

# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Hybrid Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 | 10:00am – 3:00pm

Virtual Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85427317320?pwd=DRateuRxFcBYFzeeSdzzhuVbjA74u0.1>

Meeting ID: 854 2731 7320 | Passcode: 187514 | Call in number: 1-253-205-0468

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](#)

## September 11, 2024 Agenda

Time	Agenda Item and Description	Objective	Presenter(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 May and July meeting minutes</li></ul>	<b>Information, Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sept. 2024 Agenda</li><li>Draft May 2024 Meeting Summary (Appendix A)</li><li>Draft July Special Meeting Summary (Appendix B)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rod Fleck, Chair</li><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>
10:25* (15 min)	<b>WCMAC Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Announcements</li><li>Election and process</li></ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>
10:40* (30 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Technical Committee Meeting Summaries (Appendix C)</li></ul>	<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>
11:10* (35 min)	<b>Budget Requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review WCMAC's budget process</li><li>Hear marine and coast-related budget updates from state agencies</li><li>Discuss WCMAC letter of support for budget requests</li></ul>	<b>Information, Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See discussion guide</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State Agency Representatives</li><li>Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li></ul>

Time	Agenda Item and Description	Objective	Presenter(s)
<b>11:45*</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>11:55*</b> (5 min)	<b>Budget Requests (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote: WCMAC letter of support for budget requests.</li> </ul>	<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rod Fleck, Chair</li> <li>• Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</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>Climate Commitment Act (CCA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on current CCA funded initiatives relevant to WCMAC.</li> </ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrier Sessions, Governor's Office</li> </ul>
<b>1:30*</b> (50 mins)	<b>West Coast Research Consortium</b> Initial discussion on a regional research consortium on OSW per Recommendation 2 in the Gridworks report. <a href="#">Gridworks WA OSW Engagement Report</a> <i>Discussion Questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What would you see as goals and strategies of a research effort and/or consortium?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could this consortium be initiated and/or structured?</i></li> </ul>	<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WCMAC Members</li> <li>• Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> </ul>
<b>2:20*</b> (20 min)	<b>Coastal Resilience Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on the <i>Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative: Accelerating Implementation of 20 Years of Partnership Efforts</i> funding (\$73.6 million).</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	<b>Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Bell, Ecology</li> </ul>
<b>2:40*</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>2:50*</b>	<b>Adjourn and Next Steps</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Gutierrez, Facilitator</li> </ul>

# 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.

## Discussion Guide: Agency Budget Requests

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Please see draft agency budget requests on next page.

# State Agency Budget Requests 2025-2027

Prepared for WCMAC, Fall 2024

## Agency Budget Requests

Department of Fish and Wildlife .....	1
Department of Natural Resources .....	3
Washington State Parks.....	5
Department of Ecology.....	8
Department of Commerce.....	8

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
Capital Budget: Hatchery Work, Improving Safety & Climate Resilience of Hatcheries	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
WDFW Staff & Volunteer Safety	WDFW Staff & Volunteer Safety: 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

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
Restoring Washington's Biodiversity	Restoring Washington's Biodiversity: request for proposals not funded for the 2023-25 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
Requests to convert "onetime" to ongoing funds	<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  <i>See details column for budget breakdown</i>	Operating Budget

For more information about the WDFW Operating & Capital Budget Request, please see the materials presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on August 9, 2024, as well as the recorded presentation:

- [Friday, August 9 Commission Agenda & Materials](#)
  - [Summary Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Operating Budget Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Capital Budget Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
    - [Major Works All \(PDF\)](#)
    - [Minor Works Preservation Request \(PDF\)](#)
    - [Minor Works Programmatic Request \(PDF\)](#)
- [Friday, August 9 Commission Recording \(TVW\)](#). Operating & Capital Budget Request agenda item starts at 03:30:07.

## Department of Natural Resources

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
Aquatic Resources Conservation Corps	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
Derelict Structure Removal Program (Operating)	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
Derelict Structure Removal Program (Capital)	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	\$6,848,600	Capital

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
	the newly established Derelict Structure Removal Program.		
DVRP Large Vessel Removal	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
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



Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
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

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	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,	\$2,848,000	Operating Budget

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
	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.		
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
South Beach Area Administration and Maintenance	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	\$1,366,000	Capital Budget

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
Facility (Agency Priority #6)	<p>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>		
Twin Harbors State Park Renovation (Agency Priority #35)	<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</p>	\$3,629,000	Capital Budget

Budget Priority	Details	Amount Requested - <b>DRAFT</b>	Funding Source
	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.		

## Department of Ecology

*Budget request information forthcoming.*

## Department of Commerce

*No budget requests to share at this time.*

## Appendix A. Draft May 2024 Meeting Summary

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Please see draft meeting summary on next page.

# Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Meeting

## Draft Summary

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Part 1 from 10:00am – 12:10pm

Part 2 from 1:00pm – 3:30pm

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	Upcoming Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduced two new members to WCMAC: David Beugli (coastal shellfish aquaculture seat) and Bobbak Talebi (Ecology seat).</li> <li>• Confirmed two new Steering Committee members at large: Peter Steelquist and Larry Thevik.</li> <li>• Confirmed Matt Niles as OSW TC co-lead.</li> <li>• The Program Director of Maritime Washington presented on the National Heritage Area program.</li> <li>• A representative from PNNL presented on marine carbon dioxide removal.</li> <li>• Gridworks presented an update on their engagement process, with a WCMAC discussion.</li> <li>• WDFW representative provided a European green crab update.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>July Special Meeting:</b> July 10, 2024</li> <li>• <b>Next OSW Technical Committee Meeting:</b> June 25, 2024</li> </ul>

WCMAC Members Present	
Anderson, Phil - Recreational Fishing	Niles, Corey – Department of Fish & Wildlife
Arkema, Katie – Science Organization	Niles, Matt – State Parks
Beugli, David – Shellfish Aquaculture	Nordin, Michael – Pacific MRC
Blake, Brian – Commercial Fishing	Polagye, Brian – Energy Organization
Bold, Molly – Coastal Port	Rechner, Michael – DNR
Bowman, Stephanie - Commerce	Sessions, Carrie – Governor’s Office
Conrad, Michele – Coastal Economic Development Group	Steelquist, Peter – Coastal Recreation
Culbertson, Paula – Wahkiakum MRC	Talebi, Bobbak - Ecology
Dalan, Garrett – Grays Harbor MRC	Thevik, Larry – Commercial Fishing

Fleck, Rod – North Pacific MRC	Zimmerman, Mara - WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
Meinig, Christian – Coastal Energy	

**Council Members Absent**

Dolsak, Nives – Educational institution	
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**Others Present** (as noted on the sign-in sheet & Zoom log-in)

Aoki, Mai – Ecology	Hall, Heather - WDFW
Baumbach, Hannah	Hagen, Jennifer – Quileute Tribe
Beasley, Dale – CRCFA/CCF	Jordahl, Maggie Dunham - Gridworks
Brown-Law, Alle – Cascadia Consulting	Krienitz, Jay - Ecology
Bush, Justin - WDFW	Machulsky, Mara – NW Solutions
Chang, Mike – Cascadia Consulting	Magee, Taylor – Cascadia Consulting
Cross, Jessica - PNNL	Mason, Ellie - WA Sea Grant
Custer, Jessica – F/V Miss Kathleen Westport, WA	Moore, Tommy - NWIFC
Decker, Kevin – WA Sea Grant	Nightengale, David
Dennehy, Casey - Ecology	Nevitt, Kristine – Ecological Economists
Fisher, Cassidy – Maritime Blue	Okoniewski, Mike - West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Frank, Peggen – Salmon Defense	Pauley, Kyle
Gillett, Maya – Blue Green Alliance	Roberts, Whitney - WDFW
Gradwohl, Alex – National Maritime Heritage Area	Skelton, Ann – Pacific County MRC
Griffith, Kate - Gridworks	Wright, Teri - Forest/Salmon/Orca Advocate
Gutierrez, Nicole – Cascadia Consulting	Zora, Craig

## Welcome and Introductions

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

- Rod Fleck welcomed everyone to the May meeting.
- Nicole Gutierrez went over the meeting agenda, ground rules, and covered expectations for WCMAC members and public observers.
- Rod and Nicole reviewed the February WCMAC Meeting Summary and reviewed the edits provided.
  - Larry Thevik moved to approve the February meeting minutes, Mike Nordin seconded. February meeting minutes approved.

## WCMAC Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:14:50 – 0:22:08

## Membership Updates

- Nicole welcomed David Beugli and Bobbak Talebi to the WCMAC committee.
  - David will be representing coastal shellfish for the WCMAC.
  - Bobbak is the SW Director at ECY and is taking over for Rich Doenges.
- Nicole stated that they will be confirming to new Steering Committee members at large. Rod shared the SC nominated Larry Thevik and Peter Steelquist for the positions. They both accepted their nomination.
  - Phil Anderson motioned that Larry Thevik be committed to the SC and Mike N. seconded. Motion approved.
  - Bobbak T. motioned that Peter Steelquist be committed to the SC and Brian Blake seconded. Motion approved.

## Announcements

- Nicole announced that the SC approved a special WCMAC meeting for July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 which will review and perhaps respond to the final recommendations from the Gridworks engagement process. The SC thought it would be important for the WCMAC to come together after the report is published and create a report for how they believe the findings should be used. The meeting will be virtual, and more information is to come.
  - Rod commented that if WCMAC is going to make a recommendation or response on the report, then that needs to be drafted during the meeting. WCMAC members should begin to consider how they might respond to the report during the discussion later this meeting with Gridworks.

## Updates

### Governor's Office Update

[Meeting recording](#) 0:22:40 – 0:33:17

- Carrie Sessions from the **Governor's Office** shared an update on DOH's annual report on commercial shellfish growing – highlighting that the Governor's Office has come to an agreement with DOH, who will pause pursuing rulemaking to increase fees for commercial shellfish until a technical study is completed.
- Carrie confirmed that Gridworks will submit their final report on June 15<sup>th</sup> and noted several offshore wind updates: Commerce has \$250,000 to study WA's comparative advantage in the OSW supply chain. Maritime Blue has \$750,000 to study these issues through their Blue Wind Collaborative, looking at WA's role in the supply chain and understanding the larger ecosystem around OSW development. Both provisos are funded through the Climate Commitment Act and are contingent on the CCA remaining in effect. Additionally, the Governor's Office has been discussing with DOE in other states (CA and OR) to learn how to better coordinate OSW supply chain issues and provide trainings for labor groups.

## Questions

- Phil asked for clarification on the timeline the Governor is following to make recommendations and policies on OSW as Gridworks' report will be published June 15<sup>th</sup> and the WCMAC meets on July 10<sup>th</sup>.



- Carrie replied that the Governor will not make any decisions on OSW before the report, and he will be leaving office in January 2025. After receiving the report, it will take the Governor's Office time to consider options and determine best options for engagement.

## MRC Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:33:20 – 0:45:41

- Rod shared that **North Pacific MRC** is hosting the MRC summit, which is taking place October 17-19. The Summit will include project updates, Coastal Film Festival, and Maritime Heritage Event.
- Garrett Dalan shared that **Grays Harbor MRC** is currently carrying out the contracts for use of funds. Intending to be at the Grays harbor County Fair to conduct outreach, looking forward to this event.
- Mike N. shared that **Pacific MRC** is hosting the Annual Science Conference in Long Beach on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be focused on science rather than policy. Pacific MRC is looking for a better avenue to get funding on the coast for all MRCs and exploring to amend the RCW for MRCs to go through the State Conservation Commission rather than WDFW. Some of these funding changes could lead to the MRCs to hire a full time coordinator.
- Paula Culbertson shared that she agrees with the work the Pacific MRC is doing to secure more funding. **Wahkiakum MRC** is updating their grant application and is hoping to have it revised in the next couple of months for the 2025-2027 allocations. Wahkiakum MRC has gone after \$15,000 in funds for coastal resiliency projects from WSU. The MRC is streamlining processes and looking for new committee members.

## Agency Updates

[Presentation recording](#) 0:45:41 – 0:56:45

- Bobbak shared that **Ecology** is kicking off their process for budget and policy requests today (May 8<sup>th</sup>). They are launching a rulemaking process for implementing HB 1181, which requires the integration of climate resilience into shoreline planning. This will have a large outreach process as they are opening rules for the SMA. Ecology is also recruiting for a legislative and policy lead for the Shoreline Program on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Heather Hall shared that **WDFW's** budget development process is ongoing, and the goal is to have priorities developed and present to commission in June. They are considering ongoing funding for biodiversity, land issue safety, and wildlife conflict. Heather also shared that she changed positions within WDFW and is now Region 6 Director of the coast.
  - Corey commented that it may be more appropriate for Heather to take the WDFW seat on WCMAC.
    - Mike Nordin asked for clarification.
    - Corey replied that the statute gives the role/seat to the director of the agency and the director may direct staff to attend as designees.
  - Corey also commented that they've heard Mike's point about the MRC budget and their coordinator is listening closely.

- Mike Rechner shared that **DNR** had no updates.
- Stephanie Bowman, **Commerce**, shared that during the last legislative session there was interest in funding a joint position with DFW and Commerce to staff the Pacific Council and act as a liaison for the fishing community on OSW issues. They plan to pursue this funding again in January and would appreciate WCMAC support. Additionally, Stephanie attended the Global Seafood Expo with representatives from the Quinault and Makah Tribes, highlighting Washington's seafood industry. She encouraged those interested in participating next year to contact Commerce.
- Matt Niles shared that **State Parks** had no updates.

## General Coastal Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 0:56:50 – 1:01:41

- Phil shared that the recreational fishing halibut fishery opened last Thursday, which is an extremely important recreational fishery for Washington in offshore areas.
- Peter shared that they had a successful Washington Coastal Cleanup in April, with over 20,000 lbs. of trash collected. The next Washington Coastal cleanup will be July 5<sup>th</sup> and they will be hosting a fall cleanup on September 21.
- Larry shared that the OR BOEM Taskforce is having a meeting on May 23. The meeting is a good opportunity for those in the WCMAC and others such as Gridworks to have a chance to witness the BOEM process in OR to better understand the criticisms brought to bear on the taskforce process.

## Technical Committee Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 1:01:42 – 1:08:40

- Alle updated that the TC met on March 26, where they provided more insight on the WCMAC Principles of Engagement to Gridworks. The TC also met on April 23 where they continued their discussion of the Objective 2 Action Plan and discussed the need for comprehensive research on renewable energy needs.
- Larry, TC Co-Chair, added that some TC members have had follow-up conversations with Gridworks, including a stakeholder meeting which included 21 representatives of commercial and recreational fishing. The TC pointed out the need to follow the Principles of Engagement approved by WCMAC. WA is also not part of the "30 by 30" national goals. The day after the April OSW TC meeting, BOEM released the next part of their "30 by 30" lease plan and the 15 GW of FOSW by 2025 goal, and WA was not included. As disclosed in the February WCMAC meeting, despite calls from numerous stakeholders, including tribal sovereigns, to slow the BOEM process, BOEM finalized WEAs on February 14<sup>th</sup>, which set the stage for the Department of the Interior's announcement on April 30<sup>th</sup> of proposed auction details and lease terms for two areas off the coast of Oregon for OSW development.
- Nicole introduced the next item to confirm a new OSW TC co-lead. Matt Niles volunteered, looking for confirmation from WCMAC.
  - Garrett motioned, seconded by Katie Arkema and Larry. Motion approved.

## MRAC Update

[Meeting recording](#) 1:08:40 – 1:09:50

- Rod shared at the last MRAC meeting Kelp Forests off WA were discussed. Rod will continue to identify speakers from MRAC to speak at WCMAC and MRC meetings.

## Maritime Washington National Heritage Area

[Meeting recording](#) 1:09:50 – 1:31:12

- Alex Gradwohl, Program Director of the Maritime Washington National Heritage Museum. Alex presented an overview of the National Heritage Area, which works to preserve, interpret, and celebrate WA's vibrant maritime heritage. ***Please see the recording for more information on Alex's presentation.***

### WCMAC Discussion

- Molly Bold noted that she worked with Alex on the Westport Working Waterfront stories, which helped provide a different perspective to the general public about modern working waterfronts and what goes on in Westport and other fishing communities.
- David asked Alex about her understanding on leaving out Pacific County on the SW WA coast.
  - Alex replied that Pacific County was left out of the area because at the time the Heritage Area was created, there was another effort to create a separate Heritage Area along the Columbia River on both sides, which Pacific County was angling to be a part of. However, those efforts fell through due to issues with property rights. There has been interest from folks in Pacific County to be added to the Maritime WA National Heritage Area, and there is opportunity to join, however, it requires an act through Congress.
- Mike N. commented that he was involved in the initial efforts of the Maritime WA National Heritage Area, and there was a landowner contingency that didn't want Pacific County to be involved. This same group is likely to shoot down any future efforts of adding Pacific County to the Maritime WA National Heritage Area.

## Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)

[Meeting recording](#) 1:31:12 – 2:16:30

- Jessica Cross, PNNL, presented on marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR). Her presentation centered around two questions that the WCMAC posed to her at the September 2023 WCMAC meeting: (1) What is the reasonable range of use of the marine environment for mCDR? (2) Would mCDR be subject to the WA Marine Spatial Plan?
- ***Please see the recording for more information on Jessica's presentation.***

### WCMAC Discussion

- Brian Blake commented that he served on the Blue Ribbon Panel for ocean acidification, which considered bringing calcium carbonate from Alaska to the WA coast. The Panel found that the scale was too large and that that approach wouldn't work, however, he recently found a study on the east coast using a similar technique.

- Jessica replied that this technique using olivine falls under ocean alkalinity enhancement, where you use rocks in the ocean to store carbon dioxide that's been sequestered from the atmosphere. They're trying to speed up the natural weathering process of these minerals or adding more minerals so that weather and tides process can speed it up as well. They do believe that can remove CO<sub>2</sub> at scale and provided examples.
- David commented on the future research mentioned earlier, noting that it would be great to see how to quantify the rates of removal of aquaculture and CO<sub>2</sub> removal. Having quantifiable rates could help us learn how to continue increasing those rates.
  - Jessica replied that folks are interested in partnering with aquaculture to do that research effectively and will likely take more research to generate those numbers. David replied that the Nature Conservancy is probably the best resource so far, but more work can be done.
- Mike N. asked what was included in aquaculture – just shellfish only or broader?
  - Jessica replied that the ocean acidification community has a long history of working with shellfish aquaculture to protect those hatcheries.
- Brian Polagye asked, of the potential avenues for mCDR, are there any options where the energy input required would involve significantly more renewable energy generation to deploy at scale?
  - Jessica replied that some mCDR do have high energy input as of now, and whether it is project dependent.
  - Brian P. asked what the ends of the spectrum look like.
  - Jessica replied that the most energy intensive systems are electrochemical energy capturing systems and the least rely on photosynthesis.
- Chris Meinig commented that he is glad to act as a conduit to the researchers and community communication folks working on mCDR in his role at PNNL.
- Larry asked for clarification on "trying to scale". What is a CO<sub>2</sub> removal system that works at scale, or actually impacts the environment? Can you locally change the pH and have some benefits? If you use a material to alter the pH that doesn't currently exist in the ecosystem, what habitat/benthic alterations can you expect? Could some of the negative environmental outcomes outweigh CO<sub>2</sub> removal efforts?
  - Jessica replied that plants are often measured in the number of tons of carbon that they can remove from the atmosphere in a one-year time period. Most demonstration systems are at the 50-100 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> removal size, but that doesn't tell you what the pH change may be. In many cases, it's dependent on the rate of removal you're trying to achieve, among other factors. The community is subject to NPDES and NPRSA permits, and no one is allowed to change the pH in a significant way, with no one allowed to inject a pH higher than 9 with limits on the amount you are allowed to inject at that level.
  - Chris commented that in the natural environment, massive changes in pH are natural throughout the day/season/ etc. Organisms have already adapted to some swings in pH.
  - Jessica shared that they are not releasing anything into the natural environment, but as they develop research plans for the future they are taking these things into

account- what permits and safety will allow them to do in the marine environment.

## Public Comment #1

[Meeting recording](#) 2:16:30 – 2:23:10

- David Nightingale, from Olympia WA, shared interest and concern over OSW development in WA. His assessment is that WA OSW is a great resource to meet climate change goals and is likely to happen from a commercial economic standpoint, but he is concerned over the process. It's great to see what's going on in CA and OR, and we should plan and investigate what a process may look like in WA.
- Mike Okoniewski, OSW TC and PFMC, thanked the WCMAC and OSW TC for taking on the difficult topic of OSW. Noted that WA is one of the last coastal states taking on the OSW issue and what it will mean for coastal communities, marine fisheries, ports, and health of marine ecosystems. A number of the TC members are involved with the CA and OR BOEM process, which has been frustrating for him. He cautions going forward with any plans of FOSW development until there is further research on the impacts of development on tribal UNAs, jointly managed fisheries, and coastal communities.

## Gridworks Update & Discussion

[Meeting recording](#) 2:23:16 – 4:30:50. See slides referenced in the [May WCMAC meeting packet](#).

- Kate Griffith from Gridworks provided a presentation on the Gridworks engagement process/methods of engagement and their preliminary findings. Kate also presented the WCMAC with questions for discussion:
  - What stands out to you about these ideas?
  - How do these ideas reflect the 2023 WCMAC OSW Principles of Engagement?
  - How do these ideas reflect your understanding of improvements needed to federal OSW planning and evaluation processes?
  - How would you improve these ideas to be more actionable and useful to WA?
- **Please see the recording for Kate's presentation.**

## Clarifying Questions before Discussion

- Phil asked if there is reference to cataloging the authority of the state and the authority of the tribes.
  - Kate replied that they haven't yet had a chance to engage with the tribes. She would like to hear from the tribes on whether they find it appropriate for the states to go through such a catalog. Regardless, both tribes and the state should be aware of what their legal authorities are and she is not comfortable saying that the state should catalog tribal authorities without having spoken to tribes.
- Phil also commented that there are various references to "environment", such as "marine environment" or "marine ecosystem", and if these terms are synonymous and how do they relate to living marine resources?
  - Katie replied that these words are used interchangeably and are inclusive of living marine organisms, including marine birds and migratory species.
- Bobbak commented that he didn't see recommendations for further research.

- Katie replied that their report is supposed to point out research gaps and prioritize those, however, they are still sifting through identified research gaps. They are thinking of a recommendation that supports a West coast-wide research consortium that can provide an independent body to study marine renewable energy impacts. However, this research can take a lot of time, so unsure how relevant prioritization can be in terms of timeliness.
- Bobbak asked about local capacity to engage, specifically coastal communities and tribes.
  - Katie replied that there is no recommendation yet on funding to support local capacity to engage yet. They heard varying degrees of capacity and desire to engage, though it depends on the process. Coastal communities and local government need to be included in these processes, and current thinking is that this can be accomplished through existing processes.
- Mike N. asked about the methodology regarding who was interviewed.
  - Katie replied that this is an anonymous process, so she can share the organizations that participated but not the names.
  - Mike N. also mentioned that suggested structures resembled the precursor to WCMAC, "The Big Chew". Katie replied that they're considering a stakeholder advisory committee, recognizing that tribes are not stakeholder but sovereign nations and should be contacted government-to-government.
- Brian S. noted that there is a study about rural clean energy impacts with meetings in Dayton, Mt. Vernon, and another location, with no meetings on the coast.
  - Carrie said that she just learned about the study and will loop back with WCMAC.
- Katie commented that slide 11 discusses the development of a WA roadmap for responsible OSW development but does not detail the engagement process. This aspect is covered elsewhere in the document, but it is important to note if the roadmap will also include engagement recommendations.
  - Kate replied that the roadmap should include a plan for engagement, and she welcomes ideas for how to strengthen this.
  - Katie recommended establishing clear links between the consultation task force and the elements in the roadmap, ensuring that research and analysis are conducted closely with communities and stakeholders. Incorporating local knowledge iteratively should be a standard research approach.
  - Kate asked if the "feeding back and forth" was between the state and BOEM process? Katie replied that anything developed in the roadmap includes iteration with any taskforce that's above it.
- Larry pointed out a potential conflict on page 9, bullets 1-4, where both the state and BOEM could define the scope and intent of their processes. If the state and BOEM were to independently define their processes, it could highlight conflicts, especially since BOEM advances lease actions before conducting impact analysis, whereas the state prefers to assess impacts prior to making decisions. Clarification is needed on whether there will be separate presentations of expectations or a combined approach.



- Kate clarified that both approaches are necessary. The key takeaway is that any process needs to define the scope and intent upfront. If the state leads a process, it should define these parameters and also provide leadership in a BOEM process.
  - Larry commented that the MSP has its own process when defining impacts.
- Chris suggested framing the roadmap to include offshore deployments at a research or pilot scale, allowing parallel questions to be answered. He proposed conducting small-scale research to make these ideas more actionable and to fill research gaps well before lease calls. This method would involve communities and facilitate learning through hands-on experience at a research scale.

### WCMAC Discussion

- Michele Conrad, shared feedback on slides 11 and 12, and noted that item #1 has been addressed through the WCMAC process, which involved a thorough discussion of Washington's authority, including CZMA and ORMA. Item #2 is ongoing, with the WCMAC and OSW TC working to identify data gaps, though limited by capacity. Item #3 accurately reflects the OSW discussions on developing the Principles of Engagement, emphasizing that Options A, B, and C are not mutually exclusive, and suggesting that at least two, if not all three, should be implemented.
- Brian P. stated that the proposed changes would significantly improve the existing process. However, he expressed concern about the implementation of the off-ramps. Currently, BOEM decides whether to take the off-ramp, but rarely opts to use them. Allowing any party to take the off-ramp could result in it being taken too frequently. Perhaps there is a role for the state to take in this process.
- Bobbak expressed support for the framework and emphasized the significance of pre-BOEM engagement, noting its importance nationally and with states. Bobbak also supported the research consortia as a positive step. He acknowledged the MSP as a good foundation but suggested it might need updates regarding the existing authorities of the state.
- Phil referenced slides 11 and 12, regarding #1 we should not try to articulate what tribal needs are, rather let their attorney's and policy folks decide and provide to us. He found it unlikely that BOEM would be willing to engage in a joint WA and BOEM workgroup that would diminish their authority. Off-ramps will need to be further researched. There are key data gaps that need to be filled before the state decides on whether OSW is feasible.
- Katie commented that Gridworks should stay consistent in the report with the terms they use. She also echoed Bobbak's thoughts on a pre-BOEM process diagram. She asked whether BOEM is the right entity to engage and their capacity constraints. She appreciated the guidelines on slide 15, and recognize the lift it would take to make these happen. She added that the recommendations could consider international collaboration and impacts to other communities as well.
- Mike N. commented that instead of saying OSW we should say offshore energy and that we need to have preliminary questions with an offramp if they can't be answered.
- Larry emphasized that this is an "if" not "when" scenario. He suggested conducting a comprehensive state examination of issues and identifying data gaps before moving

forward, as well as lesson learned from other locations. Larry noted the need to continually highlight areas where pieces are missing and consider how addressing these gaps could impact BOEM.

- Chris asked if we have seen any other analogs in other states where BOEM has accepted such authorities or engaging in MOUs?
  - Kate shared that she's heard a willingness from BOEM to be flexible but emphasized the necessity of clear expectations from the state. While this level of collaboration hasn't occurred previously, Kate suggested initiating a conversation to explore the possibilities.
- Corey commented that in terms of off ramps, we've seen two competing studies about the future of OSW in WA- one saying that OSW is necessary and another saying it isn't. What are the economics of this? On the road map, how does the electricity purchasing policy work?
  - Kate replied that that falls under item #2 of the roadmap, which could occur under an OSW task force, and the planning will be iterative. Discussing whether OSW is suitable for WA ratepayers aligns with national conversations on energy goals.
- Matt mentioned enforceable policies under CZMA and raised questions about other authorities, such as the proprietary rule of DNR and State Parks regarding transmission siting. How will these roles be incorporated into the process?
  - Kate replied that this is what is meant by the state conducting a thorough review of WA authorities, not just in terms of CZMA enforceable policies, to understand how they intersect and possible opportunities for things like offramps.
- Mike R. echoed Michele's comments. For #1 and #2, the MSP is applicable, #3 falls to the OSW TC, and no comments on slides 14-16.
- Molly reiterated the need for transparency and accountability to what is communicated to tribes and communities with graphic and accessible communication.
- Paula expressed appreciation for comments on transmission lines and electricity costs, suggesting that BOEM should consider leasee's financing capabilities and assurances for end-users, ensuring the state isn't burdened with financing obligations.
- Peter commented that it looks like there are many things we're asking BOEM to do- important to leverage groups like WCMAC to answer these questions.
- Rod emphasized the state's desire to actively engage in BOEM's OSW energy activities. He noted that using "could" may convey hesitancy, which could undermine the statement's impact. Rod suggested using stronger language like "must," "need," or "will" to convey the state's commitment more assertively.
  - Kate replied that she's hearing a need for the "why" statement behind these suggestions, including stronger language for the recommendations.
- Mike N. asked if BOEM or the State is going to recognize local authority through all of this? BOEM has no trust for local communities and there needs to be some apparatus for BOEM to respond to comments to explain why/how they incorporated feedback.
  - Kate commented that a feedback loop is needed, to see how public comment/ stakeholder feedback is incorporated.



- Larry expressed skepticism about BOEM's claims of robust stakeholder and tribal conversations and suggested we should be looking to current project work in CA. He also mentioned the ongoing cataloging of public comment themes from WSG.
- Brian B. emphasized the importance of WA's involvement in the processes of both CA and OR because of the uniqueness of the California Current ecosystem.
- Brian P. asked if BOEM's lack of engagement is due to structural disinclination to engage or capacity constraints.
  - Kate replied that the experience with BOEM varies and noted that processes can have excellent intentions that are waylaid by staff or capacity constraints.
- Phil recommended including an advisory body with a charter in the process outlined on slide 14. He noted that treaties are the supreme law of the land in response to point #2. Regarding page 15, he suggested that BOEM share information upfront, which would be helpful. Additionally, Phil proposed combining items 5 and 10 from page 16 and incorporating items 6, 7, 8, and 11 into the charter.

## European Green Crab Update

[Presentation recording](#) 4:30:50 – 4:56:30

- Justin Bush, WDFW, provided a presentation on European Green Crab management efforts in WA. ***Please see the recording for David's presentation.***

## WCMAC Discussion

- David commented that a lot of the observed successes are through WDFW coordination collaboration and getting traps off the coast when necessary.

## Public Comment #2

[Meeting recording](#) 4:56:30 – 5:13:00

- Dale Beasley commented on OSW, stating the need to evaluate WA's need for power and that OSW may not be the best to fill that need. We should look at how much wind power we're shipping out of the state and consider alternatives to fill the power need to keep cost within consumers ability to pay. It's important to get to the bottom line and consider the consequences of the cost to the people. BOEM has a poor track record of including states. Once BOEM is engaged, the state loses control. (see [Appendix A: Public Comment Materials](#) for Dale's full written statement)
- Mike Okoniewski expressed concerns about offshore wind (OSW) as a solution to climate change, highlighting the complexity of marine ecosystems compared to land. He emphasized the need for thorough consideration of the potential impacts of OSW on marine habitats and protected species, including nuanced factors like noise and impacts on migratory patterns. Mike noted the lack of a comprehensive list of impacts due to data gaps and called for responsible decision-making, suggesting the need to gather more data and consider renewable energy alternatives before proceeding with OSW projects. He warned about escalating costs and potential adverse effects on electricity prices, particularly for lower-income families, urging a cautious approach to protect marine ecosystems, coastal communities, and residents.

- Kristine Nevitt commented regarding earlier comments made during the National Marine Heritage Presentation that there is still a path for Pacific County to be added to the National Marine Heritage area. To move from theory from action when engaging small coastal community, it's important not to displace and honor the long volunteer efforts. Wishes BOEM staff would review community engagement history.
- Maya Gillet asked a question regarding the Gridworks presentation. The presentation talks about transparency with decision makers like BOEM. What can be shared about the decision-making process and the action items to emerge out of this report from the state? And what are the criteria used to make those decisions? What is the timeline?
- Kevin Decker provided WA Sea grant updates: Interim Director for WA Sea Grant starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be a 50% Director for their operations. WA Sea Grant opening a new office in South Bend in June, with three staff. Coastal Hazards Resilience Team, if you have resiliency issues in your communities that you want our inter-agency teams help with, please let myself or Jay know. Also, WA Sea Grant is starting a resilience fellowship starting this year, where fellows will be placed in coastal communities. Also hired a fellow through the economic development administration who will be with them for the next two and a half years, helping with economic projects along the coast.

## Closing and Adjourn

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- Rod closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
  - Next WCMAC meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup> special meeting

## Appendix A: Public Comment Materials

Please see materials on the next page.

DRAFT

## Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association



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## Coalition of Coastal Fisheries

WCMAC **OSW** Action Plan beginning of a Road Map

8 May2024

Washington offshore wind action plan MUST NOT ENGAGE BOEM to begin any activities in our offshore waters. Once BOEM is engaged BOEM will ignore ALL Washington input and forge ahead with the only action BOEM ever takes, "Least ocean to the highest bidder." Our next door neighbor, Oregon is a living example of BOEM "Lease first ask questions later," where impacts to coastal communities are NOT a BOEM focus even though they will claim otherwise.

Focus on the Basics of the Washington coastal management legislation: Specifically -

### **RCW 43.143.060 (2) (b)**

2) In making recommendations under this section, the Washington coastal marine advisory council shall consider:

(b) The protection and preservation of existing sustainable uses for current and future generations, including economic stakeholders reliant on marine waters to stabilize the vitality of the coastal economy.

Washington is UNIQUE in the nation in their offshore legislation.

The INTENT of the Washington legislature in enacting Washington Coastal Marine Spatial Planning and forming the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council was to ensure the future stability and viability of the coastal fishing industry that supports coastal fish dependent communities. All other states including our neighbor Oregon initiated offshore legislation to enable new emerging industrialization of our ocean with offshore wind energy facilities. Washington legislation was to ensure that new industrial use of our ocean AVOIDED CONFLICT with fishing. What is more important is that the Washington CMSP legislation applied specifically to only the four coastal counties.

Offshore Wind and Fisheries 2. Add **d. Effects on current and future fishing families.**

Washington needs to ensure protection and preservation of the only fishing areas that our young next generation of fishing families have open ACCESS to fish albacore and black cod which do not require very expensive fishing permits.

BOEM steamrolled multiple Oregon requests for a PAUSE in WEA designation. Requests to PAUSE WEA designation and start the process over by the Oregon governor, congressional representatives, and Oregon legislators were totally ignored by BOEM and two WEAs now exist and in a short time BOEM will invite lease action to move forward as four companies have expressed interest in Oregon OSW facilities. Once BOEM is invited in they move forward with the only thing they do, Lease ocean to the highest bidder where the state has NO consideration in the BOEM lease outcome.

Ocean coexistence with any ground contact fishing gear is a total misnomer, fishing will be displaced, offshore wind and fishing coexistence is impossible.

**Cost of floating offshore wind is enormous** and will require many multiples of the current BPA power rates – consumers need to know before they get their huge monthly power bills which will increase POVERTY in Washington, especially on the coast where JOBS are lost, and exponentially higher power rates will apply. High cost of offshore wind will make it extremely hard to secure power purchase agreements. Both Pacific and Grays Harbor PUDs are against purchasing high priced offshore wind.

Oregon OPAC 22 April 2024 meeting is behind the curve and just beginning to formulate policy to deal with offshore wind that currently has two established floating offshore wind WEAs that are going out for lease very soon. Following the Oregon lead in offshore wind will be a DISASTER for Washington coastal communities.

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## Washington Floating Offshore Wind - What we don't know

**Relative to WA OSW encroachment** on fishing family's engagement is meaningless unless the engagement leads to protecting existing ocean uses including but not limited to fishing.

**OSW co-use with fishing is impossible** for any ground contact fishing gear

Even midwater trawl gear cannot operate around floating OSW facilities, at gear pick up the trawl vessels is completely at the mercy of the ocean current

OSW will displace almost all commercial fishing operations and those that attempt to fish around OSW will be severely limited in operations to avoid entanglement

OSW MUST AVOID CONFLICT with all fisheries

OSW will have profound impacts on our young high debt fishing families that only have 2 open access fisheries – albacore and open access black cod that do n NOT require very high priced fishing permits to fish.

The door to fishing will close completely in UNIQUE WA where 50% of all fish on 70% of the coast are prohibited for all coastal fishing families attempting to fish

Due to the Rafeedie Decision over 90% of the WA Dungeness crab fleet fishes in only 30% of the SW Washington coast south of Westport in only 38 miles of coast most years in the SW WA marine waters and that area is the only place OSW can be located due to Marine Sanctuary and tribal treaties, in the HIGH CONFLICT ZONE.

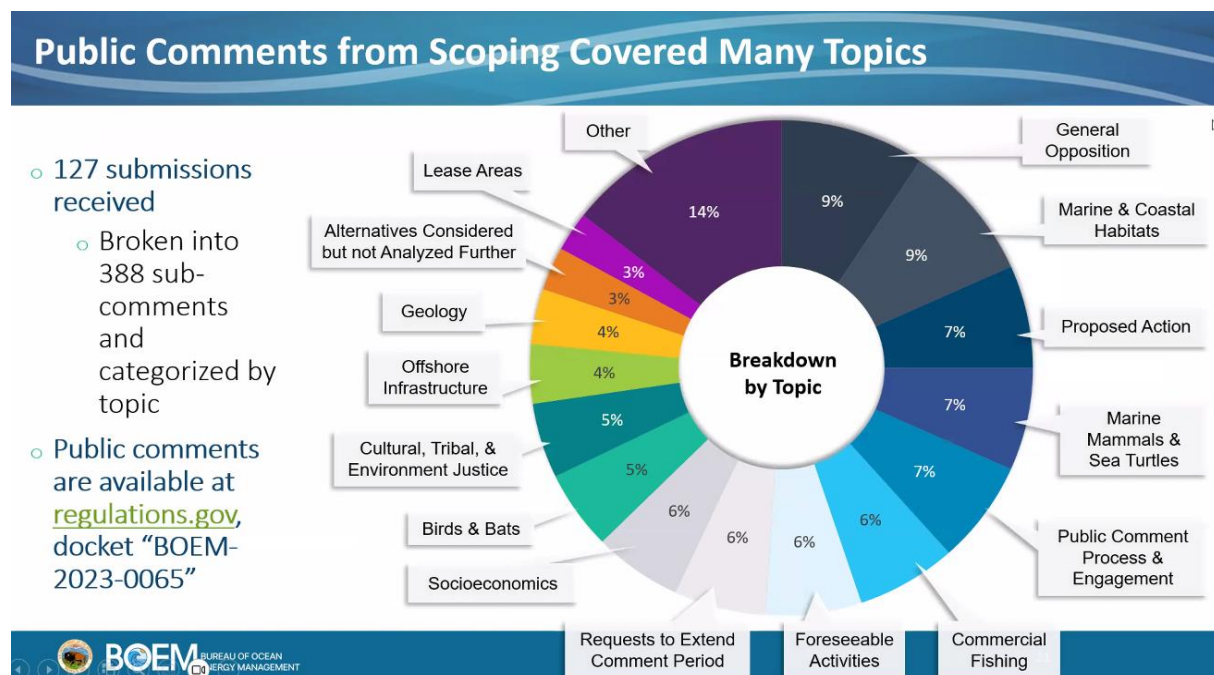
Remember, WA is the only state in the nation to legislate CMSP and WCMAC to protect and preserve fishing as a 1<sup>st</sup> priority, all other states initiated OSW to install ocean energy and invited BOEM to action.

The science of OSW interactions with FOSW and the marine ecosystem is lacking due to the FACT that there are NO commercial sized FOSW facilities anywhere in the world

to scientifically study, all science at this point is speculative. BOEM is leasing ocean area without sufficient science to do anything except speculate on the impacts to coastal fish dependent communities and the marine ecosystems they will modify.

Wind turbines are loud and noise will have an impact on marine life, we just don't know enough yet to make any scientifically supported decisions.

BOEM depiction of how they value fisheries – how long does it take you to even find commercial fisheries on this diagram?



## Appendix B. Draft July Special WCMAC Meeting Summary

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Please see draft meeting summary on next page. WCMAC member submitted edits to the draft are in red for full WCMAC consideration.



# Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Special Meeting

## Draft Summary

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 | 10:00am – 1:00pm

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](#)

### Meeting Highlights:

WCMAC members reviewed and discussed the Gridworks report and its recommendations. The group worked to reach consensus for each recommendation. WCMAC passed a motion for the Chair to author a letter to the governor, providing WCMAC's feedback on the report and specifying which recommendations have WCMAC support.

### WCMAC Members Present

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

**Council Members Absent**

Michal Rechner, Representative of  
Department of Natural Resources

Nives Dolsak, Representative from an  
educational institution

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

Aoki, Mai - Ecology	Jurarez, Debora
Beasley, Dale - CRCFA/CCF	Krienitz, Jay - Ecology
Beckett, Kurt	Linck, Noah - Ecology
Bell, Henry - Ecology	Little, Kate - WSG
Bellavance, Kelsey - Skagit County	Liu, Marie - Energy Foundation
Calkins, Ryan	Lowell, Natalie - Makah Tribe
Carlson, Jeanine - ECY	Moore, Tommy - NWFIC
Cengiz, Cengizhan	Morishima, Gary - Quinalt Indian Nation
Chambers, Susan - West Coast Seafood Processors Association	Nightingale, David - self
Decker, Kevin - WSG	Nolan, Kate
Dennehy, Casey - Ecology	Okoniewski, Mike - West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Dohrn, Charolette - Ecology	Pucylowski, Teresa - Ecology
Donoghue, Cinde - Ecology	Pokorny, Tami
Dunham Jordahl, Maggie - Gridworks	Roberts, Whitney - WDFW
Ellison, Kurt - Climate Solutions	Schwerin, Don - Ag and Rural Caucus
Felleman, Fred - Port of Seattle	Silva, Karie - F/V Jeanette Marrie
Gillett, Maya - WA BlueGreen Alliance	Skelton, Ann - Pacific County MRC
Hyatt, Brandy - Brightline Defense Project	Weinstein, Alla - Trident Winds
Jack	Wright, Teri - Orca, Salmon, Forests Advocate
Johnson, Steve - Gridworks	Zimmerman, Olivia - Ecology
Chang, Mike and Gutierrez, Nicole - Facilitators	

## Welcome and Introductions

[Meeting recording](#) 0:00 – 0:12:00

- Rod welcomed everyone to the July Special Meeting.
- Casey provided safety briefing and technology considerations.
- Nicole went over the meeting agenda, ground rules, and covered expectations for WCMAC members and public observers.
- Nicole did roll-call introductions.

## Gridworks Report Overview

[Meeting recording](#) 0:12:20 – 0:30:58

- Gridworks presented on their final report.

- Link to [presentation](#) and [final report](#).
- Discussion:

Question	Gridworks' Response
Some of the links in report (e.g., footnotes 76-80) are unable to work. Can we get that updated?	Gridworks will update links and re-publish it.
Why using "framework" instead of "roadmap"?	Gridworks got feedback that "roadmap" sounded like a foregone conclusion. So reframed it.
Request to consider broadening our recommendation to be about all offshore energy, even though Gridworks' mandate was on offshore wind.	While Gridworks report is about offshore wind, the frameworks and recommendations in this report may be applicable for other offshore energy topics.
Any consideration for CA to be part of West Coast-wide research consortium?	Gridworks' focus was on WA constituents and didn't recommend key partners. That being said, CA is a large state and connected via the coast, so they could be a good partner. But the report itself does not provide recommendations on who WA should partner with on the research consortium recommendation.
Rec #3 includes some of the technical analyses on the environmental impacts listed in Rec #2. Would it be beneficial to delineate these two?	Recommendations don't operate independently. Theoretically, they should talk to each other. Thus, Gridworks separated them out to 1) be responsive to the RFP, and 2) have one recommendation focus on the studies/gaps and another be focused on WA priorities.

## Public Comment

[Meeting recording](#) 0:31:40 – 0:48:50

- **Ann Skelton:** On behalf of a geologist in Pacific Beach, Scott Cameron, wanted to provide some comments: BOEM has not adequately considered earthquake or tsunami on OSW development off West Coast. This would be catastrophic, and he has already shared this concern with BOEM. They should do a full programmatic EIS, including geohazards. (see *Appendix A. for full comment letter submitted*).
- **David Nightingale:** Attended the last WCMAC meeting and has a background in engineering and energy planning. The report is really well done and encourages WCMAC to give a positive response to the Governor on this, especially on the research-related components (e.g., CA Current Ecosystem's comprehensive study).
- **Mike Okoniewski:** An advisor to the OSW Technical Committee (TC). What will the future of continental shelf be after we industrialize it? Phytoplankton is vital for this ecosystem and their formation relies on upwelling. What are the impacts from OSW on upwelling, phytoplankton, and the marine biosphere? This needs to be understood through a the

cumulative impacts analysis and these questions need to be resolved before engagement begins. Also noted that ~~multiple~~ **majority** TC members agree it is too soon to engage with BOEM. **Thanks** to TC chair Larry Thevik, **for his letter commenting on the Draft Gridworks Report, thanks to Governor Inslee on his past comments for need to understand OSW Impacts, and thanks to** Kate Griffith, the Gridworks team, and Nicole Gutierrez **for their work.**

- **Dale Beasley:** Keep seeing the term “co-use” with OSW. This is a misnomer, because any place OSW is instigated, fishing will be displaced, especially for bottom contact fishing gear. A lot of WA is unique. Have already lost some habitat for fish and crab, and this will affect young fisherman. ORMA says agencies have the duty to ascertain the legislative intent, and fisheries are to be protected. *(see Appendix A. for full comment letter submitted).*
- **Teri Wright:** Orca advocate and live on the North Olympic Peninsula. Hope we do no more harm to endangered Southern Resident Orcas. Appreciate that Gridworks noted to reach out to scientists and researchers, and request that key scientists such as Rob Williams, Deborah Giles and scientists from the Sea Doc Society and the Orca Conservancy are contacted and provided opportunity to provide feedback. These scientists have studied SRKW for decades and are involved in Gov. Inslee’s task force.
- **Alla Weinstein:** With Trident Winds - company that submitted the unsolicited lease request. Wanted to make it clear for Recommendation #6 in that the intergovernmental task force that BOEM sets up limits the participants by laws (e.g., FACA), but if the State is to set up the task force, the state can choose to open up participation to non-governmental entities.
- **Fred Felleman:** Suggested that since it appears there is an intention to recognize tribal sovereign interests, the term “stakeholder” should not be used to describe tribal decision-makers as potential members on the intergovernmental Task Force suggested in R6-Option B.

## WCMAC Discussion

[Meeting recording](#) 0:50:00 – 2:17:00

### Overarching Discussion and Comments

- Carrie Sessions started the discussion with a statement that WCMAC provides a space to advise the Governor on key topics related to ocean and coastal issues, and is aimed at reflecting coastal perspectives and expert opinions. Additionally, for state agency representatives, they have alternative mechanisms to advise the Governor on issues like offshore wind. Thus, for both reasons, WCMAC representatives of state agencies may contribute their expertise to some of the discussion today but will refrain from voting on recommendations.
- Rod provided an overview of how to move through the discussion and the process today, using a spectrum of support to opposition, to gauge positions from WCMAC members (see Figure 1 below)

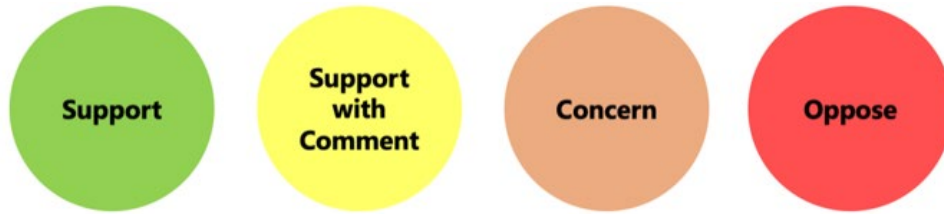


Figure 1. Spectrum of support to guide WCMAC discussion.

- Rod began with two overarching questions. The questions and associated spectrum of support for these statements and questions are below.

**Question 1:** Do you agree that, within the given timeframe, Gridworks developed a report and recommendations that are well-researched and that they effectively engaged with relevant partners and stakeholders?

<b>Support</b>	<b>15 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	N/A
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

**Question 2:** In the near term, do you believe Washington State should refrain from engaging/participating in the BOEM process until more engagement and research are conducted?

<b>Support</b>	<b>13 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>1 WCMAC member supported with additional comments.</b> While supportive of this statement, the call for more research is a common one, and Washington should examine the body of research that already exists and identify the small research gaps that can move this conversation forward.
<b>Concern</b>	<b>1 WCMAC member had concerns.</b> There is a lot of research that has been done and there is always the need to do more research. We need to ensure that we are on a timeline to address these research needs and engage in that discussion. Will be much more concerned if we are in the same place 10 years from now calling on for more research to be done.
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

## Discussion on Gridworks' Recommendations

The following sections provide a discussion of Gridworks' recommendations. Please view their report for more detailed language on their recommendation.

### Recommendation #1

The governor's office should engage in meaningful consultation on offshore wind issues with Washington Tribes, following Millennium Agreement guidelines.

<b>Support</b>	<b>12 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>3 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members indicated that a decision to engage with Tribe's is not WCMAC's decision, but the decision of Tribal sovereigns. Each Tribe engages and consults in their own way, which will need to be respected.</li> <li>It was shared that Tribes have <b>on several occasions and at/in different public forums</b> indicated shortfalls in BOEM's <b>tribal consultation efforts, lease processes, and impact research</b>.</li> <li>Clarification of language regarding government-to-government – is it in reference to federal-Tribal or state-Tribal relations?</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

## Recommendation #2

WA should develop and/or support a regional consortium to provide independent expert analysis and peer review of, guidance for, and prioritization of the research and analysis informing responsible offshore wind development off the Pacific Coast.

<b>Support</b>	<b>7 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>8 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members wanted this consortium and their associated research agenda to be targeted and on a timeline.</li> <li>Multiple members indicated concerns about the structure of the consortium, particularly about who should be involved. For example, one member cautioned the inclusion of other States because they have other priorities; on the other hand, other members supported the coordination along the whole West Coast because of the interconnected nature.</li> <li>Multiple members needed additional information on costs of the consortium and feasibility of their work.</li> <li>It was noted that there is opportunity to connect with existing work – such as work happening at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

Additional discussion:

- A WCMAC member commented that BOEM is only required to use the "best available science," but they believe that the available science has research gaps, particularly in cumulative impacts and ecosystem effects. They commented that these gaps need to be filled.
- A member raised that the federal government is responsible for contributing to offshore wind research, and funding this research.



**Recommendation #3**

WA should take an active role in determining and articulating its policy priorities relative to offshore wind development off the state coast prior to a BOEM process, including any timelines for considering OSW development.

<b>Support</b>	<b>11 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>4 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members agree with this recommendation but note that the technical analyses listed may go beyond the feasibility or capacity of listed partners. One member suggested that the listed technical analyses would be in the realm of research and development (R&amp;D).</li> <li>It was flagged that the language of the recommendation presumes there is an established need, which hasn't been established yet.</li> <li>A member shared that they are unsure of the decision-making process and the "how" of this recommendation.</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

Additional discussion:

- A member expressed concerns with the second paragraph of this recommendation; they were worried about having too many advisory bodies (related to Rec #6). They preferred the statements in the first paragraph.

**Recommendation #4**

WA should develop a concept framework for responsible OSW development in order to encourage and elevate priorities around responsible OSW development.

<b>Support</b>	<b>6 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>4 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members acknowledged the sequencing and pre-work needed before developing a framework – such as cumulative impact analyses and filling in research gaps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, there may be a chicken and an egg problem between Recs #3 and #4.</li> </ul> </li> <li>One member had concerns that the bullets in this recommendation could be viewed as a comprehensive list, rather than a non-exhaustive list of examples. They were supportive of this recommendation but suggested taking out the specific bullet points to keep it broad enough.</li> <li>Members shared appreciation for the inclusion of an off-ramp in this recommendation.</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	<b>4 WCMAC members had concerns.</b> Comments include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All members with concerns had concerns on timing and sequencing, noting that pre-work is needed before developing a framework – such as cumulative impact analyses and filling in research gaps.</li> <li>Some members had concern that the recommendation was too general.</li> <li>One member had concerns over the community benefit agreements perceived <b>as a panacea for mitigation and impacts, and not seeing enough emphasis on and avoiding conflicts in the first place.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>1 WCMAC member opposed this recommendation.</b> Their primary concern was that there hasn't been an evaluation of whether WA State even needs offshore wind energy. They commented that even without an established need for offshore wind energy, it feels like it's a foregone conclusion to use offshore wind energy in WA.
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

Additional discussion:

- Some members stated that Recommendations #2-4 may benefit from running parallel to each other since they are interrelated.
  - Example: to perform R&D on impacts (#2), the scale of development (#3) and constraints on development (#4) are important to understand.
- One member restated their concern that WA State hasn't exhausted exploration of its energy system to determine if offshore wind is the best, or even desirable, option.
- Need to consider ORMA and enforceable policies/federal consistency. First item in ORMA is assessing alternatives to this action, and thus offshore wind may be preemptive.

#### **WCMAC consensus was not reached regarding support or action on Recommendation #4**

#### **Recommendation #5**

Prior to entering a BOEM leasing process, WA should perform a thorough investigation and comprehensive catalog of WA's legal authorities under CZMA enforceable policies and other jurisdictional authorities pertinent to potential siting and permitting of OSW within the BOEM process. <b>Should also examine benefits of a GLD (Geographic Location Description) to increase the State's ability to ensure state enforceable policies are met through CZMA processes.</b>	
<b>Support</b>	<b>12 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>
<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>3 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A member noted that there is a need to understand what will happen if the Federal government and State government have conflicts.</li> <li>A member asked: How does this differ from WA's Marine Spatial Plan?</li> <li>A member commented that any documents or products (like a catalog) developed in response to this recommendation should be publicly available.</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>5 WCMAC members, representing state agencies, abstained.</b>

Additional discussion:



- One member responded to the question re: Marine Spatial Plan, stating that they don't believe a thorough investigation has been conducted and there is still more work to be done.

### Recommendation #6

If WA enters a BOEM process, WA should develop advisory body requests for BOEM to meet in BOEM's consideration of OSW leasing off the Washington Coast, such as an intergovernmental task force or another body.	
<b>Support</b>	N/A
<b>Support with comment</b>	<p><b>5 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b></p> <p>Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members indicated that they would need to understand trade-offs between the options to make an informed recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, Option A requires an MOU, potentially suggesting it has some decision-making authority. Whereas Option B isn't a formal task force.</li> <li>For example, if the State leads a process, would the State – rather than BOEM – need to pay for it?</li> <li>What are the legal restrictions on BOEM across these options?</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>It was noted by one member that currently Intergovernmental Task Forces are not decision-making bodies.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	<p><b>6 WCMAC members had concerns.</b> Comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members indicated that they do not trust or have faith that BOEM will meaningfully engage.</li> <li>Multiple members indicated if they had to choose, option B may be their preference. Members recognized that they do not want BOEM to initiate a process before there was an established engagement process.</li> </ul>
<b>Oppose</b>	<p><b>1 WCMAC member opposed this recommendation.</b> The primary concern is that they do not trust BOEM to engage in a meaningful way. If they had to elect an option, it would be option B since it is more inclusive.</p>
<b>Abstain</b>	<p><b>8 WCMAC members, including 5 members representing state agencies, abstained.</b></p>

Additional discussion:

- One member indicated that they do not think the BOEM-led federal task force is a decision-making body and more of a venue for discussion.

**WCMAC consensus was not reached regarding support or action on Recommendation #6**

### Recommendation #7

If WA enters a BOEM leasing process, WA should develop specific guidelines, such as through an MOU or another agreement, to ensure BOEM's interactions with Tribes, stakeholders, and the public during a BOEM leasing process in WA are inclusive, comprehensive, and meaningful.	
<b>Support</b>	<b>8 WCMAC members supported this statement.</b>

<b>Support with comment</b>	<b>6 WCMAC members supported this statement with comments.</b> Comments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple members expressed concerns about BOEM's requirement to implement the State's priorities.</li> <li>Some members were concerned about the wording of this recommendation (e.g., MOU is non-binding).</li> </ul>
<b>Concern</b>	N/A
<b>Oppose</b>	N/A
<b>Abstain</b>	<b>6 WCMAC members, including 5 state agencies and 1 non-state agency, abstained.</b>

Additional discussion:

- One member indicated that they do not think the BOEM-led federal task force is a decision-making body and more of a venue for discussion.

### WCMAC Recommendation: Consensus Decision

[Meeting recording](#) 2:17:00 – 2:38:50

- Rod opened up the floor for final comments. Some final comments include:
  - Within this Gridworks report, there were multiple points and recommendations pertaining to the need for additional research and engagement *before* engaging with BOEM. Several quotes **from the Report** were read during the meeting **that reinforce this view**.
  - It was noted that the OSW process, **if not properly done and not adequately researched**, may parallel Washington's history with hydropower **and its unforeseen and long-lasting negative impacts to Washington's iconic salmon resource**. Reflecting on this comparison can provide valuable insights and lessons for OSW energy development.
  - There needs to be a clear energy assessment in Washington state considering offshore energy.
  - Moving forward, Washington needs to be strategic in how it engages with BOEM.
  - Much** of the Gridworks report seems aligned with past statements that the Governor has said, where **he has noted a need to better understand** the potential effects **from offshore wind energy on the ocean and fisheries, on the protection of reserved tribal treaty rights, and on the cost of offshore wind technology and transmission of energy back to shore**.
- Mike N. made a motion to accept Gridworks' recommendation with the inclusion of the comments from today's special meeting. Phil seconded.
  - Rod opened the floor for amendments to the motion.
    - Larry suggested a process improvement for the letter to be available to Steering Committee members for review and edit before sending to the Governor.
    - Mara suggested creating more of a narrative rather than a bullet list of who said what. Katie agreed with Mara's statement.
    - Phil suggested framing this as an opportunity for the State to prepare itself for the potential of offshore wind energy off our coast.

- Bobbak suggested putting a timing parameter for the letter considering the timely nature. Rod responded that he would like to have it completed by end of the July.
- Mike N. and Phil accepted these amendments.
- **Motion passed by consensus.** The WCMAC chair is authorized to write the letter.
  - 15 ayes.
  - 5 abstentions.

## Closing and Adjournment

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- Rod closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
  - Next WCMAC meeting: September 11, 2024

## Appendix A. Public Comment Letters

Please see public comment letters submitted for the record on the next page.

DRAFT

**C. Scott Cameron, PhD**

**Comment to the OSW Technical Committee of the WCMAC regarding possible leasing by BOEM for floating wind development along the Washington continental margin**

*I have an additional item for the OSW TC to consider. The minutes of items discussed at the OSW TC meeting on June 25, 2024 did not appear to mention the most significant threat to future offshore wind development infrastructure and its workforce on the coasts of WA, OR, and Northern CA – a catastrophic earthquake and accompanying tsunami generated along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Such an event represents an existential threat to any offshore wind development in WA – I suggest it be added to your list.*

I am a geologist with 43 years of professional experience, mainly in the energy sector. I have also been a resident of Pacific Beach, WA, located along the coast, since 2008. From 2018-2023 I was a member and then Co-Chair of the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment (COSA) which advises BOEM on all aspects of their environmental policies and programs to manage Federal offshore energy resources.

In my view, BOEM has not adequately considered the potential impact of a major earthquake and tsunami along the Cascadia Subduction Zone on both the infrastructure and especially the people who would be involved in offshore wind development along the WA, OR, and northern CA coasts. The WA Geological Survey and WA EMD recently raised the chances of such an event in the next 50 years to 15-25%. The impacts in terms of loss of lives and assets would be on par with the catastrophic event in Japan in 2011 (FEMA analysis). I have shared this concern with BOEM since late 2021 but apparently it is not a top priority for them at this time. I have voiced my concerns to BOEM in public comments posted last year and again last month related to the planned wind leasing areas in offshore OR (see link at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2023-0065-0129>). In addition, I made a series of specific recommendations for the WA Congressional Delegation (via Rep. Kilmer's office), which were included along with the posted comments. The key recommendation is that BOEM should undertake a Full Programmatic EIS, including impacts of geohazards, before any leasing is undertaken. I encourage you to review the comments and related attachments posted at the link included above.

For additional perspectives on the hazards posed by a major earthquake and tsunami along the Cascadia Subduction Zone I refer you to the work of the following geoscience and geotechnical experts:

Corina Allen, WA Geological Survey  
Dr. Harold Tobin, UW faculty  
Dr. Brian Atwater, UW faculty and USGS Emeritus  
Yumei Wang, PSU faculty and formerly with DOGAMI  
Dr. Chris Goldfinger, OSU faculty  
Dr. Diego Melgar, UO faculty

I also refer you to a recent item from CNN (<https://edition.cnn.com/washington-earthquake-tsunami-violent-earth/index.html>) highlighting the findings from newly acquired geophysical data along the

Cascadia Subduction Zone, including a finding that offshore WA has the potential for the largest earthquakes. Allen, Wang, and Melgar were interviewed in the CNN article.

Finally, I support the comment from the minutes of the June 25 meeting that onshore wind development along the WA coast be considered as an alternative to offshore wind projects. Onshore wind farms could be located outside the mapped tsunami flood zones, reducing risk of catastrophic damage and losses, while still capturing significant renewable energy. The existing onshore wind farm near Grayland, WA is an example.

I am happy to discuss my comments on this matter further.

Thank you,

C. Scott Cameron, PhD  
PO Box 128  
Pacific Beach, WA 98571  
832 851 3819



WCMAC

10 July 2024

There has only been one legal interpretation of the Ocean Resources Management Act at the Washington Supreme Court. The Grays Harbor oil terminal case was a unanimous 9 – 0 decision which articulated clearly how ORMA should be carried out:

1. Agencies have an affirmative duty to ascertain the legislative INTENT of ORMA and carry it out
2. Orma is to be interpreted broadly
3. Fisheries are to be preemptively protected

RCW 43.143.060 (2) (b) plain language is very clear:

(2) In making recommendations under this section, the Washington coastal marine advisory council shall consider:

(b) The protection and preservation of **existing sustainable uses** for current and future generations, including economic stakeholders reliant on marine waters to stabilize the vitality of the coastal economy. –

Economic stakeholders are inclusive of fishing

OSW was allowed under ORMA “if” conflict with fishing is AVOIDED

WCMAC spent several years examining the ocean uses offshore Washington and could not find any place inside the recognized GLD inside 700 fathoms where OSW could be located without CONFLICT with existing use including fishing. The current two offshore wind proposals significantly Conflict with fishing, and it is obvious they have NO regard for the coastal communities need for ACCESS to the ocean.

Washington has a good example of what happens when BOEM comes calling. Oregon governor, Oregon congressional delegates, and Oregon legislators all sent letters to BOEM requesting a pause in initiating OSW in Oregon offshore waters. BOEM ignored all requests of the state to pause, and this fall will issue leases to offshore wind developers who can start moving forward with lease executions where Oregon elected officials are put on the shelf and their requests put in the trash.

It will be a GRAVE mistake for Washington to engage with BOEM especially since Washington does NOT need any additional energy that cannot be achieved on land where JOBS will be created, not lost through displacement of the fishing industry. Washington can participate with JOBS on shore by building offshore wind components for deployment in marine waters other than the minimal area of 38 miles south of Westport that is a very busy ocean that our coastal communities depend upon for their economic viability and stability.

Many farmland owners welcome wind turbines on their land where they are paid in excess of \$7000/year individual turbine lease and are still able to farm right up to the base of the turbines. The wind turbines are a net gain for their families. The fishing families get nothing when they lose ocean ACCESS due to displacement over huge fishing areas where JOBS are lost and incomes diminished, not just where displacement occurs as a result of installing ocean energy devices but also wherever those displaced fishermen move to crowding other fishermen's fishing grounds in the very concentrated area south of Westport. Our young next high debt fishing families only have the same area to fish as offshore wind companies have to develop where the young families can fish for albacore and longline open access black cod without heavy permit costs such as purchasing crab permits. At the Columbia River a fishing family needs to purchase 2 crab permits to have access to fishing grounds. The two crab permits that I sold to the next generation fishing family today are worth in excess of \$800,000, add a capable vessel at \$700,000, and a permit quantity number of crab pots at approximately \$400,000 and the capital investment to fish Dungeness crab is pushing \$2 million – try that debt on for size if it can be borrowed is astounding – then this displace a major area of the fishing family fishing grounds and a DISASTER for the future of the fishing families is eminent. It is totally unreasonable to tradeoff our coastal fisheries for offshore wind that we do NOT need today, or anytime in the foreseeable future that Washington can develop on land far cheaper and more reliably than at sea.





## Appendix B. Gridworks Summary Presentation

Please see the Gridworks presentation on the next page.

DRAFT





Gridworks convenes, educates, and empowers stakeholders working to decarbonize our economy. We facilitate complex discussion and collaboration to meet decarbonization goals.

**Our team offers:**

- deep subject matter expertise
- extensive facilitation experience
- motivation to work for Washington equitably, transparently, and with integrity



## TEAM & CONSULTANT EXPERIENCE



**Matthew Tisdale**  
Executive Director



**Kate Griffith**  
Director



**Steve Johnson**  
Senior Fellow



**Maggie Dunham Jordahl**  
Senior Project Manager



**Pat Oshie**  
Consultant

- Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- Consulting practice focused on tribal relations and energy
- Lives in the Yakima Valley and is a member of Kah-Bay-Kah-Nong Band of the Chippewa Nation



**Carol Bernthal**  
Consultant

- 35 years of experience working in natural resource management
- Served as Sanctuary Superintendent for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Senior Habitat Biologist/Program Coordinator for Point No Point Treaty Council
- Lives in Port Townsend

## Offshore Wind

The U.S. federal government (BOEM), California, and Oregon are exploring offshore wind development on the West Coast.

Formal federal process has not begun in Washington, however, Washington State is considering how best to proceed through the development of a planning and evaluation engagement framework.

This is a pre-decisional effort to scope the type of engagement Washington Tribes, fisheries, industry, conservation groups, local governments, communities, etc., would like to see from and around formal federal offshore wind processes, including how Washington might supplement a federal process.





## Gridworks' Scope of Work

- Recommend a framework for a Washington-specific consultation and public engagement process to guide the planning and evaluation of potential offshore wind development off Washington's coast, including options for how BOEM and the state can tailor a BOEM process to Washington's unique needs and/or options to develop processes to augment BOEM's efforts.
- Identify key data gaps identified by state agencies, local governments, Tribes, and stakeholders pertinent to the planning and evaluation of offshore wind and recommended scientific studies needed to comprehensively evaluate potential offshore wind impacts.
- Identify funding needs to support the recommended framework.
- Recommend next steps for planning and evaluation of offshore wind development off Washington's coast.



### Draft Report: A Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement Framework for Washington State

Research and recommendations to shape planning and evaluation of offshore wind off Washington's Pacific Coast.

MAY 2024



GRIDWORKS

1

## GRIDWORKS' APPROACH TO THIS PROJECT

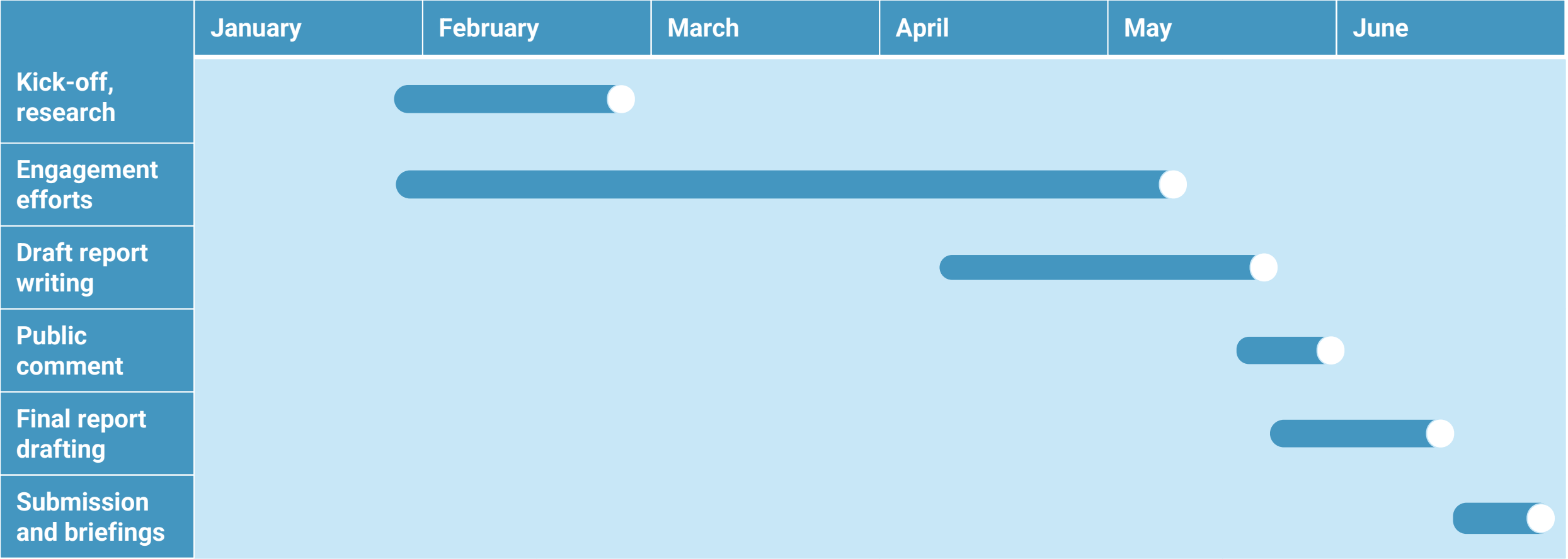
### Outcomes

- Framework for a **comprehensive, transparent process to evaluate offshore wind development** in Washington state.
- **Catalog of funding needs** to implement the framework
- **Review of key data gaps** pertinent to planning and evaluation of offshore wind
- **Recommendations for scientific studies** needed to evaluate potential offshore wind impacts.

### Process

- Expert **research and documentation of offshore wind engagement best practices** in other jurisdictions
- Targeted **interviews and collaborative meetings with stakeholder groups and Tribes**
- **Public comment and feedback**
- **Socialization of findings and recommendations**

PROJECT TIMELINE





## Washington Engagement Process

- Gridworks invited and convened discussions with Washington Tribes, interested parties, and communities who would be most impacted by the development of offshore wind off the Washington Coast
- Most meetings ranged from 1-3 hours in length, and typically included a presentation from Gridworks followed by facilitated discussion.
- Comments and questions largely fell into 7 categories:
  - Federal process improvements/expectations
  - State process improvements/expectations
  - Public trust, respect, and transparent engagement
  - Environmental, marine co-use, and community impact issues
  - Data gathering & research
  - Gridworks' OSW Engagement Project process
  - Tribal impacts

## Engagement Meetings To-Date

1.	WCMAC	2/14/24	17.	Research interests	4/10/24
2.	Coastal Tribes - initial briefing	2/20/24	18.	Local Government: Clallam County	4/10/24
3.	All State Tribes - initial briefing	2/23/24	19.	ATNI	4/11/24
4.	Commercial fishing introduction call	3/19/24	20.	Research 1-1: University of Washington	4/12/24
5.	Recreational fishing introduction call	3/20/24	21.	Port of Grays Harbor	4/16/24
6.	Commercial & recreational fishing deep-dive	3/25/24	22.	Local Government: Grays Harbor County	4/22/24
7.	Local government: Ilwaco and Forks	3/25/24	23.	Pacific MRC representative	5/6/24
8.	WCMAC offshore wind TC	3/26/24	24.	Grays Harbor MRC representative	5/6/24
9.	Labor	3/27/24	25.	WCMAC	5/8/24
10.	State Ocean Caucus	3/27/24	26.	Quileute Tribe	5/13/24
11.	Ports and econ development: Pacific County	3/28/24	27.	Hoh Tribe	5/14/24
12.	WA Department of Ecology	3/28/24	28.	Shoalwater Tribe	5/15/24
13.	PNNL	4/3/24	29.	Quinault Indian Nation	5/15/24
14.	Clean energy	4/8/24	30.	State Ocean Caucus	5/22/24
15.	Maritime shipping	4/8/24	31.	Hecate	5/24/24
16.	Conservation	4/10/24	32.	DOD	5/24/24

## Research: BOEM Processes, OSW Planning in Other States, Considerations Unique to Washington

- BOEM processes and the Federal Advisory Committee Act
- Oregon, Maine, and California OSW planning and analysis approaches
- Tribal Sovereignty and Treaty Rights
  - Treaty of 1855 and reserved rights
  - Millennium Agreement and Centennial Accord
  - ATNI Worley, Idaho Resolution
  - Coastal Treaty Tribe letters to BOEM in Oregon process
- Washington Fishing Industry
- Coastal Zone Management Act/Enforceable Policies/MSP
- State Energy Strategy and Washington Policy Regarding Offshore Wind

## Research Findings

- **BOEM processes and the Federal Advisory Committee Act** offer some flexibility for tailoring processes to state needs, but BOEM's process is scoped for leasing.
- **Oregon, Maine, and California** all approached offshore wind planning and evaluation differently.
  - States can provide leadership in offshore wind evaluation efforts with processes that at least run in parallel, if not start before, BOEM's initiation of its leasing process.
- **Washington Tribes' Treaty Rights** are unique in the country, and Washington Tribes seek meaningful government-to-government engagement on offshore wind issues.
- **Washington's fishing industry** is a multi-billion dollar industry. Industry leaders and communities reliant on fishing are concerned about how offshore wind will impact them in myriad ways.
- **Washington Coastal Zone Management Act Enforceable Policies and MSP** provide a framework for some aspects of offshore wind discussion, but not all.
- **Washington's energy policy and strategy** has no clear policy supporting or scoping offshore wind development off the coast.

## Shared Interview Process Findings: General

- Offshore wind planning and evaluation efforts should be conducted with attunement to the perspectives of those who would be most impacted by development:
  - Concern for coastal community and economic impacts, including fishing community impacts
  - Concerns about impacts to tribal rights, way of life, and stewardship of the natural environment
- Processes should include opportunities for not moving forward with offshore wind development if it becomes apparent that offshore wind is not appropriate for Washington.
- Processes should share how participant engagement and feedback has informed decision-making.
- Communities are concerned that the benefits of offshore wind will not flow to communities, but the burdens will. Communities want to define what constitutes a benefit or a burden to their communities.

## Shared Interview Process Findings: Federal

- Tribes and stakeholders want environmental/ecosystem issues studied on a coast-wide basis, rather than state-by-state. They want these impacts to be studied early in planning and evaluation processes to inform next steps.
- Stakeholders are concerned with the inclusivity of federal planning and analysis efforts through BOEM's intergovernmental task force.
- Stakeholders are concerned by when and how BOEM's planning and analysis process for determining offshore wind lease areas handles conflicts with current ocean uses.
- BOEM should coordinate early with Tribes and stakeholders prior to BOEM's issuance of Call Areas, Wind Energy Areas, and other proposals developed for decision-making.

## Shared Interview Process Findings: State

- Tribes and stakeholders share a need for the state to articulate why, how, or under what circumstances it is considering offshore wind development off the state coast.
- Stakeholders share a need for Washington to get ahead of and play an active role in a BOEM planning and analysis process, before entering the process, in order to ensure federal efforts are meaningful, transparent, and attuned to Washington's unique needs.
- Tribes and stakeholders share a need for more coordinated efforts from federal and state governments exploring offshore wind to ameliorate participant capacity issues in responding to those efforts.

## Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1: Tribal Consultation**

- Meaningful consultation on offshore wind issues with Washington Tribes, following Millennium Agreement guidelines
- Conversations about the cross-sector topics (energy, fishing, resource protection, climate and conservation, etc.)
- On-going, iterative consultation with Governor's Office, the Washington Dept. of Ecology, the Dept. of Commerce, and the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, including leadership and technical staff

- **Recommendation 2: West-wide Research Consortium**

- Consortium to provide independent expert analysis and peer review of, guidance for, and prioritization of the research and analysis informing responsible offshore wind development off the Pacific Coast.
- Washington Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Oregon agencies, Washington- and Oregon-based academic research organizations, Tribes, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, CRITFC, independent or nonprofit researchers and organizations, federal organizations, etc.



Recommendations

Recommendation 2: West-wide Research Consortium, cont.

A preliminary list of research study needs identified by participants in our process:

- cumulative impacts of West Coast offshore wind development
- potential impacts to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem
- changes in upwelling
- changes to surface-level mixing
- changes to larval drift/ocean transport
- impacts to stratification
- impacts to thermocline
- wake effects of turbines
- a project’s natural disaster resiliency or impacts

- forage effects
- seabird impacts, including blade collision
- endangered and protected species/habitat impacts
- phytoplankton impacts
- electromagnetic field effects
- impacts to marine mammals and migration
- impacts to birds and pollinators
- impacts to fish migration in ocean and upstream into inland rivers, such as the Columbia River

- acoustic noise impacts on ocean life
- social/socio-economic impacts to coastal Washington and inland communities, including behavioral health impacts on Tribes
- fishing production (including stock surveys)
- impacts to/dislocation of other ocean uses
- impacts to the ecological value of natural resources
- broader impacts and benefits of clean energy generation replacing fossil fuel generation

## Recommendations

- **Recommendation 3: State Policy Articulation and State Task Force**

- State should take an active role in determining and articulating its policy priorities relative to offshore wind development off the state coast prior to a BOEM process
- State Task Force can inform articulation of policy goals through further study and discussion. Representation from Washington state agencies, Tribal governments, Tribal-led organizations, local governments, and representatives of impacted groups including the fishing and maritime industries, labor organizations spanning marine industries to electrical infrastructure, conservation, and other impacted viewpoints.
- To inform a state task force's efforts and/or to inform gubernatorial, legislative, or administrative decision-making and policy articulation, the state could initiate studies and public education around the following topics:
  - Statewide energy issues
  - Regional grid decarbonization
  - Priorities for ocean use and resource management
- State Task Force can assist with public education around offshore wind and any future processes

## Recommendations

- **Recommendation 4: Offshore Wind Development Concept Framework**
  - State should develop a concept framework for responsible offshore wind development to encourage and elevate priorities around responsible offshore wind development.
  - Engagement with Washington Tribes, stakeholders, and communities through working group to develop the framework
  - Framework to provide a set of guidelines or act as an enforceable document, depending on the state's priorities. This effort could also develop additional work products, such as draft community benefit agreements or minimum requirements of what community benefit agreements should offer.
  - Framework to inform exit opportunities from a federal leasing process from BOEM's planning and analysis phase through site assessments and project development.
- **Recommendation 5: State Authority Review, Articulation**
  - Prior to entering a BOEM leasing process, state should perform a thorough investigation and comprehensive catalog of Washington's legal authorities under Coastal Zone Management Act enforceable policies and other jurisdictional authorities pertinent to potential siting and permitting of offshore wind within the BOEM process.
  - Examine whether additional enforceable policies are helpful for the state

## Recommended framework for a comprehensive, transparent process to evaluate offshore wind development

- **Recommendations 6 & 7: State Leadership in a BOEM Process**

- Develop advisory body requests for BOEM to meet in BOEM's consideration of offshore wind leasing off the Washington Coast, such as an intergovernmental task force or another body.
- Develop specific guidelines to ensure BOEM's interactions with Tribes, stakeholders, and the public during a BOEM leasing process in Washington are inclusive, comprehensive, and meaningful:
  - i. Request BOEM engage with Washington Tribes and the state concurrently.
  - ii. Request BOEM develop a charter for its advisory body.
  - iii. Request BOEM increase its consultation efforts with Washington Tribes and share decision-making rationale with Tribes prior to public announcements.
  - iv. Request BOEM share with the state, Tribes, and stakeholders a comprehensive and detailed process plan for any BOEM leasing effort off the Washington coast.
  - v. Request BOEM conduct an analysis of potential cumulative impacts of offshore wind development to the marine ecosystem West-wide, Tribes, coastal communities, and economic interests like fishing and shipping during the planning and analysis phase of the BOEM process.
  - vi. Request BOEM share criteria for decision-making and the reasoning supporting BOEM's decisions.
  - vii. Request BOEM share drafts of Call Areas and additional drafts of Wind Energy Areas to inform Tribes, the public, and stakeholders of changes made responding to site conflicts.

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

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GRIDWORKS

## Appendix C. 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  
March 26, 2024 | 1pm – 3pm

## Meeting Highlights

- OSW Technical Committee members provided feedback to Gridworks about the intentions behind WCMAC's Principles of Engagement, lessons learned from other states' engagement processes with BOEM, and what meaningful and transparent engagement looks like.
- Key themes from this discussion include:
  - BOEM must meaningfully include and engage with affected stakeholders and communities in the engagement process.
  - Meaningful and transparent engagement includes regular and repeated engagement opportunities, with relevant materials shared in advance, and meetings have opportunity for public comment and engagement.
  - Meaningful and transparent engagement means that public feedback is incorporated into the decision-making process and responded to.
  - Washington's enforceable policies are a key pathway for the state to impact BOEM's process if it isn't adequately involving stakeholders.

## Participants

### WCMAC Members

- Brian Blake, Commercial fishing
- Corey Niles, WDFW
- Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC
- Katie Arkema, Science organization
- Larry Thevik, Commercial fishing (TC Co-Chair)
- Matt Niles, State Parks
- Michele Conrad, Economic development
- Nives Dolsak, Educational institution
- Paula Culbertson, Wahkiakum MRAC
- Phil Anderson, Recreational fishing
- Rod Fleck, North Pacific MRC

### TC Members, Staff, and Guests

- Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting Group
- Ann Skelton, Pacific County MRC
- Brandii O'Reagan, WA Sea Grant
- Casey Dennehy, Ecology
- Heather Hall, WDFW
- Kate Griffith, Gridworks
- Mai Aoki, Ecology
- Mara Machulsky, Hoh Tribe
- Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood Consultants
- Nicole Gutierrez, Cascadia Consulting Group
- Peggen Frank

# Meeting Summary

## Welcome and Announcements

- Nicole Gutierrez welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the March meeting agenda. She noted that the November 2023 meeting summary was finalized. The facilitation team is still accepting comments on the January 2024 meeting summary through the end of March.
- Larry Thevik requested that Technical Committee (TC) meeting summaries are uploaded somewhere where the public can view them.
  - Nicole replied that OSW TC meeting summaries are already shared publicly on Ecology's [WCMAC EZ View page](#) as appendices in the full WCMAC meeting packets, but moving forward the facilitation team will also upload a compilation PDF that includes all OSW TC meeting summaries in one document.

## OSW Updates

- Nicole reviewed highlights from BOEM's presentation at the February WCMAC meeting and asked if anyone had additional updates or reflections to share.
  - Katie Arkema shared that she followed up with the BOEM Representative after the BOEM presentation at the February meeting. She asked if it's a requirement for BOEM to convene an interagency task force, or if we can convene our own task force. Please see [Appendix A](#) to see a copy of the correspondence that Katie shared out during the meeting.
- Larry reminded the OSW TC that BOEM moved forward with the Oregon Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) despite over a thousand public comments and calls to hold. After the final WEA announcement, BOEM put out a 30-day comment period on the Environmental Assessment. Many of the groups that have recurrent concerns asked for more time to make comments on the scoping period of the Environmental Assessment, but BOEM did not grant additional time. Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) sent a letter related to the latest comment period, noting that they have previously requested a deliberative approach and remain concerned with BOEM's truncated timeline. Larry concluded that we continue to see BOEM putting decisions before data. BOEM's target is to have a public sales notice and Oregon lease areas up for sale by October.
- Corey reflected on the WCMAC February meeting, noting his opinion that the Gridworks project is working to answer how Washington state could better lead the BOEM process and address some of the concerns raised by other states. What could this joint coordination and planning look like? How do we braid together our state's management framework with BOEM's process? How can we make the process better than what we've seen in Oregon and California?

## Gridworks Engagement (*Kate Griffith, Gridworks*)

Kate Griffith shared that Gridworks wants to dive deeper into WCMAC's Principles of Engagement and think about how to braid the State's process with BOEM's process. Kate led the following discussion.

## Technical Committee Discussion

- Kate asked, for those who were involved with developing the OSW TC's Principles of Engagement, what led to those principles?



- Larry replied that the Biden Administration did not identify WA as a location for OSW development in [their 2030 OSW target](#). This gave us the opportunity to watch the OSW process unfold elsewhere. Through observing other states' processes, the TC identified recurrent concerns with BOEM's process such as the lack of and need for more data, the need for cumulative impacts analysis, and the need for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (or something similar) before leasing decisions.
  - Corey shared that the Principles were an intermediate exercise to identify what wasn't working in other states. He recognized that the Principles would need to be translated into something more concrete if BOEM came to WA.
- Kate asked the group to expand on Principle 2, which calls for a "joint planning or coordination agreement." What would this look like?
  - Michele commented that this language refers to an agreement between BOEM and state agencies. Essentially, our understanding of the current BOEM process is that when a state requests a task force, the members of the task force only include state agencies. What we wanted to communicate in Principle 2 is that a task force should also include affected stakeholders, who are not currently included in the BOEM process.
  - Larry commented that the TC witnessed how ineffective the Task Force process had been elsewhere. He noted two reasons for Principle 2, including:
    - TC members felt the BOEM Task Force process was flawed; in other states there were very few Task Force meetings and it had been a very closed-off process with limited public input or access. We viewed the Task Force as a failed process and were searching for alternatives.
    - Within BOEM's federally mandated responsibilities, there's language about a "joint planning or coordination agreement" in lieu of a Task Force ([30 CFR § 585.102\(e\)](#)). The TC used this regulatory language in the Principles of Engagement as an alternative to the BOEM Task Force process, and then built upon it to determine what a "joint planning or coordination agreement" would involve. The TC advocates that this should include stakeholder involvement from the get-go.
  - Corey shared that, in addition, other state's task forces always received very little notice of a BOEM decision, announcement, or public comment opportunity. It's extremely difficult for task forces to review and respond to technical documents in a short time frame.
  - Rod shared he is concerned that BOEM's process has been consistently exclusive.
  - Larry noted that, in Oregon, the BOEM Task Force meetings were scant, with only six meetings since 2011. Task Force meetings also never included time for public comment. Larry feels that the Oregon Task Force process was not inclusive, often times uninformed, and did not provide for public comment.
- Kate shared that the Principles' recommendation, "WCMAC recommends an alternative approach.." reads like WCMAC is recommending a **non**-intergovernmental process. However, the red flags raised by WCMAC could be problems with any engagement process, intergovernmental or not. What other ideas for that kind of advisory body did you have in mind?
  - Corey noted that WCMAC hasn't gotten to that level of detail yet.
- Kate asked if TC members had ideas about an advisory body now.
  - Michele shared that the TC thought BOEM's authority to have something other than an intergovernmental Task Force may be limited. Based on [the cited regulation \(30 CFR § 585.102\(e\)\)](#), a joint planning or coordination agreement fell within the BOEM authority as an alternative to the intergovernmental Task Force. We weren't

- necessarily thinking that it would be something completely different from the intergovernmental Task Force.
- Michele commented that, based on the MSP, WDFW would establish a fishery-specific advisory body about OSW. The OSW TC was trying to establish a broader stakeholder body that included affected communities along the coast and not just affected fishermen (who would already be included in WDFW's fisheries advisory body).
    - Corey agreed. WDFW has a fisheries stakeholder process, but asked how do we braid that together? The MSP says that the State wants a cumulative impacts analysis before the leasing stage. Corey also noted that there are at least two different processes at play here: the Coastal Zone Management Act consistency process and the Fisheries Use Protection Standards. Our MSP requires a fisheries stakeholder advisory process to help the state evaluate the Fisheries Use Protection Standards and ORMA.
  - Katie Arkema shared that she wasn't involved with the development of the Principles, but she thinks it's worth explicitly noting that there are different elements to consider about the organization of such a task force. One element is the membership (recognizing it needs to be inclusive of all stakeholders, not just agency and tribal representatives) and another is who leads the engagement. If there are opportunities for this engagement to not be led by BOEM, that is worth considering. What would that process look like? What are the opportunities to be involved? What are the mechanisms for listening to input? This is where WA can be clear; it shouldn't only be BOEM involved in the analysis, we can have co-developed science and engagement to inform each stage of the process. Katie thinks we should involve a task force in each stage of the process, through construction and monitoring. There should be a clear feedback loop, so input is continually fed back into the process for future decision-making.
  - Larry appreciated Michele's summary of the WDFW fisheries stakeholder requirement in the MSP. His opinion is, if we pursue a relationship with BOEM, it should not be integrated into the MSP planning process and WCMAC forum. It should be its own separate process. We might even find that the different processes come to different conclusions about OSW. There is an information void that is not being filled, and the MSP is supposed to provide that data. Larry thinks the MSP process would be outside of the BOEM Task Force process.
  - Kate asked if the group had any concerns with WDFW taking concerns from the fisheries stakeholder body to the BOEM Task Force.
    - Larry shared that he views these as separate. The MSP process includes a fisheries stakeholder advisory meeting and the Ocean Caucus. The BOEM Task Force is separate from these. You would still have stakeholder participation within this other communication framework.
    - Rod shared that the Principles of Engagement were created with the hopes that BOEM would be an engaged, willing, and collaborative partner. The concern is that we may be too optimistic about BOEM's participation. How do we ensure WA's needs and wants are clearly articulated, fully formed, and developed from Day 1 of a BOEM process. He wondered if we should ask the state's engineers to do some "if-when" analysis. WCMAC can start thinking about utilizing BOEM's process to the fullest benefit for WA.
      - Kate asked for clarification about Rod's comments. She heard two recommendations: one, there's an opportunity for WCMAC to course correct if BOEM isn't an engaged and collaborative partner. Second, the WA

- Attorney General could begin looking procedurally at where those off-ramps might be.
- Rob clarified that we need a Plan B. The Principles of Engagement are our Plan A, so what is our Plan B if BOEM isn't collaborative? What can we implement instead so WA isn't at a disadvantage? Rod recommended that we work with DNR, WDFW, and Ecology to analyze where the onshore connection for OSW energy would occur. What are the impacts, concerns, and obstacles for onshore grid connection?
  - Corey commented that we need to understand how the enforceable policies and consistency operate and then work backwards from there. The enforceable policies set the federal legal framework and create a major role for the state in this conversation. The state can evaluate if a proposed project/use is consistent with ORMA.
  - Michele agreed with previous comments made and responded to Rod's questions about a Plan B. The Principles of Engagement (Principle 2 in particular) are what we are hoping BOEM would agree to. If BOEM is not willing to engage in a process as we've outlined here, these principles still serve as expectations for the state agencies and the Governor's Office to follow. Thus, our Plan B is that the Principles still stand, and we expect the Governor's Office and state agencies to interact and engage with stakeholders according to the Principles, then take our input to BOEM.
  - Larry agreed with Michele. He also mentioned that he and Corey discussed the enforceable policies and the potential for WCMAC to course correct if an engagement process unfolds that they don't agree with. Is there any serious way that the state could interact with and modify BOEM's behavior? The Coastal Zone Management Act and the enforceable policies are potential places where the state can influence BOEM's actions if BOEM is far afield of these principles. Larry believes that if Ecology doesn't issue a consistency certificate for OSW, the decision goes to U.S. Secretary of Commerce.
  - Kate noted that the Principles of Engagement document shares the need for meaningful and transparent engagement (Principles #4, #2, #1). What does meaningful and transparent mean to you, or what are tangible examples of engagement that could have been more meaningful and/or transparent?
    - Larry shared that in Oregon, BOEM received over 1000 public comments asking for more time and data collection but didn't answer any of these concerns. Larry commented that "meaningful" is an exchange; when we have objections, the agency should respond. BOEM currently has not responded to posed questions. In terms of transparency, when BOEM announced the Oregon call area designations, they held a Task Force meeting only one day prior, which isn't enough notice. There have been many opportunities for public comment at milestones, but little response to the comments submitted. And contrary to that, the Task Force meetings don't have an opportunity for public comment. Despite requests for public comment period extension, BOEM did not extend.
    - Larry also commented that tribal consultation has been inadequate according to public tribal comments and submitted comment documents.
    - Michele shared that "meaningful" means adequate time to review agendas, briefing materials, and technical documents. It also includes multiple opportunities to engage with BOEM. If BOEM doesn't want to engage with stakeholders and affected communities, then there needs to be adequate time for the state agencies to conduct stakeholder engagement processes and solicit public input to take to BOEM in the interagency task force. "Transparent" means accessible meetings, shorter travel times/distance to meetings, remote/virtual options, opportunity for actual

- engagement and not just observation, and opportunity for public engagement and comment on the process. If BOEM isn't willing to be on a task force that includes stakeholders –even though that is what we're asking for– is there a way for the public and stakeholders to engage in this process?
- Paula noted that “meaningful” refers to ensuring we are shown the full picture of OSW – not just pieces of the process that BOEM is responsible for. When sitting in on previous meetings, questions have been raised about transmission and BOEM will deflect those questions to another department. BOEM has an obligation to share the full picture with us and bring in any other relevant agencies, so we are fully informed.
  - Corey commented that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) is a great example of an open and transparent process. The analysts, scientists, and decision makers are all meeting in public and articulating their rationale.
    - Kate confirmed with Corey that in this example, meaningful and transparent means everything from analysis to decision-making is happening in a forum that the public can observe and engage with.
  - Phil agreed; PFMC is a forum for transparent and meaningful interaction with the communities affected by an action and offers substantial and repetitive opportunities for impacted entities to engage in the process. He noted that, for most government entities, meaningful engagement does not mean that every issue or concern raised by the affected community is going to be resolved in a manner that's acceptable. The important piece is that the action-taking agency works diligently in a meaningful public dialogue with the people and communities impacted by whatever the proposed action is. They are obligated to incorporate the concerns and comments into decision making to the maximum extent possible. Transparency is being able to see the information that's being used to evaluate the action, to be able to comment on the analysis and materials, and to be able to bring new information into the decision-making process.
  - Heather Hall asked how the WCMAC can provide more input to Gridworks.
    - Kate replied that there are a few avenues. First, she's engaging with WCMAC members outside of WCMAC meetings. Gridworks' report is due to the Governor's Office on June 15, and a public comment period is required prior. Kate is working with Ecology to determine if attending another WCMAC meeting is possible within the project timeframe. There will be a public comment opportunity that WCMAC can participate in.
    - Larry commented that time constraints placed on Gridworks' project are a concern, and Gridworks should request more time from the Governor's Office.

## Closing and Next Steps

Nicole reviewed actions items from the meeting:

- OSW TC members can reach out to Kate Griffith ([kgriffith@gridworks.org](mailto:kgriffith@gridworks.org)) directly with questions or further comments.
- Ecology and the facilitation team will coordinate with Kate about future discussions with the WCMAC or OSW TC.
- The facilitation team will circulate the OSW TC Action Plan via email and likely return to it in April.
- OSW TC members can send edits to the January meeting summary by Friday, March 29.
- The next OSW TC meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2024.

## Appendix A: BOEM Correspondence

Question: Is it a requirement to initiate a BOEM interagency task force in order to move through the process or is it possible to hold a different task force, say spearheaded by the state, instead of the BOEM interagency task force which limits participation to just agencies?

BOEM answer: Per 30 CFR Part 585.102, BOEM will provide for coordination and consultation with the Governor of any State, the executive of any local government, and the executive of any Indian Tribe that may be affected by a lease, easement, or ROW under this subsection. BOEM may invite any affected State Governor, representative of an affected Indian Tribe, and affected local government executive to join in establishing a task force or other joint planning or coordination agreement in carrying out our responsibilities under this part. Outside of a BOEM-organized task force, the state can organize a task force and include additional participants if so desired. Traditionally, the task force is mostly active throughout the first phase of planning, unless there is the desire to keep the task force as a communication mechanism after leases have been executed. After lease execution, there are stipulations for the lessee to organize and fund continued engagement with tribes, fishermen, and other stakeholders.

Question: I noticed in your slides that the rainbow process diagram looks little different than I've noticed in the past. On the far left there is now a brown block with state process. Is that a recent change in the formal process?

BOEM answer: The rainbow diagram slide indicates only a change to the illustration, and not a change to the process. The BOEM and State coordination for planning has always been the first step in the planning process.

# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee  
April 23, 2024 | 1pm – 3pm

## Meeting Highlights

- The OSW TC discussed nominations for new TC co-leads. The TC is nominating Matt Niles to join Larry Thevik as co-lead.
- The OSW TC discussed and edited the Objective 2 Action Plan.

## Participants

### WCMAC Members

- Brian Blake, Commercial Fishing
- Corey Niles, WDFW
- Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing (TC Co-Lead)
- Michele Conrad, Economic Development
- Mike Nordin, WCMAC Vice Chair, Pacific Conservation District
- Paula Culbertson, Wahkiakum MRC
- Rod Fleck, WCMAC Chair, North Pacific MRC

### TC Members, Staff, and Guests

- Ann Skelton, Pacific County MRC
- Casey Dennehy, Ecology
- Dale Beasley, Crab fishing representative
- Mai Aoki, Ecology
- Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood Consultants
- Nicole Gutierrez & Alle Brown-Law, Facilitation

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome and Announcements

- Nicole Gutierrez welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the April meeting agenda. She noted that the January 2024 meeting summary was finalized. The facilitation team is still accepting comments on the March 2024 meeting summary through the end of April.
- Ecology has posted a full OSW TC meeting summary document (2022-2023) to the [WCMAC EZ View page](#). This was in response to Larry Thevik's request that TC meeting summaries are uploaded somewhere where the public can easily view them.

### Co-Lead Call

- The OSW TC currently has one co-lead (Larry) and can have two to three. Nicole shared asked if there were any WCMAC members on the call that are interested.
- Mike Nordin asked if Brian Blake is interested in being co-lead.
  - Brian Blake replied that he isn't sure if he has time to serve as co-lead.
- Nicole shared that Matt Niles confirmed that he's available and interested in serving as a co-lead on the OSW TC (Matt was not able to attend this meeting). The facilitation team



confirmed that they will put him forward as a TC co-lead nominee for the May WCMAC meeting.

## OSW Updates

- Larry shared that Gridworks hosted a hybrid meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, with participants from Oregon, Washington, and California, to discuss OSW development. In that meeting, participants shared:
  - Desire for the Governor of WA not to engage with BOEM at this time, and instead continue exploring the data gaps and explore other processes occurring in CA and OR before an official process kicks off.
  - WA was not identified to meet Biden's OSW mandate.
  - Desire for a programmatic EIS before leasing.
- Larry continued that WA should continue to explore the Principles of Engagement, enforceable policies, and community and data research needs. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, a PFMC Marine Planning Committee meeting, BOEM announced that it intends to move forward with its timeline to hold public lease sales off of OR in October 2024, despite the many calls to slow the process down.
- Paula Culbertson shared that she attended a WA Sea Grant webinar on electromagnetic fields generated by the cables off the coast of Long Island. The cables do not emit a lot of electricity, but they do emit electromagnetic fields which can impact animals that use electromagnetic fields for navigation (i.e. sharks and skates). It's interesting that they are proposing to run a cable through the Doves to Portland, running power through river from onshore wind farms.
- Corey Niles commented on the Oregon Governor's letter which asked BOEM not to move forward with any construction now while they go through this roadmap exercise. OR passed a bill calling for this roadmap to be produced.
- Larry commented that it's interesting how it's back to the BOEM's specious argument and claim of not being able to identify potential impacts related to OSW decisions until construction and operation plans are in hand. Despite numerous and diverse calls to slow this process, BOEM has indicated no interest in slowing the march to a Public Sales Notice (PSN) in October 2024. It is good that the OR Governor is saying not to move forward with the COP, which will follow a PSN, but it misses the point—the need to ask more questions and secure answers before any leasing.
- Larry commented on the Objective 2 Action Plan, noting that he has been advocating for replacing the term “prioritizing” with “identifying” when describing focus areas. He also noted, in relation to proposing a change to the Objective 2 language, he recalled Nicole suggesting in the January meeting that we can add contextual explanation about Objective 2 rather than changing it. We don't want to ask for a specific language change, but instead can show how we interpreted the objective. It was noted that we can return to this section once drafted.

## Objective 2 Action Plan

- The OSW TC reviewed the Objective 2 Action Plan and made edits throughout. **The edits can be viewed in the updated “WCMAC\_OSW\_ActionPlan\_20240524” word document attached to the OSW TC email.**
- It was noted that we should refer to Objective 1 and the Principles of Engagement recommendations in the introduction.
- Mike N. suggested adding a broader “comprehensive planning process” data and research need theme for assessing the need/feasibility of OSW off the coast of WA. He shared that a

comparison study comparing offshore energy with other clean, renewable energy should also be added.

- Members discussed OSW in the context of alternative energy sources, power transmission needs, energy costs, and the need for a more comprehensive comparative study on all renewable energy sources to define what is most effective for Washington. There was a need identified to review the Net-Zero Northwest study materials that were presented by Evolved Energy at the December 2023 WCMAC meeting.
- A comprehensive planning process theme was added to the Data and Community Research Needs section.

#### **OSW Siting/Development Consideration Theme:**

- Larry commented that the OR Call Area identification process had a number of considerations that should be used before identifying a site. He noted that the objective of the OSW Siting/Development theme was unclear and shared that in NOAA's NMFS response to call areas in OR, they said that BOEM 'must' consider effects of upwelling on OSW and what those potential changes to upwelling might do to the ecosystem before identifying Wind Energy Areas (WEAs). The June 28, 2022, letter to BOEM-2022-0009 also suggested extending the considered area.
  - Nicole replied that we can potentially narrow down this theme. Fisheries are covered in a separate theme and have some ecosystem needs identified outside of the current theme (OSW siting/development).
- Mike O. commented that the CA Current, impacts to ecosystem, and more should be part of OSW siting considerations.
  - Nicole replied that these are covered under the OSW and Fisheries theme – but we can consider reorganizing.
- Larry commented that he was unsure which direction to go in. It either needs to be really broad or identified differently. Consider "Other OSW Development Considerations" taking the "siting" out of it.

*Note: the OSW TC moved onto the next theme without finalizing review/input on the OSW siting/development theme. Review will be continued at a later meeting.*

#### **OSW and Fisheries Theme:**

- Michele commented that the term "communities" under this theme may be too broad.
- Dale commented that there needs to be protection and preservation of existing sustainable uses, such as fishing off the coast (RCW 43.143.060(2B)). A near term action is a review of the enforceable policies.
- Larry commented that for #1, the OSW TC suggested that was a limited scope to only include national Academy of Sciences Standing Committee on Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries. It should consider other research sources and information inputs (for example, PFMF, Tribal sovereigns, NOAA-NMFS, and more).

*Note: the OSW TC did not complete their review of this theme and will continue their review at a future meeting.*

## **Closing and Next Steps**

Nicole reviewed actions items from the meeting:

- The next WCMAC meeting will be hybrid on May 8<sup>th</sup> WCMAC will be nominating Matt Niles for OSW co-lead.
- The facilitation team will take feedback on the OSW TC Action Plan and revise before next meeting.
- The next OSW TC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024, from 1-3 pm.



# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee  
June 25, 2024 | 1pm – 3pm

## Participants

### WCMAC Members

- Brian Blake, Commercial Fishing
- Brian Polagye, Energy Industry
- Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC
- Katie Arkema, Science Organization
- Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing (TC Co-Lead)
- Matt Niles, WA State Parks (TC Co-Lead)
- Mike Nordin, WCMAC Vice Chair, Pacific MRC
- Molly Bold, Coastal Port
- Paula Culbertson, Wahkiakum MRC
- Peter Steelquist, Coastal Recreation
- Phil Anderson, Recreational Fishing

### TC Members, Staff, and Guests

- Ann Skelton, Pacific County MRC
- Casey Dennehy, Ecology
- Dale Beasley, Crab fishing representative
- Mai Aoki, Ecology
- Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood Consultants
- Nicole Gutierrez & Alle Brown-Law, Facilitation

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome & Announcements

- Nicole welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting agenda, and led roll call. She requested feedback on the March and April Technical Committee meeting summaries.

### Gridworks Report Takeaways/Impressions

Report link: [Gridworks Final Report and Recommendations](#)

- Casey restated the goal of this conversation: set the WCMAC up for a successful special meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>. This TC meeting can help refine what potential WCMAC recommendations could be, so attendees should think about what recommendations would be able to pass the WCMAC with full consensus.

- Larry spoke to the letter he submitted to Gridworks in response to their Draft Report (Appendix A). He commented that the report was well-researched and as thorough as it could be given time constraints. He noted that Gridworks changed the order of their recommendations in their final report, so the numbering differs from his letter. He also noted two recent Tribal letters about the BOEM engagement process – these letters were shared with the OSW TC via email, and can be found here: [05-30-24 Comment from Makah Tribal Council](#), and [06-14-24 Comment from Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians](#).

**The following impressions and takeaways on the Gridworks Final Report were shared by TC members and do not represent consensus.**

- Many members shared that, overall, Gridworks did a good job of bringing all the information they collected into the report, in a short amount of time. The amount of engagement and perspectives integrated into the final report were noted and appreciated amongst TC members.
- Recognition was shared regarding how much the report focuses on the need for Tribal engagement and consultation.
  - Gridworks shared that “there is a need for Tribes and stakeholders to define what constitutes a benefit to their own communities and assurance that any benefits of offshore wind flow to their communities,” (on page 36 of the report).
- OSW TC Takeaways
  - Washington is not ready to begin a BOEM OSW leasing process. Multiple TC members agreed that it is too soon to engage formally with BOEM, and there is a lot of work to be done prior to a BOEM process, if one occurs.
  - The cost considerations for OSW are very uncertain (both cost to consumer and cost to government). In particular, the cost to ratepayers is not well-documented.
  - The cost required to build state capacity, particularly on the research and development side, could be significant. The consortium suggested would take substantially more money than has previously been invested into this by state or federal government. The [National Offshore Wind Research & Development Consortium \(NOWRDC\)](#) is a similar consortium on the East Coast. Pricing these recommendations out would be a helpful next step.
  - WCMAC was not mentioned much in the report – which was surprising.
  - It seems like the research funding suggested in this report would go to the entities that stand to financially benefit from OSW, and the best course of action is to hold and not engage with BOEM. If state and federal leadership want to pursue OSW off the Washington coast, it is not clear how these recommendations would help.
  - The report fails to mention specific state agency approvals concerning land transmission line needs. It would be helpful to reference state agency approval steps in this process.

- The research consortium would be particularly important to implement, as we don't have a good understanding of the cumulative impacts of built-out OSW on the California Current ecosystem.
- Washington should focus on onshore wind energy opportunities, because offshore wind will significantly negatively impact fishing, particularly young fishermen. It was emphasized that Washington doesn't need to implement the recommendations outlined in the report, because implementing them will lead to engaging with BOEM.
- A reflection was shared that this report was prepared for a governor who is leaving office, so there is concern on how this report will be used due to administration change.
- This report helps us prepare for the possible event that WA does have to engage with BOEM. Overall, this report is an important internal preparation strategy for the state. The best way to protect ourselves from entering a flawed engagement process like other states experienced is to prepare for the potential outcome.

### Gridworks Report Recommendations

For the detailed versions of the following recommendations, please refer to Section 4 of the [Gridworks Report](#). **The following feedback on the Gridworks Final Report recommendations were shared by TC members and does not represent consensus.**

During the discussion of Recommendation 1, Larry noted that the report recommendations are not in a specific order based on priority.

## Recommendation 1 Feedback

### Recommendation #1

Gridworks recommends the Governor's Office engage in meaningful consultation on offshore wind issues with Washington Coastal Tribes and other Tribes that may be impacted by offshore wind. We recommend consultations follow Millennium Agreement guidelines, such as interaction between state and government officials with comparable decision-making authority as well as open, two-way dialogue and information sharing between the state and Tribes. In addition to these tenants of government-to-government consultation, Gridworks recommends the state's offshore wind consultation efforts include representation from the Governor's Office, the Washington Dept. of Ecology, the Dept. of Commerce, and the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, including leadership and technical staff, to engage in on-going, iterative government-to-government consultations about the cross-sector topics involved in offshore wind—from energy issues to impacts to natural resources. Conversations may not always require all agencies or staff to participate, however points of contact should be well established in case questions arise that participants in a meeting on a given topic cannot address. To accomplish this type of meaningful tribal engagement, the Governor's Office could organize an offshore wind consultation leadership team including cabinet agency leadership as well as technical staff. Designating specific staff to engage in consultations on offshore wind issues could also support meaningful engagement through direct relationship-building between the state and Tribes.

The consultations contemplated by this recommendation are expected to start before and run parallel to federal or state offshore wind planning and analysis work, allowing the results of government-to-government engagements to feed into and impact state and/or federal deliberations and outcomes, as appropriate. For example, Washington Tribes may elect to collaborate with a state offshore wind task force (Recommendation 3), but likely only in addition to government-to-government consultation. The purpose of these government-to-government engagements is to discuss and seek agreement on subjects that would include:

- the protection and mutually beneficial stewardship of offshore lands and resources protected by Treaty rights, Executive Orders, and the state's legislative directives related to Tribes,
- the protection of cultural resources and practices,
- the creation of pathways for sharing information and costs to participate in offshore wind discussions, and
- the recognition of and respect for the rights of all sovereigns to assure the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens.

Additionally, these consultations would streamline information exchange between the state and Tribes to inform any offshore renewable energy planning and evaluation efforts. This recommendation is separate from the pre-decisional government-to-government engagement we recommend BOEM undertake with Washington's Coastal Treaty Tribes and other Tribes that may be impacted by offshore wind development and that is required through the U.S. federal government's trust responsibility to Tribes.



- This engagement is seen as a parallel process to the federal consultation process with Tribes. The State and the Tribes should/could engage in addition to, not as an alternative to, the federal process.
- This recommendation hinges on how the Tribes would want to proceed. It was noted that members would want to hear from the Tribes about this language.
- This recommendation is a foundational piece and imperative to success. The federal government has a trust responsibility to the Tribes. The state has the opportunity to engage in a co-management relationship with the Tribes. Washington has a long history of working with the Tribes on issues of common concern, particularly in the natural resource arena. It is important development of a co-management relationship with the Tribes on this issue, so we can work together in common in ensuring that our ocean resources are preserved and protected for long term.
- A TC member shared that they have heard from a Tribal representative that BOEM's tribal engagement has been inadequate thus far. WA could help the federal government meaningfully engage with Tribes - potentially the state could attend meetings with BOEM and Tribes.
- There was agreement that this recommendation is slightly confusing. WCMAC may want to provide feedback on this recommendation and ask for a clearer distinction between the required federal consultation (what BOEM should already be doing, and what the Tribes has said is not happening) and the additional consultation and engagement that the Governor's Office could conduct with Tribes. Additionally, this recommendation should include engaging tribes on what broader steps they want to take to address climate change.

## Recommendation 2 Feedback

## Recommendation #2

Washington state should consider development of or support for a regional research consortium that provides independent expert analysis and peer review of, guidance for, and prioritization of data-gathering, research, and analysis informing responsible offshore wind development off the Pacific Coast. Research to develop a baseline understanding of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem and to then understand offshore wind impacts to Washington Tribes and communities as well as fisheries and other natural resources will be a complicated conversation. Such a conversation will likely draw on researchers and efforts from across the Pacific Coast, requiring substantial time and funding. The prioritization of data-gathering, studies, or pilot efforts to conduct research is outside of our scope and expertise, however we recommend Washington form or support the formation of an entity drawing on West Coast-wide research expertise to scope the additional data gathering and studies, such as cumulative impact analyses. Washington would need to effectively plan for and evaluate offshore wind impacts to the marine environment and coastal communities.

A preliminary list of research study needs identified by participants in our process for consideration include:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cumulative impacts of West Coast offshore wind development</li> <li>• potential impacts to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem</li> <li>• changes in upwelling</li> <li>• changes to surface-level mixing</li> <li>• changes to larval drift/ocean transport</li> <li>• impacts to stratification</li> <li>• impacts to thermocline</li> <li>• wake effects of turbines</li> <li>• a project's natural disaster resiliency or impacts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• forage effects</li> <li>• seabird impacts, including blade collision</li> <li>• endangered and protected species/habitat impacts</li> <li>• phytoplankton impacts</li> <li>• electromagnetic field effects</li> <li>• impacts to marine mammals and migration</li> <li>• impacts to birds and pollinators</li> <li>• impacts to fish migration in ocean and upstream into inland rivers, such as the Columbia River</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acoustic noise impacts on ocean life</li> <li>• social/socio-economic impacts to coastal Washington and inland communities, including behavioral health impacts on Tribes</li> <li>• fishing production (including stock surveys)</li> <li>• impacts to/dislocation of other ocean uses</li> <li>• impacts to the ecological value of natural resources</li> <li>• broader impacts and benefits of clean energy generation replacing fossil fuel generation</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|

An initial list of organizations or entities to consider for inclusion on the consortium are Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the University of Washington and other Washington-based academic research groups, Oregon State University, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Tribes, independent or nonprofit researchers and organizations, federal organizations including BOEM, National Labs, NOAA, NMFS, and DOD, and other relevant state agencies and researchers.



- Overall, support was expressed for this recommendation and agreement on how important regional research will be regarding OSW development.
- There was discussion about the dams constructed on the Columbia River system as an example of infrastructure that was put in without considering cumulative impacts.
- There was agreement that Washington should be a leader in developing an understanding of OSW impacts to the entire West Coast and California Current ecosystem.
  - Washington should work with Oregon and California on this research, and Washington can take a lead role in advocating for research funding.
- It was strongly encouraged that public access to as much research and information as possible should be ensured, noting that OSW developers can frequently limit access to their proprietary research.
- This research must include the impacts of transmission-related infrastructure and port infrastructure. This recommendation should include more distributional effects of offshore wind infrastructure. It needs to include the relationships between entire OSW ecosystems (turbines, transmission, ports), communities, and the marine resources they depend on.
- It was flagged that BOEM will not do this type of research, particularly not about cumulative impacts.
- There were concerns shared about the effective structure of a research consortium and the funding needed to carry out such a broad analysis. The federal government has a responsibility to fund this research before taking any OSW action.



## Recommendation 3 Feedback

## Recommendation #3

Washington state should take an active role in determining and articulating its policy priorities relative to offshore wind development off the state coast prior to a BOEM process, including any timelines for considering offshore wind development. To inform articulation of the state's policy priorities by decision-makers, the state could remain flexible and take multiple routes.

Given the early nature of offshore wind discussion in Washington state, Gridworks recommends the state form a new offshore wind planning and analysis task force to inform decision-making and policy articulation by the governor, Legislature, or administrative agencies. This task force could be led by the Washington Dept. of Ecology and include representation from Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Dept. of Commerce, EFSEC, and the Utilities and Transportation Commission as well as Tribal governments, Tribal-led organizations, local governments, interested federal agencies such as the Dept. of Defense, and representatives of impacted groups including the fishing and maritime industries, labor organizations spanning marine industries to electrical infrastructure, conservation, and other impacted viewpoints.

The planning and analysis task force would provide information, including technical analyses and policy or value recommendations, that would be used to inform policy decisions by the governor, the Legislature, and decision-making state agencies like Ecology regarding offshore wind development off the Washington Coast and enable the state to represent those priorities in a BOEM process and other offshore wind leasing or siting efforts. This task force could also enable active public education efforts around offshore wind and any future state or federal processes related to offshore wind development.

The state planning and analysis task force should study, consider, and elucidate the following issues and perspectives:

- How offshore wind resources off the Washington Coast could contribute to Washington's energy resource need,
- How offshore wind resources off the Washington Coast could contribute to regional or national energy resource need,
- How development of offshore wind resources off the Washington Coast may impact existing ocean resources, current marine uses, Tribes, and local communities, with consideration given to the full lifecycle of offshore wind projects, and
- How Washington might avoid and/or minimize potential impacts and realize optimal benefits.



- The bullet points at the end of Recommendation 3 all tend to be answered in the positive/affirmative. These bullet points don't include as much nuance as they need to. They should be re-worded or added to.
  - There was agreement amongst TC members, the language presumes a need for OSW energy. Yes, offshore wind could contribute, but does it have any value relative to Washington's energy resource needs and the costs it may bring?
  - The questions could be worded more in terms of potential trade-offs. For example: What are the positive and negative effects of OSW to WA, the West Coast, the nation, and the globe? What are alternatives to this action? This is a very challenging research and management question because of all the factors and multiple scales and sectors involved, but worth working to better articulate and address these questions.
- This recommendation should potentially include a Proceed/Do Not Proceed decision point for Washington. Washington needs to examine our state and regional energy needs, review the scientific research on OSW impacts, and come to a Go/No-Go decision in the process.
- There were concerns with the make-up of the task force, particularly regarding the federal agencies and their involvement. The structure of how we will prepare ourselves and make recommendations to policymakers needs more thought, clarity, and appropriate representation from state, Tribal, and affected entities.
- It was flagged that, overall, recreation should be explicitly included as a stakeholder group/affected party throughout all the report recommendations. And that the report should include shoreline and coastal terrestrial areas as existing ocean resources, not just the ocean itself.

## Recommendation 4 Feedback

# Recommendation #4

Washington State should develop a concept framework for responsible offshore wind development in order to encourage and elevate priorities around responsible offshore wind development. The concept framework could draw from the examples of offshore wind road maps in Maine, California, and Oregon, however Washington will most likely want to develop its own concept framework based on Washington's unique considerations and policy objectives, such as:

- expectations for tribal engagement in offshore wind development discussions;
- expectations of community and stakeholder engagement in offshore wind development discussions;
- expectations for realizing Washington economic development opportunities;
- recommendations for BOEM best management practices;
- additional data and research collection needed alongside or prior to project development;
- expectations for project community benefit agreements outlining assurances that local communities will benefit from offshore wind development;
- expectations for labor agreements outlining assurances that certain labor standards will be met during the life of the project;
- expectations for avoidance of or mitigation for various impacts;
- expectations of modifications to offshore wind operational permits to reduce environmental impacts; and
- outlines for the nature and impact thresholds of off-ramps to inform whether the state or federal government should halt consideration of offshore wind projects, among other topics.

The concept framework could provide a set of guidelines or it could act as an enforceable document, depending on the state's priorities. This effort could also develop additional work products, such as draft community benefit agreements or minimum requirements of what community benefit agreements should offer.

If the state engages in a federal leasing process, the concept framework could be useful in encouraging BOEM to include specialized lease provisions, such as bid credits for community benefit agreements or best management practices in its leasing process. The concept framework could also inform off-ramps for the BOEM process from BOEM's planning and analysis phase through site assessments and project development.



- There were strong concerns with the language of this recommendation, which presumes a need for mitigation of conflict, rather than avoiding those conflicts in the first place.
- The referral to "community benefits agreements" (CBAs) are concerning as well; they're often used as an inadequate fix-all for all the negative impacts caused by OSW. How can you describe a CBA as a solution to a problem that we have yet to identify? BOEM claims it cannot identify impacts until leases and COPs are in hand, and yet CBAs quantify what mitigation for those unknown impacts should be. The focus should be on avoiding conflicts, and where we can't, acknowledging that there will be costs which cannot be compensated for with community benefits agreements.
  - There was agreement amongst TC members on CBAs not necessarily being the desired outcome.
- It was noted that this recommendation needs to include job and workforce considerations. Coastal communities were promised manufacturing and assembly jobs, but these are often going to Puget Sound instead of the coast. If fishing is eradicated to a large degree by OSW, it won't help to have jobs in Seattle or Tacoma. Many coastal communities depend on fishing industry jobs.
- It's worth looking at this report through the lens of if this process moves forward off the coast of Washington, what do we want to prepare for? It's worth thinking about how CBAs could be a mechanism for getting what communities want through this process. For example, CBAs could help guarantee that the energy generated goes straight to coastal communities and build more energy resiliency on the coast. Despite the problems with CBAs, it was cautioned against ignoring them completely. However, they should not be interpreted as a fix-all or effective solution to potential negative impacts and need for mitigation.



## Recommendation 5 Feedback

### Recommendation #5

Prior to entering a BOEM leasing process, Washington state should perform a thorough investigation and comprehensive catalog of Washington's legal authorities under Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) enforceable policies and other jurisdictional authorities pertinent to potential siting and permitting of offshore wind within the BOEM process. For example, the state could review, document, and produce a summary report of all relevant authorities over transmission siting and associated infrastructure in state jurisdictional waters and lands as well as any other siting and permitting authorities likely relevant to offshore wind. The state should also examine whether the state wants to pursue a geographic location description designation to its CZMA enforceable policies to increase the state's ability to ensure enforceable policies are met, or whether other enforceable policies would be helpful for the state. Undertaking this review will position the state to influence federal offshore wind leasing and development processes, from the start of a BOEM planning and analysis process through leasing, site assessments, and construction. It will also inform state leadership, Tribes, and stakeholders of the state's role and authority in offshore wind planning and development.

- Overall, support was expressed for this recommendation.
- A TC member expressed strong support for the suggestion to pursue a geographic location description designation.
- It was shared that this recommendation should include an investigation of the Shoreline Master Plan and how the Shoreline Master Plan can be included in the CZMA analysis. Right now, it's not part of the jurisdictional authority.

## Recommendation 6 &amp; 7 Feedback

## Recommendation #6

If Washington enters a BOEM process, Washington state should develop advisory body requests for BOEM to meet in BOEM's consideration of offshore wind leasing off the Washington Coast, such as an intergovernmental task force or another body. Discussions with Tribes conducted to-date have indicated that Tribes would not view participation in a BOEM advisory body as a substitute for government-to-government consultations regarding treaty rights or BOEM's trust responsibilities. Therefore, these recommendation options should be considered as additional to state and federal government-to-government consultation.

**R6-Option A:** Washington State asks BOEM to establish an intergovernmental task force for consideration of Washington offshore wind through BOEM's authorities under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) exemption for "intergovernmental committees." Per restrictions on FACA-exempt committees, membership would be limited to Tribes, state, federal, and local governments, however Washington should require much stronger standards for public engagement (see Recommendation 7) in the BOEM process, such as guidance for public access to information and mandatory feedback from BOEM on issues stakeholders raise both in and outside of task force meetings. In this option, BOEM would manage the intergovernmental task force under an agreement with Washington ideally via a memorandum of understanding or another agreement that creates reasonable timelines for public involvement and accountability to stakeholders.

**R6-Option B:** Washington State asks BOEM to establish a new committee instead of an intergovernmental task force that would include stakeholders such as the fishing and maritime industries as well as state, federal, and Tribal decision-makers under the FACA provisions for groups established to advise a state government or through the FACA committee approval process. Washington state should define expectations for stakeholder and governmental engagement through an MOU or another agreement with BOEM (see Recommendation 7). As with the intergovernmental task force, this body would be designed to advise BOEM's activities for offshore wind leasing but would not be created as a decision-making body. It could improve the inclusivity of BOEM's advisory bodies by allowing voices to the table who are non-governmental representatives of industries like the fishing and maritime industries.

**R6-Option C:** Washington State requests BOEM form a traditional intergovernmental task force and, separately, either uses the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Committee or establishes a new committee such as the state task force in Recommendation 3 to advise BOEM's Washington state agency task force members specifically on the offshore wind issues discussed in a BOEM intergovernmental task force. This state-led group runs parallel with a BOEM task force and is formed without expectations for BOEM leadership of the group. Instead, state agency staff on the BOEM task force carry recommendations informed by stakeholder feedback into a BOEM process/intergovernmental task force. Washington State would be responsible for stakeholder engagement and carrying back information to stakeholders. Washington State and BOEM establish an MOU or another agreement to outline procedural aspects.



## Recommendation #7

If Washington State enters a BOEM leasing process, Washington State should develop specific guidelines, such as through an MOU or another agreement, to ensure BOEM's interactions with Tribes, stakeholders, and the public during a BOEM leasing process in Washington are inclusive, comprehensive, and meaningful. While BOEM's task force/advisory body is an important aspect of BOEM's process, it is not the sole public engagement vehicle for BOEM's process, particularly as the intergovernmental task force has historically been limited to government representatives and federally recognized Tribes. Our intention in recommending the state pursue guidelines for is to improve the BOEM process to be more meaningful, engaging, and transparent to Washington Tribes and stakeholder voices. Improvements Washington should pursue could also be applied to any state process examining offshore wind, including those that are state-led, and are further detailed in Section 4 of this report.

- Washington is not included in current federal OSW mandates. So, the only way we would be involved with OSW would be if the state opens the door and invites BOEM in. It is therefore appreciated that Gridworks re-worded this language to include "If Washington enters a BOEM process..." in both Recommendation 6 and 7.
- Of the options outlined in recommendation 6, members expressed that - at this time - it would not make sense to pursue any of them. However, when comparing them, Option B would be preferred.
  - Under Option B, it was suggested that an option where the state asks BOEM to use a committee that is designated/selected by Washington be added, instead of BOEM establishing their own committee.

### Closing

- For the next OSW Technical Committee meeting (July 23), Larry asked that the TC consider the recommendation in Recommendation 5 to request the formation of a geographic location description for the State of Washington.



# WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee  
July 23, 2024 | 1pm – 3pm

## Participants

### WCMAC Members

- Brian Polagye, Energy Industry
- Corey Niles, WDFW
- Katie Arkema, Science Organization
- Larry Thevik, Commercial Fishing (TC Co-Lead)
- Matt Niles, WA State Parks (TC Co-Lead)
- Mike Nordin, WCMAC Vice Chair, Pacific MRC
- Paula Culbertson, Wahkiakum MRC
- Rod Fleck, WCMAC Chair, North Pacific MRC

### TC Members, Staff, and Guests

- Ann Skelton, Pacific County MRC
- Brandii O'Reagan, WA Sea Grant
- Mai Aoki, Ecology
- Mike Okoniewski, Pacific Seafood Consultants
- Nicole Gutierrez & Alle Brown-Law, Facilitation

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome and Announcements

- It was announced that the March, April, and June TC meeting summaries are still open to TC member feedback and edits. The facilitation team will finalize these by the August TC meeting, so please send any edits by August 27.
- Final meeting summaries are uploaded to the OSW Shared Folder and the [EZ View webpage](#).

### OSW Updates

- Larry Thevik shared that BOEM has proceeded with a Request for Information, which is the next step towards leasing wind areas off Oregon, despite many stakeholders requesting that BOEM does not move forward. Public comments can be found on <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2024-0022-0001>, and Larry highlighted comments from the Surfrider Foundation in particular.
- Brian Polagye attended the 7/23 SEER webinar on oceanographic impacts from OSW. He commented that it was a valuable webinar, and recommended the

recording, available here: <https://tethys.pnnl.gov/events/oceanographic-responses-offshore-wind-first-principles-potential-effects>.

- Mike O. also attended and noted that he would have liked some empirical data rather than modeling. He thought they did a great job explaining the complexities and dependencies on marine hydrodynamics.
- Brian P. noted that some of the research was looking at tidal energy in the UK relative to climate change, not offshore wind energy. The presenters are doing ongoing work on cumulative effects of offshore wind in UK waters.
- It was flagged that the webinar presenters could potentially be invited to the Core Team *if* the topic/discussion need is relevant and timely.
  - Brian P. noted that if Dr. Beth Scott is willing to present, she is very knowledgeable about the studies that have been done in the UK. She's leading two of the largest projects on cumulative effects of offshore wind in UK waters.
- Nicole expressed thanks to the Technical Committee for the June TC discussion on the Gridworks recommendations, prior to the 7/10 special meeting. Nicole shared that the facilitation team will share out the special meeting summary via the listserv.

## Objective 2 Action Plan

- The TC reviewed the Action Plan and had the following discussion.
- Larry requested RCW 43.372 (Marine Waters Planning) and WAC 173-26-360 be mentioned in the Introduction section's third paragraph, to help orient people to the legislative context in which we are operating. Additionally, this legal framework helps the TC measure how well we're doing related to those charges.
- Larry shared that Pacific Fisheries Management Council has an easily accessible tab on their website with all their letters to BOEM concerning the processes in OR and CA.

## Data and Community Research Needs

- Larry would like this section to mention the Gridworks report's list of data needs and the Ecology Gaps Assessment. He suggested that TC members review these two lists as individuals and thereafter as a group, identify any additional data needs, and conduct a straw poll to identify what TC members think the key data needs are.
  - Mike N. and Mike O. agreed with Larry.
- Katie asked how the Action Plan can reference where there's already progress or research efforts happening to address some of these data needs. She suggested that the TC identify additional opportunities to be involved, such as helping shape what questions people are asking, connecting with the broader WCMAC network, finding funding opportunities, and more.
- Larry commented that we need to identify what the questions are, then identify the data that we need to answer those questions. Those are separate processes, and we need to identify the questions first.

- Larry noted that Recommendation 2 (West-Wide Research Consortium) from the Gridworks Report would help answer these questions and data needs. WCMAC should be involved with that process, if it were to happen.
- Rod shared that he likes where this is going. As the TC develops such questions or identifies gaps, Rod noted that we need to be realistic about what we can do and clarify our highest priority actions. He also suggested that the Action Plan should specifically call out the Climate Commitment Act (depending on its future) as a potential funding source that the WCMAC could point to, to help fund these initiatives.
  - Mike N., agreed, but cautioned against citing the Climate Commitment Act alone, since it's a contentious issue right now. It could be listed as one potential funding source among some other examples as well.
- Katie encouraged the TC to think beyond just influencing the BOEM process, though that's important. There is opportunity to play an important role in the OSW space no matter what happens with the BOEM process. We need to identify gaps and unanswered questions so that even if the BOEM process moves forward in Washington, we can influence what monitoring actions are taken, what research is prioritized, etc.
  - Mike O. and Rod agreed with Katie, it's important to go beyond the BOEM process.
- Katie asked about the difference between the Phases in "Action Plan Development Background" and the "Future Action" tables in "Data and Community Research Needs." Katie would like more clarification about the scope of the OSW TC.
  - Nicole clarified that the Action Plan Development Background section just details how the TC has developed this Action Plan. The phases are not tied to any future actions. Nicole noted that we can update this section to include recent TC meetings.
  - Nicole suggested doing a work session in the August TC meeting on the Data/Research needs.
- Larry commented that he wants to know what the questions are. So many stakeholders, sovereigns, and community members have asked BOEM to investigate these uncertainties and questions. Larry encouraged the TC to first identify what the questions are and acknowledge what we don't know. He shared that the available science doesn't answer many of the questions that we're posing.
- Mike N. added that, in his experience, the "best available science" often means that BOEM can cherry-pick the science they want to use. So, he cautioned that "best available science" doesn't answer many of our questions.
  - Larry agreed; BOEM is only obligated to use the "best available science," which means they will pick and choose between what's already available. Larry commented that BOEM will never do a cumulative impact analysis, because they're not obligated to do that; they're only obligated to use the available science.
- Nicole shared that, based on people's comments, it seems like the Data and Community Research Needs section may need to be restructured. She



suggested that the facilitation team reorganize this section to reflect the potential flow/sequence that the TC discussed today. The sequence people have described is: First, review the Gridworks and Ecology data needs lists, combine them with the data needs the TC has already identified, and clarify additional needs. Conduct a straw poll of TC members. Then, review the enforceable policies and better understand how enforceable policies would interact with the BOEM process.

- Larry emphasized that the TC needs to do more clarification of the research needs. The Action Plan should have a hyperlink to the enforceable policies. Finally, the TC should explore and better understand the Geographic Location Description (GLD) and its impacts in/on Consistency Reviews (as mentioned in Gridworks Recommendation 3). Larry suggested that, potentially, the TC could recommend to WCMAC to request Ecology secure a GLD.
- Katie recommended that the TC nail down an approach. She agreed with Larry that it's important to articulate the research questions. However, she noted that it's unclear if that's happening as part of developing this Action Plan, or if that's happening after the action plan is finalized. The TC needs to clarify what their approach is for implementing the action plan. She added that the research needs identified in the action plan so far could be called example gaps, which acknowledges that we'll develop them further.
- Corey built on Larry's comment about articulating the questions, asking: how does this document help us move forward? How does this fit in with where the state goes next? Should we lay out questions that stakeholders and others have?
- Larry commented that he fundamentally believes we must start with the questions. As the WCMAC TC, we should recognize these research needs within this Action Plan. He shared that this document could help frame what the potential West-Wide Research Consortium would answer, so it's important to identify the questions to consider upfront.

## Next Steps

- Nicole identified the following action items:
  - Facilitation team will incorporate these edits and present a streamlined Action Plan in August that is more aligned with sequenced next steps.
  - Facilitation team will follow up with the TC co-leads about the updates to the action plan before the August meeting.
  - The August meeting will be an Action Plan work sessions to get the document into a more finalized state.
- Next meeting is August 27, from 1 – 3pm.