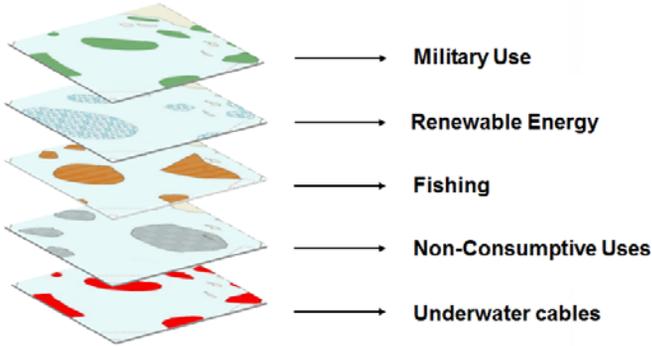


Informing offshore renewable energy planning through participatory mapping of ocean uses



Human uses of the ocean and coasts are expanding at a rate that challenges our ability to plan and manage them. To minimize potential use conflicts and to inform ocean planning strategies for new and emerging uses, including various forms of offshore renewable energy, it is critical to understand the patterns and implications of ongoing and future human uses of the ocean.



The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas Project is an interagency collaboration between NOAA and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) designed to document where coastal communities use the ocean across a full range of typical human activities and sectors. Using participatory mapping techniques, the project offers a proven, flexible, and scalable approach that empowers coastal communities to paint an accurate picture of human use on a scale appropriate for local-, state-, or regional-level ocean planning.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **What is the primary purpose of the project?** To enhance ocean planning for offshore renewable energy development and inform other ocean planning strategies that require insight to how and where ocean areas are used for recreational, commercial, and industrial types of activities
- **What are the goals of the project?** To collect spatial data on the full range of human uses of the ocean through consultation with use experts, community stakeholders, and cultural use practitioners; to create data and analysis tools to assist in understanding use patterns, hotspots, conflicts and compatibilities
- **What is the geographic focus of the project?** The Outer Continental Shelf areas off the states of Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii, with some additional mapping in state waters in select areas
- **Who will lead this effort?** NOAA's Ocean Uses team (NOAA Coastal Services Center & MPA Center staff) with support from BOEM

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The Washington Ocean Uses Atlas

Participatory ocean use mapping to inform marine spatial planning in Washington's marine waters

The Washington Ocean Uses Atlas is one of three state-level mapping efforts that comprise the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas project. In collaboration with Washington state agencies, the NOAA Ocean Uses Team collected ocean uses data for Washington's coastal and offshore waters to collectively inform both marine spatial planning and planning for potential offshore renewable energy development.

Methods

Ocean use data were gathered in interactive, participatory mapping workshops that captured the knowledge of community experts about the patterns of ocean uses occurring in the study area. Existing data was gathered and used as the basis of the mapping exercise to refine, expand, and build upon previous mapping efforts. Tribal uses of the ocean were not mapped explicitly, though tribal chairs and/or their designated representatives were formally invited by BOEM to participate in the mapping workshops.

Project Scope

The project focused on Washington's state and federal waters (excluding Puget Sound) from Port Angeles north to the Canadian border, south to the mouth of the Columbia River and offshore to 200 nautical miles. The project targeted a wide range of ocean uses, including:

Workshop Schedule
 Port Angeles: April 15 & 16, 2013
 Aberdeen: April 18 & 19, 2013



Industry/Military Sector	Extractive Sector	Non-Extractive Sector
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Shipping Mariculture Marine Debris Military Operations Mining and Mineral Extraction Ocean Dumping Renewable Energy Underwater Transmission Cables Underwater Pipelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Dive Fishing Commercial Fishing with Benthic Mobile & Fixed Gear Commercial Intertidal Harvest Commercial Pelagic Fishing Kayak Fishing Recreational Dive Fishing Recreational Fishing from Boats for Benthic & Pelagic Species Recreational Fishing from Shore Recreational Intertidal Harvest Subsistence Fishing & Harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beach Use Cruise Ships Cultural Use Motorized Boating Paddling Permanent Research Areas Sailing SCUBA/Snorkeling Surface Board Sports Swimming Tide Pooling Wildlife Viewing at Sea

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