

# The Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Habitat Framework Initiative



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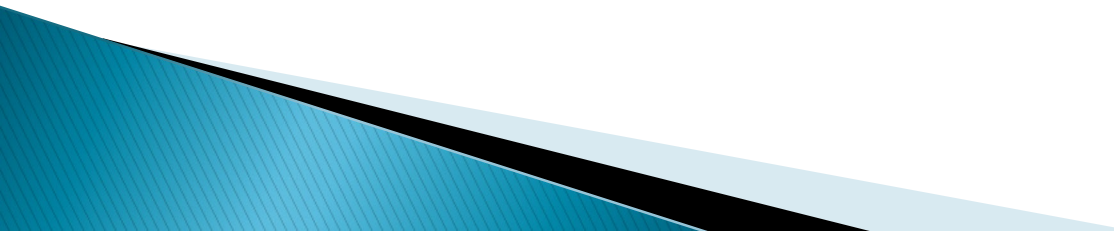
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504



# The Partnership

- ▶ The Habitat Framework is being undertaken by a broad coalition including experts from:
  - Hoh, Makah, Quileute, and Quinault
  - NOAA
  - Oregon State University
  - State of Washington
  - University of Washington

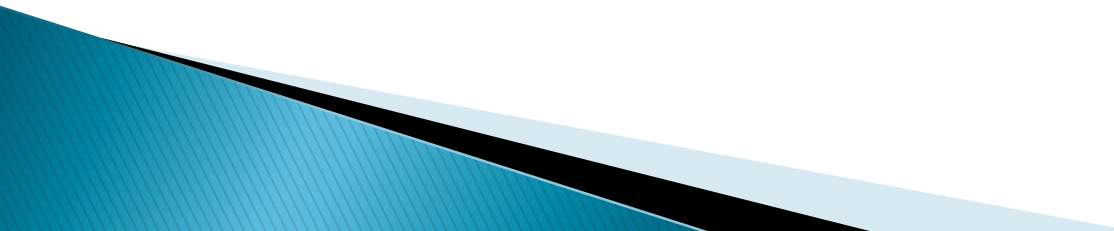
# Purpose and Need

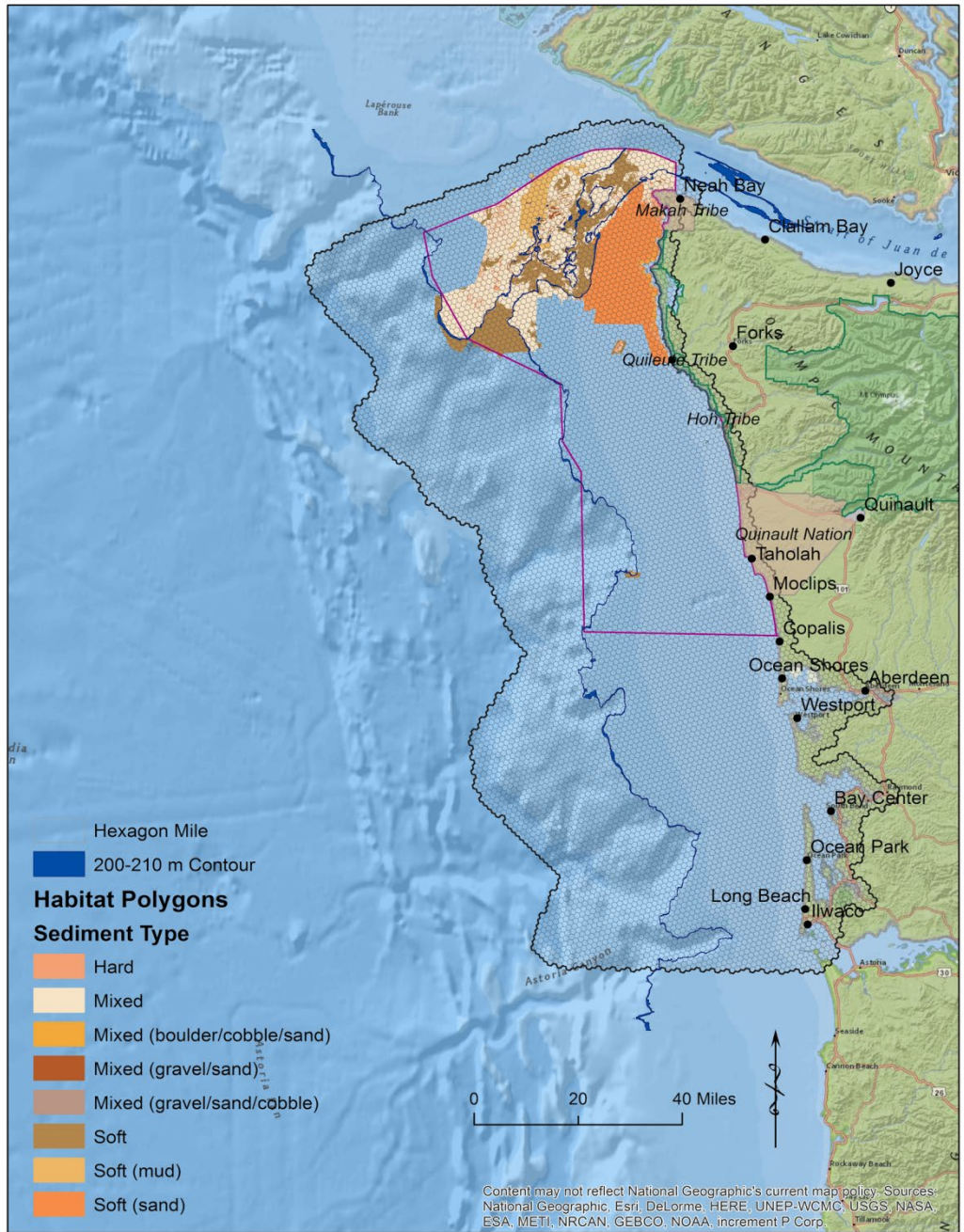
- ▶ Compile existing data into a common format
  - ▶ Improve understanding of habitats to inform management
  - ▶ Prioritize identifying and filling data gaps
  - ▶ Improve cooperative management
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# CMECS

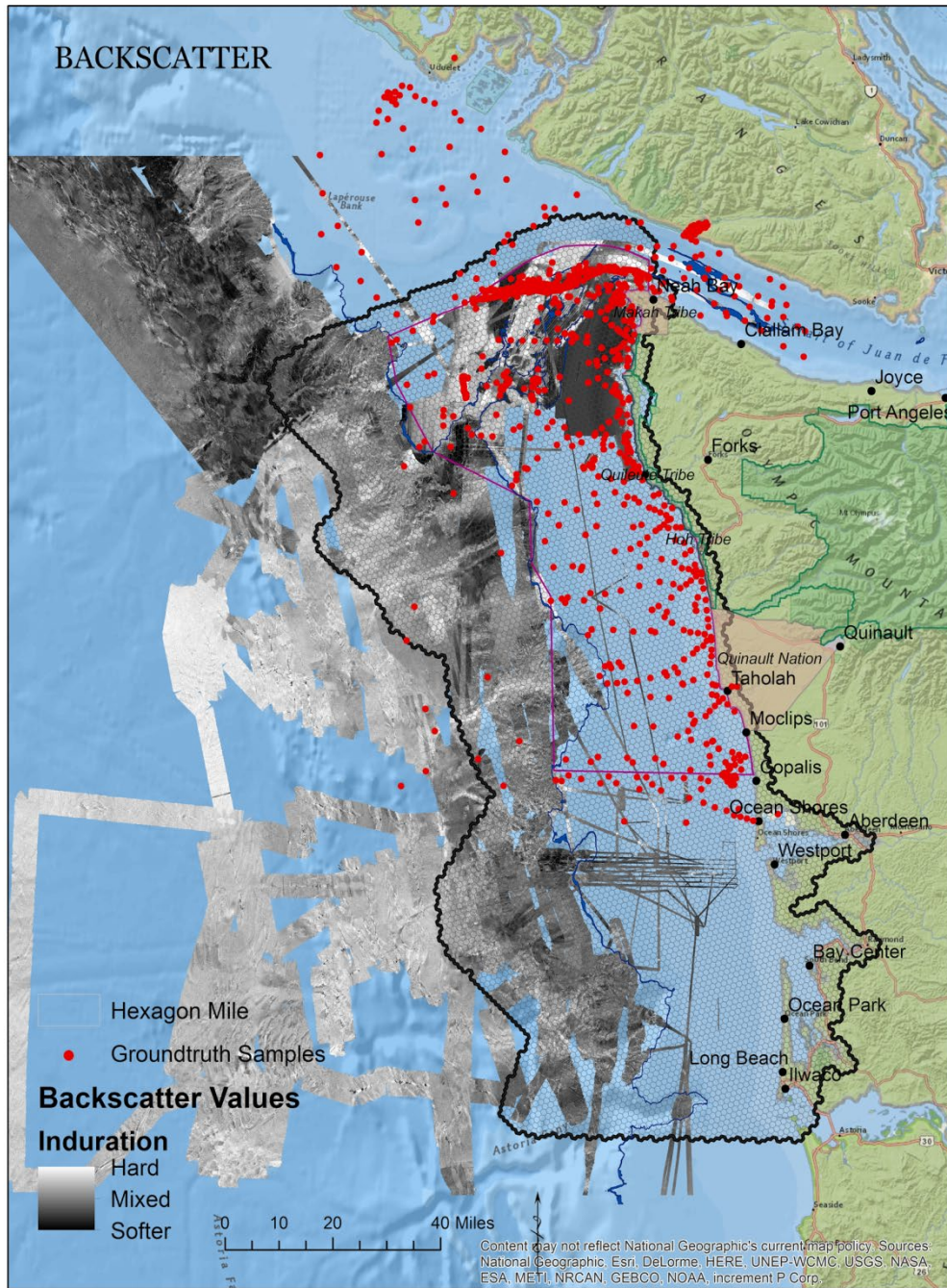
- ▶ Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS)
- ▶ The data standard for the federal government
- ▶ Describes habitat using 4 components:
  - Geoform
  - Substrate
  - Water column
  - Biotic

# Where Are We?

- ▶ **Substrate Component:** Foundation established with the WA Seafloor Atlas – produced by OSU under contract with WA DNR and OCNMS.
    - Classified in upper-level CMECS
  - ▶ **Geoform Component:** Foundation established from applications of OSU Lithology and subject experts.
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# BACKSCATTER



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# Where Are We (cont.)?

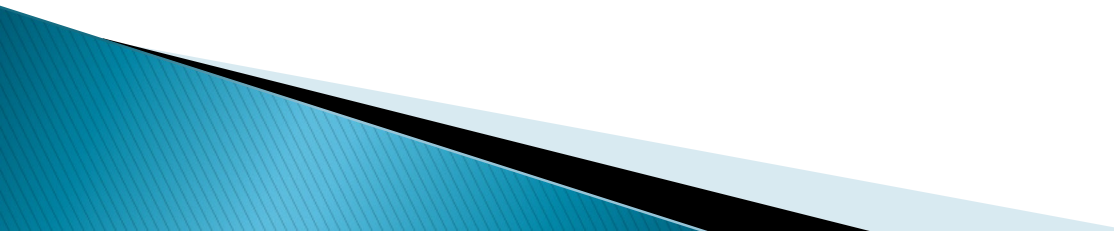
- ▶ Convening Focus Groups to list available data for the Water Column Component and the Biotic Component.
  - Water column met on September 2nd
  - Biotic will be scheduled to meet in October



# What's a Focus Group?



# Next Steps (Near Term)

- ▶ Convert compiled data into CMECS for the Water Column and Biotic Components
    - A GIS technician will be hired to code existing data sets into the CMECS format
    - Those Component descriptions will be combined with the Substrate and Geoform descriptions to describe Biotopes
    - IPC and NOAA identify major data gaps to prioritize future work
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# Next Steps (Longer Term)

- ▶ Improve habitat descriptions by collecting needed data
  - ▶ Include fish, mammal, bird, etc. occurrence/abundance data to correlate habitat use
  - ▶ Refine understanding of habitat use, interaction, and ecological functions
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