



Outer Coast work group summary

January 23, 2008

Partnerships/leveraging

- Use of regularly contracted vessels – when they're available. Have contracts in place.
- Web portal for planned mapping activities – sharing mechanism for surveying. Federal level – Geospatial one-stop. <http://www.geodata.gov>
- Coastal tribes as partner. Intergovernmental Policy Council (state, outer coast tribes) for Sanctuary
- One-stop shop online: query the map for data sources – what data is available for particular areas.
- NGDC (National Geodetic Data Center) houses data
- Navy restriction on distribution of NOAA or NOAA-funded data prevents free exchange of information collected on outer coast (deeper than 50 m)

Partnerships/leveraging

- Graduate and undergraduate students – utilize for continuity of data, research and management.
- Regionally – all three states need to leverage the activities proposed (user community) for offshore areas as way to obtain necessary data (e.g. alternative energy). West Coast Governors' Agreement as vehicle – need a coordination board (semi-permanent body).
- Sanctuaries – OCNMS
- Look at gaps for data collection and overall programs of various agencies. Figure out ways to re-focus plans of programs to meet needs of a joint effort.
- NGOs, foundations and others can be source of funding
- NOAA priorities for nautical charting

Priorities - Locations

- need good bathymetry out to 1000 fathoms for fisheries.
- delineate hard substrate versus other bottom types to prioritize additional research.
- more cost-effective for deeper water vs. shallower water. Trade-off of what's most important vs. costs. Combination of approaches.
- establishing priority areas for mapping, tie to management needs and that will help drive data collection for areas.

Recommendations

- Work on lifting Navy security restrictions for data distribution of NOAA data.
- Evaluate state and federal permitting of activities to require release of data collected in support of permitting projects.
- Package - multiple needs to advocate for outer coast, develop combined strategy.
- Make data available to public and resource managers and in standardized format.
- Standardize data parameters. Coverage more important than resolution, but need highest resolution for the data purpose (e.g. habitat mapping).