



INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEA GRANT PROGRAM

Agreement No. IAA 14-204

This Agreement is between the University of Washington, Sea Grant Program, referred to as Sea Grant, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, referred to as the DNR.

The DNR is under authority of RCW Chapter 43.30 of Washington State, Department of Natural Resources. DNR and Sea Grant enter into this agreement under Chapter 39.34, Interlocal Cooperation Act.

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide the DNR with outreach, science coordination, and social science indicators to support the marine spatial planning process in Washington.

Attachment A

STATEMENT OF WORK

Background

In consultation with the Legislature and stakeholders, an existing interagency team, the State Ocean Caucus, was tasked with conducting marine spatial planning (MSP) and produced a report for moving forward. As a member of the Caucus, Washington Sea Grant (WSG) has been engaged throughout this period in planning and identifying priorities for furthering MSP in the state of Washington. In particular, WSG has worked to develop and implement coordinated programs for outreach and scientific input. WSG will also be represented on the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC).

In a separate, but related effort, WSG is partnering with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) to develop indicators of human wellbeing for use in regional integrated ecosystem assessments (IEAs). With support of the national Sea Grant program, WSG and the Center have agreed to joint funding for a new social science liaison to strengthen coordination and effectiveness of research on this topic. The project and new position complement regional state and federal agency efforts to coordinate MSP and IEA processes in Washington.

Building on these successful investments and the progress made to date, WSG proposes to continue its current role in the interagency MSP team. This would include greater involvement in indicator activities as well as continuation of ongoing work to coordinate scientific feedback and stakeholder training and engagement in planning. Towards these goals, WSG proposes to carry out the following scope of work to support the MSP process.

I. Coordination of scientific input to ensure best available science in the development of the marine spatial plan.

During spring quarter 2013 and with DNR support, WSG sponsored a UW class that brought together graduate students and scientists to begin exploration of technical information needs and gaps for MSP development. One purpose of the class was to engage academic and other experts working in MSP-relevant areas like marine renewable energy, marine transportation and fisheries. WSG invited several of these experts to become part of an independent science committee and will continue to coordinate scientific advice to support MSP implementation. Final committee membership will include academic, agency, tribal and other experts, representing a wide range of scientific and technical disciplines and with the capacity to review available data, information needs and draft spatial plans.

Drawing on examples from Rhode Island and Oregon, the science committee will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Caucus on proposed project methods, data gaps and draft plans. These recommendations will also be shared with the WCMAC. Recognizing that specific expertise will be necessary to answer many questions, WSG proposes to form sub-groups of two

to four individuals who are authorities in topic areas most important to MSP decision-making. Potential sub-group topics will be identified in consultation with the Caucus and WCMAC and may include fisheries, social science, marine habitats and ocean processes. Sea Grant will consult with the State Ocean Caucus on science committee participants. Additionally, the structure of the science committee will include a core group of scientists representing a range of expertise that will provide updates to the WCMAC through Sea Grant's WCMAC representative. The core group will engage a larger science advisory body when specific questions arise that requires additional expertise. A scoping process will identify specific questions and areas of expertise that are needed in the MSP process. The scientists will provide formal reports to address identified questions. A contingency fund has been established to be used as needed for production of the reports as identified by the scoping process. The contingency fund will become available upon completion of the scoping process.

When a scientific question is identified, the approach for addressing it will depend on the nature of the question. Science committee members would be convened to discuss those that require expertise from multiple disciplines; a more targeted group could address specific questions within a more narrowly defined topic area. Expert sub-groups could be asked to review sector analysis chapters in their area of expertise, assess data quality in the viewing tool, review methods used to identify ecologically sensitive areas and assess methods used to determine aesthetic impacts of renewable energy. WSG also will work with science committee members to arrange for their participation in outreach meetings. WSG will provide summaries of committee recommendations to the Caucus and the WCMAC.

WSG staff member Bridget Trosin will have primary responsibility for carrying out this scope of work, including coordination of and participation by other WSG staff providing technical and outreach support. Under this task WSG will: coordinate activities of committee members, state and academic participants; assist in determining deliverables and project scope for MSP, including deadlines and milestones; facilitate public meetings with researchers and coastal stakeholders; and provide oversight and monitor project progress to ensure that deadlines are successfully met.

Deliverables:

- Conduct a scoping process to identify questions and knowledge gaps in need of scientific input from the science committee.
- Identify academic, government and tribal experts from diverse scientific and technical backgrounds needed for MSP implementation.
- Establish and provide staff support for MSP science committee to provide technical scientific feedback.
- Engage scientists in the review of research methods and evaluate data in the viewing tool.
- Coordinate invitations of science committee members to attend 2-4 meetings per year where they will provide feedback on project methods, data gaps and draft plans.
- Submit a status report to DNR with each quarterly invoice (Trosin)

Timeline:

- Complete scoping process by early February 2014.

- Schedule first meeting of the MSP science committee by early 2014 and as needed until June 30, 2015.

II. Coordination and facilitation of marine spatial planning outreach.

Coastal resident engagement and understanding will be key to MSP progress and success. Over the past year, Trosin has worked with the Caucus, coastal decision makers, residents and other WSG staff and students to plan, implement, facilitate and attend more than a dozen stakeholder information meetings on MSP.

Trosin will continue to lead WSG engagement activities related to MSP, in consultation with state agencies, tribes, MRCs, the Nature Conservancy, Surfrider, academic researchers and other interested groups. While Trosin will serve as WSG's primary outreach contact, a new coastal staff member (.4 FTE) would work as a team with Trosin, providing on-site MSP. Making more extensive use of a WSG specialist who is housed locally is cost-effective and should improve onsite coordination and substantially reduce travel costs. Working closely with Trosin, the individual will encourage flexible and more informal opportunities for engagement with coastal communities and improve communications.

From January 2014 through June 2015, WSG will coordinate and provide support for ten public meetings in Washington coastal communities that target planners, local governments and stakeholders. With support from the WSG coastal specialist, Trosin will coordinate with MRCs to co-host and help advertise for the public meetings to coincide with MRC regularly scheduled meetings. Meetings will occur when there is a specific opportunity for public input, update in the planning process or learning opportunity with project researchers. Activities will include planning and facilitating public meetings and arranging for speakers who can provide information on research activities and status of planning activities. The public meetings will also provide the opportunity to collect feedback from local citizens and understand coastal priorities through discussion or short surveys. In an effort to document the process and show stakeholders that their concerns are heard, a summary report will be produced for all public meetings. Written answers to participant questions will be posted on the state's MSP website. This will provide a clearly documented public process that is transparent and addresses the concerns and questions of stakeholders. With student support, the WSG team will work with MRCs, the WCMAC and local community leaders and organizations to identify convenient and low-cost venues and ensure that meetings are well publicized and attended.

In addition, the coastal specialist will provide ten to fifteen MSP presentations to local organizations such as economic development councils, chambers of commerce and local community and industry groups. Each presentation will provide an update on the MSP process and activities and will be tailored to the specific area of the coast where the presentation is given. The coastal specialist will provide a summary of each presentation and document the questions and priorities discussed at the meetings. The coastal specialist will work with stakeholders in a variety of marine industries, exploring additional opportunities to answer questions and provide information on MSP. The individual will engage stakeholders in distributing outreach materials

and advertising for the public meetings with agencies, interest groups and researchers. She or he also will attend local events and festivals where they will distribute outreach materials and answer questions about MSP. Since the coastal specialist will be based in a local coastal community, he or she will take the lead in identifying additional stakeholders to focus outreach efforts.

Deliverables:

- Write a summary report of past outreach activities and document priorities, concerns and opportunities discussed at outreach meetings. (Trosin 5%)
- Identify stakeholders. (TBD coastal specialist 5%)
- Coordinate ten public outreach meetings with MRCs to inform and collect feedback from coastal stakeholders; efforts will include facilitation and provision of workshop materials (Trosin (15%) with coastal specialist (5%) and student support.
- Provide written summary of each public outreach meeting to post to the Washington MSP website. (Trosin 5%)
- Provide written summary of local outreach meetings (TBD coastal specialist 5%)
- Attend community events such as local festivals and provide outreach materials and information on MSP to attendees (TBD coastal specialist 10%)
- Respond to stakeholder questions both verbally and in written format so information can be posted to the Washington State MSP website. (Trosin 5%)
- Coordinate 10-15 MSP short courses for economic development councils, chambers of commerce and local industry organizations. (TBD coastal specialist 15%)
- Develop outreach materials on the coast to broaden the audience engaged in MSP, potentially including presentations, brochures, materials, webinars, videos and meetings (Trosin10%, WSG communications team)
- Submit a status report to DNR with each quarterly invoice (Trosin 5%)

Timeline:

- Write a summary report of past outreach efforts and post to MSP website by January 2014.
- Develop outreach materials as needed from December 2013- June 2015.
- Schedule public outreach meetings from January 2014 through June 2015 as determined by the process needs, opportunities for input and research updates.
- Provide meeting summaries to DNR for posting on the MSP website within one month of each public meeting.

III. Use of human dimensions indicators in marine spatial planning.

The ongoing WSG partnership with NWFSC to develop socioeconomic indicators of human wellbeing is part of NWFSC's larger IEA process for California Current ecosystem-based management. The IEA is intended to integrate ecological, economic and social data to assess, monitor and predict changes, often in ways that are spatial in nature. As developed by NWFSC, the IEA involves a step-wise indicator portfolio development process to select interconnected indicators, which are theoretically sound, linkable to conceptual models of the ecosystem,

relevant to management concerns, and sufficiently sensitive to reflect dynamic socio-ecological systems. Because many indicators include a spatial attribute, state and federal managers are interested in their potential application to MSP. Expanding on current work on human wellbeing for the Washington IEA and MSP processes, WSG will collaborate with NWFSC to: (a) develop a human dimensions model for Washington MSP; and (b) identify and evaluate a suite of indicators and attributes for visualizing the spatial extent of various human uses and values along the Washington Coast.

WSG participation will be led by the two organizations' new liaison, social scientist Melissa Poe, who will provide expertise on best approaches for assessing human wellbeing and methods for mapping human ecosystem values and activities. Poe will work closely with both NWFSC experts and Trosin to ensure integration and coordination of this task with other WSG activities. With student support, the WSG team will support efforts to synthesize the state of knowledge and develop a conceptual model, using both primary and secondary resources for identifying human dimensions of MSP. Drawing upon social science research experience, Trosin will conduct a document analysis using notes and proceedings from a series of multi-stakeholder objective-setting workshops conducted in Washington coastal communities in 2012-2013. This information will serve as a primary resource to contribute the development of the conceptual model. Building on this information, the team will work to produce an integrated human dimensions model of the marine ecosystem, as well as an initial suite of indicators that fit the selection criteria and address MSP needs. The process also will enable the team to appraise the availability of spatially referenced social data and highlight important data gaps. In an effort to help coastal residents better understand the IEA process, WSG proposes to create outreach materials that explain an IEA and how it relates to managing coastal resources and MSP.

Deliverables:

- Synthesize and review human values mapping approaches for marine spatial planning from the social sciences literature. (Students)
- Conduct a systematic document analysis of the socially relevant goals, values and objectives articulated during the 2012-2013 community outreach meetings on MSP. Summarize the range of human values, activities, and concerns with spatial dimensions voiced by local stakeholders. (Trosin)
- Collaborate with NWFSC to develop an IEA-based conceptual model of the human dimensions for Washington MSP. (Poe)
- Identify a suite of indicators for visualizing the spatial extent of a variety of human uses and values. (Poe)
- Identify data gaps on human uses and sociocultural values of Washington coastal systems. (Poe)
- Provide written reports in electronic version (PDF) of the conceptual model and candidate indicators. (Poe)
- Produce IEA outreach materials including development of text, graphic design, printing and distribution of materials to coastal stakeholders. (MSP team and WSG communications staff).
- Submit a status report to DNR with each quarterly invoice (Poe/Trosin)

Timeline:

- Select, hire, mentor and supervise one part-time graduate student to assist with task deliverables between December 2013 and June 2015.
- Perform and summarize document analysis between November 2013 and February 1, 2014.
- Develop IEA outreach materials by March 1, 2014.
- Complete conceptual model and indicators selection by June 2015.