

State of Washington
Office of the Governor
Ocean Policy Work Group

Office of the Governor
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Chair: Elliot Marks
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on Natural Resources

Report of Meeting #4 and Summary of Minutes

December 7, 2005, 9:30am-11:30am
Senate Rules Room, Main Legislative Building

9:30am-11:15am: Review of Draft OPWG Summary Report

Editor's note: bullets in each section reflect commentary submitted by a variety of participants at the 12/07/05 meeting

1. **Overview of Summary Document Contents:** Led by John Hansen, UW
 - Summary document sets the context for national ocean policy
 - Considers initiatives at state level and in British Columbia
 - Reviews subcommittee memos on 6 topics relevant to ocean policy in WA
 - Rough timeline proposed for OPWG efforts in 2006, including production of more comprehensive report for next fall; possible items for legislature to consider
2. **Section by Section Review of Summary Document:** Led by Elliot Marks; change comments proposed, discussed, and agreed upon by OPWG members
 - a) **Introductory section:**
 - Proposal to change wording in section 4, second paragraph, to reflect that CA has demonstrated leadership in ocean policy advances
 - b) **Governance:**
 - Participation by stakeholder groups needs to be filled out; there are likely gaps in stakeholder participation at this point in time
 - No specific details yet about how a WA state ocean governance committee would be populated or what its structure would look like. Need more outreach and input before making decisions in that arena.
 - Discussion over what agency participation would look like on a state ocean governance council and who would have voting rights; specifics not determined at this time
 - Commentary that policy memos, appendices, and summary of OPWG efforts may be useful to legislature in future hearings considering state ocean

governance

- Notion that OPWG will generate a recommendation to the legislature regarding state ocean governance by Fall 2006

c) Research

- Subcommittee recommends that the state should look at organizing a formal group to coordinate research priorities at the state level; OPWG should continue to address the issue; identification of priorities should involve a large stakeholder process; should coordinate with Puget Sound research coordination effort
- Discussion item regarding what entities are referred to when using the term “management”, i.e. agencies, tribes, local government
- Coordination with newly formed Puget Sound Initiative (to be announced in more detail soon) needs to be considered while ensuring that outer coast issues are also a priority
- Idea of a “lead scientist” put forth; perhaps one for the Puget Sound and one for other areas/issues to serve as points of contact and ways to reduce fragmentation of research effort
- Assertion by one participant that WA would be more competitive at receiving private funding if a focused umbrella entity were identified and publicized

d) Sustainable Fisheries

- Felt that more alternatives from the sustainable fisheries memo needed to be included in this summary report; summary was not an accurate representation of memo focus
- Document should reflect that subcommittee needs stakeholder input on implementing sustainable fisheries policy
- Need to better characterize problems and priorities that should be addressed in this topic area
- Issue raised regarding how to deal with migratory fish populations
- Benthic habitat mapping is something that still needs to be done if funds can be made available towards that effort
- Reiteration that the memo writers did not want to speak for the tribes and welcome tribal suggestions to insert language into parts of the document

e) Aquaculture

- The state has aquaculture policy but it is fragmented
- Need a forum to review current aquaculture policies with options to improve it and respond to proposed federal aquaculture legislation
- Concern over non-native fish being pen raised in WA and their impact on wild stocks

- The debate over a more comprehensive aquaculture policy needs to be had; scientific and stakeholder input will be crucial elements of the conversation

f) Ocean and Coastal Energy

- Recommendation that state should consider extending moratorium on offshore oil and gas development beyond 2012
- General recommendation to increase support for development of marine renewable energy projects such as wave and tidal energy
- Question arose about 2005 Energy Policy Act impact on LNG terminals; how a proposed Oregon terminal might impact WA
- Concern over marine transportation of energy products—safety issues raised
- May need to defer LNG and safety issues to another body who can address them on a state level

g) Economic Development

- Statewide tourism program has some ecotourism components
- Ecotourism is only one piece of economic development; other pieces need to be considered. CTED has no plan specific to the coast and limited resources
- Issue raised over Army Corps of Engineers halting of some dredging projects; how communities will address this
- Notion that coastal community vitality is being overlooked; need to look at opportunities for marine industry clusters, i.e. coastal development as more than just tourism potential
- Idea about siting a coastal research facility in one of the coastal counties
- Overall, members felt that recommendations of the policy memo needed to be broadened to reflect a scope wider than ecotourism

11:15-11:30 am: Review Action Steps & Next Meeting Preparation:

Led by Elliot Marks

- OPWG has reviewed recommendations and identified many tasks to pursue: OPWG members need to assess whether they have time and effort capacity to follow through on issues raised
- Encourage continued participation of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff
- Point person in the Governor's office needs to be identified who will continue to facilitate between OPWG and Governor's office
- OPWG is enthusiastic about continued participation by graduate students from the UW School of Marine Affairs and would like to officially thank current student participants and thank them for their efforts
- Discussion over continued efforts to coordinate with the tribes
- Potential dates for 5th meeting, to be held in mid-January, will be circulated electronically

- Review of potential future topics for OPWG consideration; how to coordinate over the long term, how to link to agencies/groups already doing work in those areas; reminder not to spread too thin over too many topics
- Decision made to publish the summary report that was reviewed today after an additional commentary period. Request made that members have final comments submitted to subcommittee team leads by Monday, 12/12/05
- In addition to generating the summary document in print form, it needs to be available online. Links to background memos and attachments would be available at that electronic location.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31am.