

Draft FY 2013 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Implementation Priorities

This draft planning document is provided to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Council to facilitate discussion and inform advice and guidance on elements of the OCNMS Management Plan to be prioritized in fiscal year (FY) 2013 and ways OCNMS can coordinate their efforts with partners. The final decision on FY 2013 activities will be based on advice and guidance from the AC and IPC, as well as an evaluation of available staff, and OCNMS’ final 2013 budget allocation.

NOTE: These items do not encompass all planned OCNMS activities for 2013, but are meant to highlight certain priority initiatives.

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A. Achieve Effective Collaborative and Coordinated Management Priority Issue

A1. Collaborative and Coordinated Sanctuary Management Action Plan

Strategy CCM2: Coastal Treaty Tribes

Consult with the Coastal Treaty Tribes (Makah, Quileute and Hoh Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation) in accordance with Executive Order 13175, and partner with tribal staff members to address sanctuary projects and management issues that are of interest to the tribes.

Continue to work with Coastal Treaty Tribes and continue to improve the frequency and substance of communications.

Strategy CCM3: Intergovernmental Policy Council

Continue OCNMS's partnership with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC).

The sanctuary's support for the IPC will continue to represent a significant commitment of staff resources. Renew the Memorandum of Agreement for another five years. Provide input to meeting agendas, provide requested information and briefings on important management issues. Facilitate the annual meeting of the ONMS director with the IPC, as well as an annual meeting between the AC and IPC.

A2. Community Involvement in Sanctuary Management Action Plan

Strategy COM1: Advisory Council

Involve local communities in sanctuary management issues through the Advisory Council (AC) process.

Advisory Council support will represent a major commitment of staff resources in 2013. Provide staff support to implement the AC 2013 work plan.

A3. Sanctuary Operations Action Plan

Strategy OPS2: Facilities

Develop new, and maintain current, infrastructure for sanctuary offices, programs, research vessels, equipment, and field operations.

Continue to work with the City of Port Angeles and the Feiro Marine Life Center on the development of a Port Angeles Marine Campus. Continue to evaluate options for support facilities along the outer coast.

Strategy OPS6: Volunteer Program

Maintain and enhance OCNMS' volunteer programs in order to build connections with the community and achieve the goals and objectives of the management plan.

Actively recruit and train volunteers for Olympic Coast Discovery Center, COASST, marine debris monitoring and other volunteer programs.

Strategy OPS8: Voluntary Compliance

Promote knowledge and understanding of OCNMS's regulations, along with other regulations and voluntary programs that apply to sanctuary waters.

Update outreach materials to user communities including pilots and the marine industry. These documents will focus on voluntary compliance to the ATBA and OCNMS overflight regulations, both of which were updated in 2012.

Strategy OPS9: Enforcement

Improve compliance and enforcement of OCNMS's regulations, other regulations and voluntary programs that apply to sanctuary waters.

OCNMS will continue to work with law enforcement staff on the Technical Advisory Committee. Work with the U.S. Coast Guard to incorporate OCNMS materials into their Fishing Training Center materials. Develop training opportunities for local USCG and ONP law enforcement professionals to promote understanding of cultural and natural resources and the regulations that protect them.

Strategy OPS10: Management Plan Implementation Reporting

Establish reporting mechanisms/process for management plan implementation and emerging issues.

Continue annual reporting on the implementation of the management plan, including established performance measures.

B. Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments and Monitoring to Inform Ecosystem-Based Management Priority Issue

B1. Habitat Mapping and Classification Action Plan

Strategy MAP1: Regional Coordination

Develop and sustain partnerships to maximize and leverage seafloor and habitat mapping resources and to promote the use of established mapping standards.

Continue to pursue support for a Seafloor Mapping Cooperative that would provide capacity-building opportunities and subsequent funding to tribes for collaborative mapping strategies on the Washington outer coast.

Strategy MAP2: Seafloor Habitat Mapping

Continue efforts to map seafloor habitats.

OCNMS has not been allocated NOAA ship time in FY 2013, but we plan to continue mapping efforts from the R/V *Tatoosh*. Priority survey areas include coastal waters to 20 meters depth from La Push to Copalis, areas with no multibeam data in the northern sanctuary, and areas around shipwrecks. We will continue to groundtruth multibeam sonar data using video and sediment grab samples.

Strategy MAP3: Habitat Classification

Integrate observations from sonar data and ground-truthing to classify habitats and generate derivative maps and GIS products.

Habitat maps using the Greene et. al seafloor classification system and final reports will be generated for geographic areas mapped between 2008-2012. These areas include 156 nm² in an area off Cape Alava; 128 nm² on the northwestern side of the Juan de Fuca Canyon; and 16 nm² near the deepest extent of the Juan de Fuca Canyon.

Strategy MAP4: Mapping Products

Report and share seafloor characterization data in formats useful for resources managers and the public.

Seafloor mapping GIS data, reports, maps and other habitat characterization data will be shared via the OCNMS website and other means, in formats useful to resource managers and the public.

B2. Physical and Chemical Oceanography Action Plan

Strategy OCEO1: Coastal Mooring Program

Continue the OCNMS water quality monitoring program to monitor key physical and chemical oceanographic parameters in coastal waters. As feasible, expand this monitoring to include additional instrumentation (including acoustic monitoring), parameters, locations, year-round data collection, and real-time data transmission.

The sanctuary plans to continue the existing mooring program; however, adjustments to the current network may be necessary if the program is not fully funded. We also will evaluate recommendations from the AC Oceanographic Mooring Working Group and the IPC Science Panel on long-term monitoring plans with the mooring network, especially in regards to climate change issues. We expect to continue making improvements to data processing so that products are delivered in a timelier manner. Data will be posted on both the sanctuary and NANOOS web sites. We also will continue our participation as members of the NANOOS governing council.

B3. Populations, Communities and Ecosystems Action Plan

Strategy ECO 2: Intertidal

Conduct and collaborate in research on the distribution and abundance of intertidal organisms.

OCNMS will continue to monitor rocky intertidal sites in cooperation with the Makah and Quinault tribes following Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) protocols.

Strategy ECO4: Benthic

Investigate the abundance and distribution of benthic organisms, both epifauna and infauna, from subtidal to deeper shelf habitats.

OCNMS is unlikely to receive outside funding support or NOAA ship time for benthic surveys in FY 2013; however, data processing from previous surveys will continue, which will also support the ongoing EFH process. Collaboration will continue with a Nancy Foster scholar at Washington State University assessing rockfish-habitat relationships. We are also pursuing private foundation funding to cross-train tribal staff on post-processing video data collected from previous ROV surveys. Historic PC-1 cable route benthic habitat monitoring survey results and analyses will be evaluated with a goal of producing a final report in FY 2013.

Strategy ECO6: Marine Birds

Improve characterization of spatial and temporal distribution, abundance, forage behavior and areas used by marine birds.

We hope to work with partners to improve the characterization of spatial and temporal distribution of marine birds, both with continued use of the R/V *Tatoosh* for spring-fall seabird surveys and through developing protocols and funding proposals to support year-round aerial surveys with partners. We are also planning to test drone flights (UAS) as a monitoring tool for seabird colony surveys and other nearshore monitoring projects.

Strategy ECO7: Marine Mammals

Improve characterization of spatial and temporal distribution, abundance, forage behavior and areas for marine mammals.

OCNMS will continue to participate in the annual sea otter surveys with USFWS and WDFW, assist with year-round responses to marine mammal strandings with the Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding Network, report whale sightings during seasonal R/V *Tatoosh* investigations, and work with the Makah Tribe and other federal agencies to map the geographic distribution and analyze the population of North Pacific gray whales.

B4. Data Management, Sharing and Reporting Action Plan**Strategy DAT1: Data Quality Control and Management**

Develop and promote data management procedures.

We will continue to advance data management and sharing in FY 2013. Our efforts will be based on the AC's Data Management Working Group recommendations. OCNMS is requesting final recommendations be forwarded early in 2013.

Strategy DAT2: Data Distribution

Provide easy and timely access to data collected or managed by OCNMS.

Data from OCNMS archives will continue to be processed and reported using the data management procedures established in 2011. Results will be published on OCNMS web pages and other appropriate public access sites as they are available.

C. Improve Ocean Literacy Priority Issue

C1. K-12 Education Action Plan

Strategy ED1: K-12 Partnerships

Work in partnership with regional education organizations in order to leverage resources for K-12 Ocean Literacy programs.

FY 2011 was the last year of a 5-year NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant awarded to the Seattle Aquarium. During that time, we partnered with Seattle Aquarium to deliver services to the K-12 community. Since then, OCNMS and Seattle Aquarium continue to have a strong partnership, but rely on local and regional support to fund K-12 Ocean Literacy program activities. (NPC and GH MRCs, Feiro Marine Life Center, B-WET)

OCNMS will promote education opportunities that bring NOAA science and education resources to educators and students in the region, such as partnering with the NOAA Fisheries Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon education program.

Strategy ED2: Place-Based Education

Work collaboratively with rural schools and tribal communities within the region adjacent to the Sanctuary to develop place-based education opportunities for K-12 students.

Provide support to Clallam Bay, Neah Bay, Forks, Quileute and Queets/Clearwater schools, for field trips to the beach, FMLC and the OCDC. Also, provide beach field trips for Lake Quinault, Taholah, Pacific Beach, Ocean Shores, Westport (Ocosta) and Montesano (Simpson) schools. Planned activities include intertidal and marine debris monitoring.

Support Feiro NOW Science Program student field trips and Junior Oceanographer; Support Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon Education Program activities, in partnership with NOAA Fisheries.

C2. Higher Education Action Plan

Strategy HED1: Internship Development

Coordinate internship activities between local colleges, universities, community colleges and OCNMS to create learning opportunities within the areas of sanctuary operations, research, education and management.

Pursue internship opportunities with the NOAA Hollings Scholar and NOAA Nancy Foster Programs.

Strategy HED2: Volunteer Positions

Develop the necessary agreements and advertising instruments to recruit and utilize AmeriCorps and/or Student Conservation Association volunteer positions at OCNMS.

Contract with AmeriCorps for an education specialist (available Sept 2013-July 2014).

Strategy HED 3: College Partnerships

Provide continuing education opportunities for teachers to receive academic credit and gain experience in order to enhance their understanding of marine science content areas and methods for hands-on science education.

Work with Seattle Aquarium and Seattle Pacific University to facilitate teachers earning clock hours and graduate credits at the Ocean Acidification Workshop for middle and high school teachers, and the Ocean Science Workshop for 4th and 5th grade teachers.

C3. Visitor Services Action Plan

Strategy VISIT1: Visitor Experience

Actively collaborate with other agencies, tribal governments, tourism organizations and the private sector to provide services and products that contribute to high-quality educational experiences for visitors to the Olympic Peninsula.

Develop education and outreach materials, in a variety of media, to attract visitors, orient them to the region's amenities, educate them on resources in the sanctuary and inspire a sense of stewardship for the environment. OCNMS will offer technical assistance and training to partners and businesses that serve and educate visitors. Dependent on available resources OCNMS will continue to provide funding, training, and support to cooperative interpretive programs with OCNMS partners.

Strategy VISIT2: Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Develop and implement a Long Range Interpretive Plan for OCNMS.

The sanctuary plans to complete a long-range interpretive plan in coordination with the OCNMS long-range facilities plan.

Strategy VISIT3: Using Technology

Utilize current and emerging technologies in order to educate and inform physical and virtual visitors to the Olympic Coast.

Maintain OCNMS website, Facebook, Google Ocean, You Tube, etc.

C4. Community Outreach Action Plan

Strategy OUT1: Stewardship and Citizen Science

Actively support marine stewardship and citizen science volunteer programs.

The sanctuary will continue its support of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), CoastSavers Program, and additional volunteers conducting shoreline debris monitoring.

Strategy OUT3: Community Events

Maintain an OCNMS staff presence at community events and meetings in the Sanctuary region.

If funding and staffing levels are adequate, the sanctuary plans to support the Beachcombers Fun Fair, Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, Makah Days, Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival, and the Ocean and River Resources Fair.

OCNMS will continue to furnish speakers for public lecture series, community meetings and other forums in order to provide up-to-date information on sanctuary research, education, policies and management activities.

Strategy OUT4: Community-Based Efforts

Actively support the efforts of the North Pacific and Grays Harbor marine resources committees, regional watershed councils, salmon recovery teams, the Puget Sound Partnership, other community-based NGOs, and local and state governments in areas of marine research, education, and policy coordination.

OCNMS staff will continue to participate in outer coast marine resource committee meetings and events, and will continue to pursue opportunities for community-based education, stewardship and research programs in collaboration with NGOs and regional organizations.

D. Conserve Natural Resources in the Sanctuary Priority Issue

D1. Spills Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration Action Plan

Strategy SPILL1: ATBA Compliance and Monitoring

Sustain or improve the maritime industry's compliance with the Area to be Avoided (ATBA)

Due to changes in Canadian Coast Guard vessel data management the sanctuary can no longer estimate ATBA compliance levels. Getting back to the 100% monitoring level is a goal for 2013, and alternative sources of information will be evaluated. In 2012 the IMO approved changes to the ATBA requested by the U.S. Government. OCNMS will work with the U.S. Coast Guard and the marine industry to educate mariners of these changes.

Strategy SPILL3: Regional Planning and Training Exercises

Promote improved spill preparedness and response through OCNMS participation in training exercises and regional oil spill planning activities.

OCNMS will engage work with the Regional Response Team work to update the NW Area Contingency Plan and will participate in work groups formed to address issues important to protection of sanctuary resources.

Strategy SPILL5: OCNMS Organizational Response Plan

Develop policies, tools and procedures for OCNMS staff and resource mobilization, OCNMS integration into an Incident Command Structure, and effective consultation on emergency response actions.

Continue to make progress on a comprehensive digital Emergency Response Plan that includes maps, contact information, and guidelines for major and minor emergencies within OCNMS.

D2. Climate Change Action Plan

Strategy CLIM1: Climate Smart Sanctuaries Program

Participate in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Climate-Smart Sanctuaries program in order to become certified as a climate-smart sanctuary.

OCNMS has begun working towards being certified as a climate-smart sanctuary. In FY 2013 activities will include the completion of the Climate Change Site Scenario report.

Strategy CLIM2: Sanctuary as Sentinel Site

Work to establish OCNMS as a sentinel site for long-term climate change research and monitoring in the Pacific Northwest.

OCNMS will request advice from the Advisory Council, after the Climate Change Site Scenario report is completed by Washington Sea Grant, on the identification of marine chemical, physical, and biological indicators of climate change that OCNMS and partners should consider monitoring. Similarly we will review recommendations from the AC mooring working group on additional parameters to monitor for climate change with our nearshore oceanographic moorings.

Strategy CLIM4: Communicating Climate Change

Communicate information about climate change and its potential effects on the Sanctuary and Washington's Outer Coast to OCNMS partners and the public.

The sanctuary will incorporate into FY2013 educational programs results from the OCNMS Climate Change Site Scenario and Ocean in a High CO2 World Symposium/Workshop.

D3. Marine Debris Action Plan

Strategy MD2: Mitigating Impacts

Mitigate impacts of marine debris on coastal beaches

Participate with regional initiatives to remove, monitor and respond to routine shoreline debris and Japanese tsunami marine debris. OCNMS will continue to participate with the Washington Clean Coast Alliance (WCCA) on beach cleanups. OCNMS will work with regional partners on response to Japan tsunami marine debris, as needed. OCNMS will continue to coordinate and expand routine shoreline debris monitoring in Washington and integrate data into a national database.

Monitor and provide support to the Mosquito Creek Dock marine debris incident.

D4. Wildlife Disturbance Action Plan

Strategy WD2: Overflight Restriction Zone

Support and improve recognition of and compliance with the existing OCNMS wildlife disturbance mitigation (overflight restriction) zone.

In 2012, due to changes in regulations, OCNMS overflight restrictions were posted on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aeronautical charts. OCNMS will develop and distribute outreach materials to the local flying community to educate pilots on the rationale for the restriction and to improve voluntary compliance.

D4. Water Quality Action Plan

Strategy WQP1: Vessel Discharges

Reduce, through regulatory changes, voluntary and outreach measures, or marina facilities improvements, the degradation of water quality caused by vessel wastewater and sewage discharges.

Research the current sewage pump out infrastructure available to small vessel operators and options for improvements.

D6. Habitat Protection Action Plan

Strategy HP2 –Habitats of Special Importance

Develop criteria to identify habitats of special importance. Collaborate with co-managers to identify and implement management measures necessary for protection of habitats of special importance.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Committee submitted its Phase I Report in 2012 that highlighted new information available since the 2006 EFH designations. NMFS will be synthesizing and analyzing this new information, evaluating current conditions and boundaries of EFH and habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) throughout the west coast, including OCNMS, with an expected completion date of April 2013. OCNMS participates in the work of this committee and will continue to provide sanctuary data to support the EFH review process.

D7. Regional Ocean Planning Action Plan

Strategy ROP1: Regional Ocean Planning

Investigate how recent initiatives in marine spatial planning can improve sanctuary management by participating in regional ocean planning processes.

Work with Washington State on establishing seafloor mapping priorities in support of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning efforts. Help to coordinate and participate in the planned habitat mapping prioritization workshop sponsored by Washington State and facilitated by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS).

Brief Washington State staff involved in Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) on OCNMS's mapping program and debrief on the 2012 Seafloor Mapping Consortium proposal. This consortium, if funded, would support regional efforts in marine spatial planning through coordinated habitat mapping efforts on the outer coast. Consider changes to any future proposals that better meet the state's needs.

E. Understand the Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance

E2. Socioeconomic Values of Resources in the Sanctuary Action Plan

Strategy SV1: Existing Socioeconomic information

Foster analysis and dissemination of existing socioeconomic data about Olympic Coast marine resources and human use patterns, including consumptive, non-consumptive and passive human use patterns.

Create Study Area Profiles using existing Census demographic data and income and employment data from DOC/Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Strategy SV2: New Socioeconomic information

Develop partnerships in order to collect, assemble, and analyze new information about human uses/activities occurring in the sanctuary and their socioeconomic values.

Participate in, and provide information in support of, the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas Project. Assist NOAA's Ocean Uses team (NOAA Coastal Services Center & MPA Center) and BOEM in identifying subject matter experts and sources of relevant information.

E. Understand the Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance Priority Issue

E1. Maritime Heritage Action Plan

Strategy MH1: Cultural Resource Conservation

Work collaboratively to locate, inventory, assess, interpret and protect cultural resources in the Sanctuary, and develop further the cultural resource components of OCNMS's permitting and compliance program.

In consultation with the Coastal Treaty Tribes, the state of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympic National Park and others, OCNMS will work to develop a programmatic agreement describing the way in which routine OCNMS activities will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Strategy MH2: Local and Customary Knowledge

Work with tribal and non-tribal partners to explore ways to gather, share and apply (when appropriate) traditional ecological knowledge, local and customary knowledge, and information obtained from cultural resource analyses.

OCNMS will work with the Makah Tribe and other federal agencies to provide support for a database of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP).

E2. Socioeconomic Values of Resources in the Sanctuary Action Plan

Strategy SV1: Existing Socioeconomic Information

Foster analysis and dissemination of existing socioeconomic data about Olympic Coast marine resources and human use patterns, including consumptive, non-consumptive and passive human use patterns.

OCNMS with support from ONMS will complete a study area profile from existing sources, primarily from the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Standard profiles are being developed for each sanctuary study area. Brief the AC on the proposed process for completing the initial profile and seek advice on potential sources of information, as well as how to involve AC member's organizations and governments in the process. The resulting study area products will be posted to the OCNMS website.