

**Phil Rockefeller**  
Chair  
Washington

**Tom Karier**  
Washington

**Henry Lorenzen**  
Oregon

**Bill Bradbury**  
Oregon



## Northwest **Power** and **Conservation** Council

**W. Bill Booth**  
Vice Chair  
Idaho

**James Yost**  
Idaho

**Pat Smith**  
Montana

**Jennifer Anders**  
Montana

December 8, 2015

### **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole, Fish and Wildlife Program Implementation Manager

**SUBJECT:** Revised Ocean Forum Charter

### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

Staff recommends approval of the revised Ocean Forum charter. The Fish and Wildlife Committee has previously reviewed and approved the revised charter.

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

The revised charter would continue the Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum.

### **BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS:**

The only budgetary impact is the staff work to support 2-3 meetings per year.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Plume and Ocean Science and Management Forum ([Ocean Forum](#)) was chartered in 2013. The Charter contained several objectives but can be summarized in two primary tasks:

- 1) Provide opportunities for ocean researchers and fisheries managers (inland) to share information, collaborate and discuss the management implications of ocean research; and
- 2) Develop prioritized management questions and critical research uncertainties to guide the ocean research under the program into the future.

The first task has been successful. The Forum has created opportunity for information sharing and discussion. Forum members continue to be interested in participating in

these opportunities and in fact, we receive frequent requests from forum members and non-members for notice of the next meeting. The fact that we have experienced some dramatic environmental conditions in both the ocean and the Columbia Basin ecosystems in the past several years has really made this task important to people. The second task has been less successful for several reasons. In late 2013 NOAA and Bonneville re-scoped the Bonneville-funded ocean research program to focus on implementation of the NOAA Fisheries Supplemental FCRPS biological opinion RPA. The Forum members struggled to develop a timely report that would be effective in moving beyond the ocean actions called for in the biological opinion. After much discussion among the Forum members, they agreed to reduce the scope of the Charter to focus on the task that has been most successful and useful. The Forum members also remain interested in reviewing and providing input to the upcoming effort to update the Council's Research Plan, which will consider important ocean research questions. The Ocean Forum members want to continue to meet 2-3 times per year, with a focus on the first task. The Forum Chair and members have revised the charter for the Ocean Forum accordingly. It is attached for your review and approval. Legal staff has reviewed the Charter. The Fish and Wildlife Committee members had opportunity to review the revised charter and have not raised any concerns.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Two alternatives could be to: 1) Continue using the original OF charter language; or 2) not approve the revised OF charter and discontinue the Ocean Forum. The OF Chair and staff do not recommend either of these alternatives for the reasons stated above.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Revised Ocean Forum charter.

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## NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL CHARTER OF THE OCEAN AND PLUME SCIENCE AND MANAGEMENT FORUM

1. Official Designation: This Forum will be known as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum.
2. Background: In 2010 the Council reviewed all Research, Monitoring and Evaluation projects, and requested that an Ocean Synthesis Report be developed by three ocean project sponsors. After ISRP review of this report the Council decided to re-focus the ocean research program and hosted an [Ocean and Plume Workshop](#) on February 14, 2013 to explore future opportunities for research. This workshop was successful at providing a forum for ocean researchers and in-river managers to identify critical uncertainties and potential management applications. To continue regional coordination on ocean research the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee requested the development of an Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum (Forum) charter.

The Council's Fish and Wildlife Program acknowledges that the ocean, plume and estuary are integral components of the Columbia River ecosystem and the lifecycle of Columbia River salmon. The 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program states the following primary ocean strategy: "*Identify the effect of ocean conditions on anadromous fish survival and use this information to evaluate and adjust inland actions* (pg. 31)." The 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program continues a plume and nearshore-ocean strategy which includes support from the Council for efforts by the Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum to encourage coordination between ocean researchers and agencies and tribes to explore opportunities improve inriver management activities based on information about ocean conditions. With this strategy in mind, the goal of this Forum is to engage researchers and fisheries managers in a process of identifying the management implications of ocean research.

This advisory committee is established as part of a network of advisory committees satisfying the Council's obligation under the Act to establish a Scientific and Statistical Advisory Committee. Section 4(c)(11). Under Section 4(a)(4) of the Act,

the terms of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Appendix I, Sections 1-14, apply "to the extent appropriate" to the Council's advisory committees.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activity: The Forum will assist and advise the Council by completing the following tasks:
  - (A) Identify and provide opportunities for information sharing, dialogue and collaboration between ocean and plume researchers and estuary and freshwater managers.
    - i. Identify opportunities to disseminate and integrate ocean research information within existing management forums and information channels
    - ii. Review and provide input on the plume and ocean section of the ISAB/RP critical uncertainties report and the Council's draft research plan (2016).
    - iii. Identify management applications of ocean and plume information, including existing and yet to be collected information. This should include harvest impacts on the Columbia River Basin ecosystem.
    - iv. Make recommendations to the Council on ways to improve the utility and in-river freshwater resource management benefits of both ongoing and proposed ocean and plume research conducted under the Program.
4. Official to Whom the Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum Reports: The Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum will report to the Executive Director of the Council.
5. Authority of the Forum: The Forum will serve in an advisory capacity only. Neither the Forum nor its members are authorized to make statements or commitments on behalf of the Council. Non-staff members of the Committee are not Council employees.
6. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Person-Days: Twenty-two person-days (staff) per year to prepare for, organize and attend Forum meetings.
7. Forum Members: The Chair of the Forum, in consultation with the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Division, will solicit technical experts to participate on the advisory committee from a wide range of regional stakeholders. The Council's Executive Director shall approve the participants and, in doing so, shall ensure that membership of the advisory committee is fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee. Committee members shall be selected based primarily on their technical and policy expertise and experience. Members may include representatives of state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, Bonneville, customer representatives, universities, public interest groups, and the general public. All Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Council.
8. Forum Management Officer: The Forum Management Officer ("Management Officer") for the Ocean Plume Science and Management Forum will be the Director of the Council's Division of Fish and Wildlife. The Management Officer will designate members of the Council's staff to coordinate and attend meetings

of the Forum.

9. Chair:

(A) The Chair of the Council will select the Chair of the Ocean Plume Science and Management Forum from among the members of the Council's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

(B) The Forum Chair may be called upon to report to the Executive Director of the Council on appropriate matters, including progress on the tasks described in Part 3 of this Charter.

(C) The duties of the Forum Chair will include presiding over the Forum meetings, ensuring that detailed minutes of such meetings are prepared and submitted to the Executive Director of the Council in a timely manner, and maintaining communication between the Forum and the Council's staff.

(D) The Forum Chair will certify detailed minutes of meetings of the Forum. The minutes should include a complete and accurate description of matters discussed, conclusions reached, actions taken, persons invited to meet with the Forum, and persons in attendance. The minutes also will include copies of reports received, issued or approved by the Committee. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and released within ten days of the meeting, unless the Management Officer grants an extension. The Chair will distribute copies of the minutes to members of the Committee and other interested persons.

(E) Subcommittees or small workgroups of the Forum may be established by the Chair of the Forum to undertake particular aspects of the Forum's work. Methods for organizing the work and procedures of the Forum must follow the scope of responsibilities assigned to the Forum by the Council. Council staff will make arrangements for Forum meetings and provide general support services.

10. Rules: The Advisory Committee rules approved and adopted by the Council on March 17, 1982, as amended from time to time, will apply to the Ocean and Plume Research and Management Forum to the extent such matters are not covered in this Charter.

Estimated Frequency of Forum Meetings: The Chair of the Forum, after consultation with the Management Officer, or his designee, will call meetings as necessary. The estimated frequency of meetings is 2-4 times per year.

11. All meetings will be open to the public, unless closed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c). Timely notice of meetings, including agendas, will be made. Interested persons may attend Forum meetings and appear before or file statements with the Forum, subject to such reasonable rules as the Council may prescribe.

12. Duration: The Forum will terminate two years from the filing date of this Charter, unless renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. All Members of the Forum serve at the pleasure of the Council.

This Charter for the Ocean and Plume Research and Management Forum was approved and adopted at a duly noticed meeting of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, \_\_\_\_\_ (*date*) in \_\_\_\_\_ (*location*).

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER  
AND CONSERVATION PLANNING COUNCIL

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil Rockefeller, Chair

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