

WCMAC Funding Recommendations Discussion Guide

Issue:

The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council can provide recommendations on funding for Marine Spatial Planning, WCMAC operations and other coastal waters resource management issues (RCW 43.143.060). This discussion guide is focused on budget needs that have been specifically identified.

The development of the biennial state budget, a two-year budget covering fiscal years 16 and 17, will begin this summer. By identifying funding recommendations in July, the WCMAC will provide agencies and the Governor's office time to consider these recommendations in the budget development process.

The goal is for the Council to identify funding priorities and recommendations for consideration in the state budget process for: WCMAC operations and Marine Spatial Planning.

Background:

- The Department of Natural Resources has authority to spend \$3.7M in the marine stewardship account to support marine spatial planning on Washington's Coast for Fiscal Years 14 and 15 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015), including mapping activities, ecological assessment, data tools, stakeholder engagement, and other work identified by the Council. In October, 2013, WCMAC recommended moving forward with a variety of required and priority projects and has provided ongoing feedback on the deliverables for these projects.
- Funding provided in Fiscal Year 13 and in the current biennium (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015) will complete the majority of required mapping and data elements for the Marine Spatial Plan.
- The state-funded MSP projects and analyses to support the plan development have deliverables due no later than June 2015.

WCMAC Considerations:

1. Requirement for WCMAC to meet a minimum of 2 times per year (RCW 43.143050 (7))
2. Requirements for completing the marine spatial plan (RCW 43.372.040)
3. Status of projects and timeline for marine spatial planning process

Framework for discussion: Concur with or modify staff recommendation

Staff recommendations:

1. Recommend funding the continued operation of the WCMAC

Recommend continuing current funding levels for WCMAC operations. This includes support for facilitation services (including assistance with committee meetings), and food and meeting space for a minimum of four, all-day meetings per year.

2. Recommend funding the completion of the Marine Spatial Plan

Recommend providing continued funding for the completion of the plan with a revised goal of December 2016.

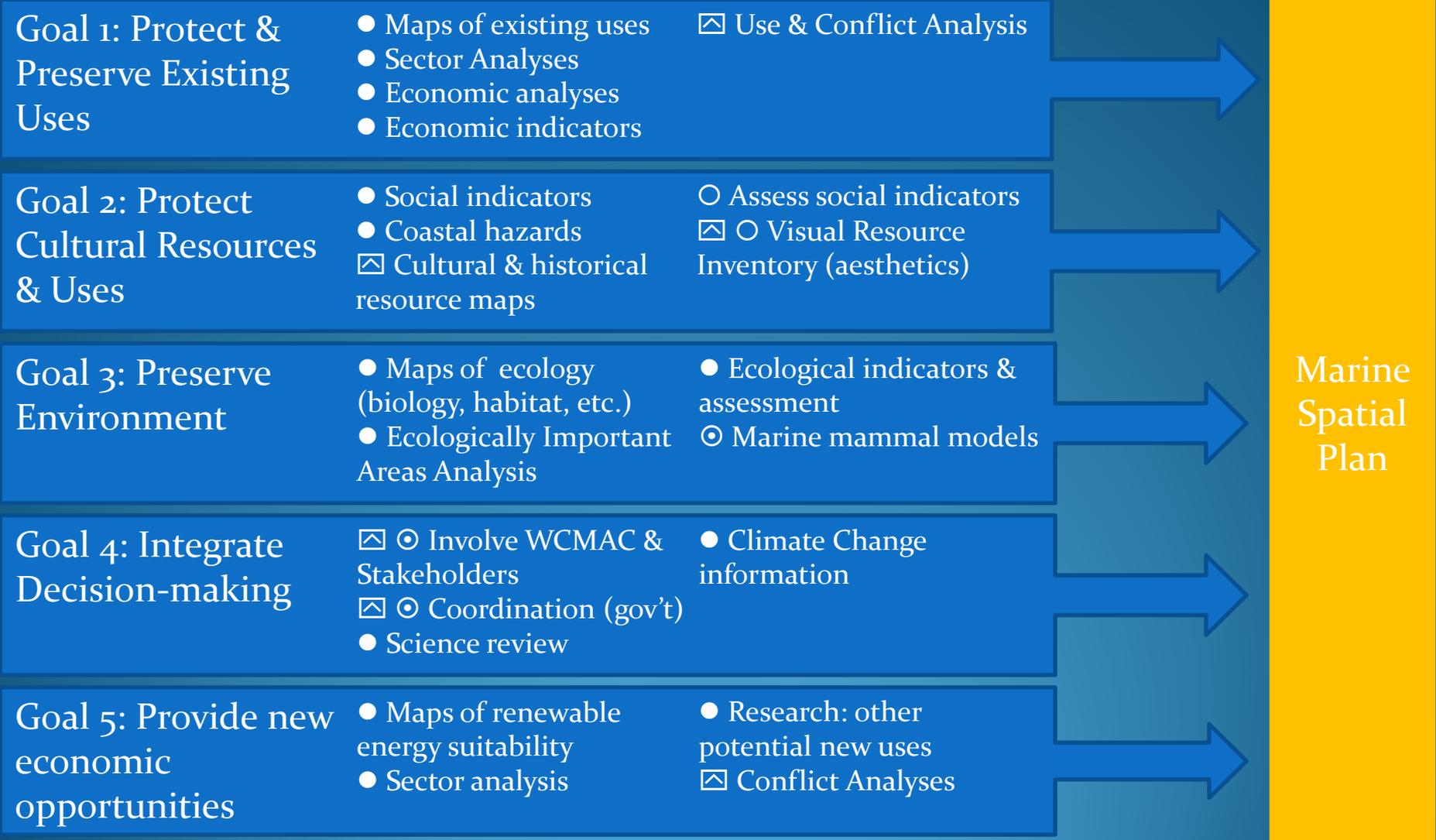
While the majority of data and analytical products required by law will be completed by June 2015, staff recommends extending MSP development work into the next biennium to:

- Incorporate MSP project information into the draft plan and mapping tool.
- Complete projects underway before June 2015, but which may require additional analysis or work.
- Conduct additional outreach and public engagement in the planning process.
- Coordinate and consult on plan with governments.
- Revise and finalize the plan, including research and writing.

Marine Spatial Planning – Requirements (RCW 43.372.040)

Legend:

- Complete by June '15
- ☒ Underway before June '15
- Not underway
- ⊙ Extends past June '15



Pre-planning & scoping
Completed January 2014

Data & Analyses
Through June 2015

Plan development
September 2014 & beyond