

RESEARCH/PD ANNUAL REPORT - PROGRESS REPORT

2015 annual report - progress

Patrick Christie

[full] - Evaluating Puget Sound Marine Protected Areas to Increase Social Ecological Resilience

R/HCE-2

Submitted On: 04/12/2016 07:22:22 PM

METRICS & MEASURES

Metric/Measure	Value	Note
Acres of coastal habitat	0	
Fishermen and seafood industry personnel	0	
Communities - economic and environmental development	0	
Stakeholders - sustainable approaches	0	
Informal education programs	0	
Stakeholders who receive information	0	
Volunteer hours	0	
P-12 students reached	0	
P-12 educators	0	

REQUESTED INFORMATION

Publications

Policy Priorities in Puget Sound: An Analysis of MPA Implementation

Publication Type: Theses / Dissertations (complete versions)

Publication Year: 2015

Publication Authors:

Publisher Info: University of Washington

Notes:

Related URLs:

Keywords:

Publication URLs:

Abstract: Currently there are 110 officially recognized marine protected areas (MPAs) in Puget Sound that cover approximately 15% of the marine environment. This analysis focuses on how the natural resource management agencies of Washington State have implemented MPA policy and the degree to which experts perceive them to be effective. The large number of MPAs and multiple governing agencies involved in their management indicate different goals are being pursued. This study used a combination of purposive and snowball sampling to develop a candidate pool of informants. Thirty-four qualitative interviews were conducted in 2014 of federal and state policy managers, staffers, scientists, as well as nonprofit experts and members of the epistemic community. Interview transcripts were analyzed in conjunction with a Sabatier-Mazmanian policy implementation framework to identify gaps. Results indicate that some Puget Sound MPAs suffer from an inadequate or consistent justification for their existence, resource limitations stemming from the negative perceptions of senior leaders hampering monitoring and

outreach, and the challenging, legally-mandated co-management process. This suggests implementation of MPA policy is hindered by a lack of leadership and support. Also, policy has not consistently utilized appropriate site selection protocol or engaged co-managers on their concerns regarding spatial conservation tools. Implementation gaps are likely to remain until MPA policy follows from specific goals and needs, and levels of support are unlikely to increase unless public managers can unequivocally point to measurable improvements stemming from the policy.

Citation: Masters, J.K., 2015. Policy Priorities in Puget Sound: An Analysis of MPA Implementation. Masters of Marine Affairs thesis. University of Washington.

Citation for Coverage:

SG can post PDF online?: No

Uploaded File: [JKMthesisFINAL.docx](#)

Students Supported

Kyle Masters (Continuing Student)
mastersjk@gmail.com
University of Washington, SMEA

Field of Study:

Advisor: Christie

Degree Type: Other Professional

Degree Year: 2015

Student Project Title: Policy Priorities in Puget Sound: An Analysis of MPA Implementation

Involvement With Sea Grant This Period (capstone, fellow, intern, etc.): Student assistant to WSG funded project

Post-Graduation Plans (employer, grad school, etc.): Applying

Was this thesis/dissertation supported by Sea Grant?: Yes

Thesis / Dissertation: Policy Priorities in Puget Sound: An Analysis of MPA Implementation

New or Continuing?: continuing

Degree awarded this reporting period?: Yes

Financially supported?: Yes

Narratives

Human dimensions of Puget Sound marine spatial planning and restoration

Uploaded File: [April_2016_narrative_report.docx](#)

Partners This Period

The Tulalip Tribes

Types: Other

Scale: Tribal

Notes:

STANDARD QUESTIONS

Impacts and Accomplishments

(1)

Type	accomplishment
Title	No impact or accomplishment submitted in 2015
Relevance	*
Response	*
Results	*
Recap	*
Comments	
Primary Focus Area	Healthy Coastal Ecosystems
Secondary Focus Areas	
Goals	
Partners	
	<p>* Type impact * Title Engaging the Tulalip tribe * Relevance During year one, the team conducted field interviews and surveys to assess performance of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Puget Sound against social-ecological objectives. One completed SMEA masters thesis project (Kyle Masters), based on key informant interviews with mainly state agency personnel, demonstrated that government agencies and the Puget Sound Partnership are looking for ways forward toward marine spatial management, but realize that they are mandated to working with tribal co-managers. The research team attempted, in various manners, to secure tribal approvals for interviews, but initial efforts failed to secure permission to interview or survey informants from the tribes. Because the tribes constitute a critical and highly influential interest group in shaping the future of spatial conservation measures in this region, we have dedicated considerable effort to break this logjam, and we are pleased to report that this work appears to have produced a solid basis for progress in the coming year. Many tribal members view MPAs as the latest in a long series of efforts by non-Indians to exclude tribes from their fishing grounds and from use of marine and coastal environments. Tribal resource managers initially expressed reluctance to discuss MPAs with us, noting that this issue had been covered authoritatively in the NWIFC's 2003 statement on MPAs, which established rigorous standards of justification for new MPAs. Puget Sound Rockfish (ESA – mandated) recovery and the Puget Sound Partnership policy processes both were advocating for MPA establishment at the start of this research project. Both policy processes have, in large part due to the above dynamics and others</p>

PI Draft

uncovered by the social surveys conducted at MPA sites, redirected their efforts away from MPAs (Tonnes, pers comm. and Hass, pers comm.). * Response To work around these obstacles, PI Patrick Christie and co-PI Brad Warren met with the Northwest Indian Fisheries commission. Then co-PI Warren gradually developed an alternative approach for engaging tribal sources and collaborators, through a series of negotiations and discussions with NWIFC and board and staff of the Tulalip Tribes. While MPAs remain unpopular among the tribes, they have invested heavily to create coastal and estuarine “restoration” projects. Unlike traditional “no-take” reserves, these projects constitute MPAs designed to address stresses such as development pressure, habitat degradation, and climate change, rather than fishing pressure. Collectively, such investments can be viewed as a shift in the focus of spatial conservation efforts in Puget Sound. Instead of merely thwarting MPA development, the tribes have helped to redirect funds and energies to address their own priorities for conservation. Terry Williams, Tulalip’s Commissioner of Treaty Rights, Natural Resources and Fisheries, has joined with Warren in suggesting that we target the next phase of this study to focus on understanding this shift toward spatial conservation through restoration, defining the objectives and challenges that arise in this new era, and identifying research and policy tools for use in this work. In the pursuit of this end, Warren and Christie have been working to secure tribal approval to conducting social research with tribal resource managers and leaders as informants. This has been a slow process (the last 6 months) that resulted, recently, in an approval letter signed by the The Tulalip Tribes Chairman, Mr Melvin Sheldon, Jr. * Results We now have approval to conduct interviews of Tulalip tribal members regarding their perceptions of Puget Sound change and spatial management efforts and to co-host a workshop based on social research conducted by the Sea Grant-supported project members and other relevant sources of information. * Recap The initial plans for an MPA-focused policy workshop in year-2 of this project have been changed based on research findings and the project will now focus on more closely engaging the Tulalip tribe in social research and co-hosting a workshop on marine spatial planning and restoration. Comments Primary Focus Area Healthy Coastal Ecosystems Secondary Focus Areas Resilient Communities and Economies Goals Ocean and coastal resources are managed using ecosystem-based approaches.,Ocean and coastal habitats are protected, enhanced and restored.,Fisheries are safe, responsibly managed and economically and culturally vibrant.,Coastal communities and economies are vibrant and resilient.,Coastal communities engage in

comprehensive planning and sustainable development.,Coastal water resources sustain human and ecosystem health. Partners The Tulalip Tribes.

Tools, Technologies, Information Services / Sea Grant Products

(1)

Description	Social survey and interview data set regarding Puget Sound condition and MPAs.
Developed (in the reporting period)?	No
Used (in the reporting period)?	Yes
Used for EBM?	No
ELWD product?	No
Number of managers	0
Description/Names of managers	

Economic Impacts

No **Economic Impacts** information reported

Community Hazard Resilience

No **Community Hazard Resilience** information reported

Meetings, Workshops, Presentations

No **Meetings, Workshops, Presentations** information reported

Leveraged Funds

No **Leveraged Funds** information reported

Marine protected area (MPA) perception survey and interview data were analyzed and MPA policy conditions were assessed for Puget Sound recovery. Results of this analysis were presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting in March, 2016.

Research project leaders consulted with Puget Sound recovery leaders from the Puget Sound Partnership, NOAA, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, and The Tulalip Tribes.

The project leadership, in collaboration with Tulalip leadership and in consultation with Puget Sound recovery leaders, decided to refocus the project's outreach and educational efforts toward marine spatial planning and restoration—especially that which is lead by the Tulalip Tribes. A letter approving interviews of Tulalip members and co-hosting of a future workshop on these topics has been signed but the Tulalip Chairman, Mr. Melvin Sheldon, Jr. Interviews will collect valuable information on the perception of Tulalip leadership and membership on changing Puget Sound conditions, impacts of climate change, MPAs, marine spatial planning, restoration, and workable policy options. A workshop will help ground Tulalip, and possibly other tribal and state/federal agency planning processes, in a realistic and socially-grounded understanding of workable and effective policy options for Puget Sound to protect valuable habitats and maintain fisheries.