WCMAC Discussion Guide
Use Analysis Process

Issue:
The goal of this discussion is for the Council to decide on whether it wants to engage in and provide advice on the Use Analysis Process.

Background:
Creating a Marine Spatial Plan requires compiling and evaluating spatial, or mapped, data including existing uses and potential new uses. The state has outlined its approach to this process called a "Use Analysis". The Use Analysis involves three main activities:

- Assessing spatial data
- Performing the spatial analysis
- Identifying recommendations and alternatives

The attached table outlines these tasks in more detail and the role for agencies and WCMAC in this process. WCMAC can play an important role in advising on the criteria for the process and recommended actions for the outputs of the Use Analysis.

Because the state has access to more detailed, confidential data, the state proposes to produce the Use Analysis using this data, where available and appropriate. The resulting maps would be able to be shared as aggregated outputs when completed.

Staff recommendation:
WCMAC agrees to participate in the Use Analysis process and provide input in the various tasks outlined in the draft timeline.

Use Analysis Process & Draft Schedule

The draft schedule below shows major proposed tasks in the Use Analysis Process by agencies and WCMAC. It does not indicate additional consultation and coordination with tribes, which the state will pursue throughout the process.

Timeframe	Entity	Process step	Task
Fall 2014	State agencies	Assess Use Data	• Develop list of data for each use category; identify source of data • For uses with little to no data, contact appropriate source/expert and verify sector data. If needed refine use data or adjust display of data.
January 7, 2014? February 25, 2015 April 22, 2015	WCMAC	Spatial Analysis	• Review and provide feedback on use assessment matrix (high/medium/low) and process for spatial analysis.
Winter – Spring 2015	State agencies	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• Characterize, for each category of existing uses, the level of activity (high, med, low, unknown). • Identify, for each category & level, the recommended general actions to take, if a project were proposed for that type of area (e.g. do not permit, get more data, or permit the activity).
April 22, 2015 June 24, 2015	WCMAC	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• WCMAC members review & provide their recommended actions for each of the 5 potential new uses (matrix); these actions become alternatives.
Fall 2015	State agencies	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• Identify pros/cons for each alternative and steps needed to accomplish WCMAC recommendations under existing authorities vs. those that require revisions to current laws and/or authorities.
Sept/Oct (TBD)	WCMAC	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• Feedback from WCMAC on alternatives analysis.
Spring 2015 – Dec 2015 *Note: Some data is being generated by current projects & will be available after June 2015 & some data is already available.*	DNR	Spatial Analysis	Perform GIS Analysis: • Overlay a standardized grid on top of use data. • Categorize existing use data (unknown; low, medium, or high use). • Evaluate existing use GIS data in each cell with data on potential new uses. • Outputs provide areas: most existing uses/fewer uses, for which conflict is unknown, with no conflicts, have fixed infrastructure, etc.
Winter 2015-16	State agencies	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• Revise alternatives analysis and include WCMAC recommendations and relationship to current laws &/or authorities as part of the draft plan.
Winter 2015-16	State agencies	Identify Alternatives and Recommendations	• Based on above steps, develop draft spatial options for marine spatial plan.