



Overview of Washington's Marine Spatial Plan

For the National Academies committee study

“Impacts on Shipping and Commercial, Tribal,
and Recreational Fisheries from Development
of Renewable Energy on the West Coast”
(Committee Meeting #5)

June 24, 2025

Who

Presenter:

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE

Contributor and Marine Spatial Plan lead:

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Marine and Ocean Planner

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DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

For more information

Ecology's Ocean management page (*incl.* enforceable policies):

<https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/shoreline-coastal-management/ocean-management>

See the Marine Spatial Plan in full:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/shoreline-coastal-management/ocean-management/marine-spatial-planning>

View maps on Ecology's Coastal Atlas:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/coastalatlasmap>

Two Eras

1. Development of the Marine Spatial Plan (~2010 – 2018)
2. Unsolicited lease requests, events to the south, and state consideration of offshore wind (Fall 2021 to present)

Thinking of your Committee's charge

*“The objective of this study is to **understand potential impacts of offshore renewable energy development on** maritime traffic and **fisheries** (commercial, recreational, and Tribal) on the west coast in federal and state waters.”*

*1) **Document historic and current uses** of offshore areas based on available, published information to include—*

(A) Historic and current Tribal, commercial, and recreational fishing grounds, as well as areas where fish stocks are anticipated to shift in the future

** * **

*(3) **Review the current decision-making processes** for offshore wind in covered waters, and outline recommendations for governmental consideration of all impacted coastal communities, particularly Tribal governments and fisheries communities, in the decision-making process for offshore wind in covered waters, including recommendations for— . . .*

Key Concepts and Focus

- CZMA Consistency review and enforceable policies
 - Fisheries Use Protection Standard
 - Ocean Resources Management Act
- How could the MSP Management Framework and CZMA consistency review best align with the BOEM planning process?

Advanced Questions

- How are the competing interests for offshore use weighted, or are they all treated equally?
- How does Washington State include Tribes in MSP?

RCW 43.372.020

Marine interagency team.

- (1) The office of the governor shall chair a marine interagency team that is composed of representatives of each of the agencies in the governor's natural resources cabinet with management responsibilities for marine waters, including the independent agencies . . .
- (2) The team may not commence any activities authorized under RCW 43.372.030 and 43.372.040 until federal, private, or other funding is secured specifically for these activities.

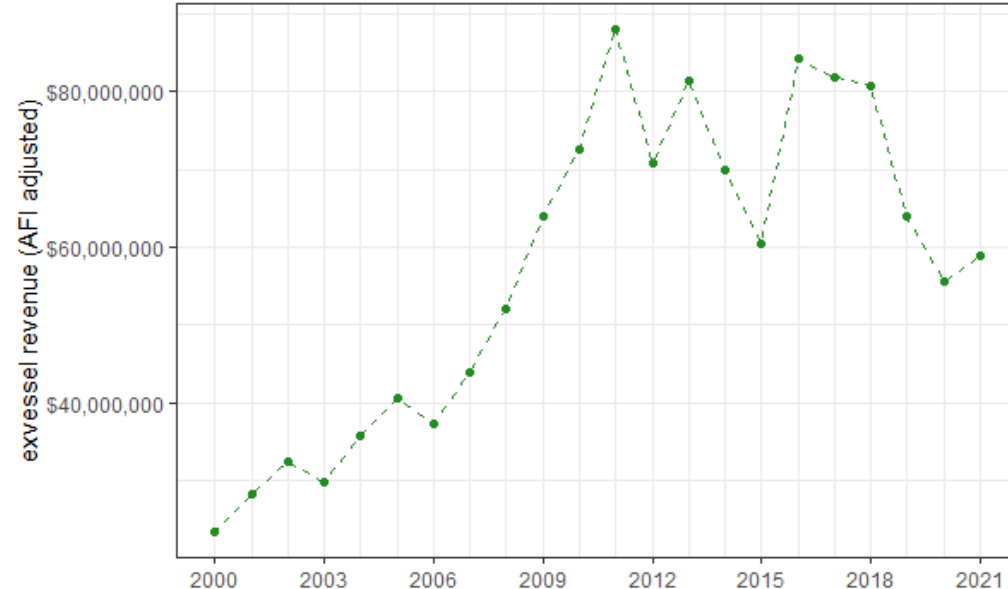
Timeline

Legislature passes marine planning law in March 2010.

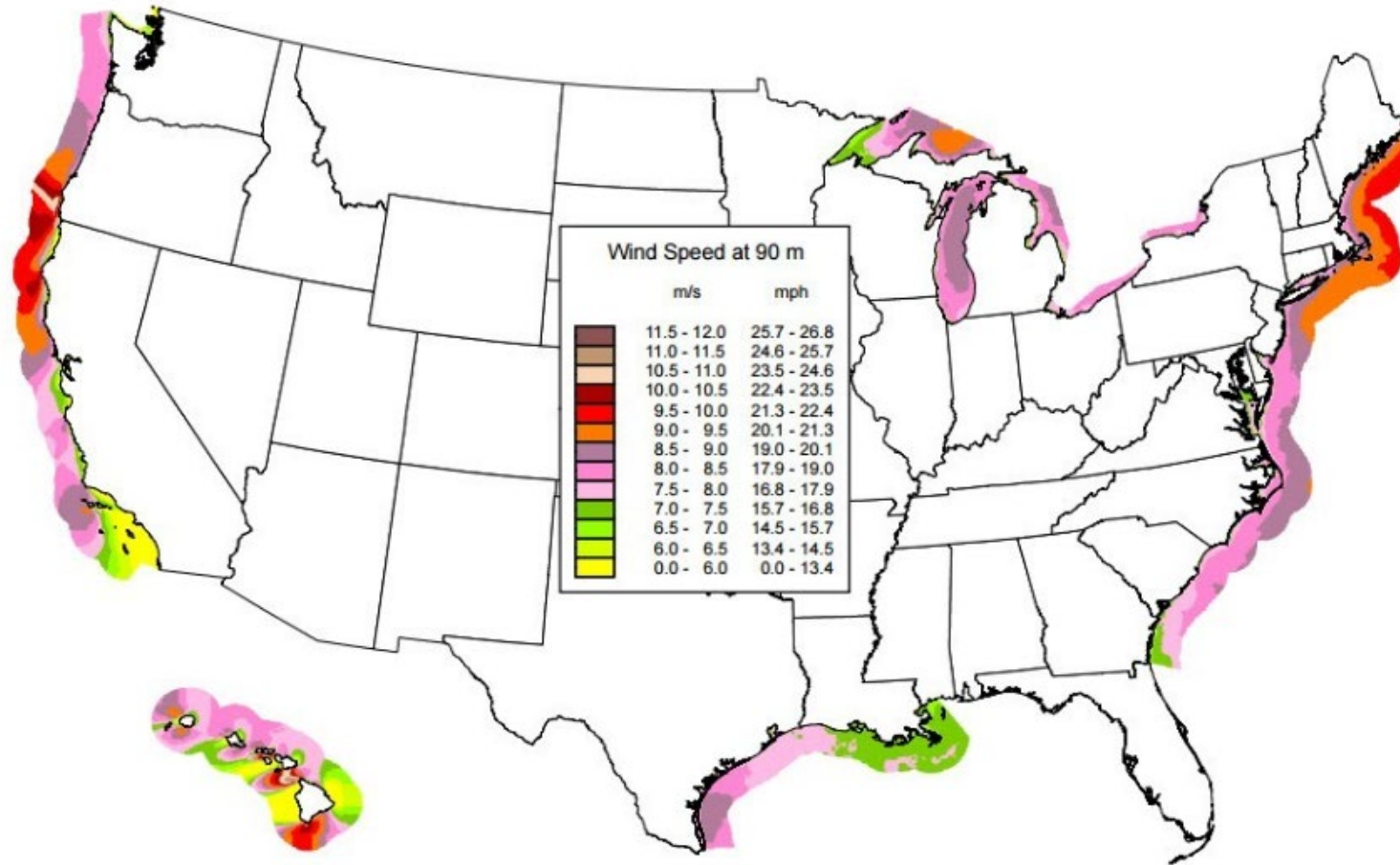
Legislature funds planning July 2012.

State publishes draft plan in October 2017, final June 2018

Geoduck



United States - Annual Average Offshore Wind Speed at 90 m



Chapter 43.372 RCW

MARINE WATERS PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

RCW 43.372.005 Findings—Purpose.

(1) The legislature finds that:

(a) **Native American tribes have depended on the state's marine waters and its resources for countless generations** and continue to do so for cultural, spiritual, economic, and subsistence purposes.

(b) The state has long demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting the state's marine waters, which are abundant in natural resources, contain a treasure of biological diversity, and are a source of multiple uses by the public supporting the economies of nearby communities as well as the entire state. These multiple uses include, but are not limited to: Marine-based industries and activities such as cargo, fuel, and passenger transportation; commercial, recreational, and tribal fishing; shellfish aquaculture; telecommunications and energy infrastructure; seafood processing; tourism; scientific research; and many related goods and services. These **multiple uses** as well as **new emerging uses, such as renewable ocean energy, constitute a management challenge** for sustaining resources and **coordinating state decision making in a proactive, comprehensive and ecosystem-based manner.**

The WCMAC

Governor's Coastal Marine Advisory Council, Washington

RCW [43.143.050](#)

RCW [43.143.060](#)

<https://governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/board-commission-profiles/Coastal%20Marine%20Advisory%20Council%20Washington>

Coastal Marine Advisory Council, Washington

Position Number	Member Name	Term Begin	Term End	Position Requirements
1	VACANT			Citizen from a coastal community
2	Blake, Brian	02/08/2024	10/07/2025	Representative of coastal commercial fishing
3	Thevik, Larry	07/05/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of coastal commercial fishing
4	VACANT			Representative from a coastal conservation group
5	Robinson, Michele	04/15/2022	10/07/2025	Representative from coastal economic development group
6	Dolsak, Nives	11/18/2024	10/07/2028	Representative from an educational institution
7	Meinig, Christian	11/20/2023	10/07/2027	Representative from coastal energy industries or organizations
8	VACANT			Representative from energy industries or organizations
9	Steelquist, Peter	08/10/2023	10/07/2025	Representative of coastal recreation
10	Anderson, Philip	02/08/2024	10/07/2027	Representative of coastal recreational fishing
11	Beugli, David	11/18/2024	10/07/2028	Representative of coastal shellfish aquaculture
12	VACANT			Representative from coastal shipping industry
13	Arkema, Katherine	11/20/2023	10/07/2027	Representative from a science organization
14	VACANT			Representative from Washington Coastal Sustainable Salmon Partnership
15	Bold, Molly	02/08/2024	10/07/2025	Representative from a coastal port
16	Dalan, Garrett	05/13/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee
17	Fleck, William	04/15/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of North Pacific Marine Resources Committee
18	Nordin, Michael	01/23/2023	10/07/2025	Representative of Pacific Marine Resources Committee
19	Culbertson, Paula	05/02/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of Wahkiakum Marine Resources Committee
20	Scales, Kathryn	11/18/2024	10/07/2025	Representative of Washington Sea Grant
21	Talebi, Bobbak	04/24/2024	10/07/2025	Representative of Department of Ecology
22	Niles, Corey	07/05/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of Department of Fish & Wildlife
23	Sessions, Carrie	10/12/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of the Governor's Office
24	Rechner, Michal	05/02/2022	10/07/2025	Representative of Department of Natural Resources
25	Bowman, Stephanie	01/24/2024	10/07/2025	Representative of the Department of Commerce
26	Niles, Matt	01/10/2024	10/07/2025	Representative of Washington State Parks

The Plan

- Guidance for new ocean uses
- Plan goals/objectives:
 - Protect existing uses
 - Protect cultural uses/resources
 - Preserve environment
 - Integrate decision-making
- Does NOT identify preferred areas for new ocean uses

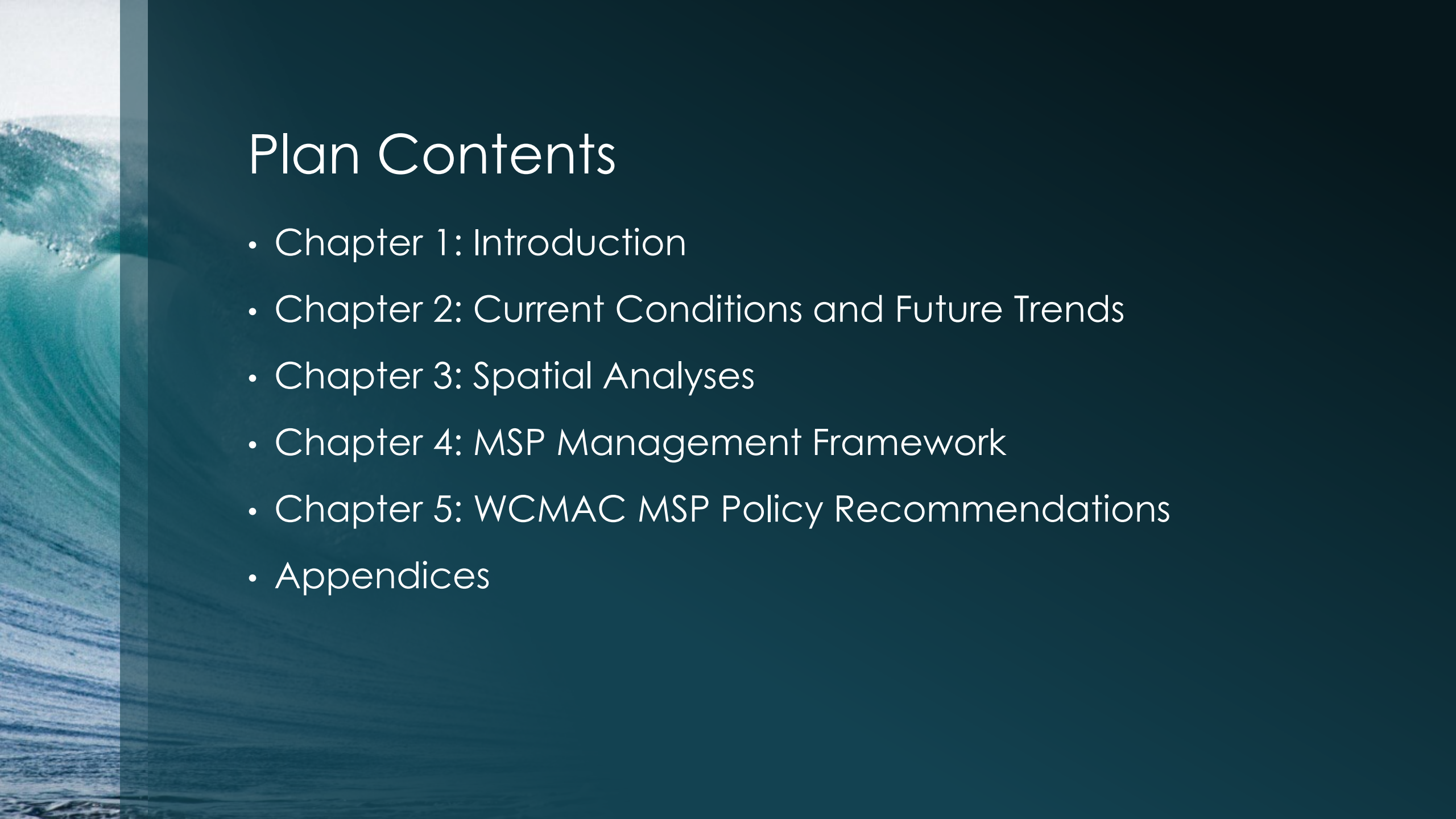


Photo by Katrina Lassiter

Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Coast

October 2017
Publication no. 17-06-027 Revised June 2018





Plan Contents

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Current Conditions and Future Trends
- Chapter 3: Spatial Analyses
- Chapter 4: MSP Management Framework
- Chapter 5: WCMAC MSP Policy Recommendations
- Appendices

RCW 43.372.040

Comprehensive marine management plan

(1) Upon the receipt of federal, private, or other funding for this purpose, the marine interagency team **shall coordinate the development of a comprehensive marine management plan** for the state's marine waters. The marine management plan must include marine spatial planning, **as well as recommendations** to the appropriate federal agencies regarding **the exclusive economic zone waters**.

(4) The marine management plan must be developed and implemented in a manner that:

- (a) Recognizes and respects existing uses and tribal treaty rights;
- (b) Promotes protection and restoration of ecosystem processes to a level that will enable long-term sustainable production of ecosystem goods and services;

* * *

(d) Fosters and encourages sustainable uses that provide economic opportunity without significant adverse environmental impacts;

* * *

(g) Fosters public participation in decision making and significant involvement of communities adjacent to the state's marine waters; and

(h) Integrates existing management plans and authorities and makes recommendations for aligning plans to the extent practicable.

RCW 43.372.040

Comprehensive marine management plan cont'd

(6) The marine management plan must include but not be limited to:

(a) An **ecosystem assessment** that analyzes the health and status of Washington marine waters. . . ;

* * *

(c) A **series of maps** that, at a minimum, summarize available data on: . . . appropriate **locations with high potential for renewable energy production with minimal potential for conflicts** with other existing uses or sensitive environments;

(8) Any provision of the marine management plan that . . . has an impact on this fishing **must minimize the negative impacts on the fishing**. The team must **accord substantial weight to** recommendations from **the director of the department of fish and wildlife** for plan revisions to minimize the negative impacts.

(9) The marine management plan **must recognize and value existing uses**. All actions taken to implement this section must be consistent with RCW 43.372.060.

* * *

(12) The director of the department of ecology shall submit the completed marine management plan to the appropriate federal agency for its review and approval for **incorporation into the state's federally approved coastal zone management program**.

(13) Subsequent to the adoption of the marine management plan, the team **may periodically review and adopt revisions to the plan to incorporate new information** and to recognize and incorporate provisions in other marine management plans. . .

RCW 43.372.060

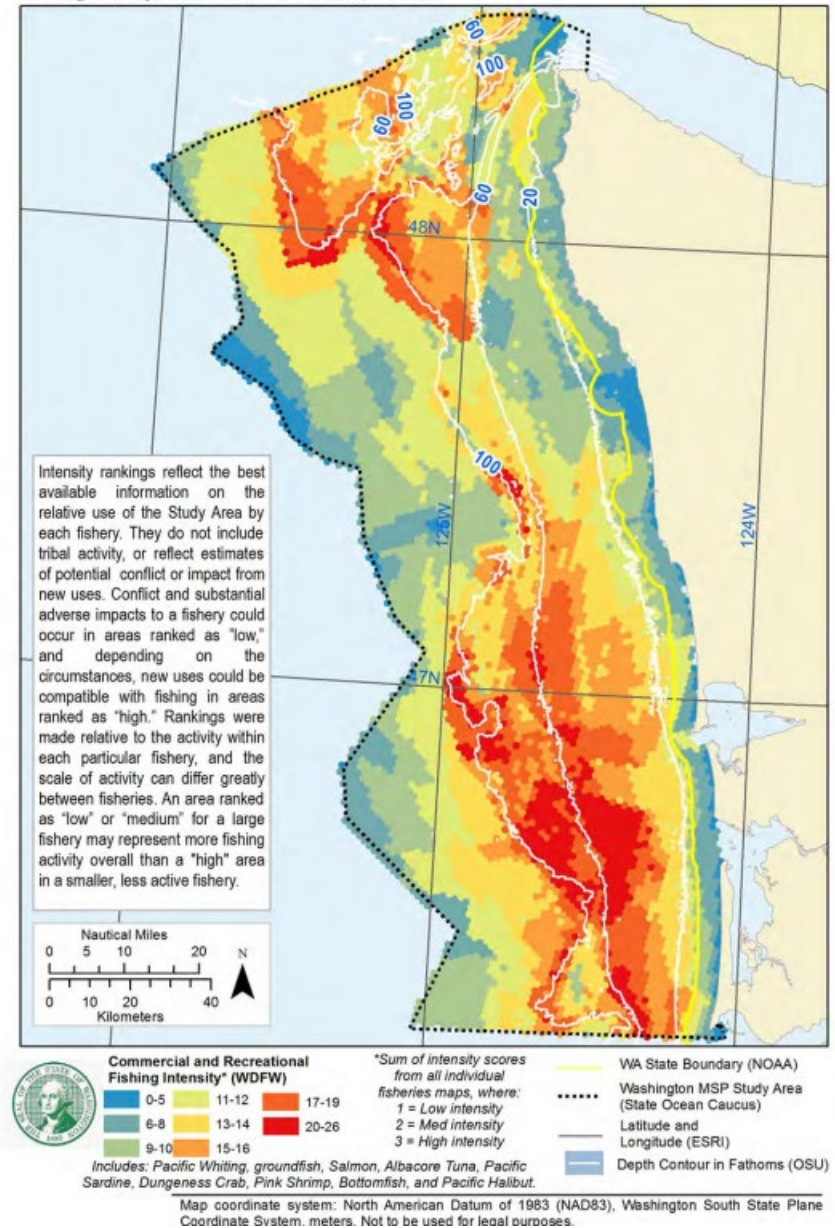
Authority limited

No authority is created under this chapter to affect in any way any project, use, or activity in the state's marine waters existing prior to or during the development and review of the marine management plan. No authority is created under this chapter to supersede the current authority of any state agency or local government.

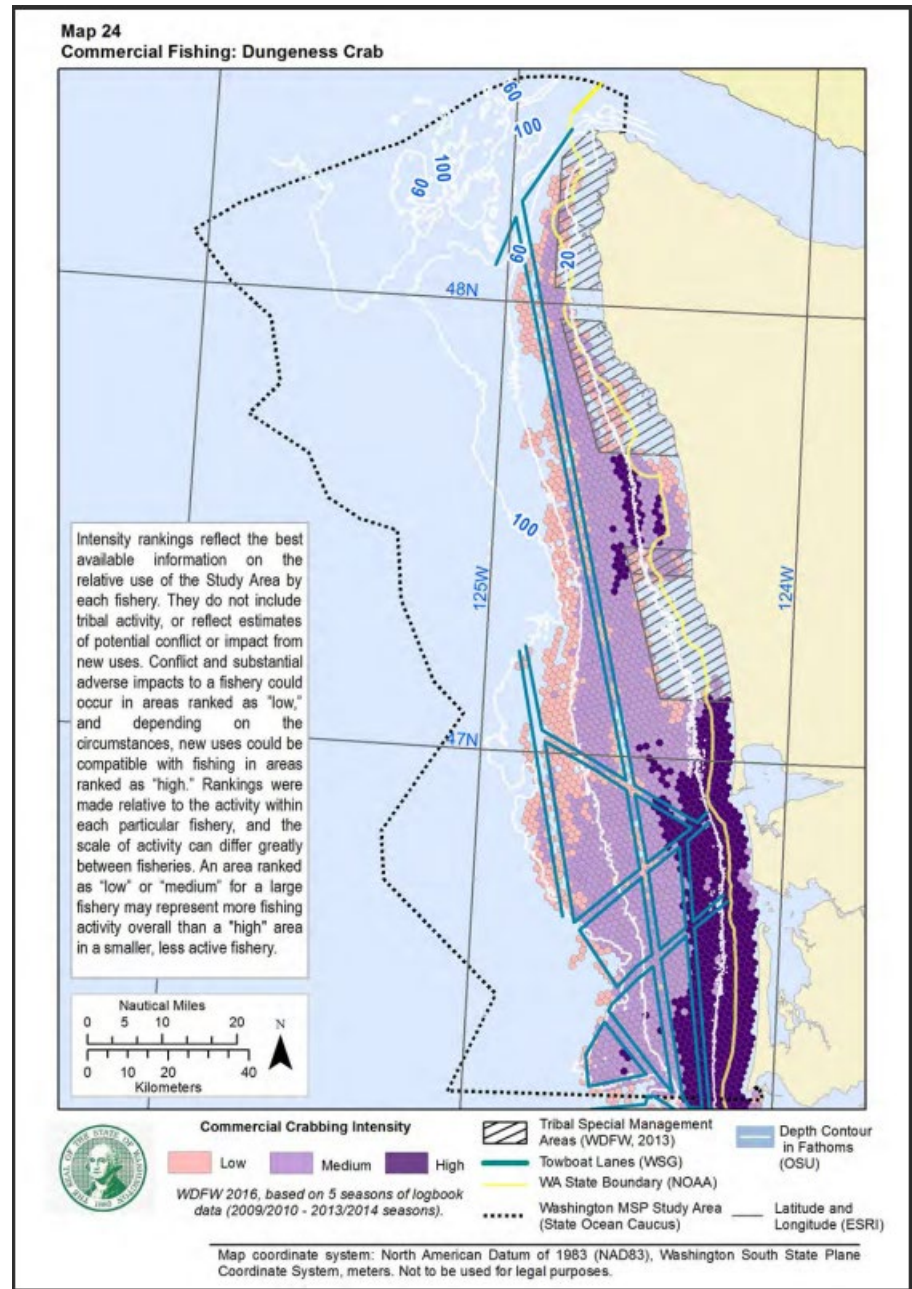
Fishing Maps

Summary map for all non-tribal fisheries

Map 17
Fishing Activity: All Commercial and Recreational

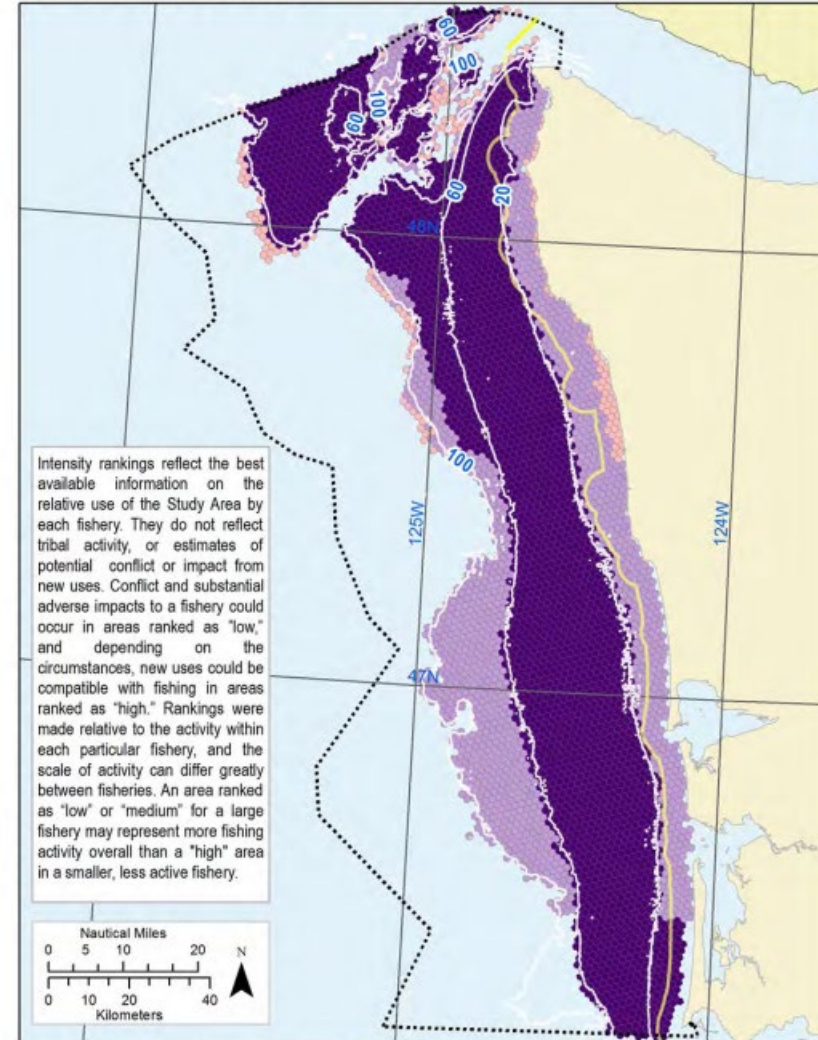


Dungeness crab



Commercial salmon troll

Map 21
Commercial Fishing: Salmon (Troll)



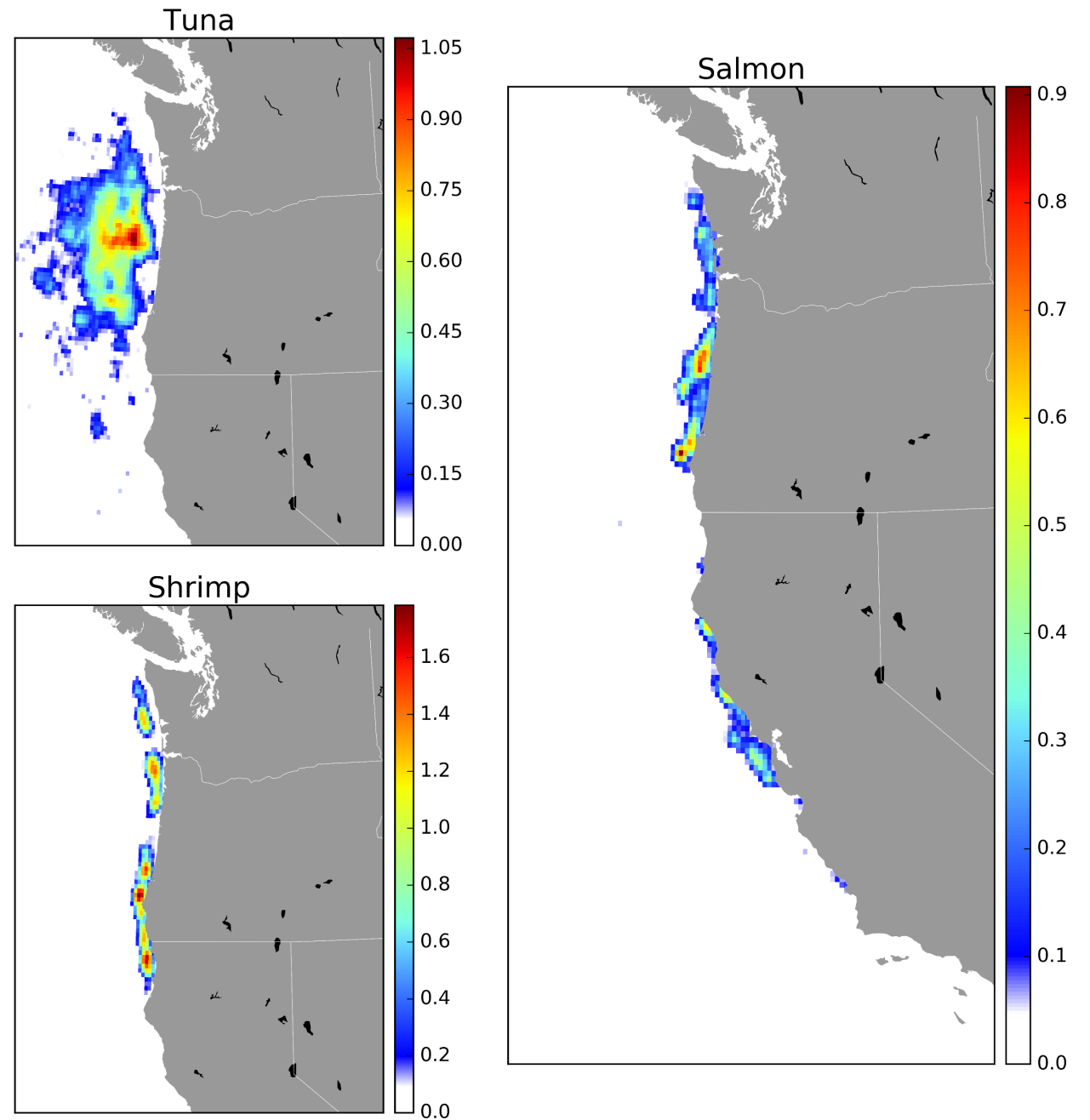
(WDFW 2016, Based on industry and fishery manager interviews)

Map coordinate system: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83), Washington South State Plane Coordinate System, meters. Not to be used for legal purposes.

Watson, J.R., Fuller, E.C., Castruccio, F.S. and Samhuri, J.F., 2018. Fishermen follow fine-scale physical ocean features for finance. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 5, p.46.

Figure S7

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2018.00046/full#h10>



Use/spatial analysis

Spatial Analysis

- Aggregated all ocean uses
- Marxan analysis
- Planning exercise only
- Assumptions and outputs are already obsolete

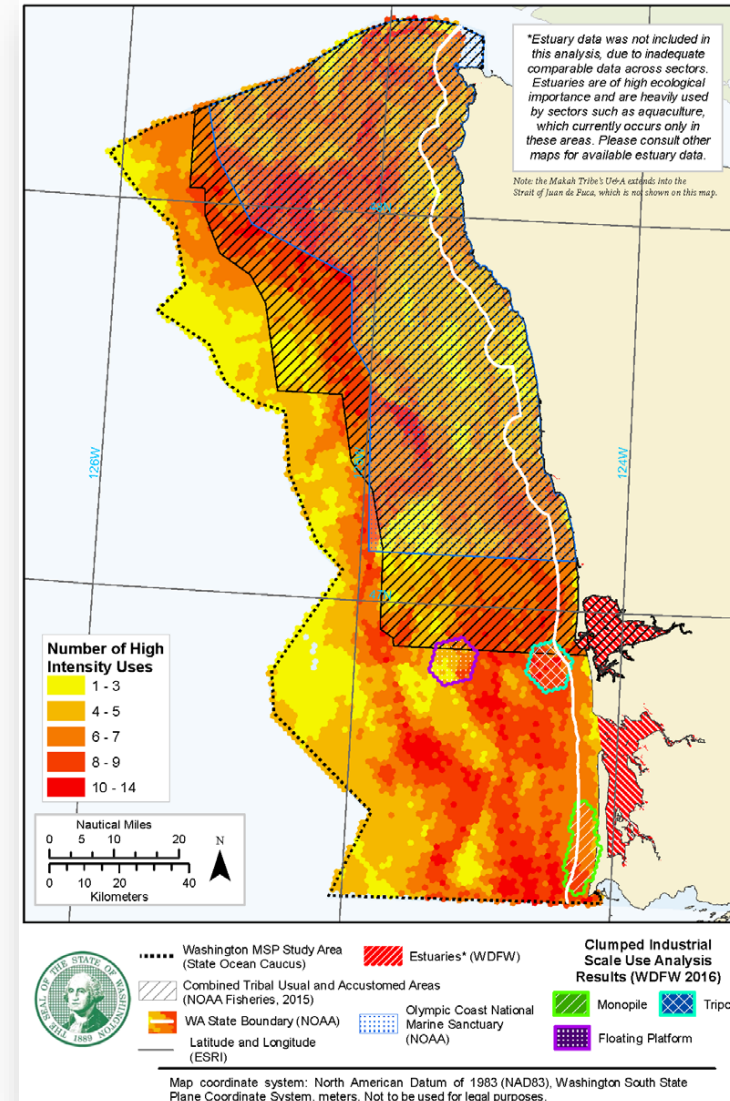


Table 10: The Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Coast *continued*

Section	Title	"At a Glance" Summary
4.6	Fisheries Use Protection Standards	<i>Please see Chapter 4, pages 4-38 to 4-39 for full details on the fisheries use protection standards.</i>
4.6.3 (a-b)	Protection Standards for Fisheries	(a) Protection standards for fisheries: Applicants proposing new ocean uses involving offshore development, as defined in the SMA, must demonstrate that their projects meet the following standards to protect fisheries located at the project site and nearby: i. There are no likely long-term significant adverse effects to fisheries. ii. All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize social and economic impacts to fishing Additionally, other factors must be taken into consideration when assessing adverse effects on commercial and recreational fisheries and whether all reasonable steps have been taken to avoid and minimize such effects. (b) Definition of adverse effect for fisheries: Adverse effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Adverse effects for commercial or recreational fisheries are defined as any of the following: i. A significant reduction in the ability of commercial or recreational fisheries to access the resource used by any fishery or fishing community (ies). ii. A significant increase in the risk to entangle fishing gear. iii. A significant reduction in navigational safety for commercial and recreational fisheries. iv. Environmental harm that significantly reduces quality or quantity of marine resources available for harvest.



Washington Coastal Zone Management Program Enforceable Policies

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

September 2020

Publication Number: 20-06-013

Table 10: The Marine Spatial Plan for Washington’s Pacific Coast *continued*



**Washington Coastal
Enforceable Policies**

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

September 2020

Publication Number: 20-06-001

Section	Title	"At a Glance" Summary
	(a)Protection standards for fisheries: Applicants proposing new ocean uses involving offshore development, as defined in the SMA, must demonstrate that their projects meet the following standards to protect fisheries located at the project site and nearby:	
	i. There are no likely long-term significant adverse effects to fisheries.	
	ii. All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize social and economic impacts to fishing	
		harm to fishing community (es): ii. A significant increase in the risk to entangle fishing gear. iii. A significant reduction in navigational safety for commercial and recreational fisheries. iv. Environmental harm that significantly reduces quality or quantity of marine resources available for harvest.

Table 10: The Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Coast *continued*

Section	Title	"At a Glance" Summary
	(b) Definition of adverse effect for fisheries: Adverse effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative . Adverse effects for commercial or recreational fisheries are defined as any of the following:	
	i. A significant reduction in the ability of commercial or recreational fisheries to access the resource used by any fishery or fishing community (ies).	
	ii. A significant increase in the risk to entangle fishing gear.	
	iii. A significant reduction in navigational safety for commercial and recreational fisheries.	
	iv. Environmental harm that significantly reduces quality or quantity of marine resources available for harvest.	
		commercial and recreational fisheries.
		iv. Environmental harm that significantly reduces quality or quantity of marine resources available for harvest.



Washington Coastal Enforceable Policies

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

September 2020

Publication Number: 20-06-0

Chapter [43.143](#) RCW OCEAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

RCW [43.143.030](#)

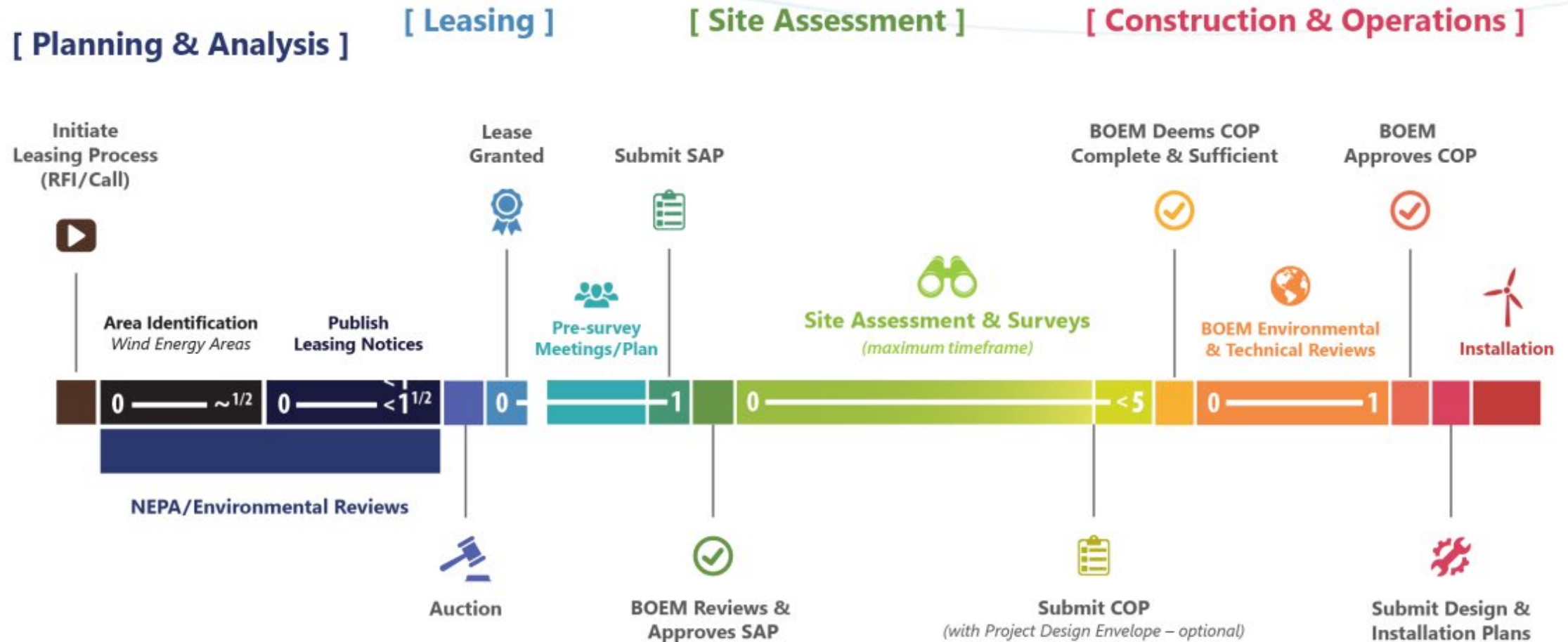
Planning and project review criteria.

(1) When the state of Washington and local governments develop plans for the management, conservation, use, or development of natural resources in Washington's coastal waters, the policies in RCW [43.143.010](#) shall guide the decision-making process.

(2) Uses or activities that require federal, state, or local government permits or other approvals and that will adversely impact renewable resources, marine life, fishing, aquaculture, recreation, navigation, air or water quality, or other existing ocean or coastal uses, may be permitted only if the criteria below are met or exceeded:

- (a) There is a demonstrated significant local, state, or national need for the proposed use or activity;
- (b) There is no reasonable alternative to meet the public need for the proposed use or activity;
- (c) There will be no likely long-term significant adverse impacts to coastal or marine resources or uses;
- (d) All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse environmental impacts, with special protection provided for the marine life and resources of the Columbia river, Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor estuaries, and Olympic national park;
- (e) All reasonable steps are taken to avoid and minimize adverse social and economic impacts, including impacts on aquaculture, recreation, tourism, navigation, air quality, and recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing;
- (f) Compensation is provided to mitigate adverse impacts to coastal resources or uses;
- (g) Plans and sufficient performance bonding are provided to ensure that the site will be rehabilitated after the use or activity is completed; and
- (h) The use or activity complies with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

BOEM's Offshore Wind Energy Authorization Process



Cumulative impact - The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. 40 CFR. § 1508.7

4. Fisheries groups

The marine spatial planning law requires that: “Any provision of the marine management plan that does not have as its primary purpose the management of commercial or recreational fishing but that has an impact on this fishing must minimize the negative impacts on the fishing. The team must accord substantial weight to recommendations from the director of the department of fish and wildlife for plan revisions to minimize the negative impacts.” ([RCW 43.372.040\(8\)](#)).

As noted in WCMAC’s recommendations (see Chapter 5, including problem statements), Washington’s Pacific coast has unique conditions related to potential conflicts and impacts to fisheries. In particular, there are concerns about interactions with fishing gear, as well as access to and reduction in fishing areas posed by new structures in the ocean. Therefore, the following process is set out for new ocean use projects to identify potential adverse impacts²⁹ to state commercial and recreational fisheries and opportunities to avoid, minimize or mitigate those impacts (Chapter 5: WCMAC 3.1.2, and [RCW 43.143.030\(2\)](#)).

- a. Applicants will notify the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW) Intergovernmental Ocean Policy office regarding a potential project proposal, as early as possible, including likely location(s) of the project.

²⁸ Applicants may provide notice to WCMAC either via the chair or Department of Ecology staff that administer WCMAC, who will forward the notice to WCMAC members.

²⁹ As noted in Section 4.5, this includes direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

Second Era

Select events

- Sep 2021 – OSW interest in WA returns
- Spring 2022 – unsolicited lease requests become public
- Aug 2022 – WCMAC forms OSW Committee
- Jan 2023 – WCMAC sends “Principles of Engagement”
- Late Fall 2023 – Governor Inslee decides to hire a consultant
- Jan- June 2024 – Gridworks evaluation and recommendations
- Sep 2024 – Inslee Letter to WCMAC
- Dec 2024 – OSW related provisions included in Governor Inslee’s budget proposal to Legislature
- May 2025 – Governor Ferguson vetoes the provisos



**GRAYS HARBOR
WIND**

The NAGWIA'SUP
a 1,000 MW floating offshore wind project

Who Are We?



**GRAYS HARBOR
WIND**

Grays Harbor Wind LLC is a joint venture

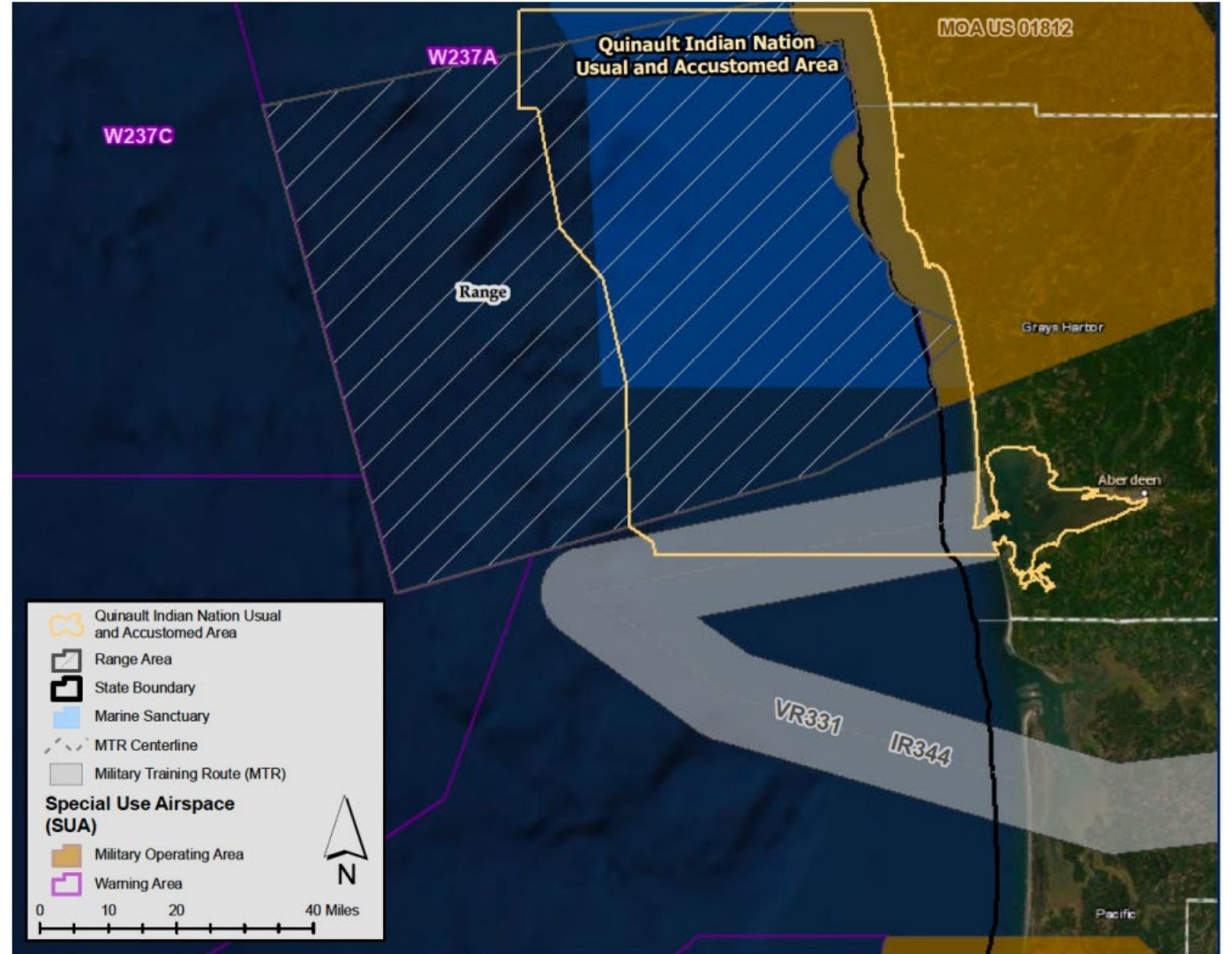


A Seattle, WA based deep water offshore wind developer with extensive experience in marine renewables technology, permitting, and project financing.



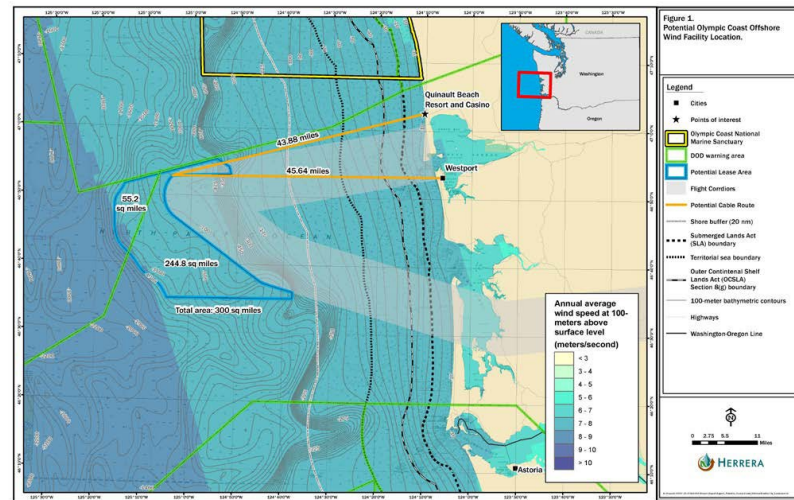
A wholly owned US subsidiary of EnBW AG, a fully integrated German utility and a leader in the energy transition in Europe with nearly 1,000 MW of offshore wind in operation and a 6,000 MW pipeline of offshore wind under development worldwide.

Sep 24, 2022 Special Session of the WCMAC

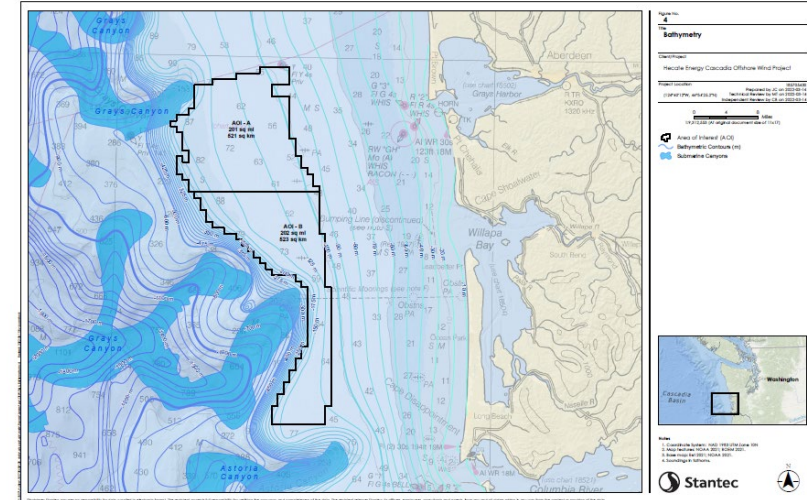


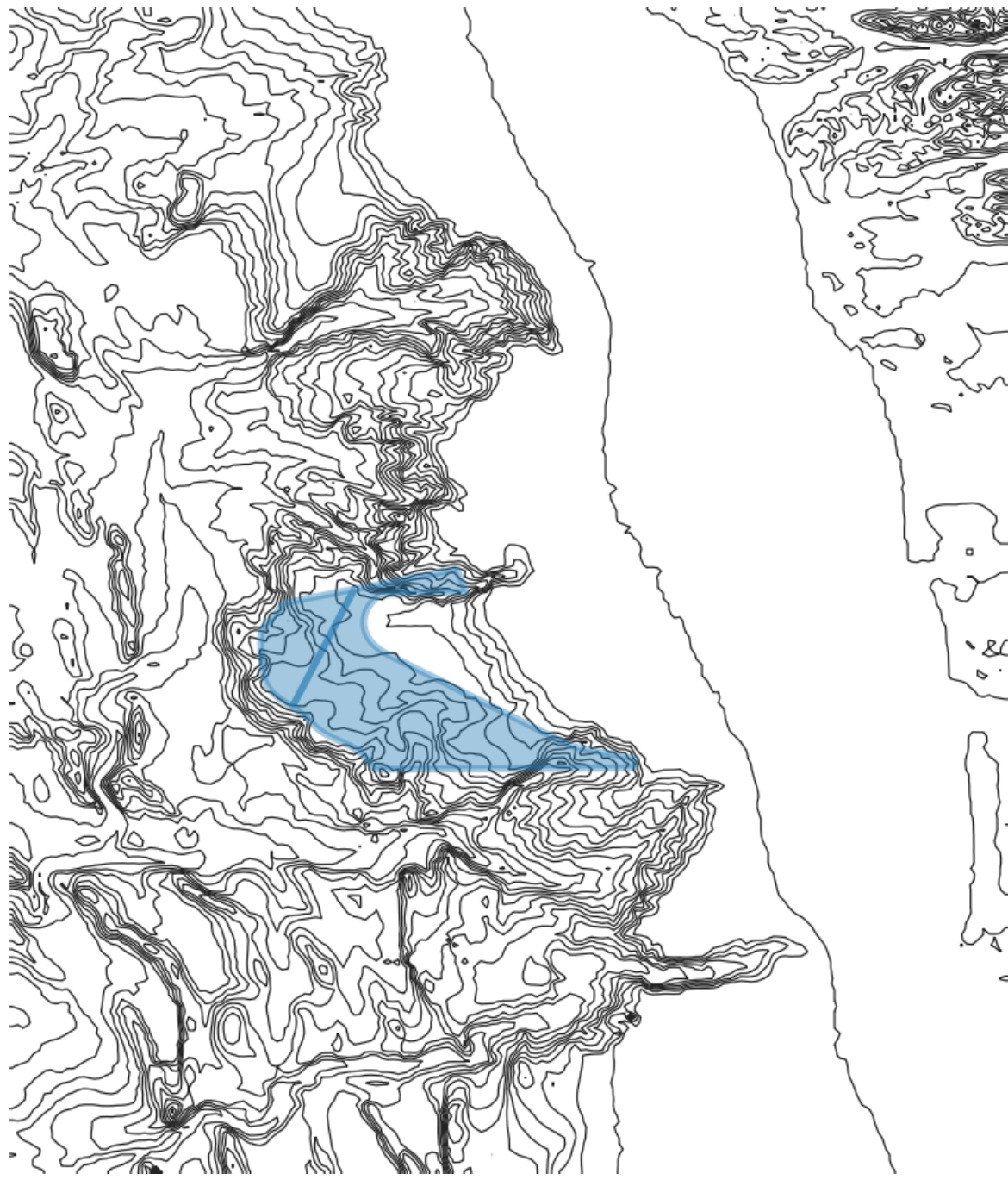
Unsolicited Lease Requests (2022)

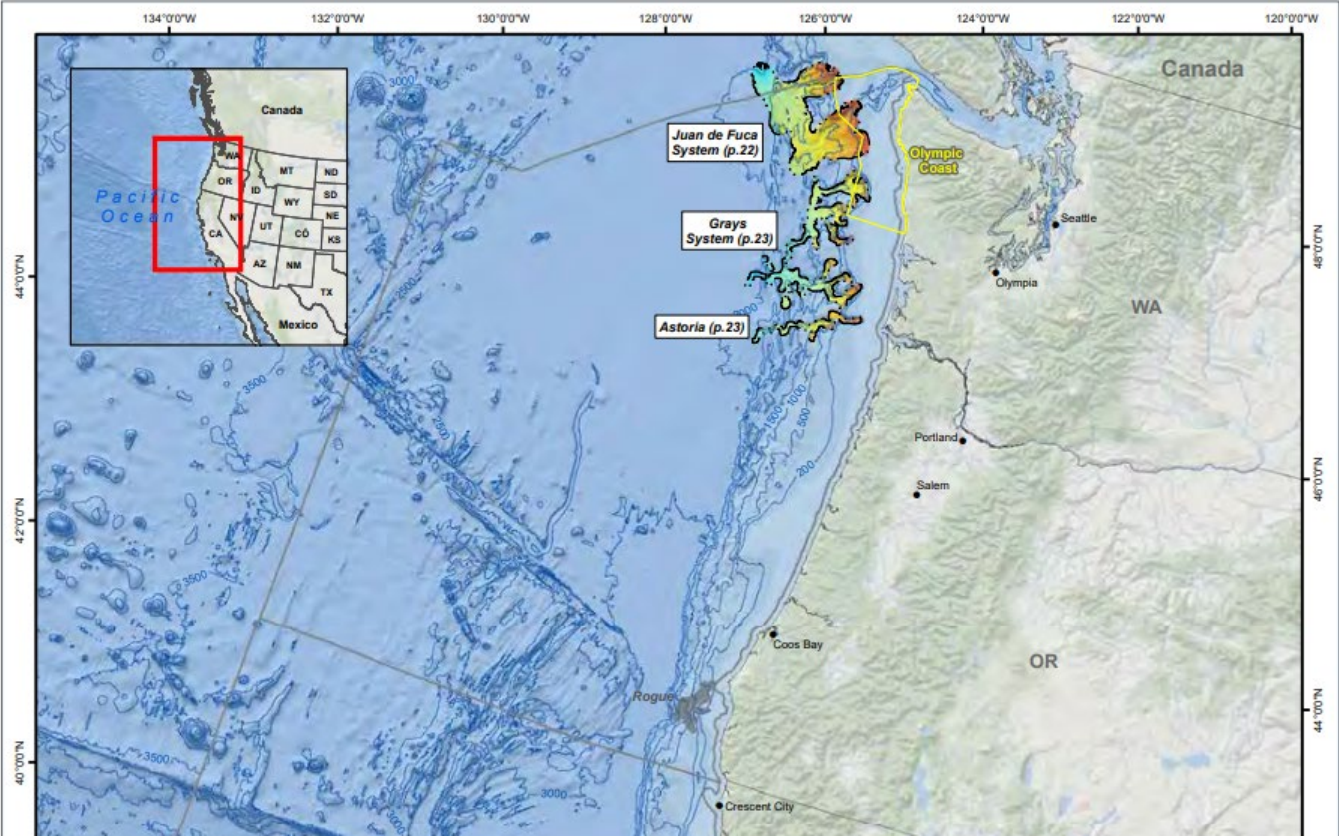
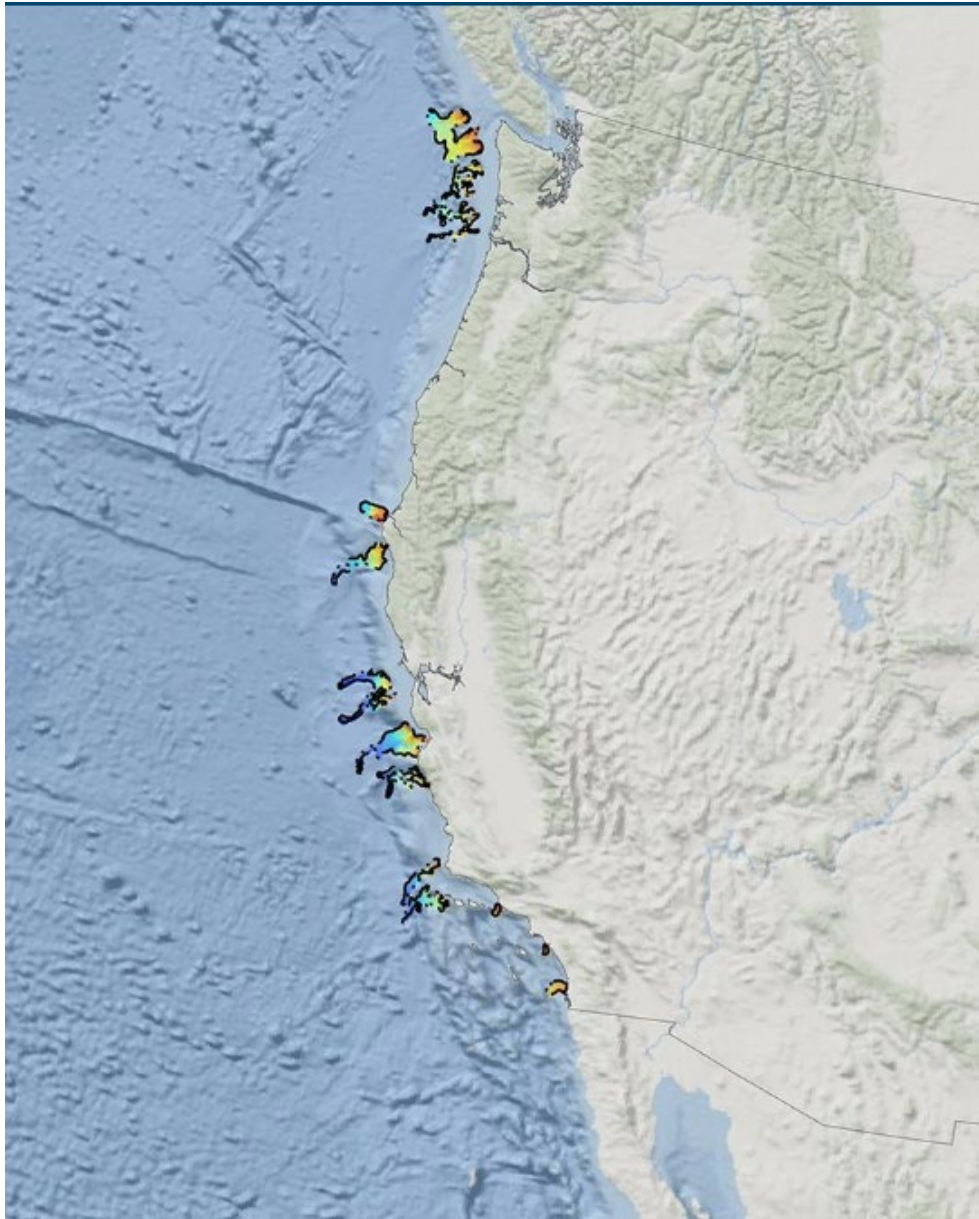
Olympic Wind (Trident Winds)



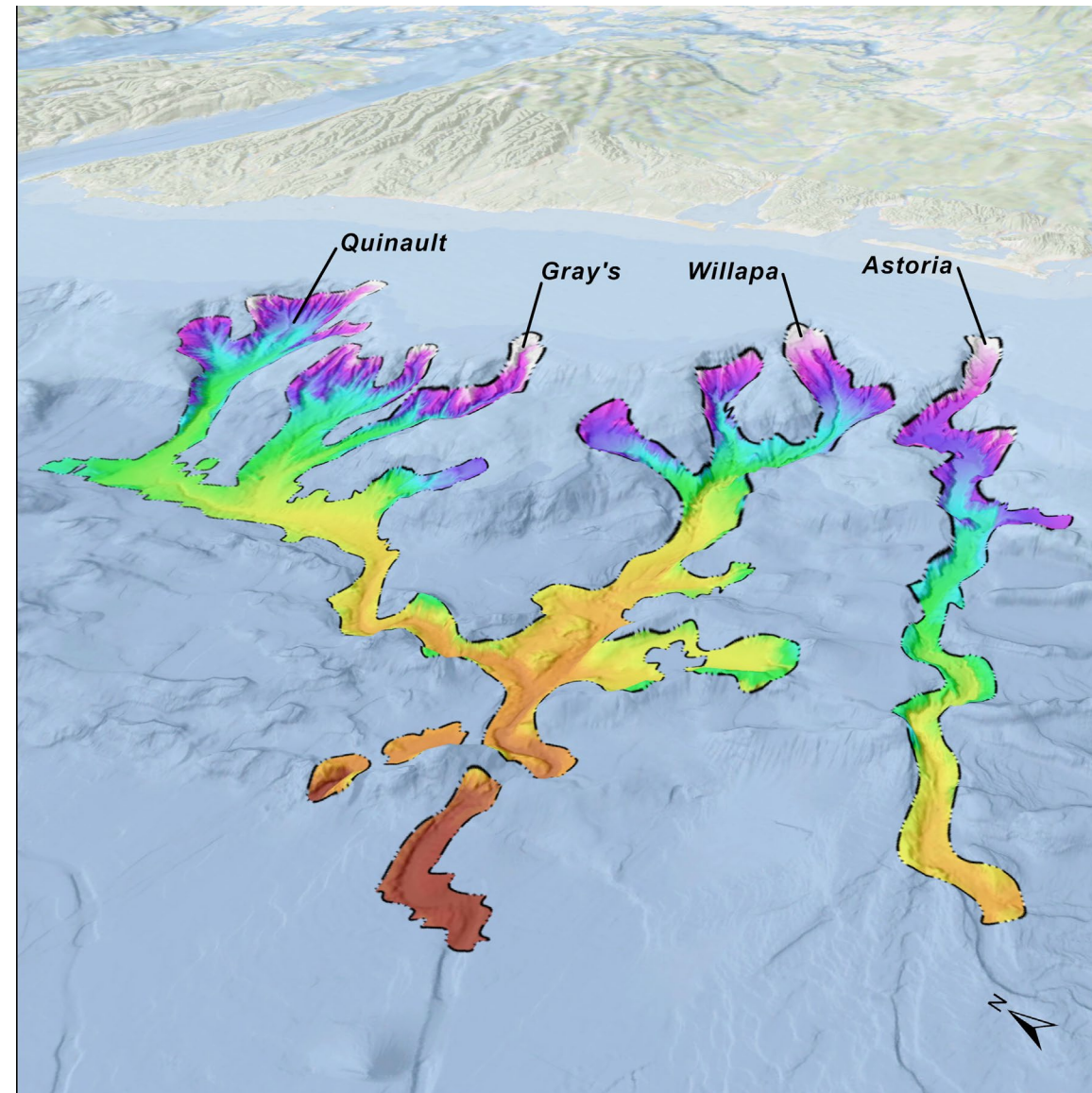
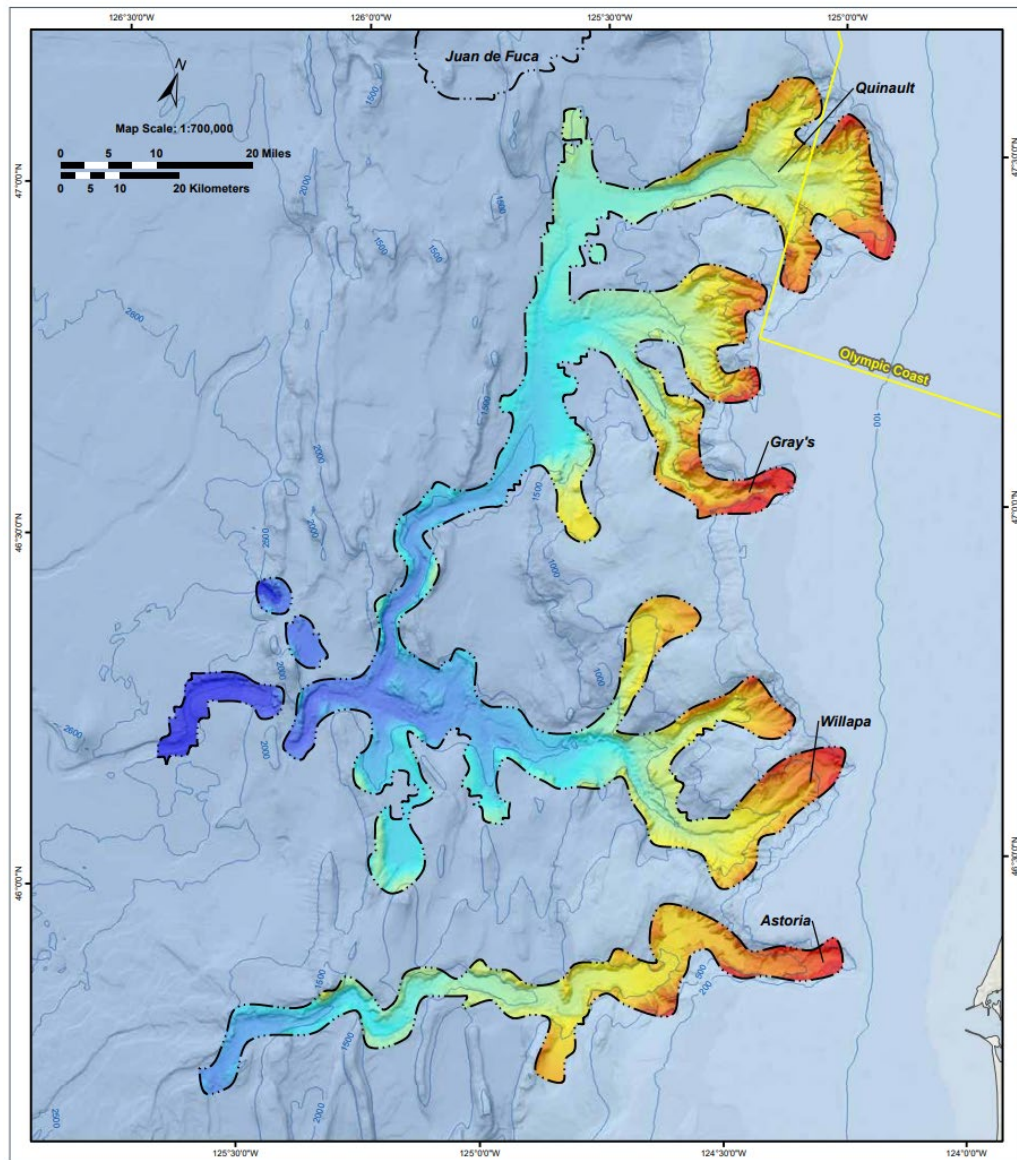
Cascadia Offshore Wind (Hecate Energy)

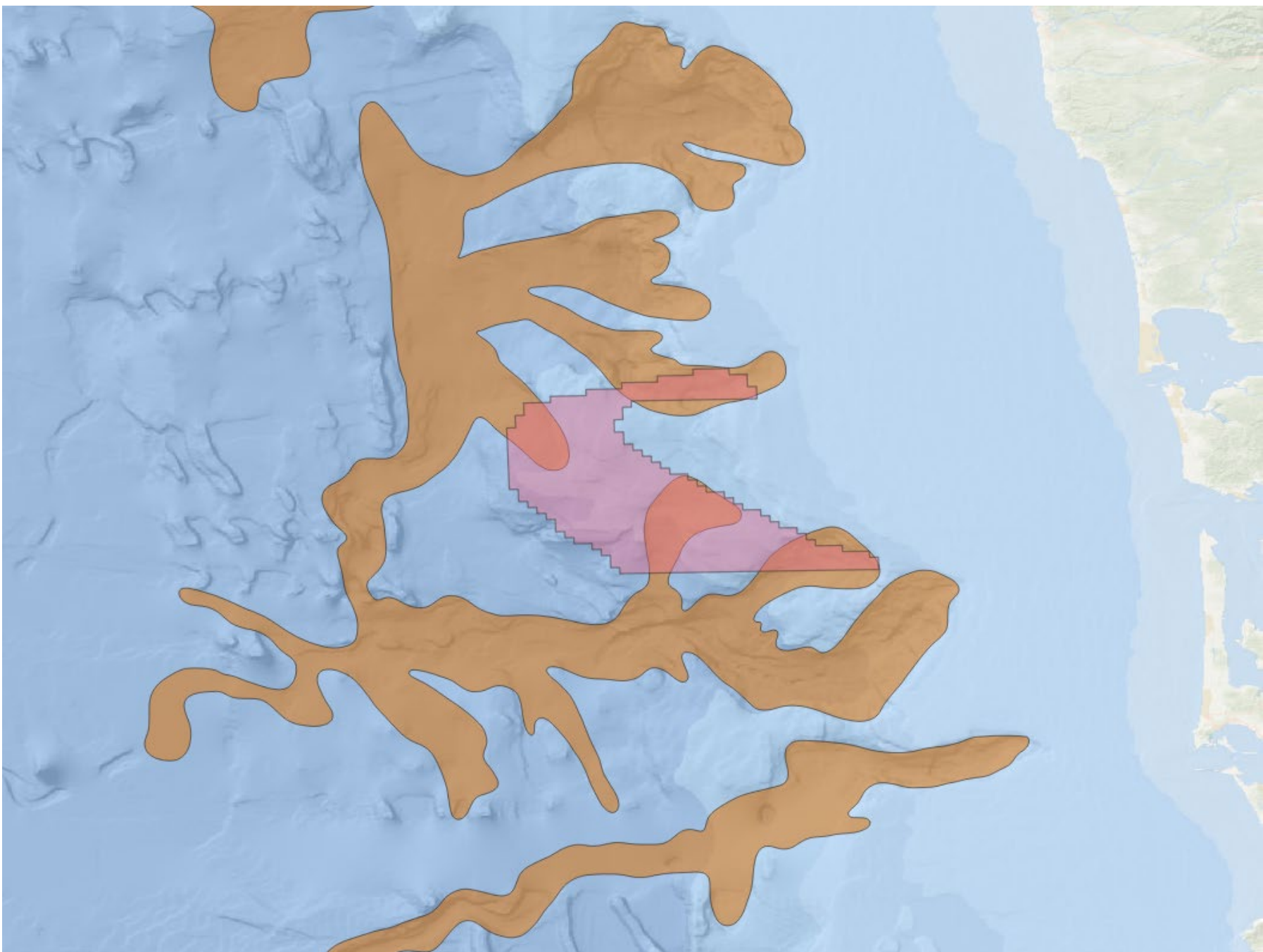




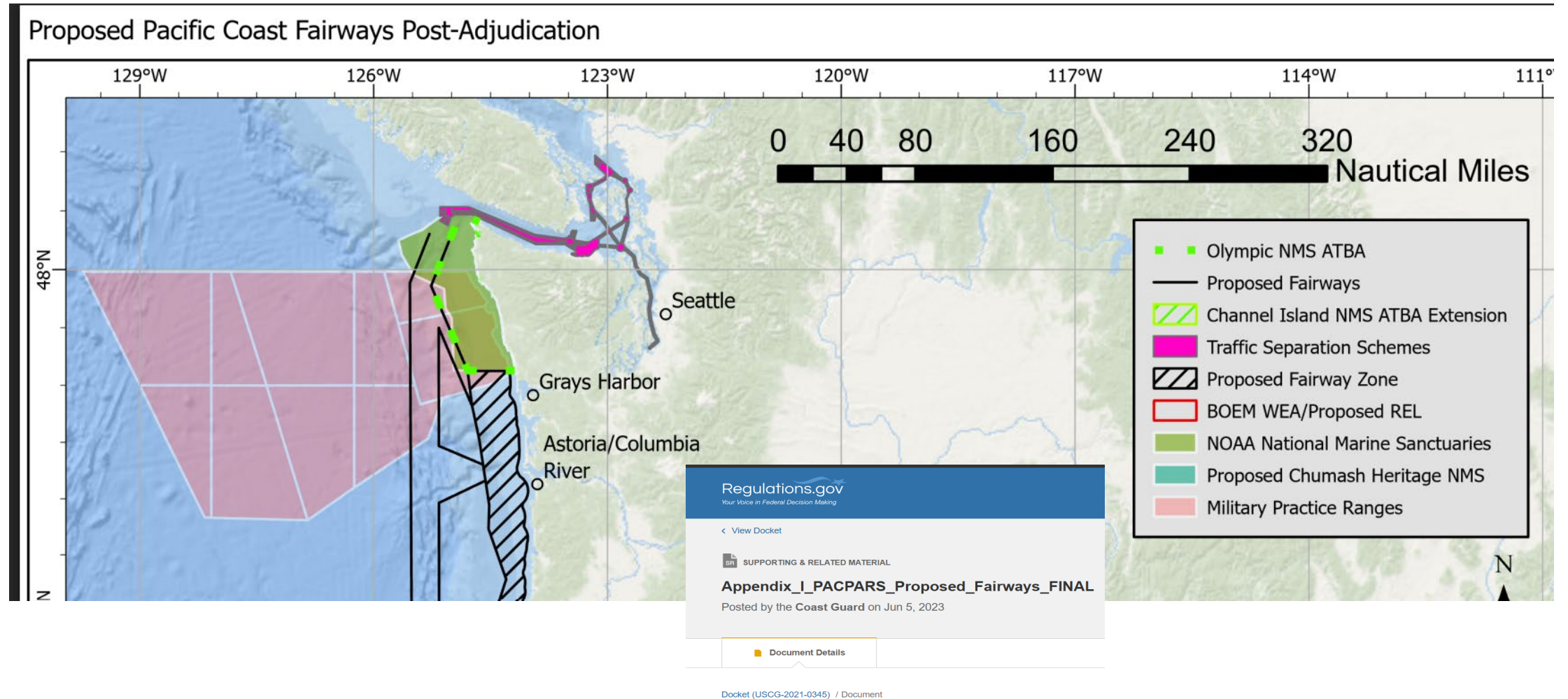


<https://www.boem.gov/environment/large-submarine-canyons-atlas>

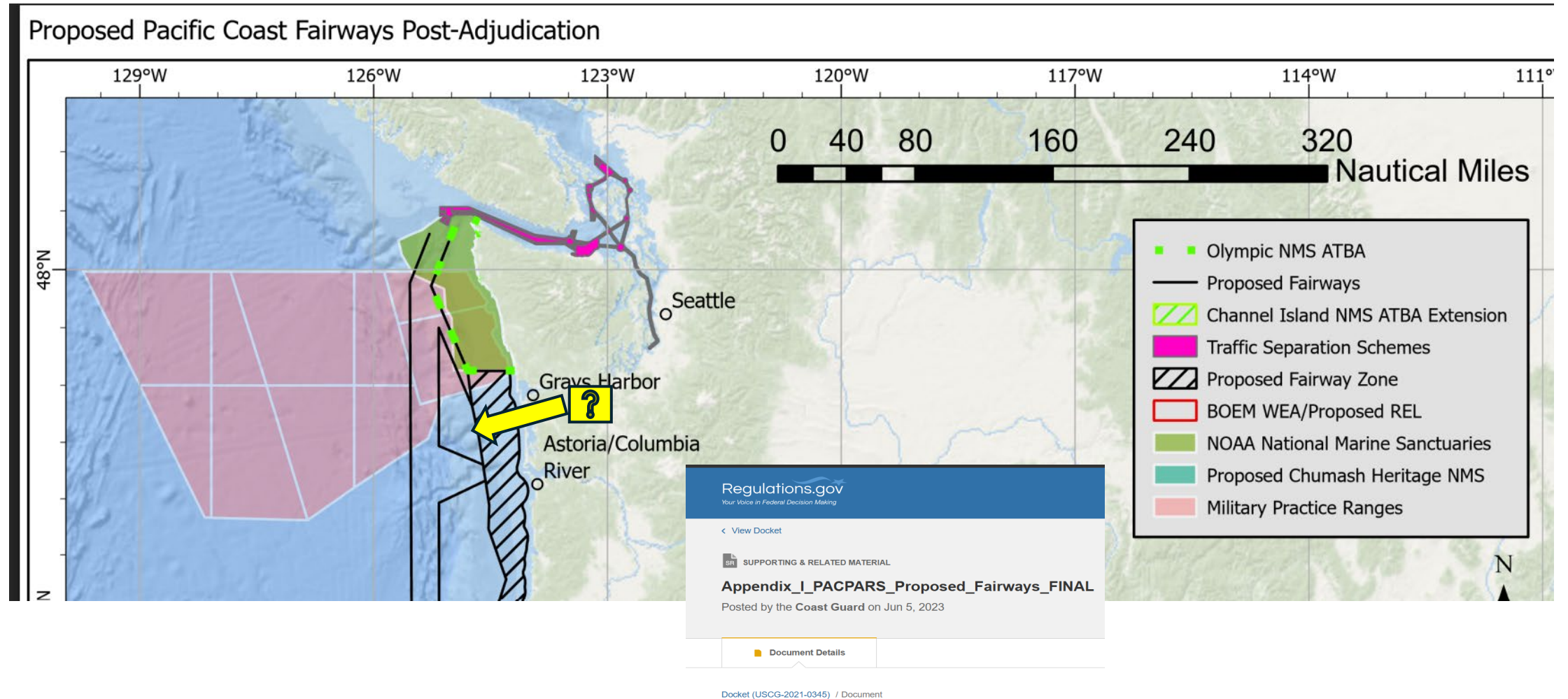




PacPARS?



PacPARS?



Recommended Principles of Engagement

- 1** **The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) process must be transparent.** WCMAC recommends a transparent public engagement process. Such a process must provide sufficient time for BOEM to understand stakeholder and coastal community concerns, while aligning with the sequential review of environmental considerations such proposals must undertake. BOEM must clearly, and iteratively, articulate the overall process that they will utilize and identify when key decisions are going to be made (e.g., announcement of call areas, designation of wind energy areas, leasing, permitting, and engagement opportunities).

There have been concerns in other regions about the transparency of decision making during offshore wind planning processes, including transparency regarding data sources, permitting decisions, and the engagement processes. WCMAC recommends that for BOEM to achieve transparency in their process, the following principles of engagement would need to be followed.
- 2** **BOEM and the state need to provide consistent, timely, meaningful, and responsive engagement opportunities.** This means meeting multiple times a year with key affected communities, stakeholders, rightsholders, and agencies, and that appropriate consultation with these groups is done **prior** to important decision-making such as siting, leasing, and permitting.

WCMAC supports a joint planning or coordination agreement that includes affected stakeholders and local, state, and federal government executives and agencies to inform the BOEM process. WCMAC recommends an alternative approach to standard intergovernmental task forces that includes participation of affected stakeholders. WCMAC also expects BOEM and the State to include robust government-to-government consultation and engagement with Tribes.
- 3** **BOEM, the state, and other relevant agencies must engage with key stakeholders, fishing industries, and coastal community members to publicly inform and vet the data and information used in decision making (e.g., siting and leasing) to establish and verify data and areas of potential conflict.** Utilizing current research, data, and information as well as filling data and information gaps is of paramount importance to inform the understanding of large scale and cumulative environmental, socioeconomic, and ecosystem impacts from offshore wind development. WCMAC strongly recommends that a cumulative impact analysis (e.g. a

WCMAC Principles of Engagement



A Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement Framework for Washington State

Research and recommendations to shape planning and evaluation of
offshore wind off Washington's Pacific Coast.

June 2024



Recommendation 1: Gridworks recommends the Governor's Office **engage in meaningful consultation** on offshore wind issues **with Washington Coastal Tribes and other Tribes that may be impacted by offshore wind**. We recommend consultations follow Millennium Agreement guidelines, such as interaction between state and government officials with comparable decision-making authority as well as open, two-way dialogue and information sharing between the state and Tribes. . .

Recommendation 2: Washington state should consider **development of or support for a regional research consortium** that provides independent expert analysis and peer review of, guidance for, and prioritization of data-gathering, research, and analysis informing responsible offshore wind development off the Pacific Coast. . .

Recommendation 5: Prior to entering a BOEM leasing process, Washington state **should perform a thorough investigation and comprehensive catalog of Washington's legal authorities** under Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) enforceable policies and other jurisdictional authorities pertinent to potential siting and permitting of offshore wind within the BOEM process. . .



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

September 18, 2024

Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
C/O Casey Dennehy
Marine Policy Associate
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Members of the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council:

I appreciate the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC)'s continued engagement and work on the issue of offshore wind. Input from the WCMAC has been instrumental as I have considered how best Washington state can proceed on the issue.

Climate change is harming our oceans and those who depend on them. From ocean acidification to sea level rise and coastal flooding, our marine ecosystem and Coastal Tribes and communities are today bearing the cost of historic pollution. To effectively combat climate change, Washington state, and our nation more broadly, need a significant amount of new clean energy generation. While I believe that Washington should pursue offshore wind as a potential clean



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

I have heard the WCMAC’s concerns and cautions on potential impacts of offshore wind, and I respect and value the call for additional scientific research prior to leasing and building these projects. Moreover, the Gridworks report submitted to my office (“A Proposed Offshore Wind Engagement Framework for Washington State”) elucidates that **more work remains** before Washington is ready to invite a federal planning and evaluation process on offshore wind. I also understand that while our state urgently needs to develop new clean energy sources, **offshore wind is not yet economically competitive with other zero-emission resources in our state**. It is with this understanding that I have decided not to request a federal offshore wind planning process at this time. Instead, I believe that **Washington state will be best off pursuing additional research and state preparation prior to inviting a formal federal planning and evaluation process**.

SB 5167 - 2025-26

3 (12) \$500,000 of the climate commitment account—state
4 appropriation is provided solely for the department to contract with
5 a nonregulatory coalition located in Seattle that supports the
6 strategic development and activation of Washington state's
7 participation in the West Coast wide-floating offshore wind supply
8 chain through a collaborative approach. The department and
9 nonregulatory coalition shall identify economic, community, and
10 workforce development opportunities resulting from Washington state's
11 participation in the offshore wind supply chain through conducting
12 convenings, workshops, and studies as appropriate.

9 (8) \$24,536,000 of the climate investment account—state
10 appropriation is provided solely for capacity grants to federally
11 recognized tribes for: (a) Consultation on spending decisions on
12 grants in accordance with RCW 70A.65.305; (b) consultation on clean
13 energy siting projects; (c) activities supporting climate resilience
14 and adaptation; (d) developing tribal clean energy projects; (e)
15 applying for state or federal grant funding; (f) participation on a
16 science advisory panel and other associated work on offshore wind;
17 and (g) other related work. In order to meet the requirements of RCW

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3 (12) \$500,000 of the climate commitment account—state
4 appropriation is provided solely for the department to contract with
5 a nonregulatory coalition located in Seattle that supports the
6 strategic development and activation of Washington state's
7 participation in the
8 chain through a
9 nonregulatory coal:
10 workforce developmen
11 participation in the
12 convenings, workshop

9 (8) \$24,536,000
10 appropriation is provided
11 recognized tribes
12 grants in accordance
13 energy siting projects
14 and adaptation; (c)
15 applying for state
16 science advisory panel
17 and (g) other related

23 (15)(a) \$816,000 of the climate commitment account—state
24 appropriation is provided to the department of ecology to report on
25 the state's authority relevant to the potential siting and permitting
26 of floating offshore wind energy projects in federal waters off
27 Washington's Pacific Ocean coast. In coordination with the
28 departments of fish and wildlife, natural resources, and parks, the
29 energy facility site evaluation council, and the utilities and
30 transportation commission, the department shall:

31 (i) Study and report on how and when state laws, regulations, and
32 enforceable policies apply during a federal process for floating
33 offshore wind energy projects, including the siting of associated
34 onshore and nearshore transmission infrastructure;

35 (ii) Identify the state's regulatory decisions in the federal
36 process for which a state agency would be required to undergo
37 consultation with federally recognized tribes and solicit public
38 comment; and

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3 (12) \$500,000 of the climate commitment account—state
4 appropriation is provided solely for the department to contract with
5 a nonregulatory coalition located in Seattle that supports the
6 strategic development and activation of Washington state's
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24 appropriation is provided to the department of ecology to report on
25 the state's authority relevant to the potential siting and permitting
26 of floating offshore wind energy projects in federal waters off
27 Washington's Pacific Ocean coast. In coordination with the
28 departments of fish and wildlife, natural resources, and parks, the
29 energy facility site evaluation council, and the utilities and
30 transportation commission, the department shall:

31 (i) Study and report on how and when state laws, regulations, and
32 enforceable policies apply during a federal process for floating

33 (16) (a) \$731,000 of the climate commitment account—state
34 onshore 23 appropriation is provided to convene a tribal-state science advisory
35 (i) 24 panel to guide the advancement of our scientific understanding of
36 process 25 potential ecological impacts of floating offshore wind projects.
37 consul 26 Considering current research, the advisory panel should develop a
38 commer 27 prioritized science agenda to increase understanding of how floating
28 offshore wind projects sited off of Washington's coast could impact
29 Washington's marine and coastal environment and resources, with an
30 emphasis on potential impacts to treaty-protected tribal resources.

“The department, in coordination with other state agencies, shall also host a minimum of two scenario planning exercises where agencies test run how their authority would be applied in the event of a federal leasing for offshore wind projects. The department shall incorporate the lessons it learns from these exercises into the report.”



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

May 20, 2025

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

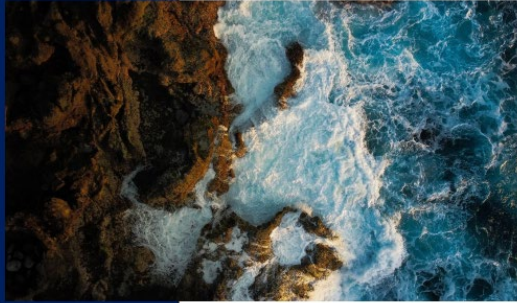
Esteemed Colleagues:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 114(11), 117(8), 126(20), 129

Sections 302(15), pages 309-310; 302(16), pages 310-311, Department of Ecology, Offshore Wind Authorities Report

These sections provide funding for the Department of Ecology to evaluate state siting and permitting authorities related to offshore wind and to convene a Tribal-state panel to advance the scientific understanding of the ecological impacts of offshore wind along the Washington coast. **Given the current federal administration's position on offshore wind, this work is less time sensitive. I am vetoing this item** because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 302(15) and Section 302(16). **However, I am committed to continued dialogue with coastal Tribes regarding the future of offshore wind projects on Washington's coast.**

What's next in WA?



Identification and Assessment of Data Gaps for the Marine Spatial Plan

A Compilation of Expert Feedback

By
Mai Aoki

For the
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

January 2025, Publication 24-06-029



<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2406029.html>



Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

DRAFT Section 309 Assessment & Strategy
2026-2030

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington

March 2025, Publication 25-06-001



<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2506001.html>

Strategy 1: Develop an ocean research strategy and agenda
Goal: Implementation of Washington's Marine Spatial Plan through development of an ocean research strategy and agenda.

Strategy 2: Assess the state's enforceable policies and identify areas for improvement