

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CONDITION REPORT

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan is currently scheduled for review in September 2008. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is developing “Condition Reports” for each of the sanctuaries around the country. The reports are intended to document the “status and trends of water quality, habitat, living resources, and maritime archaeological resources and human activities that affect them.” The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s (OCNMS) Condition Report will serve as a supporting document for the forthcoming Management Plan review process. The Condition Report will not include proposals for regulatory changes. However, if the Condition Report identifies negative effects on sanctuary resources due to fishing activities, consideration of future fishery regulations may be part of the OCNMS Management Plan review process.

In a March 11, 2008 letter to Council Executive Director Dr. Donald McIsaac (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1), Ms. Carol Bernthal, OCNMS Superintendent, describes the purpose and the role of the Condition Report and requests that the Council and its advisory bodies participate in the review of the first draft of the OCNMS Condition Report. The letter also presents two important enclosures. The first, “*OCNMS Condition Report Charge to Reviewers*,” provides guidance on the specific types of Council comments and recommendations that may be of most use to the OCNMS as it completes the final draft of the Condition Report. The second, “*Rating Scheme for System-Wide Monitoring Questions*,” provides additional information on the specific questions the Condition Report is addressing and the criteria used to rate status and trends.

Unfortunately, the OCNMS was unable to provide the draft Condition Report to the Council or its advisory bodies in time for the advance April Briefing Book; depending on the time of distribution and the content of the document, this agenda item may need to be postponed. The OCNMS plans to distribute the first draft as supplemental material as soon as it is available, which is likely to be at or shortly before the start of the April Council meeting. In the interim, the OCNMS has prepared a fact sheet that covers frequently asked questions on the Condition Report (Agenda Item B.2.b, Attachment 1).

Council Action:

Provide Council comments on the draft OCNMS Condition Report.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1: March 11, 2008 letter from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to Dr. McIsaac regarding Council review of the OCNMS Condition Report.
2. Agenda Item I.2.b, Attachment 1: Background Material for the OCNMS Condition Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. OCNMS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Provide Council comments on the draft OCNMS Condition Report.

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Steve Gittings/Carol Bernthal

PFMC
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