

WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 25th, 2015 9:30 am – 3:30pm

Location: Port of Grays Harbor Commissioners Chambers, 111 S. Wooding St. Aberdeen, WA

Council Members Present	
Casey Dennehy, Recreation	Michal Rechner, DNR (phone)
Carol Everst, Wahkiakum MRC	Michele Culver, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dale Beasley, Commercial Fishing	Miles Batchelder, WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
David Fluharty, Educational Institution	Penny Dalton, WA SeaGrant
Doug Kess, Pacific MRC	Randy Kline, WA State Parks
Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC	Ray Toste, Commercial Fishing
Jeff Ward, Coastal Energy	RD Grunbaum, Conservation
Julie Horowitz, Governor's Office (phone)	Rich Osborne, Science
Marc Horton, Ports	Rod Fleck, N. Pacific MRC
Mark Cedergreen, Recreational Fishing	Sally Toteff, Dept. of Ecology
Mark Plackett, Citizen	Steve Sewell, Department of Commerce

Council Members Absent	
Alla Weinstein, Energy Industry	Charles Costanzo, Shipping
Brian Sheldon, Shellfish Aquaculture	

Liaisons Present	
Katie Krueger, Quileute Tribe	

Others Present	
Bridget Trosin, WA Sea Grant	Kelsey Gianou, Ecology
Corey Niles, WDFW	Libby Whiting, DNR
Faith Eldwood, Pacific County	Michael Cornman, Westport Seafood
Gus Gates, Surfrider Foundation	Mike Nordin, PCMRC, PCD
Jennifer Hagen, Quileute Tribe	Rick Lovely
Jennifer Hennessey, Ecology (WCMAC Staff)	Scott Pearson, WDFW
Jessi Doerpinghaus, WDFW	Shannon Davies, TRG
John Pierce, WDFW	Tim Crose, Pacific Co
Katie Wrubel, Makah Office of Marine Affairs	Dana Golden, Cascadia Consulting, Note-taker
Katrina Lassiter, DNR	Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions, Facilitator

1. Welcome and Introductions

Garrett Dalan welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that there are now microphones to make it easier for people to hear. Garrett also said that starting this meeting there would be a distinct period for clarifying questions followed by an opportunity for broader discussion.

Announcements:

- Casey Dennehy: There will be a forum of coastal MRC leadership and the Northwest Straits Initiative to talk with state senators and representatives. There will be a focus on ocean acidification and marine debris.
- Doug Kess: Pacific County is in the middle of an SMP update with their science conference coming up May 14th.
- Dale Beasley: The fisherman poets meeting will be held in Astoria this weekend.
- Mark Cedergreen: We have been busy in the Legislature, and North of Falcon Salmon setting season starts next week.
- Penny Dalton: In the throws of proposals for research next year. Sea Grant is working on a pilot program for workforce development. Also the 23rd annual Shellfish Growers Conference in Alderbrook.
- Dave Fluharty: <http://www.openchannels.org> has over 100 webinars that discuss marine spatial planning. It could be a good resource for this group.
- Carol Ervest: We are doing a pinniped count and finishing up with our fish preservation training.
- Sally Toteff: The Department of Ecology responded to an oily water discharge on February 14th. Recovery work from the January floods and landslides is ongoing. The Department of Ecology is working on requirements to reduce the risk of crude oil, trains, and pipelines.
- Michele Culver: A new director at WDFW started on the first of February. The new director is making a point to visit all of the regions. Phil Anderson is still working part time, mostly on salmon and state-tribal issues.
- Randy Kline: There is a proposed Washington Administrative Code Update to allow for the use of wind powered vehicles on beaches.
- RD: There is a bill in the legislature that would allow hunting in state parks.
- Mark Plackett: There are a number of events coming up. Chocolate on the Beach and the Razor Clam Festival at the end of March.
- Rod Fleck: We are working on the completion of the Rainforest Arts Center, with the grand opening on April 14th. There is also a coastal cleanup on April 25th.
- Julie Horowitz: The WCMAC work is important to Governor Inslee. JT Austin has a broad portfolio of things she is working on, so Julie has been asked to be the governor's point person with the WCMAC. She will be engaging actively with the WCMAC, and communicating with the Governor's office regarding areas where she does not have expertise.
- Garrett Dalan: There is a competition for a concept of a sustainable coastal business. There will be a 3-day intensive business development course at the end of July. More information is available at wacoastworks.org.
- The public attendees introduced themselves. Susan Gulick reviewed the Agenda.

2. Adopt summary of January Meeting

! The January Meeting Summary was adopted with no objections.

Public Comment:

- Michael Cornman of Westport Seafood: Thank you for your contribution. I am a business owner, and part of that is recognizing each individual's influence. There are a lot of different things coming our way. This group can think about what's our purpose, why are we really here? One purpose of your council is to share information. Keep in mind that some of the things you make recommendations on will affect my business. Mike passed out RCW 43.143.30 and RCW 43.143.60 and continued his comments:
- For RCW 43.143.30 I'm concerned about the impacts mentioned in (e). Look at the criteria you have been charged with.
- For RCW 43.143.60, look at why you're really here. We have \$4 billion in revenue from commercial fishing, \$1.5 million from recreational fishing. You need to consider the livelihoods of people who live on the coast.

Ecologically Important Areas Analysis

Michele Culver provided an update on WDFW's work on the ecologically important areas project.

The project is part of the legislative mandate for the plan that includes developing ecosystem indicators and identification of ecologically significant/important areas. The update included a proposed methodology and an outline of where they are in the process of identifying and mapping ecologically important areas.

John Pierce and Corey Niles, scientists working on the project, presented their approaches.

Next Steps/Timeline

- Feb 25th EIA Briefing at WCMAC Work Session
- Mid-March State/Tribal EIA Technical meeting
- April 22nd EIA Briefing at WCMAC Work Session
- April 29-May 1 state tribal policy meeting
- June 1 – Draft EIA report for tribal policy and technical review
- June 15 - Comments due to WDFW
- June 30 - Final EIA report and maps due

Clarifying Questions

- Rich Osborne: Is the hexagon grid being used by anyone else? Can you generate a latitude/longitude layer?
 - The same hexagon grid will be used for the recreational use study and the Use Analysis. Yes, a latitude/longitude layer could be developed.
- Mark Plackett: It's really important to keep track of data gaps as you discover them. Are you interfacing with the Shoreline Management Plan?
 - We are working with our shoreline planner to make sure that local governments are aware of the data as they are available, so they can be included in those processes. The timing doesn't always work out for the data to be included.
- There is a gap in the rocky habitat where the trawl data doesn't go.

- This is version one, new information can be incorporated as it is available.
- Jeff Ward: Do you have a working definition of “crucial” habitat”. It sounds close to critical, but it may matter what crucial means.
 - We do not yet have a working definition.
- Would you be concerned about how the public would interpret the overlay of energy suitability and high importance crucial habitat?
 - Yes, there is concern that simplified decisions could be made.
- Casey Dennehy: You should include whale migration routes.
 - This is one of the things that the NOAA team is modeling and mapping, but it won’t be available until the end of June. We will do our best to incorporate it.
- Dave Fluharty: I’m hoping that you can incorporate more information on the dynamics of essential fish habitat. Where are the important areas for productivity and connectivity? That will be important for tradeoff decisions.
 - We are conscious of that, and the approach we are using is where animals spend the most time. The map can’t draw those links, but to the extent we can we will make those connections in the narrative.
- Doug Kess: In the kelp model, what if there is a new area of very high production or a persisting forest that is dying off. That wouldn’t be accurately reflected.
 - In the map even the lowest kelp is of medium importance. More could be done in terms of persistence and annual variation.
- Dale Beasley: I didn’t see anything about Dungeness crab in your presentation. Have you identified spawning areas?
 - Fishery data doesn’t get at spawning areas and where they settle out. If there are maps of spawning areas we would like to see them. That is a gap but that information is not available that we know of.
- Rod Fleck: You need to be careful about the way that this gets used. You need to make recommendations about what the type of application materials someone in those areas should have up front, rather than zone them out of being considered.
 - Michele Culver: We’re not proposing any recommendations out of this project, just proposing information. We will present information to the WCMAC, and the WCMAC will make recommendations.
- Katie Krueger: Is there a schedule or funding for updating this information?
 - There is no funding for future updates identified right now. We are hoping that there will be.
 - Jennifer Hennessey: The plan requires an adaptive management strategy. Once we have a framework in place, it will be easier to update.

Discussion

- Mark Plackett: It seems really important to have the salmon and albacore data included in there.
 - Yes, we are planning to add as much as we can.
- RD Grunbaum: You said that estuaries are high value. Is there any discussion about the interaction of the estuaries and potential for collapse if something happens on the coast?
 - We can’t model it or put it in map but it will be included in comments.

- Dave Fluharty: We need to determine seasonality. Are uses consistent, static, and to what extent are they vulnerable or sensitive. We have to get to the point that we are looking at this from an ecosystem perspective.
- Rich Osborne: I want to emphasize what I'm hearing from most people. It's a good methodology given the data you have. Once we have all of the data gaps, then maybe we need another round on BAS science that is not based on data but based on experts, based on knowledge, and based on seasonality. If we go forward with too many holes we'll make some mistakes.
 - Michele Culver: We tried to not be duplicative. We are looking at NOAA's data, NWFSC's integrated ecosystem assessment, and the seafloor mapping exercise. The challenge is how to bring all of this together to get the best possible view of the ecosystem.
- Penny Dalton: Why is the same decision about the estuary importance not being made for the coastal strip?
 - The data shows just the groundfish starting at 50 meters. Most of the nearshore data is on seabirds. There is no groundfish data for the nearshore.
 - Michele: The next step is to overlay the fish and wildlife data.
- Jeff Ward: What you're doing is important. It's a point of departure for other questions like ecological connectivity.
- When you aggregate these maps, you could probably produce a map of which areas are economically valuable.
- Dale Beasley: What about invertebrates?
 - We aren't aware of anything in the nearshore where we could map benthic creatures, but if you have ideas let us know.
- Sally Toteff: This is the best work we've been able to do so far. It's a first step, there are gaps, but we have to get started together. It's been a very productive conversation.
- Mark Plackett: I really appreciate the transparency. It's important to know the rules by which the map is made.
- Jennifer Hennessey: Alongside the development of the plan, we are doing a programmatic SEPA process that will be a more formal mechanism for establishing best available science used in the plan, including documenting the ecosystem processes and context in addition to specific analyses such as the EIA.
- Dave Fluharty: We should think of this as a decision support tool, not a decision making tool.
- Randy Kline: The regulatory context for a document like this is like a government comprehensive plan. It's a policy document not a regulatory document.
 - While it is a policy document, think about how it may play out in a regulatory context
- Ray Toste: With bird migration, the wrong thing in the wrong place would be really disruptive.
- Jeff Ward: We are going to have very detailed maps and a very long plan come out of this. We need to get to key socioeconomic, cultural, and ecological factors that are important to the WCMAC in determining if a potential new use is acceptable. A new use needs to look at whether it would improve, denigrate, or not change each of the three attributes. This is a product that is not one thing; it's a description of how to go forward.

4. Renewable Energy As a Potential New Use

Kelsey Gianou presented her research to date on renewable energy as a potential new use. She is in the middle of an in depth literature review. She invited anyone to send her information or resources that would add to her review.

Questions and Comments:

- Is there potential for solar in the ocean?
 - Not that I'm aware of.
- Is there any reason you couldn't use the energy at the site?
 - Jennifer Hennessey: There are some offshore desalinization plants that are being proposed in mostly arid areas, which would generate and use power on site.
- Where would the best place for wind energy be?
 - Jeff: Currently most information comes from wind map models. PNNL is putting out buoys to collect real time information on speed and direction. We're currently working from uncertain predictions.
- Mark Plackett – there's a doctor that put up a turbine in ocean shores – he thought he could pay for his own electricity. It did not work out for him.
- Dale Beasley: Gray's Harbor is currently already meeting its renewable energy standards. Pacific County doesn't have to meet it, and I'm not sure about the other counties. I'm curious what the efficiency of area per kilowatt hour is for these different technologies.
 - Jeff: We don't know that here yet. There's also a difference between the footprint and the exclusion area.

Susan Gulick: In the survey of WCMAC members, people wanted more information on permitting in a written briefing report. That information is in your packet and was emailed do you. It won't be discussed during WCMAC time, but it is a resource as part of this process.

The WCMAC broke into 4 small groups to share perspectives related to renewable energy. They compiled a list of potential conflicts, compatibilities and benefits, and places where more information is needed. *A summary of their input is provided below.*

Marine Renewable Energy Small Group Discussion

Potential Conflicts

- *Space Use*
 - *Potential impact on current uses including commercial and recreational fishing, and shipping*
 - *Exclusion zones impact current uses*
 - *New devices complicate navigation and decrease safety*
- *Environmental*
 - *Unknown consequences on marine resources*
 - *Impacts of a stationary structure introduced in the marine environment are not fully understood*
 - *Unknown wind energy device impacts on birds and bats*
 - *Anchoring causes damage to the substrate*
 - *Potential compounding effects of climate change*
 - *Unknown ecosystem impacts*

- *Potential changes in sediment transport and wave action*
- *Economic*
 - *Using government resources on something that is not feasible*
 - *Visual impacts may have effects on tourism and recreation*
 - *Taxes are based on a broader tax range*
 - *Net impacts on jobs*
- *Technology*
 - *Transmission lines need to connect to the grid*
 - *The resource is inconsistent and unreliable*
 - *Devices are subject to catastrophic events*
- *Social*
 - *Potential visual and aesthetic impacts on a culturally important place*
 - *Potential legal complications*

Compatibilities/Benefits

- *Environmental*
 - *Improvement of air quality*
 - *Decreased carbon output*
 - *Aggregation of fish and marine life around devices*
 - *Monitoring and initial studies may help improve data and the understanding of marine resources*
- *Economic*
 - *Increase in local community energy independence and reliance on a local source*
 - *Diversify energy portfolio and decrease Washington's dependence on fossil fuels*
 - *Aggregation of fish around devices provides a potential opportunity for fishing*
 - *Support an efficient use of space if multiple uses are permitted together*
 - *Create multiple new industries with each new use (piggy back industries)*
 - *Support an efficient use of space for aquaculture yield*
 - *May lower the cost of energy per kilowatt*
 - *Opportunity for jobs and economic activities*
- *Social*
 - *Search and rescue operations may improve*
 - *Support sustainable ocean energy*

Data/Information Needs

- *How would the established tax base impact local communities?*
- *What is the process for establishing exclusion zones?*
- *Where does geothermal energy fit into the energy portfolio?*
- *Social*
 - *How are current activities impacted?*

- *What do communities of current wind projects say about their project and the true benefits/compatibilities of the project?*
- *What are the legal ramifications (especially regarding tribal rights)?*
- *Planning/Permitting*
 - *What are the tradeoffs between onshore and offshore wind energy?*
 - *Will marine renewable energy ban fishing from an area?*
- *Technology*
 - *Are some technologies more compatible to other uses (especially fishing)?*
 - *What is the process for removing turbines?*
 - *What is the production efficiency of various devices (area used per KW hour produced)?*
 - *What are maintenance costs of various devices?*
 - *What are the potential sizes and scales of energy projects?*
 - *What infrastructure is needed?*
- *Economic*
 - *If subsidies are removed from the equation, is the new use economically feasible?*
 - *What are the economic impacts to local communities?*
 - *What is the net impact to jobs?*
 - *Do seasonal or temporary jobs replace full time jobs?*
 - *Where is the power going?*
- *Environmental*
 - *What do studies say about the impact on fish and birds?*
 - *What do studies say about the impact on marine habitat?*
 - *Are there better resource locations than Washington's coast?*
 - *How might sediment transport change? What do those changes mean for marine resources?*

Comments and Questions

- *Moving sediment from one location to another can affect beach nourishment (chemically and physically) and impact marine life and recreation.*
- *Oil and gas should be included in this analysis.*
- *Doug Kess: Clearly we can't get answers to all of these questions. I think the point of this is to develop a general set of principles and questions that would need to be addressed for any new use. We want to know the ecological impact, the economic impact, and the general impacts on human welfare. And we want to know how they are going to be assessed and monitored.*
- *Mark Cedergreen: We also want to minimize unintended consequences.*
- *Susan Gulick asked Council members what they thought about the small group work.*
 - *Casey Dennehy: I think it was productive. People who don't speak as often had the chance to speak up.*
 - *Floharty: It was good to incorporate people from the public. They provided valuable information.*
 - *Cedergreen: It would be nice to have separate spaces for the group discussions.*

- *Sally Toteff: I liked how we had the presentation ahead of the discussions, so that we were all prepped with the same basic information.*
- *RD Grunbaum: It would be nice to have fewer topics with more time for each.*

5. Use analysis

Jennifer Hennessey presented the process for completing the spatial analysis. The use analysis was the first piece. Jennifer presented how the use analysis fits into the MSP, and the next steps. At the next WCMAC meeting, WCMAC will review the draft use matrix and provide recommendations.

Questions and Comments:

- Katie: To what intensity will the geographic analysis be applied?
 - Michele Culver: It will be the same 1 square mile hexagon.
- RD Grunbaum: Is there the ability to say that there are no areas appropriate for a new use?
 - Jennifer Hennessey: There has to be a well-reasoned description of where the conflicts are. You can say no in specific places.
 - Jeff Ward: The challenging part will be the areas that are ranked “medium”.
- Katie Krueger: How are the divisions between high, medium, and low defined?
 - They have not yet been determined. We will work to explain and make this distinction transparent.
- Michele Culver: When we look at a conflict it’s just the space, not the efficiency of the technology. Every cell is colored the maximum ranking of whatever is inside that area.
- Sometimes aggregate data puts you in a lot of medium territory. We want distinction so we can see where the critical locations are.
- Sally Toteff: The plan will provide a platform of where to start from when projects are proposed.

6. Updates

Attendance

- Garrett Dalan reported on his discussion with WCMAC members who have been missing meetings.
- The Governor has appointed Julie Horowitz to replace JT Austin as the WCMAC liaison from the Governor’s office Julie should have greater availability to participate in WCMAC meetings, including the Steering Committee.
- Charlie Costanzo of shipping said that he is engaged in the meeting materials, and if there is anything shipping related that needs his input the WCMAC should let him know. He will make efforts to attend WCMAC meetings when there is something specific to shipping on the agenda. He’s also available for questions or discussion outside of the meetings on the topic of shipping.

Workplan

- The updated workplan is included in the packet. The only new item is a proposed September 23rd meeting date.

Data viewer

Libby Whiting reviewed the list of data sets in the data viewer with updated notes. Several of the broken data sets were fixed.

Questions and Comments:

- Dale Beasley: I would rather have it in common units, latitude and longitude, than in minutes.
- Dale Beasley: I would like to be able to tell if the ocean disposal sites are historic or active. Some have been discontinued.
 - With Kelsey's research we are looking at the status of the sites. We may be able to swap some of it out with a more accurate data set.
- Dale Beasley: Why is the participatory mapping data still not the whole area?
 - Once the whole data set is available for Oregon, California, and Hawaii, that information will be available.

MRAC

Garrett Dalan provided an update from the Marine Resources Advisory Council. They have been waiting to see what funding they receive. Garrett will forward the bi-monthly news flyer on ocean acidification to the WCMAC group.

Project Status Report Updates

- Katrina Lassiter provided updates on all of the current projects. Projects with changes are highlighted in the handout provided.
- Dale Beasley: Why is the amount for Cascade Economics \$30,000?
 - Katrina Lassiter: Thanks for pointing that out. It should be around \$300,000. I will change it.

7. Upcoming Meeting Agenda Topics

- Dale: How specifically are we going to work with MSP to protect and preserve existing fisheries?
 - Susan: There is still confusion about how we get from here to the end of the plan. Perhaps we can review that at the next meeting..
- Garrett: There could be value for the different sectors to talk about what each wants from the plan.
 - Rich: I disagree; we should be expressing those concerns all along.
- Doug Kess: We need to develop ecological, social, and cultural criteria that we can apply to any new use. We won't agree on everything but we should start defining what those criteria might be.
- Michele: We will give another update on the EIA moving into Phase 2. It will be a similar work session as today. It will include responding to feedback we received today
- Sea Grant updates
- Ecosystem indicators
- Update on oil transport

- The social science indicators update would like to consider moving to June – they will have a more complete report then
- Dale: What happened to the request for fishermen meetings?
 - Jen: we heard that request, and Sea Grant is working it. They have not been finalized.
 - Dale: Summer will not work for fishermen. Fishermen need to have a conversation about fishing preserves; it would be helpful to have the discussion included in the MSP work.

Public Comment

- RD: Will the Crude by Rail EIS be released in June? I've heard it's very long. What is the timeframe for public comment?
 - Sally Toteff: The target for public review has been moved to June. There are still more areas to be analyzed. There is a list serve that provides notifications. I can email the WCMAC list serve to notify you when the comment period starts.
 - RD: The Oakville and Rochester Chamber of Commerce is hosting a forum on April 22nd at 6:30 to provide information on the impacts.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 22, 2015
- June 24, 2015
- September 23, 2015

Meetings will be held in Aberdeen unless otherwise noted