

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Designated in 1994, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) is a place of regional, national and global significance. The sanctuary, which is connected to both the Big Eddy Ecosystem and the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem, is the site of one of North America's most productive marine regions and spectacular, undeveloped shorelines.

OCNMS' current management plan was written at the time of sanctuary designation in 1994. A sanctuary management plan is a site-specific planning and management tool that describes the goals, objectives and activities for a sanctuary, and guides future activities. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) is required by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) to review and revise, if necessary, sanctuary management plans at periodic intervals. The 1994 management plan was written to give broad, general direction for the formation of OCNMS' program areas. Many of the activities it describes are too general to provide useful guidance now that OCNMS is over a decade old. Sixteen years after sanctuary designation, OCNMS is in need of more refined and directed guidance.

Since fall 2008, ONMS has worked closely with the OCNMS Advisory Council (AC), the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and the public to review and revise the 1994 management plan. Commonly referred to as management plan review or MPR, for OCNMS this process was also labeled "*Navigating the Future*." OCNMS' MPR process has focused and will continue to focus on public and stakeholder involvement and to ensure all aspects of MPR are transparent. ONMS went through a detailed issue analysis process with the AC and the IPC, which included a series of AC working group meetings and workshops to explore priority issues in greater detail. These AC working groups and workshops involved over 100 subject area experts and interested members of the public. Through these meetings, specific strategies and activities for the revised management plan were developed. The AC then reviewed these suggested strategies and activities, recommended minor changes and voted to forward them to the OCNMS Superintendent with a recommendation they be included in the revised management plan.

This document includes both the final management plan (FMP) and an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes the impacts of the FMP. The EA fulfills compliance requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c).

Section 1 (Introduction) of the document introduces OCNMS, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). This section also presents the revised goals and objectives for OCNMS, which were developed as part of the MPR process and are considered an integral part of the FMP.

Section 2 (Treaty Trust Responsibility) focuses on explaining the nature and significance of OCNMS' treaty trust responsibility to the Hoh, Quileute and Makah Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation. A team of sanctuary, tribal and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission representatives wrote this section jointly. OCNMS' treaty trust responsibility is an integral part of its mission;

and fulfilling this responsibility is critical to the successful implementation of this management plan. This section provides critical supporting information for both the FMP and the EA.

Section 3 (Purpose and Need) summarizes the purpose of and need for reviewing and revising the OCNMS management plan. This section is required by NEPA implementing regulations. The purpose and need section also provides important context and support for the FMP.

Section 4 (MPR Process) summarizes the history of the MPR process to facilitate transparency by explaining systematically the process by which the FMP was developed. Included in this section is a discussion of topics raised during the public MPR scoping process but not developed as management plan alternatives.

Section 5 is the FMP, which consists of 20 action plans grouped under five priority needs. During the MPR process, six priority needs were identified. In recognition of its unique nature and importance the priority need to fulfill treaty trust responsibility was developed into section 2 of this document. The remaining five priority needs are addressed by the action plans. The action plans are comprised of a series of non-regulatory actions, regulatory strategies, and activities. The management plan includes a total of 84 strategies and 293 activities. Each action plan also includes a desired outcome, links to the revised OCNMS goals, and a list of key partners.

Included at the end of the FMP are a set of performance measures, cost estimates for each strategy, and an implementation table prioritizing strategies. It is estimated it would take an annual budget of \$4.2 to \$5.4 million to implement *all* of the strategies in the FMP effectively over the next five years (Table 4). OCNMS currently operates with an annual budget of around \$1.5 million, not including in-kind support from other NOAA offices or grants from NOAA or other agencies and organizations. The amount of in-kind support and grant funding OCNMS receives each year varies greatly. Thus, in order to implement the entire FMP, ONMS would need to significantly increase directed funding for OCNMS management (whether through project-specific allocation or base funding). Given the substantial federal budget constraints anticipated for the next few years, OCNMS staff worked with its AC and the IPC to develop the implementation table that appears at the end of the FMP. The implementation table explains what strategies will be the highest priorities for ONMS to implement under three potential budget scenarios: level-funding (i.e., no budget increase), a moderate budget increase and a significant budget increase. ONMS will use the implementation table to guide and inform its annual operating planning efforts.

The FMP, while it can be considered a stand-alone document, is also an important component of the EA. The role of the EA is to analyze the action of revising the OCNMS management plan. The FMP presented in section 5 is ONMS's preferred management plan revision. Later sections of the document related specifically to the EA analyze the environmental consequences of the FMP as well as other alternatives for revising the management plan.

OCNMS Final Management Plan - Action Plans	
A. Achieve Effective Collaborative and Coordinated Management	
	A1. Collaborative and Coordinated Sanctuary Management Action Plan
	A2. Community Involvement in Sanctuary Management Action Plan
	A3. Sanctuary Operations Action Plan
B. Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments and Monitoring to Inform Ecosystem-Based Management	
	B1. Habitat Mapping and Classification Action Plan
	B2. Physical and Chemical Oceanography Action Plan
	B3. Populations, Communities and Ecosystems Action Plan
	B4. Data Management, Sharing and Reporting Action Plan
C. Improve Ocean Literacy	
	C1. K-12 Education Action Plan
	C2. Higher Education Action Plan
	C3. Visitor Services Action Plan
	C4. Community Outreach Action Plan
D. Conserve Natural Resources in the Sanctuary	
	D1. Spills Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration Action Plan
	D2. Climate Change Action Plan
	D3. Marine Debris Action Plan
	D4. Wildlife Disturbance Action Plan
	D5. Water Quality Protection Action Plan
	D6. Habitat Protection Action Plan
	D7. Regional Ocean Planning Action Plan
E. Understand the Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance	
	E1. Maritime Heritage Action Plan
	E2. Socioeconomic Values of Resources in the Sanctuary Action Plan

Section 6 (Affected Environment) provides a detailed description of the environment (biological, physical and human) affected by the action of revising the OCNMS management plan. The action plans in the FMP are purposefully written in a concise manner and do not provide extensive background information. The background and supporting information for the action plans is in the affected environment discussion.

Section 7 (Description of Alternatives) summarizes three alternatives (A, B and C) considered for revising the management plan. One of these alternatives (alternative B, the preferred alternative) is the FMP presented in section 5. In accordance with NOAA NEPA guidelines, ONMS also considered two other alternatives: alternative A – a “no-action” alternative (in which the 1994 management plan would not be revised at all), and alternative C (in which the 1994 management plan would be revised but in way different from the preferred alternative).

Section 8 (Environmental Consequences of Alternatives) provides a detailed analysis of the potential effects of all three alternatives on the biological, physical, and human resources discussed in the affected environment (section 6). Section 8 fulfills ONMS’ responsibility under NEPA to analyze the potential beneficial and adverse effects of its actions on the environment. Additionally, Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to analyze the potential impacts of their actions on historic properties and resources (as defined under the NHPA). This analysis is also incorporated into section 8 of the document.

The findings of the Environmental Consequences section indicate revision of the OCNMS management plan under all three alternatives would have a less than significant effect on the biological, physical, and human environment, both as an individual action and cumulatively with other actions.

It should also be noted that NOAA is concurrently issuing a final rule in the *Federal Register* to make changes to OCNMS regulations under the preferred alternative. Descriptions of these regulatory changes appear in the FMP (section 5); and the environmental consequences of these regulatory changes are analyzed in section 8.

Sections 9 and 10 list the persons and agencies contacted during the management plan review process and the references cited in this document, respectively.

Finally, the appendices include supporting document such as the OCNMS Designation Document, the Proposed Rule announcing initiation of management plan and regulations review, relevant Executive and Secretarial orders, and the Response to Comments, including comments on all components of the management plan, environmental assessment, and regulations.