

# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Hybrid Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2024 | 10:00am – 3:30pm

Virtual Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525089478?pwd=EUM4TztbMpe24B6lDFjuaFr6UfT1uz.1>

Meeting ID: 875 2508 9478 | Passcode: 120324 | Call in number: 1-253-215-8782

In-person Option: Port of Grays Harbor Meeting Room, at 111 S Wooding St, Aberdeen, WA 98520

[TVW's Broadcast Channel](#)

[Link to Materials](#)

[Public Comment Sign-up](#)

## December 3, 2024 Agenda

Time	Agenda Item and Description	Objective	Speaker(s)
10:00* (25 min)	<b>Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome from Chair</li><li>Review agenda</li><li>Welcome and roll call introductions</li><li>Meeting ground rules</li><li>Encourage public comments via chat</li><li>Adopt summary of September meeting minutes</li></ul>	<b>Information, Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dec. 2024 Agenda</li><li>Draft Sept. 2024 Meeting Summary (<a href="#">Appendix A</a>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rod Fleck, Chair</li><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>
10:25* (10 min)	<b>WCMAC Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Announcements</li></ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>
10:35* (20 min)	<b>WCMAC 2025 Chair &amp; Vice-chair Elections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nominee announcements</li><li>Confirmation or vote</li></ul>	<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li><li>WCMAC Members</li></ul>
10:55* (40 min)	<b>Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Governor's Office Updates</li><li>MRC Updates</li><li>Agency Updates</li><li>General Coastal Updates</li><li>Technical Committee Updates</li><li>MRAC Update</li></ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b> <i>Technical Committee Meeting Summaries</i> ( <a href="#">Appendix B</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li><li>Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office</li><li>State Agency Representatives</li><li>Technical Committee Co-leads</li><li>WCMAC Members</li></ul>
11:35* (15 min)	<b>Harmful Algal Blooms and Ocean Acidification</b> Update on HAB and ocean acidification impacts.	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jan Newton, UW</li></ul>
11:50* (10 min)	<b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Link</a> to sign up for public comment.</li></ul>	<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Public/Observers</li><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>

Time	Agenda Item and Description	Objective	Speaker(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage commenters to limit their comments to roughly 2 minutes to allow for all public comments to be received.</li> </ul>		
<b>12:00*</b> <b>1-hour break</b> Online participants: Reconvene at 1:00 pm using the same Zoom link			
<b>1:00*</b> (30 min)	<b>Offshore Wind Technical Committee</b> Objective 2 Action Plan Overview & Discussion	<b>Discussion</b> <i>Draft Objective 2 Action Plan (<a href="#">Appendix C</a>)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alle Brown-Law, Facilitator</li> <li>Technical Committee Co-leads</li> <li>WCMAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>1:30*</b> (20 min)	<b>COHORT Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce COHORT team and how they were established. <a href="https://wacoastalnetwork.com/cohort/">https://wacoastalnetwork.com/cohort/</a></li> <li>Overview/examples of what COHORT has been working on over the past year and current efforts.</li> </ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Henry Bell, Ecology</li> </ul>
<b>1:50*</b> (60 min)	<b>Work Planning and Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus for 2025 and beyond (<a href="#">2024-25 Workplan</a>)</li> <li>Discussion between COHORT and WCMAC: WCMAC insights on what considerations and criteria COHORT staff should use to prioritize support for local projects.</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> <li>WCMAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>2:50*</b> (20 min)	<b>Governor Transition &amp; WCMAC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss upcoming gubernatorial transition and introducing WCMAC to new Governor.</li> <li>Discuss potential development of a high-level policy position on OSW.</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rod Fleck, Chair</li> <li>WCMAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>3:10*</b> (10 min)	<b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Link</a> to sign up for public comment.</li> <li>Encourage commenters to limit their comments to roughly 2 minutes to allow for all public comments to be received.</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public/Observers</li> <li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>3:20*</b> (10 min)	<b>Vote</b> Vote on approving the Chair to draft a letter to the incoming Governor's administration and Public Lands Commissioner outlining WCMAC's priorities and providing a high-level position on the development of offshore wind energy along Washington's coast.	<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> <li>WCMAC Members</li> </ul>
<b>3:30*</b>	<b>Adjourn and Next Steps</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> </ul>

\*All times are approximate and subject to change.

# Meeting Ground Rules

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## 1. Be Respectful

- Listen when others are speaking. Do not interrupt and do not participate in side conversations. One person speaks at a time.
- Recognize the legitimacy of the concerns and interests of others, whether or not you agree with them.
- Cooperate with the facilitator to ensure that everyone is given equitable time to state their views. Present your views succinctly and try not to repeat or rephrase what others have already said.
- Silence cell phones and refrain for using laptops during the meeting, except to take notes.

## 2. Be Constructive

- Participate in the spirit of giving the same priority to solving the problems of others as you do to solving your own problems.
- Share comments that are solution focused. Avoid repeating past discussions.
- Do not engage in personal attacks or make slanderous statements. Do not give ultimatums.
- Ask for clarification if you are uncertain of what another person is saying. Ask questions rather than make assumptions.
- Work towards consensus. Identify areas of common ground and be willing to compromise.
- Minimize the use of jargon and acronyms. Attempt to use language observers and laypersons will understand.

## 3. Be Productive

- Arrive on time and stay until the meeting is adjourned.
- Adhere to the agenda. Respect time constraints and focus on the topic being discussed.
- Volunteer for tasks between meetings.

## 4. Bring a Sense of Humor and Have Fun.

## Appendix A. Draft September 2024 Meeting Summary

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Please see draft meeting summary on next page.

# Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Meeting

## Draft Summary

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Part 1 from 10:00am – 12:00pm

Part 2 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

This meeting summary provides key action items and discussion highlights from the WCMAC meeting. For more, see below:

- **Meeting materials and presentations can be found on the WCMAC website:**  
<https://www.ezview.wa.gov/?alias=1962&pageid=37058>
- **Meeting recordings – which contain full transcripts – can be viewed here:**  
[Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council - TVW](#)

### Highlights

- Rod Fleck, WCMAC Chair, submitted a letter to the Governor summarizing feedback from the July 10th Special WCMAC Meeting, available on the EZ View site.
- Nominations for WCMAC Chair and Vice Chair will be circulated, with a vote scheduled for December.
- WCMAC members voted to support the budget requests via a letter to the governor; abstentions were noted, but no objections were raised.
- Carrie Sessions provided an overview of the Climate Commitment Act and its investments benefiting coastal communities
- WCMAC members discussed goals, strategies, and structures for a potential research consortium.
- Henry Bell presented on the *Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative: Accelerating Implementation of 20 Years of Partnership Efforts*, a \$73 million NOAA-funded project aimed at building coastal climate resilience, thanking WCMAC for its past support.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Next WCMAC Meeting: December 3, 2024
- Next OSW Technical Committee Meeting: October 22, 2024

WCMAC Members Present	
Arkema, Katie – Science Organization	Meinig, Christian – Coastal Energy
Bold, Molly – Coastal Port	Niles, Matt – State Parks
Bowman, Stephanie - Commerce	Polagye, Brian – Energy Organization
Culbertson, Paula – Wahkiakum MRC	Rechner, Michael – DNR
Dalan, Garrett – Grays Harbor MRC	Sessions, Carrie – Governor's Office
Dolsak, Nives – Educational institution	Thevik, Larry – Commercial Fishing
Fleck, Rod – North Pacific MRC	Zimmerman, Mara - WA Coast Salmon Partnership
Niles, Corey – DFW	

**Council Members Absent**

Anderson, Phil - Recreational Fishing	Nordin, Michael – Pacific MRC
Beugli, David – Shellfish Aquaculture	Steelquist, Peter – Coastal Recreation
Blake, Brian – Commercial Fishing	Talebi, Bobbak - Ecology
Conrad, Michele – Coastal Economic Development Group	

**Others Present** (as noted on the sign-in sheet & Zoom log-in)

Aoki, Mai – Ecology	Litle, Kate - WA Sea Grant
Beasley, Dale – CRCFA/CCF	Lucine, Rachel - BGA
Bell, Henry - Ecology	MacLean, Casey - Renewable NW
Brown-Law, Alle – Cascadia Consulting	Mason, Ellie
Conroy, Mike	Mehzun, Merhawit
Corvi, M	Nevitt, Kristine – Ecological Economists
Decker, Kevin – WA Sea Grant	Okoniewski, Mike - West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Dennehy, Casey - Ecology	Roberts, Whitney - WDFW
Felleman, Fred	Rolf, Jenna
Gutierrez, Nicole - Cascadia Consulting	Skelton, Ann – Pacific County MRC
Hansen, John - West Coast Ocean Alliance	Spence, Stephanie - Maritime Blue
Krienitz, Jay - Ecology	Wright, Teri - Forest/Salmon/Orca Advocate

## Welcome and Introductions

[Meeting recording](#) 0:02:00 – 0:14:30

- Rod Fleck welcomed everyone to the September meeting and the Council observed a moment of silence to pay respects to the anniversary of 9/11.
- Nicole Gutierrez went over the meeting agenda, ground rules, and covered expectations for WCMAC members and public observers.
- Rod and Nicole reviewed the May and July Special Meeting WCMAC Meeting Summaries and reviewed the edits provided.
  - Larry Thevik moved to approve the May and July Special Meeting WCMAC Meeting Summaries, with the revisions submitted to date. Mara Zimmerman and Stephanie Bowman seconded the motions respectively. Meeting minutes were adopted.

## WCMAC Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:19:43 – 0:23:55

## Announcements

- On behalf of the WCMAC, Rod Fleck submitted a letter to the Governor on August 1<sup>st</sup> summarizing the feedback from the July 10<sup>th</sup> Special WCMAC Meeting. The letter can now be found on the EZ View site ([linked here](#)).
- WCMAC Chair and Vice Chair nominations will be circulated to WCMAC members in the next few weeks. WCMAC members can submit a nomination for Chair, Vice Chair, or both. All nominees will be notified and can accept or reject the nomination. Once nominees have been determined, the candidate list will be shared prior to the December meeting and a vote on the Chair and Vice Chair positions in December will be held.

## Updates

### Governor's Office Update

[Meeting recording](#) 0:24:22 – 0:30:17

- Agency proposals for legislation and agency budget requests will be due to the Governor's office over the next few weeks. The Governor's budget will be released in early December.
- If WCMAC members or the public have coastal, natural resource, or marine-related budget requests for consideration, **they should be submitted by mid-October**. Requests should be sent to Carrie Sessions ([carrie.sessions@gov.wa.gov](mailto:carrie.sessions@gov.wa.gov)) and OFM representatives Jim Cahill (operating, [jim.cahill@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:jim.cahill@ofm.wa.gov)) or Myra Baldini ([myra.baldini@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:myra.baldini@ofm.wa.gov)).
- Carrie Sessions congratulated the WCMAC for its engagement with the Gridworks report and the specific recommendations provided. The Governor has reviewed the WCMAC letter, and over the summer, discussions with Tribes and Agencies have taken place. However, no decision has been made on OSW at this time.

### MRC Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:30:23 – 0:34:57

- **Wahkiakum MRC** will soon release updated grant forms – which they did extensive revisions to make more transparent. Finalized and ready for 2025-2027 funding. They have also received \$15K from WSU grant, and are soliciting grassroots needs in the local community.
- **Grays Harbor MRC** is working on an update for its resolution and bylaws. The Commissioners are looking to recruit new members. Still looking for the last few projects for biennium grant funding.
- **North Pacific MRC** is hosting the MRC summit, which is taking place October 17-19. The Summit will include project updates, Coastal Film Festival, celebration of NOAA's 30th Year Anniversary on the coast, and Maritime Heritage Event. It was shared that Frank Hansen passed away this week, a longtime North Pacific MRC member, Chair, and facilitator.

### Agency Updates

*Agencies did not provide updates at this time and held updates for the budget requests agenda item.*

## General Coastal Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:37:02 – 0:41:45

- Larry Thevik shared that the 2023-2024 Dungeness Crab season will conclude on September 15. This year's harvest was robust, with tribal and state contributions reaching or exceeding 20 million pounds, yielding an estimated coast-wide first sale value of over \$60 million.
- Stephanie Bowman shared Core Plus Maritime hosting an event at Neah Bay High School this Friday in collaboration with the Makah Tribe. The initiative aims to incorporate maritime education into K-12 curriculums, particularly for high school students. The event will engage students, teachers, and tribal leaders and will feature a salmon smoke-off. This effort helps coastal communities become more involved in maritime careers.
- Molly Bold shared that Westport Marina has experienced one of its busiest years on record for vessel activity. The marina is operating beyond capacity, with a waitlist for both recreational and commercial vessels extending 3-4 years. This year will likely set a record for tonnage coming in and out of the harbor, showcasing the sustainable and diverse uses of the coastal region.

## Technical Committee Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:42:25 – 0:50:03

- The Technical Committee met on June 25, July 23, and August 27. In June, members provided feedback on the Gridworks report, which was circulated to WCMAC and helped shape the July 10 special meeting discussion. In July and August, the committee worked on revising the Objective 2 Action Plan, which focuses on reviewing data and community research needs related to floating offshore wind. The goal is to finalize the Action Plan after the October meeting and present it to WCMAC for approval in December.
- Larry echoed congratulations to Rod and WCMAC for the letter to the Governor regarding the Gridworks report. He shared updates on OSW and BOEM processes elsewhere.
  - At the PFMC's Marine Planning Committee meeting, BOEM representatives reiterated that there are no BOEM plans in Washington during this time. At that meeting, one issue discussed was potential impacts on sea birds from OSW. Potential takes from ESA-listed short-tailed albatross are listed as a major conservation concern for fisheries but does not rise to the same level of concern for OSW, though the research is nascent and shows high impacts. There are not yet any expectations around OSW-related takes.
  - Another portion of the Marine Planning Committee meeting was a significant tribal update on offshore wind, and Larry shared comments and concerns from two letters written by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.
  - Larry also noted that two Oregon senators recently shared statements that urge caution with OSW. They will seek to make sure Oregon residents' concerns receive complete and acceptable responses before any movement forward. In Oregon, BOEM is proceeding full speed ahead with planned lease auction in October.



## Budget Requests

[Meeting recording](#) 0:53:56 – 1:42:47

Agencies presented draft budget requests for WCMAC member consideration. See full draft budget requests in [Attachment A](#). Following the presentations, WCMAC members voted to approve including the budget requests through a letter of support via consensus after public comment.

## Public Comment #1

- Dale Beasley, CRCFA/CCF, expressed concern about the challenges facing coastal communities, and highlighted the need for WCMAC to consider/review RCW [43.143.60.2B](#). Dale proposed extending the availability of Harbor Maintenance Trust Funds to support small port maintenance and infrastructure, highlighting the ongoing difficulty in securing federal funds for dredging. They noted the rising costs of essential infrastructure projects, like bulkhead construction, which has doubled in price over recent years. Additionally, Dale suggested creating a protected fishing area between Westport and the Columbia River to help the next generation of fishermen enter the industry, pointing out that the high cost of vessels, permits, and equipment makes it nearly impossible for young individuals to start fishing businesses. They stressed the importance of supporting young fishermen to sustain the ports and commercial tonnage necessary for federal dredging and long-term community viability.

## Budget Requests Vote

During the meeting, WCMAC members discussed moving forward with a vote to support agency budget requests via a letter of support to the governor. It was noted that agencies typically abstain from such votes to avoid conflicts. A motion for consensus was proposed, and the WCMAC agreed to support the budget recommendations presented. Abstentions were noted from a few members, including Carrie Sessions, Mike Rechner and Corey Niles, but no objections were raised. As a result, the motion passed, and a letter will be sent to the governor with support from WCMAC members.

## Climate Commitment Act

[Meeting recording](#) 2:07:13 – 2:39:02

During the meeting, Carrie led an informational session on the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). Carrie provided an overview of the CCA, including its investments benefiting coastal communities. She clarified that, as a public employee, she is prohibited from discussing the current ballot measure regarding the repeal of the CCA but could share factual information. See slides in [Attachment B](#) and for the full presentation and discussion, please see the recording linked above.

## West Coast Research Consortium

[Meeting recording](#) 2:39:14 – 3:24:35

WCMAC members had a discussion building from the July Special meeting and the subsequent letter that was sent to the governor's office in response to the Gridworks report. In the letter, the research consortium was highlighted as an area with broad support from WCMAC members, but some members raised questions about how the consortium would be created and structured. The goal of this discussion was to gather input from WCMAC members on the goals, strategies, and structure of a research effort or consortium. This information will be included in the meeting minutes and shared with Carrie and agency representatives, though it will not be sent directly to the governor or legislature. Carrie emphasized that no decisions by the governor's office have been made regarding offshore wind, but there has been ongoing discussion about researching its potential impacts. Input from the meeting would help inform further action on the Gridworks recommendation. The session was intended as a brainstorming opportunity, with further discussions potentially planned for future meetings. A link to the Gridworks report was shared for reference. [Gridworks-WA-OSW-Engagement-Report.pdf](#)

The following is a summary of the discussion from WCMAC members in response to the questions: *"What do you see as goals and strategies of a research effort and/or consortium?"* And *"How could this consortium be initiated and/or structured?"*

- The discussion emphasized the importance of understanding the ecological implications of hydrodynamic effects associated with OSW development, complementing ongoing efforts with BOEM, NOAA, DOE, and various academic and industry partners. There was a focus on identifying and defining key environmental indicators and engaging coastal governments in the OSW leasing and permitting process. Consideration was also given to Washington's energy needs and the lifecycle of OSW infrastructure, including turbines, cables, and grid connections.
- Members highlighted the need to balance achieving GHG reductions with local socioeconomic and sustainable development goals. Public comments and feedback from tribal sovereigns and the NWIFC were identified as important sources for determining research priorities. Structuring research before delving into specifics was emphasized, with hydrodynamic modeling recognized as an area where progress could be made sooner.
- Monitoring efforts were discussed in a broader context, suggesting their potential utility in addressing climate change, hazards, and extreme weather, beyond just OSW. There was also a suggestion to reintroduce language from HB2341, presented last year, as a potential initial step.
- Consensus emerged that the focus should be on research needs identified by stakeholders, tribal sovereigns, and agencies, rather than forming a formal consortium. The group agreed on narrowing the research agenda's scope to ensure manageability while considering cumulative climate impacts and extending research to encompass the entire West Coast. Objective metrics for assessing change and aligning with socioeconomic and environmental goals were stressed, alongside the need for federal

funding. Collaboration with tribal sovereigns is encouraged to align on common research needs and data gaps, potentially enhancing access to federal funding through joint approaches.

- The need for significant, sustained funding over a ten-year horizon was highlighted to support a broader range of participants, despite potential misalignments with funding opportunities. Engaging coastal governments in the BOEM OSW leasing and permitting process was emphasized, along with collaboration with tribal partners to enhance funding benefits and enable socioeconomic improvements.
- There is a call to develop a specific list of key cumulative effects that should be prioritized, alongside establishing a "State of the Science" to assess current understanding. The focus should be on avoiding impacts and conflicts rather than merely minimizing or mitigating them.
- Research efforts need to encompass coast-wide and cumulative effects, with an emphasis on pre-development modeling to gauge potential risks. Currently, the approach is reactive, focusing on monitoring changes post-development rather than understanding baseline conditions upfront.
- A strong requirement for transparency and a mandate to report findings was noted. This effort should be coordinated across the West Coast and in alignment with national and international initiatives. Washington is encouraged to take a leadership role in this effort, utilizing the consortium to build local capacity for engagement and informed decision-making.
- A clear process for decision-making regarding research priorities is needed, ensuring public involvement through participatory projects. Consensus may emerge from synthesizing ongoing conversations, although funders may also influence priorities. Key questions include how to determine what is prioritized and who is responsible for making those decisions.

## Coastal Resilience Funding

[Meeting recording](#) 3:25:10 – 3:43:23

Henry Bell, a coastal planner with the Washington Department of Ecology, introduced a recently funded project, *Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative: Accelerating Implementation of 20 Years of Partnership Efforts* funding, that awarded \$73 million by NOAA and set to begin in October. He thanked WCMAC for their letter of support last year, which was instrumental in securing the funding. Henry emphasized that although the Department of Ecology will manage the project, including hiring a project manager and handling communications, the majority of the funds will be distributed through 14 sub-awards to various collaborators. He highlighted the importance of WCMAC and coastal Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) in supporting the project's success, particularly in building coastal and climate resilience and aligning with community visions. Bell also emphasized the need to demonstrate the project's effectiveness to encourage future coastal investments. See slides in [Attachment B](#) and for the full presentation and discussion, please see the recording linked above.

## Public Comment #2

- Mike Okoniewski, West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group, discussed the importance of the California Current Ecosystem as a significant carbon reduction resource for the West Coast and expressed support for a regional consortium focused on studying this unique area independently before considering any expansion. He acknowledged Gridworks for identifying data gaps and research needs, emphasizing the need for a consortium that prioritizes empirical data in its research. Mike highlighted the importance of understanding hydrodynamics and meteorological factors that affect the ecosystem, particularly upwelling temperature and ocean currents, which are essential for species like sardines and various marine larvae. They supported the tribal position to pause offshore wind energy development until necessary studies are completed and endorsed the idea from Larry Thevik and Mike Conroy to conduct experimental projects using data from existing California projects to guide future decisions.
- Dale Beasley, CRCFA/CCF, noted that he has been working on a project that aims to compile around 100 suggestions for enhancing coastal resilience and ensuring the future viability of coastal communities. While the list is still a work in progress, he plans to share it with the WCMAC before the next meeting for consideration. He highlighted the importance of recruiting the next generation of fishermen, noting that recent efforts have seen some new entrants into the industry, but many have faced challenges in sustaining their businesses, especially after a recent storm that impacted their operations. Dale expressed concern over the loss of crab permits in recent years, indicating that this trend could affect the fishing industry's future and the maintenance of navigational channels crucial for dredging. He emphasized the need to sustain tonnage in these channels to support the viability of coastal communities.

## Closing and Adjourn

- Rod closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
  - Next WCMAC meeting: December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 (on a Tuesday!)

## Attachment A: Draft Agency Budget Requests

See the next page for agency budget requests that were presented at the September WCMAC meeting.

DRAFT





# Budget Requests

# Department of Fish and Wildlife

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Capital Budget: Hatchery Work, Improving Safety &amp; Climate Resilience of Hatcheries</b>	Approximately 75% of the capital budget is spent on the agency's hatchery work and the capital plan includes resources for improving safety and climate resilience (e.g. water recirculation and filtration systems) of the agency's hatcheries and implementation of <a href="#">the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan</a> .	Total request of \$209.2 million, including \$177 million in Major Works guided by <a href="#">the 10-year capital plan</a> .	Capital Budget
<b>WDFW Staff &amp; Volunteer Safety</b>	New policies and equipment focused on field staff safety and to expand safety training capacity and awareness and volunteer safety initiatives.	\$9.1 million	Operating Budget
<b>Restoring Washington's Biodiversity</b>	Request for proposals not funded for the 2023-2-25 biennium focused on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for conservation of the state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).	\$15.0 million	Operating Budget
<b>Requests to convert "onetime" to ongoing funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7.2 million - Quagga &amp; Zebra Mussel Prevention</li> <li>• \$1.6 million - Salmon and Steelhead Monitoring</li> <li>• \$2.0 million - Riparian Systems Assessment</li> <li>• \$1.1 million - Streamflow Policy Support</li> <li>• \$3.1 million - Pinniped Predation</li> <li>• \$0.6 million - Crab Fishery &amp; Humpbacks</li> <li>• <i>Unfunded, Underfunded, and New:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$18.6 million - Restore Enforcement capacity</li> <li>○ \$6.9 million - Scientific Data Modernization</li> <li>○ \$2.7 million - Hatchery Investment Strategy</li> <li>○ \$4.8 million - Coastal Salmonid Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$48.6 million  See details column for budget breakdown	Operating Budget



# Department of Natural Resources (1 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
<b>Aquatic Resources Conservation Corps</b>	For 40 years, DNR has utilized conservation corps program crews and individual placements to help manage the variety of needs of our state's lands and waters. Aquatics Resources Division is highly dependent on the Corps to maintain critical services. Corps are the primary "boots on the ground" for both the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Aquatic Reserves programs. DNR's Aquatic Resources Division is therefore requesting continued funding for conservation corps within both Aquatic Invasive Species and Aquatic Reserves programs.	\$1,719,034	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
<b>Derelict Structure Removal Program (Operating)</b>	DNR is requesting funding to complete planning and permitting for one of the four priority structures (Ballard Pier), continue work to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina for recreational use, and initiate new projects including removal of submerged tire piles from Puget Sound. This is a continuation of work under the newly established Derelict Structure Removal Program.	\$2,105,000	Derelict Structures Removal Account
<b>Derelict Structure Removal Program (Capital)</b>	DNR is requesting funding to complete planning and permitting for one of the four priority structures (Ballard Pier), continue work to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina for recreational use, and initiate new projects including removal of submerged tire piles from Puget Sound. This is a continuation of work under the newly established Derelict Structure Removal Program.	\$6,848,600	Capital
<b>DVRP Large Vessel Removal</b>	In 2023 and 2024, DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) was inundated with an unprecedented number of very large abandoned and derelict vessels ranging from 60 to 170 feet in length. These vessels pose a significant risk to the environment and are extremely costly to remove. This request will allow DVRP to address large, high-risk vessels while continuing the critical work of removing and intercepting hundreds of smaller vessels across the state.	\$13,500,000	Capital



# Department of Natural Resources (2 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
Managing European Green Crab on State-Owned Aquatic Lands	DNR is requesting a continuation of operating funds to continue implementing European Green Crab management on State-owned Aquatic Lands beyond FY25. The Legislature provided one-time funding for this work in FY25, but requested we seek additional funds in concert with WDFW for the 2025-2027 biennium. The 2025-2027 request will allow full implementation of the DNR work plan through staff continuity and procurement of long-term facilities in closer proximity to operations, transportation, and all equipment and supplies required. DNR is currently utilizing resources from other DNR existing programs to augment EGC management, at a cost to those programs.	\$2,255,200	GF-S
Watershed Resilience Program Maintenance	DNR's Watershed Resilience Program accelerates the pace of salmon recovery by advancing how DNR supports internal and external programs related to salmon recovery and watershed resilience. In 2022, the agency launched the Snohomish Watershed Resilience Action Plan (WRAP) as the flagship effort in a new, programmatic approach to advance salmon recovery and watershed health, and in 2023 extended this work into two additional priority watersheds (Puyallup and Nisqually). The programs seeks to achieve 5 key goals by coordinating and expanding the agency's work at the watershed scale : 1) Protect and clean up aquatic habitat. 2) Restore, conserve and connect forests and riparian habitat. 3) Revitalize urban forests and streams. 4) Engage and invest in communities. 5) Reduce and combat climate impacts. DNR is requesting maintenance-level funding (\$1,765,000) to continue to strengthen and expand the critical salmon recovery work across the three target watersheds. This work will enhance salmon recovery, and inform climate resilience approaches, across Washington State.	\$1,765,000	

# Washington State Parks (1 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Responding to Climate Change</b>	State Parks is increasingly seeing the effects of climate change across the park system, including coastal erosion, at-risk natural and cultural resources, planning, facility management, park operations and visitor experience. Additional funding is requested for staff and resources to accelerate continued development and implementation of climate-informed practices, including decarbonization of agency operations to achieve greenhouse gas emission objectives; investment in climate adaptation analysis to identify at-risk resources; build capacity to review and update agency rules and policies and clearly communicate Parks climate change response efforts to foster a culture of awareness and inclusion.	\$2,848,000	Operating Budget
<b>Resource Adaptation &amp; Management</b>	Stewardship of State Parks' diverse natural resources, including some of the state's rarest species and ecosystems, is increasingly impacted by invasive weeds and insects, climate change, and recreation. This request would provide the necessary funding to better control invasive species, implement habitat restoration treatments, and develop and implement management prescriptions. These actions would help increase regulatory compliance, meet policy requirements, improve long-term sustainability and resilience of natural resources, including tribally important resources; reduce the potential for negative economic and ecological impacts from invasive species; and improve visitor experience and well-being. <small>WCMAC Dec 2024 Packet: Page 18 of 101</small>	\$1,569,000	Operating Budget

# Washington State Parks (2 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>South Beach Area Administration and Maintenance Facility (Agency Priority #6)</b>	<p>This project relocates administration and maintenance facilities for the South Beach Area from Twin Harbors State Park to Grayland Beach State Park. Twin Harbors State Park is built over a historic dune system. The dune system includes high points and depressions that have formed into wetlands over time. Dramatic rain accumulations coupled with wetland formation in the depressions cause the park to flood regularly throughout the fall, winter, and spring.</p> <p>A large portion of the east side campground floods with 1 to 2 feet of water, causing major interruptions to park and area operations. Staff are displaced in the winter and staff time and money are spent every year cleaning up flood water from the building, sometimes multiple times a year. A location at Grayland Beach four miles south of Twin Harbors was recently acquired and selected as the site for relocating administrative facilities. This newly acquired location provides for a high and dry site adjacent to one of the state's busiest campgrounds.</p>	\$1,366,000	Capital Budget
<b>Twin Harbors State Park Renovation (Agency Priority #35)</b>	<p>This phased project relocates a portion of the Twin Harbors campground from its current site which was originally built in a wetland that floods annually to a dry location. It restores the old campground area to its historic wetland state. Twin Harbors State Park is built over a historic dune system. The dune system includes high points and depressions that have formed into wetlands over time. Dramatic rain accumulations coupled with wetland formation in the depressions cause the park to flood regularly throughout the fall, winter, and spring.</p> <p>Until recently, this site was State Park's largest campground with almost 300 sites, 94 of which were recently closed due to risks associated with the poor health of trees that could fall unexpectedly onto visitors. Other portions within the existing campground, including roadways and utility systems, are beyond their useful life. A comprehensive look at the entire park, its functions and values, and appropriate locations for recreational facilities and approaches to natural system restoration was completed during predesign. This project would also increase visitor safety as they will not have to cross the highway for beach access.</p>	\$3,629,000	Capital Budget



# Department of Ecology (1 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
Implementing Climate Resilience	As directed by the Legislature, Ecology is updating the state's climate resilience strategy by September 30, 2024. This update includes recommending a robust governance structure to enhance interagency coordination and strategy implementation. In collaboration with nine partner agencies, Ecology has identified a preferred governance model that requires core staff at Ecology and funding to support the participation of overburdened communities, vulnerable populations, and Tribes. Ecology is proposing agency request legislation to formalize and establish this governance structure and seek funding and staff resources to effectively implement the state's climate resilience strategy.	\$1,158,000	Operating Budget
Protecting Washington's Shorelines	In 2023, the Legislature enacted House Bill 1181, incorporating climate change resilience and environmental justice goals into the state's Growth Management Act. The bill also mandates updates to local comprehensive development plans and shoreline master programs. To help Washington communities meet these new requirements, overcome implementation challenges, and enhance climate resilience, Ecology is requesting additional staff capacity. These resources will provide essential technical assistance, strengthen review capacity, and support the effective implementation of new shoreline master program provisions.	\$1,317,000	Operating Budget
Accelerating Floodplain Resilience	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program to educate communities about flood risks and produces flood risk maps. However, many of these maps in Washington are outdated, impeding the state's efforts to protect homes, businesses, and public infrastructure from flooding. Outdated maps are also delaying and increasing costs for numerous salmon restoration projects. Ecology is requesting additional resources to update flood risk maps, offer technical support to communities, and advance salmon recovery projects.	\$ 1,122,000	Operating Budget

# Department of Ecology (2 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Coastal Resilience Capacity Grants</b>	Washington's coastal communities are increasingly threatened by climate change risks, including flooding, erosion, and rising sea levels. At Governor Inslee's request, the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council developed recommendations in 2021 to foster collaboration between state agencies and coastal communities to tackle these issues. Ecology already received funding to enhance data analysis for assessing site-specific vulnerabilities and to provide coordinated state-level technical support. This request seeks additional funding to boost local community capacity for designing and implementing effective on-the-ground climate resilience projects. (General Fund-State)	\$ 2,000,000	Operating Budget
<b>Aquatic Permitting and Aquaculture</b>	In March 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) revoked Nationwide Permit 48 for shellfish aquaculture in Washington. This decision has led to an unexpected increase in workload for Ecology, as we can no longer rely on the programmatic decision under Nationwide Permit 48. Consequently, all shellfish aquaculture projects previously authorized by this permit now require individual review, public notice, and decision-making by Ecology. Our current staff must manage this additional workload, protect water quality, and ensure that project proponents comply with certification conditions. (General Fund-State)	\$ 671,000	Operating Budget
<b>River Migration Mapping for Salmon</b>	The State/Tribal Riparian Work Group, focused on salmon recovery, prioritized Channel Migration Zone mapping for riparian habitat protection. In response, the Legislature allocated one-time funding for fiscal year 2023 and 2023-25 to Ecology to develop a statewide Channel Migration Zone mapping methodology. This request seeks ongoing funding to continue collaborating with Tribes, agencies, and community partners to complete the remaining tasks and provide continuous technical assistance to Tribes and local governments. (General Fund-State)	\$ 378,000	Operating Budget

# Department of Ecology (3 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>European Green Crab Research</b>	The European green crab, an invasive species, poses a serious threat to Washington's coastal resources, causing long-term ecological and economic damage. In response, Governor Inslee issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02, prioritizing emergency control measures on state-owned lands. The Legislature allocated funds to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with Ecology receiving part of this funding to support trapping efforts for 2023-25. Ecology is now requesting additional resources to conduct research that will enhance our understanding of the crab's behavior. This research will aid in developing long-term strategic management and monitoring plans, helping natural resource managers assess environmental factors influencing the crab's spread and predict impacts on coastal resources. (General Fund-State)	\$ 542,000	Operating Budget
<b>BIL/IRA Federal Authority (Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant)</b>	The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act have boosted federal funding for environmental and public health projects. Ecology seeks additional spending authority to leverage seven new funding opportunities as of August 1, 2024. One of those opportunities is the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant. This grant will aid Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Partners by advancing shovel-ready projects in underserved areas, enhancing outreach and workforce development, and formalizing a lasting partnership. It aims to transform coastal landscapes, address data gaps, and build leadership for ongoing and future climate resilience efforts. (General Fund-Federal)	\$73,600,000	Operating Budget



# Department of Ecology (4 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Floodplains by Design</b>	Washington's 2018 Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment reports that flooding damages surpass those of all other natural hazards. Since 1980, flooding has inflicted over \$2 billion in damages, particularly in Western Washington's densely populated areas. Historically, flood solutions often conflicted with ecosystem protection efforts. The Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program addresses this by integrating flood-hazard reduction with salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and community benefits. This program is a public-private partnership involving Ecology, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Puget Sound Partnership. (State Building Construction Account)	\$ 84,000,000	Capital Budget
<b>Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds</b>	The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, funds the protection of vital coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreational, or ecological value. Although coastal wetlands cover less than 10% of the nation's land, they support diverse plant and animal life. Washington's coastal regions are crucial for threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and wintering waterfowl. Ecology administers these federal grants to state agencies, Tribes, and local governments. Ecology is requesting \$10 million in federal capital appropriation authority for the 2025-27 biennium to potentially secure additional grants. (General Funds-Federal)	\$ 10,000,000	Capital Budget

## Attachment B: Meeting Presentations

See next page for meeting presentations.

1. [Climate Commitment Act Presentation](#)
2. [Coastal Resilience Funding Presentation](#)
3. [WCMAC Meeting Presentation](#)

DRAFT



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# Climate Commitment Act

## *Investments in Coastal Communities*

Presentation to the WCMAC, Sept. 11, 2024

Carrie Sessions, Sr. Policy Advisor on Environment & Water, Office of Gov. Inslee



# What is the CCA?

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- Creates a cap on climate pollution that goes down over time.
- The state's largest polluters can update their operations so they pollute less or purchase pollution allowances through quarterly auctions.
- Legislators reinvest auction funds to help families, businesses and communities that want affordable fossil fuel-free options for transportation, energy, heating and more.



# CCA Investments, 2023-2025

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## **The Legislature appropriated \$3.2 billion in CCA revenues**

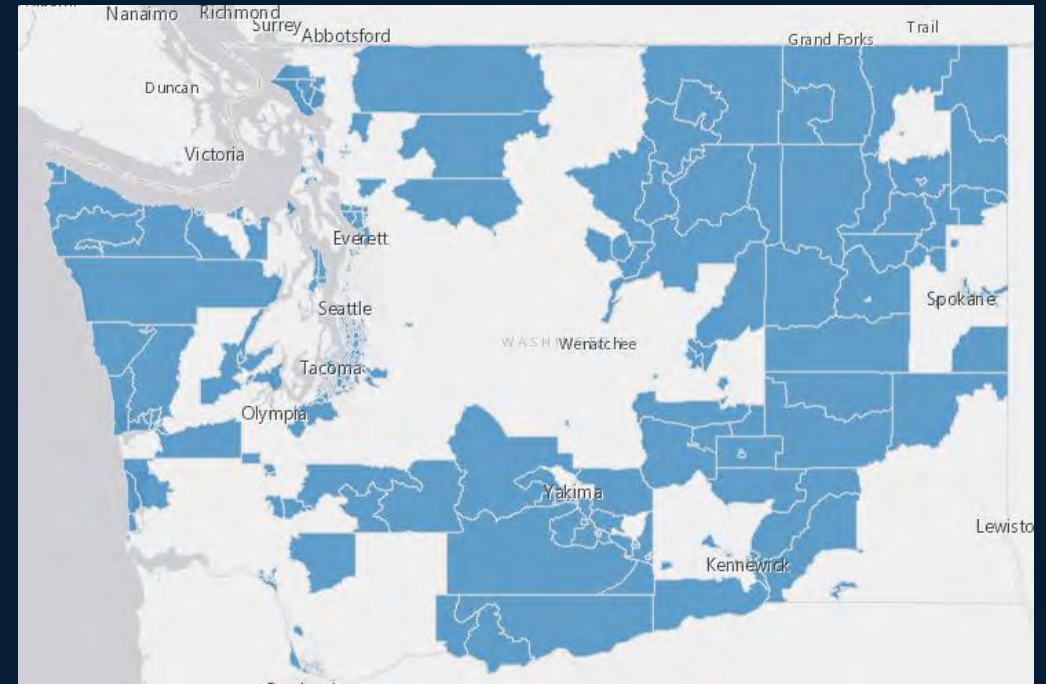
- Clean transportation, \$1.5 billion
- Clean buildings, \$528 million
- Clean energy development, siting & transmission, \$363 million
- Environmental justice, \$345 million
- Addressing climate impacts, \$366 million
- Agriculture, sequestration, and methane reduction, \$180 million



# CCA Investments, 2023-2025

**The Legislature appropriated \$3.2 billion in CCA revenues**

- \$1.4 billion is directed to vulnerable populations in overburdened communities (42%)
- \$255 million is directed to Tribes (7.8%)



“Overburdened communities”, 23/25



# Major Awards in Coastal Counties

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- Floodplains by Design: \$10.4 million - Quillayute River Historic Oxbow
- Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative – \$6.5 million
  - \$2.0 million - Damon Creek Fish Passage Const
  - \$1.8 million - Willapa Estuary Juv. Habitat Assess Restoration
  - \$1.0 million- Middle Nemah River Phase 1 Restoration
  - \$432,000 - Schafer Creek Headwaters Restoration
  - \$190,000 - Johnson Creek Watershed Restoration Phase 1



# Major Awards in Coastal Counties

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- Fish Barrier Removal Board: \$2.5 million (10 Fish Barrier Removal projects)
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
  - \$267,000 - Little Quilcene River Estuary Preliminary Design
  - \$150,000 - Adelma Beach Bulkhead Removal & Restoration
  - \$210,000 - Tumwater Creek Restoration Planning
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration: \$491,000 (4 restoration projects)



# Major Awards in Coastal Counties

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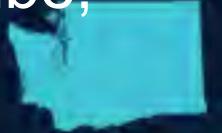
- Forest Riparian Easement (DNR): \$3.4 million (Grants to landowners)
- Salmon Riparian Grants: \$3.4 million (Recreation & Conservation Office)
- Community Forest: \$2.5 million (Hoquiam Community Forests)
- Forest Health, Community Wildfire Resiliency and Firewise (SCC)
  - \$189,000 - Forest Health grants
  - \$379,000 - Firewise grants



# Major awards to Coastal Tribes

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- Tribal Carbon Offset Grants
  - \$2.0 million - (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Quinault Indian nation, Makah Indian Tribe)
- Tribal Climate Adaptation Grants - \$19.7 million
  - \$12.7 million Quinault Indian Nation
  - \$2.7 million Shoalwater Bay Tribe
  - \$1.3 million Makah Tribe
  - \$727,000 each to the Hoh Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Tribe, Quileute Tribe





# Climate.Wa.Gov

WASHINGTON  
**CLIMATE**  
ACTION

[Home](#)[Save money with incentive and rebate programs](#)[Train for a climate career](#)[See climate action at work in Washington](#)

## Washington Climate Action at Work



Creating jobs, lowering costs, fighting climate change

Explore incentive & rebate  
programs

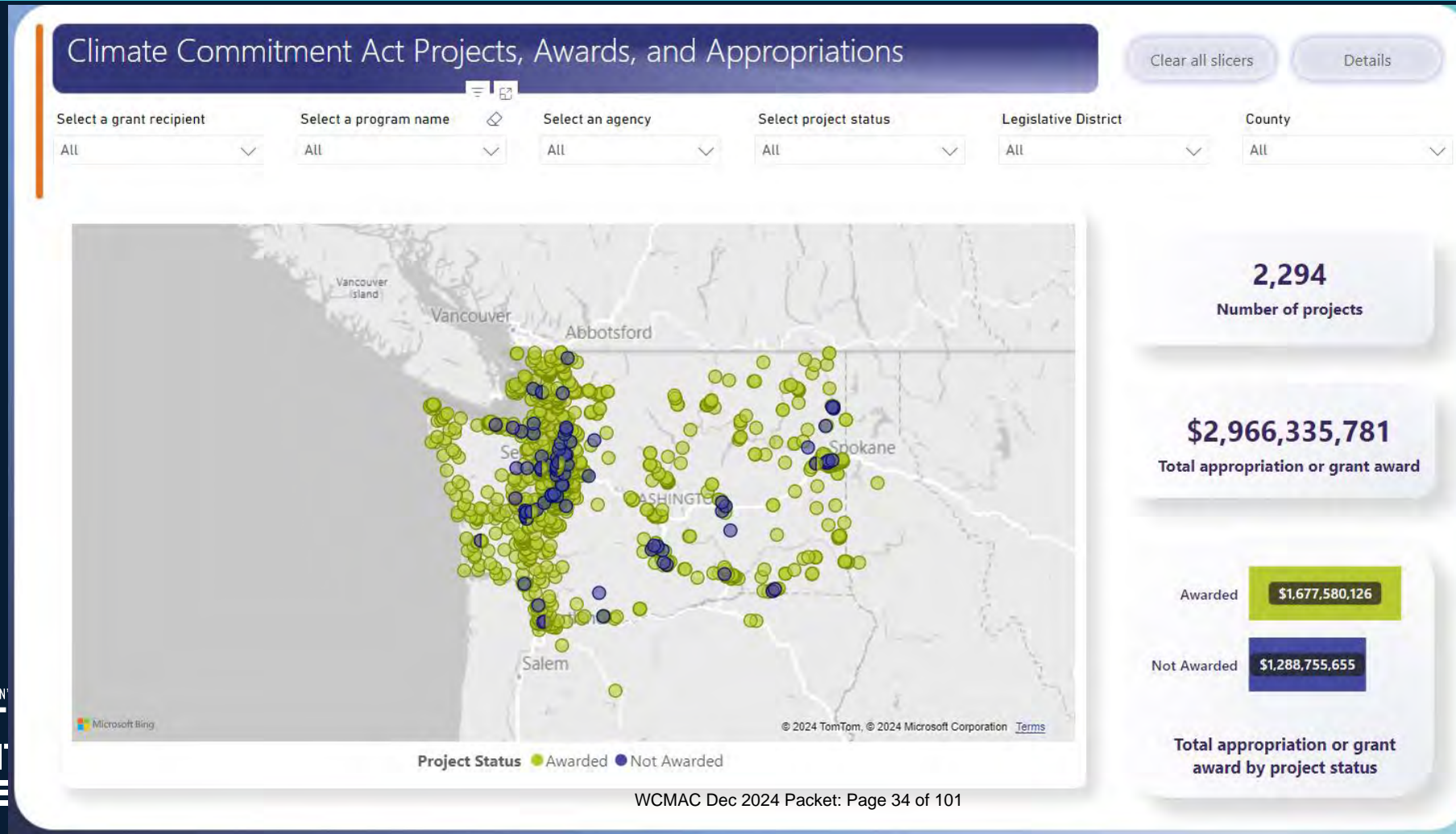
Train for a climate career  
WCMAC Dec 2024 Packet: Page 33 of 101

See climate action at work in  
Washington

FUNDED BY WASHINGTON'S  
**CLIMATE**  
**COMMITMENT**  
**ACT**



# CCA Dashboard [\(link\)](#)

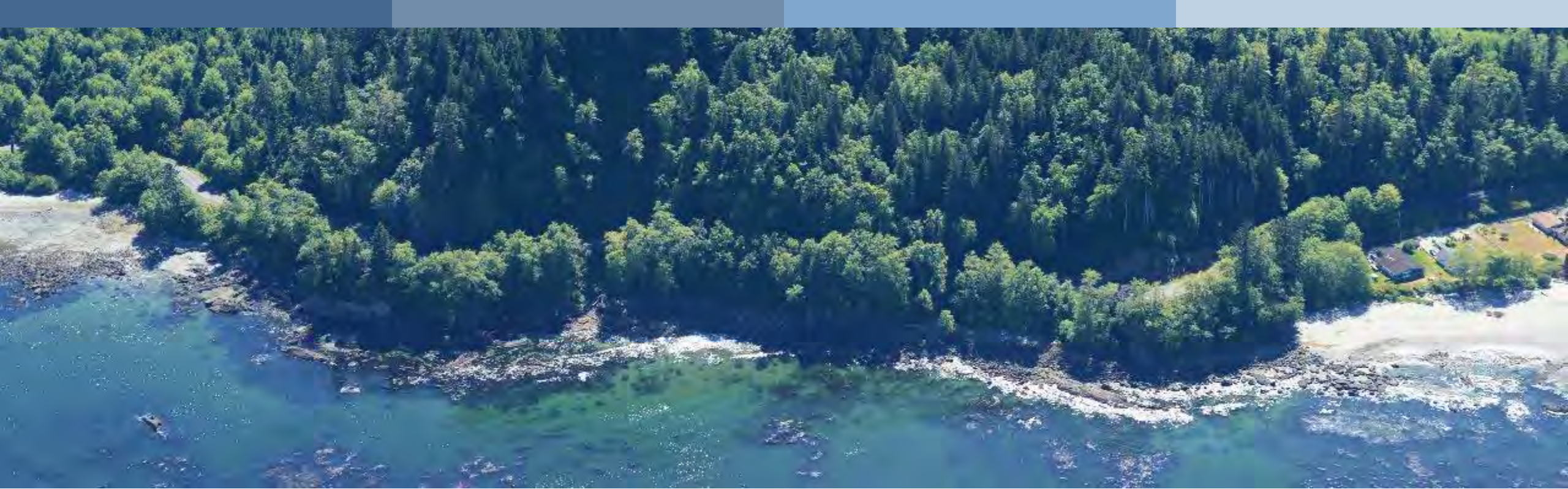


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# Thank you.







# The Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative

Presentation for the  
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council  
September 11, 2024

**Henry Bell** (he/him)  
Coastal Planner  
Washington Coastal Management Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology



Ecology Project Team: Jay Krienitz, Naomi Gebo, Henry Bell, Olivia Zimmerman, Noah Linck (and Bobbak Talebi)

# Project Team & Partnership

## **Collaborators:**

- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Employment Security Department
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Samish Indian Nation
- Tulalip Tribes
- Makah Tribe
- Snohomish County
- Snohomish Conservation District
- Pacific Conservation District
- Washington Sea Grant
- University of Washington Climate Impacts Group
- Friends of the San Juans
- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

## **Partners:**

- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Washington Department of Commerce
- Washington Emergency Management Division
- Washington State University
- Washington Department of Health
- The Nature Conservancy
- Willapa Erosion Control Action Now (WECAN)
- South Whidbey Basin Partnership
- Grays Harbor Conservation District
- City of Westport
- Ducks Unlimited
- Laidlaw Hunting Club
- American Rivers
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation

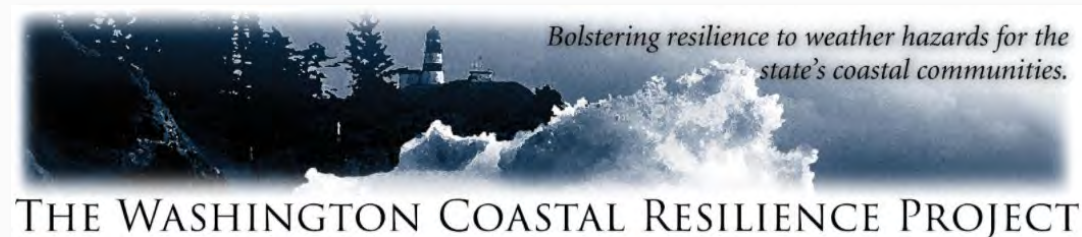
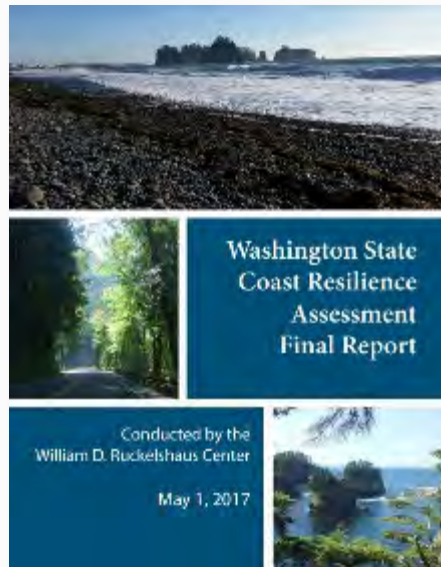




# “Accelerating Implementation of Twenty Years of Partnership Efforts”



## Grays Harbor Resilience Coalition



# North Puget Sound (\$22 million)

- 1A: Chinook Marsh
- 1B: Swans Trail Slough
- 1C: Everett Marshlands
- 1D: Spencer Island
- Not pictured: San Juans  
resiliency planning and  
Tribal cultural resources  
protection







# Chinook Marsh





# Everett Marshlands

# North Olympic Peninsula (\$24 million)



## State Route 112

- Project Area 1: MP 0-17 – Raising the Highway Grade and Shoreline Stabilization
- Project Area 2: MP 0-17 – Detour Route Planning Study
- Project Area 3: MP 24-29 – Pysht River Corridor Realignment Predesign Study
- Project Area 4: MP 32 – Jim Creek New Alignment Study
- Project Area 5: MP 35-38 – Sumas Pass New Alignment Study
- Project Area 6: Hoko River Crossing Planning and Conceptual Design



E  
90

120

SE

150

S  
180

210

SW

240



Embankment failure

WCMAC Dec 2024 Report Page 14 of 101

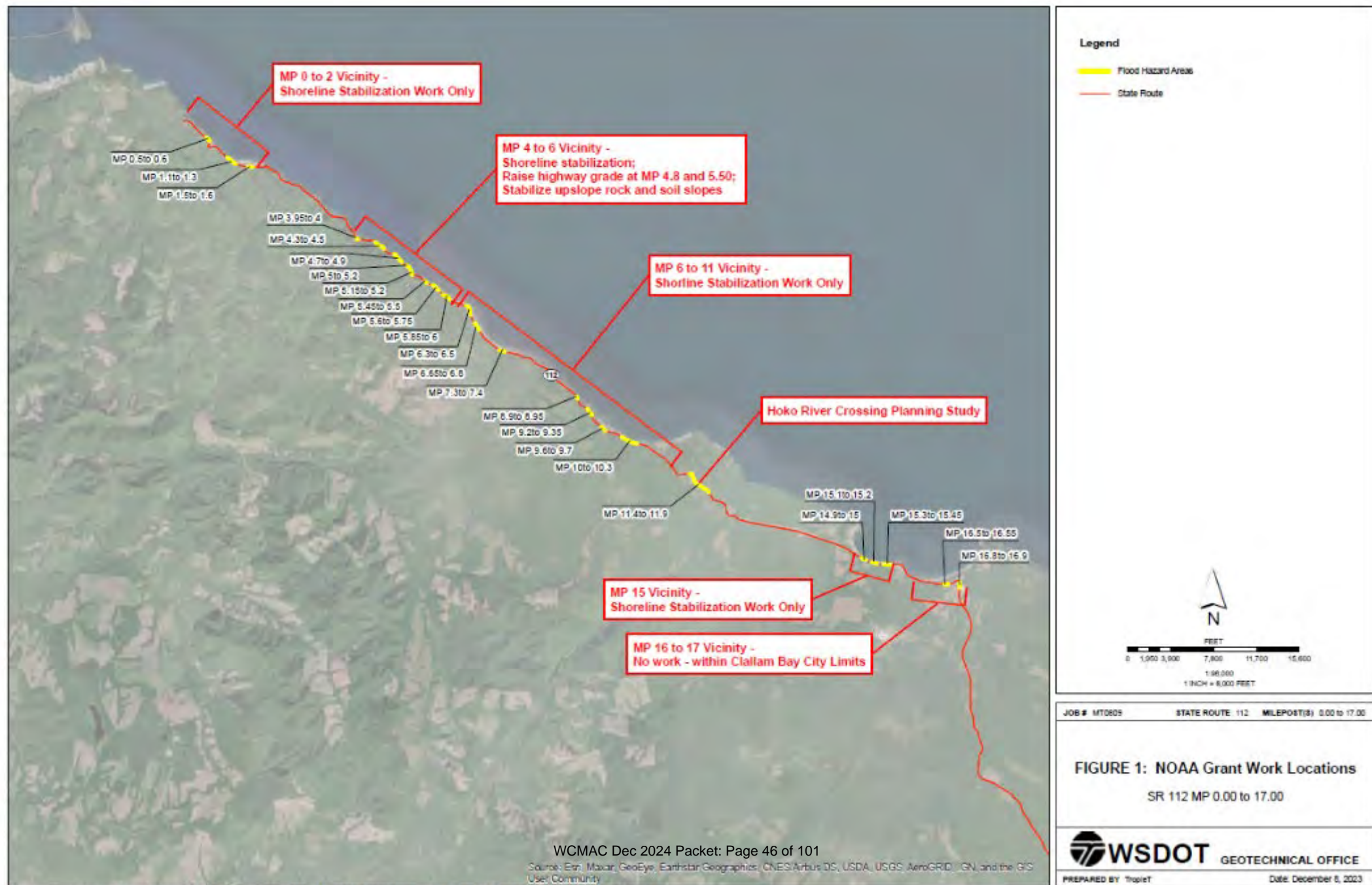
SR 112, MP 4.73

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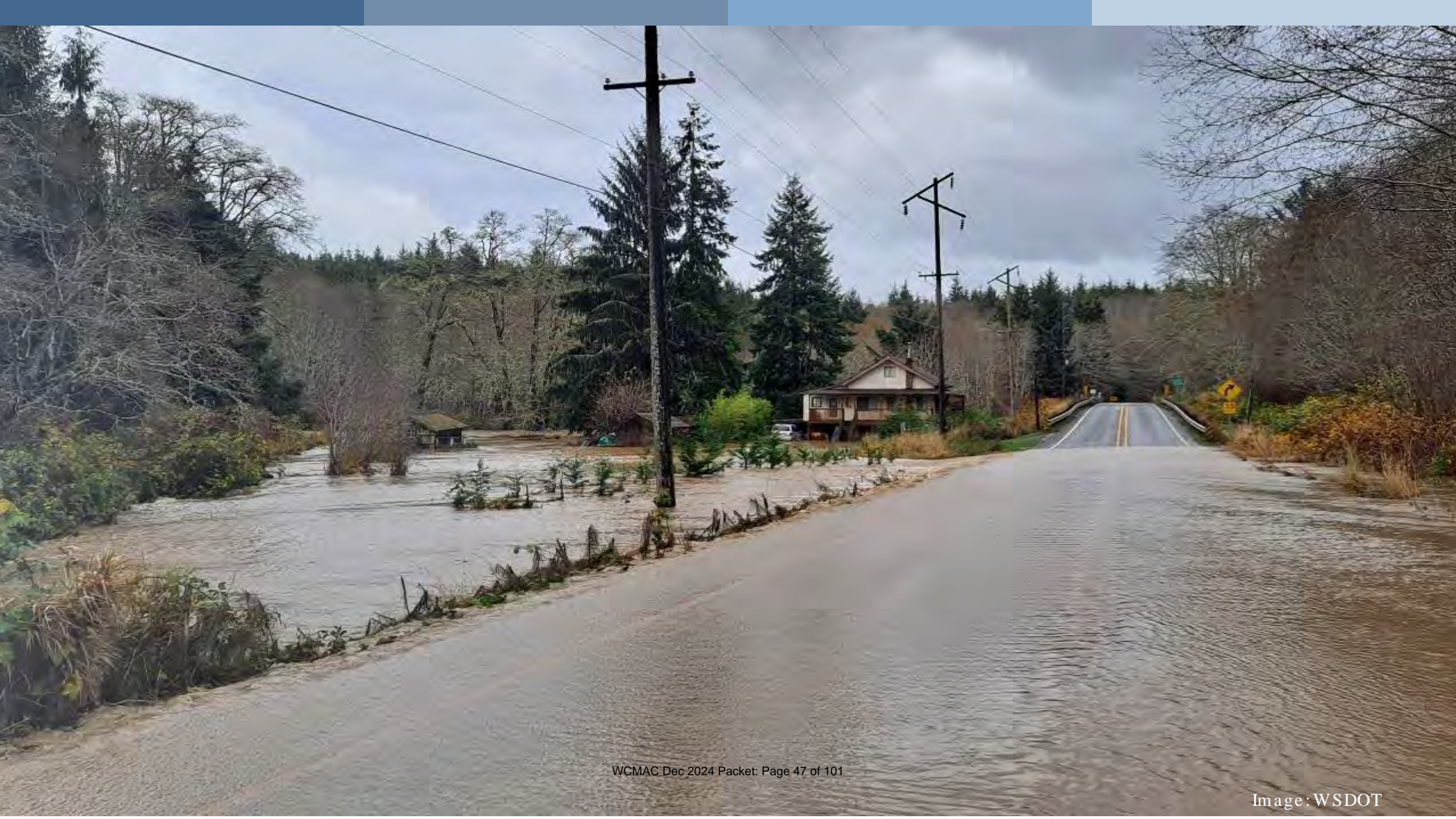










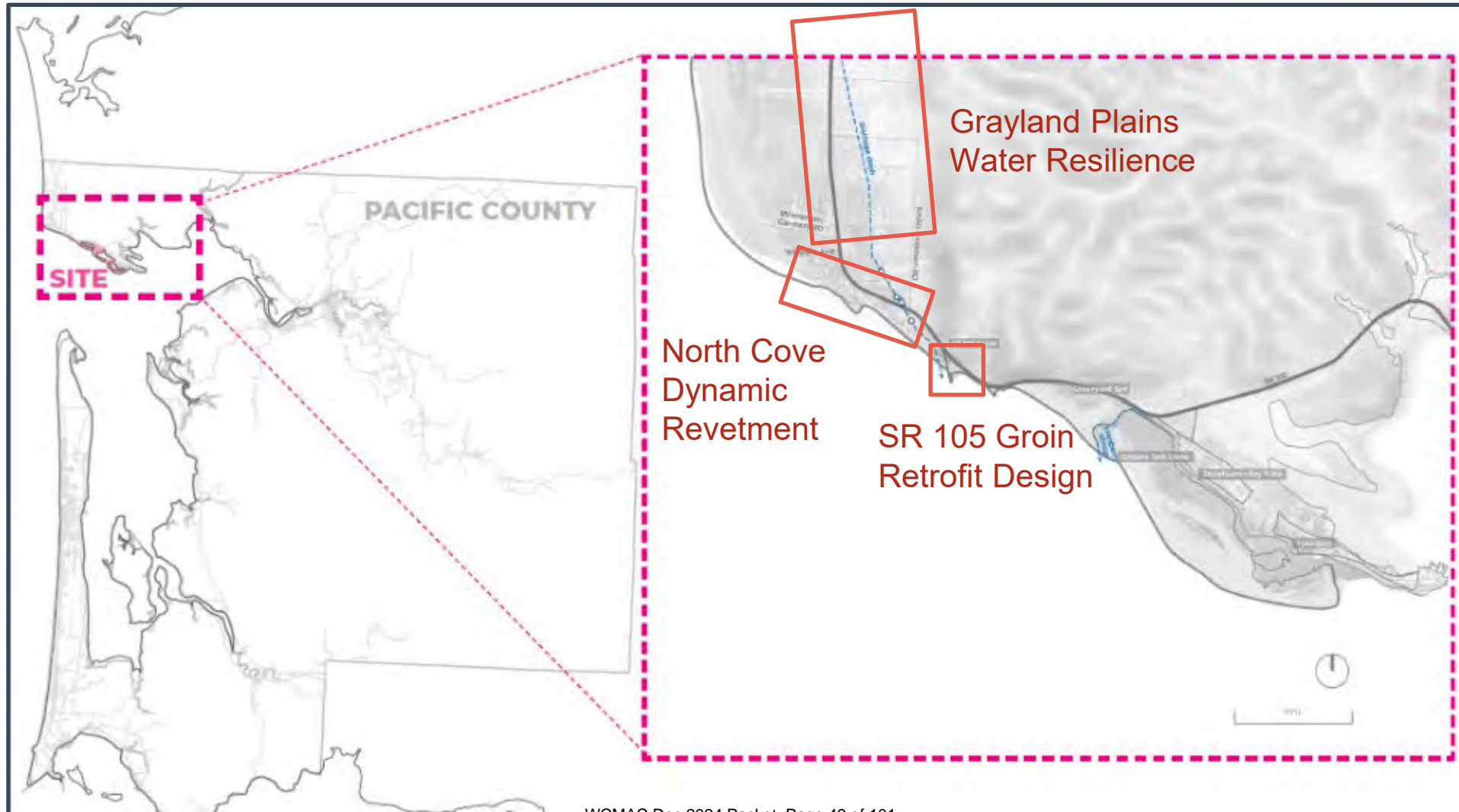








# Pacific Coast (\$15 million)





## North Cove



6/06/2018



2/13/2019

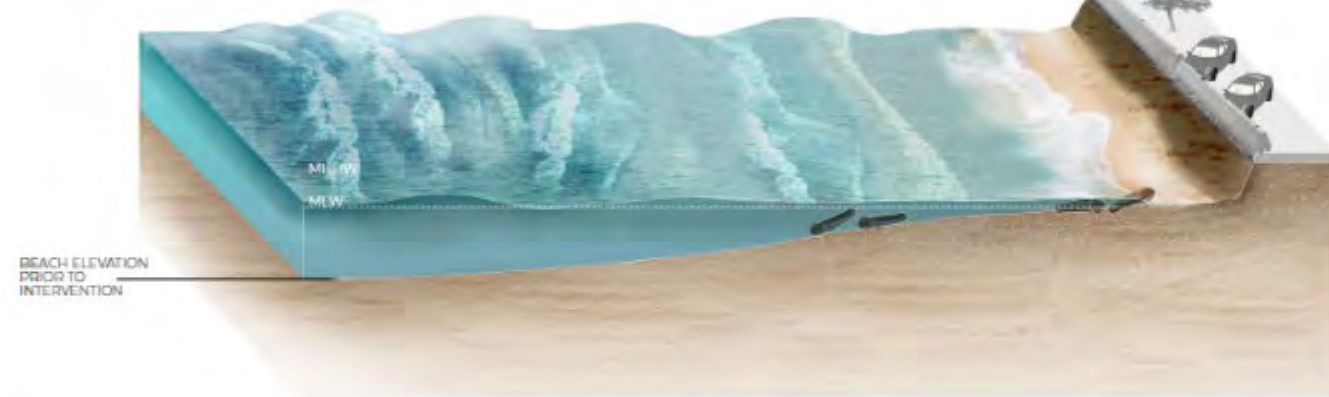


6/22/2020



## DYNAMIC REVETMENT (BUILT)

### PRE-CONSTRUCTION

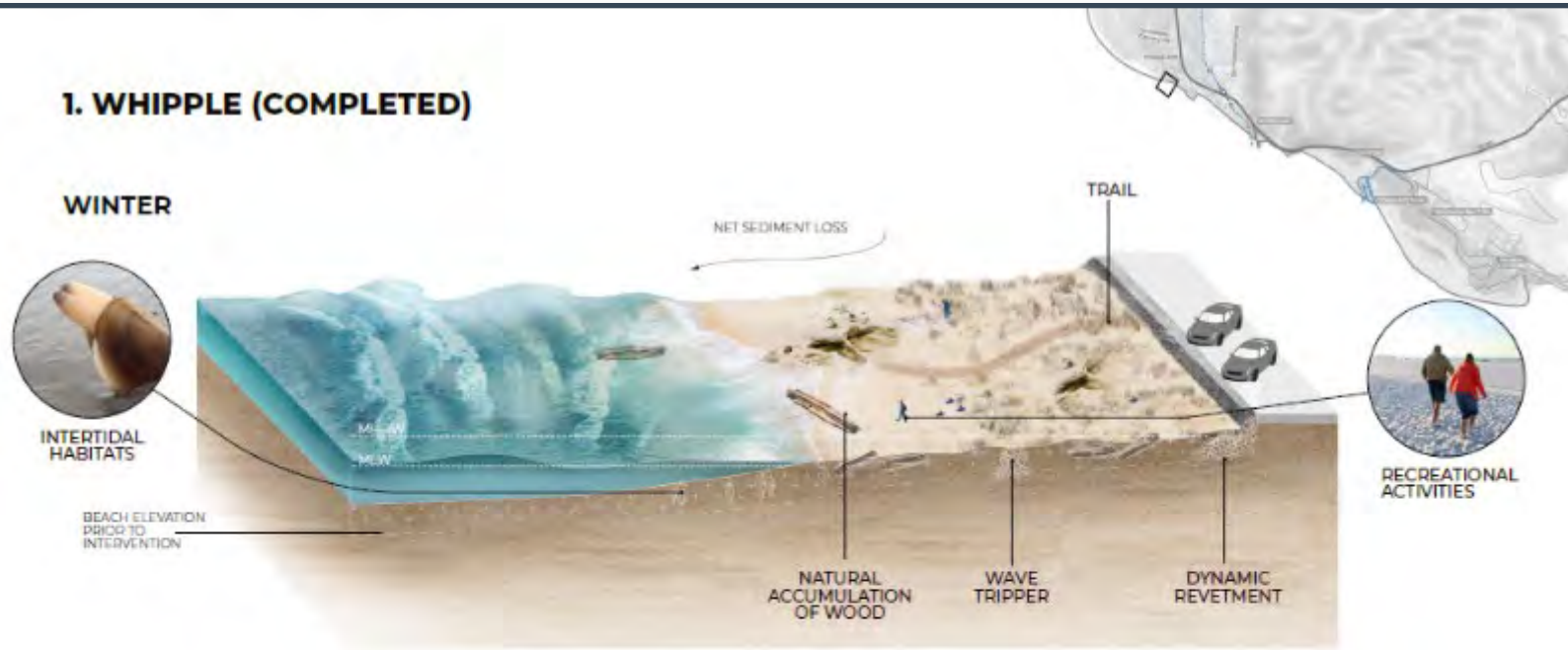


### AS BUILT

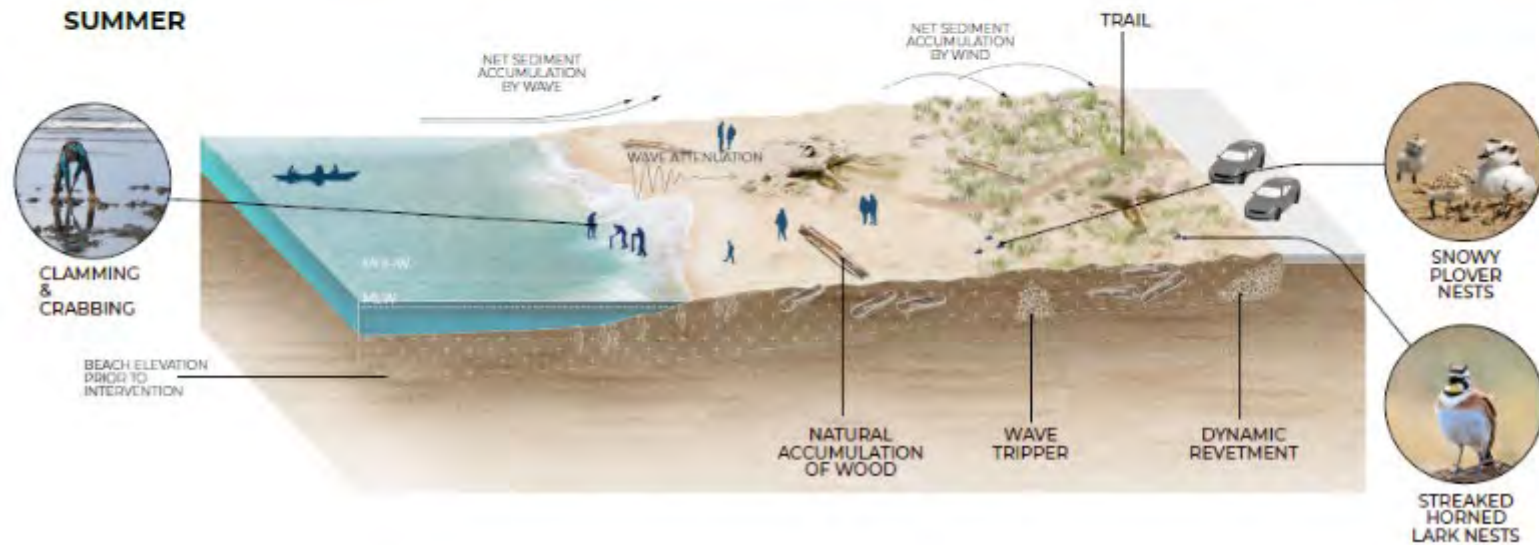


## 1. WHIPPLE (COMPLETED)

### WINTER



### SUMMER





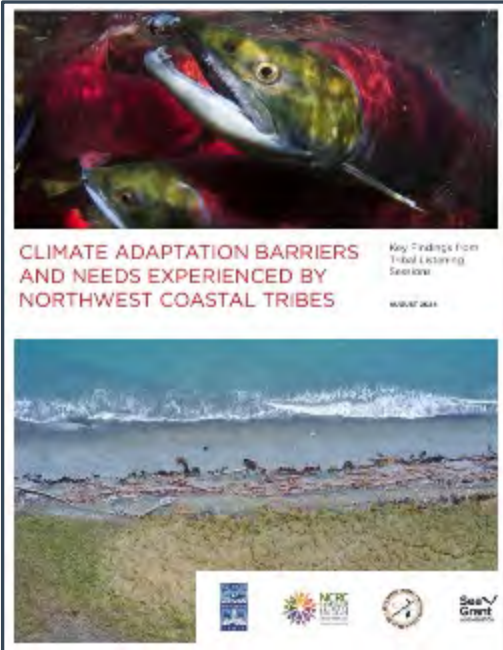


# Grayland Plains

Images: Grays Harbor County Drainage Ditch No 1



# Coastwide capacity building (\$11 million)



**Tribal Capacity Grants: \$3.3 million**

**Coastal Career Pathways: \$1.2 million**

**Local Resilience Fellowships & Climate Resilience Training Program: \$4 million**



**Topobathymetry data: \$1.7 million**

**Scaling Coastal Resilience: \$650,000**





# Thank you!

**Henry Bell**  
Coastal Planner

Email: [henry.bell@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:henry.bell@ecy.wa.gov)

Read the blog:  
<https://ecology.wa.gov/blog/august-2024/big-investments-boost-washington-s-coastal-resiliency>

*More information coming soon!*





# September WCMAC Meeting

September 11, 2024



WASHINGTON  
COASTAL  
MARINE  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL





# Introductions & Agenda Review

# Reminder

This meeting will be broadcast live and recorded by TVW.

# WCMAC Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:25 AM	Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review
10:25 – 10:40 AM	WCMAC Updates
10:40 – 11:10 AM	Updates
11:10 – 11:45 AM	Budget Requests
11:45 – 11:55 AM	Public Comment
11:55 AM – 12:00 PM	Budget Requests (continued)
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Break
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Climate Commitment Act (CCA)
1:30 – 2:20 PM	West Coast Research Consortium
2:20 – 2:40 PM	Coastal Resilience Funding
2:40 – 2:50 PM	Public Comment
2:50 PM	Adjourn and Next Steps

# Ground Rules

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Constructive
3. Be Productive
4. Bring a Sense of Humor and Have Fun



# Zoom and In-person Reminders

- Zoom
  - Raise your virtual hand (Under “React”)
  - We will be monitoring the chat and members are welcome to use it to share out if more convenient (optional)
  - Having video on is optional – but we’d love to have your video on during discussion if your bandwidth allows
- In-person
  - Bathrooms and emergency exits
  - Use your name placards – tip sideways
  - Be mindful that the mic can pick-up side conversations!

Chair will  
acknowledge  
WCMAC  
members in  
order

# Expectations for Observers

- **Please use the public comment period link included in the agenda** if you want to make a comment during the public comment period.
- Public comments are encouraged to be 2-3 minutes or less.
- Chat is still available for virtual participants.
- **Public comment periods are not for WCMAC members.**

# Roll Call – Introductions (*sorted by first name*)

- **Bobbak Talebi**, Representative of Department of Ecology
- **Brian Blake**, Representative of coastal commercial fishing
- **Brian Polagye**, Representative from energy industries or organizations
- **Carrie Sessions**, Representative of the Governor's Office
- **Christian Meinig**, Representative from coastal energy industries or organizations
- **Corey Niles**, Representative of WDFW
- **David Beugli**, Representative of shellfish aquaculture
- **Garrett Dalan**, Representative of Grays Harbor Marine resources Committee
- **Katie Arkema**, Representative from a science organization
- **Larry Thevik**, Representative of coastal commercial fishing
- **Mara Zimmerman**, Representative from Washington Coast Salmon Partnership
- **Matt Niles**, Representative of Washington State Parks
- **Michael Nordin**, Representative of Pacific Marine Resources Committee
- **Michal Rechner**, Representative of Department of Natural Resources
- **Michele Conrad**, Representative from coastal economic development group
- **Molly Bold**, Representative from a coastal port
- **Nives Dolsak**, Representative from an educational institution
- **Paula Culbertson**, Representative of Wahkiakum Marine Resources Committee
- **Peter Steelquist**, Representative of coastal recreation
- **Phil Anderson**, Representative of coastal recreational fishing
- **Rod Fleck**, Representative of North Pacific Marine Resources Committee
- **Stephanie Bowman**, Representative of the Department of Commerce



# Adopt May & July Meeting Minutes



# WCMAC Updates



# WCMAC Updates

- Announcements
- Election and Process

## Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council

c/o Washington of Ecology SEA Program PO Box 47600 Olympia WA 98504-7600

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, 98504-0002

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

SUBJECT: Recommendations on the 2024 Gridworks Report on Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC), thank you for the opportunity to provide your office with our suggestions, concerns, and recommendations regarding the report submitted to your office entitled "[A Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement Framework for Washington State](#)," hereinafter, referred to as the "Report." This Report, which researched and recommended ways to shape the "planning and evaluation of offshore wind off Washington's Pacific Coast," was circulated to WCMAC membership in a draft and final form for review and comment.

As you are aware, the collective membership of the WCMAC collaboratively works to ensure the resiliency and vibrancy of coastal Washington and the protection and preservation of existing ocean uses. The WCMAC consists of a wide range of coastal stakeholders who come together pursuant to its statutory charge to create a forum to discuss and provide recommendations on coastal management issues (see [RCW 43.143.060](#)).

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, WCMAC held a Special Meeting where the membership, by an affirmative vote<sup>1</sup>, authorized the submittal of a letter to you containing the collective comments and recommendations on the Gridwork's Report. This letter builds upon the WCMAC's recommended "[Principles of Engagement](#)" dated January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023, regarding offshore wind (OSW) projects.

We are grateful for your initiation of this work and your commitment to further review, assess, and respond to potential offshore wind energy development and potential formal interactions with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) OSW lease process. While OSW is the

<sup>1</sup> State agencies and the Governor's Office recognize and value the role of the WCMAC in advising the Governor, Legislature, and agencies on coastal management issues. A vital part of this is ensuring that recommendations to the Governor are representative of coastal stakeholders' perspectives while also being informed by agency expertise. For this reason, WCMAC representatives from state agencies and the Governor's Office have participated in discussion of the Gridworks report but have abstained from either supporting or opposing these recommendations. **The views and recommendations included in this letter reflect only those of the non-state agency WCMAC representatives.** The Governor's Office has, and will continue, to solicit input on the Gridworks report from agency experts, federally recognized Tribes, and stakeholders including the WCMAC.







# Updates

- Governor's Office Updates
- MRC Updates
- Agency Updates
- General Coastal Updates
- Technical Committee Updates
- MRAC Update



# OSW TC Objectives

- Provide guidance on engagement and/or principles of engagement to the State and BOEM.
  - (Addressed via the *Principles of Engagement*)
- Review existing data and community research needs considering the OSW Energy unsolicited lease requests, including:
  - See how OSW will fit (or not fit) with the MSP
  - Lessons learned from other OSW processes
  - Review of projects alignment with ORMA and other relevant policies



# Budget Requests



# Department of Fish and Wildlife

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Capital Budget: Hatchery Work, Improving Safety &amp; Climate Resilience of Hatcheries</b>	Approximately 75% of the capital budget is spent on the agency's hatchery work and the capital plan includes resources for improving safety and climate resilience (e.g. water recirculation and filtration systems) of the agency's hatcheries and implementation of <a href="#">the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Hatchery Infrastructure Master Plan</a> .	Total request of \$209.2 million, including \$177 million in Major Works guided by <a href="#">the 10-year capital plan</a> .	Capital Budget
<b>WDFW Staff &amp; Volunteer Safety</b>	New policies and equipment focused on field staff safety and to expand safety training capacity and awareness and volunteer safety initiatives.	\$9.1 million	Operating Budget
<b>Restoring Washington's Biodiversity</b>	Request for proposals not funded for the 2023-2-25 biennium focused on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for conservation of the state's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).	\$15.0 million	Operating Budget
<b>Requests to convert "onetime" to ongoing funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$7.2 million - Quagga &amp; Zebra Mussel Prevention</li> <li>• \$1.6 million - Salmon and Steelhead Monitoring</li> <li>• \$2.0 million - Riparian Systems Assessment</li> <li>• \$1.1 million - Streamflow Policy Support</li> <li>• \$3.1 million - Pinniped Predation</li> <li>• \$0.6 million - Crab Fishery &amp; Humpbacks</li> <li>• <i>Unfunded, Underfunded, and New:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$18.6 million - Restore Enforcement capacity</li> <li>○ \$6.9 million - Scientific Data Modernization</li> <li>○ \$2.7 million - Hatchery Investment Strategy</li> <li>○ \$4.8 million - Coastal Salmonid Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$48.6 million  See details column for budget breakdown	Operating Budget

# Department of Natural Resources (1 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
<b>Aquatic Resources Conservation Corps</b>	For 40 years, DNR has utilized conservation corps program crews and individual placements to help manage the variety of needs of our state's lands and waters. Aquatics Resources Division is highly dependent on the Corps to maintain critical services. Corps are the primary "boots on the ground" for both the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Aquatic Reserves programs. DNR's Aquatic Resources Division is therefore requesting continued funding for conservation corps within both Aquatic Invasive Species and Aquatic Reserves programs.	\$1,719,034	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
<b>Derelict Structure Removal Program (Operating)</b>	DNR is requesting funding to complete planning and permitting for one of the four priority structures (Ballard Pier), continue work to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina for recreational use, and initiate new projects including removal of submerged tire piles from Puget Sound. This is a continuation of work under the newly established Derelict Structure Removal Program.	\$2,105,000	Derelict Structures Removal Account
<b>Derelict Structure Removal Program (Capital)</b>	DNR is requesting funding to complete planning and permitting for one of the four priority structures (Ballard Pier), continue work to refurbish the historic Lakebay Marina for recreational use, and initiate new projects including removal of submerged tire piles from Puget Sound. This is a continuation of work under the newly established Derelict Structure Removal Program.	\$6,848,600	Capital
<b>DVRP Large Vessel Removal</b>	In 2023 and 2024, DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP) was inundated with an unprecedented number of very large abandoned and derelict vessels ranging from 60 to 170 feet in length. These vessels pose a significant risk to the environment and are extremely costly to remove. This request will allow DVRP to address large, high-risk vessels while continuing the critical work of removing and intercepting hundreds of smaller vessels across the state.	\$13,500,000	Capital



# Department of Natural Resources (2 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
<b>Managing European Green Crab on State-Owned Aquatic Lands</b>	DNR is requesting a continuation of operating funds to continue implementing European Green Crab management on State-owned Aquatic Lands beyond FY25. The Legislature provided one-time funding for this work in FY25, but requested we seek additional funds in concert with WDFW for the 2025-2027 biennium. The 2025-2027 request will allow full implementation of the DNR work plan through staff continuity and procurement of long-term facilities in closer proximity to operations, transportation, and all equipment and supplies required. DNR is currently utilizing resources from other DNR existing programs to augment EGC management, at a cost to those programs.	\$2,255,200	GF-S
<b>Watershed Resilience Program Maintenance</b>	DNR's Watershed Resilience Program accelerates the pace of salmon recovery by advancing how DNR supports internal and external programs related to salmon recovery and watershed resilience. In 2022, the agency launched the Snohomish Watershed Resilience Action Plan (WRAP) as the flagship effort in a new, programmatic approach to advance salmon recovery and watershed health, and in 2023 extended this work into two additional priority watersheds (Puyallup and Nisqually). The programs seeks to achieve 5 key goals by coordinating and expanding the agency's work at the watershed scale : 1) Protect and clean up aquatic habitat. 2) Restore, conserve and connect forests and riparian habitat. 3) Revitalize urban forests and streams. 4) Engage and invest in communities. 5) Reduce and combat climate impacts. DNR is requesting maintenance-level funding (\$1,765,000) to continue to strengthen and expand the critical salmon recovery work across the three target watersheds. This work will enhance salmon recovery, and inform climate resilience approaches, across Washington State.	\$1,765,000	

# Washington State Parks (1 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
Responding to Climate Change	State Parks is increasingly seeing the effects of climate change across the park system, including coastal erosion, at-risk natural and cultural resources, planning, facility management, park operations and visitor experience. Additional funding is requested for staff and resources to accelerate continued development and implementation of climate-informed practices, including decarbonization of agency operations to achieve greenhouse gas emission objectives; investment in climate adaptation analysis to identify at-risk resources; build capacity to review and update agency rules and policies and clearly communicate Parks climate change response efforts to foster a culture of awareness and inclusion.	\$2,848,000	Operating Budget
Resource Adaptation & Management	Stewardship of State Parks' diverse natural resources, including some of the state's rarest species and ecosystems, is increasingly impacted by invasive weeds and insects, climate change, and recreation. This request would provide the necessary funding to better control invasive species, implement habitat restoration treatments, and develop and implement management prescriptions. These actions would help increase regulatory compliance, meet policy requirements, improve long-term sustainability and resilience of natural resources, including tribally important resources; reduce the potential for negative economic and ecological impacts from invasive species; and improve visitor experience and well-being.	\$1,569,000	Operating Budget



# Washington State Parks (2 of 2)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>South Beach Area Administration and Maintenance Facility (Agency Priority #6)</b>	<p>This project relocates administration and maintenance facilities for the South Beach Area from Twin Harbors State Park to Grayland Beach State Park. Twin Harbors State Park is built over a historic dune system. The dune system includes high points and depressions that have formed into wetlands over time. Dramatic rain accumulations coupled with wetland formation in the depressions cause the park to flood regularly throughout the fall, winter, and spring.</p> <p>A large portion of the east side campground floods with 1 to 2 feet of water, causing major interruptions to park and area operations. Staff are displaced in the winter and staff time and money are spent every year cleaning up flood water from the building, sometimes multiple times a year. A location at Grayland Beach four miles south of Twin Harbors was recently acquired and selected as the site for relocating administrative facilities. This newly acquired location provides for a high and dry site adjacent to one of the state's busiest campgrounds.</p>	\$1,366,000	Capital Budget
<b>Twin Harbors State Park Renovation (Agency Priority #35)</b>	<p>This phased project relocates a portion of the Twin Harbors campground from its current site which was originally built in a wetland that floods annually to a dry location. It restores the old campground area to its historic wetland state. Twin Harbors State Park is built over a historic dune system. The dune system includes high points and depressions that have formed into wetlands over time. Dramatic rain accumulations coupled with wetland formation in the depressions cause the park to flood regularly throughout the fall, winter, and spring.</p> <p>Until recently, this site was State Park's largest campground with almost 300 sites, 94 of which were recently closed due to risks associated with the poor health of trees that could fall unexpectedly onto visitors. Other portions within the existing campground, including roadways and utility systems, are beyond their useful life. A comprehensive look at the entire park, its functions and values, and appropriate locations for recreational facilities and approaches to natural system restoration was completed during predesign. This project would also increase visitor safety as they will not have to cross the highway for beach access.</p>	\$3,629,000	Capital Budget

# Department of Ecology (1 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
Implementing Climate Resilience	As directed by the Legislature, Ecology is updating the state's climate resilience strategy by September 30, 2024. This update includes recommending a robust governance structure to enhance interagency coordination and strategy implementation. In collaboration with nine partner agencies, Ecology has identified a preferred governance model that requires core staff at Ecology and funding to support the participation of overburdened communities, vulnerable populations, and Tribes. Ecology is proposing agency request legislation to formalize and establish this governance structure and seek funding and staff resources to effectively implement the state's climate resilience strategy.	\$1,158,000	Operating Budget
Protecting Washington's Shorelines	In 2023, the Legislature enacted House Bill 1181, incorporating climate change resilience and environmental justice goals into the state's Growth Management Act. The bill also mandates updates to local comprehensive development plans and shoreline master programs. To help Washington communities meet these new requirements, overcome implementation challenges, and enhance climate resilience, Ecology is requesting additional staff capacity. These resources will provide essential technical assistance, strengthen review capacity, and support the effective implementation of new shoreline master program provisions.	\$1,317,000	Operating Budget
Accelerating Floodplain Resilience	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program to educate communities about flood risks and produces flood risk maps. However, many of these maps in Washington are outdated, impeding the state's efforts to protect homes, businesses, and public infrastructure from flooding. Outdated maps are also delaying and increasing costs for numerous salmon restoration projects. Ecology is requesting additional resources to update flood risk maps, offer technical support to communities, and advance salmon recovery projects.	\$ 1,122,000	Operating Budget

# Department of Ecology (2 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - DRAFT	Funding Source
Coastal Resilience Capacity Grants	Washington's coastal communities are increasingly threatened by climate change risks, including flooding, erosion, and rising sea levels. At Governor Inslee's request, the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council developed recommendations in 2021 to foster collaboration between state agencies and coastal communities to tackle these issues. Ecology already received funding to enhance data analysis for assessing site-specific vulnerabilities and to provide coordinated state-level technical support. This request seeks additional funding to boost local community capacity for designing and implementing effective on-the-ground climate resilience projects. (General Fund-State)	\$ 2,000,000	Operating Budget
Aquatic Permitting and Aquaculture	In March 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) revoked Nationwide Permit 48 for shellfish aquaculture in Washington. This decision has led to an unexpected increase in workload for Ecology, as we can no longer rely on the programmatic decision under Nationwide Permit 48. Consequently, all shellfish aquaculture projects previously authorized by this permit now require individual review, public notice, and decision-making by Ecology. Our current staff must manage this additional workload, protect water quality, and ensure that project proponents comply with certification conditions. (General Fund-State)	\$ 671,000	Operating Budget
River Migration Mapping for Salmon	The State/Tribal Riparian Work Group, focused on salmon recovery, prioritized Channel Migration Zone mapping for riparian habitat protection. In response, the Legislature allocated one-time funding for fiscal year 2023 and 2023-25 to Ecology to develop a statewide Channel Migration Zone mapping methodology. This request seeks ongoing funding to continue collaborating with Tribes, agencies, and community partners to complete the remaining tasks and provide continuous technical assistance to Tribes and local governments. (General Fund-State)	\$ 378,000	Operating Budget



# Department of Ecology (3 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>European Green Crab Research</b>	The European green crab, an invasive species, poses a serious threat to Washington's coastal resources, causing long-term ecological and economic damage. In response, Governor Inslee issued Emergency Proclamation 22-02, prioritizing emergency control measures on state-owned lands. The Legislature allocated funds to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with Ecology receiving part of this funding to support trapping efforts for 2023-25. Ecology is now requesting additional resources to conduct research that will enhance our understanding of the crab's behavior. This research will aid in developing long-term strategic management and monitoring plans, helping natural resource managers assess environmental factors influencing the crab's spread and predict impacts on coastal resources. (General Fund-State)	\$ 542,000	Operating Budget
<b>BIL/IRA Federal Authority (Climate Resilience Regional Challenge Grant)</b>	The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act have boosted federal funding for environmental and public health projects. Ecology seeks additional spending authority to leverage seven new funding opportunities as of August 1, 2024. One of those opportunities is the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge grant. This grant will aid Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Partners by advancing shovel-ready projects in underserved areas, enhancing outreach and workforce development, and formalizing a lasting partnership. It aims to transform coastal landscapes, address data gaps, and build leadership for ongoing and future climate resilience efforts. (General Fund-Federal)	\$73,600,000	Operating Budget

# Department of Ecology (4 of 4)

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
<b>Floodplains by Design</b>	Washington's 2018 Hazard Inventory and Vulnerability Assessment reports that flooding damages surpass those of all other natural hazards. Since 1980, flooding has inflicted over \$2 billion in damages, particularly in Western Washington's densely populated areas. Historically, flood solutions often conflicted with ecosystem protection efforts. The Floodplains by Design (FbD) grant program addresses this by integrating flood-hazard reduction with salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and community benefits. This program is a public-private partnership involving Ecology, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and the Puget Sound Partnership. (State Building Construction Account)	\$ 84,000,000	Capital Budget
<b>Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds</b>	The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, funds the protection of vital coastal and estuarine areas with significant conservation, recreational, or ecological value. Although coastal wetlands cover less than 10% of the nation's land, they support diverse plant and animal life. Washington's coastal regions are crucial for threatened and endangered species, fishery resources, migratory songbirds, and wintering waterfowl. Ecology administers these federal grants to state agencies, Tribes, and local governments. Ecology is requesting \$10 million in federal capital appropriation authority for the 2025-27 biennium to potentially secure additional grants. (General Funds-Federal)	\$ 10,000,000	Capital Budget



A scenic photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there are large, moss-covered rocks in the shallow water. In the middle ground, a large, isolated rock formation with a small tree on top stands in the water. In the background, a steep, forested cliff rises from the shore. The sky is overcast with soft clouds.

# Public Comment #1





# Budget Requests

*(continued)*

# Lunch Break

- Please reconvene at 1:00 pm at this same Zoom link.





# Climate Commitment Act (CCA)

*Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office*





# West Coast Research Consortium



The slide features a background image of a rugged coastline. On the left, a steep, moss-covered rock cliff meets the ocean, with white waves crashing at its base. To the right, a grassy hill rises, topped with a white lighthouse with a black lantern room. Several tall, dark evergreen trees are scattered across the hill. The sky is a clear, pale blue. A large, semi-transparent blue rectangle covers the right half of the slide, serving as a backdrop for the title and presenter information.

# Coastal Resilience Funding

*Henry Bell, Ecology*



A scenic photograph of a rocky coastline. In the foreground, there are large, moss-covered rocks in the shallow water. In the middle ground, a large, isolated rock formation stands in the water, topped with a small evergreen tree. In the background, a steep, forested cliff rises from the shore. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the rocks.

# Public Comment #2



A coastal scene featuring a blue house with a white railing on the left, a large metal building in the center, and a boat in the water on the right. The water is calm, reflecting the buildings and the sky. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

# Thank You for Participating!

Next WCMAC Meeting: December 3, 2024  
On a Tuesday!!



## Appendix B. Technical Committee Meeting Summaries

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Please see final meeting summaries on the next page.

# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee  
August 27, 2024 | 1pm – 3pm

## Participants

### WCMAC Members

- Brian Blake, Commercial Fishing
- Brian Polagye, Energy Industry
- Corey Niles, WDFW
- Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC
- Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing (TC Co-Lead)
- Rod Fleck, WCMAC Chair, North Pacific MRC

### TC Members, Staff, and Guests

- Mai Aoki, Ecology
- Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood Consultants
- Nicole Gutierrez & Alle Brown-Law, Facilitation

## Notes

### OSW Updates

- Larry recognized and expressed appreciation to Rod and Nicole for the thoughtful letter capturing WCMAC's consensus on the Gridworks product and recommendations.
  - Rod noted that the Governor's Office received the letter, and they are starting to think through potential next steps.
  - Larry noted that Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office representative, suggested that this might be a time to identify some specific action the WCMAC might take. There also may be some things Governor Inslee has the capacity to work on before leaving office, such as reinvigorating the proposed legislation for research on the oceanographic impacts of OSW.
  - Nicole commented that the September WCMAC meeting will include a discussion of Gridworks' Recommendation 2 (Research Consortium).
- Larry shared Tribal letters on OSW that were presented to the PFMC Marine Planning Committee. The letters demonstrate the Tribes' significant concerns about offshore wind efforts continuing off the West Coast without further impacts analysis done. [Watch the Marine Planning Committee recording here.](#)
  - Mike O. shared that the Makah Tribe are working closely with NOAA-NMFS on some of the questions they have for OSW.



- Larry updated that BOEM is likely to continue with Public Sales Notices in Oregon in October, despite all the public objections.
- Brian Polagye shared that there was a recent blade failure at Vineyard Wind. There have also been two blade failures in the UK – all failures are in blades from the same manufacturer. In the US, they shut down all turbines in the farm and issued a pause on all construction with those blades. This was a more extreme reaction than the UK's response.
- Brian Polagye shared that US Dept. of Energy's wind office does have call open for a [Floating Offshore Wind Center of Excellence](#) that will likely involve institutions in OR and CA (and maybe WA), but the funding is limited (under \$5M) and will be spread over a range of engineering, environmental, and socioeconomic topics and over multiple years.
  - Mike O. commented that \$5 M is limited. Brian P. agreed.

## Objective 2 Action Plan

### General Comments

- Larry appreciated the new timeline section in this draft, particularly having specific focuses for each meeting.
- Corey asked how the Action Plan responds to recent events, particularly the Gridworks recommendations? How does the Action Plan fit in with progress being made at the state level?
  - Larry responded that the Gridworks report was not meant to supplant the processes put in place by the WCMAC. It will have some potential to modify our processes, as we continue to consider our charge from the greater WCMAC. Larry doesn't see a reason to incorporate the Gridworks report into this Action Plan more than what we've already done.
- Brian P. approves of the plan, particularly the addition of the timeline. He recommended, in the Data and Community Research Needs section, moving the Economics section above the Comprehensive Planning Processes.

### Introduction Section

- Larry asked for clarification about “developing meeting agendas” in Paragraph 1 of Introduction.
  - Nicole explained this language references how the Action Plan will help guide the development of agendas for this Technical Committee.
  - Larry suggested deleting “developing meeting agendas.”
- Larry asked for clarification about “tracking BOEM comment periods.” He suggested it say: “tracking comments received during BOEM comment periods.”
- Rod asked if the Intro Section could reference offshore energy more broadly, rather than just offshore wind. Could we use a footnote like the recent WCMAC letter to the Governor?
  - Larry noted that offshore wind has been the impetus of this Technical Committee but recognized that this might impact other offshore energy sources in the ocean. He supported adding a footnote similar to the letter to the Governor.

- Mike O. suggested that “address” means taking action beyond just gathering the data/community research needs. That isn’t within the scope of the TC.
- Mike O. noted that BOEM takes comments continually, not just during formal comment periods.
- Larry made an addition to the second bullet “Reviewing RCW...” He suggested the following addition: “...expanding scope of focus to ensure WCMAC consider and follow these legislative mandates going forward.”

### Objective 2 Section

- No concerns from Garrett or Corey.
- Larry had no suggested changes to this section. He agreed with Nicole that quite a lot of time has passed since WCMAC created this Objective. We’ve learned a lot in the process and our perceptions have changed over time. He noted a need to understand the impacts that could affect us moving forward.

### Technical Committee Scope and Approach

- Brian B. had no edits or concerns. He liked the way it’s laid out.
- Rod had no edits or concerns.
- Larry asked that the “serve as a forum” bullet include Gridworks, Ecology, National Marine Fisheries, and Tribes, since all these entities have also compiled data gaps and needs.
  - Mike O. noted that many environmental groups have also commented on research needs.
  - Larry agreed.
- Larry noted that it’s not likely that Tribal sovereigns will enter into the State/stakeholder engagement process, but Tribes have published comment letters that the TC can reference. The TC should catalogue these comments over time.
- Larry noted that for meeting summaries to serve as a resource, we would need to develop a publicly accessible resource folder or website for people to use.
  - Larry suggested that Ecology’s EZ View site for the WCMAC could be a useful place to catalog resources.

### Data and Community Research Needs

- Brian B. had no edits or concerns.
- Larry added a clarification MSP Data Viewer section, in the sub-bullet about observation-poor data. He commented how important it is to incorporate short-tailed albatross in the MSP Data Viewer.
  - Mike O. noted that there are direct events (like collision with a turbine) and indirect events (like species having to avoid wind farms and using more energy).
- Brian P. suggested moving Economics section above Comprehensive Planning Processes section.
- Larry made updates to the “Efforts and outcomes” bullet in the Offshore Wind and Ecosystem/Fisheries Impacts section.



- Larry added “or if” to “identify areas where, **or if**, offshore wind and existing ocean uses coexist...” in the Lessons Learned section.

### Next Steps

- Goal to finalize the Objective 2 Action Plan in October OSW TC meeting and present the Action Plan to the full WCMAC in December.
- Next OSW TC Meeting: October 22, 2024.

## Appendix C. Draft Objective 2 Action Plan

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Please see the working draft of the OSW Technical Committee Objective 2 Action Plan on the next page.



# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee

Objective 2 Action Plan **(Working Draft)**

## Introduction

The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory (WCMAC) Objective 2 Action Plan (Action Plan) provides a **framework** the OSW Technical Committee (OSW TC) can use to accomplish a review of existing data and community research needs considering floating OSW topics per Objective 2. It does this by (1) establishing an approach the OSW TC will use to identify and/or address data and community research needs, (2) summarizing initial data and community research need themes identified by the OSW TC, and (3) identifying specific themes for the OSW TC to address first and establishing sequencing. The Action Plan is intended to be an **internal roadmap** to guide future OSW TC meeting agendas and potential action to accomplish Objective 2. It is a living document that will be updated to reflect the status of the OSW TC.

Prior to developing the Action Plan, the OSW TC fulfilled Objective 1: *Provide guidance on engagement and/or principles of engagement to the State and BOEM in 2022-2023.* This work resulted in [five key principles of engagement](#), which were approved by the WCMAC and provided to the Governor's office and state agencies in 2023. These engagement principles represent a suite of recommendations and expectations about how BOEM should meaningfully engage coastal communities and affected stakeholders off the coast of Washington. While offshore wind (OSW) is the focus of the Technical Committee and this Action Plan, WCMAC recognizes that Washington may be asked to consider other emerging offshore energy generation methods or schemes. The learning and information gathered by the OSW TC while enacting this Action Plan may also apply to these other forms of offshore energy generation.

During development of the Action Plan, the OSW TC responded to timely OSW updates occurring off the West Coast and to WCMAC requests. This included:

- Seeking to understand the process used to develop the [June 9, 2023 Oregon letter to BOEM](#).
- Reviewing [RCW 43.143](#), [RCW 43.372](#), and [WAC 173-26-360](#) to identify what facets WCMAC may not be considering related to OSW, expanding scope of focus to ensure WCMAC consider and follow these legislative mandates going forward.
- Collaborating with the Governor's office to stay up to date on Governor's actions related to OSW – including the Gridworks engagement recommendation project, informing the development of the [WCMAC's recommendation letter on the](#)

[Gridworks Report](#), and tracking actions taken by the Governor’s Office following the Gridworks Report.

- Tracking the comments submitted to BOEM regarding OSW development processes in OR and CA; tracking comments from and action taken by Tribal sovereigns and the State of Oregon.

## Objective 2

In September 2022, the WCMAC approved two objectives for the OSW TC. **Objective 2** charges the OSW TC to:

Review existing data and community research needs considering the OSW Energy unsolicited lease requests, including:

1. See how OSW will fit (or not fit) with the Marine Spatial Plan.
2. Lessons learned from other OSW processes.
3. Review of projects alignment with ORMA and other relevant policies.

The following Action Plan considers the stated objective as follows:

- The review of existing data and community research needs is not confined to the OSW Energy unsolicited lease requests, rather, review that will occur was *prompted* by the unsolicited lease requests. Therefore, the review of existing data and community research needs will be broader in its scope to include any potential development of OSW off the coast of WA.
- The points included in the objective are examples of the type of review that should take place, but review is not limited to these (e.g., the OSW TC will respond to timely requests from the WCMAC and the Governor’s Office as needed).
- In the context of this Action Plan, data and community research needs refers to environmental, socioeconomic, and scientific needs.

This Action Plan is not meant to be a comprehensive or detailed action plan, rather, it provides direction and allows WCMAC to remain flexible and responsive as more information becomes available or other needs arise.

Throughout Action Plan discussions, the OSW TC continued to add-to and refine the identified data and community research needs. The summarized themes in the [Data and Community Research Needs](#) section below is intended to be a living list, and will be refined and expanded as needed.

## Action Plan Table of Contents



1. **Technical Committee Scope and Approach.** Details the scope of the Technical Committee, the Action Plan approach, and provides considerations to further explore moving forward.
2. **Data and Community Research Needs.** Summarizes OSW data and community research needs identified to date.
3. **Timeline.** Outlines a timeline for Action Plan implementation and the focus of future OSW meetings.

## Technical Committee Scope and Approach

The following actions are within the scope and expertise of the OSW TC:

- Identifying information and data needs to be incorporated in the MSP data viewer
- Clarifying key questions related to the identified data and research needs
- Tracking OSW development and issues in other locations
- Addressing the WCMAC action items
- Providing OSW updates and recommendations to the WCMAC

The following approach will guide the OSW TC to review existing data and community research needs that are identified:

- Invite outside experts, including tribal sovereigns, and/or WCMAC members with relevant expertise to speak on the topics and questions raised by the OSW TC.
- Actions that are within the scope and expertise of the OSW TC (identified above) will be addressed by committee members.
- Serve as a forum to further discuss the data and community research needs identified by the OSW TC, Gridworks, Ecology, National Marine Fisheries, Tribes, NGOs/environmental groups, and other subject matter experts to improve the TC and WCMAC's collective understanding of offshore wind energy.

In addition to the actions that are within the scope and expertise of the OSW TC and will be addressed by committee members, the OSW TC will also work to invite outside experts, including tribal sovereigns, and/or WCMAC members with relevant expertise to speak on the topics and questions raised by the OSW TC. Appropriate forums for the identified themes include OSW TC meetings, full WCMAC meetings, and community meetings open to members of the OSW TC, the WCMAC, the interested public, and affected parties. Community meetings would be modeled after the presentations used by the WCMAC during the development of the resilience recommendations. This approach would help the OSW TC improve its collective understanding of offshore wind development and associated impacts on existing ocean uses, marine environments, and coastal communities. Furthermore, discussions like these would help the OSW TC and WCMAC meet its legislative intent to serve as a forum for discussion and provide members with the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and provide their perspective on these issues.

Additionally, this approach would improve the OSW TC’s ability to provide meaningful and well-informed feedback to the State and BOEM when/if engagement opportunities arise, as outlined in the Principles of Engagement document developed by the OSW TC. Meeting summaries and other products from these presentations could serve as resources for OSW TC members, the WCMAC, and coastal communities.

## Data and Community Research Needs

Throughout Action Plan discussions, the OSW TC continued to add-to and refine the identified data and community research needs. The summarized themes in the [Data and Community Research Needs](#) section are intended to be a **living list**, not a comprehensive list, and **will be refined and expanded as needed**. The OSW TC also recognizes the importance and need for research funding to fill these data gaps.

See [Appendix A. Action Plan Development Background](#) for more information about the TC’s process of identifying these data needs.

### Emerging Data and Research Needs – Gridworks and Ecology Reports

In addition to the needs identified below, the Technical Committee will review the research and data needs identified in the [Gridworks Final Report](#) and the **Ecology Data Gaps Assessment Report (once concluded)**, and will discuss additional data needs to include in those lists. This will help us define the questions before any potential action by BOEM.

### OSW Data and Community Research Needs Identified (*in no particular order*)

#### A. OFFSHORE WIND AND ECOSYSTEM/FISHERIES IMPACTS

- OSW cumulative impacts on the California current ecosystem (including but not limited to physical and hydrodynamic effects) and consequent impacts to fishing resources.
- The potential effects on Washington fisheries due to offshore wind development.
  - Effects of displacement on fishing.
  - Effects on processors, infrastructure that supports fishing industry.
  - Effects on fishing families.
  - Effects on tribal fishing rights, resources, and communities.
  - Effects of impacted ecosystems on WA fisheries.
- Efforts and outcomes from the National Academies of Sciences Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries, NOAA’s Synthesis of Science report NMFS-NE-291, June 28, 2022 NMFS report from NMFS Western Region BOEM-2022-0009, Pacific Marine Fisheries Council letters (10), ODFW, the NW & SW Fisheries Centers, and published Tribal position statements and comments.



**B. OTHER OSW DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- Projections for climate-related changes in wave and weather patterns that have been used to plan OSW in other locations.
- Existing port infrastructure, requirements, and limitations to facilitate offshore wind development for relevant ports on the Washington Coast.
- Potential effects of offshore wind development on vessel traffic patterns and safe navigation.
- Connections between offshore wind and tribal treaty rights, as well as any potential impacts to these rights.
- Washington utilities' decision-making process for electricity purchasing.

**C. LESSONS LEARNED**

- Efforts used in other locations to assess impacts from offshore wind, specifically floating OSW, on tide patterns, upwelling, and geologic hazards.
- Identify areas where, or if, offshore wind and existing ocean uses coexist with positive outcomes for both uses.
- Public Comment overview of OSW permit process – identifying recurrent themes.
- Review examples of offshore wind planning efforts and their connection to existing ocean uses to determine lessons learned. Identify pitfalls to avoid and other information to help inform efforts in Washington.
- Track development progress in other states and regions like California, Oregon, the Gulf of Mexico, the East Coast, and Europe (specifically focused on floating offshore wind). Focus on sites and offshore wind energy areas with characteristics similar to those in Washington.

**D. ECONOMICS**

- Socioeconomic implications and impacts of offshore wind development on fishing communities, the tribes, and national food security.
- Economic considerations behind offshore wind development and operation including topics such as the transmission costs, power purchase agreements, consumer impacts (particularly cost to consumers), community need for offshore wind-generated energy, and the WA State Energy Strategy.
- Potential effects of offshore wind development on energy transmission in the Pacific Northwest and potential effects to coastal communities.

**E. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESSES**

- Feasibility Analysis: Comparison between all possible renewable energy sources and analysis of each renewable energy source's feasibility, costs, and benefits to Washington. What is the right choice for the future of Washington State?
  - ORMA establishes an analysis process for demonstrated, significant local, state, or national need for proposed use or activity. CZMA, ORMA, enforceable policies help establish feasibility.
- Transmission feasibility and cost: How would energy generated by any potential Washington-based OSW be transmitted to land and connected to the grid? Can the Washington grid handle OSW energy inputs?

## F. BOEM PROCESS AND POLICIES

- Tracking public comments and comment letters submitted to BOEM by Tribes, state and federal agencies, stakeholders and stakeholder coalitions (such as PFMCI), and the public.
- BOEM's leasing process and its connection to CZMA consistency requirements and other laws. What is the state role in BOEM's process? What is the State's opportunity to affect outcomes?
- The implications of floating offshore wind facilities with existing ocean uses.

## G. MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) DATA VIEWER

- Discuss and identify updates to the MSP Data Viewer, including:
  - Identify new data layers to include
  - Identify necessary updates to existing data layers
  - Explore improvement to user interface, tools, and functionality
- Discuss other MSP Data Viewer considerations:
  - How to display observation-poor data (e.g. short-tailed albatross is an Endangered Species Act listed species, but observations are rare in Washington and are not presently on the MSP Data Viewer, but are considered a major conservation concern by US Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service).
  - How to display both direct and indirect impacts on endangered species.
  - Development constraints and/or barriers associated with Department of Defense operating areas, Department of Defense flyways, PAC PARs, critical habitat area, marine sanctuary, Tribal U&As, ESA Protected Species, High intensity fishing areas.

## Meeting Sequence and Focus

The table below lays out a potential implementation strategy for the Action Plan. Since the Action Plan is a living document, these meeting focuses and sequencing are subject to change, and will be updated.

**Note:** If the Governor's provisos on offshore wind move forward, the Technical Committee may refocus to comment/support the provisos.

Technical Committee Meeting	Meeting Focus
Meeting 1	Review data needs identified in Gridworks Final Report and Ecology Gaps Assessment; discuss additional data and research needs.  <b>Desired Outcome:</b> Create overall list of data needs to-date (combining OSW TC list, Gridworks list, and Ecology list).
Meeting 2	Confirm overall list of data needs to present at December WCMAC meeting.



Technical Committee Meeting	Meeting Focus
	<b>Desired Outcome:</b> Confirm data needs list to present to WCMAC.
Meeting 3a	<p>Review Washington's enforceable policies, including the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP), ORMA, the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP), Shoreline Master Plan (SMP), and their intersections with BOEM's leasing process. <i>(Meeting 1 of 2)</i></p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Answer the following questions: What is the state role in BOEM's process? What are potential opportunities for Washington to affect outcomes?</p>
Meeting 3b	<p>Continue review of Washington's enforceable policies and their intersections with BOEM's leasing process. <i>(Meeting 2 of 2)</i></p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Answer the following questions: What is the state role in BOEM's process? What are potential opportunities for Washington to affect outcomes?</p>
Meeting 4	<p>Learn more about cumulative impacts of offshore wind energy, invite an outside expert (possibly from Europe) to present on cumulative impacts research.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Increase OSW TC understanding of current research on cumulative impacts and known science.</p>
Meeting 5	<p>Discuss updates to the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Data Viewer; identify which updates are necessary and how to find the information to add to the data viewer.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Potentially create a memo for Ecology with WCMAC's recommendations for updates to the MSP Data Viewer. <i>(Memo would require WCMAC approval)</i></p>
Meeting 6	<p>Track lessons learned from OSW processes in other locations, invite an outside expert (possibly from the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance) to present.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Stay up to date with OSW processes in other locations.</p>
Meeting 7	<p>Discuss economic implications and considerations, including transmission costs, purchase power agreements, and consumer impacts.</p> <p><b>Desired Outcome:</b> Increase OSW TC understanding of economic considerations for OSW.</p>

## Appendix A. Action Plan Development Background

Development of the Objective 2 Action Plan took place during OSW TC meetings from April 2023 – November 2023 within several phases. In 2024, the OSW TC responded to time-sensitive needs, including the Gridworks engagement project, and then reviewed and revised the Action Plan for final WCMAC approval by end of 2024. All OSW TC meeting summaries from 2022 – 2023 are saved on [WCMAC's EZ View page \(linked\)](#).

### **PHASE 1: Identify potential actions and outcomes.**

During the 4/18/23 meeting, committee members considered three main questions when identifying potential actions that would fulfill some of the discussed research and community needs:

1. What information do you think needs to be updated or added to the MSP website/data viewer (<https://www.msp.wa.gov>)?
2. What are similar efforts taking place, related to OSW development, that the Committee should track to inform decision making in WA?
3. What types of information does WCMAC need to develop a greater understanding of various OSW issues?

Additionally, the OSW TC posed additional questions for consideration as we seek to fulfill Objective 2 and reflected on potential outcomes.

For a summary of this meeting, please refer to the [4/18/2023 OSW TC Meeting Summary](#).

### **PHASE 2: Determine approach.**

During the 5/16/23 OSW TC meeting, committee members were asked to consider a proposed approach to address the questions and topics that were raised during the 4/18 OSW TC meeting. This approach focused on inviting outside experts, WCMAC members with relevant expertise, and others to speak with OSW TC members to share information about the various topics and questions raised by the OSW TC. During the 6/20 OSW TC meeting members discussed and agreed upon an approach.

For summaries of these meetings, please refer to the [2022-2023 OSW TC Meeting Summaries](#).

### **PHASE 3: Identify near-term data and community research need themes and determine next steps.**

During the 8/15/23 and 10/17/23 meeting, the OSW TC identified four data and community research need themes and discussed sequencing of these.

For summaries of these meetings, please refer to the [2022-2023 OSW TC Meeting Summaries](#).

### **PHASE 4: Review and refinement of the Action Plan.**



In 2024, the OSW TC reviewed the drafted Action Plan, revised the data and community research needs section, and restructured the Action Plan to better reflect the TC discussions and priorities. The OSW TC aims to present a status update to the WCMAC by end of year 2024.

DRAFT