

Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Draft Meeting Summary – October 29, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Agenda Link

View the meeting agenda here: <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/ocean-policy-advisory-council/opac-meeting-documents/308-opac-draft-meeting-agenda-oct-29-2025>

Issues Decided/Positions Taken

OPAC approved the following consensus motions:

- The May 7, 2025 Draft Meeting Summary was approved by consensus
- The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) was directed to have its executive committee reach out to the governor's office to discuss the lack of consistent representation at OPAC meetings. The intended purpose of the communication was to express the council's frustration with the inconsistent attendance from the governor's staff and to explore the possibility of having an alternate representative attend the meetings.
- The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) tasks the Executive Committee to respectfully ask the Governor to sign on to a letter, either jointly with other west coast governors, and or write a letter independently opposing any lease areas for offshore oil and gas extraction off the west coast, particularly off of Oregon. Offshore oil and gas development off the Oregon coast is inconsistent with state of Oregon ocean resource management policies.
 - The OPAC Executive Committee issued a letter to the Governor on November 14, 2025. Included as addendum 1 to this meeting summary.

OPAC Members Attendance

Members Present (voting): **Susan Chambers** (South Coast Commercial Fisheries; Chair); **Margaret Corvi** (Oregon Coast Indian Tribes); **Nick Edwards** (Ports, Marine Transportation and Navigation); **Mark Kujala** (North Coast County Commissioner); **Kyle Motley** (Coastal Public At-Large); **Richard Heap** (South Coast Charter, Sport or Recreational Fisheries); **Joe Liebezeit** (Statewide Conservation or Environmental Organization); **Amelia O'Connor** (Coastal Non-Fishing Recreation); **Fran Recht** (Elected City Official)

Members Absent: **Tara Brock** (Coastal Conservation Organization; Vice-Chair); **Duncan Berry** (Public At-Large);

Members Present (ex officio): **Justin Ainsworth** (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife); **Laurel Hillmann** (OPRD); **Rian Hooff** (Department of Environmental Quality); **Karina Nielsen** (Oregon Sea Grant); **Ray Monroe** (Coastwide Organization representing small ports and local governments); **Nataliya Stranadko** (Department of State Lands);

Staff: Alex Manderson (ODA); Amanda Macnab (DLCD); Andy Lanier (DLCD, OPAC Staff); Steve Shipsey (Dept. of Justice); Jeff Burrignt (DLCD); Cynthia Smidt (DLCD)

Public Comment

Public Comment speakers (with affiliation if provided):

Charlie Plybon, Oregon Surfrider

Others in Attendance (with affiliation if provided):

Annie Merrill (Pew Trusts); **Andrea Sumerau** (CTSI), **Angela Whitlock** (North Coast Land Conservancy); **Claire Lynn**; **David Kling** (STAC); **Delia Kelly** (ODFW); **Dick Vander Schaaf** (TNC); **Jane Bacchieri** (Elakha Alliance); **Jamie Fereday**; **Jena Carter** (TNC); **Katie Darr** (ODFW); **Katrina Thompson-Upton**; **Kent Doughty** (Seven Capes Bird Alliance); **Lilah Ise** (WCOA); **Lori Steele**; **Mandy Duval**; **Robert Bailey** (Elakha Alliance); **Sara Wolf** (Oregon Surfrider); **Scott Groth** (ODFW); **Scott Marion** (ODFW); **Selina Heppell** (STAC); **Shannon Davis**; **Tyson Razor** (Ecotrust); **Veronica Dujon** (STAC); **Will White** (STAC)

Distributed Materials

All documents available online at www.oregonocean.info/

Meeting Materials:

- [Draft Meeting Summary from May 7, 2025](#)
- [OPAC Roster, updated October, 2025](#)

Meeting Presentations:

- [Elakha \(Sea otter\) Alliance, OPAC presentation, Oct 29, 2025](#)
- [Offshore Wind Roundtable and OPAC TSP OSW Work Group Update, Oct 29, 2025](#)
- [OPAC STAC Offshore Wind Energy Report Update, Oct 29, 2025](#)
- [Mariculture Collaborative, OPAC presentation, Oct 29, 2025](#)

Meeting Video

The meeting recording is available to watch on the OPAC website and at YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z96YfBabVEA>

Additional Resources

1. OPAC Website: <http://www.oregonocean.info/opac>
2. OPAC Recommendations and Publications:
<https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/ocean-policy-advisory-council/opac-reports-publications>
3. [Department of Land Conservation and Development Website](http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/)
(<http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/>)

Next meeting:

Scheduling a shorter, half-day meeting for OPAC the last two weeks of January.
Scheduling the next full day OPAC meeting for Spring 2026: April 20th-29th, 2026.

Acronyms and Initials:

DLCD-Department of Land Conservation and Development; DOGAMI- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries; DSL- Department of State Lands; OMD – Oregon Military Department; ODFW- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; OPRD-Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation; DOJ – Department of Justice; TNC – The Nature Conservancy; CTCLUSI – Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, SEA-Shoreline Education for Awareness; LUCS-Land Use Compatibility Statement; STAC-Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee;

For a copy of the video record of this meeting, please contact Andy Lanier at the contact information listed below, and complete a public records request available online at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/About/Pages/Public-Records-Requests.aspx>

Andy.Lanier@dlcd.oregon.gov, (503) 206-2291



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

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www.oregon.gov/LCD

Addendum 1

Voting Members

Tara Brock, Vice Chair
Oceana
(Coastal Conservation Organization)

Susan Chambers, Chair
West Coast Seafood Processors Assoc.
(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)

Nick Edwards
(Ports, Marine Transportation or
Navigation)

Kyle Motley
(Coastal Public Representative)

Margaret Corvi
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower
Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)

Fran Recht
(Coastal City Elected Official)

Joe Liebezeit
(Statewide Conservation Organization)

Richard Heap, Jr.
(South Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

Vacant
(North Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

Vacant
Commissioner, Coos County
(South Coastal County Commissioner)

Amelia O'Connor
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)

Duncan Berry
(Statewide Public Representative)

Mark Kujala
Commissioner, Tillamook County
(North Coastal County Commissioner)

Ex-Officio Members

Jonathan Allan
Department of Geology
And Mineral Industries

Scott Groth
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Alexis Taylor
Market Access & Certification Director,
Department of Agriculture

Ray Monroe
Oregon Coastal Zone Management
Association

Chandra Ferrari
Natural Resources and Climate Policy
Advisor
Governor's Office

Blake Helm
Department of State Lands

Rian Vanden Hooff
Department of Environmental Quality

Lisa Phipps
OCMP Manager, Department of
Land Conservation and Development

Lisa Sumption
Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation

Karina Nielsen
Director, Oregon Sea Grant College
Program

November 14, 2025

Governor Tina Kotek
160 State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: The Potential inclusion of Oregon OCS waters in any Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Action

Dear Governor Kotek,

On behalf of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), we write to express our thanks to your office for submitting the June 6, 2025, letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOEM) Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager, Kelly Hammerle, commenting on the initiation of the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Programⁱ. At this time, we see the need for your office to continue to oppose any action by BOEM to include any lease areas off the West Coast, recognizing that the Pacific waters off Oregon are just a small part of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

The Council supports both state and regional efforts to oppose any offshore development related to oil and gas exploration off the coast of Oregon — particularly in the context of BOEM's development of the 11th National OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Programⁱⁱ. OPAC members, during our regular meeting on Oct. 29, 2025, unanimously supported any action you deem fit to support Oregon's continual opposition to oil and gas exploration, leasing and development. Precedent for this action exists, both at the regional level, through tri-state governor's office letters (2006ⁱⁱⁱ and 2017^{iv}) and state level, (all Governors of Oregon since 1984 have opposed such action).

Thank you for your ongoing leadership to oppose oil and gas exploration off the Oregon coast and to align state policy with the long-term interests of our ocean, shoreline and coastal communities. Your leadership at this moment will help protect Oregon's environment, economy and way of life for generations to come.

Best Regards,

Susan Chambers
Chair



Cc:

Governor's Natural Resources Office –

Geoff Huntington: Geoff.HUNTINGTON@oregon.gov

Chandra Ferrari: Chandra.Alene.FERRARI@oregon.gov

Department of Land Conservation and Development – Director Brenda Bateman:

Brenda.O.Bateman@dlcd.oregon.gov BC Lisa Phipps: Lisa.PHIPPS@dlcd.oregon.gov

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Rian Hoof: Rian.HOOFF@deq.oregon.gov

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Helm Blake.HELM@dsl.oregon.gov, Nataliya Stranadko: Nataliya.Stranadko@dsl.oregon.gov

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries – Director Dr. Day-Stirrat: [Ruarri.DAY-](mailto:Ruarri.DAY-STIRRAT@dogami.oregon.gov)

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - Director: Dr. Debbie Colbert

Debbie.L.COLBERT@odfw.oregon.gov BC Justin Ainsworth Justin.C.AINSWORTH@odfw.oregon.gov

ⁱ <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2025-0015-6544>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/national-program/national-ocs-oil-and-gas-leasing-program>

ⁱⁱⁱ Tri-State Governor's Office Letter of 2006. <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/outer-continental-shelf-documents/ocs-oil-and-gas-program/327-governor-kulongoski-2006-tri-state-letter-regarding-the-oil-and-gas-5-year-plan/file>

^{iv} Tri-State Governor's Office Letter of 2017. <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/outer-continental-shelf-documents/ocs-oil-and-gas-program/328-governor-brown-2017-tri-state-letter-regarding-the-oil-and-gas-5-year-plan/file>