



MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Summary

August 15, 2016, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Conference Call

Meeting Attendance and Objectives

The Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) held its twelfth meeting on August 15, 2016. The call was facilitated by Martha Kongsgaard, MRAC Chair, and Angie Thomson of EnviroIssues.

Members in attendance:

Martha Kongsgaard (Chair), Bill Dewey, Doug Steding, Erika McPhee-Shaw, Keith Ledford (Makah Tribe alternate for T.J. Green), Gus Gates, Kelly Susewind (Washington Department of Natural Resources alternate for Maia Bellon), Senator Kevin Ranker, Linda Anderson-Carnahan ((Environmental Protection Agency alternate for Dennis McLerran), Lisa Graumlich, Mike Rechner (Washington Department of Natural Resources alternate for Peter Goldmark), Nan McKay, Norm Dicks, Rich Childers (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife alternate for Michele Culver)

MRAC members not in attendance: Brian Allison, Representative Dave Hayes, Dick Sheldon, Garrett Dalan, James Peters, Kelly Wood, Libby Jewett, Mike Cassinelli, Phil Rockefeller, Senator Steve Litzow, Terry Williams, Tom Davis, Tony Floor

Other participants: Betsy Peabody (Puget Sound Restoration Fund), Cristiana Figueroa-Kaminsky (Washington Department of Ecology), Jan Newton (WOAC), Julie Horowitz (Governor's Office), Richard Feely (NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory), Terrie Klinger (WOAC)

Meeting objectives:

- Share updates on ocean acidification activities and events
- Discuss 2017-19 biennium budget outlook and opportunities
- Review proposed ocean acidification budget requests for the 2017-19 biennium

Materials distributed:

- MRAC proposed budget priorities

Welcome and introductions

Chair Martha Kongsgaard opened the call and thanked council members for their participation.

Call highlights:

- MRAC identified the following 2017-19 biennium state budget priorities (in no order of priority):
 - **Continued coordination and facilitation of MRAC** (\$150,000) On the call, Senator Kevin Ranker expressed concern that this was not included in a state

agency budget request. He and Martha will discuss how best to address this gap and if it is possible at this point in the process to add the request to the state budget.

- **Support for the Kenneth Chew Conservation Hatchery** (\$400,000) The hatchery needs long-term funds to continue its operations. Hatchery operations have been funded by short-term grants made available through the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, and currently leverages public funding by being located at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) facilities. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is supportive of the hatchery, but unable to add this in its budget since it is not an ongoing agency program.
- **Total Inorganic Carbon (TIC) and alkalinity monitoring at all Department of Ecology monitoring stations** (\$333,000) This proposal is to secure baseline funding to continue monitoring of TIC and alkalinity after a successful pilot monitoring program. The proposal has the potential to be funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency as a Near Term Action in the Action Agenda for Puget Sound. If federal funding is not provided, this is an important priority for state funding. There were questions about the cost estimate as well as strong interest in ensuring that this work is integrated with the monitoring efforts and datasets of the Washington Ocean Acidification Center (WOAC). EnviroIssues will set up a meeting for Ecology, WOAC, and NOAA PMEL to develop a plan for integration.
- The Office of Financial Management gave state agencies direction in Memo 6 to limit new budget requests and only include carry-forward items for preexisting activities. This is due to the expectation of needing to fully fund education. MRAC's state agency partners have identified several ocean acidification-related activities that they can cover with carry-forward funds. These include.
 - Department of Natural Resources: Eelgrass restoration, ocean acidification refugia, identifying robust shellfish populations
 - WDFW: Forecast model for wild fish impacts from zooplankton losses
 - University of Washington: WOAC, ocean acidification monitoring network, biological response studies, ocean acidification forecast model

Next steps:

- EnviroIssues will set up meetings to continue conversations about the three direct budget requests and clarify approaches for submitting the requests
- EnviroIssues will develop the decision packages for the three MRAC budget requests, including a cover letter referencing all ocean acidification-related state budget requests
- The next MRAC phone meeting will be held in mid-September to check in about progress on budget requests and the Blue Ribbon Panel Refresh meeting (date TBD)