

WHAT'S NEW WITH WCOA?

Spring Updates from the West Coast Ocean Alliance

Santa Cruz, CA

A letter from our Executive Director, John Hansen

Dear WCOA partners and friends, we hope this latest newsletter finds you all doing well and enjoying spring! On behalf of the Alliance, we're excited to share updates on a range of activities supporting regional coordination and engagement around ocean management on the West Coast. We continue to engage on regional offshore wind planning, including hosting a unique Offshore Wind Summit in April focused on engaging government managers that was attended by over a dozen Tribal governments, the three West Coast states, and federal agencies to highlight regional management needs. You will hear from our first cohort of WCOA fellows about the innovative work they are supporting nearly six months into their projects throughout the West Coast. WCOA also continues to prioritize all aspects of Tribal engagement with a range of activities and partnership-building being supported by our West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus. We are thrilled to share these updates with you, and look forward to sharing more about our future work in our NOAA-funded activities in the coming months. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about any of our current or future projects, and we hope to find opportunities to collaborate with new partners in support of a healthier and stronger West Coast ocean.



John Hansen,
WCOA Executive Director

IN THIS ISSUE

STORIES FROM OUR
FELLOWS

OFFSHORE WIND SUMMIT

EXPAND YOUR
COLLABORATION TOOLBOX

QUICK UPDATES

STORIES FROM OUR FELLOWS

WCOA is proud to be supporting 4 amazing fellows, who are hosted with state and federal partners to address real-world ocean science and management challenges! Here are a few highlights from their fellowships:



Ysabelle Yrad

Ysabelle Yrad is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan with a Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability. In her fellowship, Ysabelle works with the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) in Humboldt County, California. Her project centers around fostering community-focused planning for sustainable offshore wind energy development. Her work emphasizes the importance of tribal engagement in offshore wind projects, advocating for the inclusion of tribal perspectives in decision-making processes. [Learn more.](#)

Suzie O’Neill

Suzie O’Neill came to her fellowship from Seattle, following an undergraduate degree in geophysics in Rhode Island. As a fellow, Suzie works with NOAA Fisheries to support sustainable aquaculture development. O’Neill is working on the development of a state-wide aquaculture plan in Oregon with key stakeholders, and conducting a needs assessment of NOAA consultation biologists to enhance their effectiveness in reviewing aquaculture projects on the West Coast. [Learn more.](#)



Avery Calhoun

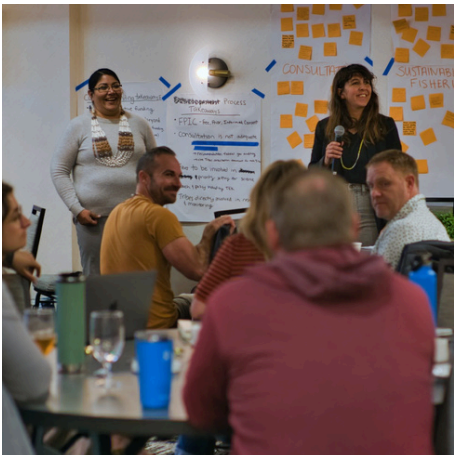
Avery Calhoun was matched with NOAA’s Offshore Wind Energy Team, diving into NOAA’s role in offshore wind initiatives through policy-making processes, GIS mapping, and data visualization. Currently, Calhoun is developing a StoryMap to communicate NOAA Fisheries’ survey data. Looking ahead, Calhoun seeks to further refine communication tools and deepen understanding of NOAA’s policies and collaborations for impactful contributions to the field. [Learn more.](#)

Carina Burroughs

Carina Burroughs holds a Master’s in Coastal and Marine Resource Management and has experience in both ecological and social science research. As a fellow, Burroughs works as the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Offshore Wind Team Support Lead, investigating the complexities of offshore wind initiatives. She supports logistics and coordination with stakeholders and analyzes public comments for ecosystem concerns related to offshore wind development. Burroughs also leads the management of an offshore wind-focused research library. [Learn more.](#)



OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY SUMMIT



The Alliance hosted the Offshore Wind Energy Summit “**In Support of Strong Partnerships and Sound Science**” in April 2024 in Sacramento, California. The Summit was made possible with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Summit brought together Tribal, federal, and state government representatives to establish a foundational common understanding of key elements of science, planning, and management activities related to offshore wind energy and create an initial framework to help define the Alliance’s role in supporting members in their work related to offshore wind.

A public summary of the summit including key themes and priorities identified by WCOA members will be shared in the coming weeks on our website. Please contact [Bri Goodwin](#) if you have any additional questions or would like to learn more.

WHO WAS AT THE TABLE?

 **80+**
Attendees

 **14**
Tribal Nations

 **12**
Federal Government Agencies

 **10**
State Government Agencies

 **4**
Tribal Organizations

EXPAND YOUR COLLABORATION TOOLBOX

The Tribal Caucus is also proud to amplify several opportunities for courses in collaboration and conflict resolution offered by the Udall Foundation, a federal partner member of WCOA. Please see details below.

3-6

June

Collaboration with Native Nations and Tribal Consultation

- For Federal agencies and partners doing Government-to-Government engagement with Native Nations
- Virtual via Zoom
- \$775/person

**30-8**

Sep.-Oct.

Understanding Conflict and Planning for Successful Collaboration

- Course 1 of 2 in the Fundamentals of Environmental Collaboration & Conflict Resolution (ECCR) Series
- Virtually via Zoom
- \$775/person

**10-12**

Dec.

Crafting Collaborative Solutions to Environmental Conflicts

- Course 2 of 2 in the Fundamentals of Environmental Collaboration & Conflict Resolution (ECCR) Series
- In person in Washington, D.C.
- \$1,150/person

[Learn More and Register](#)

Quick Updates



WEST COAST OCEAN TRIBAL CAUCUS

The West Coast Ocean Tribal Caucus continues to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month; the agendas are a mix of inter-Tribal sharing, introductions to people and projects related to topics of interest to Tribal experts, funding and comments notifications, as well as deliberation of potential actions or needs. More information about the Tribal Caucus is available on our [website](#), where you can access our [Guide for Agencies Working with West Coast Tribes on Ocean & Coastal Issues](#). Get in touch with us by emailing Margaret Corvi at mcorvi@westcoastoceanalliance.org.



WEST COAST OCEAN DATA PORTAL

In addition to the data-focused activities outlined above, the [West Coast Ocean Data Portal](#) has continued to support the development of the Alliance's new West Coast Ocean Health Dashboard, in partnership with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, with initial indicators to be rolled out in early 2024. The Portal is also using ROP funding to upgrade and improve its technical infrastructure and portal capabilities.



More from WCOA

WCOA Resources

West Coast Ocean Data Portal

Join our public information email list to receive timely updates on the vibrant activities and discussions occurring within the WCOA. As a valued part of the West Coast ocean community, we'll also share updates on any opportunities to contribute your insights to WCOA and participate in virtual and in-person gatherings. You can opt out at any time.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)