

SOCIOECONOMIC VALUES OF RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

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

I. INTRODUCTION

Socioeconomic evaluation of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) emerged as a priority management issue during the public scoping phase for the OCNMS's management plan review. For example, public comments encouraged OCNMS to 1) take the socioeconomic values of resources in the Sanctuary into account when making management decisions; 2) view human beings and human uses as integral parts of sanctuary ecosystems; and 3) pursue ecosystem-based management, which incorporates both social and natural science into decision-making processes. These comments triggered several key management questions for OCNMS staff, including:

- What information about the socioeconomic values of resources in the Sanctuary currently exists and where are the data gaps?
- What should be the focus of socioeconomic research in the sanctuary region over the next five to 10 years?
- What is OCNMS's role in understanding and promoting the socioeconomic status of the sanctuary region?

To begin addressing these questions in the context of OCNMS's management plan review process, the OCNMS Advisory Council (AC) convened a small group of AC members, OCNMS staff and other sanctuary program staff. The group deliberated over several meetings and determined a one-day workshop with regional experts was necessary to develop initial ideas for potential OCNMS socioeconomic management plan strategies. The working group developed the following goals for the workshop:

- 1) Identify the current socioeconomic questions for the Sanctuary region;
- 2) Identify what is currently known and not known about socioeconomic information for the sanctuary region, and better understand the methodologies for collecting and analyzing this information; and
- 3) Propose initial ideas for realistic strategies to begin developing a socioeconomic baseline for the Sanctuary.

The workshop was held in Port Townsend, WA on October 22, 2009 and was chaired by Brady Scott (WA Dept. of Natural Resources and OCNMS Advisory Council). It included the following participants: Jennifer Hennessey (WA Dept. of Ecology), Charles Steinbeck (Ecotrust), Katherine Baril (Washington State University Jefferson Co. Extension), Gene Woodwick (Ocean Shores Interpretive Center and OCNMS Advisory Council), Doug Fricke (fisherman and OCNMS Advisory Council), Sue Wolf (Makah Tribe Planning Director), Matt Brookhart and Chris LaFranchi (ONMS West Coast Region), and Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Nancy Wright, Lauren Bennett, Andy Palmer, and Liam Antrim (OCNMS).

Workshop participants were working within a limited timeframe that did not allow for drafting specific strategy language. The strategies and activities below were developed by the workshop planning group based on workshop discussions and then reviewed by the OCNMS Advisory Council at its November 20, 2009 meeting. At this meeting, the AC agreed to forward 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

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THESE STRATEGIES?

With the most robust socioeconomic and environmental information possible, develop policies and management strategies that result in ecological, social, and economic resilience for the Olympic Peninsula.

STRATEGY SV1: Foster analysis and dissemination of existing socioeconomic data about Olympic Coast marine resources and human use patterns.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Identify key socioeconomic players in the sanctuary region and begin targeted outreach effort to communicate OCNMS goals, and its role as a facilitator, in regional socioeconomic characterization.

ACTIVITY B: Further develop the annotated bibliography of references relevant to socioeconomic valuation of marine resources on the Olympic Peninsula (that was produced as background for the socioeconomic workshop), and make this annotated bibliography widely available (post it on OCNMS website).

ACTIVITY C: Make OCNMS's existing socioeconomic data widely available in user-friendly formats (such as GIS layers).

STRATEGY SV2: Develop partnerships in order to collect, assemble, and analyze new information about human uses/activities occurring in the Sanctuary and their socioeconomic values.

ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE STRATEGY:

ACTIVITY A: Submit a formal request to the Coastal Treaty Tribes expressing OCNMS's interest in partnering to address the topic of socioeconomic valuation.

ACTIVITY B: Form a committee to prioritize socioeconomic data needs.

ACTIVITY C: Encourage committee to initiate a small, joint (partnership driven) human use mapping project in order to develop an initial (general) socioeconomic characterization of the sanctuary region. This should be done using as many known resources as possible to minimize cost, time, and to build on or create new partnerships in the region.

ACTIVITY D: If agreed to by the committee, develop a joint proposal for a more extensive socioeconomic study or expanded (more detailed) human use mapping project.

ACTIVITY E: Pursue funding for the joint proposal or identify existing resources that can conduct (or provide support for) this work.

PARTNERS: Makah, Quileute, Hoh Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation, state of Washington, Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council, Ecotrust and other NGOs, Outer Coast Marine Resource Committees, Olympic National Park, county Economic Development Councils, and the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission.

RESOURCES: management-level staff time to support steering committee; staff time to work on bibliography and assemble data for initial human use mapping project; staff time to make information available in a GIS; staff time to pursue funding opportunities; staff time to manage server and web portal access to data