

Washington Coast Science Advisory Panel for Marine Spatial Planning

Meeting 1: Summary Report



September 16, 2014
University of Washington

**Washington Coast Science Advisory Panel for Marine Spatial
Planning
Advisory Panel Members**

Tim Essington
University of Washington
Professor and Associate Director of School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
Area of expertise: food web interactions of fish in marine, estuarine, and freshwater habitats

Charles Menza
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service
Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment
Area of expertise: spatial ecology and distribution of fish, seabirds, marine mammals and benthic habitats

Theresa Tsou
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Fish Science Lead
Area of expertise: marine fish and ecosystem science

Miles Logsdon
University of Washington
Professor at School of Oceanography and Director of the Spatial Analysis Lab
Area of expertise: spatial pattern analysis in ecosystem sciences, GIS and remote sensing

Emilio Mayorga
University of Washington
Applied Physics Laboratory
Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)
Area of expertise: data visualization, GIS

George Kaminsky
Washington Department of Ecology
Shoreline and Coastal Zone Management Division
Area of Expertise: nearshore processes and coastal erosion for outer coast

Lee Cervený
U.S. Forest Service
Research Social Scientist
Area of expertise: human ecology mapping, natural resource planning and decision-making

Todd Lee

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Economist, Program Manager, Economic and Social Science Research Program,
Fishery Resource Analysis and Monitoring Division

Area of expertise: recreational fishery valuation, non-market valuation, survey
design, catch share program's mandatory economic data collection

Brian Polagye

University of Washington

Professor at School of Mechanical Engineering

Co-Director, Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center

Area of expertise: sustainable development of marine renewable energy

Charles Simenstad

University of Washington

Research Professor at School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

Area of expertise: estuarine/ coastal ecology, food web structure, juvenile salmon
ecology

Helen Berry

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Nearshore Habitat Program, Aquatic Resources Division

Marine Ecologist

Area of expertise: nearshore habitat, Eel grass

Meeting Attendance

Tim Essington, Science Panel Member
Theresa Tsou, Science Panel Member
Emilio Mayorga, Science Panel Member
George Kaminsky, Science Panel Member
Lee Cerveny, Science Panel Member
Todd Lee, Science Panel Member
Charles Simenstad, Science Panel Member
Helen Berry, Science Panel Member*
Melissa Poe, Washington Sea Grant presenter
Kevin Decker, Washington Sea Grant presenter*
Penny Dalton, Washington Sea Grant presenter, WCMAC member
Bridget Trosin, Washington Sea Grant presenter
Katrina Lassiter, Washington Department of Natural Resources presenter
Libby Whiting, Washington Department of Natural Resources
David Fluharty, WCMAC member, UW professor
Garrett Dalan, WCMAC member*
Sue Wolf, Makah Tribe
Mikaela Freeman, UW graduate student

*on phone



Washington Sea Grant
University of Washington
3716 Brooklyn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98105-6716
206.543.6600
wsg.washington.edu

AGENDA

Science Advisory Panel for Marine Spatial Planning

September 16, 2014

12:00	Welcome	Penny Dalton, WA Sea Grant
12:05	Lunch and Introductions	All
12:45	Overview of Washington coast marine spatial planning	Ecology or DNR
1:00	Introduction to Science Panel purpose, formation	Bridget Trosin, WA Sea Grant
1:15	Requests for scientific review	
	• Ecologically important areas project	Theresa Tsou, WDFW
	• Benthic habitat data	Ecology or DNR
	• Social indicators	Melissa Poe, WA Sea Grant-NWFSC liaison
	• Ecological indicators	Kelly Andrews, NWFSC
	• Economic indicators	Kevin Decker, WA Sea Grant
	• Economic analysis project proposal	Ecology or DNR
2:15	Reimbursement	Penny Dalton, WA Sea Grant & Science Panel
2:30	Discussion on approach to review	Science Panel
2:45	Scheduling meeting on ecologically important areas project review	Science Panel
3:00	Next steps and closing	Bridget Trosin, WA Sea Grant

Meeting Summary

The science panel serves as an independent entity in the Marine Spatial Planning process that provides science-based review of data and project information for the plan. Members of the science panel include experts from federal and state governments and academic institutions. The panel is convened by Washington Sea Grant, in consultation with the [State Ocean Caucus](#) and the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council ([WCMAC](#)).

Welcome

Penny Dalton from Washington Sea Grant welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the science panel. She explained that the first meeting was to provide the marine spatial planning context and explain the science review requests that have developed so far in the process. As a member of the WCMAC, she explained the importance of developing a plan that is reflective of the needs of the people along the coast.

Presentation: Overview of Washington coast marine spatial planning

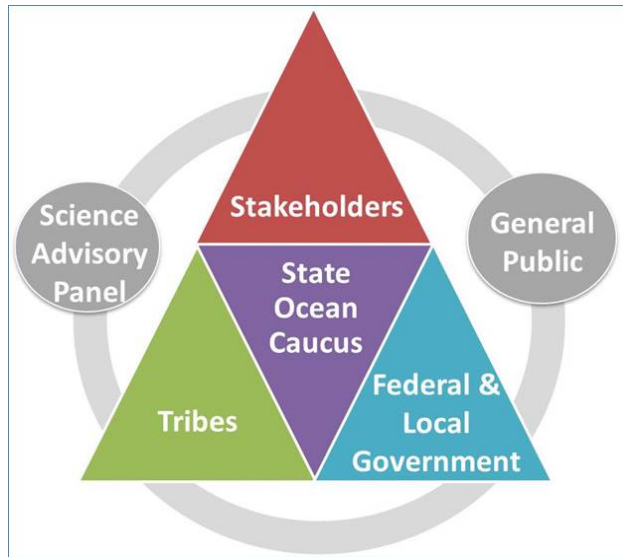
Katrina Lassiter, Washington Department of Natural Resources provided an overview of the marine spatial planning process from the creation of the marine spatial planning law in 2010 through present projects and activities. She discussed the goals of the process:

- Protect existing uses
- Protect cultural uses/ resources
- Preserve the environment
- Integrate decision-making
- Provide new economic opportunities

She also discussed the potential benefits of the marine spatial planning process including:

- Better baseline information and ecosystem indicators
- Analyses to support decision-making
- Recommendations for new uses including identifying areas to avoid and suitable areas
- Implementation of other existing policies and management
- Adaptive management strategy

Katrina described the large number of participants involved in this process including stakeholders, the public, state, federal, tribal and local governments and the science advisory panel.



Katrina presented a timeline of the process and noted that we are currently in stage 2 which is 'Understanding Impacts' of current and potential future uses. Stage 3, 'Developing the Plan' will extend over the next year. She described that it is important to have the science panel involved in these stages of the process.

Presentation: Purpose and Formation of Science Panel

Bridget Trosin, from Washington Sea Grant, provided an overview of the purpose and initial formation of the science panel. She explained that there is a need for scientific review in the process which has been voiced by both WCMAC members and the state agencies. All other spatial planning processes in the U.S. have involved the scientific community in the development of their plans. In Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan they formed a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and for Rhode Island's process there was a Science Advisory Task Force. The Puget Sound Partnership also has a Science Committee that provides scientific feedback for managing Puget Sound.

The priority requests for scientific review were determined through a scoping process that involved individual conversations with each of the WCMAC members. In talking with each of the members, there were several topics that were repeated by WCMAC members. These topics became the priority projects/ data sets to engage the Science Panel and ask for their scientific review. After the priorities were identified, Washington Sea Grant identified science experts with the expertise to join the science panel. Science panel members were chosen based on 1) Expertise in priority project/data area identified through the scoping process, 2) Renowned in area of study, 3) Knowledge of Washington's coastal resources and context, 4) Willingness to participate.

Bridget discussed that the first meeting is an opportunity to understand the marine spatial planning process and to learn more about the priority review requests. The

science panel members will then develop the best way to provide their review for each of the projects and discuss how to move forward as a science panel. The science panel members heard presentations on each of the scientific review requests.

Request 1-

Proposal to Identify Ecologically Important Areas

Theresa Tsou from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provided an overview of the project to identify ecologically important areas off Washington's coast. WDFW is using a similar methodology from a previous project where the Western Governor's Association wanted to understand the best areas to site renewable energy on BLM land. Theresa explained that it will be important to have the science panel review the data and methods they plan to use in developing the ecologically important data layers. Once this layer is developed, it will be overlaid with the various potential new uses, including the renewable energy layers to help identify areas that are potentially suitable for renewable energy. These layers will then be overlaid with existing uses. The ecologically important data layer is an important part of the whole MSP process. One of the questions asked by a science panel member was "Is there a framework for deciding what data would go into the ecologically important data layer?" Theresa responded that there currently is no framework and that they are bringing in currently available data sets from NOAA and WDFW. The project will not collect new data. WDFW hopes to have a meeting with the science panel in early November to discuss the data and methods for this project.

Request 2-

Benthic Habitat Data

Katrina Lassiter from Department of Natural Resources provided an overview of the questions the state had about the benthic habitat data from The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Assessment. The state would like to include this data set in the marine spatial planning process but would like to better understand the strengths and limitations of the partially modeled data. Katrina posed the following questions about the data set to the science panel:

- What were the methods used to develop these models?
- How do these data compare to other approaches to habitat classification?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of modeling based on varied data?
- Is there better data available?
- Should the state rely on raw data that it has?
- What are strengths and limitations of modeled benthic habitat data?

The Nature Conservancy provided a meeting material that described the methods used for the benthic habitat from the Ecoregional Assessment report and would like to stay engaged to offer support in this review.

Request 3- Social Indicators

Melissa Poe from Washington Sea Grant presented an overview of the integrated ecosystem assessment (IEA) that is a tool for ecosystem based management and a requirement of the marine spatial planning law. She explained that the social indicator development for Washington's MSP process will build off of some of the work NOAA has done on IEAs for the California Current. While the California Current IEA looks at developing indicators for the whole West Coast, the Washington indicator process will focus efforts on the unique socio-ecological system of Washington's outer coast. Melissa described a timeline and steps for social indicator development that includes development of a conceptual model, literature synthesis, systematic analysis of locally relevant goals, objectives, data appraisal, community outreach and feedback, and evaluation of indicators for assessing human wellbeing for the Washington IEA for MSP. She asked that the science panel provide feedback early this fall on the approach, written review of preliminary assessment this winter and provide written comments on a final report in early Spring 2015.

Request 4- Ecological Indicators

Bridget Trosin from Washington Sea Grant presented on behalf of Kelly Andrews from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center on the process for developing ecological indicators for Washington's coast. Kelly Andrew's presentation began by explaining that the ecological indicators will help assess the health of the coastal ocean ecosystem for MSP. The approach is heavily based on the work of NOAA's IEA of the California Current. The presentation showed the conceptual model for Washington's coast and the key attributes of each element. The process involves the identification of indicators, indicator evaluation criteria, literature based scoring and criteria weighting. Kelly suggested that it would be helpful to have the science panel provide written comments on the methods this fall and written comments on the draft final report in Spring 2015.

Request 5- Economic Indicators

Kevin Decker from Washington Sea Grant presented on the approach for identifying economic indicators for the Washington coast. He explained that there are two audiences for this project. The first audience is the state agencies that request a comprehensive review of economic indicators that can be evaluated to assess the economic health of the region. The second audience is the coastal counties that have requested an actual economic assessment of each county and of the state as a whole.

He explained that the science panel can help by providing feedback about the indicators being used. The questions that may be considered are:

- Are these the best indicators available?
- Are there indicators missing?
- Are there indicators being used that should be removed?
- What is the best way to present the indicators for use at the State level?
- What is the best way to present the indicators for use at the regional level?
- Is the best method for assessing each of the indicators being used?

Kevin explained his timeline of anticipating scientific review at the end of October for the draft list of indicators and a review at the end of March for the economic assessments for each county.

Request 6- Economic Analysis Proposal

Katrina Lassiter from Washington Department of Natural Resources presented the request to have a proposal for an economic analysis reviewed by the science panel. The proposal is being developed by Cascade Economics who will conduct a scoping process prior to developing the proposal. Katrina explained that the science panel could help the state understand the strengths and limitations of the proposal. The science panel is asked to communicate with Cascade Economics by responding via e-mail and participating in one phone call in October 2014.

Process Discussion

After hearing the science review requests, the science panel began to discuss an approach to providing review of the projects and data. The group agreed that the science panel needs a process for coordinating and information exchange. Several suggestions and questions were put out to the group. At the end of the meeting, the group suggested that Bridget Trosin, Washington Sea Grant, would create an example process, standards and information sharing structure for the group. The science panel would then provide comments. Some of the suggestions and questions put out to the group for further consideration is:

Process suggestions-

- What happens to the feedback that is provided by the science panel?
- Do we come to consensus as a group?
- There is a lot to be gained by interactions between disciplines. How can we include that in our process?

Standards for review suggestions-

- What is our standard for review? Is it best available science?

- What type of information is needed for each request in order to provide quality scientific review?
- Do we want to establish standards and criteria as a whole?
- It is important that the State is as specific as possible so we understand what they are looking for from the beginning of the review.
- What are the science panel's criteria for what qualifies as good science?

Communication and information sharing suggestions-

- Do we want to have subgroups?
- We need a way to share information with the whole science panel even if not necessarily participating in all requests for review.
- Can we have Bridget keep track of communication? She can filter it out to us and then to the public. We can use Google Docs internally.
- We can establish leads on each of the requests that takes the first pass at review and organizes the other reviewers before it goes out to the larger science panel group for final comments.
- It is anticipated that there will be reports and documentation of the science panel that will be publicly available.
- We can use Google Docs internally and then pass on to Libby (DNR) to post to the public website.

Next Steps

Bridget Trosin from Washington Sea Grant will provide a draft process, standards and information exchange strategy for the science panel. Members will review in Google Docs and provide additional feedback and suggestions. The group will then schedule a meeting with WDFW to begin providing feedback for the ecologically important areas project review.