



Presentations

**State Ocean Caucus
Outreach Meeting**
Grays Harbor Community College
Aberdeen, WA
June 26, 2007
2 pm – 5:30 pm

Washington's Ocean Action Plan:

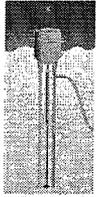
*The Ocean Policy Work Group's final
report and next steps*

Jennifer Hennessey
Washington State Department of Ecology

Outline

- Why examine ocean policy?
- What were the key recommendations from the Ocean Policy Work Group?
- How do state agencies coordinate their work on the outer coast?
- What are the opportunities for local involvement?

Why examine ocean policy?



Aqua Energy Wave Buoy



Photos and graphics courtesy of Aqua Energy and Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

- Important resources
 - Fisheries
 - Transportation
 - Recreation & Tourism
 - Energy
 - Biodiversity
- Multiple authorities, governments & agencies
- Traditional & emerging resource uses

Ocean Policy Work Group (OPWG)



- Led by Governor's office consisted of: multiple state agencies, stakeholders, local government representatives, and tribal observers.
- Provided a report that:
 1. Summarized status and value of state's ocean resources
 2. Provided recommendations to state legislature

What were the key recommendations of the OPWG?

Chose key management issues: 1) gaps in current research, resources, or coordination and/or 2) important new and/or emerging resource issues.

- Sustainable Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Ecosystem-Based Management
- Ocean Energy
- Coastal Hazards
- Erosion & Sediment Management
- Climate Change
- Marine Debris
- Oil Spills
- Research & Observing
- Education
- Sustainable & Resilient Communities
- Governance

Key Recommendations

- Sustainable Fisheries
 - Support groundfish management on a regional level by:
 1. Increasing data collection and
 2. Encouraging the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to recognize regional differences among fish stocks along West Coast.

Progress, so far: Created new fund to improve rockfish research with increased fishing license fees.

Key Recommendations

- Ocean Research & Observing
 - Develop a ten-year strategic research and observing plan to prioritize current and future research, monitoring, and observing needs.
 - Pursue installation of Doppler RADAR facility for Washington's outer coast.

Progress, so far: Washington Sea Grant working on regional research priorities plan. WDFW and DNR jointly purchasing a Remotely Operated Vehicle for underwater studies and activities.

Key Recommendations

- Ocean Education
 - Improve Washington's ocean literacy by developing inventory and strategic plan for ocean education.

Progress, so far: Applied for a federal grant with partners to create a model ocean education curriculum and pilot it in 5 outer coast counties at 10 high schools.

Key Recommendations

- Climate Change
 - Improve state climate change coordination by elevating a lead agency or individual and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

Progress, so far: Governor's Climate Change Challenge working to identify key policies and strategies. This includes preparation and adaptation strategies for problems specific to coastal areas (such as sea level rise, erosion, flooding, and storms).

Recommendations

- Erosion and Sediment Management
 - Require beneficial use of dredged materials; minimize impacts to navigation and other marine resources; utilize regional approach and best available science for management and planning.

Progress, so far: Holding science-policy workshop with technical experts on Washington's nearshore (July 9-10, Ilwaco).

Key Recommendations

- Establish Washington Interagency Ocean Policy Team

Collaborative process involving core ocean and coastal state agencies, includes regular consultation and collaboration with local government, tribes, federal agencies, neighboring states and provinces, broad range of stakeholders (ports, fishing, industry, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, etc.).

This effort should link to ongoing ocean and coastal policy efforts such as:

- West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Puget Sound Partnership

How do state agencies coordinate their work?

State Ocean Caucus – an interagency team that provides a way:

- For state agencies to work together on important coastal and ocean issues.
- To act on the OPWG recommendations.
- To learn from and share information with citizens, interest groups, and local, tribal, and federal governments.

How do state agencies coordinate their work?

State Ocean Caucus:

- Does NOT change or replace existing laws or authorities of any government.
- Does NOT influence treaty rights nor substitute for government to government relationships.

Who is on the State Ocean Caucus?

- State Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Health
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington Sea Grant
- Puget Sound Action Team/Puget Sound Partnership

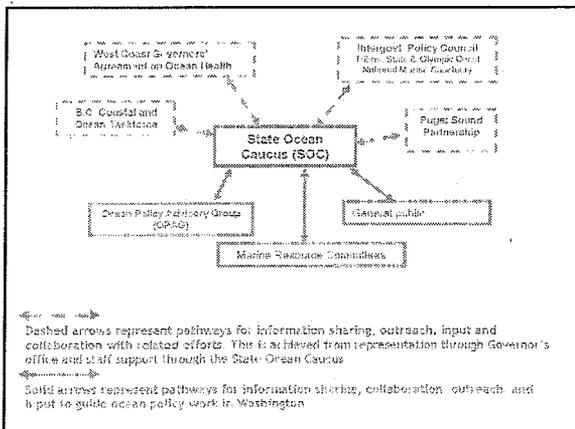
What are the opportunities for local involvement?

- Outreach meetings.
- Workshops on specific topics or issues.
- General email and mailing list for news updates.
- Ocean Policy Advisory Group - open to broad range of participants and interests.

What are the opportunities for local involvement?

Ocean Policy Advisory Group roles:

- Share issues and expertise.
- Provide input to State Ocean Caucus on ocean and coastal issues.
- Review documents and policy responses.
- Attend meetings on outer coast a few times each year.



For more information

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/>

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Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) in Coastal Counties



*State Ocean Caucus
Outreach Meeting*

What are MRCs?

- **Locally Based Action Groups Comprised of Stakeholders, Scientists, and Local Gov't**
- **Mission: To Address, Utilizing Sound Science, the Needs of the Marine Ecosystem Local to the County Initiating the MRC**
- **MRCs are Intended to Complement, and Not Compete with or Undermine, Any Other Governmental Efforts to Restore and Manage Marine Resources on the Outer Coast**

What Do MRCs Do?

- **Review Current Data & Resource Conservation & Management Programs**
- **Make Prioritized Recommendations for Additional Measures that Might be Necessary to Enhance Protection of Marine Resources**

What is the Role of the MRC?

- **Use Existing Data & Help to Gather New Data on the Health of Local Marine Resources**
- **Make Scientifically Based Recommendations on Candidate Sites for Marine Protected Areas**
- **Work Closely with Local and State Officials to Help Implement MRC Recommendations**
- **Promote Public Outreach & Education Around Marine Resource Conservation & Mgmt Issues**

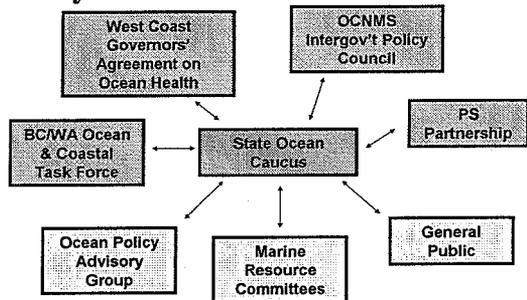
What's the Coastal Connection?

- **Sub House Bill 2049 Passed April 14, 2007**
- **Created Marine Resource Committees for:**
 - Clallam & Jefferson (2nd MRC for Coastal Areas)
 - Pacific, Grays Harbor, & Wahkiakum (New)
- **Outer Coast MRCs Coordinated by WDFW**
- **Work with State, Federal, Local, and Tribal Gov'ts to Develop a Collaborative Process to Address Ocean Policy Issues**
 - Use Washington's Ocean Action Plan as a Guide

What are the Responsibilities of the Coordinator (WDFW)?

- **Coordinate:**
 - Grant Applications & Other Funding Requests
 - Communications & Information Among MRCs
- **Help MRCs:**
 - Measure Themselves Against Regional Performance Benchmarks
 - Coordinate Local Projects to Complement Regional Priorities
 - Interact with Other MRCs and Similar Groups

How Do MRCs Fit in the Ocean Policy Process?



What is the Role of the County?

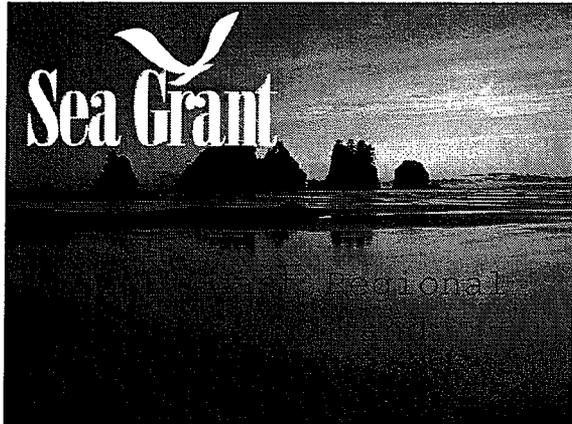
- Legislative Authority to Form MRCs
- Select Members of the MRC, Ensuring Balanced Representation from:
 - Local Gov't, Scientific Experts, Affected Economic Interests, Affected Recreational Interests, Environmental & Conservation Interests
 - Must Invite Local Tribal Representatives to Participate
- May Delegate Mgmt & Oversight of MRC to a City(ies) Within its Jurisdiction, if the City(ies) is Located on the Marine Waters of the Outer Coast and is Willing to Accept Delegation

How to Get Involved

- **County Residents May Petition the County to Create an MRC**
 - Upon Receipt, the County Must Respond in Writing Within 60 Days as to Whether They Will Authorize the Creation of an MRC and the Reasons for Their Decision
- **WDFW MRC Coordinator:**

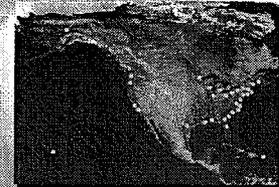
Tim Smith, Special Assistant
 (360) 902-2223
 SMITHTRS@dfw.wa.gov

Questions??



Sea Grant Regional Research and Information Plans

- National network of 31 Sea Grant programs
- Eight regional plans including Pacific Northwest and Southwest
- West Coast: two regions and 4 Sea Grant programs
- Regional Plan for the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem



<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/RegionalPlanning/index.html>

Goals

- Aid in the transition to an ecosystem-based approach for research, management and outreach
- Enhance coordination between scientific disciplines and diverse communities of both place and interest
- Address and prioritize issues of specific regional concern in a detailed and targeted manner

Potential Benefits

- Leverage federal dollars/support
- Generate cohesive broad-based regional statement of priorities to compete at federal level
- Build partnerships - economy of scale and reduced redundancies
- Give stakeholders a voice
- Address regional issues on an appropriate scale

Approach - National

Basis in previous work

- Inventory of existing Priority Documents
 - Federal
 - Regional
 - State
 - Synthesis Documents
 - Strategic Plans
 - Research Priorities
- Draft Report August '07, Final Summer '08



Approach - National

Seven Established Themes

- Social and Economic Vitality of Coastal Communities
- Coastal Natural Hazards
- Human Health
- Ecosystem Dynamics, Quality and Connectivity
- Ocean's Role in Climate Variability
- Marine Transportation and Security
- Ocean Education and Environmental Literacy

Approach - Stakeholder Input

1. Focus Group Workshops and Open House Meetings

- Pilot workshop
Depoe Bay, May 2nd
- WA workshops (Summer/Fall)
 - Astoria - Columbia River Bioregion (Pacific Co.)
 - Outer coast (Aberdeen/Ocean Shores?)
 - Upper Sound (Bellingham)
 - Central Sound (Bremerton/Kitsap?)



Approach - Stakeholder Input

2. On-line Survey



Approach - Stakeholder Input

3. Key Constituent Groups

- Hardcopy survey at targeted conferences
- Face-to-face meetings with stakeholder groups and individuals

Approach - Schedule

STATUS

- OR workshops (Summer): Depoe Bay, Astoria, Charleston, CA & WA workshops (Fall)
- Website portal
<http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/research/RegionalPlanning/index.html>
 - Stakeholder input - Depoe Bay workshop
 - On-line survey - release date, end of June
 - Workshop calendar

Approach - Plan Development

Analyze and Prioritize Research and Information Needs

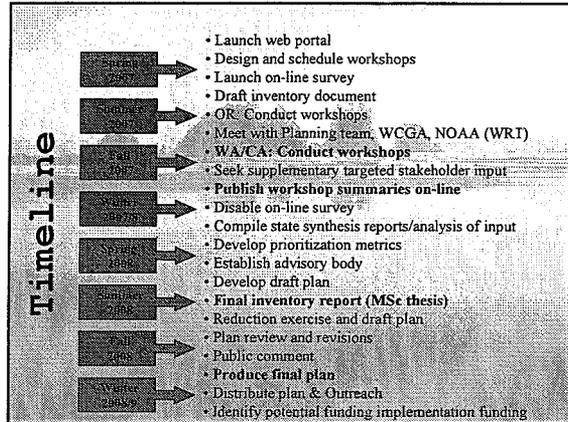
1. Subregional Reports
2. State Synthesis
3. Develop Prioritization Criteria
4. Data Reduction
5. Produce Final Report

Approach - Follow-on

Pursue funding to develop and action implementation plan

State and Regional Integration and Support

- WA State Ocean Caucus
 - Provide input to OPWG action plan
- West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
 - Participate in stakeholder meetings
 - Provide input to WCGA action plan
- NOAA Western Region



West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

State Ocean Caucus Outreach Meeting
June 26, 2007

Kathleen Drew
Executive Policy Advisor
Governor's Office



West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

- Three West Coast Governors signed an agreement in September 2006
- Identified 7 shared priority areas
- Initial actions on:
 - Non-point pollution
 - Offshore oil and gas
 - Partnering with federal government

7 Priority Areas

1. Ensuring clean coastal waters and beaches.
2. Protecting and restoring healthy ocean and coastal habitats.
3. Promoting the effective implementation of ecosystem-based management of our ocean and coastal resources.
4. Reducing adverse impacts of offshore development.
5. Increasing ocean awareness and literacy among our citizens.
6. Expanding ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring.
7. Fostering sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities.

Discussion Paper

- Drafted initial ideas to foster feedback on key, regional actions under priority areas.
- Comments due by August 1, 2007
- Draft action plan is scheduled to be released October 1, 2007

Partners

States

- Oregon
- California

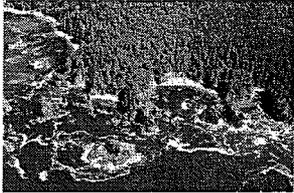
Federal partners

- NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Usha Varanasi
- Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service, Fred Piltz
- Environmental Protection Agency, Alexis Strauss (Rick Parkin)

Comment Opportunities

- Public meetings in all three states.
 - Includes comments gathered today.
- Upcoming meetings
 - July 11 – Ilwaco Heritage Museum, 1 - 3 pm
 - July 25 – Portland, OR, Coastal Zone '07
- Online comments and more information at:
<http://WestCoastOceans.gov>

Envisioning the Future of the Coastal Zone Management Act



Brian Lynn
Washington State Department of Ecology

Purpose

- Provide overview of Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)
- Describe Washington's Coastal Program
- Envisioning the Future of Coastal Management
- Questions?
- Comments?



Coastal Zone Management Act

- Enacted in 1972 to set national policies and rules for the protection of coastal resources.
- Created a state-federal partnership for managing coastal resources.
- Voluntary program allowing states to develop State Coastal Management Programs.



Coastal Zone Management Act

Goals

- **Preserve, protect, develop** and where possible, **restore or enhance** the resources of the nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations
 - Encourage and assist states in developing and implementing management programs, giving full consideration to **ecological, economic, aesthetic, cultural, and historic** values.
- Programs should:
- **Protect natural resources** (wetlands, beaches, etc.).
 - **Manage development** to minimize loss of life and property caused by **hazards** (floods, storms, erosion, etc.).
 - **Manage development** to protect and restore **water quality**.
 - **Give priority consideration** to **coastal-dependent uses**.
 - **Provide for public access** to the coast for recreation.
 - **Assist with redevelopment** of deteriorating **urban waterfronts and ports**.
- **Improve governmental decision-making** and encourage public participation.
 - **Establish the National Estuarine Reserve System** for long-term research and education.



Coastal Zone Management Act

The Perks

- NOAA provides financial and technical assistance to coastal states for planning and managing their coastal resources.
- CZMA gives states authority to review federal projects ("federal consistency review") and ensure that they are consistent with the state's approved Coastal Management Program.



Washington State's Coastal Zone Management Program

- Washington was the first state with an approved state CZM Program (1976).
- The Department of Ecology administers the state's Coastal Program.
- The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) is the centerpiece of Washington's program.
- The SMA is jointly administered by state and local governments.



Washington's Coastal Zone

- In Washington, the coastal zone includes all of the 15 coastal counties (including Wahkiakum).
- It includes all lands and waters in the counties, and extends seaward 3 nautical miles into the ocean.
- It excludes lands the federal government owns, leases, holds in trust, etc. (e.g., military reservations, Indian Trust lands, national parks).



CZMA Funding

- Washington receives annual award (~\$2.7 million in 2006) to implement the coastal program (50:50 match).
- Currently, CZM dollars fund:
 - SMA planning, permitting, and compliance in the coastal zone.
 - Wetlands protection (permitting, technical assistance, planning).
 - CZM Federal Consistency review.
 - Technical Assistance: coastal erosion, geology, hydrogeology.
 - Aerial photos and other information resources.
 - Training for local governments, citizens, and other resource managers.
 - Pass-thru grants to local governments (Shoreline Master Program updates).



Coastal Zone Management Act *Reauthorization*

- CZMA not reauthorized since 1996.
- Reauthorization is an opportunity to evaluate and make improvements to federal law.
- Some concern in federal government about effectiveness of CZMA.
- NOAA and Coastal States Organization have initiated an effort to envision a new CZMA.



Coastal Zone Management Act *The Future of Coastal Management*

The Visioning Thing

- NOAA and the Coastal States Organization (CSO) are looking for innovative, new and improved options for coastal management.
- Ideas will be considered when drafting legislation to reauthorize the CZMA.
- NOAA and CSO have been conducting outreach meetings across the country.
- Washington's coastal program has met with various groups to share information and solicit ideas.



Coastal Zone Management Act *The Future of Coastal Management*

Questions to Consider

1. How can we better understand our coastal resources?
2. Which lands and waters should be covered by state coastal programs?
3. What support do local governments need?
4. How can we better address coastal nonpoint source pollution?
5. What are the major obstacles to effective coastal management?



Coastal Zone Management Act *The Future of Coastal Management*

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Or comment directly to NOAA:

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/czm/media/VisioningInput.pdf>