

WCMAC 5 June 2013 - ESB 5603 implementation

Primary Goal of ESB 5603 is to sanction the people of the coast at “the” primary discussion/decision table to set Pacific coastal marine water policy and management in a manner that protects, preserves, stabilizes, and allows enhancement of the marine water coastal JOB base with a special portion dedicated to addressing a narrow ocean acidification scope so critical to calcifying marine life including economically important oysters, clams, and crab extending the function of the OA blue ribbon panel.

5603 elevates the status of the WCMAC to the top executive office in the state – governor’s office and essentially adopts the existing coastal marine advisory group established under ecology including their bylaws that will require some minor updating to reflect changes resulting from 5603 and transfers the WCMAC membership appointment to the governor utilizing existing WCMAC bylaw process allowing the WCMAC a ‘degree’ of autonomy.

ESB 5603 evolved as a Private Sector JOBS bill and involved bill construction participants from Westport to Walla Walla and beyond from all across the state incorporating all interested state citizens, fishermen, conservationist, recreationalist, inland businesses, eastside farmers, tribes, agencies, and more; ESB 5603 was a state wide compromising effort representing every corner of this state in bill construction. Usually bills that attract this much state wide attention requiring multiple compromises and dispute resolution never make it to the governor’s desk. Incorporating SB 5547 into 5603 was an extreme yet worthwhile RISK worth the effort that eventually spoke to the bills overall strengths. SB 5802 will also have an impact on implementation of this ESB 5603 and merits WCMAC attention. Eggs helped push the bill over the finish line.

ESB 5603

Places everyone at the same collaborative table to set Pacific coastal marine policy and leaves room at the voting table for treaty tribes and others as necessary if they chose to participate as members by applying for membership to the WCMAC

Removes the SOC communication filter between the coast and other governing bodies

Establishes WCMAC as the single point of contact for coastal marine issues for all entities.

Delineates how WCMAC agendas are set - a facilitated collaborative councilmember process.

Leaves consensus and voting requirements unchanged.

Directs ecology to provide administrative staff (does not preclude ecology from hiring staff from outside ecology) and provides funding from the budget for this purpose. \$90,000?

Provides the governor's office additional funding specific for WCMAC activity. \$45,000?

Allows an outside facilitator if necessary and funding is available.

Provides WCMAC with authority to mediate disagreements in coastal waters policy, planning, and management issues.

Provides WCMAC as an interagency resource to respond to issues facing coastal communities and coastal water resources in a collaborative manner

Recommendations

- MSP expenditures
- Principles and Standards for new marine water uses
- Data gaps
- Required scientific research
- Coast wide GOALS and strategies
- Shall consider Washington Ocean Action Plan & may modify
- **Shall Protect and Preserve Existing Sustainable Uses**
- Places the chair of the WCMAC on the Ocean Acidification Council
- Embraces content in SSB 6350 and 2SSB 6263

Limits Expenditures until 2016

- Ecosystem assessment
- Mapping marine resource uses
- Developing potential economic opportunities
- Coordinate RPB's (Governor's Coastal Alliance)
- Must be consistent with WCMAC recommendations