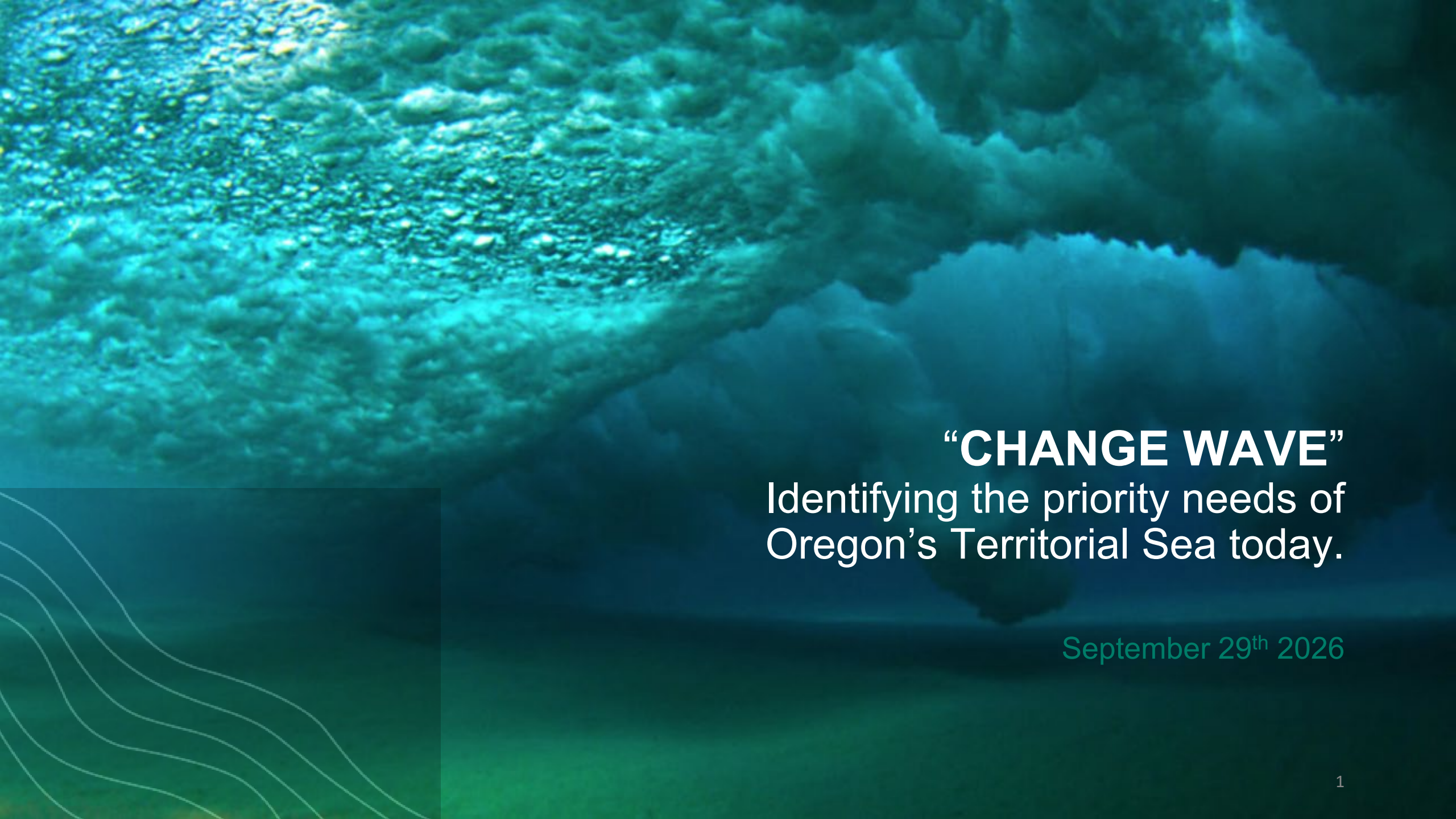




“CHANGE WAVE”

Identifying the priority needs of
Oregon’s Territorial Sea today.

September 29th 2026



Reality

The ocean, and those that depend on it, have compelling needs that are unfolding rapidly and that OPAC has the opportunity of aligning with, while matching those needs with what we choose to prioritize in the future.

It's been over 30 years since the TSP has been substantively updated.

Reality

OPAC has new leadership.

We have a historical opportunity to lead --not just respond to requests.

Quote from the original Ocean Management Framework: "This Territorial Sea Plan is designed to be amended to address emerging ocean needs."





The Goal

What if we were to continue our charge regarding TSP parts 1 and 2 (and other future amendments) but refresh our vision of what OPAC could be, much like the original founders, and determine what actions we could take to make it as relevant to today's needs as possible?

We are proposing we take the next months to draft a 5-year Priority Action Plan (2027-2032) for the council. Maybe a key portion of which could constitute a future TSP 6 and 7?

The Goal: Planning Horizon 2027-2032



We would create this 5-Year Priority Action Plan by identifying and prioritizing the Territorial Sea's most pressing needs:

- **Ecologically,**
- **culturally,**
- **economically,**
- **recreationally,**
- **and in terms of stewardship, and infrastructure**

This is not a new idea, the original formation of the TSP in its work within the Ocean Management Framework was created from 14 such topical nominations which were narrowed over time and that we now live with.



Opportunity

So how do we do so? Over the past two months we drafted and distributed a Territorial Sea Needs Assessment Survey and sent it out to three groups:

111

**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS:**

Wide spectrum of
coastal interests.

13

OPAC MEMBERS

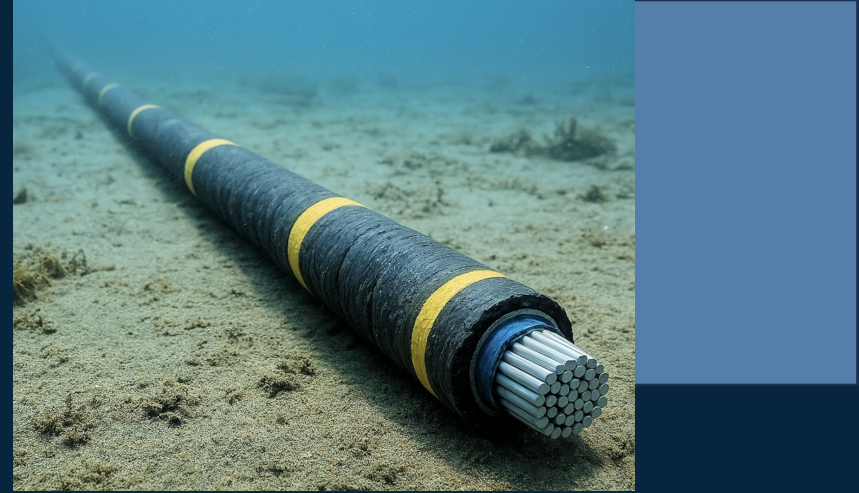
All OPAC voting
members & Emeritus

7

PARTNER AGENCIES

Representing historical
Engagement with
OPAC

Responses to Date



Responses from
8 of 12
Voting OPAC Members

86%

Responses from
18 of 111
Community Partners

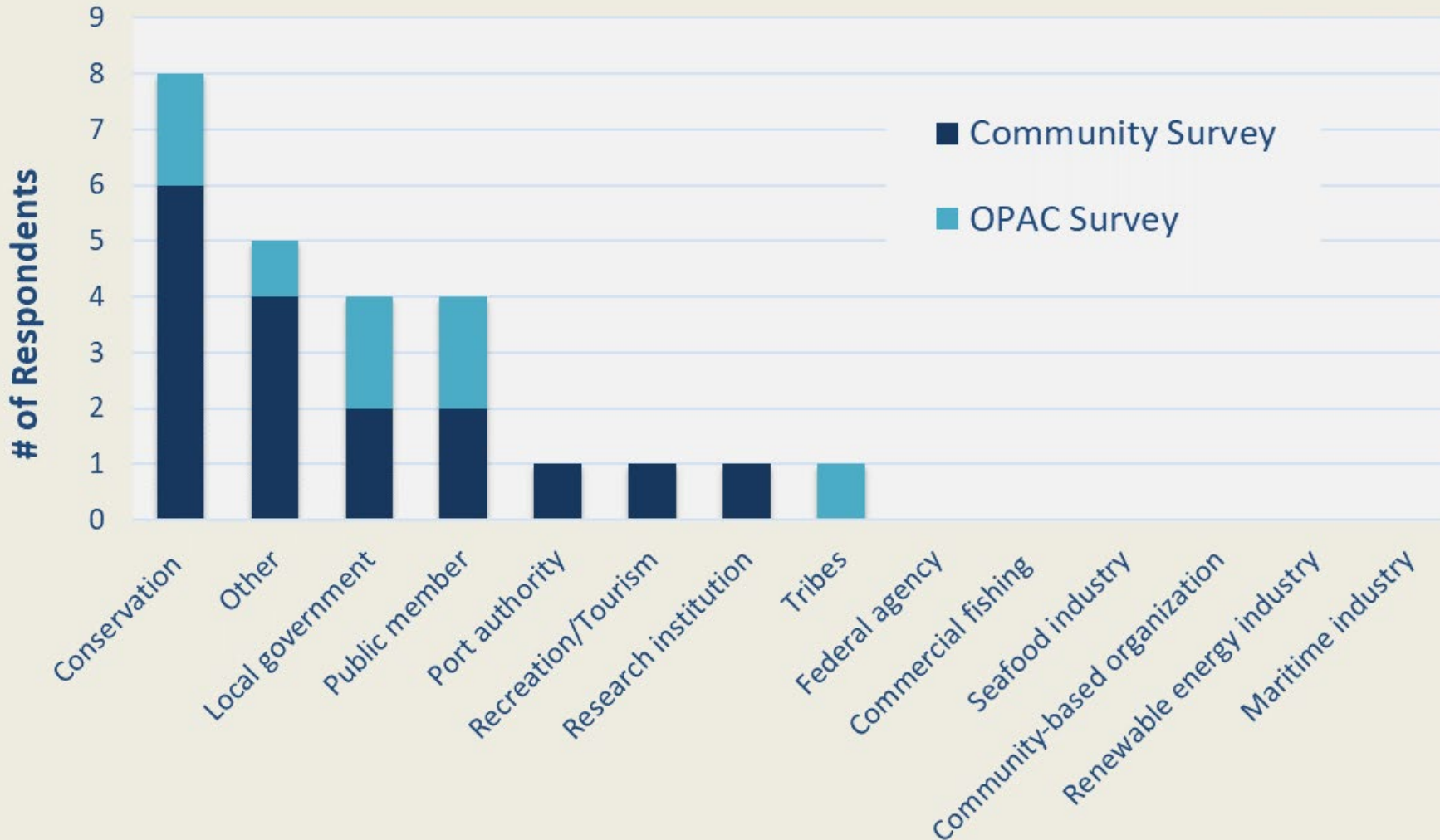
16%

Interviews with
6 of 7
State Agencies Partners

**DSL, ODFW, ODA
OPRD, DLCD, DEQ**

Still waiting on DOGAMI

Which best describes your organization or affiliation?



Currently dominated by conservation interests. We are lacking fishing, seafood, industry input.

Second survey round

Community engagement with OPAC

Worked with OPAC in the Past?

“At public meetings”

“Yes, many times”

“No”

“Through marine reserve process”

What opportunities do you see working with OPAC?

“...bringing field experience and strong partnerships to Oregon ocean issues...”

“Continuing to identify and fund the top ocean research priorities for the State”

“Potentially around discussions of the Blue Economy, certainly around the PCIP project”

“Community education, environmental research”

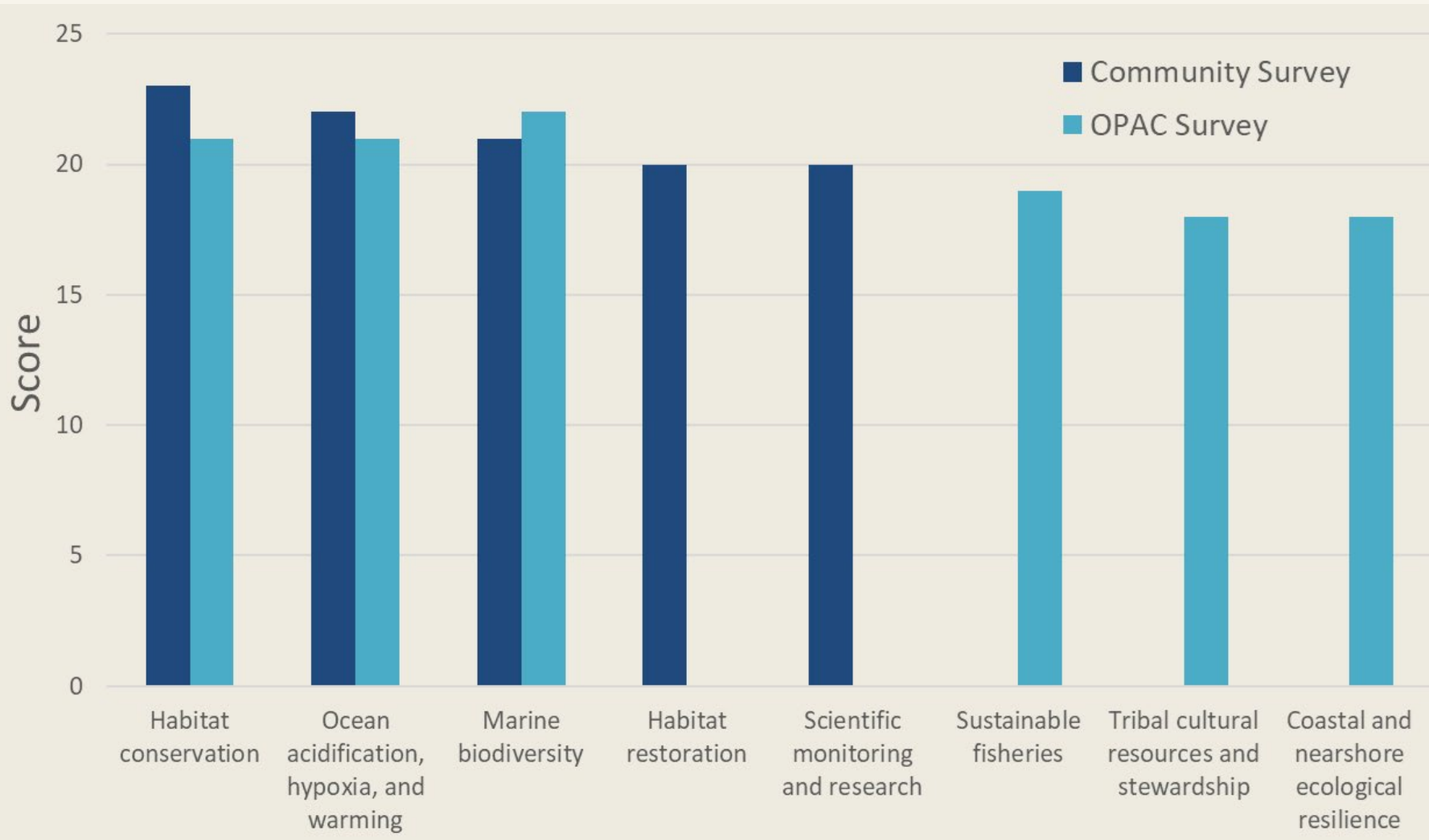
What have been successes and challenges working with OPAC?

“Maintaining consistent communication and coordination when organizations are involved in many different projects.”

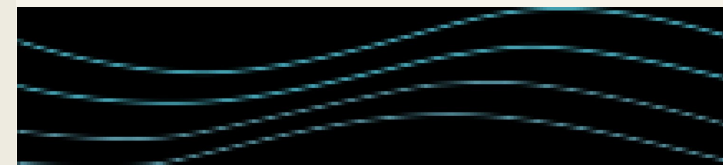
“The greater challenges have been the cultural change to zoom meetings and the backing out of the Governor's office from directing OPAC's leadership and direction.”

“A potential challenge is simply one of scheduling and time. With just two meetings annually, there is an inherent limitation on the number of issues and agenda items that OPAC can handle.”

What top 5 issues should receive the greatest attention from OPAC over the next five years?



- **OPAC and Community Partners consistent on top 3 issues.**
- **Several respondents highlighted that it was difficult to rank all 27 categories.**



Any issue that isn't included on the list above you Would consider a priority?

Community Partners

"Connectivity in our marine environment - ridgetop to reef concept"

"Effective use of STAC"

"So many of these issues are also important in estuaries ... OPAC either needs to expand its mandate or focus on issues that are exclusively territorial sea issues"

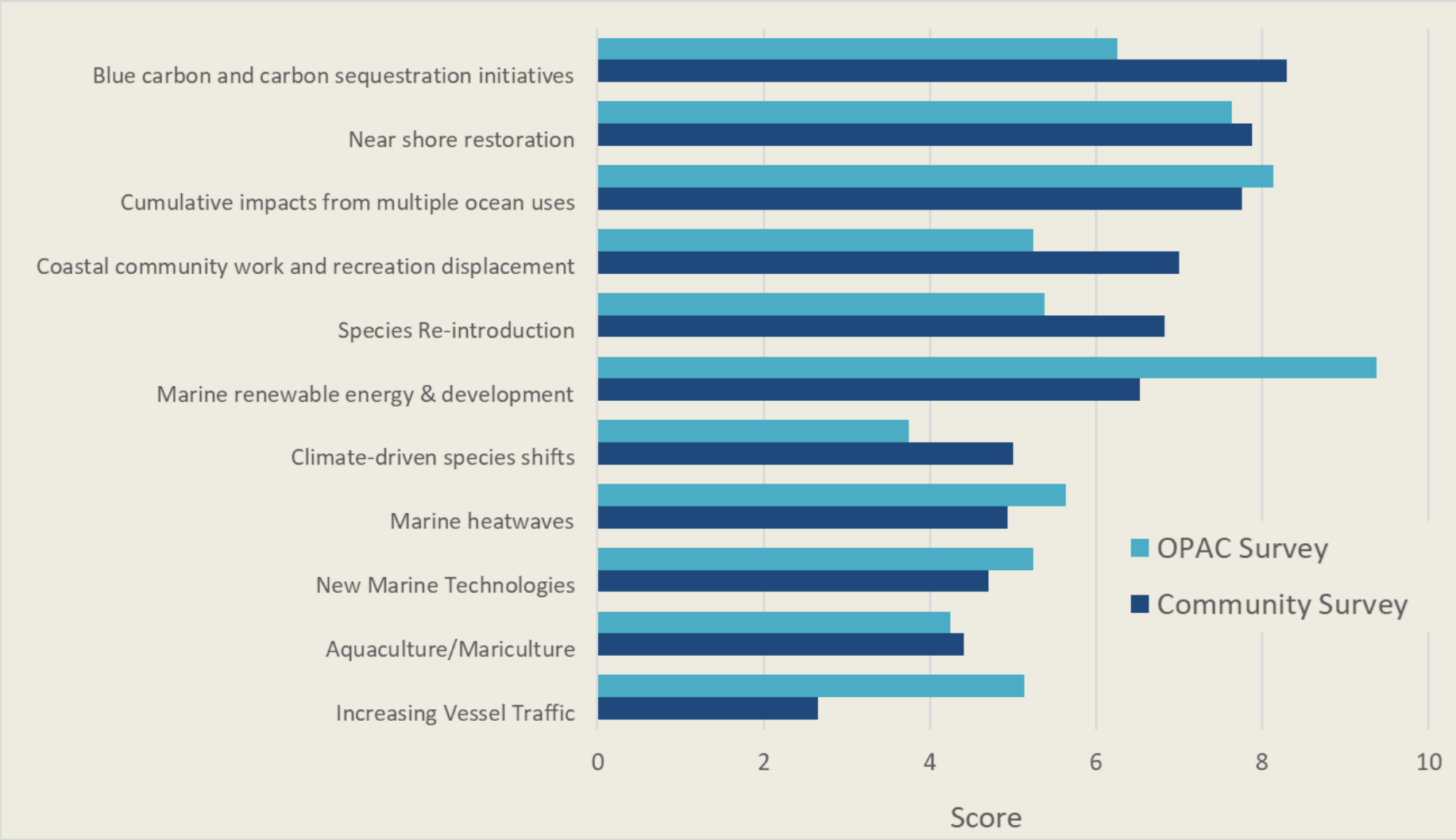
OPAC

"K thru 12 robust ocean based education. Especially in coastal school districts"

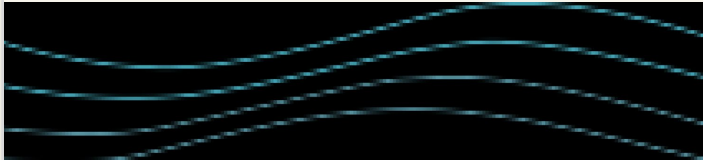
"Too many issues already"

"Noting that with respect to some of the priorities identified, I would frame the value around collaborative aspects and inclusion of Tribes in the process - for example for Marine Planning and Scientific Monitoring and Research"

What emerging issues do you believe will require increased OPAC attention during the next five years?



Consistency between
OPAC and Community
Partners on top 3



Where could OPAC provide the greatest value over the next five years?



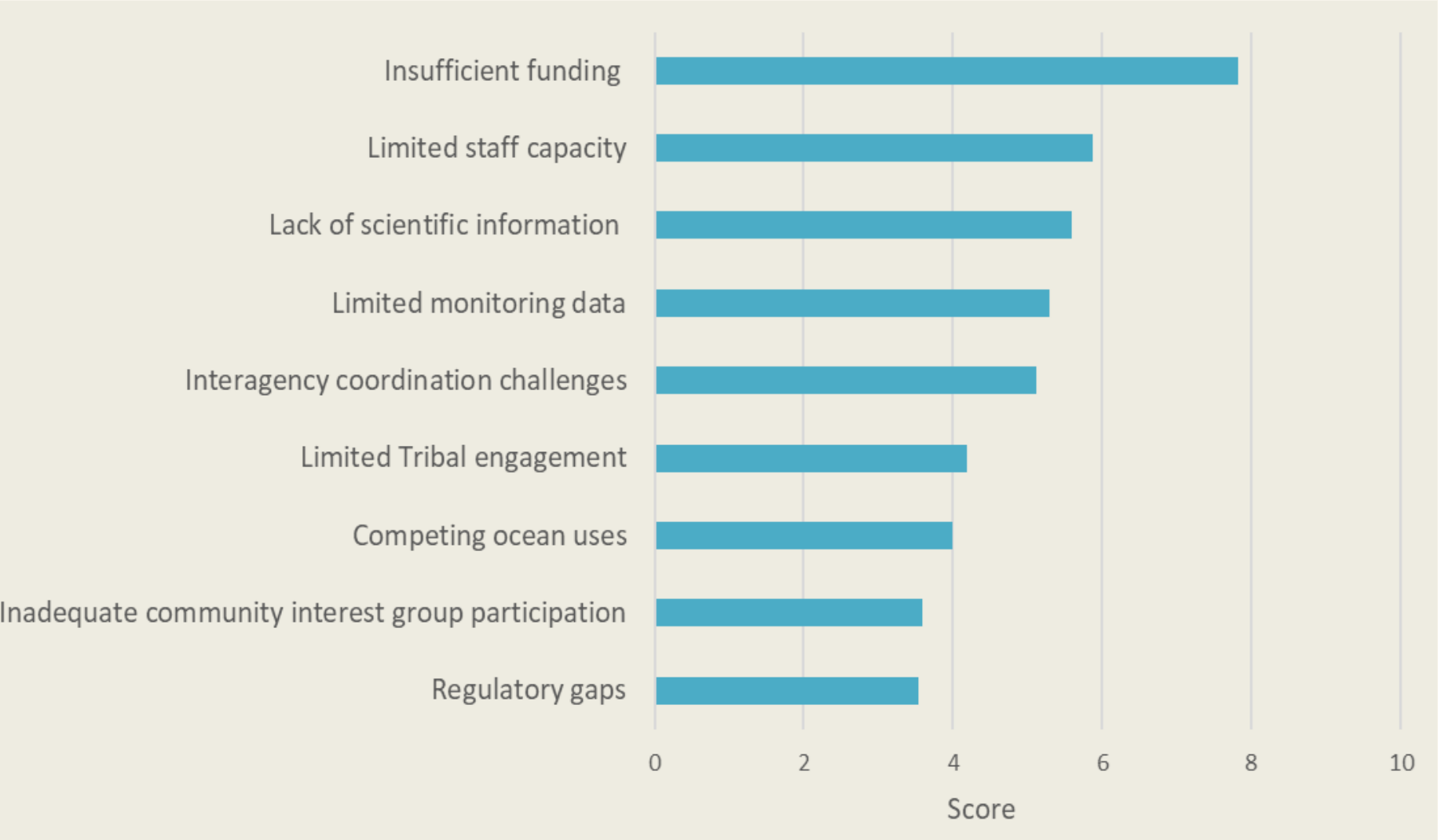
Other feedback:

"The role of the ocean in meeting EO 25 26 should be clearly defined... Look beyond simple mitigation to solutions and insights"

"Specific to science-based policy, include economist input and the consideration of social determinants of health"

- Top 3 responses consistent between community and OPAC
- Public outreach & education ranked considerably higher by Community

What barriers currently limit our effective Stewardship of Oregon’s Territorial Sea?



Other feedback:

“Lack of funding not only limits agency engagement but limits communication with public”
“engage governor’s office, modernize and expand stakeholders and OPAC representation”.

“Inclusion of economic impacts and subsequent impacts on the social determinants of health in coastal communities are oversights in my view”.

“Work to expand the territorial sea definition to include up to head of tide in estuaries. Treat the salt water realm as a whole not two separate parts”

Agency Directors & Their Teams

QUESTION # 1: How has your agency been successful in working with OPAC in the past, and where have we added value, where might we build on these successes and / or improve our working relationship?

ODA	○ Limited engagement. ○ No direct regulatory or policy role in the TSP. Primary connection via seafood safety
DSL	○ OPAC valuable as source of coordination and engagement, particularly around cable siting ○ OPAC play stronger role in connecting and breaking agency silos ○ How can OOST and OPAC best work together? – DSL administers OOST
ODFW	○ Recruiting fishers has been difficult because many current OPAC topics don't directly connect to immediate economic concerns ○ OPAC will attract broader participation if it works on concrete problems and projects rather than agency updates
OPRD	○ OPAC has been good connector for interagency collaboration ○ Make sure agency perspectives are valued and integrated into OPAC decisions
DEQ	○ Being at the table to engage on sustainable fisheries has been valuable ○ Can lean on OPAC for communications and conflict resolution
DLCD	○ Statewide coordination and consensus-building body for ocean policy

Agency Directors & Their Teams

What are top most pressing challenges facing Oregon's Territorial Sea that would require the greatest OPAC and agency attention over the next 5 years?

ODA	○ Climate change impacts to fisheries coastal economies & ocean health ○ Science & monitoring – marine biotoxins ○ Stronger coordination with federal partners – USDA programs & Business Oregon
DSL	○ Climate change and ecosystem resilience ○ Better ocean seafloor data - “Smart Cables” ○ Marine spatial planning ○ Regional, national, international cooperation
ODFW	○ Climate resiliency ○ Marine Spatial Planning ○ Working Waterfronts ○ Federal funding and support
OPRD	○ Climate Change and changing coastal conditions ○ Limited funding ○ Gaps in scientific monitoring data
DEQ	○ Climate resilience ○ Renewable energy & siting
DLCD	○ Climate Change & changing ocean conditions ○ Federal law weakening and funding loss ○ Emerging technologies in ocean space

Agency Directors & Their Teams

QUESTION # 5: What information, monitoring, or research is most needed in the Territorial Sea?

ODA	○ Domoic acid research – significant uncertainty remains
DSL	○ Seafloor habitat mapping ○ Hypoxia & OA ○ Kelp distribution/ condition ○ Whale occurrence
ODFW	○ Increase federal funds: weather and oceanographic data ○ Eelgrass mapping ○ Rocky Intertidal/subtidal
OPRD	○ More up-to-date info on visitor use/opinions ○ Shoreline erosion and sand distribution to inform littoral cell planning ○ Intertidal kelp and seaweed
DEQ	○ Support ongoing ocean monitoring systems - buoy monitoring system almost lost ○ Marine biotoxins
DLCD	○ Ocean observing system has limited permanent infrastructure & needs to be grown ○ Ocean health - connectivity, habitat, species across range and depths zones



CHANGE WAVE

Possibilities to Consider

- **Re-start the process of meeting “in person”** by securing funds to do so.
 - New cadence: Quarterly meetings - 2 virtual & 2 in-person with one being a coastal summit.
- **Extend OPAC’s purview to include all saltwater habitats** IE estuaries and river systems up to the salt influence line. This was a recommendation made by several of the agencies we met with.



CHANGE WAVE

Possibilities to Consider

- **Adapt Council Constituencies:** Consider re-examining OPAC member composition to represent priorities of 5 yr plan & TSP updates.
- ***A thought:*** *The priorities of the work we are focused on, and the pace at which it moves, may be at the root of our difficulty in filling positions.*



CHANGE WAVE

Possibilities to Consider

- **Increase the pace of the council** to match the urgency and speed of the Territorial Sea's needs and the humans that depend upon them. (*While maintaining necessary rigor and quality of work*)
- **Learn from, and coordinate with** our neighboring west coast states on our respective Territorial Sea needs and activities.



CHANGE WAVE

Possibilities to Consider

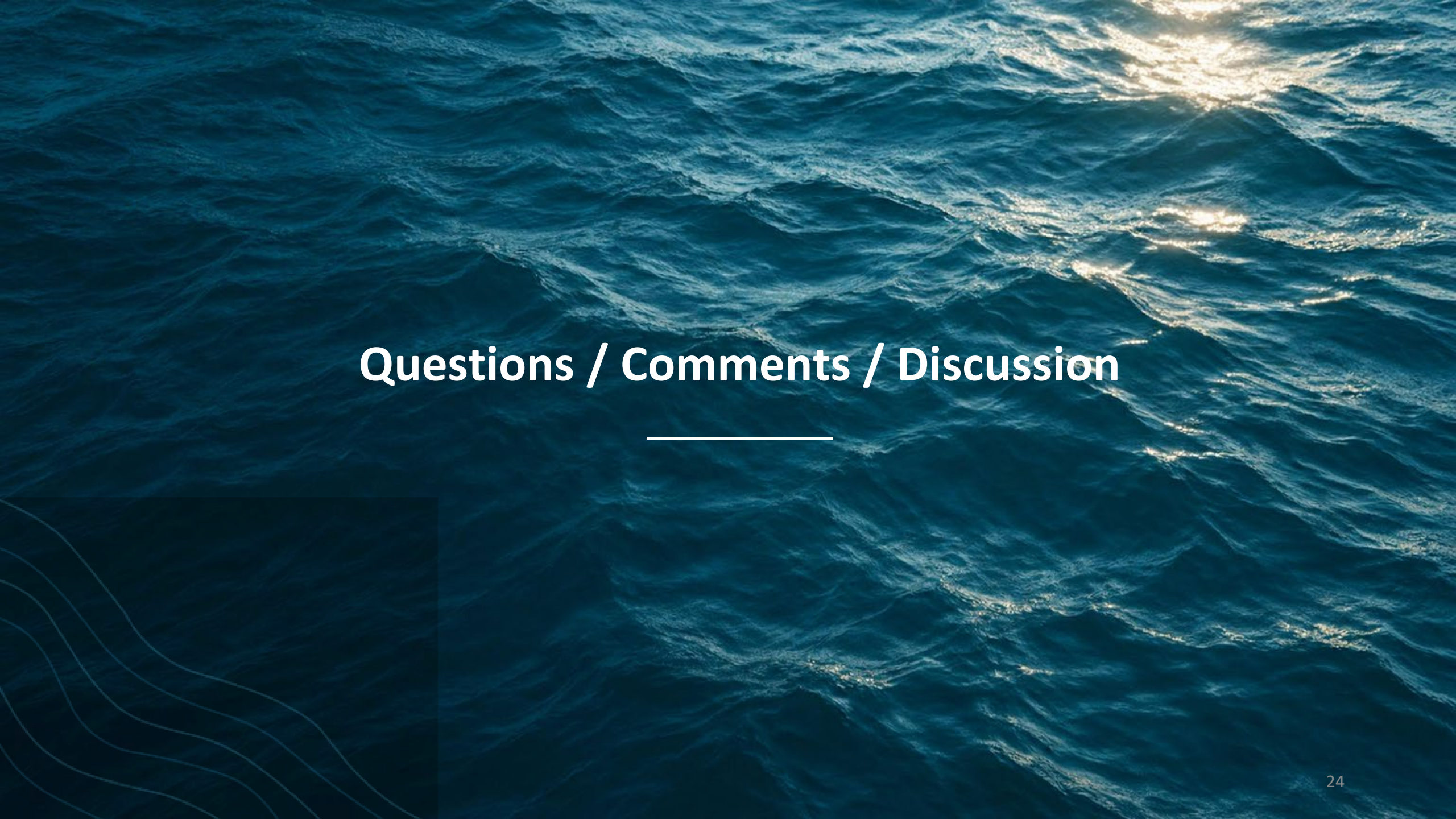
- **Explore parallel synergies** with OOST, Oregon Ocean Alliance and other Oregon partners, where we would collaborate on initiatives that could be brought to the legislature and to funders.
- **Host one annual summit meeting per year**, with the DLCD director, the governors senior natural resource advisor and create a brief recap for the governor.

Way Forward

Process: Executive Committee will get to work on the 5-year plan and tap community and OPAC members for input. Draft plan will be available for review in spring 2027 and adopted by August 2027.

Work product: Produce 5-year Action Plan:

1. Provide recommendations to feed into current multiple year timeline to update Chapters 1-5 of TSP.
2. Consider NEW components added to the TSP.
3. Re-examine OPAC organizational scope and provide recommendations for policy actions.



Questions / Comments / Discussion
