

Draft Marine Spatial Plan



Sunrise at Rialto Beach
Olympic National Park, Clallam County
photo by: Katrina Lassiter

Learn more

<http://www.msp.wa.gov>

(Review draft documents under "Projects and Resources")

Public Meetings

All meetings start at 6 p.m.:

- **Nov. 1, Forks;** Dept. of Natural Resources, Olympic Region Conference room, 411 Tillicum Lane.
- **Nov. 7, Aberdeen;** Grays Harbor College, Manspeaker Bldg., Room 2250, 1620 Edward P. Smith Dr.
- **Nov. 8, Long Beach;** Cranberry Museum, 2907 Pioneer Road.
- **Nov. 9, Tukwila;** Tukwila Community Center, 12424 42nd Ave. S.

Comment period

Oct 13 to Dec. 12, 2017

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6600 or visit www.ecy.wa.gov/accessibility.html. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Coast

The public is invited to comment on the draft Marine Spatial Plan for Washington's Pacific Ocean coast. The draft plan provides:

- A consistent way of evaluating future ocean use proposals.
- A new base of scientific information on coastal uses and resources.
- A framework to coordinate decisions for new ocean uses.
- Protections for sensitive ecological areas and fishing.

Submit comments by Dec. 12, 2017

Comment form: <http://ws.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=pRHjQ>

Mail: Dept. of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Plan recommendations

The draft MSP is an important tool to assist state agencies and others in evaluating and engaging in proposals for new ocean uses as well as guide potential applicants as they develop those proposals.

Draft plan elements:

- Identify and protect ecologically-sensitive areas in state waters from adverse effects of offshore development .
- Protect fisheries to ensure adverse impacts are avoided and minimized, and help projects avoid long-term, significant adverse impacts.
- Create a process for enhanced coordination with stakeholders and among local and tribal governments and state and federal agencies.
- List the data, information, and plans needed for proposed projects. Details the effects to people, communities, and the environment that need to be evaluated, including state standards and policies that need to be met.

The MSP study area, outlined below, extends to offshore to a water depth of 4,200 feet (700 fathoms) and covers areas in state waters (out to 3 nautical miles) and federal waters (from 3 to 200 nautical miles). It also includes coastal estuaries.



Draft Programmatic EIS

A separate, draft programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is also available for public comment. It focuses on evaluating the environmental impacts of creating a marine spatial plan versus not having a plan.

It does not examine detailed impacts of a specific ocean use. Further examination would occur when an applicant seeks permits for a project.

Aerial photo of Benson Beach near Cape Disappointment.



Informing and influencing decisions in federal waters

The plan also provides information to assist the state in reviewing and influencing federal activities that may affect Washington's ocean resources or uses, including in federal waters. After the state adopts a final plan, Ecology will submit the plan as part of Washington's federally-approved Coastal Zone Management Program.

What's in the marine spatial plan?

- **An overview**, including background and purpose.
- **A summary of current conditions and trends** including ecology, socio-economics, archeological and historic resources, and existing and potential new ocean uses.
- **Details about spatial analyses** including methods and outputs examining ecology and human uses in the study area and comparing that information with areas of high renewable energy potential.
- **A marine spatial plan management framework** that covers process and substantive requirements tied to existing state laws and policies. This section also provides requirements and recommendations for new ocean uses, including spatial designations and recommendations.
- **Policy recommendations** from the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council.
- **Maps and appendices** including maps of existing ocean uses, ocean resources, and more detailed information.

Planning Process

A team of state agencies including the Washington departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources developed the state plan guided by state law.

Funding from the Washington Legislature enabled state agencies to gather baseline information, carry out mapping, conduct research and analyses, develop a website and online tools, perform outreach and engagement, and produce the plan. Scientists and topical experts reviewed the data.

Throughout the planning process, state agencies sought input from the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council, Marine Resource Committees, local and tribal governments and federal agencies. In addition to dozens of advisory council meetings, the state involved the public in the planning process that included conducting workshops, making presentations to groups, attending community events, and taking public comments.