DNR	David Palazzi, DNR
Rich Childers, WDFW	Birdie Davenport, DNR
Gus Gates, Surfrider Foundation	Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions, Facilitator
Doug Barker, the Daily World	Ruth Bell, Cascadia Consulting, note-taker
Alex Mitchell-Morton, NANOOS	

Welcome and Introductions

Garrett Dalan welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves and were invited to provide updates. Susan Gulick reviewed the agenda.

Updates

- Kevin Decker announced that WA Sea Grant is hiring a new director and is soliciting input on ideal candidates.
- Jennifer Hennessey announced she is moving to the Governor's office as of July 1, at which time she will be the Governor's representative on WCMAC.

March Meeting Summary

! The March meeting summary was adopted with no changes.

Coastal Updates

MRC Updates

- Garrett Dalan announced that the Grays Harbor MRC is working on a strategic plan update, and will be hosting the summit in the last week of October 2018.
- Doug Kess described the recent Pacific MRC science conference.
- Mike Passmore expressed concern regarding personnel changes, and interest in state actions and resources to improve support to MRCs.
- Rod Fleck described the N Pacific MRC's RainFest event, highlighting the great coordination and art and film festival. Rod also mentioned challenges to securing funding for research or educational projects.

Agency Updates

- Sally Toteff described coverage during Jennifer Hennessey's transition from Ecology to Governor's Office.

Other coastal updates:

- Garrett Dalan announced that proposals for the WA coast restoration and resiliency initiative are due Friday, June 22, and strong responses are expected.
- Casey Dennehy announced that NOAA has been leading the Marine Debris Action Plan: a useful tool for identifying ways to improve and address marine debris issues. There has been federal, state, and nonprofit representation in the effort. The plan will go to members later this month and be released to the public in August. Also, in 1988 legislation passed directing DNR to come up with a marine plastics debris taskforce, and the report included a line associated with funding. He is hoping to receive funds to pay for beach cleanup and other issues.
- Dave Fluharty announced that the U.S. House of Representatives elected to defund section 505, marine spatial planning.
- Rod Fleck announced that the Emerald Coast Opportunities Zone was approved by the Governor and US Treasurer. This will be an investment tool, allowing private investment in low-income communities. The zone encompasses Washington's west coast from the Quinault reservation to Joyce and Brennan, including downtown Port Angeles and Sequim. The designation is for a 10-year period, and we are half way through year one.
- Rich Osborne commented on shellfish closures caused by algal blooms. He also described the work of the [Southern Resident Killer Whale task force](#) focusing on toxics, salmon, and vessels, and undergoing an intense process that will culminate in a final report in November with concrete actions for the next legislative session.

Bylaws Revisions and Steering Committee Members

Susan reviewed the recommended bylaw revision: to increase the number of at-large members on the steering committee from 5 to up to 7.

Discussion and questions

- No discussion.

Susan asked for approval.

! The revision to the bylaws was approved unanimously.

Susan reviewed the proposed slate of at-large committee members: Dale Beasley, Doug Kess, Mike Rechner, Rod Fleck, and the goal to balance geographic and interest group representation on the steering committee.

Discussion and questions

- Kevin Decker raised concern that the Wahkiakum area is not represented on the Steering Committee.
- Garrett Dalan offered that there is sufficient geographic representation currently.
- Mike Passmore agreed representation is sufficient.

Susan asked for affirmation.

! Unanimous approval of steering committee members.

Other Issues

WCMAC Workplan

Susan provided updates on the WCMAC workplan, an updated draft of which was included in the meeting materials.

- Rich Osborne suggested identifying committee members who want to be involved in a short term working group on science and research.
- The following members expressed interest: Kevin, Dave, Jeff, Jess, Casey. Susan will set up a conference call with appropriate Ecology staff later in the summer.
- Rich Osborne suggested looking at ecosystem services valuation.
- Jennifer Hennessey suggested scheduling an update with the NOAA quantitative staff.

Webinar on salmon surveys and ocean conditions

Jennifer Hennessey announced that Brian Burke will conduct a webinar about juvenile chinook, trends around changing ocean conditions, and salmon survivability the week of Sept 17th. The webinar will be recorded.

- Susan will send out a doodle poll and meeting request for the webinar. If possible, there may some local sites for people to gather rather than everyone joining remotely.
- Corey Niles suggested broadening the topic beyond the juvenile salmon survey to include the “stoplight approach” focusing on indicators that influence salmon.
- Dale Beasley brought up avian predation and its dramatic impact on juvenile salmon.

MRAC presentation

Members from the Marine Resources Advisory Council provided an overview, recent activities, and upcoming efforts, ocean acidification science, agency-specific efforts, and the natural resource managers survey of priorities. The presentations can be found on the [WCMAC Website](#).

Questions

- Rich Osborne pointed out the NOAA funded sentinel site for OA; combining social and natural science.
- Jan Newton said Melissa Poe is leading the effort to conduct interviews up and down the coast. You can view the inventory on <http://www.nanoos.org/>. The effort includes synthesizing data and working with modelers to develop a 50-year forecast.
- In response to a question, Kirsten Feifel said Olympia oysters may be more resilient to upwells because they are better acclimated and brood the seeds longer, contributing to their survival.

- Dave Fluharty asked for more information about private contributions. Martha Kongsgaard described industry involvement and foundation funding.
- Dave Fluharty asked about “ecocaste”. Jan Newton commented on the modeling community working together and with NOAA and taking local data to the food web level.
- Dale Beasley asked about availability of data from the National Weather Service sensors. Jan is aware of the data source.
- RD Grunbaum asked if hypoxia and OA levels are significantly greater, and if scientists can conclude human impact. Jan Newton replied there is a documented trend in 30-year data showing a measurable change.
- Brian Sheldon mentioned that eel grass is trapping sediments creating an unhealthy muck, and infestations are resulting in anaerobic conditions. More eel grass is not necessarily better. Brian also commented that the data portal is useful for determining when to pull water in for oyster setting.

MSP Update

Jen Hennessey provided a status update on the Marine Spatial Plan. Since the December meeting, their team has been working on responses to public comments. Staff resources are currently limited, but they still plan to release it soon.

No discussion or questions

Tsunami Preparedness

Daniel Eungard, DNR, provided a presentation on tsunami preparedness. The presentation is included in the meeting materials posted on the [WCMAC Website](#).

Discussion and questions

- Brian Sheldon asked if there is strain measurement off shore. Daniel responded that there is land lift over time and this provides some idea of areas of bigger strain accumulation.
- Brian asked if the models consider scour effect. Daniel replied that scour is highly specific to the tsunami attributes and specific site qualities.

Damon Point Planning and Restoration

David Palazzi and Birdie Davenport, DNR, provided an overview of the Damon Point Planning and Restoration. Birdie mentioned interest in receiving letters of support by July 1st (to be confirmed) for restoration grant submittal.

The presentation is included in the meeting materials posted on the [WCMAC Website](#).

Discussion and questions

- Rich Osborne expressed interest in a field trip to the site.
- Dave Fluharty asked about the longevity of the project given the dynamics of the beach. Birdie Davenport replied that it is a dynamic habitat but one that species need.
- Garrett Dalan asked about success with projects to attract back native species like the lark and plover.
- Brian Sheldon asked about citing of plovers or larks on site. Birdie replied that Damon Point is a tourist draw for Ocean Shores.
- Casey Dennehy said that Grays Harbor MRC may provide a letter of support.
- The timeline for the grant is submittals are due in July, evaluation will occur in the summer, and the ranked list will be published in September.

Coastal Resilience Update

Bobbak Talebi, Ecology, described the survey and interview effort regarding regulatory flexibility to address coastal resiliency. He also briefed WCMAC on the work group's efforts to develop a science-policy workshop on focused on coastal erosion.

Discussion and questions

- Susan asked for and received consensus that coastal erosion is the most important focus for a science and policy discussion. The work group will move forward on planning a workshop.
- Garrett, Rod, and Josh are also looking at other sponsors for an economic workshop.

Public Comment

- Kristin Swenddal, DNR, thanked WCMAC for its great work.

Upcoming Meetings

Susan solicited ideas for agenda topics for future meetings.

- Brian Sheldon wants to learn about what land managers are doing to address specific invasive species in estuaries on both public and private lands.
- Jess Helsley is interested in ownership rights related to derelict vessels, specifically state agency responsibilities and what WCMAC can do to develop recommendations.
- Some members expressed interest in more information on water quality and technologies for removal of opioids and microfibers. Casey Dennehy suggested inviting NOAA to speak at August meeting about the Marine Debris Action Plan. Jess suggested learning about general water quality concerns on the coast. Who/what are the largest contributors to water quality problems? Rich Osborne expressed interest in an outer coast perspective versus Puget Sound related to pollutants, the impacts, and where they are coming from.
- Susan added that WCMAC must finalize budget recommendations at the September meeting in order for them to be considered in the next legislative session.

Summary of Decisions

- ! The March Meeting Summary was adopted with no changes.
- ! The revision to the bylaws allowing two to four at large members was approved.
- ! The slate of Steering Committee members was confirmed.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, September 26, 2018
- Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Meetings will be held in Aberdeen unless otherwise noted