

ADDENDUM A: COASTAL MRC PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The following priority statements, developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group, are used to guide the development of the Coastal MRC Program and focus the work of coastal MRCs. These priorities – or operating principles – include:

Establish MRCs	<p>Establish coastal MRCs in order to provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities</p> <p>Ensure MRC and program accountability and alignment with regional priorities by measuring performance against program benchmarks</p> <p>Act in consult with tribal and state co-managers</p> <p>Ensure that local residents are selected and participate in MRCs</p>
Complement existing efforts	<p>Complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources</p>
Build partnerships	<p>Coordinate and communicate with MRCs, the Northwest Straits Commission, tribal and state co-managers, local, regional, federal, and other stakeholders and organizations about local and regional projects and issues</p> <p>Expand partnerships with tribal governments and continue to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties</p> <p>Communicate coastal issues to the Governor’s office and the State Ocean Caucus</p>
Utilize science	<p>Conduct scientific investigations and monitoring efforts to fill key gaps in knowledge about valuable coastal species and habitats (e.g. ecosystem-based management)</p> <p>Monitor and assess impacts of coastal and marine development</p>
Promote healthy communities and resources	<p>Promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources</p> <p>Promote marine resource stewardship through community volunteer opportunities and public education efforts</p> <p>Promote coastal hazards awareness and community preparedness through education and outreach programs</p> <p>Support the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats, and marine populations to healthy and sustainable levels and prevent future state and federal species listings</p> <p>Conduct and implement strategic planning to identify marine resource related threats to and opportunities for sustainability</p> <p>Assess sources of and reduce marine and estuarine pollution and debris</p>

ADDENDUM B: COASTAL MRC PROGRAM BENCHMARKS

Performance benchmarks will be used to measure MRC activities and achievement in discrete, but broad categories. Benchmarks developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program include:

Marine Habitats: Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:

- enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
- designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
- surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
- understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices

Marine Life: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further ESA listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
- balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
- identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
- designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery

Marine and Fresh Water Quality: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:

- conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
- working to reduce the input of pollutants
- promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
- working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

Sound Science: Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:

- utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
- identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
- promoting peer reviewed science

Education and Outreach: Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:

- informing the public about threats to living resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
- informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
- coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
- engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming
- translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington's coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
- expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers

Coastal Communities: Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:

- supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
- supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
- encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
- engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
- increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest