

A photograph of ocean waves crashing on a sandy beach. The water is a mix of green and white, with white foam from the waves. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

OCEAN POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Science & Technical Advisory Committee Report

Karina Nielsen, OPAC STAC Chair

Oregon Sea Grant Director

May 7, 2025

**New STAC member appointments for
Council review and approval**





Jenna Tilt, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU

Social scientist: coastal community resilience to chronic and acute hazards

Relevant projects:

- Envisioning Oregon's Coastal Futures
- Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazard Research Hub
- Co-Creating a Community Participatory Resilience Model for Oregon Coastal Hazards



Kelsey Emard, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU

Geographer: human dimensions of environmental change in Oregon

Relevant projects:

- Geospatial analysis of environmental, policy factors affecting aquaculture
- Climate adaptation resources for seaweed and shellfish growers
- Connections between wildfire smoke, estuaries, coastal ocean chemistry, fisheries, and human health
- Co-management of marine protected areas in California (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary), Columbia, and Costa Rica

STAC Update on OSW Energy Charge



OPAC Charge to STAC from June 2024

- Direct the STAC to synthesize existing relevant research, identify knowledge gaps, and prioritize research needs in a synthesis to inform adaptive management needs for research and monitoring (specific to the BOEM offshore wind authorization process).
- STAC is also directed to explore the development of an independent technical committee to provide perspective on Oregon or regional research needs and recommendations.
- Provide a report to OPAC in 1 year (June 2025).

Progress Update

- Framework for prioritizing research - working draft
- Knowledge gaps - working draft
- Synthesis of current research - in development

Questions for OPAC

- Given all the changes in the past year is the charge to STAC still of value to OPAC, as written?
 - Longer, detailed 25-page synthesis report with references may be dated by the time OSW comes back to OR
 - Is a shorter initial report on the “framework” and “list of knowledge gaps” more useful now?
- How should STAC’s charge intersect with the OSW Roadmap
 - Research Agenda & Coordination Work Group (and others)
- Consider extending timeline to align with the new Roadmap timeline
 - Important if OPAC desires/requests coordination

Proposal for an updated STAC Charge

In support of OPAC, the Oregon's Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap process, and in the context of a proposed regional OSW research entity to inform adaptive management needs for research and monitoring:

- Develop an offshore wind energy “research prioritization framework” to prioritize key knowledge gaps for further research or monitoring
- Summarize regionally relevant research to identify current knowledge gaps
- ***Deliver/present an initial short report to OPAC (summer)***

Proposal for an updated STAC Charge (con't)

In support of OPAC, Oregon's Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap process, and in the context of a proposed regional OSW research entity to inform adaptive management needs for research and monitoring:

- Crosswalk STAC identified knowledge gaps with those identified by the OSW Roadmap work group(s), revise STAC summary
- Apply “research prioritization framework” to knowledge gaps summary to identify priority research and monitoring needs for Oregon
- ***Deliver a final report to OPAC (fall/winter)***