

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
UPDATE ON OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (OCNMS)
MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Liam Antrim, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), updated the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on the sanctuary management plan review process. Dr. Lisa Wooninck, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, also participated in the discussion.

The SSC found the OCNMS documentation of its management plan review process to be thorough and well organized. Communication with the Council at these early stages of Work Plan development is very helpful. The Sanctuary considers the Council as a management partner, but the Council is directly interested in only a subset of the Sanctuary activities. From the list of priority needs identified by the Sanctuary these are: (1) enhance understanding of Sanctuary ecosystems, (2) assess and reduce threats to Sanctuary resources, and (3) achieve effective collaborative and coordinated management. These represent "Priority Management Needs" 2, 4, and 6, respectively, in Agenda Item E.1.b, Attachment 6. There are opportunities for Sanctuary research to complement Council management needs, especially in the areas of research to improve stock assessments and essential fish habitat definition through seafloor and biogenic habitat mapping.

We discussed the idea of having formal SSC representation on each of the Sanctuary Research Advisory Panels and agreed this was not appropriate. However, SSC members acting in an independent capacity may act as technical advisers and assist in coordinating Sanctuary and Council-related activities

All of the Sanctuaries will now be producing Condition Reports on the same schedule. To facilitate Council review of these reports we agreed that the issues of interest to the Council would be compiled from all the Sanctuaries and presented in a single report. This should begin with the next five-year review cycle and could be facilitated by the SSC Ecosystem-based Management Subcommittee.