

WCMAC Technical Committee Update

April 15, 2014

The Technical Committee has met 3 times (via phone) since the January WCMAC meeting. The meetings focus on providing input on desired outcomes and deliverables on projects. The majority of the Technical Committee's time has focused on two key projects: the Coast-Wide Economic Assessment and Renewable Energy.

Coast-Wide Economic Assessment

The Technical Committee agreed that the following are desired outcomes/deliverables for the economic assessment:

1. Economic profile and trends of the Washington coast

This information should provide a baseline for analyzing the potential impacts of changes in ocean resource uses on the coastal economy, including potential economic indicators. Questions addressed should include:

- a. What makes the coastal economy tick? Is it healthy?
- b. What are the demographics of the coast?
- c. What are the factors relating to the economic trends?
- d. What are the economic vulnerabilities of the coast? How might the coastal economy enhance its resilience?
- e. What are the effects of key regulatory and policy decisions on the coastal economies?
- f. What are the economic impacts of various scenarios to each coastal county, including direct, indirect, and induced impacts? The assessment should clearly explain how multipliers are used.
- g. What are the ecological services provided by each sector including the economic value of such services?

2. Analysis of fisheries and shellfish aquaculture for each port and for each species, including how those feed into market channels based on where fish/shellfish are landed

- This information would provide a detailed baseline for analyzing the potential impacts of changes in ocean resource uses on the coastal economy.
- Tribal fisheries and ports could be included.
- Spatial analysis of potential new uses should be included to evaluate the strengths and vulnerabilities of fisheries. However, this requires access to catch data which can be challenging to gather due to concerns about proprietary information by the fishing industry.
- The analysis should connect, by county, the impacts of actions on water to the economic impacts (positive and negative) on specific locales.
- The analysis should include a social impact analysis based on NOAA Fishery Guidelines

3. Economic profile and trends of tribal communities

- Include methodology for collecting tribal economic information
- Consider tribal contribution to the broader coastal economy

4. Recommendations for a standard and repeatable methodology for data gathering

- The recommendation should provide for verifiable and consistent data across industries and that allows for data to be easily accessed and updated in the future.
- The recommendation should include a summary and assessment of data gaps.

- In addition to the deliverables/outcomes above, the Technical Committee also stressed that recent data that is still relevant should be the only data used; the contractor should not rely on historical/irrelevant data.
- The Technical Committee should provide the selected contractor with a list of potential data sources, building on the list Dale has started.

Renewable Energy

The Technical Committee's discussion of desired information on renewable energy is ongoing and not finalized. At the previous Technical Committee meeting, members discussed:

- Ideas for information the state should address within the MSP include:
 - An assessment of the impact of renewable energy on jobs.
 - How much area is anticipated to be part of ocean energy and where?
 - What are the limitations and boundaries for renewable energy? In what areas will renewable energy be disallowed?
 - How is the energy created transferred from ocean to shore?
 - What is the impact of electro-magnetic fields in the ocean environment?
- Ideas for information that would help WCMAC in developing advice and recommendations:
 - A presentation on the Admiralty Inlet Tidal Energy project, providing an overview of each stage of the permitting and environmental review processes. This would help educate WCMAC of what to expect in other renewable energy projects and provide context for what questions should be asked, when certain aspects are appropriate for review and input, etc.
 - Briefing(s) or other information on the following:
 - Technologies for renewable energy, including information on the efficiency of the technologies in creating energy
 - The ideal conditions for these technologies (and therefore which suitable locations exist on the coast);
 - The potential impacts (positive and negative) on existing uses, local jobs, etc.;
 - The available information on the potential environmental impacts, such as concerns about electromagnetic fields;

Other Projects

The Technical Committee receives regular updates on the status of ongoing technical studies, including:

- Sector analyses
- Ecosystem Assessment and Indicators
- Seabird and Marine Mammal Ecosystem Modeling
- Seafloor Mapping