

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Navigating the Future

Management Plan Review



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

3/18/09

STATUS

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's last presentation to PFMC on the *Navigating the Future* (management plan review) process occurred in April 2008. At that time, OCNMS was in the process of completing its 2008 Condition Report, which was to be published in advance of the *Navigating the Future* public scoping period scheduled for the fall. OCNMS published its 2008 Condition Report and officially began the public scoping process in September 2008. Thus far, OCNMS has completed the formal public scoping period and is almost done with the issue prioritization process. Staff recently completed a Draft Priority Issue Work Plan that identifies seven priority management needs to address in the revised management plan. Additionally, the work plan proposes a combination of working groups, workshops and staff work to address these priority issues in greater detail from June to November 2009.

The Draft Priority Issue Work Plan was presented to the Sanctuary Advisory Council (AC) at its March meeting and was also provided to the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC). The AC and IPC will have opportunity to provide comments on the draft work plan through April. OCNMS aims to finalize the Priority Issue Work Plan by the end of April/beginning of May so that implementation of the work plan can begin in June.

The bulk of the working group meetings, workshops and staff work should be completed by October 2009. In November and December staff will integrate recommendations and present them to the AC and IPC for review. In 2010, staff will use the recommendations to develop draft action plans, the draft management plan and any requisite environmental compliance documents. Action plans are a primary component of sanctuary management plans; they describe the work that sanctuary staff will do over the next five to ten years and the performance measures that will be used to evaluate this work.



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TIMELINE

- SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2008:** Public Scoping Period
DECEMBER 2008: Scoping Summary and Topics Analysis Report published
JANUARY 2009: Advisory Council (AC) Issue Prioritization Workshop
FEBRUARY 2009: IPC technical sub-committee discusses AC recommendations
MARCH 2009: Final Issue Prioritization Workshop Report presented to AC
MARCH 2009: Draft Priority Issue Work Plan presented to AC & IPC
APRIL 2009: *(Anticipated)* Finalization of Priority Issue Work Plan
APRIL – JUNE 2009: *(Anticipated)* Review of Sanctuary goals & objectives
JUNE 2009: *(Anticipated)* Priority issue working groups and workshops begin
FALL 2009: *(Anticipated)* AC & IPC review working group and workshop recommendations
WINTER 2010: *(Anticipated)* Staff begin drafting action plans and draft management plan

KEY DOCUMENTS PRODUCED SO FAR

- 1. OCNMS 2008 CONDITION REPORT** – a NOAA report that assesses the health of marine life and habitats within the Sanctuary (published September 2008)
- 2. SCOPING SUMMARY** – summarizes the approximately 800 public comments received under 37 different topics (published December 2008)
- 3. TOPICS ANALYSIS REPORT** – provides a brief synopsis for each of the 37 topics presented in the Scoping Summary (published December 2008)
- 4. ADVISORY COUNCIL ISSUE PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP REPORT** – summarizes the results of the AC's two-day Issue Prioritization Workshop, during which the AC scored and ranked each of the 37 topics and provided recommendations to the Sanctuary Superintendent on which issues should be addressed in the revised management plan (not yet finalized)
- 5. DRAFT PRIORITY ISSUE WORK PLAN** – staff's proposal for priority issues to be addressed in the revised management plan along with a list of and schedule for several working groups and workshops to address these priority issues in greater detail (not yet finalized)

As these documents are finalized, they are made available at OCNMS' Navigating the Future website: [HTTP://OLYMPICCOAST.NOAA.GOV/PROTECTION/MPR/WELCOME.HTML](http://OLYMPICCOAST.NOAA.GOV/PROTECTION/MPR/WELCOME.HTML)



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PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEEDS

In determining priorities to address in its revised management plan, OCNMS staff looked closely both at the AC scoring and ranking decisions made at its Issue Prioritization Workshop, as well as recommendations received from the IPC. Staff also considered National Marine Sanctuaries Act policies and mandates and the National Marine Sanctuary Program goals, objectives and guidelines.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 1: REVIEW SANCTUARY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Staff proposes that the AC form a sub-committee to review the Sanctuary's goals and objectives from May – June 2009. Staff will also ask the IPC to review the goals and objectives during this time.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 2: ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF SANCTUARY ECOSYSTEMS

Staff proposes that the AC establish several working groups to address topics related to this priority management need, including habitat characterization, living resource monitoring, climate change and oceanographic processes and water quality monitoring.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 3: IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Staff proposes that this priority management need be addressed with a day-long workshop, during which break-out groups will address relevant topics such as community outreach, visitor services and education programs.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 4: ASSESS AND REDUCE THREATS TO SANCTUARY RESOURCES

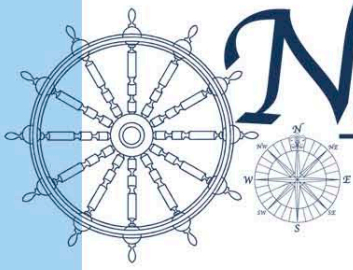
Staff proposes that the AC establish two working groups to address two topics related to this priority management need: living resources conservation and oil spill planning, prevention and response.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 5: UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Staff proposes that this priority management need be addressed with two day-long workshops, one to address the topic of maritime heritage and one to address the topic of the socioeconomic value of Sanctuary resources.

PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 6: ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Staff proposes that this priority management need be addressed internally by staff working with key governments and agencies. Staff will address the topic of treaty trust responsibility with the coastal treaty tribes and IPC, and will address the need to improve coordination and collaboration with the IPC, U.S. Navy, NOAA Fisheries Service, and other key high-level partners.



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PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEED 7: ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE SANCTUARY OPERATIONS

Staff proposes that this priority management need be addressed by staff. Topics addressed will include 1) evaluating OCNMS' regulatory, permitting & enforcement programs, 2) evaluating OCNMS' infrastructure needs, and 3) establishing a performance evaluation process in the revised management plan.

POTENTIAL AREAS FOR COLLABORATION WITH PFMC

OCNMS anticipates that several recommendations from the working groups, workshops and staff may be of interest to PFMC. OCNMS would like to request the opportunity to brief PFMC on any relevant recommendations and, where appropriate, request that PFMC comment on these recommendations when they are completed in fall 2009. Staff anticipates that recommendations relevant to PFMC may concern topics such as habitat characterization, research to support fisheries stock assessments, implementing ecosystem-based management in the Sanctuary, living resource conservation, and improving collaborative and coordinated management of sanctuary resources.