

Coastal Marine Advisory Council to Unveil New Website and Elect Tourism Rep. at Aberdeen Meeting

Local News

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ABERDEEN, Wash. - The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council will hear updates on marine spatial planning projects including viewing a [new interactive website](#) and progress on developing a data viewing tool during their April 26, 2013, meeting in Aberdeen. The public meeting will be held from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in the Rotary Log Pavilion, 1401 Sargent Road, Aberdeen. The [meeting agenda](#) has been posted by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). Ecology formed the marine advisory council to advise the State Ocean Caucus, a team made up of state agencies with a management role or expertise in ocean and coastal issues. The unpaid advisory council provides local perspectives on and solutions to marine resource issues, projects and conflicts. During their April 26 meeting, members also will consider nominees for a vacant seat to represent coastal tourism interests and discuss reports and recommendations from subcommittees.

Marine spatial planning is an approach adopted by the Washington Legislature to reduce conflicts among ocean uses and balance the benefits humans receive from the ocean while decreasing human-caused environmental damage. Marine spatial planning collects, interprets and uses data to develop a plan that balances the needs and goals of the broader public, economy and marine environment. The planning process brings together multiple users of Washington's coastal resources to make informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably. The council meets four to six times a year and members represent a wide array of coastal and ocean interests including county-based Marine Resources Committees, commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish aquaculture, conservation, economic development, education, local citizens, ports, scientific research and maritime shipping.