

Meeting Summary
State Ocean Caucus Outreach Meeting
Aberdeen, WA
June 26, 2007 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Start: 2:00 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions – Kathleen Drew (Governor Gregoire’s policy advisor)

Brief comments by Jamie Alley – British Columbia, Director of Oceans and Marine Fisheries Branch of Ministry of Environment

2. Update on ocean and coastal issues – Jennifer Hennessey (WA Ecology)

Jennifer Hennessey with Department of Ecology gave an update on Ocean Policy Work Group final report, progress on recommendations, and establishment of the State Ocean Caucus and Ocean Policy Advisory Group to act on the recommendations of the Ocean Policy Work Group.

3. Sea Grant Regional Research Priorities – Raechel Waters (Washington Sea Grant)

Raechel Waters of Washington Sea Grant summarized the Sea Grant regional research priorities planning effort. The idea is to build off of other reports and outreach conducted as part of the Ocean Policy Work Group and Puget Sound Partnership. Developing the research plan will involve stakeholder meetings in fall of 2007. The first one will be a bi-state meeting held in Astoria, Oregon.

Questions:

- Comment: I work for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Mark Cedergreen), and no one seems to provide a clear definition of ecosystem-based management. What is the definition of “Ecosystem-based Management”? *To us, it means an unbordered approach, not segmented – inclusion across borders. Fewer limits on scope and research approach.*
- With regard to synthesizing documents – are you also looking at locally generated documents? *Yes. Like include the strategic plans of relevant groups. Please send us additional local documents to include.*
- Seven themes: Is energy contained within one of the seven themes? *Yes. Under which theme? It could be put under Transportation/Security. At Depoe Bay, wave energy was under Coastal Hazards. The themes are a starting point – it will be iterative process so – open to adding others.*
- Please define ocean and environmental literacy? *“Education” refers to K-12; it’s a point through which to bring in more topic-based, engaging math and science education and curriculum development; Literacy is broader, adult & beyond (e.g., responding to coastal hazards).*

4. Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) – Tim Smith (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Tim Smith from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented a background on county-based Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) and recent state legislation allowing the formation of them on the outer coast.

Questions, comments, and clarifications:

- How does “implement actions that link with Marine Conservation Objectives” link with “complement, not compete”? *MRCs are not just an advisory resource; they actually implement projects.*
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife received some funding from legislature to educate coastal counties about MRCs. There has been a recent move by the Salmon Recovery Board to regionalize their efforts. Working on how best to fund implementation of high priority projects.
- Comment from Jody Kennedy (Surfrider Foundation): 1) Important to emphasize that MRCs came about through local communities coming together with local government. They are bottoms-up and community driven; 2) Financial resources – it is important to provide funding to local governments to get MRCs off the ground.
- Do you foresee a problem with oversight being spread among various agencies? *No, there is a strong collaboration ethic between WDFW, Puget Sound Partnership, Northwest Straits Commission, etc.*
- Has anyone considered a potential strategy for integrating this into the Coastal Zone Management program and supporting with CZM funding? *At this point, CZM is wide open – could certainly consider that.*
- Northwest Straits Commission website has information on benchmarks and outcomes – MRC page. There is lots of detailed information about projects and outcomes.

5. West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) – Kathleen Drew (GOV)

Kathleen Drew presented an overview of the West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health and opportunity for public comment on what actions the three states should take regionally.

Questions:

- Where does coastal development fit into the priorities? Learned from Oregon, California, and now Washington the impacts on building right up to coastlines. Also pollution. *Could fit under priority 1 or 2, and possibly others.*
- Problem of aging septic systems, and lack of infrastructure, data, information.
- What is WCGA’s position on the Makah Bay wave energy pilot project? FERC comments on environmental assessment are due soon. The WCGA should consider responding. *Several Washington state agencies are currently involved with this project and responding to the environmental assessment. Not likely that*

the West Coast Governors' Agreement would take a position on a specific project in a specific state, but those comments can be passed on to those involved with the Agreement.

Public Comments:

- Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commissioner).
 - In favor of the governors showing some leadership and stepping up. It was long overdue. Thanked the Governor, from the Clallam County Board of Commissioners.
- Tom Bougher (member of Surfrider Foundation and Gray's Harbor homeowner):
 - Excellent program. Encouraged to see three governors and Canada cooperating to cover this coastline.
 - Water quality – lots to do in this area. Several of the most famous surfing beaches in CA have been closed due to pollution. Kids can't go out there and surf without getting ear infections. It's an embarrassment. Surfrider holds beach cleanups regularly.
 - Education is a very big part of Surfrider and it is one of the emphases of the West Coast Governors Agreement. It's definitely something that ought to be a priority.
 - Ecosystem based management - managing systems instead of species is essential. Greater coordination among our resource managers at all levels of government needs to be institutionalized. Ecosystem management is about the recognition that everything is connected. Really managing this interrelationship and the fact that it's all connected.
 - Local communities need to have a greater voice. Already happening in conjunction with this process. Wants to be part of this decision-making process, so appreciates the opportunity to speak.
- Jody Kennedy (Surfrider Foundation):
 - Plan to submit lengthy written comments, so won't say much. Support this initiative and thinks it's excellent that the coastal states are coming together to address some of the difficult issues affecting the coast.
 - Surfrider is engaged in five community-based efforts, local-level initiatives to assess what's happening to marine resources and try to develop strategies to address those problems. One example here in Washington State is in San Juan County with the San Juan County Marine Resource Committee, called a "marine stewardship area plan." It is a bottoms-up approach to ecosystem-based management, and it's an excellent example of an initiative where folks on the ground in a community are coming up with legitimate strategies to manage resources. Anything the WCGA can do to recognize and support initiatives like what's happening in the San Juans and help them connect to the higher level—the state and regional level—policy making initiatives, would be a huge benefit.
 - Requested more meetings to discuss the WCGA, particularly if there was one in Northern Puget Sound and maybe in Central Puget Sound.
- Doug Fricke (Washington Trollers Association, fisherman):

- Favors ecosystem-based management. The Marine Mammal Act that protects seals and sea lions, and the Endangered Species Act that protects salmon, and they're out of balance. Need to do something to get them more in balance.
- Fishermen would really like to be included more in the some of the groundwork when these priorities between the three states are agreed to. The fishermen are on the ocean all the time. Everything you do in the ocean affects fisherman—whether its reserves, electric production, mining, agriculture, it affects us—includes us a little more as you can down the road.
- Al Carter (Gray's Harbor County Commissioner):
 - Gray's Harbor County Commissioners are very much in support of this. How we treat our environment...we're all connected. It's air, water, plant life, animal life, human life, everything is connected at some point in time, and we have to balance that out. If it's out of balance in one spot, it's out of balance somewhere else, and everything affects everything else.
 - Supports developing a county-based Marine Resource Committee that would help further some of this along with the local community support. Pledged Gray's Harbor support of this.
- Mercedes Erdev-Heydern (Global Remote Sensing, LLC).
 - From California. Involved with Sea Grant and habitat mapping, worked a lot together with fisheries and different agencies. Lots of agencies in Washington, but how little coordination is there between the agencies. There is a lot more information out there than everyone is aware of; it's just getting the people to talk to each other.
 - A lot of research done and a lot of mapping is missing. There are people who would like to help out in that, and the resources are there, it's just coordinating that whole thing. Offered her help - specialty is in habitat mapping & sea-floor characterization. Our company does a lot of hydrographic surveys.
 - Excited about what is going on, would really like to see some action up here (Washington).
- Gary Nelson (Port of Grays Harbor, here as a representative of Coastal Communities of Southwest Washington):
 - Coastal Communities of Southwest Washington is a group that formed 10-12 years ago to deal with coastal erosion and beneficial use of dredged sediment, basically from the mouth of the Columbia River north to about the Moclips River. It's a consortium of Grays Harbor and Pacific County, ports and cities within that region. Cooperate and meet four times a year to work on projects and foster research. Most of work is inshore (nearshore) to do with currents, sedimentation and how it moves around the estuary. The most studied estuary in the United States is right here in Grays Harbor - there's a lot of data out there and available. Erosion and sediment management is relevant to priority number 7 "fostering sustainable economic development," whether it's our fisherman at Westport or the

international trade that we're involved with here - those are critical to be able to also live here in SW Washington.

6. Update of Coastal Zone Management Act – Brian Lynn (ECY)

Brian gave an overview on the Coastal Zone Management Act. This act is due for reauthorization by Congress. The Coastal States Organization, representing all the coastal states and territories in the nation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are leading efforts at the national level to come up with innovative ideas to revise CZMA during reauthorization.

Questions:

- Is there an impulse toward a tribal role under terms of tribal sovereignty on tribal lands for CZM? *Only to the degree that the tribes in the state of Washington are bringing it up. Not sure anyone is thinking of it in other states. Other states don't have the same kind of relationship with tribes, treaties (or coastal lands) as in Washington. Would like to see something that enables tribal involvement.*
- How does this fit in with MRCs, other programs? *Local vs. national efforts – Reauthorization may be an opportunity to explore whether there is a way to get authorization and regular funding for the bottom up approach or for projects that could be implemented at local level.*
- In light of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, are western states considering regional coordination/consistencies in their CZMPs? (e.g., consistent metrics to demonstrate success?) *Not sure this has been discussed in the context of WCGA. There are many differences within the West Coast region. Don't even monitor species in the same way – often don't have comparable data. Let's get common data and environmental indicators first. That consideration is down the road, until the building blocks are in place.*
- In the meantime – might look at harmonizing MRCs with the Shoreline Management Act (SMA is a Washington State law regulating shoreline use and development). Have we looked for those convergences (short-term)? Could build from there up and see how it applies to CZMA. *Yes, this has happened, for instance in Whatcom County's Shoreline Master Program development process. They had lots of local input and assistance from their local MRC.*

Public Comments:

- **Mike Doherty (Clallam Co. Commissioner)** As a county commissioner in the 1970's, worked on and with these new laws, CZMA and SMA. Clearly need to do more, as pointed out by the Pew Commission report and Ocean Commission Report. Noted that Washington state leaders historically helped create the CZMA, SMA, and other related laws, which resulted in a positive relationship with the federal agencies. Good to see our leaders today are working to get back to reauthorizing this law and strengthening it, not just because of things like the sanctuary and others, but because of the local component in these things.
 - 1) Aside from today's discussion of ecosystem-based management and the connectedness of natural resources, there should be an increased heavy

burden on people, who have to work in this area of an increasing convergence of major public policy issues. For example, climate change and energy—things that relate to coastal resources, but not always directly—more and more are serious public policy issues. National security of oil, the shipment of crude oil and product over our oceans...a lot of things are converging. Opportune time to work on new, creative visions for coastal zone management – Washington is a major coastal state. One new tool is occurring in our county: Have a \$1.6 million NASA grant to create a little control center at the community college, and it's going to do mostly satellite images of changes to the local snow pack due to climate change. Students will be taught how to read these images, use computer models tied to a hydrographic model in the Dungeness area, and try to better predict natural resource management problems. This technology could apply to some of the coastal erosion issues that were mentioned earlier and a lot of other things. Particularly could merge EPA information with NASA data and look at some of the public health issues (e.g. tied to shellfish production and such) - there are some great opportunities that could be at play here. NASA is in the middle of a project, the Solutions Network, to get “formulation papers,” to have more use of their technology applied to the earth and have human race benefit from these things. NASA is wide open to more of these formulation papers, if people in coastal communities wanted to track the record of coastal erosion. Maybe at one of the state ocean forums can have a discussion of how that's working in Clallam County and then track some results.

- 2) The Board of County Commissioners is very supportive of having the state be more active in working on reauthorization, particularly a coordinated, collaborative approach. Look for these common problems, try to find some common solutions that everybody can buy into, and usually it's common sense, but it's looking ahead a few generations instead of just today's special interest groups trying to find a solution. It's more of the common-sense longer-term solution. Washington has a benefit of large a federal presence in the sanctuary, wilderness beaches tied to the park, the NW Straights Commission. It is appropriate public policy to ask for federal appropriations (funding) to further CZM programs, and to coordinate, collaborate work for national policy that benefits a state.
- **Dale Beasley (Columbia River Crab Fishers Association):**
 - Has dealt with the Coastal Zone Management Program for a long time. The state has a very fine law base from which to work with on coastal zone management.
 - What hinders Washington State more than any other thing is the 17 words in the state coastal program that says the CZMA will only apply to Washington waters. The federal government gives the state authority to look at these things that are happening in BC, Oregon, neighboring states. The state of Washington should eliminate those 17 words from the law. The CZMA is a really strong tool for the state to use. The NEPA process

is breaking down to where the science becomes irrelevant to the process.
The CZMA, if utilized appropriately, can bring NEPA back to sense.

- **Brian Shea** (Planning and Building Division Director for Grays Harbor County) Shared the County's appreciation to the Department of Ecology for the wide range of expertise provided to the county in the way of support services. It is instrumental and very beneficial to the administration of the Grays Harbor Shoreline Master Program.

General Public Comments:

Note: This section summarizes comments -- direct transcript/recording not available.

- Doug Fricke (Washington Trollers Association, Fisherman): What's the process to get an MRC started? *The state is encouraging it, but not directing it – go through county commissioners. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is available to come and help, but state is not organizing. Could organize to have some co comm. from existing 7 MRCs who will speak with fellow commissioners – will facilitate this communication; planning some open meetings where citizens active in existing MRCs can come and share their experiences. Surfrider suggestion: talk to people in the communities to generate support and get a group together to approach county commissioner.*
- Polly Dyer (President of Olympic Coastal Alliance, a new organization). Brought brochures on the Olympic Coastal Alliance organization to share with attendees.

Adjourned: 5:00