



**Oregon Coordinating
Council on Ocean
Acidification & Hypoxia**

OAH Council meeting – January 2025

January 23, 2025, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Microsoft Teams or **Sea Grant Conference Room, Suite 350, University Plaza, 1600 SW Western Blvd.,
Corvallis**

In attendance: Leif Rasmuson (ODFW Co-Chair), Laurie Juranek (OSU Co-Chair), Andy Lanier (DLCD), Bob Kemp (Fishing Representative), Fran Recht (NGO), Jessica Miller (Academic Representative/OSU), Karina Nielson (OSG), Keith Wolf (OOST/NOAA), Kristen Penner (Shellfish representative), Rian vanden Hooff (DEQ), Alex Manderson (ODA), Melanie Bukovec (ODFW Council Staff)

Absent: Karin Power (GNRO)

Guests: Kaegan Scully-Engelmeyer (DEQ)

Council Welcome & Updates

Welcome & agenda overview (Leif Rasmuson & Laurie Juranek)

OAH Council Updates:

- Melanie Bukovec is on a temporary job rotation acting as the OAH Council staff through June 2025.
- The 4th Biennial OAH Council Report has not yet been presented to legislature and still needs to get added to the OAH Council website.
 - Melanie and Andy will work together to add it to the OAH Council website.
- October Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable share-out
 - Not many fishermen were in attendance.
 - NOAA was there and they will be taking conversations from the roundtable to use in their [California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment](#). This will have a section on fishermen interpretation of what the ocean looks like, and the assessment is scheduled to get time on the floor at the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC).
- Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC) Water Quality workshop share-out
 - Kaegan Scully-Engelmeyer from DEQ attended the workshop which was in Sacramento in November and provided the opportunity for state agency and regional staff from California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia to come together and discuss strengths, weaknesses, and modeling for OAH.
 - OR shared their work on developing the assessment methodology. CA and WA shared where they are focusing their efforts including an overview on their regulatory-level modeling both of which could extend into OR as a future collaboration.

- There was discussion on indicators beyond water quality assessment and how to communicate with a non-technical audience as well as linking the benefits of ongoing regulatory work, including work on oxygen/hypoxia, to OA.
 - PCC is working on writeups from the meeting which will include proposed research priorities.
 - The topic of [EPA's Total Maximum Daily Loads \(TMDLs\)](#) was discussed in relation to DEQ's listing of Oregon waters as impaired, but there are alternative paths to follow for management and delisting.
 - [Marine carbon dioxide removal \(mCDR\)](#) and how it intersects OAH was also brought up, but there is a lot of uncertainty moving forward with NOAA.
- Seafood Processing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit update
 - Permits for at-sea seafood processors were first issued in 2019 and the five year period is now up.
 - There were conversations with the EPA previously that had created a plan where processors would not discharge on the shelf; they had to dispose deeper than 100 meters which was hoped to lessen the impact.
 - More science and modeling need to be done to see how much of an impact this process has, but Oregon is concerned about the effluent especially since the system is already stressed with low oxygen and high OA. Offshore disposal should have the same restrictions as nearshore wastewater treatment plants.
 - Rian offered that someone in on permitting team with DEQ can provide support to DLCD. They have already worked with the West Coast Seafood Processors, and he provided a cover letter that describes high-level how the collaboration has been going. DEQ is committed to help facilities get permits but since facility upgrades have been deferred for many years, there will be costs associated to meet permit requirements and there will need to be many partnerships to enable action.
 - Karina suggested that the biennial research grant from Oregon Sea Grant could provide funding for a study.
- Funding update

General Council Updates (round robin)

- Karina and Keith brought up that Oregon and California Ocean Science Trusts are working together on ocean science actions: <https://www.oceanscienceagenda.org/the-solution>
- The OAH Communications Plan that was developed by the Pathways Collaborative is complete but needs to be implemented. We will want to include implementation of this in the Action Plan.

Upcoming report preparation

2025 Action Plan

- Working session followed the meeting.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

Council 2025 Schedule and wrap-up

- 2025 Council meetings
 - There will be two more meetings before funding ends.

- There will also be working sessions as needed to develop the Action Plan.
 - Spring 2025 OAH Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable
 - Planning is just getting underway for the 9th Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable which will be held in April or May.
 - Hosting these meetings requires a lot of staff time to coordinate with fishermen.
 - It was suggested to include the topic of offshore wind and to potentially involve Dr. James Sulikowski and the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES).
 - **All non-agency Council members are eligible to be paid for their involvement in the Council and are required to fill out the attached Compensation Self Attestation Form.**
 - Council Members were thanked for their contributions and their time.
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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-acidification>

Comments or Questions? Please contact:

Council Co-Chairs

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Council Staff

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