

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# *Navigating the Future*

*Management Plan Review*



WORKSHOP REPORT:  
SOCIOECONOMIC VALUES OF RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY  
*Submitted to the OCNMS Advisory Council on  
November 20, 2009*

## **INTRODUCTION**

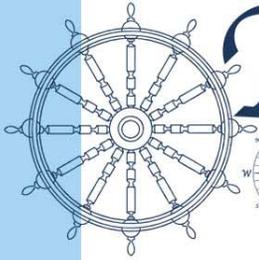
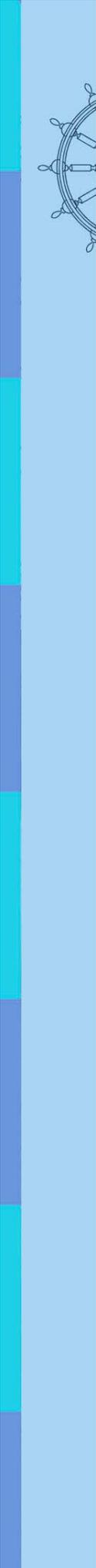
Socioeconomic evaluation of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) emerged as one of the priority management issues during the public scoping phase for the Sanctuary's management plan review. For example, public comments encouraged OCNMS to 1) take the socioeconomic values of resources in the Sanctuary into account when making management decisions; 2) view human beings and human uses as integral parts of 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?
- How should socioeconomic research conducted by the Sanctuary region be focused over the next five to 10 years?
- What is OCNMS's role in the socioeconomic status of the Sanctuary region?

To begin addressing these questions in the context of the Sanctuary management plan review, OCNMS convened a small working group of Advisory Council members and NOAA staff. The working 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 OCNMS 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),



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# *Navigating the Future*

*Management Plan Review*



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).

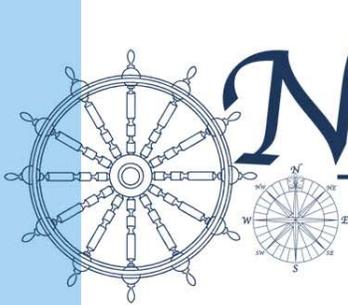
## **WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

The workshop was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, with the intent of meeting the stated goals in a limited timeframe. Per the first stated goal, the morning session of the workshop was focused on identifying key socioeconomic questions for OCNMS. These questions are summarized as:

- What types of human use are occurring in the Sanctuary?
  - Where are these activities occurring?
  - At what level are they occurring?
  - Who are the users (demographics)?
- How does use of these resources benefit local communities?
- What are the best indicators of socioeconomic health in local communities?
- What are the key elements of a socioeconomic baseline for the Olympic Coast?
  - Who is currently collecting this information?
  - What are the hurdles to getting further information?
  - What will this information be used for?
- What are the cultural and subsistence values of resources in the Sanctuary?
- What are the demographic changes occurring in local communities?
  - Over time, how have demographics changed with changes in use?
- How can the Sanctuary work with partners toward the goal of sustainable communities?
- How is ecological condition valued? Why do people choose to live here?

Per goals two and three, the afternoon session of the workshop focused on understanding OCNMS's role in answering the key questions identified in the morning, and developing a set of draft strategies to be included in the draft management plan. Participants commented on how important it is for OCNMS to:

- issue invitations to the Coastal Treaty Tribes to discuss the issue of socioeconomic valuation further, before making the decision to conduct specific activities;



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

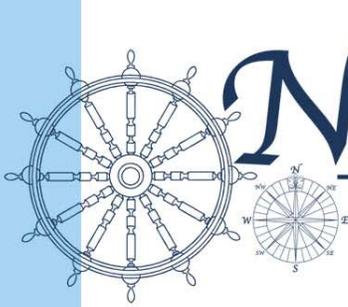
# *Navigating the Future*

*Management Plan Review*



- acknowledge that there are many resource management agencies and experts on the Olympic Peninsula, as well as co-management groups that are working towards sustainability in management programs;
- recognize that the Tribes are resource management experts with their own resource management, economic development and planning programs operating on the Peninsula;
- Coastal treaty tribes should not be treated as “data sources”, but as co-managers of resources whose goal is sustainability;
- support the socioeconomic data collection efforts of local communities;
- focus on socioeconomic issues of mutual concern with local communities and other management entities;
- conduct cost-benefit analyses for the collection of socioeconomic data sets (some may not be worth the cost);
- pursue strategies that complement and build upon efforts already identified in and underway as part of the Washington Ocean Action Plan and West Coast Governor’s Agreement;
- ensure that work on socioeconomic is not conducted in a manner that draws resources away from pressing non-human ecosystem management concerns;
- focus on building partnerships in order to collect human use data;
- focus on filling human use data gaps; focus first on understanding consumptive and non-consumptive values of resources (commercial and recreational fishing; tribal cultural and subsistence use; recreational use) before investing energy in understanding the values of passive uses of resources;
- ensure that socioeconomic information that does exist (such as shipping/vessel information collected as part of the Area to be Avoided program) be made available in a user-friendly formats (i.e., as a GIS layer);
- recognize that this topic is new territory and more planning may be needed before OCNMS can jump in to projects;
- conduct and promote the conducting of long-term monitoring of key socioeconomic indicators (i.e., do not invest time/money on snapshot studies that are quickly out-of-date);
- gain a better understanding of what human uses are occurring in the Sanctuary, when they are occurring and at what frequency/intensity.

It should be noted that some participants expressed concern about OCNMS being involved in understanding human uses of the Sanctuary without acknowledgment of ongoing work, authorities, and interests of other resource managers and economic development and planning entities. At least one participant stated that OCNMS should focus on developing



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# *Navigating the Future*

Management Plan Review



relationships and collaboration with co-managers of natural resources and characterization of bio-physical resources but not venture into the arena of characterizing human uses of resources to solve economic problems or challenges or to influence management decisions faced by other natural resource managers.

Socioeconomic valuation is, however, critical for sanctuary management. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) uses applied social science to examine the human dimension of marine resource management, and to best understand consumptive and non-consumptive human use patterns, economic impacts of such activities, and attitudes, perception and beliefs of resource users. Each of these factors is not only directly relevant to the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but is also critical to devising policies and management strategies that result in ecological, social, and economic resilience.

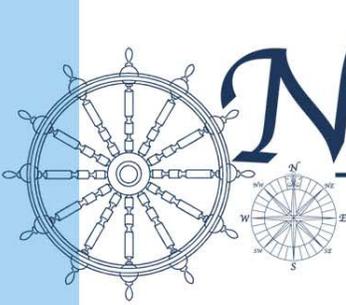
During the public scoping process, OCNMS received more than 100 public comments related to commercial activities in the Sanctuary, recreational opportunities in the Sanctuary, socioeconomic values of resources in the Sanctuary, and compatibility of human uses in the Sanctuary. The OCNMS Advisory Council, during its MPR Issue Prioritization Workshop, bundled all of these comments under the single header of socioeconomic values of resources in the Sanctuary and ranked this topic as one of its top 15. Additionally, the Collaborative Research, Assessments & Monitoring to Inform Ecosystem-Based Management (CRAM) and the Living Resource Conservation (LRC) working groups have noted the need for more information on human uses in the Sanctuary. As such, and in order to be responsive to the public and meet its legislative mandates, OCNMS must address this topic in its revised management plan.

## **RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES**

Workshop participants were working under a very limited timeframe that did not allow for drafting of specific strategy language. These preliminary draft recommendations were developed by the workshop planning group based on workshop discussions. These preliminary recommendations will be vetted through the OCNMS Advisory Council, refined by staff per Advisory Council recommendations, reviewed by the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council, and then included as draft management actions in the draft management plan.

## **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.*



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# Navigating the Future

Management Plan Review



**STRATEGY SV #1:** Foster analysis and dissemination of existing socioeconomic data about Olympic Coast marine resources and human use patterns.

**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, and make this annotated bibliography widely available (post it on OCNMS website).

**Activity C:** Make existing socioeconomic data widely available in user-friendly formats (such as GIS layers).

**STRATEGY SV #2:** Develop partnerships in order to collect, assemble, and analyze new information about human uses/activities occurring in the Sanctuary and their socioeconomic values.

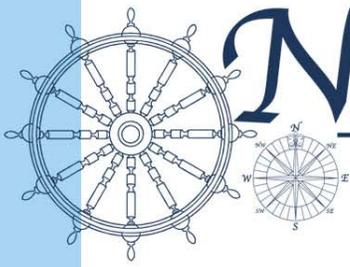
**Activity A:** Submit a formal request to the Coastal Treaty Tribes expressing OCNMS's interest in partnering to address the topic of socioeconomic valuation.

**Activity B:** Form a steering committee to prioritize socioeconomic data needs.

**Activity C:** Initiate a 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 steering 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.



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

# *Navigating the Future*

*Management Plan Review*



**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.

**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

