Marine Spatial Planning for Washington's Pacific Coast
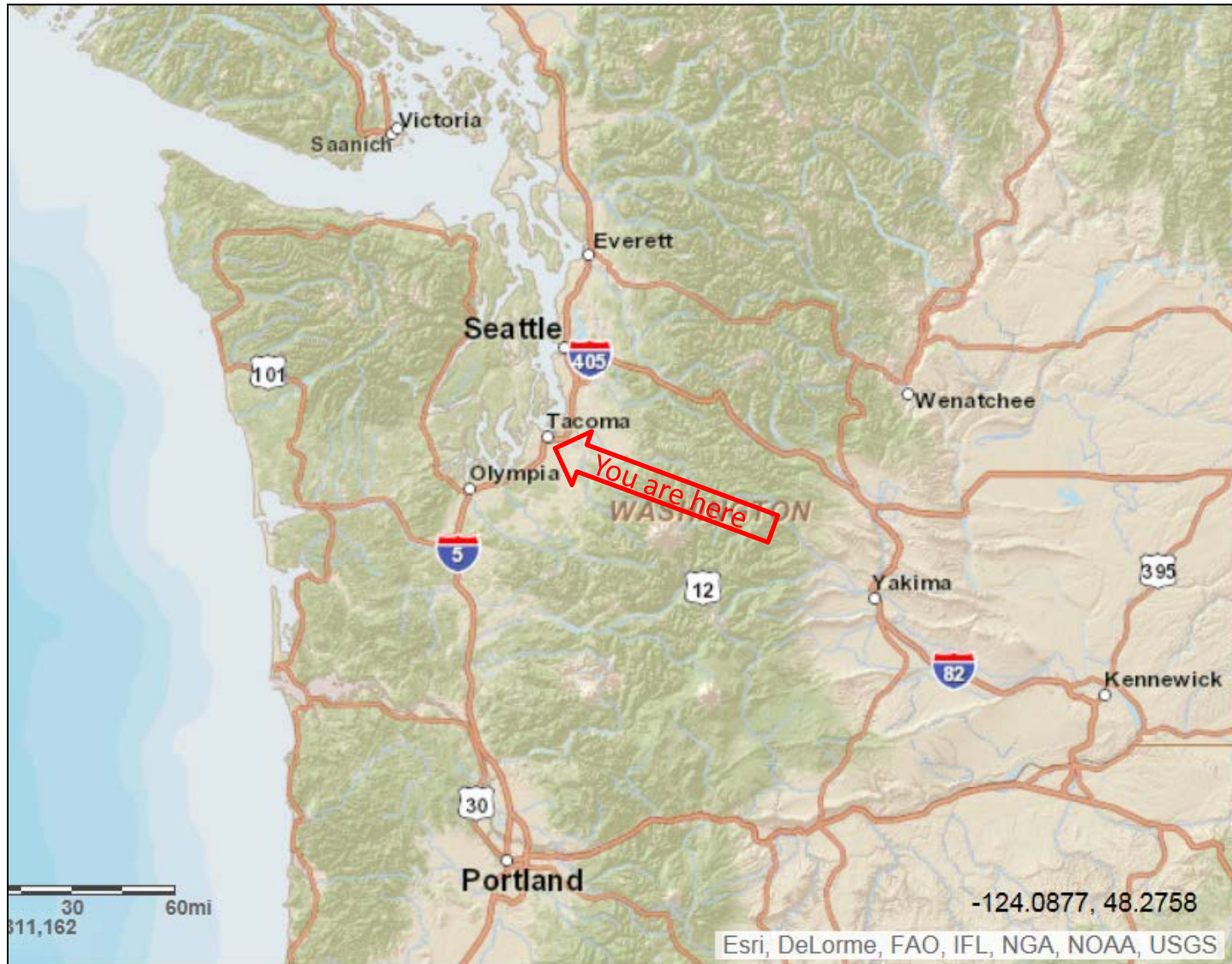
A Brief Orientation to Washington
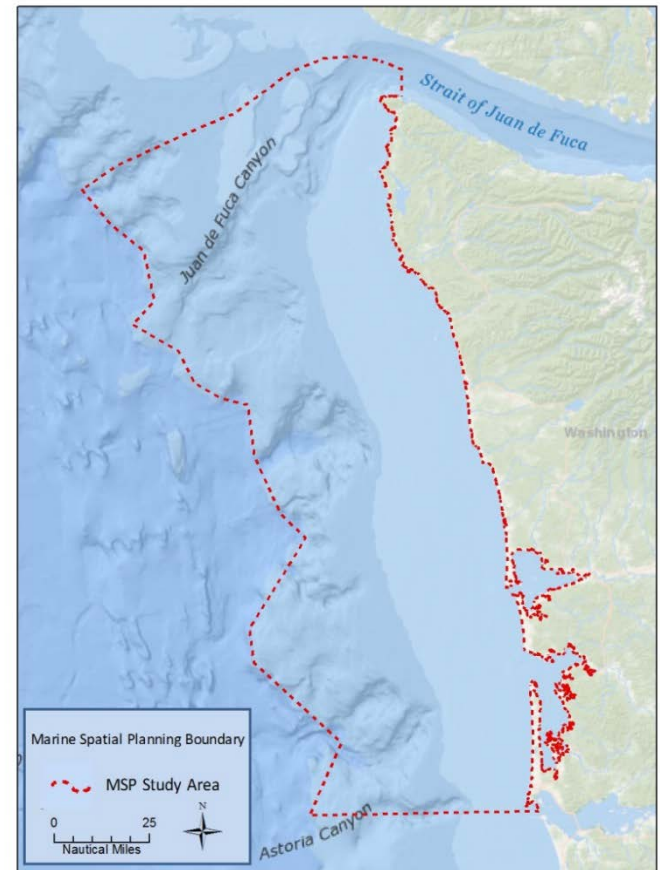
Marine Spatial Planning for Washington's Pacific Coast

Address location of potential new uses.

Plan goals/objectives:

- Protect existing uses
- Protect cultural uses/resources
- Preserve environment
- Integrate decision-making
- Provide new economic opportunities

Non-Regulatory Plan

Study area is 700 fathoms offshore: includes state and federal waters and estuaries.

Challenges & Opportunities

- Data gaps
- Predictability vs. Adaptability
- Many authorities = very complex landscape
- Tribal involvement & capacity
- Stakeholder expectations & fears
- High interest & engagement
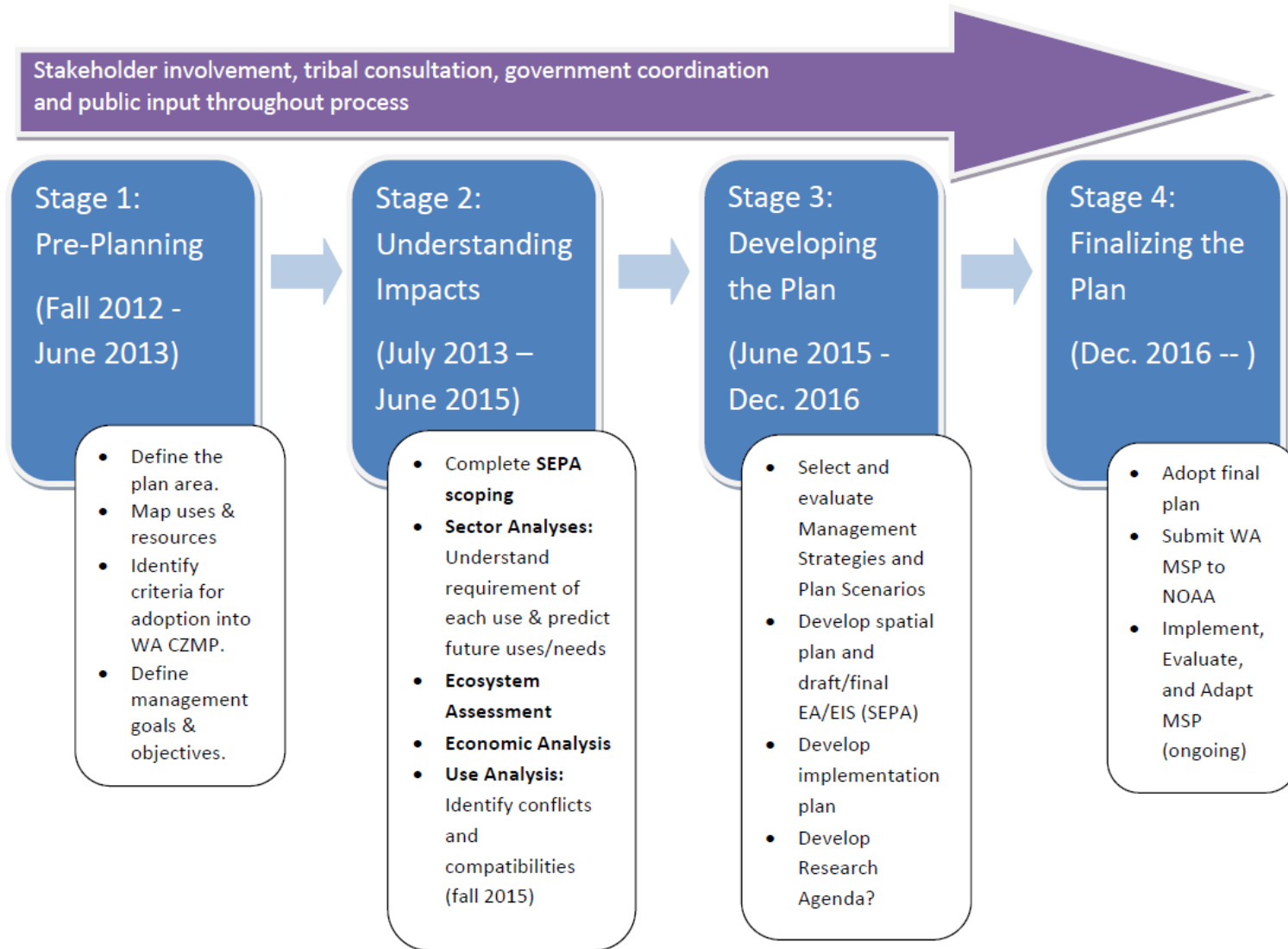- Variable & changing ocean conditions

How will the plan help the ocean?

- Better baseline information

- Ecosystem indicators to assess changes

- Analyses to support decision-making

- Recommendations for new uses

- Implementation framework across agencies
  - Integrate existing policies and management
  - Ongoing adaptive management

Where are we now?

Improved Ecological Information

- Marine mammal & forage fish spawning surveys (WDFW)

- Geospatial database for fish & wildlife data (WDFW)

- Ecological indicators and status and trends (NWFSC)
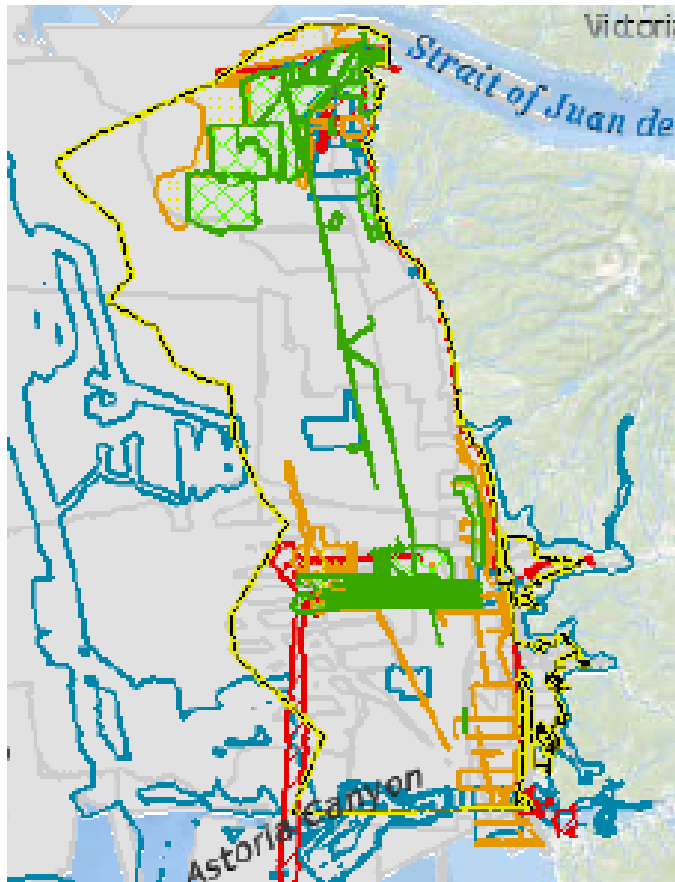
Improved Ecological Information

- Seafloor Atlas (OCNMS – OSU)

- Ecological modeling for seabirds and marine mammals (NCCOS)

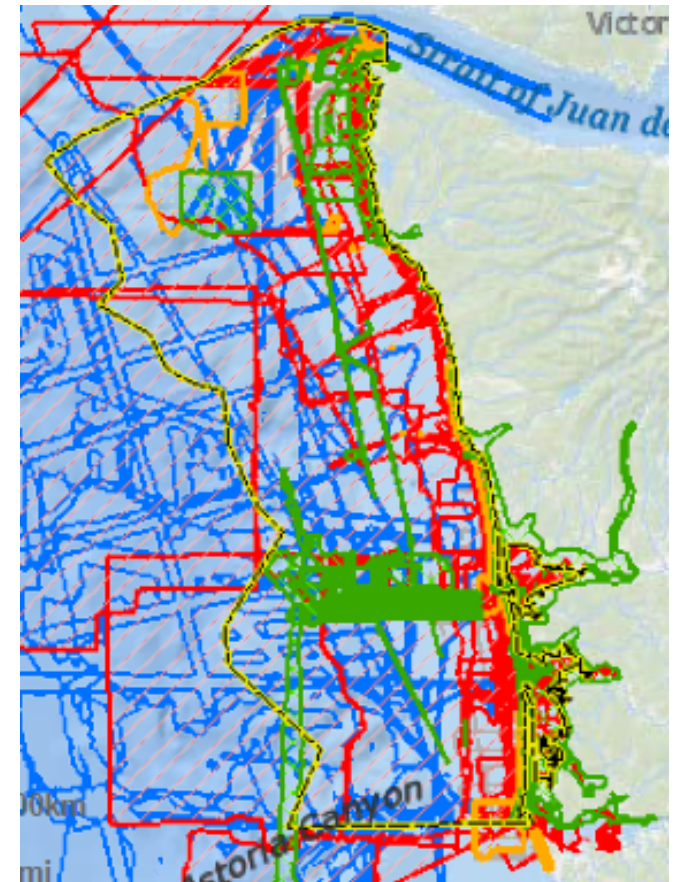- Oceanographic conditions (UW)

Seafloor Mapping Inventory & Prioritization
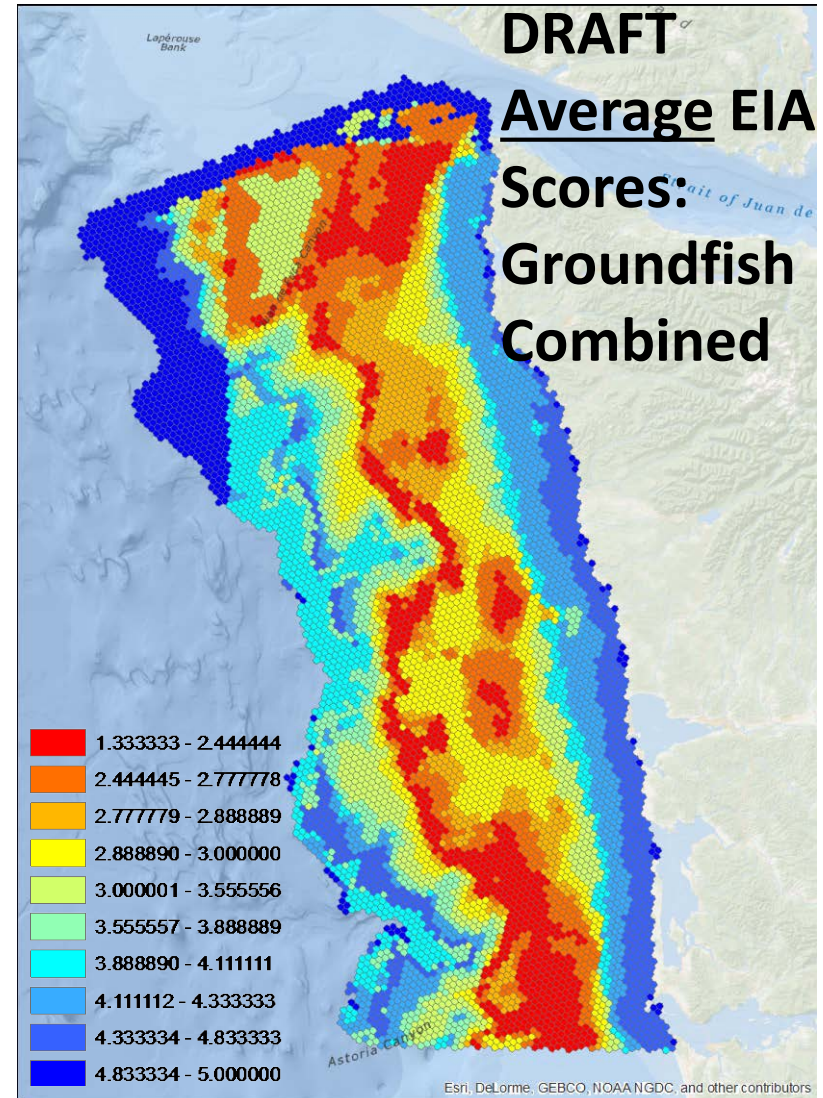

Intensity Quality

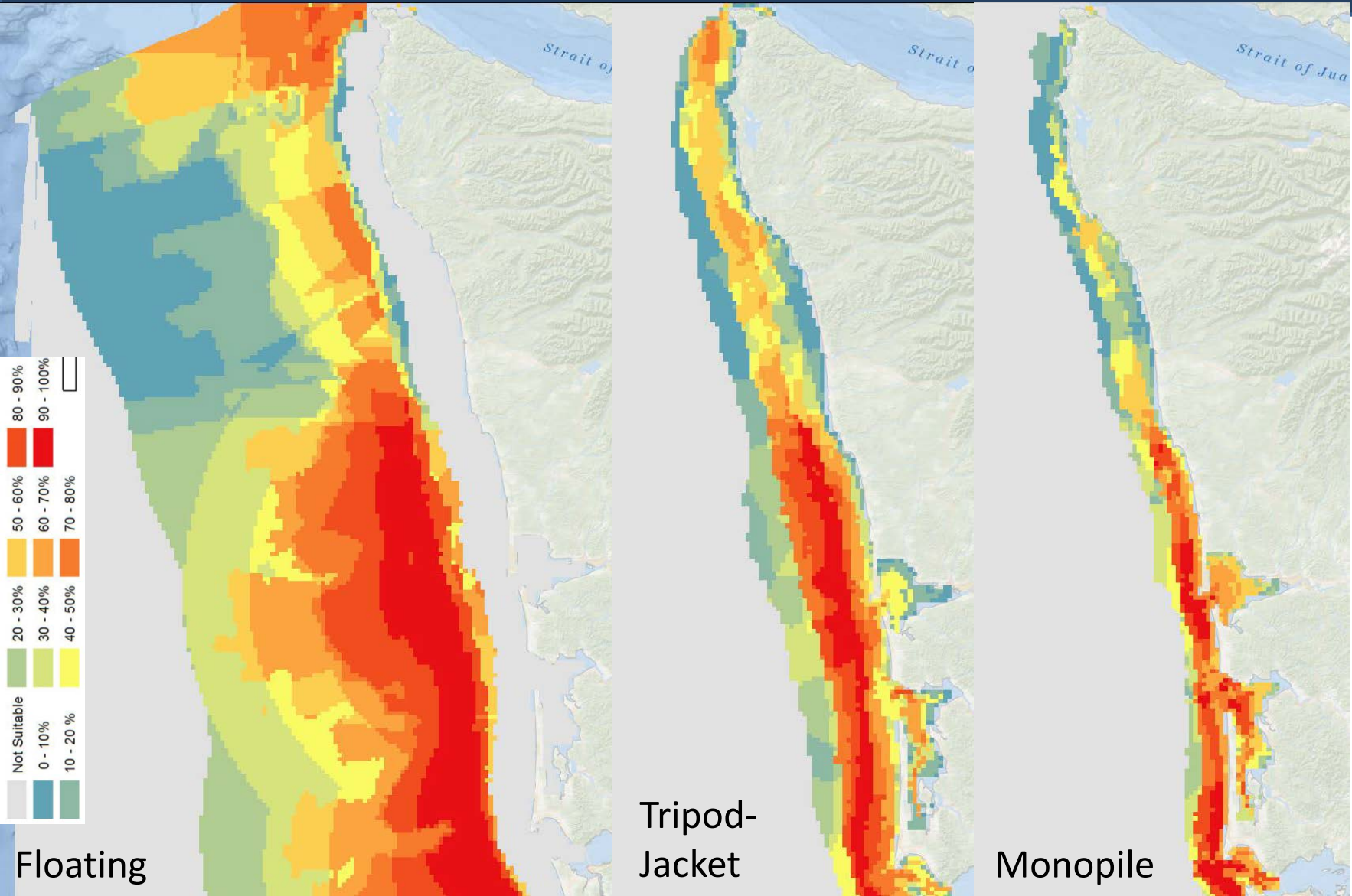Data Quality:

- High
- Medium
- Low
- None
- Unknown

Elevation Quality

Ecologically Important Areas

•Areas where wildlife or fish are known to inhabit or are consistently abundant as confirmed by surveys or fishing data; and

•For species for which abundance and occupancy is unknown, include areas of suitable habitat that those species of wildlife or fish are likely to inhabit.

DRAFT Average EIA Scores: Groundfish Combined

Color	Range
Red	1.333333 - 2.444444
Orange-red	2.444445 - 2.777778
Orange	2.777779 - 2.888889
Yellow	2.888890 - 3.000000
Yellow-green	3.000001 - 3.555556
Light green	3.555557 - 3.888889
Cyan	3.888890 - 4.111111
Light blue	4.111112 - 4.333333
Blue	4.333334 - 4.833333
Dark blue	4.833334 - 5.000000

Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

Offshore Wind Energy

Floating

Tripod-
Jacket

Monopile

Suitability (PNNL report)

Successes

- New & improved data

- Strong interagency team approach

- Leveraging wide array of expertise

- Stakeholder & scientific input

- Governmental coordination

Lessons-learned

- More data (prioritize) & data analysis

- Partnerships are key

- Funding and staff capacity = essential

- Processes for input (multiple & varied)

- Governmental coordination & communication – all authorities

Questions?

www.msp.wa.gov

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