



PISCO

Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans

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November 14, 2008

Management Plan Review Team
NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
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Via electronic mail to the Management Plan Review Team

RE: PISCO Comments on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Management Plan review

Dear Dr. Bernthal and the Management Plan Review Team,

The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) is pleased that the OCNMS is updating its management plan. By recognizing the synergistic relationship between monitoring, research, and management, the OCNMS will enhance knowledge of coastal ecosystems, their interactions, and the threats they face. PISCO is pleased to offer any support, knowledge, and expertise that will help the OCNMS toward these goals.

PISCO is a consortium of thirteen marine research scientists and over one hundred staff and postdoctoral and graduate students at four academic institutions along the US west coast. The PISCO program and the OCNMS have a long history of collaboration. In 1999, Dr. Brian Grantham began work with the OCNMS to design a mooring array based on the PISCO array. Also in 1999, under the direction of Dr. Carl Schoch, OSU/PISCO began its California Current intertidal biodiversity surveys, with 7 sites in the OCNMS (Warmhouse Beach, Waatch Point, Makah Reef, La Push, Chilean Memorial, Teahwhit Head, and Giants Graveyard). This work continued through 2004. In 2001, the Coastal Biodiversity Survey was started, which includes four sites in the OCNMS (Cannonball Island, Chilean Memorial, Taylor Pt, and Starfish Pt). The Biodiversity Surveys capture important long-term trends in the biological communities of rocky intertidal reefs, across the entire US west coast including other NMS areas such as Channel Islands and Monterey Bay. This sampling series is still underway and is lead by the PISCO team at University of California (UC), Santa Cruz.

Starting in 2007, members of the PISCO database team at UC Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz, Dr Anthony Kirincich and myself advised the OCNMS on data analysis, and worked closely with Dr. Cindy Paden, providing her guidelines and codes for her data analysis work and helping to integrate her

work with the ongoing PISCO and NMS data processing work conducted across the U.S. West Coast.

Dr. Francis Chan began working with OCNMS in 2003, advising on cross-shelf survey design. He continues to work closely with the research team on sensor calibration, and to exchange data to try to quantify the spatial extent and dynamics of hypoxia.

The following are comments from PISCO on the document entitled “1994 Management Plan”. From a broad, overview perspective, we recommend that:

- a) Include principles of ecosystem-based management at the broadest level in the Management Plan, and
- b) Incorporate adaptive mechanisms that allow periodic review, updates, and response to new opportunities and unanticipated challenges or progress, and
- c) Incorporate a broad emphasis on data management and information synthesis as integral part of the Management Plan. Continued training of information managers in metadata technologies and data processing techniques should be a focal point of the data management plan in order to promote interoperability between partner organizations, and
- d) Continue to build partnerships for comprehensive monitoring and research on the issue of hypoxic events in the northern California Current. There is a clear need for near real-time data results to be readily available and useful to the research community.

We feel that there is an opportunity to formalize the relationship between PISCO and OCNMS in order to build on the strong collaborations of the last 10 years. We hope that this formalization, especially in regards to data sharing, will be considered in the Management Plan review.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the OCNMS Management Plan Review. We look forward to future discussions as the review proceeds. For more information about the PISCO program and these comments, please contact Liz Riley at (541)737-8645 or Liz.Riley@science.oregonstate.edu.

Sincerely,



Jack Barth,
Principal Investigator, Oregon State University