



OAH Council Meeting – August 2026

August 3, 2026, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Laurie Juranek (OSU Co-Chair), Andy Lanier (DLCD), Fran Recht (NGO Representative), Karina Nielson (OSG), Kristen Penner (Shellfish Representative), Rian vanden Hooff (DEQ), Jessica Miller (Academic Representative/OSU), Melanie Bukovec (ODFW/Acting OAH Council Staff)

Absent: Leif Rasmuson (ODFW Co-Chair), Bob Kemp (Fishing Representative), Keith Wolf (OOST), Alex Manderson (ODA)

Guests: Scott Groth (ODFW Resource Assessment and Management Section Leader)

Council Welcome & Updates

Welcome & Agenda Overview (Laurie Juranek)

OAH Council Updates:

- Staff position and OAH Council administrative needs (Scott Groth)
 - Position is funded by general fund and funding has been restored!
 - ODFW will be interviewing for the position in next few weeks and expects to have someone onboard in the next couple of months.
 - Name changed to Ocean Resiliency Project Leader to broaden the scope, modernize, and reflect the mission in the hope that it will continue to be funded.
 - Responsibilities haven't changed: will continue leading the OAH Council and will work with fisheries managers to understand how fisheries and ecology are changing.
 - See the attached position description.
 - This person will be the agency contact for climate resilient fisheries and oceanographic issues and will likely get involved with work for the Executive Order 25-26 for climate-resilient lands and waters.
 - Workday training for Council members will be needed but no details yet. If you have already done training with another organization, you don't need to repeat.
- May 2026 Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable share-out and planning for the Fall meeting (Melanie Bukovec)
 - There were just over 40 attendees and about one third were fishers.
 - Presentations were on current ocean conditions and climate updates, stock assessments, and the socio-economic impact of fisheries.
 - The ocean conditions section also included on-the-water observations.
 - The stock assessment portion was focused on fishery-dependent indices of abundance for midwater rockfishes.
 - New economist with ODFW, Ashley Lowe-Mackenzie, presented (Ashley.C.LOWEMACKENZIE@odfw.oregon.gov).
 - During the group discussions, conversations focused on the need to get younger folks involved in fishing as a sport or a career and the potential for a “monster El Niño” and how that may impact fishermen.

- Questions were brought up about the new USDA Office of Seafood.
- See the attached summary from the Roundtable.
- We are about to start planning for the Fall 2026 Roundtable.
 - Potential topics (brought up during the Spring Roundtable): update on climate/ocean change/OAH and the “monster El Niño”, USDA Office of Seafood, species that will be assessed in 2027, and promoting fishing as a career with Sea Grant potentially reporting out on their workforce development.

General Council Member Updates (round robin)

- Andy
 - DLCD completed the [Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap](#) and [submitted it to Legislature](#).
 - There will potentially be a future rulemaking amendment to the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP). OPAC has already initiated rulemaking for the TSP.
 - Part 1 includes ocean management framework to update agency names and for technical fixes.
 - Part 2 is the foundation for state decision making.
 - OPAC is currently soliciting workgroup members.
 - The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) is working on ocean health indicators including those for OA. Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) is leading this effort, and it is hoping to be completed in March 2027. If you want to be involved in indicator work for Oregon, reach out to Andy.
 - WCOA had a Sea Grant fellow who is working with Andy on an inventory of ocean resource data.
- Karina
 - Sea Grant is still funded, and they are still supporting fellows!
 - Announced funding for [biennial awards to fund new marine research](#).
 - The Seed-to-Leaf program is looking for three to five small “Seed” projects and then one large “Leaf” project to fund for new research.
 - Involved with [Blue Economy Task Force](#).
 - Had a seafood briefing with the new USDA Office of Seafood.
 - Amanda Gladics got an award from the Newport Fishermen’s Wives.
- Rian
 - Every two years DEQ submits their integrated report for state waters including ocean waters. The [2024 Integrated Report](#) was submitted to the EPA back in early 2025 which included [new listings for OA and OAH](#). It just got approval from EPA and is now official!
 - Why did it take so long? Likely because classifying waters as impaired for OAH has never done before.
 - Will this impact permits? It will be case by case but it is possible it could impact permits.
 - Wastewater permitting for seafood processors and the especially large penalty for Pacific Seafoods in Charleston.
 - There have been many rumors about this topic and there is external pressure, but DEQ is committed to finding compliance pathways.
 - Facilities are moving toward individual permits.
 - DEQ is not asking for improvements where the technology doesn't exist. They are looking for improvements that match standards set by in the EPA in the 1970s. They acknowledge that it is expensive to update and there are logistical challenges, but the updates are not novel or unique.
 - Effluent does not need to be cleaner than drinking water. Effluent cannot have high levels of chlorine whereas drinking water can have higher chlorine levels.
 - The Climate Protection Program continues to operate but is getting pressure from the Governor's Economic Prosperity Program to discontinue and replace with a cap and trade program.
 - Greenhouse gas reporting, clean fuels, food waste reduction programs are all operational.

- For the climate resiliency Executive Order, workplans on TMDL development, water reuse, and smoke management are in progress.
- The discussion on at sea disposal by seafood processors is continuing and the EPA is working with state on this.
- Kristen
 - The [Oregon Mariculture Network](#) is hosting conversations to bring people together.
- Fran
 - There is a [seminar](#) September 9 and 10 in Newport on gray whales and their unprecedented challenges in their fight for survival.
 - There was a very recent humpback whale entanglement off the coast of Newport, but the whale has now been freed.
- Jessica
 - There is a study off the Olympic coast looking at effects of hypoxia on petrale sole and developing a coastal stress indicator.
 - A [study](#) by Allison Cluett on a new index, the pan-basin pattern, models how the ocean is warming and how it is interacting with Pacific Decadal Oscillation.
- Laurie
 - The Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) buoy off Newport was pulled out of the water, but there is a directive to put back in.
 - This buoy collects very important information for scientists AND fishermen.

Upcoming Document Preparation

Ocean Change Action Plan/2026 Legislative Report (Melanie Bukovec)

- We will be using the Ocean Change Action Plan as our 2026 Biennial Report to the Legislature due next month.

Council 2026 Schedule and Wrap-up

- Closing remarks (Laurie Juranek & Scott Groth)
 - We will keep the Council updated once the staff position is filled.
 - Thank you to Melanie, Leif, and Laurie for their continued work on the Council even while it was not funded.

The proceedings of the OAH Council are open to the public. All printed will be made available to the public after the meetings. For more information on the OAH Council, to access documents, **please visit:**

<https://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/ocean-policy/ocean-acidification-and-hypoxia-council/about-the-oah-council>

Comments or Questions? Please contact:

Council Co-Chairs

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