

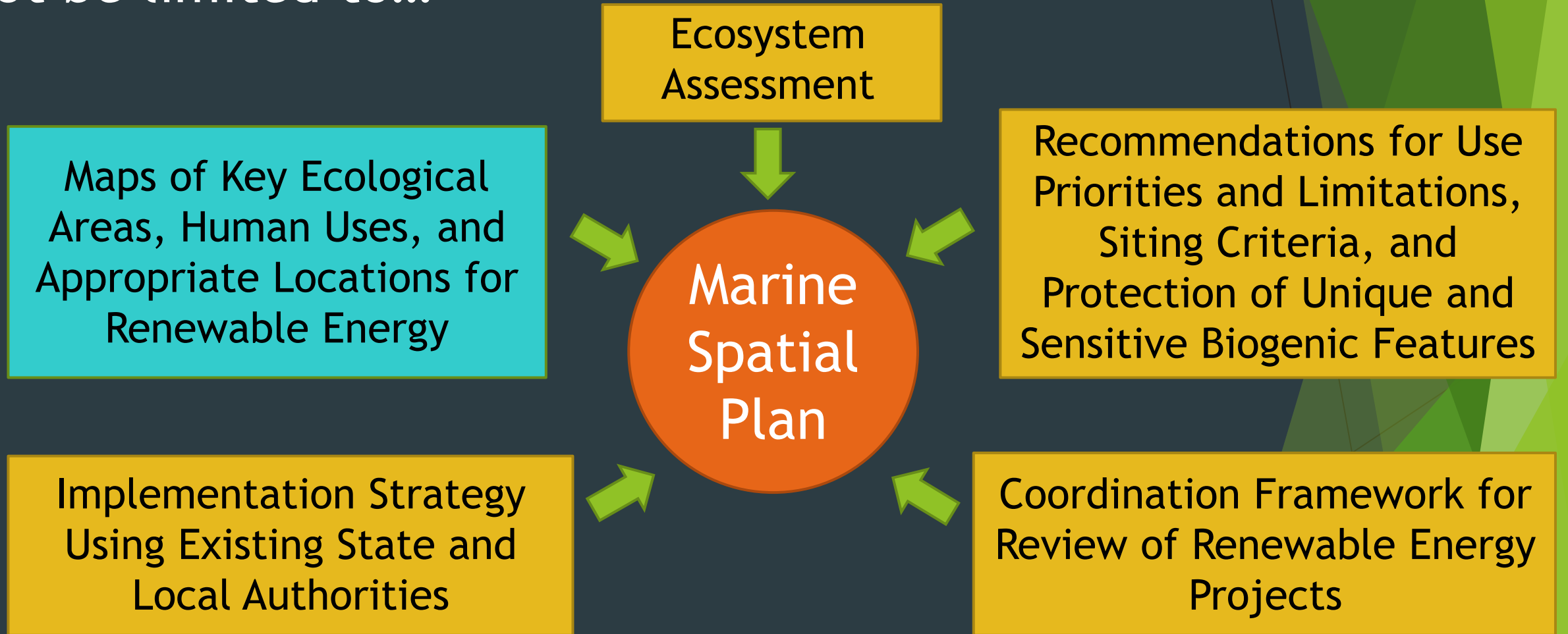
Proposal to Identify Ecologically Important Areas

WCMAC Meeting - April 23, 2014



MSP Context: 43.372.040

(6) The marine management plan must include but not be limited to...



(c) A series of maps that, at a minimum, summarize available data on:

The key ecological aspects of the marine ecosystem, including physical and biological characteristics, as well as areas that are environmentally sensitive or contain unique or sensitive species or biological communities that must be conserved and warrant protective measures....

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Ecologically
Important
Areas

Proposed Process

- ▶ **May-Dec 2014** Work with Federal Agencies, Tribes, and Science Panel on Use of Available Data to Develop an Initial Map of Ecologically Important Areas
- ▶ **Jan 7, 2015** WCMAC Work Session to Review Initial Map, Data Used and Assumptions, and Provide Feedback
- ▶ **Jan-Mar 2015** Overlay Map of Ecologically Important Areas with PNNL's Energy Siting Maps, Review Maps with Tribes and Solicit Feedback, and Model Energy Alternatives
- ▶ **Mar 25, 2015** WCMAC Work Session to Review Energy Alternatives and Provide Feedback
- ▶ **Apr-Jun 2015** Work with WCMAC and Tribes to Modify Alternatives, as needed, and Finalize Report

Next Steps

Work with Federal Agencies, Tribes, and Science Panel (Including PNNL Scientists who Produced Energy Report) to:

- Examine and Potentially Refine Available Data
 - Physical and Biological Information; Life History Characteristics; Migratory Patterns
 - Fish and Wildlife Surveys (Primarily Presence/Absence)
 - *Note: If Fishery Independent Surveys are Not Available, Will Use Fishery Logbook Data as a Proxy*
 - Habitat Surveys—Bottom Habitat and Biogenic Data
- Develop and Discuss Criteria for Ecological Value
- Produce an Initial Map of Ecologically Important Areas