

OLYMPIC REGION HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM (ORHAB) PARTNERSHIP

Meeting Notes

Ocean Shores Convention Center • Ocean Shores, Washington
Friday, March 16, 2007

ATTENDEES AND AFFILIATIONS

Vera Trainer • NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center (Principal Investigator)

Dan Ayres • Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Jonnette Bastian • Quinault Indian Nation

Jerry Borchert • Washington State Department of Health

Aimee Christy • Pacific Shellfish Institute

Frank Cox • Washington State Department of Health

Kelly Curtis • Quinault Indian Nation

Bich-Thuy Eberhart • NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Steve Fradkin • Olympic National Park

George Galasso • Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Barbara Hickey • University of Washington School of Oceanography

Matt Hunter • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Ellen Matheny • University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center

Shelly Nance • NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Jan Newton • University of Washington School of Oceanography

Anthony Odell • University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center

Bill Parkin • Makah Tribe

Alan Sarich • Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Joe Schumacker • Quinault Indian Nation

Miranda Wecker • University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center

RESEARCH AND FINDINGS

Vera Trainer discussed the critical number of each type of *Pseudo-nitzschia* cells that are currently used in the sampling protocol to determine when to do a quick toxin test.

<u>Alert Levels</u>	<u>small cells (pd/d/c)</u>	<u>short and fat (a/f/h)</u>	<u>long and skinny (p/m)</u>
• Red	1 x 10 ⁶	5 x 10 ⁴	2 x 10 ⁵
• Yellow	5 x 10 ⁶	4 x 10 ⁴	1.5 x 10 ⁵
• Green	<5 x 10 ⁶	<4 x 10 ⁴	<1.5 x 10 ⁵

Over the last several months, the ORHAB program has been recognized both nationally and internationally as an exemplary coastal monitoring program that provides early warning of HAB events to coastal managers.

Barbara Hickey discussed current hypotheses on the “Recipe for a Coastal Clam DA Event.” This recipe included several bio-requirements for coastal toxic events. These included a plankton concentration in source region, bloom becomes toxic, toxic patch escapes, patch retains toxicity while traveling, and patch moves onshore to beach. Some more monitoring in Oregon could help early warning systems. Dr. Hickey also discussed how there are some good modeling systems available that predict currents and winds that would also be useful in early warning capability.

George Galasso mentioned that currently OCNMS has ten to twelve moorings collecting data seasonally. They are in the midst of some changes in staff which has delayed some of the data processing. Processed data from moorings is available from 2002-2005. Contact Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby (ed.bowlby@noaa.gov) to get access to data from moorings. There is a need to get more real time data from moorings. In 2008, there is a possibility to replace the Tatoosh vessel. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is looking for coastal educators to give educational grants to. Please send names of potential educators to George (george.galasso@noaa.gov).

Jan Newton discussed the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (IOOS). She is the Executive Director for the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS). This observing system will include the Puget Sound. For more information or to join the project, follow the link <http://www.nanoos.org>. This observing system will include new and existing buoys, glider tracks, high frequency (HF) network, and also high resolution HF for navigation in the bars. There will be a biotoxin page in the website. Jan would like to see a link to the ORHAB website. One of the purposes of the project is to have database management and provide massive data sources.

BUDGET AND FUNDING

Miranda Wecker briefed participants on the status of the ORHAB budget. Carryover funds will become available in the future that needs to be spent in the next four years. If you have ideas of where the money should be spent, give them to Miranda. Funding from the shellfish license surcharge has exceeded expectations, and there is more money going to the Washington State Department of Health than anticipated. Nobody knows where this pulse of revenue is going or how the revenue is currently being spent. Miranda mentioned that perhaps we were too modest in our initial request for funding. But she doesn't want to go back to the legislature and ask for money until the carryover funds are expended.

Other reports on budgets included the Quinault Indian Nation, Makah Tribe, and Pacific Shellfish Institute. Joe Schumacher reported the Quinault Indian Nation is currently receiving funds from a MERHAB grant. Bill Parkin from the Makah Tribe reported that they are currently short on funds and receiving minimal funds from a grant from the University of Maryland. Bill would like to extend the sampling schedule and provide more data for ORHAB, but is currently limited by available funds.

BULLETIN

Everyone agreed the harmful algal bloom (HAB) bulletin is a good idea, and it needs to happen. Anthony is heading up the project; Vera and Barbara are providing feedback. Ellen will post it on the website, making it available to resource managers and eventually, to the general public.

ORHAB WEBSITE

Ellen Matheny is managing the website. The group discussed the importance of the website and also making password protected data available for the group. The bulletin would give more exposure to the project and the work being done on a real time basis. Ellen would appreciate feedback and suggestions on how to improve the website and its usefulness.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The group discussed who should be on the steering committee of the group. One of the responsibilities of the steering committee would be to advise the group on how to spend State money. Representatives would come from the Washington State Department of Health, several tribal nations, University of Washington, and NANOOS. The following people were selected to serve on the steering committee:

- Dan Ayres • Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Frank Cox • Washington State Department of Health
- Barbara Hickey • University of Washington School of Oceanography
- Jan Newton • University of Washington School of Oceanography & NANOOS
- Bill Parkin • Makah Tribe
- Joe Schumacker • Quinault Indian Nation
- Vera Trainer • NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center
- Miranda Wecker • University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center