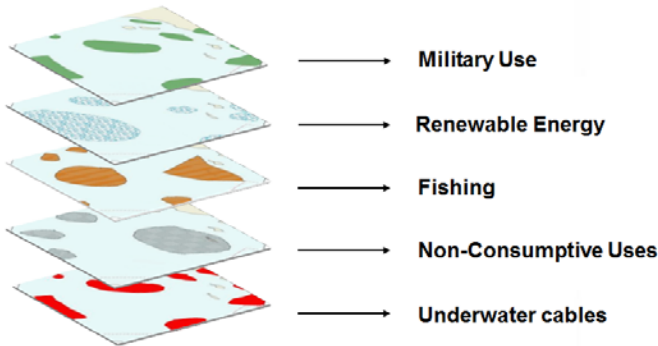


The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas

Informing offshore renewable energy planning through participatory mapping of ocean uses



Human uses of the ocean and coasts are expanding at a rate that challenges our ability to plan and manage them. To minimize potential use conflicts and to inform ocean planning strategies for new and emerging uses, including various forms of offshore renewable energy, it is critical to understand the patterns and implications of ongoing and future human uses of the ocean.



The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas Project is an interagency collaboration between NOAA and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) designed to document where coastal communities use the ocean across a full range of typical human activities and sectors. Using participatory mapping techniques, the project offers a proven, flexible, and scalable approach that empowers coastal communities to paint an accurate picture of human use on a scale appropriate for local-, state-, or regional-level ocean planning.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **What is the primary purpose of the project?** To enhance ocean planning for offshore renewable energy development and inform other ocean planning strategies that require insight to how and where ocean areas are used for recreational, commercial, and industrial types of activities
- **What are the goals of the project?** To collect spatial data on the full range of human uses of the ocean through consultation with use experts, community stakeholders, and cultural use practitioners; to create data and analysis tools to assist in understanding use patterns, hotspots, conflicts and compatibilities
- **What is the geographic focus of the project?** The Outer Continental Shelf areas off the states of Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii, with some additional mapping in state waters in select areas
- **Who will lead this effort?** NOAA's Ocean Uses team (NOAA Coastal Services Center & MPA Center staff) with support from BOEM

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The Oregon Ocean Uses Atlas

Collecting expert community knowledge on ocean uses through participatory mapping

The Oregon Ocean Uses Atlas is one of three state-level mapping efforts that comprise the Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas project. The NOAA Ocean Uses Team conducted workshops throughout the state to collect Oregon ocean uses data to inform planning for potential offshore renewable energy development.

Methods

Ocean use data were gathered in interactive, participatory mapping workshops that captured the knowledge of community experts about the patterns of ocean uses occurring in the study area. Existing data were gathered and used as the basis of the mapping exercise to refine, expand, and build upon previous mapping efforts. Tribal uses of the ocean were not mapped explicitly, though tribal chairs and/or their designated representatives were formally invited by BOEM to participate in the mapping workshops.



Project Scope

The primary focus was to identify ocean uses on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) at a coarse scale. Some fine-scale information was collected for select areas where renewable energy development on the OCS is prospective. The project will document a wide range of ocean uses, including:

Workshop Schedule

Portland: June 3rd

Coos Bay: June 5th

Newport: June 7th

Industry/Military Sector

- Commercial Shipping
- Ocean Dumping
- Mariculture
- Military Operations
- Mining and Mineral Extraction
- Renewable Energy
- Underwater Pipelines
- Underwater Transmission Cables

Extractive Sector

- Commercial Fishing with Benthic Fixed Gear
- Commercial Fishing with Benthic Mobile Gear
- Commercial Pelagic Fishing
- Commercial Seaweed Harvest
- Recreational Fishing from Boats for Benthic Species
- Recreational Fishing from Boats for Pelagic Species
- Subsistence Fishing and Harvest

Non-Extractive Sector

- Cruise Ships
- Cultural Use Areas
- Motorized Boating
- Permanent Research Areas
- Sailing
- Wildlife Viewing at Sea

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