

WCMAC Discussion Guide Recreational Use Study

Background

Developing a marine spatial plan requires both mapped data and contextual information about uses and coastal resources. While recreation is a significant component of the coastal economy, spatial, economic, and contextual data about recreation on the Washington coast are limited and spotty. The state has data from state parks and from the human use mapping project, but those data do not provide a big picture look at coastal and ocean recreation in Washington.

Proposed Approach

The state has identified Surfrider and Ecotrust as the nation's leading organizations on recreational data collection and proposes to do a sole source contract with the two organizations to conduct a non-consumptive recreational use study. Surfrider and Ecotrust have already conducted phase one of a recreational use study, which involved holding webinars, giving presentations, conducting outreach, and soliciting input on the methodology for the study.

This study is intended to:

- establish a baseline characterization of non-consumptive coastal recreation participation rates and trip expenditures
- provide a spatial baseline of coastal and ocean recreation use patterns (location and frequency) on the Pacific coast

The project will use two methods:

1. An online survey to collect data on coastal use patterns, trip expenditures, and demographic characteristics of a random sample of coastal users
2. Non-random internet opt-in process to collect data from specific individuals in the non-consumptive recreational user community

Estimated Budget

\$170,000

Proposed Deliverables

- Demographic profiles, estimated participation rates, and economic contribution of marine recreation
- Spatial data sets depicting the extent and intensity of use and economic value of marine recreation in the aggregate and by activity, integrated into the WA MSP data portal
- Final report

Status

- The Technical Committee has reviewed the study in detail and is forwarding it to WCMAC to make a final recommendation.

Potential Recommendation for WCMAC Consideration

The Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Committee recommends that a Recreational Use Study be completed and used as appropriate in developing the Marine Spatial Plan.