

2023 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.

2023 in Numbers

Meetings

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

Members

- **3** New WCMAC Members Appointed:
 1. *Mike Nordin, Pacific Marine Resources Committee Seat*
 2. *Peter Steelquist, Coastal Recreation Seat*
 3. *Katherine Arkema, Science Organization Seat*

Actions and Accomplishments of 2023

1. Federal Briefing on Coastal Resiliency Efforts

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. After presenting these recommendations to Washington state legislators and staff in 2022, the WCMAC Resilience Technical Committee presented them to the Washington Congressional Delegation, legislative staff, and federal agency staff in March 2023.


Members of the WCMAC Resilience Technical Committee led the briefing. Jamie Judkins (Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe) and Mike Nordin (Grays Harbor and Pacific County Marine Resources Committees) provided testimony about coastal hazards facing Washington’s coastal communities and tribes, and the challenges to secure funding for resiliency projects.

2. Letters of Support for HB 1010

During the 2023 Washington legislative session, WCMAC submitted letters of support for HB 1010 to both House and Senate Committees. WCMAC recognized the need for alternative management responses for the Dungeness crab fishery that both protect public health and prevent significant negative economic impacts to coastal communities.

3. OSW Technical Committee Objective 2 Action Plan (In Progress)

WCMAC’s Offshore Wind Technical Committee has strongly advocated for an offshore wind-related data gap identification and prioritization process. The Committee is in the process of developing an action plan (Objective 2 Action Plan) to create a framework for the review of existing data and community research needs related to offshore wind. *(Continued on next page)*

A scenic photograph of a coastal landscape with rocky cliffs, evergreen trees, and a blue ocean under a clear sky.

The Action Plan will guide the Committee's efforts to: 1) Learn from external experts on identified offshore wind topics and 2) address actions that are within the Committee's scope and expertise. The Technical Committee aims to finalize the Action Plan in early 2024.

4. BOEM Presentations at WCMAC Meetings

BOEM presented to the WCMAC twice in 2023, at the June and September meetings. In June, BOEM shared an overview of BOEM's current processes in Oregon and California. In September, BOEM walked through their Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process and shared updates on Oregon and California. At both presentations, WCMAC members asked BOEM questions about the Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process and stakeholder engagement efforts in California and Oregon.

5. Governor's Office Feedback on Principles of Engagement

The Offshore Wind Technical Committee finalized the principles of engagement, which represent a suite of recommendations and expectations for BOEM's engagement with coastal communities and affected stakeholders during any potential Washington offshore wind review process. The Technical Committee submitted the principles to the Governor's Office in January 2023. Since then, the Governor's Office shared that the Principles of Engagement have been instrumental in shaping their thought process and response to the potential for offshore wind off the coast of Washington.

6. Support for Ecology Proposals

WCMAC confirmed their support for three Ecology proposals, including two CZM Habitat Protection and Restoration Competition projects and one NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge project. These projects will advance urgent and proactive resilience priorities identified by local communities and bolster the resilience and adaptive capacity of Washington's shorelines and coastal communities to climate hazards. WCMAC will submit letters of support for these projects in early 2024.

7. Return to Hybrid Meetings

In 2023, WCMAC met in person for the first time since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic! In June 2023, the quarterly WCMAC meeting was hybrid, with members attending in person at Grays Harbor or virtually via Zoom. The meeting included a field trip for in-person attendees. Moving forward, WCMAC will host a hybrid meeting at least once a year, so members can meet in person.

8. Live Broadcast for WCMAC Meetings

WCMAC meetings are now being broadcast live by [TVW](#), as well as recorded. Recordings are publicly available, increasing access to WCMAC meetings. Livestreams and archived recordings are linked on [Ecology's WCMAC website](#).