



West Coast OCEAN ALLIANCE

September 2023

Member Call

SUMMARY

September 15, 2023

Attendees

West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Staff: John Hansen (WCOA Executive Director), Bri Goodwin (WCOA Project Coordinator), Margaret Corvi (WCOA Tribal Coordinator)

West Coast Ocean Data Portal (WCODP): Andy Lanier (OR DLCD, WCODP), Laura Bliss (WCODP Coordinator), Steve Weisberg (SCCWRP)

State Staff: Brittany Poirson (WA DNR), Katie Robinson-Filipp (CA State Lands Commission), Jay Krienitz (WA ECY), Jennifer Hennessey (WA ECY), Jenn Eckerle (CA Ocean Protection Council)

Tribal Members/Staff: Andrea Sumerau (Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians), Sheryn Olson (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission), Louise J. Miranda Ramirez (Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Jesse Beers (CTCLUSI), Rosie Gradoville (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission), Jiaming Yang (CRITFC)

Federal Staff: Jessica Curran (Navy), Yvonne Fish (BIA), Stef Stavrakas (USFWS), Sara Guiltinan (BSEE), Natalie Dayal (BOEM), Juliette Chausson (EPA), Michael Huber (Navy), Steve Duboyce (Navy), Nathan Sinkula (BSEE), Naomi Lewandowski (DOE), Jeff Ferguson (NOAA) Bridgette Lohrman (EPA), John Mosley (BIA), Jennifer Miller (BOEM),

Consultants and Guests: Noelia Aponte-Silva (Strategic Earth Consulting), Teresa Romero (Strategic Earth Consulting)

CALL SUMMARY

WCOA 101

Bri Goodwin (WCOA) provided an overview of the Alliance.

We've had some new folks join the Alliance recently and given we're in the middle of Strategic Planning, we thought a refresher on our organization would be helpful.

The WCOA 101 slides [can be viewed here](#).

WCOA Strategic Planning

Noelia (Strategic Earth) and the Strategic Earth team discussed the WCOA strategic planning efforts.

If you haven't done so already, we want to request that folks take 5-10 minutes to provide input on the West Coast Ocean Alliance Membership Engagement for the Strategic Plan. We will close this survey today because we have another survey that is going out today that we would like folks to focus on.

We are still recruiting the Strategic Planning committee. Right now we will have the following folks on the committee:

- Jesse Beers, Cultural Stewardship Manager, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Haley Kennard, Natural Resource Policy Analyst, Makah Tribe
- Joe Schumacker, Quinault Indian Nation
- Jay Krienitz, WA State Dept of Ecology

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please indicate in the survey that we just discussed or send an email to us or Bri as soon as possible. We are hopeful to confirm the Committee in the next week or so.

From the surveys and the informal conversations so far we have learned a few Key Themes

- Benefits and Value of WCOA
 - WCOA helps build relationships within Tribal, local and federal government agencies and entities by building trust, and enhancing networking, coordination and communication
 - WCOA is a forum to learn, track and discuss priorities, opportunities and project updates across the West Coast region that could impact ocean management strategies
 - WCOA provides an opportunity to align and advance common/shared approaches to address ocean and coastal issues
- Participation in Strategic Planning
 - Several folks shared that they want to bring in Tribal knowledge and perspectives and elevate Tribal voices in the strategic planning process
 - Most folks indicated they don't have capacity to take a lead role in the strategic planning process

- Most folks support the idea of having a SP Committee that has separate meetings dedicated to developing the strategic plan
- The SP Committee will work closely with the LT. The LT will provide feedback along the way, be involved in the review stage of the draft strategic plan, and provide decision making at key points to help determine the final content.
- The ideas, products and deliverables developed by the SP Committee with the support of the LT can be brought up to the bigger group to review and comment during big group monthly calls or via email.
- To gather feedback; folks can engage via email, complete pre-work before meetings (advance notice of discussion topics, questions and/or feedback that is expected), complete surveys, or participate in guided group discussions and activities. Written briefs can help summarize the work and share updates.

We want to briefly discuss WCOA's vision and mission with you. This will serve as a starting place for our current strategic planning process. The current vision is: "Our Regional Vision: Ocean conditions are changing, new uses of the sea are emerging, and the authorities for ocean management are complex and overlapping. These West Coast-wide challenges are best evaluated holistically rather than as individual management entities. Our work will support healthy, resilient ocean ecosystems and communities that thrive on ocean resources."

Is this vision still in alignment? Does this statement resonate? Or maybe it doesn't resonate with you anymore? And where can you identify places where we can expand on this statement?

- Jenn Eckerle (CA Ocean Protection Council): Thank you so much for all of this. Just an initial thought as we revisit this. When we think about the vision, we should think about what we actually want to achieve out of this group, right? if our vision is coordinated, information exchange, leverage expertise and resources, whatever that is, that's how we should be articulating the visions, right? What's our goal? What does success look like for us? And if we're successful, what does that look like for the ocean? So, I think we could definitely strengthen this in the next iteration.

We started to have 1-on-1 conversations with the Leadership Team, Tribal Caucus, and WCOA membership. We are interested in hearing about your vision, priorities and concerns for WCOA in the next 5 years. If you are interested on a 1-on-1 conversation with our team, please take a look at this scheduling poll (in the chat).

Strategic planning will be a large component of the Tribal Summit and Annual Summit. Our goal is to be able to bring in some draft visionary statements into these meetings for discussion and begin to dig into the priority ocean issues, such as aquaculture and offshore wind, to be included in the goals of the strategic plan.

WCOA Summit Planning

Noelia (Strategic Earth) provided an update on the WCOA Summit planning efforts.

The Annual Summit will be Wednesday, October 18 and Thursday, October 19 in Portland, Oregon at the Courtyard City Center. Please RSVP by Friday September 22nd.

The goals of the Annual Summit include:

- Provide relationship-building and networking opportunities between Tribal, state, and federal government WCOA members and invited experts/collaborators/presenters.
- Inform the development of WCOA's 5-Year Strategic Plan and build awareness around WCOA current activities and future priorities.
- Increase awareness of WCOA's operational structure (current and future) across WCOA membership and stakeholders.
- Report on the progress of current projects and work to maximize uptake and utilization of project products by WCOA members, including but not limited to the data portal, aquaculture, offshore wind, etc.

The Annual Summit will include a mix of presentations, large and small group discussions, and networking/relationship building opportunities. WCOA members will be invited to share how WCOA's efforts can best support your organizations' programs and priorities to inform their priorities moving forward especially as they relate to the Strategic Plan. There will also be important opportunities to learn from the Tribal Caucus and Tribal leaders. It will also be an important opportunity to meet folks face-to-face and connect over a cup of tea and other activities that our team is working on mapping out.

We are hoping to find panelists/speakers that can give a very short 5 minute overview of specific topics and how WCOA is engaging. Please fill out the poll that is popping up on your screen to provide some insights. We will also follow up with an email for those who are not present today.

- Bri Goodwin (WCOA): The speakers you suggest don't have to be someone who is on this call. It could be anyone at your Tribe or agency that can speak to these issues on a west coast wide scale.
- Jenn Eckerle (CA Ocean Protection Council): It would help me to understand how we want to structure or what that ideal outcomes for these discussions are. Are we hoping to have kind of an overview of the state of play in each of our regions? What are you guys thinking about as far as the overarching goal of these discussions and presentations?
 - Bri Goodwin (WCOA): We're looking for about five minutes per topic. We recognize that's very, very short, but it's really to get folks' juices flowing about that specific topic. For ocean health, we might make that one a little longer because it's a gigantic umbrella topic, but we wanted very brief presentations to get folks thinking about those topics.

The main event, essentially, is going into breakout groups to discuss those topics. We haven't finalized those breakout groups, but we're thinking about right now is that each group will be a mix of the different governments, and you'll be able to discuss all of these topics.

It'll be a long time to be able to chat as a group about all of these topics, and facilitators will be helping each group make sure you're kind of hitting on all those topics. The overarching lens for these discussions is thinking about the Alliance's strategic planning, what is the Alliance's role in that topic? How can the alliance help your specific tribe or agency with respect to their work in these particular topics?

Margaret Corvi (WCOA) provided an update on the Tribal Summit and Tribal Caucus.

The Tribal Caucus has been doing a lot of work to engage with their leadership to make the connection with WCOA. We thought we would help out staff to send a letter with updates from the West Coast Ocean Alliance to these leaders and then just CC staff so that could enable them to communicate better with their leadership.

While I was talking about doing that, there was a request for leadership to attend the Summit, which I think a lot of tribes would like to bring leaders to the Annual Summit. At the Caucus meeting, Tribal Nations on that call requested that federal and state leadership attend the meeting in person to ensure that productive and meaningful conversations occur at the Summit.

- John Hansen (WCOA): I can just quickly add to that that we do have a letter in draft form that's going to be going out pretty soon to all of our state and federal representatives with the request spelled out a little bit more along with a bit of an update generally on the Alliance and also about the Summit.
- Jennifer Hennessey (WA Dept of Ecology): In working with Tribes here, leadership for our agencies are not the people that are coming. My Director is not coming to the West Coast Ocean Alliance. The expectation often in Washington State is that we send the head of the agency and that's not something we are planning for. I just want to be clear that that's not something we can meet in terms of that expectation from Tribes. I don't know how other states are planning on staffing up for the West Coast Ocean Alliance. I know that John alluded to the federal shutdown and that our federal agency partners may have similar challenges. So, it would be helpful to clarify with the Tribal Caucus who from their Tribes they would like to send and what the expectations are in terms of representation on the state and federal side, because I'm not sure that we can meet that expectation.
 - Margaret Corvi (WCOA): That's the ask. I can definitely share that that is the position of the Washington. I don't know if that's all Washington or if it's just the Department of Ecology.
 - Jennifer Hennessey (WA Dept. of Ecology): I already know that our Director has another engagement that day so it's not possible to send her. Ecology has tended to be the lead agency for Washington State. We will be reaching out to our other agency partners to try and have other agencies attend.

John Hansen (WCOA): We hope the Summit and this strategic plan generally will be an opportunity to assess our current approach, what we're hearing from Tribal partners as well as state and federal and what that engagement will look like moving forward. Ultimately, we want the Alliance to really be a unique place where we can have this connection, especially with Tribes, but also between states, between feds, and understand how that's going to grow and evolve in the coming months and into next year as well.

WCOA Project Updates

Bri Goodwin (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Tribal Caucus.

Aquaculture Inventory and Best Practices: We've hired Ecotrust as the consultant for these projects and recently had a kickoff call. We have a great Working Group that is going to help define these projects and serve as advisors to Ecotrust. The group is open if you ever want to join. They're meeting the second Wednesday of each month from 1-2pm.

- John Hansen (WCOA): We're open to new representatives for the Working Group so if you have someone in mind at your agency or Tribe, please let us know.

Communications: You probably notice our PowerPoint looks different. We have a new template and are working on brand guidelines. We're also really excited about a new website overhaul coming soon. Our external newsletter will get started up again after the Summits. We're open to your ideas for content!

Fellowship Program: We were able to place four fellows in our fellowship program that's being administered by Oregon Sea Grant. They'll be plugging into our existing projects and meetings. The fellows will also attend the Summits in person.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Update

Andy Lanier (WCODP) provided an update on the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

We have been working behind the scenes on our Ocean Health Dashboard indicators. Laura has been doing a great job working with Steve in preparation for the Ocean Protection Council meeting where the state of California is working on their indicators. In particular, she's focused most recently on a public access indicator. We did have our first Portal Coordination Team call in almost a year on Monday of this week. I would say that the turnout was somewhat limited, so I will just advertise that we welcome Alliance Member participation in those Portal Coordination Team calls. There are going to be basically two big topic areas that we cover during those calls, one of which will be the Ocean Health Dashboard Indicators work, and the other will be general Portal Planning and Development. And we are going to alternate monthly on kind of the big focus areas of those calls.

Tribal Caucus Update

Margaret Corvi (WCOA) provided an update on the Tribal Caucus.

This week we've been working on a letter to BOEM requesting a 30-day extension to the deadline for comments on the draft wind energy areas for Oregon Outer Continental Shelf. This request is coming from Tribal Caucus because the deadline overlaps the West Coast Ocean Alliance summits. The summits may catalyze conversations across the governments that could help inform substantive comments in this document. This is the letter that we expect to send [shared via a slide]. It just three paragraphs and describes what the West Coast Ocean Alliance is and that Alliance members generally have committed a lot of resources to understanding impacts of offshore wind and that we'll be holding to in person meetings with our partners that we can talk to over 16th, which overlaps with the comment deadline.

- Jenn Eckerle (CA Ocean Protection Council): Do we have a sense on whether there is an appetite or willingness to grant this extension? I was curious if you had heard whether door was even cracked on this?
- Margaret Corvi (WCOA): BOEM has stated that the 60-day comment period is already longer than typical. I think we don't know if the door is cracked, I think that it is likely the case that since offshore wind is on our summit agenda and we will have multiple governments there. But, I don't really have any answer.

West Coast Offshore Wind Update

Natalie Dayal (BOEM) provided an update on Offshore Wind.

Oregon Offshore Wind

- On Aug 15, BOEM [announced](#) a 60-day public comment period (closes Oct 16) for two Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) located in the existing Call Areas offshore southern Oregon. The Draft WEAs cover approximately 219,568 acres offshore southern Oregon with their closest points ranging from approximately 18 – 32 miles off the coast. These are now publicly available on the BOEM Oregon Activities webpage:
 - [Draft NCCOS Report: A Wind Energy Area Siting Analysis for the Oregon Call Areas \(Aug. 2023\)](#)
 - Maps:
 - [Oregon Draft WEAs](#)
 - [Oregon Draft WEAs Nautical Chart Map](#)
 - [Shapefiles](#)
 - [Visual Simulations](#)
- BOEM will host several meetings to discuss the draft wind energy areas and next steps for Oregon offshore wind energy planning. We hope you can join us. Upcoming meetings (all in Pacific Time):
 - Two virtual meetings requiring registration through BOEM's Oregon webpage <https://www.boem.gov/Oregon>
 - [Oregon Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting](#)
 - Monday, September 18, 2023: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.
 - Informational Fishing Webinar (fishing data focus):
 - Thursday, September 21, 2023: 5:00 pm – 8:00 p.m.
 - In-person public meetings:
 - Gold Beach, OR: Tuesday, September 26, 2023
 - Coos Bay, OR: Wednesday, September 27, 2023
 - Brookings, OR: Thursday, September 28, 2023
- To comment on the draft WEAs please go to [regulations.gov, docket number BOEM-2023-0033](#). BOEM will accept comments through 11:59 pm ET on October 16, 2023.
 - BOEM will also accept public comments at the in-person and virtual meetings.
 - Comments received during the comment period will inform potential designation of final WEAs for further analysis and review for possible offshore wind energy leasing.

Additional information on BOEM's Oregon activities can be found at: www.boem.gov/oregon.

Andy Lanier (WCOOP, OR DLCD): I just wanted to quickly mention that the state and the portal team have been supporting this effort by updating OR Wind Map, the spatial planning tool. We're going to put a link in the chat to the layers that include the draft wind energy areas along with the NCAS analysis model outputs, so you can view the information interactively with other resources that are available.

California Offshore Wind

For the five California Leases, Survey Plans submissions are expected to start in the Fall 2023 with surveys subsequently following in 2024. Unless extended by BOEM, Communications Plans are due Sept 29 (within 120 days of lease execution), including the Agency Communications Plan, Fisheries Communications Plan, and Native American Tribes Communications Plan (NATCP).

There are no new updates on California Offshore Wind Pre-Lease Activities (Round 2). BOEM continues to work with CEC to discuss AB525 Seaspaces planning and collaborate on Tribal and fishing outreach activities. Additional information on BOEM's California activities can be found at: www.boem.gov/california.

Jenn Eckerle (CA Ocean Protection Council): I just wanted to flag for everyone that I think the North Coast Intergovernmental Roundtable is getting rescheduled.

Natalie Dayal (BOEM): Thank you.

John Hansen (WCOA) provided an update on the WCOA Offshore Wind Working Group.

We had our offshore wind working group monthly call yesterday and got into some of these updates in a little bit more detail. If folks want to join that call, we have more opportunity to dive into some updates and discussions. On next month's call we'll have the Monterey Bay Aquarium and East Coast Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative give presentations about science entities.

END CALL