

Scoping Comments Submitted by the

# **Olympic Coast Alliance**

for the

## **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review**

November 13, 2008

## **Introduction**

The Olympic Coast Alliance (OCA) would like to commend the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) for providing this opportunity to comment during the Sanctuary Management Plan Review scoping process. OCNMS is a unique treasure that should be protected for the residents of Washington, and indeed the citizens of the world.

OCA advocates strongly for scientifically-based and conservation oriented management of the Sanctuary. Following are comments on specific topics that OCA believes are important for consideration during the OCNMS management plan review. We look forward to working closely with OCNMS staff in considering these and other important issues during the management plan review.

## **Opportunities for Expanding the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

The size and boundaries of marine sanctuaries are important for the effective management of human impacts, endangered species, and other marine resources. Opportunities exist for enhanced management of OCNMS resources through strategic expansion of Sanctuary boundaries.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for establishing the OCNMS examined five alternatives for Sanctuary boundaries. The more conservative of four variations under Alternative 4 was the one adopted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The final decision created a Sanctuary extending 25 to 50 miles seaward from the Olympic Coast, covering much of the continental shelf and portions of several deep-sea canyons. The OCNMS stretches along the coast of the Olympic Peninsula from the Copalis River on the south to Point Koitlah on the north (extending about five miles into the Strait of Juan de Fuca).

Prevention of oil spill damage to Olympic Coast resources was the primary rationale for selection of the current Sanctuary boundaries. The approved boundaries cover some, but not all, of the area being considered for oil and gas development off the Olympic Coast. Documented oil and/or gas reserves exist to the south along the coast and to the west of the Sanctuary, where the continental shelf drops off into deep water. Under some weather and ocean current conditions, oil spills in these areas could reach the Olympic Coast. The FEIS states in reference to Alternative 4, “Only partial protection would be provided due to the remaining threat from potential oil and gas development outside of the Sanctuary boundary.....” Expansion of the Sanctuary to the south and west would help control oil spill related threats to the Sanctuary.

The western portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Observatory Point, about 40 miles into the Strait is ecologically similar to rocky marine communities found along the outer Olympic Coast. This part of the Strait serves as a transit corridor for marine birds, with up to 300,000 flightless common murrelets using the Strait to access the Puget Sound during molting season. It includes numerous haul out sites for marine mammals. The FEIS states, “The Pysht River estuary and saltmarsh support one of the richest juvenile salmon habitats in the Strait. Further, kelp habitats in the Strait, particularly off the Lyre and Twin Rivers, are some of the densest and most diverse in the state.” The FEIS concludes, “Inclusion of this area would encompass some of the most significant kelp beds in the Pacific Northwest.” Kelp forests are very important for recovery of endangered sea otters and protection of endangered fish species, major responsibilities of the OCNMS.

The current OCNMS boundaries do not include portions of the Nitnat, Juan de Fuca, and Quinault Canyons west of the Sanctuary. Marine scientists expect that portions of these canyons serve as habitat for deep-sea coral and sponge communities. Extending Sanctuary boundaries to include these canyons would provide more comprehensive protection for these unique communities and slow the worldwide decline of deep-sea corals and sponges.

## Recommendations

- **Off-Shore Oil Fields to the West and South of OCNMS:** OCA calls for expansion of the OCNMS to include waters to the west and south of the Sanctuary (south a point just north of Grays Harbor) where off-shore oil and/or gas fields are present. This expansion would allow the OCNMS to better manage threats associated with oil and gas exploration and extraction.
- **Western Portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca:** OCA calls for expansion of the OCNMS boundary into the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Observatory Point (OCNMS FEIS option 4c). This would greatly expand kelp forest habitat within the Sanctuary, protect kelp forests in the Strait from harvest, and contribute substantially to sea otter conservation. Since western portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca lies partly in state waters, this section of the Strait of Juan de Fuca cannot be included without the approval of the Governor of Washington State. The Sanctuary should reopen discussions with Washington State on inclusion in the OCNMS of the portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca that extends to Observatory Point.
- **Deep-Sea Canyons:** OCA calls for expansion of OCNMS boundaries to include portions of the Nitnat, Juan de Fuca, and Quinault Canyons. The western boundary of the OCNMS should be extended to include canyon areas where deep-sea coral and sponge communities are found. This expansion would help protect these delicate and threatened deep sea ecosystems.

## **Energy Development**

The OCNMS may soon face significant demands related to energy production. Around the world, territorial waters are viewed by some as sites for energy production by way of wind farms, wave and tidal buoys, carbon sequestration, and oil and gas drilling. The testing, construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimate removal of these facilities will present significant challenges to the OCNMS ecosystem. Although these “pilot,” “experimental”, or “limited use” projects may be relatively small in magnitude, their presence and operation has the potential for compromising the integrity of the OCNMS.

Given its conservation mandate, the OCNMS should play a major role in preventing compromise of the integrity of the Sanctuary ecosystem. OCA recommends the following:

## Recommendations

- **Off-Shore Energy Development:** OCA calls for a permanent ban on offshore oil and gas drilling and any other energy project (wind, wave, tidal, or carbon sequestration) within the Sanctuary that has not been approved as of January 1, 2008. OCA recognizes the need for energy, but also asserts that the OCNMS and its associated ecosystem are too precious for exploitation.
- **Permitting, Siting, and Monitoring of Energy Projects:** If a complete ban is not adopted, OCA requests that the OCNMS play a major role in the permitting, siting, and monitoring of any energy facility, up through and including the removal of the project from Sanctuary waters. OCA calls for ecosystem wide review of the impact of any energy project within or adjacent to OCNMS waters.
- **Bonding for Energy Projects:** If a complete ban is not adopted, OCA calls for bonding of sufficient funding from any energy producer to pay for monitoring, operation, maintenance, removal, and remediation of any energy project within the OCNMS. OCA believes that the land, air, and water within the OCNMS are the property of the public and that bonding funds need to be set aside by energy producers for the true and actual cost of any project, whether it is construction, maintenance, monitoring, or removal. These funds should not come out of the General Fund or special appropriation, and should be paid for on an “up-front” basis by the energy producer.

- **Bonding for Worst Case Scenarios:** If a complete ban is not adopted, OCA calls for bonding of sufficient funding from any energy producer to pay for a “worst case” scenario involving a spill, accident, or other incident that has an adverse impact on the OCNMS ecosystem. The calculus for bonding shall include all costs for necessary and appropriate restoration and remediation of habitat.
- **Seismic and Sonar Testing Associated with Energy Projects:** If a complete ban is not adopted, OCA calls for a ban on seismic and sonar testing associated with any energy project in or adjacent to the OCNMS. OCA encourages potential energy producers and the federal government to use best available technologies that do not cause harm to mammals or other marine life.

## **Kelp / Sea Otter Ecosystem**

Anecdotal reports indicate that kelp forests were much more abundant in the OCNMS area in the past. Their decline is likely attributable to sedimentation associated with logging coastal uplands and decline of the sea otter population. Sea otters were common until the early 1900s, when hunting eliminated otters from the Washington coast. Reintroduction of sea otters to the coast about 40 years ago has resulted in a small population distributed in rocky substrate habitats north from Destruction Island into the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Observatory Point. Sea otters are now listed as endangered by the State of Washington.

Kelp forests and sea otters anchored a complex ecosystem that supports numerous other marine species. Kelp is a direct food source for some species, serves as a spawning ground and nursery for economically important fish species, and provides protection for several endangered salmon species. Sea otters are a keystone species in this ecosystem with an important regulatory role in controlling kelp herbivores.

The kelp / sea otter ecosystem covers only a small portion of OCNMS at this time. Annual monitoring by the Washington Department of Natural Resources indicates that the extent and abundance of kelp forests is relatively stable, with a limited number of OCNMS sites with significant presence of kelp forests. This monitoring has also documented more extensive kelp forests in the western portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, outside the OCNMS. For unknown reasons, kelp forests are not recovering to levels reported in the past.

Monitoring of Washington State sea otters indicates a small population that varies from year to year. This population could be easily extirpated from disease, a major oil spill, or even natural stochastic population fluctuations. Recent reports of major changes in coastal marine ecosystems (including the Washington coast) could even further threaten the OCNMS sea otter population. Long-term preservation of this small population is doubtful and action will likely be needed to assure full population recovery.

Given its geographic location and conservation mandate, the OCNMS could and should play a major role in restoration of the kelp / sea otter ecosystem. It is important that OCNMS increase its emphasis on studying and fully restoring this unique and biologically significant ecosystem.

### **Recommendations**

- **Research on the Historical Distribution of Kelp Forests and the Cause of Their Decline:** OCA calls for research on the original natural distribution of kelp forests within OCNMS waters. This research should include documentation of tribal oral histories and examination for evidence of past kelp forests on existing and sediment covered rocky substrates.
- **Research on Sediment Contribution from Upland Logging:** OCA calls for increased research on the impact of Olympic Peninsula logging on sediment accumulation within the OCNMS and how this has affected kelp forests in the past and will affect restoration of kelp forests in the future.

- **Best Methods for Restoration of Kelp Forests in the OCNMS:** OCA calls for research on and implementation of the best methods for restoration of kelp forests in the OCNMS. Research should be conducted to identify the appropriate sites for restoration within the Sanctuary. Successful restoration methods used in California should be adapted for use in the OCNMS.
- **Protection of Kelp Forests from Harvest, Fishing, and Other Disturbances:** OCA calls for regulations that prohibit harvesting of kelp forests within the OCNMS. Additional regulations are also needed to prevent degradation of existing kelp forests from other current and future Sanctuary uses such as fishing, military testing, wave energy generation, and sea floor disturbance.
- **Expansion of the OCNMS to Include Kelp Forests and Sea Otters in the Western Portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca:** OCA calls for expansion of the OCNMS to include the extensive kelp forests within the western portion of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. These kelp forests provide excellent habitat for sea otters and should be protected from harvesting and other threats as part of an OCNMS comprehensive recovery strategy for sea otters.
- **Augmentation of the OCNMS Sea Otter Population:** OCA calls for the OCNMS to work with other federal and state agencies to augment the OCNMS sea otter population if it does not begin increasing substantially within the next five years.

## Acoustical Impacts

Loud sounds, such as those from sonar and seismic air guns, have been found to negatively affect marine mammals, sea birds, and other aquatic populations, causing harmful impacts and death. OCNMS is frequented by marine mammals, such as endangered grey whales and orcas, and forms a critical feeding ground for other endangered marine mammals. It is also home to acoustically-sensitive marine animals such as commercially important fish, sharks, and sea turtles.

OCA has adopted as the definition of “compatible use”, those uses which maintain the natural biological communities in the national marine sanctuary and protect, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations, and ecological processes. (NMSA Title III, sec 301(b)(3).

There is need for establishing a passive acoustic monitoring network to measure ambient noise levels in a variety of locations in the sanctuary. This is currently happening in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts, where they are continuously recording sounds from whales, fish, ships, and other sources. NOAA marine mammal scientists will analyze the biological sounds to help develop a monitoring network for ocean noise.

## Recommendations

- **Reducing Acoustical Impacts in the OCNMS:** OCA requests that the OCNMS Management Plan provide authority to halt sources of noise that exceed an established baseline, set at a level that will have negligible effect on biological communities in the Sanctuary.
- **Monitoring of Loud Sounds within the OCNMS:** OCA requests that Sanctuary staff revise the Management Plan to include baseline and ongoing monitoring of all sound levels using passive acoustic recording buoys within the Sanctuary.
- **Research on Acoustical Benchmarks and Sound Impacts:** OCA requests that the OCNMS establish sound benchmarks for the Sanctuary and scientifically evaluate the impacts of human-produced sounds on marine animals in the Sanctuary.

## Naval Testing

OCA is concerned that the Navy is proposing that LFA sonar be used in the majority of the world's oceans. The Navy has admitted LFA sonar can harm marine mammals. Military sonar has been responsible or coincident with mass strandings of marine mammals globally. Evidence is also growing that fisheries are seriously damaged by intense sources of underwater noise, potentially harming a major world food source and threatening global sustainability. Since low frequency sound travels thousands of miles underwater, the geographic areas affected can be quite large. A precautionary approach, which limits the use of LFA sonar, should be adopted, rather than the proposed expansion to double the number of Navy ships equipped with LFA sonar.

OCA has previously requested that the National Marine Fisheries Service ensure that there is negligible impact on marine mammals of increased sonar use prior to allowing such expanded use. OCA does not currently support expansion of sonar use when there is growing concern expressed by many governmental and scientific bodies, such as the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission and the United Nations Law of the Sea deliberations. A healthy ocean is necessary to maintain national security and global stability. Therefore, we must not compromise the marine environment with any additional ocean noise pollution. NOAA should actively encourage the Navy to seek alternative solutions to reduce their reliance on this harmful technology and technological improvements to reduce sonic damage.

Naval use of LFA sonar is highly relevant to management of the OCNMS. The Navy is currently developing two environmental impact assessments for proposed actions in or adjacent to the OCNMS: one to extend the Quinault Underwater Tracking Range and the other to address current, emerging, and future fleet training activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex. These multi-year assessments are expected to be completed in 2009.

The Navy has proposed a 50-fold expansion of the Quinault test range to support existing and future needs in manned and unmanned vehicle programs development. The proposed extension of the Quinault Underwater Tracking Range site could involve the continued testing of equipment in and near the Sanctuary. The geographic expansion would also include a surf-zone landing site within the Sanctuary and the Quinault Nation reservation. The Navy has no plans under this EIS to extend any permanent bottom-mounted instrumentation, but has proposed temporary installations on the seafloor.

NOAA should encourage the Navy to search for alternatives to the proposed extension of the Quinault Underwater Tracking Range. Other sites beyond impact range of the OCNMS need to be assessed to determine if Navy testing needs can be met without disrupting sensitive marine environments in the Sanctuary. The EIS/OEIS for the proposed test range extension should fully examine all potential intertidal, seafloor, acoustic, and water quality impacts on the OCNMS.

Long-term Naval fleet training activities are being evaluated under a separate, ongoing NEPA process. During scoping, OCA and the Olympic Coast Sanctuary Advisory Council requested that this broad review consider a variety of issues, including: disturbance to birds, fish, and mammals from increased activity and noise; and damage to seafloor habitats and wildlife from cables, anchors, targets, torpedoes, and unmanned undersea vessels.

## Recommendations

- **OCNMS Participation in EIS Processes:** OCA requests that Sanctuary staff actively participate in the Navy's environmental assessment processes to evaluate potential impacts to Sanctuary resources, investigate alternative sites beyond the OCNMS, identify environmentally safe methods to use in the Sanctuary, and develop appropriate monitoring and protection measures. Sanctuary staff should request funding from the Navy to support such participation.

- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** OCA requests that there be better monitoring and enforcement of current policies that mandate negligible impact of sound on marine mammals in the OCNMS.
- **Mitigation of Naval Sonar within OCNMS:** OCA requests mitigation of potential impacts that includes ceasing use of sonar during sensitive times (such as during marine mammal and fish migrations and breeding seasons) and in sensitive areas of the OCNMS.
- **Incompatibility of Mid and Low Frequency Sonar and Seismic Air Guns:** OCA requests the mid and low frequency sonar and seismic air guns be designated non compatible uses in the OCNMS and that these technologies be prohibited within acoustic impact range of the Sanctuary.
- **Protection of Quinault Nation Beaches:** OCA requests that the Navy continue consultation with the Quinault Nation on all aspects of test range extension that will affect tribal fishing and ceremonial harvesting. The Navy should look for options that do not include access to Quinault beaches to avoid interference with tribal activities.
- **Research on Naval Sonar Impacts on OCNMS:** OCA requests that the OCNMS conduct further research to assure that Naval sonar activities do not disrupt the ecosystem of the Sanctuary.

## Open-Ocean Aquaculture

The 1995 United Nations Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries states, “As a primary goal, aquaculture development should conserve genetic diversity and minimize effects of farmed fish on wild fish populations, while increasing supplies of fish for human consumption.” Each of these principles is violated by today’s salmon farmers. “There is no right way of doing a wrong thing” (Dr. Wolfram Heise of Chile).

Open-ocean aquaculture should not be allowed in the OCNMS. Scientific information, as well as the November 2, 2008 “International Declaration Against Unsustainable Salmon Fish Farming” firmly supports this conclusion. The concern that aquaculture would impact the OCNMS ecosystem, including the likely spread of pathogens and nutrient loading, has been substantiated. Such impacts would also affect commercial fishing by increasing the need for regulations, including fishing restrictions.

The Olympic Coast Condition Report produced by the OCNMS provides a benchmark from which we can continually strive to restore natural diversity within the Sanctuary, especially, in a time of dramatic climate change. Major changes will occur within the OCNMS and it will be difficult to conclude what restoration activities are appropriate: whether it be enhancement of past conditions or careful observation of new conditions. Of course, it will be both.

The OCNMS, like other Sanctuaries, should serve as a “seed bank” for the future. Management policy should focus primarily on preserving the ecological integrity of the Sanctuary by minimizing invasive species and disruptive human activities. We cannot ignore our responsibility to future generation to keep our oceans alive. Recognizing the virtue of our own ignorance is certainly an appropriate perspective to keep in mind when managing a near wilderness marine area such as the OCNMS.

So, even if new technologies emerge that might tempt some to consider experimenting with open-ocean aquaculture, OCNMS should not follow that path. The data is clear:

- Pen raised fish are an invasive species. They must be extirpated, not encouraged.
- Escaped pen raised salmon can interbreed with wild salmon, decimating wild stock genetics.
- Pen raised fish spread disease and lice to wild stock.
- Whales avoid their normal migration routes when aquaculture pens are present, resulting in more food foraging challenges and disruption to migration patterns.

- Ocean storms can be extreme leading to the escape of farmed salmon and the destruction of pens that result in distribution of metal debris in sensitive habitats.

### **Recommendation**

- **Open-Ocean Aquaculture within the OCNMS:** OCA calls for a ban on all open-ocean aquaculture within or adjacent to the OCNMS.

### **Research and Monitoring**

OCA considers research and monitoring of trends and condition of Sanctuary habitats, distribution and abundance of biota, and use of the sanctuary for recreation, subsistence harvest, commercial harvest, and other uses to be an especially important component of the Sanctuary's mission and management responsibility. OCA commends the OCNMS for the research already underway, including:

- Nearshore Monitoring Buoys
- Habitat Mapping
- Deep Sea Corals and Sponges
- Marine Invasive Species
- Kelp Research and Monitoring
- Marine Mammal and Seabird Research and Monitoring

Of particular importance is the continuation of habitat mapping (of which only a reported 25% is complete), without which, impacts or trends will be difficult to ascertain. Information on sensitive and long-lived species such as glass sponges will assist stakeholders in determining impacts of current and proposed uses in the Sanctuary. OCA strongly encourages OCNMS to continue with these projects, and to expand collaborative and focused research and monitoring to include:

### **Recommendations**

- **Biodiversity Monitoring:** OCA recommends that the OCNMS increase biodiversity monitoring within the Sanctuary. Our understanding of the diversity of species existing in the biological web of life in the Sanctuary is necessary for an ecosystem management approach, focusing on ecosystem connections. We recommend that OCNMS focus on the lower ratings in the Condition Report.
- **Climate Change and Impacts:** OCA recommends that OCNMS place greater emphasis on monitoring climate change and its impacts within the Sanctuary. Changes in ocean temperatures and currents are important factors in assessing the condition and expected trends in Sanctuary health. Monitoring of climate impacts on glaciers in Olympic National Park is ongoing. The Sanctuary should establish sentinel monitoring sites to augment this important research.
- **Bio-Accumulative Toxins and Pesticides:** OCA recommends that the OCNMS increase research on bio-accumulative toxins in the Sanctuary. The deposition of toxins by air, water, and land into the west coast marine environment likely has significant long-term and cumulative impacts to the Sanctuary's biota and on the human populations that harvest Sanctuary resources for food. OCA encourages OCNMS to collaborate with other agencies to increase our knowledge of the build-up of these toxins in the Sanctuary's water and biota.
- **Sonar Monitoring of Orca and other Marine Mammals:** OCA recommends that the OCNMS enhance monitoring of orca and other marine mammals. Sonar buoy monitoring systems would be helpful in establishing marine mammal migration and feeding zones, so that they can be better protected within the Sanctuary.

- **Effect of Sediment from Terrestrial Sources on Kelp, Water Quality, and Substrates:** OCA recommends that the OCNMS increase research on sediment from terrestrial sources. As outlined in the Kelp and Sea Otter section, monitoring of sediment pollution from terrestrial sources is an important under-researched topic potentially impacting Sanctuary biota and habitats.
- **Research Funding:** OCA recommends that the OCNMS seek increased funding and commitments for research and monitoring – including regular ship time- which is critical for gathering data on stock structure, for assessing permit activities, and is the first step to identify sensitive species and habitats.
- **Data Analysis and Dissemination:** OCA recommends that OCNMS work to identify impediments to rapid data analysis and ways that this component can be streamlined, resulting in more completed reports that will assist stakeholders in Sanctuary management, planning, and development of conservation and harvest strategies.

## The National Ocean Protection Act

In designating the Northwestern Hawaiian Island Marine National Monument, President Bush stated, “The vibrant beauty of the oceans is a blessing to our country. And it’s a blessing to the world. The oceans contain countless natural treasures.” The reality is that the world’s major fisheries have been decimated. The general consensus is that the biomass of top marine predators is now some 10% of what it was half a century ago (Nature, “Sustainable Fisheries,” Vol 455, 23 October, 2008). The once-thriving fishery off of the western coast of the United States is either non-existent, or barely functioning at all. The loss and compromise of this ecosystem must be reversed before further losses are sustained, and before the projected impact of global warming makes the challenge even more difficult.

The loss of fishery and habitat has occurred despite multiple studies and well intentioned legislation. The condition of waters off the Washington Coast have been documented in the January 2007 [Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group - Final Report](#) . Whether the studies and reports are from the Office of the President and the [Council On Environmental Quality](#), or the recent (November 6, 2008) [Draft 2020 Action Agenda for Puget Sound](#) issued by the Puget Sound Partnership, it is clear that any discussion of the future role of the OCNMS must take place in the larger context of the ocean and ecosystem in which it is situated. Sufficient studies have been done to fully document the need for a change in policy. The time has come to act upon those findings. Existing [coalitions](#) of conservation organizations already support prompt [action](#) to protect ocean resources, and OCA calls upon the OCNMS to do the same."

The [Joint Ocean Commission Initiative](#) (a bipartisan collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission) concluded that our number one priority should be the establishment of a coherent national ocean policy that will provide federal coordination of ocean science and resource management. The model for such a proposal may be found in the [National Ocean Protection Act](#) (S3314), introduced by Senator Barbara [Boxer](#) July 23, 2008.

### Recommendations

- **National Ocean Protection Act Passage:** OCA calls for passage of the National Ocean Protection Act, while at the same time preserving the protections afforded to the OCNMS. OCA believes that the coastal waters of the United States would benefit from management by a unified, federal agency.
- **National Ocean Protection Act Impacts on the OCNMS:** OCA calls for federal protection, as set forth in the National Ocean Protection Act, for the entire Washington coast from the entrance to the Columbia River into the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Observatory Point. The challenges of habitat preservation, energy development, and global warming are too vast to be accomplished through the staff and funding resources available to the Sanctuary. This added layer of protection is needed regardless of whether the current boundaries of the Sanctuary remain the same or are expanded.

**Attachment 1.**

**OLYMPIC COAST ALLIANCE APPROACH TO COMPATIBLE USES FOR WASHINGTON NORTHWEST OUTER AND INNER COAST (Point Wilson to Copalis Beach)**

**PRINCIPLE 1:** The Olympic Coast Alliance adopts as the definition of “compatible use”, those uses which maintain the natural biological communities in the national marine sanctuary, and protect, and, where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes. (NMSA Title III, sec 301(b)(3).

**Activity 1.1.** The Olympic Coast Alliance is working to maintain sustainable biological communities in and around waters and uplands within Olympic Coast Alliance areas of interest as defined in the bylaws.

**PRINCIPLE 2:** The Olympic Coast Alliance recognizes that members of a federally recognized Indian tribe may exercise aboriginal and treaty-secured rights, subject to the requirements of other applicable law, without regard to the requirements of this approach. (15 C.F.R. Part 922, Subpart O, Sect. 152(f), Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Authorizing Legislation).

**Activity 2.1.** The Olympic Coast Alliance is working with Tribes to establish common goals.

**PRINCIPLE 3:** The Olympic Coast Alliance recognizes that Department of Defense military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities (15 C.F.R. Part 922, Subpart O, Sect 152(d)(1), Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Authorizing Legislation).

**Activity 3.1.** The Olympic Coast Alliance encourages the Navy not to engage in activities that impact resources.

**OBJECTIVE 1:** The Olympic Coast Alliance will encourage and participate in ongoing processes to track activities and their impacts on resources within the Olympic Coast Alliance geographical areas of interest as defined in the bylaws.

**Activity 1.1.** The Olympic Coast Alliance will continually identify trends in current, new, and emerging activities within Olympic Coast Alliance geographical areas of interest.

- A. Consult with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Tribes, and other affected groups to identify current, new, and emerging activities affecting resources within Olympic Coast Alliance geographical areas of interest

**Complementary Objectives:** To be identified as needed.

**OBJECTIVE 2:** The Olympic Coast Alliance will establish a process to evaluate activities and their impacts on resources in the Olympic Coast Alliance geographical areas of interest.

**Activity 2.1.** The “compatible use” definition will set the standard for the “compatibility index” and establish the threshold for compatible uses and activities. (see Activity 2.2 below).

**Complementary Objectives:** To be identified as needed.

**Activity 2.2.** Develop a “compatibility index” to rank and evaluate types and levels of impacts from activities, including consideration and rankings for different types and levels of impacts such as:

1. Habitat impacts (physical)
2. Habitat impacts (biological)
3. Impacts on species including shellfish and crabs, finfish, sharks, marine mammals and seabirds, juvenile life stages)
4. Impacts associated with species life history (such as aggregated behavior during spawning)

**Complementary Objectives:** To be identified as needed.

**Products:** Compatibility Index

**OBJECTIVE 3: The Olympic Coast Alliance will develop recommendations on policies or management action(s) to address impacts from activities affecting resources within the Olympic Coast Alliance areas of geographical interest as defined in the bylaws.**

**Activity 3.1.** The Olympic Coast Alliance will make recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Sanctuary, elected officials and/or other appropriate government agencies on actions that should be taken to address impacts from specific activities, including prohibiting an activity.

- A. The Olympic Coast Alliance will use available information in developing policy recommendations or management actions which may include information and input from resource management agencies, interest groups, user groups, Tribes, Navy and the scientific community.
- B. The Olympic Coast Alliance will make recommendations based on best available scientific and socioeconomic data.

**Activity 3.2.** The Olympic Coast Alliance will establish appropriate ad hoc working groups as needed to address compatibility issues.

- A. The Olympic Coast Alliance will seek appropriate input as needed from Tribes, Navy, National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Group, other stakeholders, interest groups, NGOs, and agencies regarding compatible uses.

**Complementary Objectives:** To be identified as needed.

**Activity 3.3.** The Olympic Coast Alliance will participate in development of a series of recommended management and policy responses based on the relative level of impact from an activity, as determined by the compatibility index.

- A. Recommended management responses or recommendations to other appropriate management agencies may include a range of recommendations such as:
  1. Using less ecologically damaging methods
  2. Changing practices using appropriate incentives
  3. Promoting innovations in technology
  4. Establishing area-based restrictions

5. Supporting future studies, including assessment of social and economic effects of policy actions on activities
6. Using tools such as adaptive management.
7. Prohibiting activity.

B. The Olympic Coast Alliance will recommend a timeline and mechanism(s) for implementation of recommendations, where appropriate.

**OBJECTIVE 4: The Olympic Coast Alliance will provide input in the management plan review process and propose to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary site specific regulations that should be updated, eliminated or new regulations that should be developed.**

**OBJECTIVE 5: The Olympic Coast Alliance will provide information to the public regarding recommendations on compatible uses.**

**Attachment 2.**

**OCA COMPATIBILITY INDEX FOR OCNMS**

The following “compatibility index” has been adopted for use in ranking and evaluating types and levels of impacts from activities. The criteria for the compatibility index are from the OCA definition for compatible uses and OCNMS regulations regarding prohibited activities, as well as selected criteria from other agencies, jurisdictions, and ordinances as appropriate.

**COMPATIBLE USE CRITERIA**

<b>OCA GENERAL CRITERIA</b>	<b>EXAMPLE ACTIVITIES WHICH COULD BE REVIEWED</b>			
<b>OCA Definition for Compatibility: Maintain natural biological communities in the national marine sanctuary, protect and where appropriate, restore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes</b>	<b>Alternative Energy (tidal, windfarms)</b>	<b>Offshore Aquaculture</b>	<b>Bioprospecting</b>	<b>Transporting Oil</b>
Habitat impacts (physical)				
Habitat impacts (biological)				
Impacts on species including shellfish, crabs, finfish, sharks, marine mammals, seabirds, and juvenile life stages				
Impacts associated with species life history (such as aggregated behavior during spawning)				
Impacts on ecological processes				
Restoration and enhancement				
Aboriginal and treaty-secured rights				

<b>OCNMS REGULATIONS</b>		<b>EXAMPLES</b>	<b>CONT'D</b>	
<b>OCNMS PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES WHICH APPLY TO OCNMS ONLY</b>	<b>Alternative Energy (tidal, windfarms)</b>	<b>Offshore Aquaculture</b>	<b>Bioprospecting</b>	<b>Transporting Oil</b>
Exploring for, developing or producing oil, gas or minerals within sanctuary				
Discharging or depositing from within the boundary of sanctuary Discharging or depositing from beyond the boundary of sanctuary that subsequently enters sanctuary and injures sanctuary resource				
Moving, removing, injuring sanctuary historical resources				
Drilling into, dredging or altering seabed; or constructing, placing or abandoning structures, material or other matter on seabed				
Taking marine mammals, sea turtles or seabirds except as authorized by MMPA, ES, MBTA, or Indian treaties				
Flying motorized aircraft less than 2,000 feet within one nautical mile of refuge islands and shoreline				
Possessing any historical resource, or any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird				
Interfering with enforcement of NMSA				
<b>OTHER RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES IN WILDLIFE REFUGES, PARKS, CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCES</b>				
<b>DNR CRITERIA</b>				
<b>ECOLOGY CRITERIA</b>				
<b>DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE CRITERIA</b>				
<b>US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE CRITERIA</b>				
<b>NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE CRITERIA</b>				
<b>EPA CRITERIA</b>				
<b>COUNTY CRITERIA</b>				

Note: OCNMS regulations do not apply to federally recognized tribes exercising aboriginal and treaty-secured rights.

Note: Exceptions to above regulations do apply, see CFR 925.5 for details