

## Work Plan and Timeline for OPAC National Marine Sanctuary Recommendation: Notes

General: The overall objective of this work plan is to provide advice to the Governor of Oregon on a possible national marine sanctuary designation by the end of calendar year 2006. The Governor asked the council in writing for specific advice, and this work plan is intended to address the specific areas of advice requested. The product is envisioned as a report, some 30-50 pages in length. The resources needed to produce this come as a combination of in-kind from council members, agency staff, and direct costs.

There are important issues that are common to the national marine sanctuary (NMS) and marine research reserve (MRR) initiatives; there are also many issues that are specific to each. The Executive Committee anticipates that marine research reserves will be a very likely component of the sanctuary management plan, but this depends on the objectives of the sanctuary. The public process, conducted under the Outreach Committee, and the science/technical advising process, conducted under the STAC, will attempt to address these common issues for both initiatives. This will require OPAC, the STAC, other committees and the public to have a common understanding and set of working definitions for marine managed areas, marine protected areas, marine sanctuaries, marine reserves and marine research reserves. Staff will develop and present these for discussion and consensus at an OPAC meeting.

OPAC Meetings: OPAC meetings are scheduled roughly every two months to support this work plan. They are intended to: develop and approve the overall process and identify issues and questions (March 17), review the preliminary public process results (May 26), review a preliminary draft report and make mid-course corrections (July 21) review the second round of public process results and make final course corrections (early October), and approve the final report (December). OPAC meetings will also begin to take up other issues, including marine research reserve and ocean wave energy planning, as time is available.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee will act as the Scoping Committee because OPAC members did not want to delegate this responsibility to a subgroup. Thus, any necessary Executive Committee scoping meetings may be attended by any OPAC members who wish, and will be publicly noticed. However, other Executive Committee meetings will be used largely for planning full OPAC meetings and carrying out other assignments delegated to it by OPAC, and will not be publicly noticed.

Alternatives/Issue Scoping: Appropriate alternatives need to be developed, and key issues identified, for all aspects of the process. The first round of this task will be accomplished through an email query about issues to OPAC members by staff. Additionally, questions will be generated by the Outreach Committee as they design the overall public meeting process. These questions will be integrated and synthesized by staff for presentation, discussion and vetting at the March 17 OPAC meeting; thence to the public and scientific/technical advisory processes. One of the most important results of the public process will be the final definition of the alternatives to be addresses. Issues will be further refined and identified as key or unimportant at the May 26 OPAC meeting.

Outreach Committee: The Outreach Committee will be chaired by the OPAC Vice Chair, Jim Good; other members are David Allen, Jim Bergeron, Jack Brown, Paul Engelmeyer and Frank Warrens and Fred Sickler. This committee will work with Sea Grant staff and others to help design the meeting process, including presentations, questions, and needed facilitation to get public input. This will be need to be approved the OPAC at the March 17 meeting. This committee will generate the Public Response Report.

STAC: The STAC members have been recruited by STAC Chair Jay Rasmussen with the concurrence by the Executive Committee; the initial core members of STAC will be announced at the March 17 OPAC meeting. The STAC is expected to appoint a National Marine Sanctuary/Marine Research Reserves Subcommittee or Subcommittees.

STAC Subcommittee(s): The Subcommittee(s) should begin to address OPAC questions as early as April, and could continue through the summer, possibly writing technical reports, or possibly commissioning reports from academics or consultants. This group or groups, or consultants to them, would generate the NMS Scientific and Technical Report. The group may also address Marine Research Reserve-related issues, but could include these in a separate report.

Socioeconomic Report: This component of the report will address the basic issues of the socioeconomic impacts of marine sanctuary designation. This report could be scoped by the STAC Subcommittee, with OPAC input, and generated by a technical subgroup, an academic or a consultant.

Policy/Institutional Analysis and Reporting: The Policy/Institutional Analysis component of the report will undertake the explanation of the likely possibilities involved in the intersection and integration of state and federal authorities across the continental margin. This analysis will also be tasked to explain how to maximize state influence and minimize uncertainty in the sanctuary management planning process. As above, this report, once coped by OPAC, could be developed by a subgroup, academic or a consultant/

Legal Analysis and Reporting: An analysis of the purely legal issues involved in National Marine Sanctuary designation and management, especially as regarding the management of fishing activities, was requested at the January 20 OPAC meeting. OPAC's legal counsel, has already begun to scope this analysis, and it will likely form a part of the final report to the Governor.

Final Report to Governor: The report will respond directly and specifically to the Governor's request of December 13, 2005, with OPAC's analysis of the likely alternatives and costs and benefits to the state of Oregon of optimal implementation of the national marine sanctuary opportunity. The project management will flow from the authority of the chair of OPAC. OPAC may reach consensus that further process or analysis is required before a report is submitted. However, the Executive Committee believes that December 15 is a reasonable and feasible delivery date for this report, given successful identification of the necessary in-kind and direct cost resources.