

WASHINGTON COASTAL MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Summary

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:30 am – 3:30pm

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

Council Members Present	
Joshua Berger, Dept. of Commerce	Michele Culver, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Casey Dennehy, Recreation	Penny Dalton, WA Sea Grant
David Fluharty, Educational Institution	Randy Kline, WA State Parks
Garrett Dalan, Grays Harbor MRC	Rich Osborne, Science
Jeff Ward, Coastal Energy	Rod Fleck, N. Pacific MRC
Mark Plackett, Citizen	Sally Toteff, Dept. of Ecology
Michal Rechner, DNR	Larry Thevik, WDCFA
Brian Sheldon, Shellfish Aquaculture	Randy Lewis, Ports
Tiffany Turner, Economic Development	Julie Horowitz, Governor's Office

Council Members Absent	
Alla Weinstein, Energy Industry	Carol Ervest, Wahkiakum MRC
Dale Beasley, Commercial Fishing	Doug Kess, Pacific MRC
Charles Costanzo, Shipping	Mark Cedergreen, Recreational Fishing
RD Grunbaum, Conservation	

Liaisons Present	
Katie Krueger, Quileute Tribe Liaison	

Others Present (as noted on the sign-in sheet)	
Marie Novak, Cascadia Consulting, Note-taker	Jessi Doerpinghaus, WDFW
Corey Niles, WDFW	Katie Wrubel, Makah Tribe
Gus Gates, Surfrider Foundation	Katrina Lassiter, DNR
Jennifer Hennessey, Ecology (WCMAC Staff)	Kevin Decker, Washington Sea Grant
Michael Taylor, Cascade Economics	Kara Cardinal, The Nature Conservancy
Susan Gulick, Sound Resolutions, Facilitator	Kevin Zerbe, Cascadia Consulting

1. Welcome & Introductions, Agenda Review

Garrett Dalan welcomed everyone to the meeting. All attendees introduced themselves and were invited to provide updates.

- Garrett is working on a Washington Coastal Projects Initiative and Washington Coast Works; if anyone is aware of coastal projects with restoration and employment benefits, please inform him. He will also request project ideas via email.

- The two new WCMAC members introduced themselves. Tiffany Turner is a hotel and restaurant owner and represents Economic Development, and Joshua Berger has filled Steve Sewell's role as the Maritime Sector lead at the Dept. of Commerce.
- Several members were absent today due to unavoidable circumstances and family obligations.
- Rich Osborne informed everyone that Jess Helsley has been hired to replace Miles Batchelder at the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership.

Adoption of September Meeting Summary

Susan Gulick asked for revisions and comments to the December meeting summary. There was a clarification on page 6 to one of Katie Krueger's comments, which was included in the summary in the meeting packet. Links directly to presentations will also be inserted.

Brian Sheldon relayed a comment from Dale Beasley expressing concern that a document he provided was not distributed to the group. Jennifer Hennessey and Susan clarified the process for distributing materials to the group. Susan only sends materials to the list-serv related to things on the agenda, but members are welcome to use the member contact list to distribute materials. Members should keep in mind, however, that an email conversation with enough participants to constitute a quorum is considered a meeting and is not allowed under the Open Public Meetings Act. Therefore, members should not reply all or engage in any discussion of materials sent out via the contact list; discussion should happen at meetings. Dale's document will be attached to the meeting summary. There was also [a request for](#) clarification about how written public comment is distributed or recorded. Garrett said that they would discuss this issue at the next Steering Committee meeting.

! The December meeting summary was adopted as amended.

Public comment:

- Gus Gates emphasized the importance of publicly sharing documents in a timely fashion on the website, and asked about the public release date for the draft Marine Spatial Plan. He also commented that he would like to see more clarity in the recommendations, including more standards and review criteria by which to evaluate proposals. He would like to have the Plan include a vision for a pre-consultation process that brings parties into a conversation about proposals. Rod Fleck mentioned that the Office of Regulatory Assistance can help bring together applicable agencies to discuss issues. Randy Lewis emphasized that project developers are looking for clarity before they approach the Office of Regulatory Assistance.
- Brian expressed frustration on behalf of Dale that they have requested models for energy project footprints but the response has been that a specific proposal is needed first. He remarked that it would be helpful to have information about a specific, plausible situation as a frame of reference.

2. Update on Use Analysis – Jennifer Hennessey

Jennifer Hennessey gave a presentation on the Use Analysis, available [HERE*](#). A discussion guide was included in the meeting packet.

- They have included ecologically important areas, although they are still working on some layers such as sea birds.
- They are looking at using Marxan for incorporating renewable energy data, and would like to discuss with this group.

Questions and Comments

- Several members expressed concern that map data was based on static data that might not accurately represent the dynamic nature of fish stocks over time. Fisheries boundaries can also change over time due to management and regulatory changes. They requested that this be noted in narratives. There was discussion about the possibility of recommending funding and technical staffing capacity for updating and maintaining these maps so they are an accurate picture of circumstances and conditions at different points in time. Garrett recommended discussing more at the next meeting. Mike Rechner clarified that DNR is building a mapping tool for internal agency planning and other purposes in addition to the MSP, so will continue updating it. He also noted that some of the data is drawn from the data providers, so it is updated automatically by the data provider.
- Larry Thevik reiterated his concern that excluding tribal fishing misrepresents the true picture. Rich suggested tribal Usual & Accustomed Areas be overlaid on the maps. Larry also suggested including “non-tribal” in the titles of each of the maps that exclude tribal data.
- Katie asked about including species that are not only positively ecologically important but those that are damaging or invasive.
- Casey Dennehy repeated his comment from the previous meeting that the total use map is misleading due to the military layer.
- Mark Plackett commented that it would be useful to include storm data as the coast is experiencing significant erosion. Jennifer responded that they have a section in the plan about physical coastal processes as well as a section on climate change projections.
- Larry had questions about the information sources for renewable energy maps as well as assumptions for various energy scenarios, for example, how much space would be required to produce one MW of power? Others responded that the pace of technology change and efficiency assumptions would be so uncertain that results would be unreliable.

3. Oil Transport Issues and Marine Spatial Planning

Sally Toteff described the MSP’s parameters for oil transportation inclusion and reminded the group of the requirements of the MSP planning law, which does not provide state and local governments with additional authorities, cannot impose requirements on projects that are already permitted or undergoing permitting, and must be consistent with existing laws and regulations.

Sally noted that she understands that the group is also concerned with what’s being done to prepare for and prevent oil spills from oil transport, but her presentation is focused on how oil transport fits into the MSP. Specifically, the MSP can look at barge and vessel traffic numbers as well as rules and requirements for spill response. The MSP can have policy recommendations supporting strong future rulemaking to strengthen prevention and response laws, and can comment on current shipping on the coast, vessel types, cargos, volumes, inclusion of information about vulnerable and sensitive areas in need of protection, information about the risk of collision and spills, and can include information from other documents about risk assessments and vessel traffic. Rod reviewed the commerce clause from the U.S. Constitution. Sally also presented a slide showing the different authorities and agencies working to address oil spill risk, available [HERE*](#).

Questions and Comments

- Several members expressed concern about the scale of proposed new oil transport projects as well as the nature of the materials to be transported, such as diluted bitumen from the Canadian tar sands. Several consider it a large expansion of a minor existing use and definitely a new risk. Sally responded

that we can describe areas of new risk as well as provide data-driven ways to understand areas of potential conflict.

- Mark asked if the group could make recommendations about sensitive areas in terms of access to ports.
- Rod commented that one approach might be to articulate to the federal delegation an expectation of assurances that compliance and attention to detail will be met by responsible federal agencies, or the creation of objective measures to be included as a reference.
- Several members expressed interest in having more briefing presentations from different perspectives on this issue, especially on the level of current risk and gaps that need to be addressed.
- Randy shared that marinetraffic.com is a way to view commercial vessel traffic in real time.

4. Recommendation Sorting Exercise

Garrett provided instructions for the recommendations exercise, intended to gauge the group's perspective on the recommendations that came out of the technical committee. He emphasized that this was not a prioritization exercise and will provide guidance for the technical and steering committees in further refining recommendation options.

Members completed the exercise during lunch, after which the results were tallied and presented to the group. Members not in attendance will have the opportunity to participate via email. The recommendations will also be emailed out to members again to provide further comments and recommendations.

5. Draft WCMAC Recommendations – Susan Gulick

Susan asked for feedback on the format and structure of the draft recommendations, using the economic recommendation (I.A.1) as an example and a template for other recommendations. The Technical Committee will help revise the recommendations prior to the April 20 WCMAC meeting.

- Next technical committee meetings are March 9 and March 30 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm.
- The recommendations table will be sent out again with space for comments or proposed changes where members can productively comment. Please spend some time providing input for the technical committee to use.

Questions and Comments

- Katie suggested including another section with legal references and regulatory considerations. She will distribute a framework describing regulatory authorities that she developed to the group.
- Several people commented about the need to address legality, format, and language of draft recommendations. If possible, providing background information on legality of recommendations as well as the reformatted version should be provided before the next meeting.
- Penny Dalton and Rich commented that there should be regulatory as well as non-regulatory options which include processes for communication and advisory groups to collaboratively address issues.
- Larry commented on the content of recommendation I.C.5., noting that the Coast Guard has advocated for that rule based on an actual disaster. While not in law, Larry noted that this is current practice for safety reasons, and requested a green dot be added.

6. Seafloor Mapping

Penny discussed the potential to use the *Rainier*, a hydrographic survey ship in NOAA's fleet, to map prioritized areas of the seafloor off Washington's coast. A discussion guide was provided in the meeting packet. The mapping expedition was scheduled for April and the group was originally to decide today

whether to dedicate funding, however the ship is being repaired and the trip has been rescheduled for October. The proposal is to spend approximately \$75,000 for this seafloor mapping. Susan clarified that there will be more information forthcoming and that the group will decide at the next meeting. Questions should be submitted to Jennifer, Katrina, and Susan.

Questions and Comments

- Brian commented that this group has spent money on seafloor mapping already and wants to ensure that there is enough funding to finish the economic assessment.
- Several members expressed enthusiastic support, seeing it as an opportunity to learn about an area that we know very little about and which could help support the development of a strong and durable MSP for the future. Some members also said it would be useful to learn more about seafloor sediments and what infrastructure it might be able to support.

7. Economic Assessment

Mike Taylor from Cascade Economics presented the draft FAQ document for the MSP Economic Analysis. The presentation can be found [HERE](#)*, and the FAQ document was included in the meeting packet. The purpose of the economic analysis was to analyze the current economic environment in order to be able to look at impacts and implications of proposed new uses on Washington coastal industries, especially job and income effects of specific types of potential proposals. Data limitations and time constraints restricted the study. Remaining questions should be submitted to Mike Taylor to be addressed in the final FAQ document.

Questions and Comments

- Several members felt that many of the questions are difficult to answer with any true degree of certainty. The economic studies thus far haven't really captured the stories of the ocean-dependent coastal economy. Larry commented that there are contradictions within the study about numbers of fishing jobs and questioned the absence of multipliers to estimate economy-wide effects.
- Several members commented that the inclusion of Port Angeles, Sequim, and Port Townsend tend to skew the data and should be explained in the document.
- Brian requested to know what else needs to be done to have a complete assessment and how much it would cost.

8. Updates and Elections

Re-election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- The discussion guide in the meeting packet includes information about the process by which to nominate and elect chairs. Garrett Dalan and Doug Kess were re-nominated and no other nominations were received.
- ! Garrett Dalan and Doug Kess were nominated and re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.
- The Chair and Vice-Chair will work with the Governor's Office representative to nominate steering and technical committee members and leads. There were no new nominations for these positions so it is likely that the current members will be reappointed and finalized at the next meeting.

Work Plan

- Jennifer Hennessey went through the updated Work Plan, included in the meeting packet. The group should discuss what the WCMAC will do after 2017 and develop a "post-Plan plan."

MRAC (Ocean Acidification Panel)

- Garrett provides updates via email. Sally requested that Garrett do a short presentation on these issues at a future meeting

9. Upcoming Meetings

- Susan reviewed the current April agenda items and reminded everyone of upcoming meeting dates.
- Technical committee meetings will be on March 9 and 30 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm.
- The goal is to have the final MSP by the end of the calendar year. A workshop might be necessary to complete all deliverables.

10. Public Comment

Gus Gates thanked Jen for clarifying the intent for the draft MSP and thanked Sally for her discussion of oil transport. He commented that he found a number of inaccuracies related to ecological resources in the draft EIS for the Grays Harbor terminals, and requested that Sally help to ensure that the final EIS incorporates best available science specific to whale migration routes that increase probability of collision with vessel transport. Sally responded that it was missed in the draft but any data publicly available will be considered in the final EIS.

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Summary of Decisions:

- ! The December Meeting Summary was approved as amended.
- ! Garrett Dalan and Doug Kess were re-elected as WCMAC Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

** All presentations have been combined into a single PDF document, which is available by clicking on the links provided. You will have to scroll through the PDF to find all the presentations.*

Upcoming Meetings

- April 20, 2016
- June 15, 2016
- September 28, 2016

Meetings will be held in Aberdeen unless otherwise noted

Attachment: Written Comments from Dale Beasley