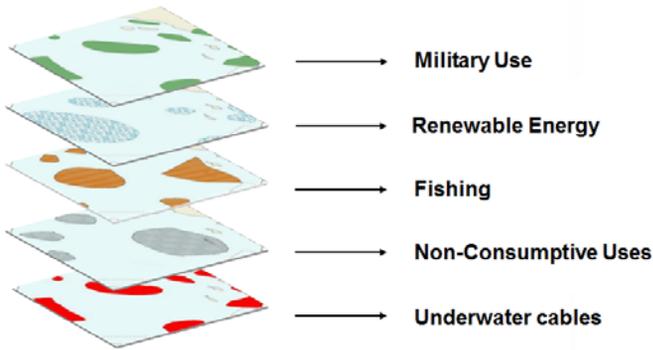


The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas

Collecting expert community knowledge on ocean uses through participatory mapping



Human uses of the ocean and coasts are expanding at a rate that challenges our ability to plan and manage them. To avoid potential use conflicts and to help identify suitable operating areas 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

The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas

Informing offshore renewable energy planning through participatory mapping of ocean uses

The Participatory Mapping Approach

Ocean use data are gathered in interactive, participatory mapping workshops that capture the knowledge of community experts about the patterns and drivers of ocean uses occurring in the study areas. Prior to the workshops, existing geospatial base layers are gathered and compiled into a basemap that is used as the basis of interactive mapping.



Target List of Uses

This project will gather information on a wide range of ocean uses occurring offshore Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii, including, but not limited to:

Industry/Military Sector

- Renewable Energy
- Military Operations & Ordnance Disposal
- Mining and Mineral Extraction
- Underwater Telecommunication & Power Cables
- Commercial Shipping (including Towing & Barging)
- Designated Dumping & Outfall Sites
- Underwater Pipelines
- Mariculture

Fishing Sector

- Commercial Fishing with Benthic Mobile & Fixed Gear
- Commercial Pelagic Fishing
- Commercial Dive Fishing
- Commercial Seaweed Harvest
- Commercial Shore-Based Harvest
- Recreational Dive Fishing
- Recreational Fishing from Boats
- Recreational Shore-Based Harvest
- Kayak Fishing
- Indigenous Fishing

Non-Consumptive Sector

- Motorized Boating
- Sailing
- Paddling
- Surface Board Sports
- SCUBA/Snorkeling
- Swimming
- Wildlife Viewing at Sea
- Tide Pooling
- Shore Use
- Indigenous Cultural Use
- Tourism Cruise Ships

Products

Data gathered through the participatory mapping workshops will be compiled and analyzed to create a suite of data products in various formats for use in ocean planning applications. These products include, but are not limited to:

- ☆ GIS data and online mapping services
- ☆ Digital and paper maps of ocean patterns
- ☆ Maps of ocean use hotspots and potential use conflict areas

Timeline

Washington: Fall 2012 – Summer 2013

Oregon: Winter 2012 – Fall 2013

Hawaii: Fall 2013 – Summer 2014

Funding

This project was funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, through an Interagency Agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service.

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