



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# *Navigating the Future*

*Management Plan Review*



## PUBLIC SCOPING AND ISSUES ANALYSIS

### PART 4: **PRIORITY ISSUE WORK PLAN**



**JULY 29, 2009**

## **BACKGROUND**

This work plan is the fourth in the series of documents produced as part of the Public Scoping and Issues Analysis (scoping) phase of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's (OCNMS) *Navigating the Future* - management plan review – process. Comments received during the public scoping period (September 15 – November 14, 2008) were summarized and analyzed, respectively, in the first two documents: a *Scoping Summary* and a *Topics Analysis Report*. The diverse comments and recommendations received during scoping were addressed in an issues prioritization workshop held by OCNMS Advisory Council (AC) in January 2009, results of which were summarized in the third document, *Issue Prioritization Workshop Report*. All these documents are available at [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/mpr\\_bgdocs.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/mpr_bgdocs.html)

The purpose of this document is to:

1. Present the priority issues that will be addressed in OCNMS' draft management plan, and
2. Outline a strategy for development of working groups and workshops to address priority issues in greater detail between July and December 2009.

OCNMS initiated *Navigating the Future* in September 2008 with a 60-day public comment period that included seven public meetings around the Olympic Peninsula and western Washington. Since the close of the public comment period in November 2008, OCNMS has been working with its AC and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) to review public comments and develop a final list of priority issues to address in its revised management plan.

Identifying and characterizing these priority issues has been a challenging process. A broad suite of ideas and issues were raised during the public comment period, not all of which can or should be addressed by OCNMS within the next five to 10 years. Yet the AC, IPC, and OCNMS staff did agree that many issues raised during through public comment were high priorities that should be addressed in the revised management plan. Some of this discussion is provided in the *Issue Prioritization Workshop Report*.

In some cases, OCNMS staff, the AC and IPC had differing opinions over whether certain topics should be high priorities for the sanctuary. Thus, from March to June 2009 the two councils and OCNMS staff worked to resolve these differences and achieved consensus on priority topics to be considered for the revised management plan.

This work plan is fairly general because OCNMS and the AC are currently in the process of further characterizing the topics and organizing groups to address them. Thus, the scope and schedule presented here are subject to change, based primarily on guidance provided by the IPC and/or AC.

## **PRIORITY ISSUES**

This outline of priority issues was developed at the May 15, 2009, meeting of the AC, with input from OCNMS staff and the IPC. Although this outline and recommendations are consistent with guidance provided by the IPC to date, this document does not attempt to document all recommendations of the IPC or processes for IPC involvement. OCNMS has been consulting with the IPC to determine the IPC's preferred method for involvement with working groups and workshops.

The issues are organized under a series of six headings. In addition to listing these issues/headings, this document provides 1) a description of how each issue will be further explored, 2) an identified OCNMS staff lead, and 3) a list of the original 37 public scoping issues encompassed under the heading<sup>1</sup>.

The intent is that priority issue will be explored in greater detail by a working group, workshop or by OCNMS staff. Working groups and workshops are chaired or led by OCNMS Advisory Council (AC) members. Outside subject area experts, AC members and IPC members will be the primary participants. In the outline below, each working group and workshop is denoted with a ☆.

### **A. FULFILL TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITY**

The unique relationship between the United States and Indian tribes is defined by treaties, statutes, executive orders, judicial decisions and agreements. This relationship has given rise to a federal "trust responsibility" toward Indian tribes and the application of standards of due care with respect to Indian lands and resources, and the exercise of tribal rights. As part of the federal government, OCNMS shares this treaty trust responsibility. It is important that the tribes and OCNMS work together to convey ways of implementing this responsibility through the revised management plan for the sanctuary.

#### **☆ Treaty Trust Responsibility – Governments work together internally**

- Staff Lead: Molly Holt (NOAA General Counsel-OS)
- The AC supports addressing this issue in a manner determined by the tribes, IPC and OCNMS. The AC is willing to participate in any groups formed to address this issue when/if invited.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Treaty Trust Responsibility

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<sup>1</sup> The AC, at its January 2009 Issue Prioritization workshop, modified some of the titles of the original 37 public scoping topics. In this document we use the modified titles, which are discussed in the AC's Issue Prioritization Workshop Report.

## **B. ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT**

Collaboration and coordination are essential to achieving effective sanctuary management. Since designation in 1994, OCNMS has fostered programmatic partnerships and coordinated with various government agencies, academic and educational institutions, local communities and groups involved in research, educational programming, and resource protection efforts. These collaborations have enabled OCNMS and its partners to accomplish far more than would have been possible in their absence. In addition, there are tribal, state, and federal government and management-level relationships that are especially important to OCNMS. Active consultation with these organizations will provide increased transparency and foster an inclusive structure for management of Olympic Coast marine resources that span tribal, local, state, federal and international jurisdictions.

Other aspects of OCNMS management that benefit from coordination and collaboration include OCNMS operations, such as regulations, permitting and enforcement, infrastructure, performance evaluation and emerging issues.

### **★ Collaborative and Coordinated Management – Working Group**

- Staff Lead: George Galasso
- AC recommended establishment of a working group to identify ways to strengthen dialogue with agency/government stakeholders as well as local and community stakeholders.
- AC recommended identifying strategies for developing community and local government partnerships, as well as methods to pursue those relationships.
- Some AC members suggested that this group should also explore how improved coordination between agencies, governments, and organizations could support ecosystem-based management efforts.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Collaborative and Coordinated Management, Military Activities

### **★ Sanctuary Operations – Staff Work with AC Review**

- AC agreed that ONMS and sanctuary staff should develop draft recommendations to be presented at the September 2009 AC meeting.
- AC recommended that sanctuary staff also work with the IPC on developing draft recommendations.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Administration – Regulations, Permitting and Enforcement, Administration – Infrastructure, Flexibility to Respond to Emerging Issues

★ **Revise Sanctuary Goals and Objectives - AC Working Group**

- Staff Lead: Lauren Bennett
- AC recommended that the working group review current Goals and Objectives and OCNMS's proposed changes as soon as possible.
- Preliminary recommendations from the working group on revised Goals and Objectives were provided at the July 24, 2009 AC meeting.
- AC also acknowledged that the IPC will need time to review, revise and comment on the Goals and Objectives prior to the AC acting on them.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Administration – Sanctuary Goals and Objectives

**C. CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT (EBM)**

In order to make effective management decisions, OCNMS and its partners need to maintain and further develop collaborations for scientific research and monitoring projects that address habitat characterization, living resources monitoring, oceanographic and water quality monitoring, and climate change. Furthermore, these research, assessment and monitoring efforts should inform larger-scale ecosystem-based management efforts.

★ **Collaborative Research, Assessment and Monitoring to Inform EBM – AC Working Group**

- Staff Lead: Ed Bowlby
- AC recommended that the working group address the larger issue of how to move toward EBM.
- Following this, the working group should determine how to address topics identified through the scoping process: habitat characterization, living resource monitoring, water quality and oceanographic processes monitoring, climate change, ecosystem impacts of fishing (assessing the impacts), fisheries stock assessments (research to support)
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Research for Collaborative Ecosystem-Based Management; Habitat Characterization; Water Quality Monitoring; Living Resource Monitoring; Climate Change; Fisheries Stock Assessment (research to support); Ecosystem Impacts of Fishing (assessing the impacts); Non-point Source Pollution; Invasive Species

#### **D. IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY**

Ocean literacy, broadly defined, is an enduring understanding of the ocean and people's influence on the ocean in a manner that encourages lifelong attitudes of stewardship of ocean resources and personal commitment. OCNMS would like to develop its education, community outreach and visitor services programs around the concept of ocean literacy. A workshop will be held to discuss the ways in which OCNMS should move forward with its community outreach, education and visitor services programs in the spirit of improving ocean literacy.

##### ★ **Ocean Literacy - Workshop**

- Staff Lead: Bob Steelquist
- This workshop will be held in fall 2009 and will be open to the public.
- Workshop organizers (staff and AC leads) should make recommendations on target audiences of programming (i.e., emphasis on community outreach, visitor services, school (K-12) programming), and encourage discussion of prioritization at the workshop.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Ocean Literacy, Community Outreach, Visitor Services

#### **E. CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY**

OCNMS's primary mandate is to conserve and protect resources in the sanctuary. To address this topic, two working groups will be formed: one to address living resource conservation and one to address spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration.

##### ★ **Living Resource Conservation - AC Working Group**

- Staff Lead: Liam Antrim
- Some AC members noted that assessments must be available to justify conservation actions (Note: assessment is conducted under research, assessment and monitoring).
- Some AC members noted that this group should evaluate the role of the sanctuary in context of existing authorities and activities.
- Some AC members noted monitoring for invasive species could be addressed by this working group. (Note: invasive species monitoring will be addressed by the research/assessment/monitoring working group, and response to invasive species should be considered by the living resource conservation working group.)
- The AC discussed the idea of sequencing this work group after the "compatibility analysis" work is completed by the socioeconomic resources working group, in which problems needing conservation actions may be identified.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Living Resource Conservation, Habitat Protection, Water Quality Protection, Marine Debris – Abandoned Submerged, Marine Debris - Shoreline

☆ **Spill Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration - AC Working Group**

- Staff Lead: Bob Pavia
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Oil Spill Planning, Prevention and Response, Maritime and Environmental Safety – Vessel Management

**F. UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY’S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Characterizing, protecting, and enhancing public awareness of the Sanctuary’s maritime heritage (including living cultures, cultural resources, and local and customary knowledge) is an important role of OCNMS. Additionally, facilitating compatible and sustainable human uses of resources in the Sanctuary is also an important role of OCNMS. In many cases, OCNMS does not have a strong understanding of the cultural, historical and socioeconomic significance of its resources. Two workshops will be held to address these issues: one focused on maritime heritage and one focused on improving our understanding of the socioeconomic values of resources in the sanctuary.

☆ **Maritime Heritage - Workshop**

- Staff Lead: Bob Steelquist
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Local and Customary Knowledge, Maritime Heritage – Living Cultures, Maritime Heritage – Cultural Resource Management

☆ **Socioeconomic Values of Resources in Sanctuary - Workshop**

- Staff Lead: Matt Brookhart
- The AC discussed the need to honor “traditional uses” (e.g., fishing) as an economic engine and visceral connection with the resources, which creates a bond and promotes advocacy from a wider constituency.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Public and Private Resource Use – Socioeconomic Values, Public and Private Resource Use – Commercial Development, Public and Private Resource Use – Compatibility Analysis, Public and Private Resource Use – Recreational Opportunities

**NEXT STEPS**

Over the next six months (July to December 2009), the AC and OCNMS leads will organize and convene the working groups and workshops described above. As part of their deliberations, these groups will assess ongoing OCNMS management efforts and identify new strategies to respond to priority issues. OCNMS staff will use advice and

recommendations from these groups to draft a series of action plans that will form the major elements of the draft management plan, which we anticipate publishing in late 2010.

Public awareness and involvement are important to the success and effectiveness of the OCNMS management plan review process. OCNMS is committed to making the revision of its management plan a transparent and inclusive process. Information about the workshops and working group meetings will be posted on our website ([http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/mpr\\_getinv.html#upcomingevents](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/mpr_getinv.html#upcomingevents)). All workshops will be open to the public, and public notices will be sent to our listserv and local media outlets. To the greatest extent possible, we will make working group meetings open to the public. In some cases, working groups may be meeting via conference calls or on short notice, so members of the public should contact the staff leads if they are interested in tracking the progress of a particular working group.

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