**Maine Climate Council Coastal and Marine Working Group (CMWG)**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**9:00 am-11:00 pm**

**Via Webinar/Zoom**

**Meeting Summary**

The Coastal and Marine Working Group for the Maine Climate Council met for the third meeting over Zoom. Amalia Siegel (GOPIF) attended the meeting to provide a broad overview of how work group updates would be integrated into the updated MWW document. See the appendix for a list of meeting participants.

**Meeting Objectives**

* Review guidance documents
* Share updates from subcommittee work
* Learn about how our work will be integrated into *Maine Won’t Wait* update

**Welcome & Agenda**

Co-chairs Carl Wilson (ME DMR) and Curt Brown (Ready Seafood) gave a brief welcome and reviewed the tasks and agenda for the day.

**Subcommittee Guidance, Process & Working Group Template**

Jesica Waller from ME DMR summarized the guidance document provided to the working groups related to the update process and discussed the template to be completed by the group. (**Note**: all related materials are available in the google drive.)

* Membership list for the [subcommittees](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ym1P_G4jZUBd2xHUVLpTj9Hx7MQXi5LM/edit#gid=2005627424) are available for viewing
  + Non-working group members with expertise in subject matter can be included at the discretion of the chairs.
  + Please document all participants in a meeting attendance list
* Both working group and subcommittee meeting dates available in the CMWG folder and also on the MCC website for public accessibility
  + Co-leads should update meeting schedule when necessary
* Subcommittee recommendations template draft deliverable is due March 1; and will be reviewed during full working group to produce a single document for forwarding onto GOPIF.
  + Template has three sections: 1) Introduction; 2) Summary of Strategies, and; 3) Analysis and Supporting Information
    - Encourage table format to convey strategy and related action;
    - Table should only include strategies that are being updated/amended or newly introduced
    - Other metrics (i.e. timeframe, Implementation) also in table format
* Working group deliverables include completed report template and powerpoint, due in early June

**Integration of Working Group Recommendations**

Amalia Siegel provided a thorough overview of expected output from working groups and how amended or updated recommendations would be incorporated into an updated MWW document.

* Simplistic timeline does not specifically highlight public engagement, but public input is expected during summer 2024
* Deliverable template is to help working groups to share information concisely with MCC
  + Request to propose recommendations and also provide detailed rationale behind them
* Extensive criteria, as outlined by Statute, that the WG and MCC must consider during this process
  + Template is aimed to elicit engagement with and documentation of the criteria considered
  + Ensures each recommendation meets the goals of the climate action plan
  + (4 goals of the plan as 1) reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions, 2) Avoid the impacts and costs of inaction, 3) Foster Economic opportunity and prosperity, and 4) advance equity through Maine's Climate Response)
* GOPIF is looking for a discrete volume of recommendations, unlike the goal set forth in the original climate planning process
  + Looking for 3-5 recommendations from EACH working group only
  + Cannot process dozens of recommendations from all working groups; prioritization is a must due to limited capacity
  + Think of a strategy as a single chapter of the climate action plan. Focus on updating the next level down; the recommendation and the associated action items (keep <4 bullet points)
    - i.e. Chapter = Strategy > Recommendation > Action
  + Recommendations will go through several more steps before being included in the climate action plan
    - Not yet determined how public input will be assessed and captured
  + Recommendations will be considered in September 2024 to determine which items to be adopted

***Discussion***

* *Comment (Bill)*: Struggling with what might be a recommendation vs an action. Is it more important to get the structure right? Or to get the words into the document and GOPIF to determine what could be lifted into the final document?
  + *Be less concerned with the formatting and structure, but concise with the information being put forward*
* Follow up: Where do goals fit in? What is a goal?
  + *Goal is not defined in the action plan*
  + *If there is a numerical target for a recommendation, that is an action for a recommendation.*
  + Laura S: Staff and steering committees are discussing how to ensure cross-over among the working groups and also the subcommittees within a working group; focus on what you want to see happen
* *Comment (Annie)*: We keep hearing this is an update and not get into the weeds on new recommendations. However, on the Fish/AQ SC, we recognize there is a big gap in the current recommendations related to climate change impacts on production for fisheries and AQ. Seems like a significant absence.
  + *For example, each subgroup could have one recommendation, so that the CMWG would put forward 3 to 4 total recommendations*.
  + More emphasis on submitting concise recommendations
* *Comment (Jessica):* What is the interplay between updating existing strategies vs presenting one new strategy. Is there a tradeoff that we get to keep old strategies and update actions or that we can choose to update the strategies? Also, what if some strategies fit better in a different working group, especially knowing the limited volume of work being sought by the MCC as a whole?
  + If an existing recommendation is fine as is, then do not bother with it. It will remain as is. However, if there is a recommendation that needs an overhaul, then could suggest removing bullet points, or add new bullet points for clarity. Ultimately, do not want to result in a larger climate action plan.
  + If some items appear to cross-cut with other working groups and are better suited for another group, then alert Laura and Jes Waller to those topic suggestions.
* *Comment (Carl):* Referencing the comment Jocelyn put into the chat, with regard to the 4 goals of the climate action plan, these would be good for framing the conversations in the SC and WG. Also, thinking about impact of actions (either 2030 or 2050) is a good way to characterize some of our work as well. A good measuring stick while trying to determine which are the most important points.
* *Comment (Jocelyn):* Nomenclature is important, especially when we’re trying to figure out what we are talking about. The goals I put in the chat are from the MCC action plan, might actually be visions for the plan. If we feel there is something missing from those goals or vision, how do we offer suggestions to update those?
  + *Would need to go look at the statute to see where those goals came from. Speak to your co-chairs and they can raise this issue with the steering ctte.*

**Subcommittee Updates**

The subcommittees briefly reported their discussions to date:

* **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** *\*Ben Martens*
  + Send around a poll/chart to review previous work and rank items as valuable/not valuable or do not modify, etc to allow for a review of items related to Fish/AQ
  + Meeting shortly after this to review results
  + Next phase will be tweaking those items that require revising or items that are missing
  + MCCF staffer (Emily) on the Food subcommittee (in Natural Working Lands)
* **Blue Carbon:** \**Curtis Bohlen*
  + Met 12/15/23 and focused on lessons learned
  + MWW: mostly all of the recommendations were about collecting information, strong push on “needing to know more”
    - Time to now decide what to do, now that we have more information
  + Looked at new information that came out in the last few years– MEDEP Marine Vegetation Mapping; distribution of salt marshes and eel grass beds; also, MEDEP is going to include blue carbon into the Maine carbon budget
  + EPA produced regional assessment for blue carbon stocks
  + BC workshop related to what to do about BC, best mgmt. practices
    - BC habitats provide many co-benefits
  + Request to be called Coastal Marine Habitats and Blue Carbon
  + Tidal flats/shellfish beds as important habitat
  + Information that was submitted into the WG sub-report that was very helpful in securing grants
    - This avenue may be a miss with this update with only having a one page document
  + How do we cross connect with this WG and also other WGs?
* **Monitoring and Data:** \**Ivy Frignoca*
  + Need to survey other SCs for what monitoring needs are missing?
    - Do we need to survey related to WW?
  + May be useful for the co-chairs of the SCs within CMWG to meet by zoom, so we can strategize and help collectively
  + Focused on coastal marine monitoring and disseminating that information
    - Hypoxia, HABs, marine mammal distribution, coastal sequestration
    - Update on the information exchange (Parker Gasset?)
  + Determining what has already been accomplished, in progress, or what is missing
    - i.e. Offshore wind
  + Elevate Action 5 – ?
  + Linking actions 3 and 6 – focus on habitats and ecosystem change
  + Refining content and really identifying data gaps, including the metrics
  + Missing social science monitoring and how it relates to the community resilience WG
* **Working waterfronts, infrastructure, and access:** *\*Nick Battista*
  + Met 12/12/23 and focused on the initial foundation documents to ground the group
  + Acknowledged that WW show up as pieces of other recommendations or actions; may not focus on developing new recommendations but ensure actions related to WW end up in the appropriate places that other people are looking at within the MCC; a lot of cross-WG or SC related to WW
  + Biggest issue to tackle is land use and zoning and the connection between comp plans, and WW; wanted to have a deep dive into those issues, especially since the coastal community resiliency WG focused heavily on this topic with respect to municipalities, with goals to change ordinances, etc. Unsure what they are focusing on now. But wanted to highlight how WW plays a role here and should there be a need to have a shared conversation.
  + Need for community technical assistance, updating comp plans, education and capacity needed for communities
  + Need to clearly recognize and elevate that marine businesses or businesses that rely on WW need support with adapting to impacts resulting from climate change
  + WW as a designated label is needed for a blue energy economy; as critical infrastructure, it is required to move forward however, it seems to be buried in the document
  + *Comment (Ben)*: may need to lobby MCC on what is important and should be included; especially now that this process has moved to an in-person forum, to have some champions for the cause
  + *Comment (Jocelyn)*: Would it make sense to dissolve the WWI SC, then bring the WW pieces to Fish/AQ SC and move the infrastructure part to Adaptation?
    - *Nick* – Important to find all the connections with the other WGs where WW interconnects and raising those issues clearly with other groups
  + *Comment (Curt)*: Very important distilling down the facts about Maine’s coastline; what is available for use and how fast it’s being lost could be an effective way to get people to understand the impact of WW
    - *May need to clearly define what WW is, as it perspectives differ from how the state defines it*.

**Public Comment and Next Steps**

* **Note:** the schedule for future meetings is [https://www.maine.gov/future/meeting-calendar](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Ffuture%2Fmeeting-calendar&data=05%7C01%7CMelissa.Britsch%40maine.gov%7C7bab352f03c24d3bcbf408dbef6b3724%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638367016002514072%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Qle7xKaHa8N421Syk%2BOXJR14lSQeQSm3PtN%2FJATTOBg%3D&reserved=0)
* The next meeting is Monday, January 22nd @ 9am, location TBD
* Request for an hour space for SC meetings to convene and then resume WG meeting to update.

**Appendix:**

All files for the Coastal and Marine Working Group can be viewed [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RV7UfHTmF1XGeWg-LV8hFog7aYPLDOk6?usp=share_link):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Working Group** | **Members:** |  |
| Carl | Wilson | Department of Marine Resources (Co-chair) |
| Curt | Brown | Ready Seafood (Co-chair) |
| Susie | Arnold | Island Institute |
| Bob | Baines | Maine Lobstermen’s Association |
| Nick | Battista | Island Institute |
| Kathleen | Billings | Town of Stonington |
| Curtis | Bohlen | Casco Bay Estuary Partnership |
| Damian | Brady | University of Maine, Darling Marine Center |
| Angela | Brewer | Maine Department of Environmental Protection |
| Lydia | Crafts | Maine State Legislature |
| Ivy | Frignoca | Friends of Casco Bay |
| Jeremy | Gabrielson | Maine Coast Heritage Trust |
| Wendy | Garland | Maine Department of Environmental Protection |
| Jessica | Gribbon-Joyce | Tidal Bay Consulting / DMR Shellfish Advisory Council |
| Carla | Guenther | Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries |
| Ben | Gutzler | Wells Estuarine Research Reserve |
| Robert | Holmberg | Roger Williams University (via Zoom) |
| Bev | Johnson | Bates College |
| Anne | Langston Noll | Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center |
| Ben | Martens | Maine Coast Fishermen's Association |
| Gabe | McPhail | Resilient Communities, L3C (via Zoom) |
| Bill | Needelman | City of Portland |
| Rebecca | Peters | Maine Department of Marine Resources |
| Cameron | Reny | Maine State Legislature |
| Jocelyn | Runnebaum | The Nature Conservancy |
| Michelle | Staudinger | University of Maine |
| Jesica | Waller | Maine Department of Marine Resources |
| Meredith | White | Maine Department of Marine Resources |
| Lisa | White | Maine Department of Marine Resources |
| Amy | Winston | Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (via Zoom) |
|  |  |  |
| **Staff/Observers:** |  |  |
| Beth | Bisson | Maine Sea Grant |
| Melissa | Britsch | Department of Marine Resources, Coastal Program |
| Matt | Davis | Department of Marine Resources |
| Elliot | Harkins | Community Member |
| Abigail | Hayne | GOPIF |
| Prakash | Kashwan | Brandeis University |
| Maggie | Kelly-Boyd | GOPIF |
| Meredith | Mendelson | Department of Marine Resources |
| Molly | Siegel | GOPIF, Maine Climate Council |
| Laura | Singer | Consensus Building Institute |
| Melissa | Smith | Department of Marine Resources |
| Helena | Tatgenhorst | The Nature Conservancy |