

Alternative Energy Development in the West Coast Ocean Environment Workshop a Resounding Success

This workshop, held in Portland Oregon at the Hilton Hotel Conference Center on September 23, 2008, attracted more than 150 attendees from California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Participants heard from ocean energy experts about the potential for wind, wave and tidal energy along the Pacific Coast and Puget Sound as well as experts in the emerging technologies being developed to capture that energy. Other presentation topics included environmental and social issues. Panel discussions included alternative energy planning and policy; environmental, fishery, and local community perspectives; and industry and utility group perspectives. The workshop ended following a public question and answer session. All of the presentations (panels didn't have presentations) are posted on this website.

The workshop on Tuesday September 23 was webcast and that webcast is now available on this website along with the presentations from the speakers at the workshop. The organizing committee for the workshop wishes to thank everyone who attended and the outstanding speakers who presented.

A second workshop day on Wednesday September 24 was held for Federal, state, and Tribal government representatives to exchange information about their regulatory responsibilities and authorities and to begin discussions about how the various levels of government and tribes can plan and work together to address offshore renewable energy projects. This effort will continue under the umbrella of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health through an Action Plan supported by California, Oregon and Washington and the three Federal agency leads, Department of the Interior, NOAA and EPA. An Action Coordination Team led by these states and Federal agencies will begin to develop a plan of specific steps to work with each other, local government, tribes, interested stakeholders, the ocean energy industry, and the public.