

Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Meeting

Draft Summary

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Part 1 from 10:00am – 11:30am

Part 2 from 12:00pm – 1:30pm

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

- Mike Nordin was confirmed as a Steering Committee member.
- Governor Ferguson's Environmental Policy Advisors, Kate Brouns and Owen Rowe joined the meeting and provided introductions to the WCMAC.
- WCMAC confirmed the 2024 Accomplishments and provided input on the 2025 WCMAC work plan.
- WCMAC members provided federal and state updates on offshore wind.
- The Department of Ecology shared updates regarding the Marine Spatial Plan and the Coastal Zone Management 309 Enhancement Strategy.

Upcoming Meetings

- Next WCMAC Meeting: June 4, 2025

WCMAC Members Present	
Anderson, Phil - Recreational Fishing	Meinig, Christian – Coastal Energy
Arkema, Katie – Science Organization	Niles, Corey – DFW
Beugli, David – Shellfish Aquaculture	Niles, Matt – State Parks
Blake, Brian – Commercial Fishing	Rechner, Michael – DNR
Bold, Molly – Coastal Port	Steelquist, Peter – Coastal Recreation
Conrad, Michele – Coastal Economic Development Group	Talebi, Bobbak - Ecology
Culbertson, Paula – Wahkiakum MRC	Thevik, Larry – Commercial Fishing
Fleck, Rod – North Pacific MRC	

Council Members Absent	
Bowman, Stephanie - Commerce	Litle, Kate – WA Sea Grant
Dalan, Garrett – Grays Harbor MRC	Nordin, Michael – Pacific MRC
Dolsak, Nives – Educational institution	

Others Present (as noted in Zoom log-in)	
Aoki, Mai – Ecology	Lucine, Rachel – BGA
Brouns, Kate – WA Governor’s Office	Moore, Tommy – NWIFC
Brown-Law, Alle – Facilitator	Nightengale, David
Carlson, Jeanine – Ecology Water Resources/OCR	Okoniewski, Mike – West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group
Decker, Kevin - WA Sea Grant	Roberts, Whitney – WDFW
Dennehy, Casey – Ecology	Rowe, Owen – WA Governor’s Office
Felleman, Fred – Environmental Consulting, Port of Seattle Commissioner, Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary	Skelton, Ann – Pacific County MRC
Gutierrez, Nicole – Facilitator	Weinstein, Alla – Trident Winds
Krienitz, Jay – Ecology Coast and Oceans Unit Manager	Wright, Teri – Forest/Salmon/Orca Advocate
Linck, Noah – Ecology	Stephanie Spence – Maritime Blue

Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting agenda, ground rules, and expectations for WCMAC members and public observers were reviewed.
- The September Meeting WCMAC Meeting Summary and reviewed the edits were provided.
 - Larry Thevik moved to approve the December Meeting WCMAC Meeting Summary. Brian Blake seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were adopted.

WCMAC Updates

Announcements

- The Governor's Introductory Letter was sent to Governor Ferguson on March 7, 2025 following the action confirmation at the December 2024 WCMAC meeting.
 - This letter was shared with WCMAC members and is available to view on the [EZView website](#). Thanks to the WCMAC members who provided feedback on the draft letter.
 - Rod Fleck is currently working on the introductory letter to the Commissioner of Public Lands (an action confirmed at the December WCMAC meeting) and plans to send that in April.
- The WCMAC Steering Committee came to consensus to nominate Mike Nordin as the new Steering Committee Member-At-Large and is making a recommendation to the full WCMAC to approve Mike Nordin for this position.
 - Peter Steelquist made a motion to approve Mike Nordin. Molly Bold seconded the motion.
 - All WCMAC members in approval. No opposition. Motion passed.
- Governor Ferguson’s New Environmental Policy Advisors joined and were introduced:
 - Kate Brouns (Climate & Energy Policy Advisor) – Background in clean energy advocacy, familiar with WCMAC through previous work.

- Owen Rowe (Natural Resources Policy Advisor) – 20+ years in Olympia, former budget director at WDFW and legislative director at State Parks.
- WCMAC members and staff congratulated Kate and Owen on their new roles.
- Owen expressed interest in scheduling a briefing with Ecology to get more oriented with WCMAC.

WCMAC Work Plan & Accomplishments

[Meeting recording](#) 33:18 – 51:55

- Nicole Gutierrez and Alle Brown-Law (Facilitation Team) presented the 2024 WCMAC Accomplishments and gathered feedback from members (see 2024 Accomplishments in [Appendix B](#)).
- Larry Thevik suggested adding in the Letter to the Governor and Commissioner of Public Lands into the 2024 Accomplishments.
 - Alle and Nicole noted that since the letters were drafted and sent in 2025, they were not originally included. However, a mention will be added, noting that WCMAC approved writing them in December 2024.
- Phil Anderson recommended sending the Governor's WCMAC letter to Owen and Kate. Nicole Gutierrez confirmed that Owen was included in the original email from Rod.
- Nicole Gutierrez reviewed the [2025 WCMAC work plan](#), highlighting key priorities and gathering feedback from the WCMAC.
- Larry Thevik expressed concern that economic development was being prioritized over offshore wind and alternative ocean uses. He emphasized that while economic development is critical for coastal resilience, it also introduces new risks to existing ocean uses—a foundational purpose of WCMAC. He urged WCMAC to broaden its scope rather than shift focus away from ocean uses.
- Peter Steelquist highlighted significant changes along the coast, including federal staffing reductions and budget cuts, making it crucial for WCMAC to assess policy responses. Peter also emphasized prioritizing and recommending state support for critical coastal needs left unsupported by federal cuts.
 - Phil Anderson supported Peter's point, noting major cuts in NOAA Fisheries and science centers, including canceled research projects.
 - Phil suggested creating an inventory of impacted programs to help prioritize which areas may need state intervention.
 - There was agreement to add a task to the work plan related to starting a federal program cuts inventory.

Updates

[Meeting recording](#) 53:14 – 1:35:09

MRC Updates

- **North Pacific MRC:** Rod Fleck reviewed recent presentations at MRC meetings, including a professor from Stonybrook who is doing research on the glacial period on Washington's coast, as well as a presentation on green crab detection. There is a film festival happening in April (April 12) in Forks, offering an opportunity to see locally produced films.

- Peter Steelquist asked Rod if the paleo shoreline research is interested in investigating cultural resources on the coast.
- Rod shared that they have connected the researcher with UW and will seek to organize another presentation for the community about this work.
- **Wahkiakum MRC:** Paula Culbertson shared they are in the process of taking applications for grants for the 2025-2027 budget time frame. The MRC will start with outreach meetings next week for potential grant applicants.
- **Grays Harbor MRC** *Representative not in attendance.*
- **Pacific MRC:** The PC MRC Science Conference has been scheduled for May 17. *Representative not in attendance.*

Agency Updates

- **WA Department of Ecology:** Bobbak Talebi shared that Ecology Director Sixkiller was confirmed by the Washington Legislature. Ecology is looking forward to having him as the director.
- **WA Department of Fish and Wildlife:** No updates to share at this time.
- **WA Department of Natural Resources:** Mike Rechner shared that Commissioner Upthegrove is still new on the job and things are going well. No further updates.
- **WA State Parks:** No updates to share at this time.
- **Commerce:** *Representative not in attendance.*
- **WA Sea Grant:** *Representative not in attendance.*
- Fred Felleman asked for a status update of agency budgets. Nicole noted this topic can be discussed at the Q2 WCMAC meeting when more details are available.

General Coastal Updates

- Michele Conrad shared that the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) study on OSW impacts on shipping and commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries will hold three listening sessions. Federal sponsors include NOAA, BOEM, and US Coast Guard. National Academies of Sciences study: [Impacts on Shipping and Commercial, Tribal, and Recreational Fisheries from Development of Renewable Energy on the West Coast](#)
- Larry Thevik shared that the crab fishery had a complex opening with multiple dates due to crab conditions and Tribal sharing obligations. The fishery is healthy, with over 28 million pounds caught in the past four seasons, and a strong market value.
- Phil Anderson shared three updates:
 - Met with Canadians to agree on a 20% decrease in Pacific Hake total allowable catch, with similar catches expected.
 - Pre-season salmon forecast is strong, especially for chinook, coho stable.
 - Concerns over federal and state cuts affecting salmon, habitat, and SRKW grants; efforts underway to secure funding.
- Chris Meinig highlighted that the Dept of Energy has released a Port Electrification Handbook – a practical guide to evaluate electrification for small and medium-sized ports. <https://www.pnnl.gov/projects/port-electrification-handbook>. Contact Chris for questions or feedback.

- Peter Steelquist highlighted that the Washington Coastal Clean Up will be on Saturday, April 19. There will be locations up and down the Washington Coast, and some locations on Tribal lands. <https://www.coastsavers.org/index.php/washington-coast-cleanup-2/>

Offshore Wind (OSW) Updates

- Larry Thevik provided an overview of Federal OSW updates.
 - On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued a [Presidential Memo](#) halting new offshore wind permitting. Existing leases remain valid, but reviews are underway. No new permits or actions can proceed without completing a comprehensive review, focusing on environmental impacts, particularly on birds and mammals, and electricity generation costs. The memo impacts three areas: areas with no leases, areas with existing leases, and areas with leases and COPs (Construction and Operation Plans). No new activities or further leasing allowed unless reviewed or the memo is revised.
 - BOEM faces elevated uncertainty, with a suspension of permit activities, awaiting guidance from the Department of Interior.
 - Larry recommended that WCMAC continue to monitor and advise on offshore wind policies.
- Peter Steelquist provided an overview of State OSW updates.
 - Governor Inslee's budget initially included funding for a research science consortium, but Governor Ferguson's budget did not, due to worsening budget deficits. See page 104 <https://ofm.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/budget/statebudget/2025-27/govrecsum/25-27FergusonFeb25RecSums.pdf>
 - The legislature will have the final say, but no new spending is expected, and progressive revenue sources are unlikely.
 - Larry added that BOEM's uncertainty impacts state efforts as well, with the Technical Committee tasked with identifying data gaps and community research needs. Despite the uncertainty, the Technical Committee can continue its work and integrate Ecology's data gaps report with Gridworks data to address these issues.
- Related to the OSW Technical Committee, Larry shared that despite the pause in federal activity, the Technical Committee should continue working on identifying research gaps. There is potential for the federal review to answer some of the committee's unresolved questions but risks if the review is poorly conducted.
 - Corey Niles highlighted the ongoing data gaps, noting that many of them exist regardless of offshore wind development. He emphasized the unknowns about the ocean and reminded the group that the Marine Spatial Plan RCW calls for an ecosystem assessment, underscoring the importance of continued research.

MRAC Update

- No updates at this time

Public Comment #1

- Teri Wright shared the Shorebird Festival happening in Grays Harbor in the chat: <https://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>.
- Teri Wright shared two resources relevant to OSW in the chat:

- <https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/articles/three-key-takeaways-rethinking-load-growth-us-power-systems>
- <https://nicholasinstitute.duke.edu/publications/rethinking-load-growth>
- Mike Okoniewski (West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group): Mike has been in the fishing industry across the West Coast and Alaska for 50 years. In the last seven years, he has been tracking OSW, learning about its impacts, particularly on the East Coast. Initially, he believed similar issues wouldn't arise on the West Coast, as BOEM claimed to have learned from past mistakes, but he observed the same approach being repeated. He hopes the executive order leads to greater consideration of environmental impacts and the effects on fishermen. Additionally, he voiced concern over cuts to NOAA Fisheries funding. Additionally, Mike expressed concern about NOAA Fisheries funding cuts.
- Kevin Decker (WA Sea Grant): Kevin announced that WA Sea Grant received funding for a fully funded, two-year Coastal Resilience Fellowship to support coastal communities at no cost. Encouraged communities to apply for a fellow. Noted that the 2025 WCMAC Workplan aligns with his work in economic development and coastal resilience and welcomed collaboration.
 - Bobbak Talebi added that the new fellowship opportunity was crafted in response to all of WCMAC's efforts on the coastal resilience recommendations.
 - Nicole noted that she would connect with Kevin about connections with Sea Grant's work and the WCMAC workplan.
- David Nightengale: David expressed support for Peter Steelquist and Larry Thevik's points regarding federal funding challenges and the need for continued research. He suggested exploring Climate Commitment Act funds to address unanswered questions from BOEM and others. He is particularly interested in the National Academies study and looks forward to its findings. David also offered his expertise in energy policy to support the Technical Committee or other efforts, emphasizing his background in working with local governments.

Ecology Marine Spatial Plan Update

[Meeting recording](#) 1:44:44 – 2:21:03

- Casey Dennehy (Ecology) and Mai Aoki (Ecology) presented an update on the transition of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) website to the Washington Department of Ecology's platform, the integration of the MSP data viewer into the Coastal Atlas, and the release of the Data Gaps Assessment Report. The updated Ecology website will centralize MSP resources, including ocean management, research, and planning documents. The new Coastal Atlas will improve access to marine spatial data, with additional layers and mapping tools expected to go live in April. The Data Gaps Assessment Report, based on feedback from experts and Tribal representatives, identifies key areas needing further research. Please refer to the recording and slides ([Attachment A](#)) for the full presentation and additional information.

Discussion

- Corey Niles shared, in the chat, a reminder about Sea Grant's WA Coast Economist website: [WA Coast Economist](#). This has been useful in locating economic studies supporting the Marine Spatial Plan.
 - Casey Dennehy confirmed, in the chat, that the economic report and sector analyses will be available on the updated Ecology webpages.
- Larry Thevik raised concerns about data gaps in mapping tools, particularly the absence of Tribal fishing data and species like the short-tailed albatross, a conservation concern.
 - It was shared that some species weren't mapped due to a lack of sufficient data at the time of the original MSP but noted advancements in species distribution modeling since then.
 - Mai shared that Tribal data requires further discussion with Tribes on what they are comfortable sharing and that the Coastal Atlas is limited to available datasets.
- Larry Thevik emphasized that maps alone don't tell the full story and that a clear narrative is necessary to explain data gaps, limitations, and methodology.
 - Casey noted that metadata and contextual information would be included with map layers to improve clarity.
- Fred Felleman asked, in the chat, how the Coastal Atlas accounts for species and fisheries seasonality.
 - Corey Niles noted that most MSP maps display multiple years of data rather than showing seasonal differences, making it a data gap, especially for migratory species.
 - Fred mentioned existing year-round data for cetaceans and well-documented migratory movements of fish and birds.
 - Corey acknowledged the newer models exist and mentioned the upcoming Take Reduction Team (TRT) for whale entanglements, where updated species distribution maps for whales may receive attention.
 - Mai noted that seasonality data in the Coastal Atlas is limited, but she is open to exploring existing GIS layers that could be added.
- Teri Wright asked, in the chat, when is the expected start date of the Take Reduction Team?
 - Corey answered that the TRT was supposed to have an initial meeting the week after next but it was postponed. In the vein of inventorying what's being cut at the federal level, he heard that two of the staff that were laid off provided science support for the TRT. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/marine-mammal-protection/west-coast-take-reduction-team>

Coastal Zone Management 309 Enhancement Strategy

[Meeting recording](#) 2:21:46 – 2:51:36

- Casey Dennehy (Ecology) and Noah Linck (Ecology) provided updates on the 2026-2030 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Enhancement Strategy, which is open for public comment. The strategy focuses on three key areas: coastal hazards, wetlands, and ocean resources. It includes improving sea level rise planning, updating coastal mapping tools, enhancing wetland mapping, and developing an ocean research agenda. These efforts aim

to address data gaps, improve decision-making, and strengthen collaboration across agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders. The final strategy will be submitted to NOAA for approval in 2025, with public feedback being incorporated. Please refer to the recording and slides ([Attachment A](#)) for the full presentation and additional information.

Discussion

- Larry Thevik asked for clarification on the public comment period, suggesting that 30 days may not be enough time to review a large document and inquired about potential changes to existing enforceable policies, including how they might align federal coastal projects with state policies. He specifically mentioned the Geographic Location Description (GLD) as an example of a potential new enforceable policy.
 - Casey responded that Ecology is seeking feedback on the Enhancement Strategy, particularly strategies related to coastal hazards, wetlands, and ocean resources. He explained that Ecology is not proposing to remove any current enforceable policies but might integrate policies from other agencies such as DNR and WDFW. He acknowledged the importance of the GLD and intends to continue the discussion. Noah shared the [draft document for review](#).
- Bobbak Talebi highlighted that enforceable policies must be approved by NOAA and go through a federal process, noting that the framework for the Enhancement Strategy, including policies like the GLD, is influenced by federal guidelines.
- Molly Bold thanked Casey and mentioned her interest in learning more about the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and Westport.
- WCMAC members are welcome to direct further questions Noah and Casey.

Public Comment #2

- No public comments.

Closing and Adjourn

- Rod closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
 - Next WCMAC meeting: June 4th, 2025. This meeting will be hybrid, and members will be encouraged to join in person. More information on meeting location to come via email.

Attachment A: Meeting Presentations

See next page for meeting presentations.

1. [WCMAC Presentation](#)
2. [Marine Spatial Planning Related Updates](#)
3. [Washington's CZM Program: 2026-2030 Enhancement Strategy](#)

DRAFT



March 2025 WCMAC Meeting

March 19, 2025



WASHINGTON
COASTAL
MARINE
ADVISORY
COUNCIL



Introductions & Agenda Review

Reminder

This meeting will be broadcast live and recorded by TVW.

WCMAC Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
10:00 – 10:25 AM	Welcome and Introductions, Agenda Review
10:25 – 10:40 AM	WCMAC Updates
10:40 – 11:00 AM	WCMAC Workplan & Accomplishments Review
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Updates
11:30 – 11:40 AM	Public Comment
11:40 – 12:10 PM	Break
12:10 – 12:30 PM	Ecology MSP Update
12:30 – 1:10 PM	Coastal Zone Management 309 Enhancement Strategy
1:10 – 1:20 PM	Public Comment
1:20 – 1:30 PM	Adjourn and Next Steps

Ground Rules

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

Zoom Reminders

- Zoom
 - Raise your virtual hand (Under “React”)
 - We will be monitoring the chat and members are welcome to use it to share out if more convenient (optional)
 - Having video on is optional – but we’d love to have your video on during discussion if your bandwidth allows

Chair will
acknowledge
WCMAC
members in
order

Expectations for Observers

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

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

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

Adopt December Meeting Minutes



WCMAC Updates

WCMAC Updates

- Membership updates
- Announcements
- WCMAC 2025 Meeting Dates (all Wednesdays):
 - Q1 March 19th
 - Q2 June 4th
 - Q3 October 1st
 - Q4 December 3rd



A scenic coastal landscape featuring a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The shoreline is composed of large, dark, moss-covered rocks. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees covers a steep, rocky cliff. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall mood is serene and natural.

WCMAC Work Plan & 2024 Accomplishments Review

Annual Accomplishments Document

- **Goal:** Annual snapshots that highlight the accomplishments and actions WCMAC has completed within the year
- Short, high-level summaries (~2 pages)
- Useful references for the future, and can be shared with community members, legislators, and others!

2024 Accomplishments

- Engagement with Gridworks & Letter of Recommendation
- Support for the WA State Coastal Climate Resiliency Initiative
- Collaboration with Coastal Hazards Organizational Resilience Team (COHORT)
- Recommendations for the Governor's Budget
- Provided a forum for sharing scientific research and information relevant to coastal communities
- Live Broadcast for WCMAC Meetings
- **5** Advisory Council meetings, **7** Offshore Wind Technical Committee meetings, **7** new WCMAC members appointed

Discussion Questions

1. Do the listed accomplishments reflect WCMAC's work in 2024?
2. Is there anything you'd like to add or edit?



Updates

- Governor's Office Updates
- MRC Updates
- Agency Updates
- General Coastal Updates
- Offshore Wind (OSW) Update
- MRAC Update

A scenic coastal landscape featuring a rocky shoreline in the foreground, a small island with a single tree in the middle ground, and a forested cliff on the right. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the sky and the surrounding landscape.

Public Comment #1

Break

- Please reconvene at 12:15 pm at the same Zoom link.



Ecology MSP Update

Casey Dennehy, Ecology

Mai Aoki, Ecology

A photograph of a coastal harbor scene. In the foreground, several fishing boats are docked at a pier. The water is calm, reflecting the boats and the sky. In the background, there are red buildings, possibly part of a fishing fleet or a small town. A dense forest of evergreen trees covers the hillside behind the buildings. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Coastal Zone Management 309 Enhancement Strategy

Casey Dennehy, Ecology

Noah Linck, Ecology

A scenic coastal landscape featuring a rocky shoreline in the foreground, a forested cliff on the right, and a prominent sea stack in the water. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the water reflects the surrounding scenery.

Public Comment #2

Adjourn & Next Steps





Thank You for Participating!

Next WCMAC Meeting: June 4, 2025



Marine Spatial Planning Related Updates

Casey Dennehy & Mai Aoki

March 19th, 2025

Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council

Overview

- 1** MSP Website
- 2** Coastal Atlas
- 3** Data Gaps Report

MSP Website



WASHINGTON MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

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Supporting healthy oceans,
coasts and communities

LEARN



Learn about the Marine
Spatial Planning process and
access plan documents

EXPLORE



Explore data, maps and
current projects along the
Washington coast

CONNECT

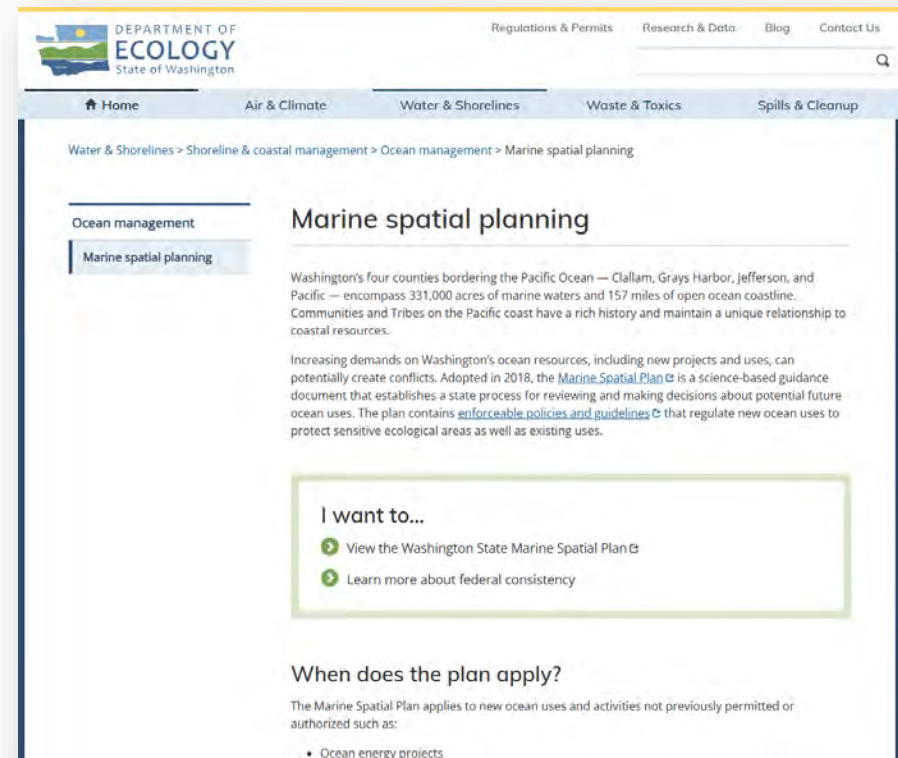


Get involved in the
Washington Marine Spatial
Planning process

Marine Spatial Planning is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine environments to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives.

Merging with Ecology Website

- Catalogued content
- Identified unneeded information
- Organized and incorporated into Ecology website



Webpages and content

- Ocean management
 - Ocean Resources Management Act (ORMA)
 - Federal consistency
 - Shoreline management
 - Partnering on ocean management
- <https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/shoreline-coastal-management/ocean-management>

Webpages and content

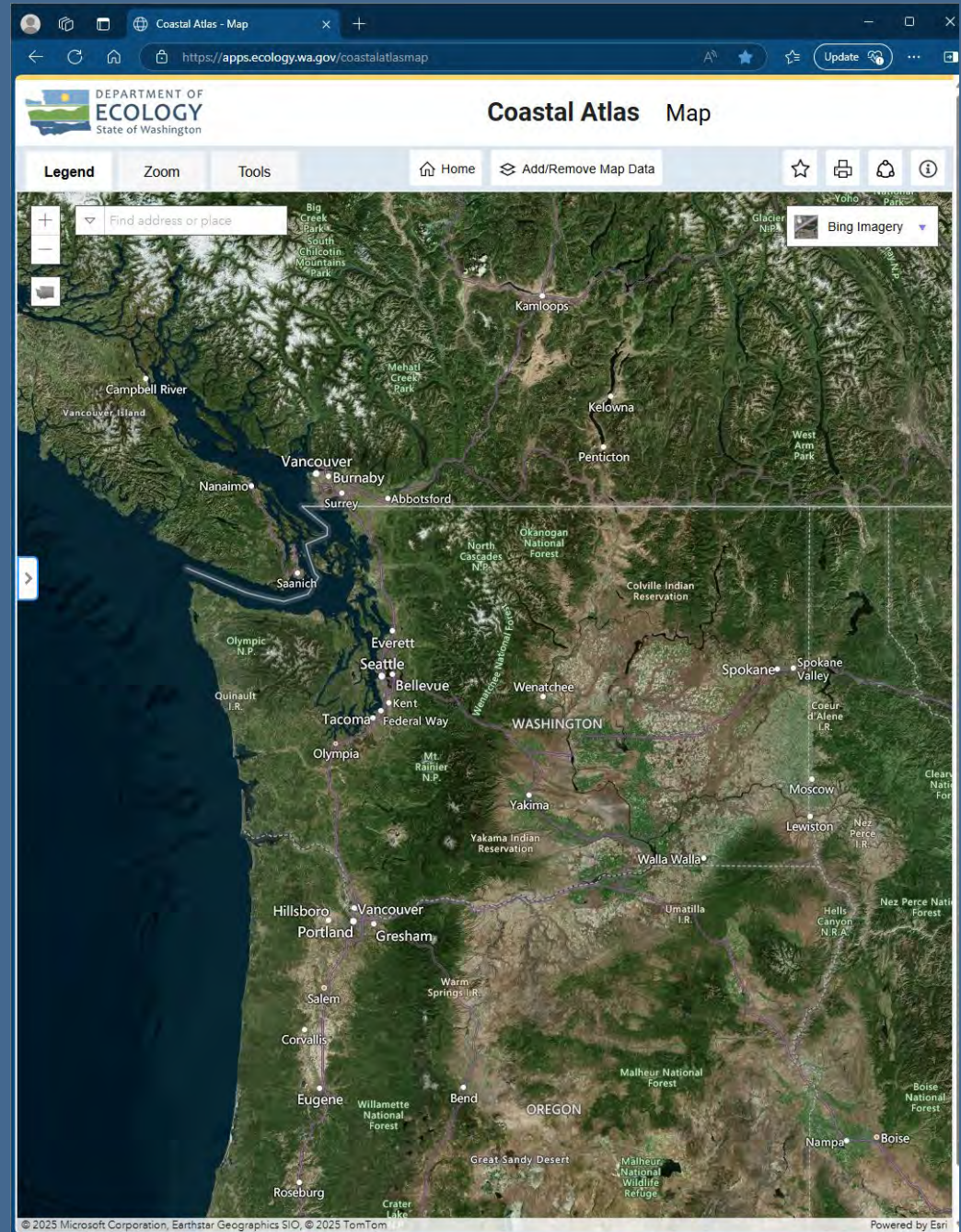
- Washington's Marine Spatial Plan
 - Using the Marine Spatial Plan
 - When and where does it apply?
 - Research, data, and information
 - Management framework
 - Additional information about the Marine Spatial Plan
 - Marine Spatial Planning timeline

Webpages and content

- Ocean research, data, and information
 - MSP data viewer
 - Data gaps on coastal and ocean resources
 - Marine Spatial Plan Resources
 - Ecological
 - Oceanography
 - Human uses and economics
 - Indicators
 - Stakeholder engagement



Coastal Atlas



Coastal Atlas

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/coastalatlas/>

- Updated version will be available in **April**.



Data Gaps



Identification and Assessment of Data Gaps for the Marine Spatial Plan

A Compilation of Expert Feedback

By

Mai Aoki

For the

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Washington State Department of Ecology

Olympia, Washington

January 2025, Publication 24-06-029



Data Gap Assessment

- **Publication:** “Identification and Assessment of Data Gaps for the Marine Spatial Plan: A Compilation of Expert Feedback”
- **533** data gaps
- **114** non-Tribal experts + technical staff from **5** coastal Tribes
- Feedback = Professional opinion
- Data gaps will change over time.

Ocean Acidification: Key Data Gaps

General Data Gaps:

- Effect on species
- Effect of carbonate system parameters on marine organisms
- Factors that affect the duration of OA conditions

Offshore Wind Data Gaps:

- Potential to affect the severity and intensity of OA
- Potential to cause an OA localization effect

Offshore Aquaculture Data Gaps:

- Potential to cause an OA localization effect

General Data Gap:

Effect of OA on species

- **Research Gaps and Challenges**
 - Limited understanding of OA's effects across diverse species.
 - **Invertebrates**: Shellfish (e.g., pteropods) are well-studied; increased research on Dungeness crabs.
 - **Marine Mammals**: Impact remains uncertain. May gain insight from studying effect on prey species.
 - Most studies focus on individual species, not ecosystems or communities.

General Data Gap:

Effect of OA on species

- **Research Gaps and Challenges (cont.)**
 - Translating lab results to real-world conditions is difficult due to dynamic environmental factors.
 - Effect of water quality on species distribution is not well understood.
 - Species may migrate to favorable habitats, affecting predation and fishing vulnerability.
- ➡ **Coordinated management is critical for effective mitigation strategies.**

What's next?

How should data gaps be addressed?



Thank you

Casey Dennehy, casey.dennehy@ecy.wa.gov

Mai Aoki, mai.aoki@ecy.wa.gov



Washington's CZM Program: 2026-2030 Enhancement Strategy

Noah Linck, Casey Dennehy

3/19/2025

Presentation Outline

Overview: Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP)

- Overview of federal (NOAA) funding
- Work areas falling under WA's coastal management umbrella

Enhancement Strategy 2026-2030

- What it is, how we will use it
- Process overview and timeline
- Enhancement focus areas and strategies

Questions, comments, and discussion



Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program

Background, funding, and work areas



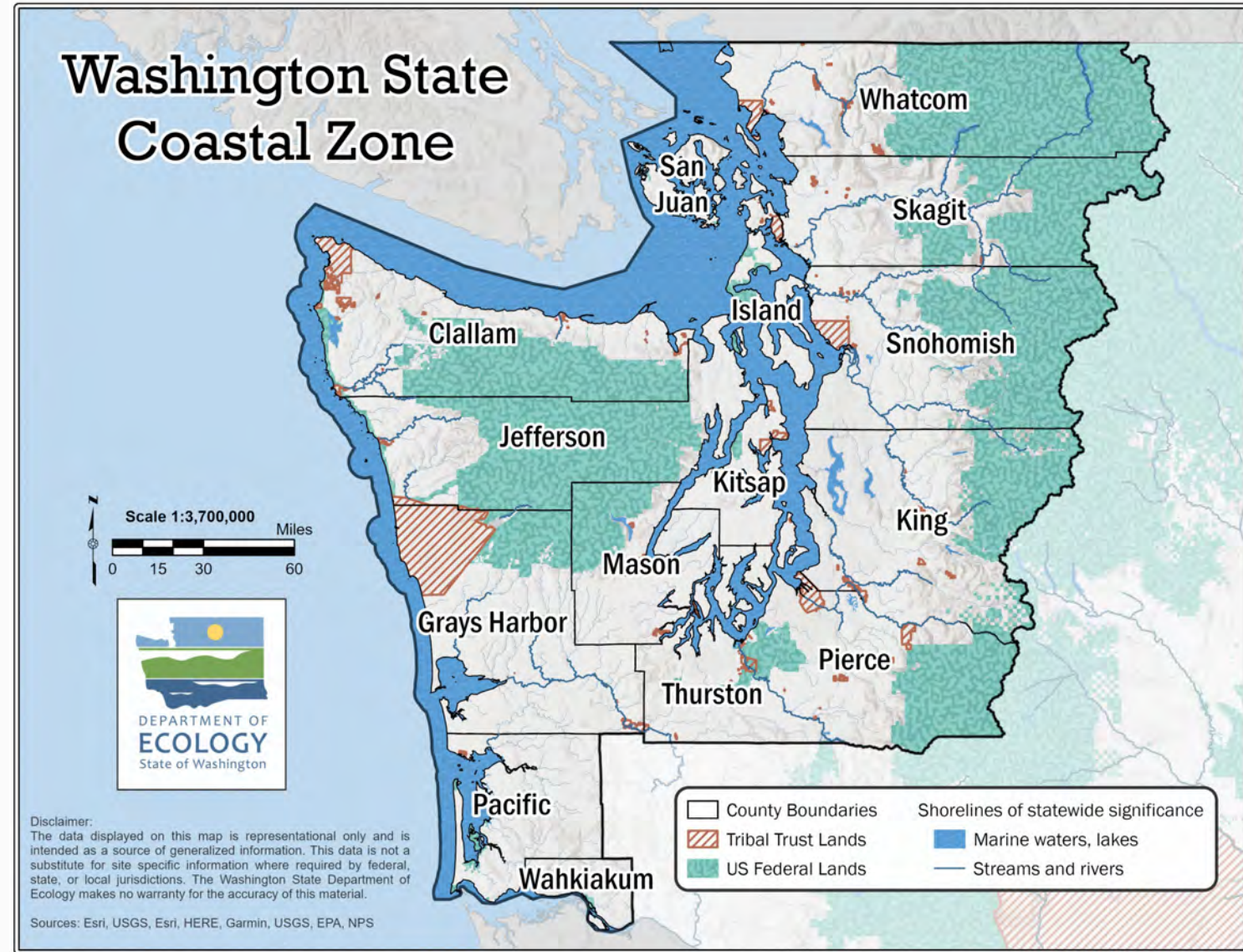
About the program

Purpose

Meet federal Coastal Zone Management Act goals

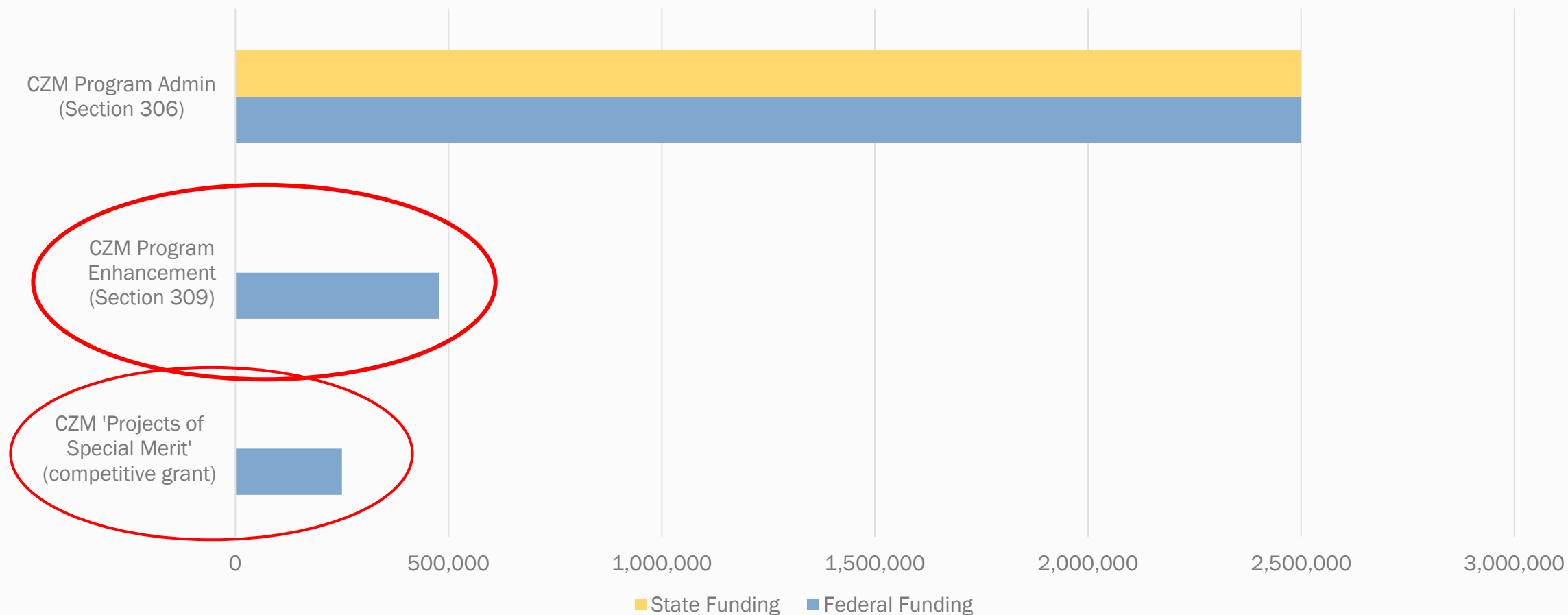
Work areas

- Shoreline management
- Wetlands management
- Ocean planning
- Coastal hazards resilience
- Coastal monitoring
- Federal consistency



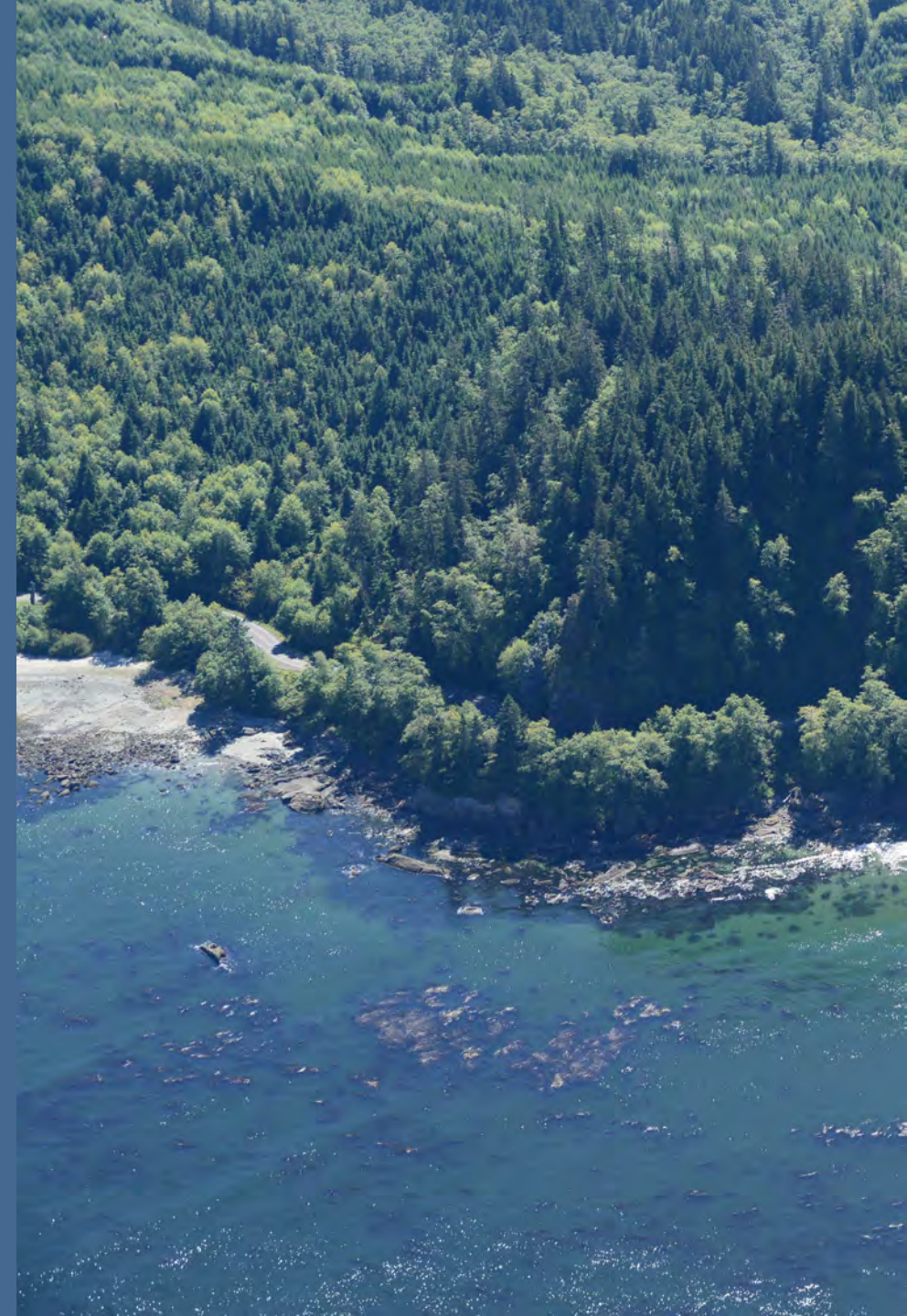
Funding overview

Approximate annual funding for the coastal management program





Coastal Zone Management Program 2026-2030 Enhancement Strategy



Program Enhancement Strategy

- Includes review & assessment of past work
- Guides Ecology staff work in certain focus areas over next 5 years
- Must meet federal requirements & only supports work in certain topic areas
- Helps us improve our coastal management work and address new or emerging issues
- Allows pursuit of competitive funding opportunities (e.g., “Projects of Special Merit”)

Nine required topic areas

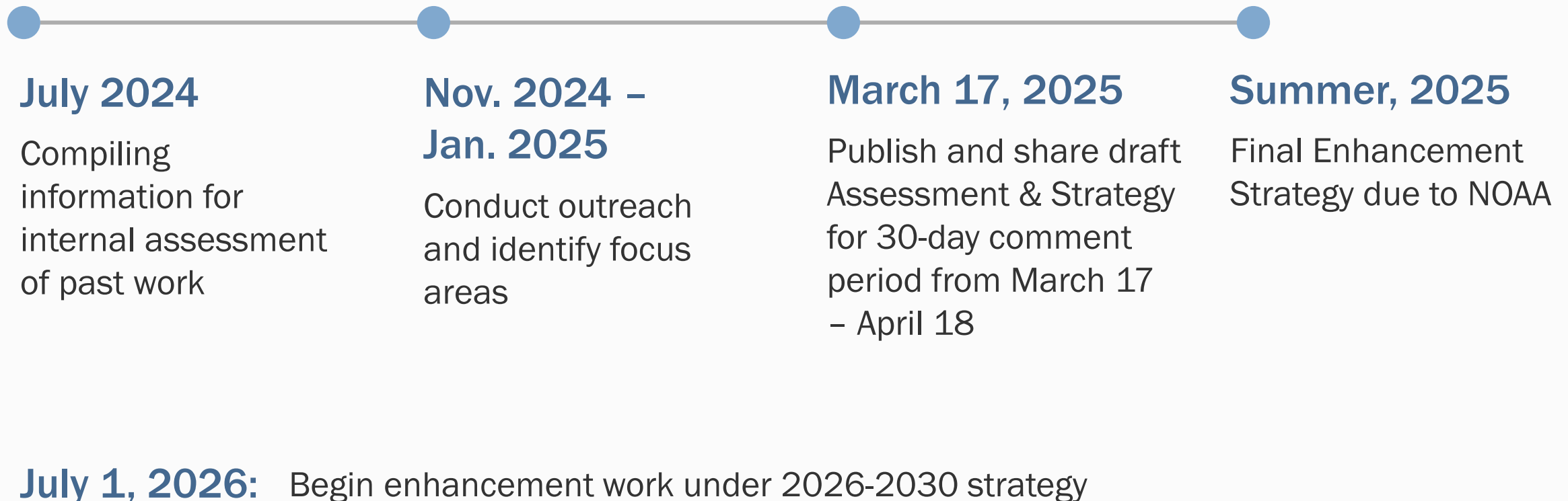
Our work areas

- Wetlands
- Coastal hazards
- Public access
- Cumulative & secondary growth impacts (i.e., shoreline planning)
- Ocean resources
- Aquaculture

Other topic areas

- Marine debris
- Energy & government facility siting
- Special area management planning

Process & timeline for developing Enhancement Strategy





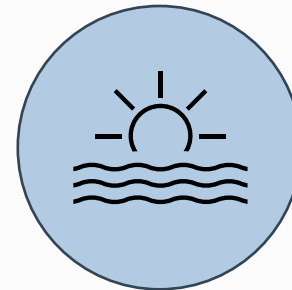
Proposed focus areas for enhancement



Coastal hazards
Sea level rise
planning and
coastal resilience



Wetlands
Filling federal gaps
and enhancing
wetland data



Ocean resources
Ocean research
and enhancing
federal consistency

Coastal Hazards

1. Incorporate sea level rise priorities into Shoreline Master Program (SMP) updates and provide local jurisdictions with guidance and technical support
2. Develop (or update) a centralized coastal data and mapping tool



Coastal Hazards

Organizational agreements to support implementation of coastal resilience programs

- CHRN
- COHORT
- Actions identified in the State Climate Resilience Strategy that pertain to our coastal hazards work



Wetlands



- Filling federal gaps through state permit program
- Improving wetland data
 - Mapping
 - Monitoring pollutants

Ocean Resources

- Develop an ocean research strategy and agenda
 - Articulate Washington's ocean research needs
 - Develop collaboratively with workshops and public input
 - Report or document articulating Washington's ocean research needs
 - Two-year timeframe



Ocean Resources

- Assess the state's enforceable policies and identify ways to improve
 - May identify new policies to incorporate into CZM Program
 - Strengthen coastal resource protection
 - Enhance coordination and communication during federal consistency review





Thank you

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Attachment B: 2024 WCMAC Accomplishments

See next page for the 2024 WCMAC Accomplishments summary.

DRAFT

2024 Summary

Who We Are

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

2024 in Numbers

Meetings

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

Members

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

Actions and Accomplishments of 2024

1. Engagement with Gridworks & Letter of Recommendation

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

2. Support for the Washington State Coastal Climate Resilience Initiative

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

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

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

4. Recommendations for the Governor's Budget

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

WCMAC supported budget priorities from four state agencies:

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

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

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

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

7. WCMAC Meetings

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

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