

# Washington State Coastal Zone Management

## Notice of Approval of Routine Program Changes to Washington's Coastal Program

**November 14, 2019** - The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is informing members of the public, tribal and local governments, and state and federal agencies that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management (OCM) has taken action relating to Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program (WCZMP). As described in its August 23, 2019 [Public Notice](#), Ecology submitted a request to OCM that it approve the incorporation of the 2018 Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Waters (MSP), including its two enforceable policies, along with some criteria pertaining to the MSP's Necessary Data and Information (ND & I) requirements, into the WCZMP. Ecology keeps the WCZMP up-to-date by periodically submitting, for OCM's review and approval, changes to those state laws, regulations, and plans (known as the "core authorities") which contain enforceable policies.

On October 11, 2019, OCM approved the MSP, its two enforceable policies, and some Necessary Data and Information requirements for incorporation into the WCZMP. OCM's approval of the MSP's enforceable policies: *Important, Sensitive and Unique Area* designations and *Fisheries Use Protection Standards* and its requirements for ND & I will aid Ecology in making federal consistency decisions. Within [OCM's approval letter](#), please see the qualifications with regard to federal consistency reviews relating to the MSP's requirement for ND & I.

The federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) authorizes states to review certain federal activities; i.e. projects that require federal licenses or permits and actions carried out by a federal agency, if those projects or actions have reasonably foreseeable effects to a state's coastal uses or resources. Those projects and actions must be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's CZMP once OCM approves their incorporation into those programs.

Please refer to the website below for a copy of OCM's approval letter and the table with the enforceable policies of the MSP and the new policies of the WCZMP identified within. Additionally,

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Shoreline-coastal-management/Coastal-zone-management/CZM-program-announcements>

Issuance of this notice authorizes Ecology to apply the enforceable policies for projects subject to Federal Consistency review.

If you have questions about this public notice or the information on Ecology's website, please contact Therese Swanson, Department of Ecology, at 360 407-6789; [tswa461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tswa461@ecy.wa.gov) or Jackie Chandler at (360) 407-7678; [jcha461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jcha461@ecy.wa.gov).