

Marine Spatial Planning: Washington's draft legislative report

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Marine Spatial Planning

- What is it?
- New state law
- Draft report and recommendations
- How to comment or get more information

Marine Spatial Planning Defined

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine environments to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives.

- Coordinating decisions
- Uses spatial data – often displayed as maps
- Proactive
- Multi-use

New State Law

Substitute Senate Bill 6350 enacted in March 2010 which requires the state to develop:

- Recommendations for marine spatial planning through an interagency team. Report due by December 15, 2010.

New State Law

If the state receives federal or non-state funds, the law also directs state agencies to:

1. Compile and incorporate spatial data into current plans.
2. Develop guidance on the operation and siting of renewable energy facilities.
3. Conduct comprehensive marine spatial planning for all of Washington's waters.

What must be in a state plan?

- Ecosystem assessment and indicators
- Management measures
- Series of maps
- State recommendations for uses in federal waters
- Implementation plan
- Framework for renewable energy

How must the state plan?



Photo:
Katie Lassiter



Photo: Katie Lassiter



Draft report process

State Ocean Caucus – interagency team

Examine key questions for MSP in Washington and develop recommendations in draft report.

Public process

April-June	Survey - online Briefings to groups Comments on draft goals & objectives
July	Spatial data workshop
September 3 – Oct 5	Public comment period on draft report & recommendations

What's in the draft report?

Summaries of:

- Existing goals and objectives
- Consistency of existing and recommended goals and objectives with those adopted in region and nationally.
- Existing management activities and spatial data for marine spatial planning.

What's in the draft report?

Recommendations for MSP:

- A “framework”: Puget Sound Action Agenda; Columbia River estuary; coast.
- Goals and objectives.
- Schedule for marine ecosystem indicators.
- Management and spatial data needs.
- A unified approach to database management and delivery.

Draft Recommendations

- Issue focus:
at least renewable energy, but other topics.



Draft Recommendations

Goals and objectives:

- Integrate with existing mandates
- Reflect unique Washington concerns
- Compatible with national goals and state law

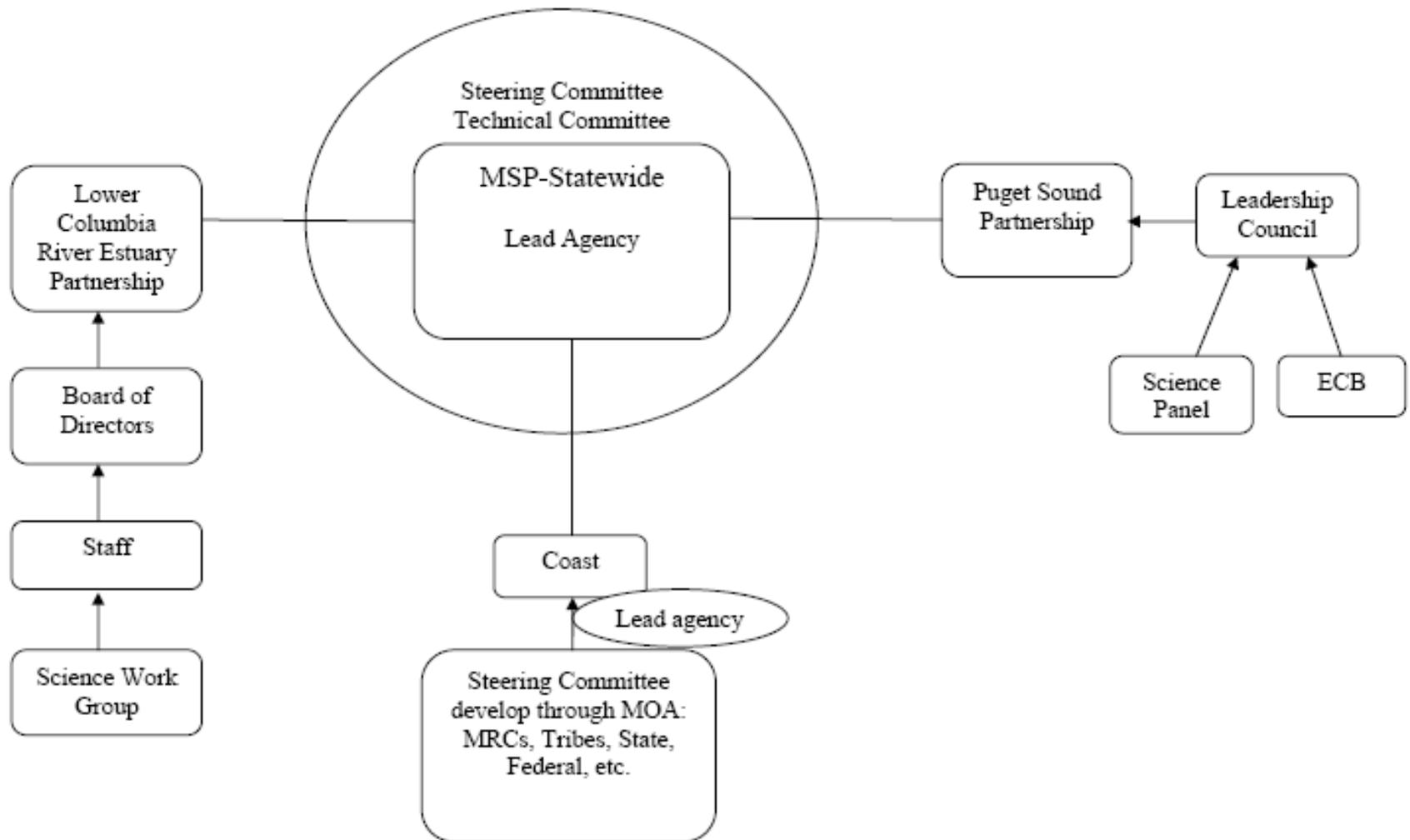
Draft Recommendations

MSP “framework” includes mechanisms for:

- Tribal consultation
- Public participation
- Scientific and technical expertise
- Coordination – regional and federal
- Agency roles

Draft Recommendations

Figure 1 - Draft Governance Option for Marine Spatial Planning in Washington



Draft Recommendations

Priority spatial data needs:

- Human uses
- Bathymetry-topography
- Fisheries
- Habitats
- Conservation/regulated areas
- Water quality
- Oceanographic processes
- Marine fish
- Geomorphic characterization
- Endangered species
- Ownership

Draft Recommendations

Unified approach to data management:

- Pursue single point-of-access for GIS data.
- Develop and utilize common data standards and peer-review process.
- Evaluate other existing data tools and data management options to support MSP.

Draft Recommendations

Ecosystem indicators:

- Existing for plans in Puget Sound and Columbia River
- Review existing coastal indicators and utilize broad group to determine indicators for Washington's coast.

How to comment or get more information?

Marine Spatial Planning

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/msp/>

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Submit written comments by Oct. 5