

Public Involvement & Outreach Summary

Washington Coast Marine Spatial Planning
July 2012- June 2013

Bridget Trosin

Prepared by:
Bridget Trosin
Washington Sea Grant

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Marine spatial planning is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine environments to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. The Marine Waters Planning and Management Act (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.372&full=true>) requires that the marine spatial planning process fosters public participation in decision-making and engages coastal communities along Washington's marine shorelines.

Between July 2012 and July 2013 a series of outreach activities occurred in coastal communities along Washington's coast. Workshops, locally focused meetings, a website and printed information were used to engage resource users, business groups and local governments in marine spatial planning. The following outlines the public involvement and outreach activities used to engage coastal communities in marine spatial planning for year 1 of the planning process.

A. Information: electronic and print media

Electronic media- The State Ocean Caucus developed the following electronic materials to communicate information to the public:

Website- The Dept. of Natural Resources in coordination with the State Ocean Caucus, Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council and the public developed a website to post up-to-date information on the marine spatial planning process. The website (www.msp.wa.gov) provides detailed information on past and current research and outreach projects as well as an interactive mapping tool.

Mapping tool- The interactive mapping tool available through the website www.msp.wa.gov/explore/mapping-application provides a singular access point to all relevant mapped data from various authoritative databases. Mapped data layers from recent projects contracted specifically for marine spatial planning are also available through the mapping tool. The easy-to-use map allows users to select and display different types of data in the map. The mapping tool helps users have access to data such as the location of marine habitats and marine resources, the areas important for human uses such as shipping and fishing, and locations of marine infrastructure. This type of mapped information is essential to assist stakeholders, planners and managers in identifying and understanding areas of conflict and compatibility off Washington's coast.

Print media- Washington Sea Grant, in coordination with the State Ocean Caucus, developed the following printed material to communicate information to the public:

Frequently Asked Questions Brochure- This brochure provides an overview of marine spatial planning in Washington, answers common questions and describes where to find additional information. Brochures were made available at community meeting halls, local government buildings, local libraries, ports and recreational areas. A digital copy is available at:

<http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2.MSPFAQ.pdf>

B. Community outreach and engagement

Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council- The WCMAC is a diverse group of stakeholders and state agency representatives that provides advice on marine policy issues to the Governor's office, state and local agencies and the legislature¹. Members represent various industries including commercial fishing, recreational fishing, conservation, shellfish aquaculture, ports, economic development, education, shipping, energy, science, citizens and the coastal marine resource committees. State agencies and the Governor's office also have representatives on the advisory council. The primary topic of discussion for 2012- 2013 was marine spatial planning. Members provided feedback on projects, gave advice on funding, participated in planning workshops and helped identify key questions to be answered in the marine spatial planning process. Meeting times and specific topics of discussion are available at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/advisorycouncil.html>

Business, community and local government organizations- Washington Sea Grant led a series of locally focused meetings with economic development councils, chambers of commerce and local government entities to introduce marine spatial planning, answer questions and provide additional points of contact to help participants stay informed in the marine spatial planning process. The primary focus of the meetings was to broaden the awareness of and participation in marine spatial planning by engaging new audiences on the basics of the public planning process. Washington Sea Grant presented at regularly

¹ The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council was originally an advisory group established by Ecology and met from March 2012 to June 2013. This Council was subsequently replaced due to a new law establishing a Council at the Governor's office. The new Council met for the first time on October 23, 2013. Ecology's website contains archived materials from both councils.

scheduled community meetings and included question and answer sessions. Participants discussed the following topic areas:

- Process of identifying conflicts and compatibilities between human uses
- Funding process and decision making framework
- Regional coordination
- Tribal engagement
- Compiling data
- Process for identifying areas for new uses such as renewable energy
- Information on how marine spatial planning relates to shoreline master programs

Mapping tool training for stakeholders and tribes- To gather input on the development and use of the mapping tool, The Nature Conservancy and agencies provided a series of webinars and in-person presentations along the Washington coast to engage managers, local governments, planners and stakeholders. They presented on the functionality of the tool, provided time for hands-on learning and collected feedback on ways to improve the tool to make it user friendly.

C. Workshops

Boundary, goals and objectives setting workshops- On March 29, April 26, and May 3, 2013, Washington Sea Grant and the State Ocean Caucus convened a series of marine spatial planning workshops in Aberdeen, WA. The purpose of the workshops was to develop draft goals, objectives and a boundary for Washington Coast's marine spatial plan and to improve communication and coordination among the groups involved in the MSP planning process. Government officials and local stakeholders with a vested interest or management authority over Washington's marine resources and waters were invited to attend the workshop. Attendees included representatives from local government, state and federal agencies, tribes and the Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council. These attendees worked in small, diverse groups to identify values, important ecological resources, concerns and aspirations for the future of the Washington coast. Over the course of the workshops, attendees took this information and developed draft goals, objectives and boundary for the marine spatial plan. This draft language was then incorporated in a scoping notice and comment period issued by Washington Department of Ecology for broader input and review. A detailed workshop report is available at:

[http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MSP Workshop Summary Report 2013.pdf](http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MSP_Workshop_Summary_Report_2013.pdf)

Marine Resource Committee spatial planning public workshops-

The coastal marine resource committees hosted five public engagement workshops to discuss priorities, interests and expectations for the marine spatial plan. Participants included members of the coastal MRCs, and community members with an interest in the marine resources and uses of the Washington coast. Each workshop began with a presentation on marine spatial planning followed by a question and answer period and a facilitator-led discussion to help identify common priorities and interests. A complete workshop summary can be found at:

http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/060413_Coastal-Voices-Version-Final.pdf

Participatory human use mapping workshops- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources partnered to hold a series of participatory human-use workshops in Aberdeen and Port Angeles to capture the knowledge of community experts about patterns and locations of ocean uses. Experts identified locations of human uses such as commercial shipping, various types of fishing as well as recreational uses. The information collected at these workshops will help planners identify areas of conflict and compatibility between ocean uses and natural resources.

The project is part of a larger effort called the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas to map ocean activities off Oregon, Washington and Hawaii in federal and state waters in select areas². In Washington, participants mapped activities in both state and federal waters. For more information about the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas go to:

http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/PROUA_WA_factsheet_post-workshop.pdf

For maps of the human uses go to:

<http://www.msp.wa.gov/explore/MSP-projects/>

D. Engaging Scientists

Ecosystem assessment workshop and developing a conceptual

model for Washington's Coast- The state held a workshop to engage scientists and provide feedback on the development of ecosystem indicators for the Washington coast ecosystem assessment. The Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) developed draft conceptual models to better understand the ecological relationships off the Washington Coast, identified a list of potential indicator criteria, and

² California waters were previously mapped using the same methodology. The end of the project will result in data for the entire West Coast.

provided initial evaluation results with a draft list of candidate indicators using some of the criteria. The workshop participants provided important feedback on the draft conceptual models, the list of indicator criteria and a list of draft indicators developed by NWFSC. The results of the workshop outlined the next steps for the ecological portion of Washington's ecosystem assessment. A full summary of the workshop can be found at: [http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Ecosystem Indicators Workshop Summary Report.pdf](http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Ecosystem_Indicators_Workshop_Summary_Report.pdf)

Facilitation of scientific input on marine spatial planning data -

Washington Sea Grant facilitated a graduate level course for the Spring quarter 2013 at the University of Washington to use the expertise of graduate students and engage a diverse group of research professors. The students worked in small groups guided by professors to review available marine spatial planning data and identify data gaps in four project categories including fisheries, transportation, ocean observation and research and ocean energy. The research professors that were engaged in the class will also serve on an expert science advisory panel to answer questions and provide a scientific review of project methods. The final class presentations are available at:

[http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/WASeaGrant DataClass FinalPresentation.pdf](http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/WASeaGrant_DataClass_FinalPresentation.pdf)