



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

## **OAH Council Meeting – April 2025**

April 21, 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Microsoft Teams

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

**Absent:** Bob Kemp (Fishing Representative), Alex Manderson (ODA), Karin Power (GNRO)

**Guests:** Sarah Reif (ODFW)

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### **Council Welcome & Updates**

**Welcome & agenda overview** (Leif Rasmuson & Laurie Juranek)

#### **OAH Council Updates:**

- Climate associated matters (Leif Rasmuson)
  - There have been a lot of difficulties on the federal side, and there is a lot of uncertainty on how to move forward.
    - This will be a topic at the upcoming Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable in May.
    - Projects may have more likelihood of getting funding if there is collaboration with the fishing industry.
  - There have been reports of brown pelicans arriving on the Oregon coast with domoic acid poisoning, which could be a signal of a large harmful algal bloom.
- Legislative session/funding update (Leif Rasmuson & Sarah Reif)
  - The OAH Council Staff position is slated for reduction in the ODFW budget which was also passed forward in the Governor's budget.
    - This was a difficult decision while making the ODFW budget.
    - We are in a holding pattern until we know more about ODFW's budget and are looking to the Governor's office for leadership on what will happen.
    - The Oregon Climate Action Commission is excited about adopting recommendations from the OAH Council.
  - Sarah appreciates all that the OAH Council has done and accomplished for OAH including the Action Plan and roundtables. ODFW will be thinking about how to integrate recommendations from the OAH Council into agency actions.
  - Rian asked if the OAH Council was mentioned during the ODFW hearing for joint ways and means.
    - The OAH Council was not mentioned.

- Karina asked if there was any discussion on handing off the OAH Council and if there was an alternative host whether ODFW would commit time to the transition.
  - There has been some discussion about integrating recommendations from the Action Plan into other commission/council work but currently we are in a holding pattern until we know more about the budget.
  - ODFW would certainly help with the transition if that is the direction the Governor's office decides to go.
- Fran was wondering if there has been discussion with legislators about the OAH Council or Marine Reserves.
  - Shaun Clements would know better, and Sarah will follow up.
  - There has been discussion regarding what to do with the reduced General Fund.
- Andy mentioned that in the current draft of the Action Plan, Action 5 says that the Governor issues a policy for ocean change.
  - Action 5 is still a placeholder until we know more about the future of the OAH Council.
  - The direction with the last action plan was to write it and then the Governor's office would review.
  - Andy recommends we show it to the Governor's office before June.

#### **General Council Updates** (round robin)

- Andy mentioned that there is an OPAC meeting on May 7 and a briefing of the development of the Action Plan is on the agenda.
- Fran acknowledged that the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is only increasing and now more than ever we need to take action.
- Karina reminded everyone that we are in dire circumstances with threats to federal funding for NOAA, Sea Grant, IOOS, etc.
- Laurie noted that OSU is directly impacted since research funding is from NOAA, NSF, NASA, etc.
- Rian highlighted that there are a lot of unknowns with state agency budgets and that the state revenue forecast may not be heading in a positive direction. Grants related to climate that weren't already secured may not be awarded.
- Kristen mentioned that with grants being on the chopping block, collaboration with industry is more important now than ever to ensure industrial symbiosis.
- Keith was wondering what the threats are to the Pacific Fishery Management Council and other Fishery Management Councils with reduced federal funding and capacity.
  - Fishery Management Council meetings are still happening but with less federal staff and some staff attending remotely.
  - Specifically for groundfish, stock assessments are moving forward, albeit slowly, but will not be able to include climate models because those staff have been let go.
  - There has been significant discussion on switching management of some stocks to the states.
  - There was a recent Executive Order about opening up regulations for commercial fishing but there is a lot of uncertainty about this.

#### **Upcoming Document Preparation**

##### **2025 Action Plan** (Melanie Bukovec)

- The format will be aligned with the 2019 OAH Action Plan and OAH Council Biennial Reports.

- In the Executive Summary, we should be elegant and comprehensive when talking about the actions and steps because people may only read this. Since there is a risk of steps getting pulled apart, it may be worth adding “ocean” into each one.
- Currently in the introduction section, we are using a passive voice, but it may need to be more active to remind people why we have an OAH Council and provide examples of what is at stake.
- There was a discussion on who will lead the steps for Action 4. It was recommended to make these steps more general on how they are completed but adamant that they should be completed.
- There is still a lot of uncertainty regarding the future of the OAH Council, but Action 5 can be used to recommend state agencies incorporate ocean change into their work.
- The Funding and Timeline Appendix is important since it gives a map of how to proceed and who to contact for each action.
- The Timeline of Accomplishments Appendix is also important to provide a well-documented history of accomplishments for the OAH Council.
  - It was suggested to create a graphic visual timeline highlighting the background on why the OAH Council was formed potentially in the introduction section.

#### **Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

#### **Council 2025 Schedule and Wrap-up**

- 2025 Council meetings (Leif Rasmuson)
  - We would like to have another OAH Council meeting in mid/end of June since the OAH Council may lose funding after June.
- Spring 2025 OAH Fisherman-Scientist Roundtable (Melanie Bukovec)
  - About 50 people have RSVP'd with about 20 of those being fishers.
  - Currently confirming with presenters and finalizing the agenda.
    - Presentations on marine mammals, ocean conditions relating to fish, and state of scientific community to continue conducting research, highlighting successful collaborations between scientists and fishers and discussing priorities.
- Closing remarks (Leif Rasmuson & Laurie Juranek)
  - We will send updates on the future of the Council as we learn and can say more.
  - 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-policy/ocean-acidification-and-hypoxia-council/about-the-oah-council>

Comments or Questions? Please contact:

Council Co-Chairs

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