



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Navigating the Future

Management Plan Review



COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

Recommended for inclusion in the revised management plan by the OCNMS Advisory Council on November 20, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

Collaboration and coordination are essential to achieving effective sanctuary management. Since designation in 1994, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) has fostered relationships with various government agencies, Coastal Treaty Tribes (Makah, Quileute and Hoh tribes and Quinault Indian Nation), academic and educational institutions, local communities and groups involved in research, educational programming and resource protection efforts. These efforts have varied along a continuum from the simple sharing of information, to coordinating independent actions aimed at achieving a common goal, to developing close and durable partnerships. These efforts have enabled OCNMS and its partners to accomplish far more than would have been possible in their absence.

At the May 15, 2009 OCNMS Advisory Council (AC) meeting, the AC recommended establishing a collaborative and coordinated management working group to identify strategies for the management plan that would strengthen dialogue with agency/government stakeholders, as well as local and community stakeholders. The AC ultimately did not form a working group for this topic, but instead the entire AC addressed the topic during the November AC meeting.

During summer 2009, OCNMS staff drafted collaborative and coordinated management strategies and activities in consultation with a number of key partners. AC members reviewed and commented on these first draft strategies and activities in September/October 2009. Comments were received from four members of the Advisory Council, and these comments were incorporated into a second draft of the document, which was presented to the AC at its November 2009 meeting. At this meeting, the AC forwarded the strategies and activities (with minor changes) on to the Sanctuary Superintendent with a recommendation that they be incorporated into the revised management plan.

II. RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

EXTERNAL EVALUATION ON MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

STRATEGY CCM1: Evaluate the effectiveness of OCNMS's institutional relationships in facilitating the collaborative and coordinated management of resources within OCNMS.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *Improve OCNMS's ability to coordinate and collaborate on management activities.*
- *Improve OCNMS's relationships with its partners and build trust, particularly with the Coastal Treaty Tribes.*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Conduct an external evaluation by an independent organization in order to obtain fresh insights, and to assess and support programmatic improvements in the collaborative and coordinated management of resources in the Sanctuary.

ACTIVITY B: Until funding for an independent evaluation can be acquired, work internally to review successful relationships/collaborations in existing OCNMS programs and transfer the lessons learned to other programs.

ACTIVITY C: Report to the IPC and AC on these lessons learned.

PARTNERS: an independent reviewer such as the National Academy of Public Administration or the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs, and organizations listed in Collaborative and Coordinated Management Strategies

RESOURCES: Funds to conduct external evaluation, staff time

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH IPC AND AC

STRATEGY CCM2: Enhance OCNMS's partnership with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC).

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *An effective and efficient forum for timely communication and exchange of information and policy recommendations regarding the management of the marine resources and activities within the boundaries of OCNMS.*

- *Improved management of marine resources within the boundaries of the Sanctuary through integrated management activities and collaborative relationships.*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Support annual IPC meetings with the ONMS Director and OCNMS staff to review the progress made in the implementation of the ONMS-IPC MOA.

ACTIVITY B: Regularly attend and support the IPC's quarterly meetings.

ACTIVITY C: Brief the IPC annually on the previous year's progress in implementing the OCNMS management plan.

ACTIVITY D: Brief the IPC annually on proposed annual operating plan activities for the coming year.

ACTIVITY E: Prior to its expiration in 2012, work with the IPC members to review the ONMS-IPC MOA with the intent to renew it for another five-year term.

PARTNERS: Hoh, Makah and Quileute tribes, Quinault Indian Nation, Washington state

RESOURCES: ONMS support for the operation of the IPC and the participation, including travel and associated technical support, of each of the Coastal Treaty Tribes to the extent funds and other resources are available; staff time and Memorandum of Agreement between the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Hoh Tribe, the Makah Tribe, the Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation, and the state of Washington (ONMS-IPC MOA); dated 30 January 2007.

Note: *It is entirely possible and would be appropriate for OCNMS to develop coordination strategies with the individual members of the IPC. At least one state of Washington representative on the AC has asked that a strategy be included related to the state of Washington (now included). We will wait to hear from the individual Coastal Treaty Tribes as to whether they would also like to develop strategies related to their individual relationships with OCNMS.*

STRATEGY CCM3: Involve local communities in sanctuary management issues through the Advisory Council (AC) process.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

A constructive and inclusive forum within which OCNMS, its partners and the community are able to tackle the difficult and controversial ocean management issues facing us today and in the future.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Work to ensure that all AC seats (both voting and non-voting) are filled and improve AC member attendance, with the goal of having at least 18 of the 22 seats represented at each meeting.

ACTIVITY B: Encourage stronger connections between AC members and local communities by working with AC members to increase outreach efforts

- Encourage every AC member to post a link to their organization's activities calendar on the OCNMS events calendar.
- Encourage every AC member to forward the AC meeting announcement to their organization's distribution list.
- Encourage AC members to include in their organization's outreach publications articles explaining the value of their involvement in the AC.
- Work with AC members and the ONMS to host and attend social events in local communities on the Outer Coast (e.g., an annual open house).

ACTIVITY C: Actively involve the AC in implementation of the management plan by:

- Identifying strategies in the management plan that particular AC members, due to their skills and interests, could help OCNMS implement. Put these AC members in contact with the staff in charge of these strategies.
- Solicit the AC's assistance in implementing management plan strategies through the establishment of standing subcommittees or working groups, as appropriate under the AC charter.
- Periodically report to the AC on management plan implementation, including status of performance measures and progress on reaching milestones.
- Encourage the AC to evaluate and provide advice at least annually on the success of management plan implementation efforts.

PARTNERS: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and its members

RESOURCES: Advisory Council Coordinator and other OCNMS staff support; Advisory Council Charter, dated 8 March 2006; travel support; funds to support an annual public event

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL/PROPRIETARY ENTITIES

STRATEGY CCM4: Continue work with the state of Washington Governor's Office, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Natural Resources to support implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan (OAP), the West Coast Governor's Agreement, and other applicable state initiatives.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *Demonstrate OCNMS's support of state and region-wide ocean management and conservation efforts*
- *Improved partnerships with state of Washington agencies and the Governor's Office*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Encourage active participation by state of Washington agencies on the OCNMS Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: To the extent practicable, provide staff support and other resources to support Washington Ocean Caucus efforts on the Olympic Peninsula

ACTIVITY C: Meet at least once a year with the Washington state Ocean Caucus and the Washington state representatives on OCNMS's Advisory Council to discuss implementation of the OAP and sanctuary management plan. Identify ideas for how OCNMS research and conservation efforts can complement OAP implementation efforts.

PARTNERS: WA Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, state of Washington Governor's Office, Washington Ocean Caucus

RESOURCES: Staff time

STRATEGY CCM5: Enhance OCNMS's partnerships with Olympic National Park (ONP) and Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex (USFWS).

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

Improved communications and enhanced collaborations between ONP, USFWS and OCNMS to further the understanding, protection and management of the marine resources within OCNMS.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A Encourage active ONP and USFWS participation on the OCNMS Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: Meet with ONP and Washington Maritime NWR leadership on a regular basis (schedule TBD)

ACTIVITY C: Develop, plan, and implement joint research, education, visitor services, resource protection and enforcement programs

PARTNERS: Olympic National Park, Washington Maritime NWR Complex

RESOURCES: Staff time; General Agreement among the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the Estuarine Reserves Division, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior; dated 21 August 2006; General Agreement between the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior; dated 22 June 2009

STRATEGY CCM6: Coordinate with the US Coast Guard (USCG) on the protection and management of the Nation's coastal waters and marine resources within OCNMS.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

Improved protection and management of the marine resources within the sanctuary, by coordinating OCNMS and USCG activities.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY (documented in existing MOA):

ACTIVITY A Actively encourage USCG participation on the Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: Meet annually with the USCG to discuss collaborative efforts undertaken as part of this strategy, jointly prepare an Annual Report on the previous year's activities, and prepare a work plan for the coming year.

ACTIVITY C: Jointly develop, with the USCG, a plan for orientating key USCG personnel on joint USCG and OCNMS issues.

ACTIVITY D: Review and update Memorandum of Agreement MOA-2002-117, prior to its expiration date of September 30, 2012.

PARTNERS: United States Coast Guard

RESOURCES: Memorandum of Agreement MOA-2002-117, as amended through August 2007; OCNMS staff time, with identified leads for marine safety, enforcement, living marine resources, operations and permitting; USCG aerial and surface assets.

STRATEGY CCM7: Develop and improve collaboration and coordination with the U.S. Navy.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

Improved communications and increased collaborations between the U.S. Navy and OCNMS to further the understanding, protection and management of the marine resources within OCNMS.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A Encourage active Navy participation on the OCNMS Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: Coordinate with other NOAA agencies in providing NOAA comments on Navy environmental compliance documents.

ACTIVITY C: Work with the Navy to identify ways to share, combine and maximize resources to conduct mutually beneficial research activities (e.g., habitat mapping).

ACTIVITY D: Collaborate with the Navy to establish a mechanism through which the Navy and NOAA can work together on an ongoing basis to ensure that Navy activities within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary continue to be conducted in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts to resources in the Sanctuary.

PARTNERS: United States Navy

RESOURCES: Staff time

STRATEGY CCM8: Enhance OCNMS's partnership with NOAA Fisheries.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

Improved communications and increased collaborations between NOAA Fisheries and OCNMS to further the understanding, protection and management of the marine resources within OCNMS.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A Encourage active NOAA Fisheries participation on the OCNMS Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: Meet with NOAA Fisheries Northwest Region and Northwest Science Center leadership on a regular basis (schedule TBD)

ACTIVITY C: Work with NOAA Fisheries to ensure that the Pacific Fishery Management Council is informed about relevant projects, events and issues in the Sanctuary.

ACTIVITY D: Work and coordinate with NOAA Fisheries on issues related to Essential Fish Habitat areas and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern within OCNMS boundaries.

ACTIVITY E: Develop, plan, and implement joint research, education, resource protection and enforcement programs

PARTNERS: NOAA Fisheries-Northwest Region, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Pacific Fishery Management Council

RESOURCES: Staff time

STRATEGY CCM9: Participate fully as a member of the National Marine Sanctuary System (NMSS).

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

As a member of a system of national marine sanctuaries OCNMS staff contributes not only to Olympic Coast specific programs, but to national and regional initiatives as well. The desired outcome of these activities are twofold, (1) help improve the NMSS by sharing OCNMS experiences and (2) for OCNMS to benefit from lessons learned from others in the NMSS.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Participate in annual national and regional leadership and programmatic meetings.

ACTIVITY B: Respond to agency requests for data and information.

ACTIVITY C: Locally implement national and regional initiatives.

ACTIVITY D: Provide subject matter expertise to regional, national and international initiatives as appropriate.

ACTIVITY E: Request and apply national and regional subject matter expertise to OCNMS level issues.

PARTNERS: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the ONMS West Coast Regional Office (WCRO)

RESOURCES: Staff time and travel funds

STRATEGY CCM10: Continue and increase, to the extent practicable, collaborative marine stewardship efforts with Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *Increased community involvement in ocean conservation efforts*
- *Support newly-formed Outer Coast Marine Resources Committees*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Encourage active participation of County Commissioners on OCNMS Advisory Council.

ACTIVITY B: Continue participation in the Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee and the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee (which may include participating on the boards of these organizations).

PARTNERS: North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee, Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee, Clallam County, Jefferson County, Grays Harbor County.

RESOURCES: Staff time

COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION WITH NON-PROPRIETARY AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

STRATEGY CCM11: Continue and increase, to the extent practicable, collaborative efforts with grassroots organizations on the Olympic Peninsula.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *Increased community involvement in ocean conservation efforts*
- *Improved partnership between OCNMS and grassroots groups working on the Outer Coast*
- *Improved ocean literacy*
- *Enhanced protection of marine resources*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Continue participation in/sponsorship of the Washington Clean Coast Alliance.

ACTIVITY B: Maintain and develop partnerships with environmental NGOs such as Surfrider, the Nature Conservancy, Oceana, the Marine Biology Conservation Institute, Ecotrust and others in order to build support for marine conservation efforts in the Sanctuary and the California Current ecosystem.

ACTIVITY C: Increase face-to-face interactions and develop partnerships with organizations representing commercial and recreational fishing industries and the shipping industry.

PARTNERS: MCBI, Surfrider, the Nature Conservancy, Oceana, Ecotrust, Olympic Coast Alliance, other non-governmental organizations, Westport Charterboat Association, Marine Exchange of Puget Sound, and other marine shipping and coastal fishing organizations

RESOURCES: Staff time

STRATEGY CCM12: Continue partnership with and participation in the Juan de Fuca Eddy (Big Eddy) International Marine Ecosystem Initiative, and support international ecosystem-based management efforts for the Big Eddy.

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THIS STRATEGY?

- *Improved management of the Big Eddy ecosystem (includes Sanctuary)*
- *Improved protection for resources in the Sanctuary*
- *Improved capacity to respond to large-scale changes to the Big Eddy ecosystem (such as those caused by climate change)*

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Continue to work with US and Canadian agencies, tribes and First Nations, and conservation organizations to identify opportunities for advancing ecosystem-wide protection, research, education and outreach programs initiatives within the Big Eddy International Marine Ecosystem.

ACTIVITY B: Work with Parks Canada and British Columbia Parks to evaluate options for improving transboundary coordination and cooperation on shared objectives with adjoining Canadian marine protected areas (Pacific Rim National Park Preserve and Race Rocks Ecological Reserve/Marine Protected Area), including potential designation as a sister sanctuary through the National Marine Sanctuaries Program international program.

PARTNERS: Big Eddy International Marine Ecosystem Initiative and member organizations, Parks Canada, British Columbia Parks, and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

RESOURCES: Staff time; travel support