

# 2022 Summary

## Who We Are

The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) was created as the Governor's advisory body on coastal resource management for Washington's Pacific Coast.

## 2022 in Numbers

### Meetings

- **4** Advisory Council Meetings
- **6** Resiliency Briefing Technical Committee Meetings
- **6** Offshore Wind Technical Committee Meetings

### Members

- **5** New WCMAC Members Appointed:
  - *Brian Polagye, Coastal Energy Seat*
  - *Chris Meinig, Coastal Energy Industries Seat*
  - *Michele Conrad, Economic Development Seat*
  - *Nives Dolšak, Educational Institution Seat*
  - *Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office Seat*

## Actions and Accomplishments of 2022

### 1. Two New Technical Committees

In 2022, WCMAC endorsed the formation of two new technical committees: the Offshore Wind (OSW) Technical Committee and the Resilience Technical Committee.

WCMAC created the OSW Technical Committee in response to the unsolicited lease request off the coast of Washington submitted in April 2022. The OSW Technical Committee is intended to make formal recommendations to the WCMAC about principles of engagement for coastal communities and data and research needs related to new ocean uses like offshore wind.

WCMAC created the Resilience Technical Committee to coordinate on messaging, updates, and budget requests to state partners on WCMAC's coastal resiliency recommendations.

### 2. Principles of Engagement

WCMAC's Offshore Wind Technical Committee identified five key principles of engagement, which were approved by the WCMAC and provided to the Governor's office and state agencies. These engagement principles represent a suite of recommendations and expectations about how BOEM should meaningfully engage coastal communities and affected stakeholders as BOEM advances its review and consideration of offshore wind projects off the coast of Washington.

### 3. Recommendations for Governor's Budget

WCMAC reviewed relevant state agency requests and made recommendations to the Governor in advance of the Governor's proposed biennial budget (2023 – 2025).



WCMAC supported eight different budget priorities from five state agencies:

**Department of Ecology**

- Coastal Climate Hazards Budget Proposal

**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

- Climate resiliency requests
- Emerging Fishery Implementation
- Accelerating the removal of aquatic derelict structures and creosote pilings

**Washington State Parks**

- Phase 1 – Twin Harbors Project

**MRAC**

- OASeS Symposia and Conference
- OASeS website communication platform
- OASeS coordinated messaging

**4. Coastal Resiliency Briefing**

In 2021, WCMAC developed a suite of recommendations for building capacity with state agencies and other partners to improve coastal communities’ resilience to coastal hazards and economic challenges. In 2022, the WCMAC Resilience Technical Committee presented these recommendations to Washington legislators and staff in a briefing.

Members of the WCMAC Resilience Technical Committee led the briefing and were joined by Jamie Judkins from the Shoalwater Bay Tribe, who spoke about the Tribe’s efforts to improve resilience to sea level rise, tsunami risk, and other hazards. Recognizing the importance of these recommendations for other coastal tribes, the WCMAC Resilience Technical Committee and Ecology invited and had participation from coastal tribe representatives at the briefing.

The information included in this briefing will be presented to the Washington Congressional Delegation in spring 2023.

**5. Support for HB 1010**

WCMAC submitted their support for HB 1010, recognizing that this bill provides critical regulatory authority to the Department of Health, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Agriculture to coordinate flexible management responses for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery, which would avoid complete closure while ensuring public health and safety.

**6. Communication Strategy**

WCMAC reviewed and provided feedback on a communications strategy, which will be formalized in early 2023. The strategy will support WCMAC members in advising and informing key stakeholders on coastal and marine issues. The strategy provides communication tools and messages, which aid in accelerating the goals and vision of WCMAC by providing a framework to effectively communicate with target audiences – elected officials, the Governor’s Office, and state and federal agencies. The strategy also developed WCMAC branding and a logo which will elevate and create consistent communication materials.