

WCMAC Technical Committee Update

October 22, 2014

The Technical Committee met 2 times (via phone) since the July WCMAC meeting. The meetings focus on providing input on desired outcomes and deliverables on projects.

The majority of the Technical Committee's time in the past quarter focused on identifying desired information regarding coastal renewable energy, and identifying data gaps for funding consideration in the 2015-17 biennium.

Renewable Energy Information Needs

- The Technical Committee reviewed the results of the survey of WCMAC members to identify desired information regarding renewable energy. There were four primary topics:
 1. Technologies
 - Members agreed that a WCMAC presentation on renewable energy technologies and feasibility would be useful.
 - This presentation was held in September.
 2. Ecological Impacts
 - Members agreed that a WCMAC presentation on the ecological impacts of renewable energy would be useful.
 - The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has done a fair amount of work on the environmental impacts of electromagnetic fields from energy transmission, and can help develop a presentation.
 3. Permitting
 - Members agreed that a briefing paper on permitting requirements and processes would be useful.
 - Staff will prepare a briefing paper on permitting.
 4. Social Science
 - Members discussed what exactly is needed to address the social and economic concerns with renewable energy development.
 - After the scoping process is completed for the economic analysis, the Technical Committee will discuss this again. The committee will try to form a list of key questions that will not be answered by the economic study that could be addressed through other mechanisms, such as a WCMAC presentation.
 - It may also be useful to produce a list of unanswered questions that clearly describes what isn't known at this time.

Data Gaps for Budget Request

- The Technical Committee reviewed the data gaps identified in the Sector Analysis.
- The Technical Committee also recommended including two primary items in next biennium's funding request: 1) Phase II of the economic assessment if desired information cannot be included in the current (Phase I) study; and 2) development of a Visual Resource Inventory/Viewshed Analysis.
- Details of each data gap identified in the sector analyses and the Technical Committee's conclusions and recommendations can be found in the August 18 Technical Committee Meeting Summary.

Other Projects

The Technical Committee receives regular updates on the status of ongoing technical studies, including:

- Coast-Wide Economic Assessment
- Sector analyses
- Ecosystem Assessment and Indicators
- Seabird and Marine Mammal Ecosystem Modeling
- Seafloor Mapping