

Draft FY 2014 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Implementation Priorities

This draft planning document is provided to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Council (IPC) to facilitate discussion and inform their advice and guidance on elements of the OCNMS Management Plan to be prioritized in fiscal year (FY) 2014. The final decision on FY 2014 activities will be based on advice and guidance from the AC and IPC, partnership opportunities, and OCNMS' evaluation of management needs, staffing and its 2014 budget allocation. Not all planned 2014 activities are included.

A. Achieve Effective Collaborative and Coordinated Management Priority Issue	2
A1. Collaborative and Coordinated Sanctuary Management Action Plan	2
A2. Community Involvement in Sanctuary Management Action Plan	3
A3. Sanctuary Operations Action Plan	3
B. Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments and Monitoring to Inform Ecosystem-Based Management Priority Issue	5
B1. Habitat Mapping and Classification Action Plan	5
B2. Physical and Chemical Oceanography Action Plan	5
B3. Populations, Communities and Ecosystems Action Plan	6
B4. Data Management, Sharing and Reporting Action Plan	7
C. Improve Ocean Literacy Priority Issue	8
C1. K-12 Education Action Plan	8
C2. Higher Education Action Plan	8
C3. Visitor Services Action Plan	9
C4. Community Outreach Action Plan	9
D. Conserve Natural Resources in the Sanctuary Priority Issue	11
D1. Spills Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration Action Plan	11
D2. Climate Change Action Plan	12
D3. Marine Debris Action Plan	12
D4. Water Quality Action Plan	13
D6. Habitat Protection Action Plan	14
D7. Regional Ocean Planning Action Plan	14
E. Understand the Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance	15
E1. Maritime Heritage Action Plan	15
E2. Socioeconomic Values of Resources in the Sanctuary Action Plan	15

A. Achieve Effective Collaborative and Coordinated Management Priority Issue

A1. Collaborative and Coordinated Sanctuary Management Action Plan

Strategy CCM2: Coastal Treaty Tribes

Consult with the Coastal Treaty Tribes (Makah, Quileute and Hoh Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation) in accordance with Executive Order 13175, and partner with tribal staff members to address sanctuary projects and management issues that are of interest to the tribes.

Continue to work with Coastal Treaty Tribes at the staff-to-staff level and in more formal consultation, as needed, and continue to improve the frequency and substance of communications.

Strategy CCM3: Intergovernmental Policy Council

Continue OCNMS's partnership with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC).

Provide input to meeting agendas; provide requested information and briefings on important management issues. Facilitate the annual meeting of the ONMS director with the IPC.

Strategy CCM4: Washington State

Support implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan (OAP), the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health, and other applicable state initiatives.

Meet with the Washington State Ocean Caucus and OCNMS Advisory Council's state representatives to discuss marine spatial planning efforts and OCNMS' management plan implementation; identify how OCNMS and the State can best coordinate these efforts.

Strategy CCM5: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Enhance partnerships with Department of the Interior agencies, particularly the National Park Service (NPS) which manages Olympic National Park (ONP), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) which manages the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex (WMNWR).

Serve as a cooperating Agency in the development of an Olympic National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

A2. Community Involvement in Sanctuary Management Action Plan

Strategy COM1: Advisory Council

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

Advisory Council support will represent a major commitment of staff resources in 2014. Provide support to implement the AC 2014 work plan, including the staffing of the science and tourism working groups.

Strategy COM2: Marine Resource Committees

Continue and expand collaborative marine stewardship efforts with Clallam, Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties.

Participate in the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee meetings and activities. Participate in the Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee, as issues of interest to OCNMS arise and as requested by the GH MRC coordinator.

A3. Sanctuary Operations Action Plan

Strategy OPS1: Vessel Infrastructure and Operations

Maintain an on-water presence in the sanctuary to ensure effective and efficient sanctuary operations, including research and education activities.

Address any R/V *Tatoosh* deficiencies identified in the annual inspection and work to increase days at sea through expanded partnerships.

Strategy OPS2: Facilities

Develop new, and maintain current, infrastructure for sanctuary offices, programs, research vessels, equipment, and field operations.

Continue to work with the City of Port Angeles and the Feiro Marine Life Center on the development of a Port Angeles Marine Campus.

Strategy OPS6: Volunteer Program

Maintain and enhance OCNMS' volunteer programs in order to build connections with the community and achieve the goals and objectives of the management plan.

Actively recruit and train volunteers for Olympic Coast Discovery Center, COASST, marine debris monitoring and other volunteer programs.

Strategy OPS10: Management Plan Implementation Reporting

Establish reporting mechanisms/process for management plan implementation and emerging issues.

Continue annual reporting on the implementation of the management plan, including established performance measures.

B. Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments and Monitoring to Inform Ecosystem-Based Management Priority Issue

B1. Habitat Mapping and Classification Action Plan

Strategy MAP2: Seafloor Habitat Mapping

Continue efforts to map seafloor habitats.

Current funding levels do not support the collection of additional mapping data. Investigate opportunities for collaborative mapping with Washington State and the NOAA Pacific Hydrographic Branch. Subject to funding and availability of equipment, continue to collect sonar and ground-truthing data, focusing on coastal areas <60 m.

Strategy MAP3: Habitat Classification

Integrate observations from sonar data and ground-truthing to classify habitats and generate derivative maps and GIS products.

In 2014, work will continue on classification, report writing and publication for completed surveys. We will continue to re-evaluate existing data for accuracy, continuity, and compliance with NOAA OCS hydrographic specifications. Smooth sheet development will be considered if there is opportunity for a Hollings Scholar to assist with the project.

B2. Physical and Chemical Oceanography Action Plan

Strategy OCEO1: Coastal Mooring Program

Continue the OCNMS water quality monitoring program to monitor key physical and chemical oceanographic parameters in coastal waters. As feasible with additional partners, expand this monitoring to include additional instrumentation (including acoustic monitoring), parameters, locations, year-round data collection, and real-time data transmission.

At current funding levels the mooring program cannot be fully funded in 2014; however, previously funded equipment/instrument contracts are in place, allowing the mooring program to continue with some adjustments in 2014.

At current funding projections, OCNMS will not be able to implement the mooring program in 2015. OCNMS will work with partners to identify resources allowing continued monitoring in 2015 and beyond.

B3. Populations, Communities and Ecosystems Action Plan

Strategy ECO 2: Intertidal

Conduct and collaborate in research on the distribution and abundance of intertidal organisms.

Continue to monitor rocky intertidal sites in cooperation with the Makah Tribe and Quinault Nation following Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) protocols for rocky sites and Olympic National Park (ONP) protocols for sand sites to complement monitoring of ONP shores.

Strategy ECO4: Benthic

Investigate the abundance and distribution of benthic organisms, both epifauna and infauna, from subtidal to deeper shelf habitats.

OCNMS is unlikely to receive outside funding support for new surveys and NOAA ship time was not awarded for FY 2014; however, there may be limited opportunity for additional analyses of existing data.

PC-1 fiber optic cable route benthic habitat monitoring survey results and analyses will be completed in a final report; post remediation survey video will be reviewed, and initial planning for future surveys will be initiated.

Strategy ECO6: Marine Birds

Improve characterization of spatial and temporal distribution, abundance, forage behavior and areas used by marine birds.

Complete data management for OCNMS seabird surveys (2011 and 2012). Evaluate past and ongoing pelagic and coastal seabird survey efforts and identify critical data needs.

Conduct a follow up to the 2013 pilot project to test unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) with improved optics as a monitoring tool for seabird colony surveys and other nearshore monitoring projects.

Strategy ECO9: Ecosystem Processes

Collaborate in ongoing efforts by the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center and others to develop and apply a comprehensive ecosystem model that identifies indicator species, trophic networks, and physical-biological coupling.

Support the Advisory Council Science Working Group efforts to identify OCNMS ecosystem health indicators.

B4. Data Management, Sharing and Reporting Action Plan

Strategy DAT1: Data Quality Control and Management

Develop and promote data management procedures.

Field reports from 2013 will be collected, analyzed, summarized, compiled and shared by spring, 2014. Review GIS data library holdings to see if data and metadata is current. Manage changes to GIS software and license location.

Strategy DAT2: Data Distribution

Provide easy and timely access to data collected or managed by OCNMS.

A new database will be tested to determine its functionality for summarizing and reporting on OCNMS surveys in a timely manner. Data for 2014 will be posted. Based on staff time availability, years prior to 2010 will be posted.

C. Improve Ocean Literacy Priority Issue

C1. K-12 Education Action Plan

Strategy ED1: K-12 Partnerships

Work in partnership with regional education organizations in order to leverage resources for K-12 Ocean Literacy programs.

Work in partnership with regional education organizations (Feiro Marine Life Center, Seattle Aquarium and Pacific Education Institute to leverage resources for K-12 Ocean Literacy programs.

Strategy ED2: Place-Based Education

Work collaboratively with rural schools and tribal communities within the region adjacent to the Sanctuary to develop place-based education opportunities for K-12 students.

Support Ocean Science, North Olympic Watershed Science and Junior Oceanographer programs.

Strategy ED4: Technology

Employ current and emerging technologies in order to make Ocean Literacy information and curricula more accessible and provide students with a richer educational experience.

Enhance OCNMS website to be a source of Ocean Literacy information such as NOAA-authored educational/curriculum materials and news articles on ocean issues.

C2. Higher Education Action Plan

Strategy HED1: Internship Development

Coordinate internship activities between local colleges, universities, community colleges and OCNMS to create learning opportunities within the areas of sanctuary operations, research, education and management.

Pursue internship opportunities with the NOAA Hollings Scholar and NOAA Nancy Foster Programs.

C3. Visitor Services Action Plan

Strategy VISIT1: Visitor Experience

Actively collaborate with other agencies, tribal governments, tourism organizations and the private sector to provide services and products that contribute to high-quality educational experiences for visitors to the Olympic Peninsula.

Support the Advisory Council Tourism Working Group efforts to identify opportunities for OCNMS to serve visitors to the Olympic Peninsula, to support, as appropriate, the regional tourism industry and tourism enterprises and to enhance awareness of and protection of OCNMS resources.

Operate the Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) to educate visitors and visiting school groups. The planned opening from Memorial Day until Labor Day, open daily 10-5, will be dependent on funding. Train new volunteers to support OCDC.

Strategy VISIT2: Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Develop and implement a Long Range Interpretive Plan for OCNMS.

The sanctuary has completed a Long-Range Interpretive Plan (awaiting final approval from the Regional Director) and will begin implementing programs using new interpretive themes.

Strategy VISIT3: Using Technology

Utilize current and emerging technologies in order to educate and inform physical and virtual visitors to the Olympic Coast.

Maintain OCNMS website, Facebook, Google Ocean, You Tube, etc.

C4. Community Outreach Action Plan

Strategy OUT1: Stewardship and Citizen Science

Actively support marine stewardship and citizen science volunteer programs.

The sanctuary will continue its support of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), CoastSavers Program, and additional volunteers conducting shoreline debris monitoring.

Evaluate adaptation and implementation of Puget Sound Seabird Survey techniques to the outer coast.

Strategy OUT3: Community Events

Maintain an OCNMS staff presence at community events and meetings in the Sanctuary region.

If funding and staffing levels are adequate, the sanctuary plans to support the Beachcombers Fun Fair, Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, Makah Days, Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival, and the Ocean and River Resources Fair.

OCNMS will continue to furnish speakers for public lecture series, community meetings and other forums in order to provide up-to-date information on sanctuary research, education, policies and management activities.

Strategy OUT4: Community-Based Efforts

Actively support the efforts of the North Pacific and Grays Harbor marine resources committees, regional watershed councils, salmon recovery teams, the Puget Sound Partnership, other community-based NGOs, and local and state governments in areas of marine research, education, and policy coordination.

Continue to participate in outer coast marine resource committee (MRC) meetings and events, and continue to pursue opportunities for community-based education, stewardship and research programs in collaboration with NGOs and regional organizations.

Actively support the efforts of the North Pacific and Grays Harbor MRCs, regional watershed councils, salmon recovery teams, the Puget Sound Partnership, other community-based NGOs, and local and state governments in areas of research, education, and policy coordination relevant to the outer coast.

Use the OCNMS website (Calendar of Events, etc.), e-mail listserv, social media and other media to communicate the efforts of community-based organizations working on ocean issues in the Sanctuary region.

D. Conserve Natural Resources in the Sanctuary Priority Issue

D1. Spills Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration Action Plan

Strategy SPILL1: ATBA Compliance and Monitoring

Sustain or improve the maritime industry's compliance with the Area to be Avoided (ATBA)

Identify vessels in the ATBA that are non-compliant with IMO recommendations and conduct outreach seeking voluntary compliance. Report on ATBA compliance for the 2013 calendar year and publish report on the OCNMS website.

Improve operational aspects of S-AIS data application for vessel tracking. Promote shared use of S-AIS data and products with federal, state, and tribal partners. Participate in ONMS initiative to foster S-AIS data usage for resource protection.

Strategy SPILL3: Regional Planning and Training Exercises

Promote improved spill preparedness and response through OCNMS participation in training exercises and regional oil spill planning activities.

Provide recommendations for changes to the NW Area Contingency Plan and, as appropriate, participate in work groups formed to address issues important to protection of sanctuary resources.

Promote improved spill response preparedness of OCNMS staff through participation in training exercises and regional oil spill planning activities.

Strategy SPILL5: OCNMS Organizational Response Plan

Develop policies, tools and procedures for OCNMS staff and resource mobilization, OCNMS integration into an Incident Command Structure, and effective consultation on emergency response actions.

Complete OCNMS Organizational Response Plan, train staff, and develop a timeline for updates.

Engage the Advisory Council and work with NOAA Office of Response and Restoration to incorporate sanctuary resource information into the Pacific Northwest Emergency Response Management Application (ERMA) project.

D2. Climate Change Action Plan

Strategy CLIM1: Climate Smart Sanctuaries Program

Participate in the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Climate-Smart Sanctuaries program in order to become certified as a climate-smart sanctuary.

Work with IPC and SAC to review the Climate Change Action Plan (revise as necessary). Continue working towards obtaining Climate Smart Sanctuary certification.

Strategy CLIM2: Sanctuary as Sentinel Site

Work to establish OCNMS as a sentinel site for long-term climate change research and monitoring in the Pacific Northwest.

Support the Advisory Council Science Working Group efforts to identify marine chemical, physical, and biological indicators of climate change that OCNMS and partners should prioritize for monitoring.

Strategy CLIM4: Communicating Climate Change

Communicate information about climate change and its potential effects on the Sanctuary and Washington's Outer Coast to OCNMS partners and the public.

Provide local communities and the public with information about potential climate change impacts on the Olympic Coast and efforts to plan for climate change.

D3. Marine Debris Action Plan

Strategy MD1: Submerged or Floating Debris

Identify, locate, and remove lost or abandoned submerged or floating marine debris.

Record observations of abandoned, submerged and floating marine debris, and report relevant observations to WDFW and/or other appropriate reporting systems.

Work with federal, state and tribal partners to identify issues and funding for locating and removing abandoned and other submerged marine debris (e.g., fishing equipment, vessels), and collaborate to define policy and management methods that minimize generation of additional submerged debris.

Strategy MD2: Beach Debris

Mitigate impacts of marine debris on coastal beaches

Participate with regional initiatives to remove, monitor and respond to routine shoreline debris and Japanese tsunami marine debris.

Continue leadership and participation with the Washington CoastSavers on beach cleanups. Support engagement of coastal communities and volunteers in beach cleanups, including multiple volunteer beach cleanup efforts on shores adjacent to the sanctuary throughout the year.

Continue collaborative efforts to address removal of shoreline debris from remote areas (e.g., WCC veterans crews); collaborate in feasibility evaluation of mechanized debris removal techniques (helicopter airlift, boats) at remote areas.

Continue to coordinate quantitative shoreline debris monitoring in Washington, and integrate data into a national database. Promote monitoring to capture Japan tsunami marine debris.

Conduct outreach to increase public understanding of the nature and scope of environmental impacts of marine debris, and encourage individual efforts to reduce sources of marine debris.

D4. Water Quality Action Plan

Strategy WQP1: Vessel Discharges

Reduce, through regulatory changes, voluntary and outreach measures, or marina facilities improvements, the degradation of water quality caused by vessel wastewater and sewage discharges.

Collaborate with WDE and USCG to ensure enforcement of cruise ship discharge regulations applicable to sanctuary waters.

Continue efforts to assist Neah Bay and La Push with repair and maintenance of sewage tank and bilge pump out capacity at marinas.

Strategy WQP2: Contaminants

Support efforts to monitor contaminant levels, understand potential impacts of contaminants, and reduce, eliminate, or mitigate impacts of contaminants to natural resources in the sanctuary.

Lead Mussel Watch sampling crew for biennial collection at Wa'atch Beach.

Provide support for and/or participate in monitoring efforts focused on water quality and contaminants.

D6. Habitat Protection Action Plan

Strategy HP2 –Habitats of Special Importance

Develop criteria to identify habitats of special importance. Collaborate with co-managers to identify and implement management measures necessary for protection of habitats of special importance.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to continue the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) process into Phase III at its November 2013 meeting based on new information from the EFH Review Committee Phase I Report and NMFS Synthesis Report. The EFH Review Committee will complete its Phase II Report by March 2014 reviewing all submitted proposals. Northwest and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers will be evaluating existing EFH areas as well as identifying issues and scope for a Fishery Management Plan amendment process that the Council will consider at one of its 2014 meeting dates. OCNMS will continue participation in EFH Review Committee with expectation that the Committee will be sunset after submission of its Phase II Report.

D7. Regional Ocean Planning Action Plan

Strategy ROP1: Regional Ocean Planning

Investigate how recent initiatives in marine spatial planning can improve sanctuary management by participating in regional ocean planning processes.

Collaborate with Washington State on marine spatial planning efforts including, but not limited to seafloor mapping, identification of indicators and socioeconomic characterization of coastal activities and resources.

E. Understand the Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance

E1. Maritime Heritage Action Plan

Strategy MH1: Cultural Resource Conservation

Work collaboratively to locate, inventory, assess, interpret and protect cultural resources in the Sanctuary, and develop further the cultural resource components of OCNMS's permitting and compliance program.

Consult with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) on the development of a programmatic agreement describing the way in which routine OCNMS activities will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Provide DAHP with OCNMS information on historic shipwrecks.

Strategy MH2: Local and Customary Knowledge

Work with tribal and non-tribal partners to explore ways to gather, share and apply (when appropriate) traditional ecological knowledge, local and customary knowledge, and information obtained from cultural resource analyses.

OCNMS and the ONMS Maritime Heritage Program will continue work with the Yurok and Makah tribes and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and other partner federal agencies to provide support for the Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project.

E2. Socioeconomic Values of Resources in the Sanctuary Action Plan

Strategy SV2: New Socioeconomic information

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

Mapping Social Values in partnership with the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Hollings Marine Laboratory (HML) Human Dimensions Research Group. This project is dependent on NCCOS funding.