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2011 West Coast Forum
COASTAL & MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING
AND THE ROLE OF REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCILS IN
MULTI-SECTOR SPATIAL PLANNING

YELLOWSTONE COAST CASE STUDY EXERCISES

The Fisheries Leadership & Sustainability Forum (Fisheries Forum) developed this case study for the September 2011 West Coast Forum on the topic of Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning, and the Role of Regional Fishery Management Councils in Multi-Sector Spatial Planning. The case study is intended to help fishery managers merge existing knowledge and experience with new ideas and skills derived from the 2011 West Coast Forum curriculum. This exercise is part of a larger learning module available on the Fisheries Forum website (www.fisheriesforum.org).

INSTRUCTIONS

This document contains a series of exercises for the Yellowstone Coast Case Study, and is the second of three documents that comprise the 2011 West Coast Forum Case Study materials:

Yellowstone Coast Case Study Scenario and Discussion Document
Yellowstone Coast Case Study Exercises
Yellowstone Coast Case Study Teaching Guide to Exercises

The *Yellowstone Coast Case Study Exercises* should be completed after reviewing the online materials from the 2011 West Coast Forum, and the *Yellowstone Coast Case Study Scenario and Discussion Document*.

The following exercises are formatted as a set of worksheets. To maximize your experience with the exercise, please print the worksheets and complete the questions. While many of the exercises relate directly to specific information provided in the scenario, the majority of questions are designed to prompt reflection and critical thinking, and thus there are no single correct answers. Please use the questions below as a structured opportunity to digest the information presented in the 2011 West Coast Forum through the lens of the Yellowstone Coast.

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PART I. LINKING SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Reflect on the spatial characteristics of fisheries and consider how those spatial requirements influence the Council's ability to achieve their stated management objectives.

1. List two important spatial characteristics/requirements for each of the four managed species. These may include habitat, distribution, spawning behavior, etc.
(For example: Grand Canyon Grouper currently occupy only a portion of their historical range.)

a. Grand Canyon Grouper

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_____

b. Grand Teton Grouper

_____

_____

c. Zion Jack

_____

_____

d. Smokey Mountain Clam

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_____

2. How are the spatial characteristics you identified above reflected in the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) designations?
(For example: EFH is designated for the historical range of Grand Canyon Grouper.)

a. Grand Canyon Grouper

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_____

b. Grand Teton Grouper

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_____

c. Zion Jack

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d. Smokey Mountain Clam

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3. The management objectives for all three FMPs include managing the resource to achieve optimum yield. How do the spatial characteristics of the stock(s) as described through EFH and the designation of HAPC influence the Council's ability to meet the stated management objective?

Central to this question is the definition of optimum yield. National Standard 1 - Optimum Yield provides the following guidance (50 CFR 600.310 (e)(3)(iii)):

> Magnuson-Stevens Act section (3)(33) defines "optimum," with respect to the yield from a fishery, as the amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems; that is prescribed on the basis of the MSY from the fishery, as reduced by any relevant economic, social, or ecological factor; and, in the case of an overfished fishery, that provides for rebuilding to a level consistent with producing the MSY in such fishery.

a. Grouper Complex
Management Objective: *Institute management measures to rebuild overfished stocks and achieve optimum yield*

b. Zion Jack
Management Objective: *Prevent overfishing while managing the resource to achieve optimum yield*

c. Smokey Mountain Clam
Management Objective: *Prevent overfishing while managing the resource to achieve optimum yield*

4. Are there other management objectives outlined in the three FMPs for which the spatial characteristics of the stock(s) and EFH/HAPC designations influence the Council's ability to achieve the stated management objective?

PART II. ASSESSING NON-FISHING OCEAN USES

Evaluate the attributes of other ocean uses that influence their potential compatibility or incompatibility with fisheries interests.

5. Based upon the fishery and habitat profiles provided, identify potential challenges and opportunities that other ocean uses might pose to the spatial activities, ecosystem needs and management objectives of Yellowstone Coast fisheries.

Ocean Use	Challenges	Opportunities
Mineral Resources Sand and Gravel Mining		
Oil and Gas		
Renewable Energy		
Shipping and Transportation		
Tourism and Recreation Twisted Pine Rock MPA		

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PART III: RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSED OFFSHORE OIL DEVELOPMENT

Consider the legal and process tools available to Councils to make spatially referenced management decisions and to influence the siting and management of other ocean uses.

In the scenario presented in this case study, the development of offshore oil and gas resources is the lens to examine the potential processes and strategies the Council can employ to provide input in the siting and development of non-fishing ocean uses. In this section you will explore avenues for engaging through (a) the siting and development process for the proposed ocean development and (b) the authority and opportunities within the established Council process.

(a) OCS Oil and Gas Leasing, Exploration & Development Process

(Refer to Offshore Oil Development Primer (p. 24-25) and the Forum Report: *The Role of Regional Fishery Management Councils in Multi-Sector Spatial Planning: Exploring existing tools and future opportunities*)

6. Identify two opportunities for each step in the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing, Exploration & Development Process where the Council can provide comments. *(Hint: Consider opportunities to comment through resource-specific planning documents and through the NEPA process.)*

a. 5-Year Leasing Program

_____

_____

b. Planning For Specific Sale

_____

_____

c. Exploration Plan Approval

_____

_____

d. Development and Production Plan Approval

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_____

7. Identify one opportunity for each step in the offshore oil development process where the Council can coordinate with and leverage the authority of federal or state agencies. *(Hint: Consider opportunities under CZMA and NOAA agency authority.)*

a. 5-Year Leasing Program

_____

b. Planning For Specific Sale

_____

c. Exploration Plan Approval

_____

d. Development and Production Plan Approval

_____

8. Are there points throughout BOEMRE's established process that represent optimal opportunities for councils to provide input?

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_____
_____
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9. Reflecting on your experience, and the discussion of *Current Permitting Processes & Opportunities* in the Forum Report, identify two potential barriers to utilizing the processes and strategies identified above. *(Hint: Are there constraints associated with the timing of BOEMRE's process, coordinating with other agencies, limitations within the Council process, availability of data, etc.?)*

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_____
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_____

10. Identify possible solutions for overcoming these barriers. *(Hint: Are there possible solutions related to Section VI. Strategies for Council Engagement in Multi-Sector Planning discussed in the Forum Report?)*

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(b) Council Authority and Opportunities Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act
(Refer to Offshore Oil Development Primer (p. 24-25) and the Forum Report: *The Role of Regional Fishery Management Councils in Multi-Sector Spatial Planning: Exploring existing tools and future opportunities*)

11. Identify two opportunities where Councils have direct authority under the MSA to influence the leasing and development of oil resources off the Yellowstone Coast? (Refer to presentation by Ms. Meghan Jeans*: Management Tools to Support Fisheries Engagement in Integrated Oceans Governance* [PDF] - Video)

Questions 12-14 refer to the presentation by Karen Abrams: *Opportunities and Impediments for Using Essential Fish Habitat Authority in CMSP* [PDF] - Video

12. Under the MSA, Councils are required to identify EFH for each life stage of the Council's managed specie(s). Councils are further authorized to comment and make conservation recommendations on any federal or state action that may affect habitat of a fishery resource, including EFH. Identify two ways the Council could utilize this EFH provision to influence the BOEMRE OCS Lease Sale 214?

13. Describe potential barriers to utilizing the Council's authority to consult with federal and state agencies regarding actions that may adversely impact EFH? *(Hint: Are there constraints associated with timing, coordinating with other agencies, limitations within the Council process, availability of data, etc.?)*

14. How might Councils overcome some of these barriers?

15. How might some of these processes, strategies, barriers, and solutions apply to other existing or potential ocean activities along the Yellowstone Coast?

a) Shipping

b) Dredging

c) Mineral Mining

d) Offshore Wind Energy

PART IV. ENGAGING IN COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

Examine how spatial information can be used in fisheries management to support and communicate the council's objectives, and how fisheries information can contribute to multi-sector planning processes.

16. Identify two value statements for each category below. These statements should articulate the take-home messages you need other ocean users and those involved in the coastal and marine spatial planning process in your region to recognize and understand about Yellowstone Coast fisheries interests.

a) Conservation Considerations
(For example: Preserving spawning habitat is crucial to ensuring the continued productivity of Yellowstone Coast fish stocks.)

b) Economic Considerations
(For example: Commercial and recreational fisheries are valuable contributors to the coastal economy.)

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_____
_____

c) Social Considerations
(For example: The livelihood of fishing communities along the Yellowstone coast depends upon the continued access to historical fishing grounds.)

_____
_____
_____
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17. Select one value statement you identified for each category above, and consider the information and data inputs you need to support those statements.

a) Conservation Considerations
(For example: Spatial data depicting the location of spawning habitat and the seasonal distribution of mature adults among those spawning habitats.)

_____
_____

b) Economic Considerations
(For example: Ex-vessel value, value added services and retail sales to convey the contributions of the commercial fishery to the local economy.)

_____
_____

c) Social Considerations
(For example: The spatial distribution of effort associated with Yellowstone Coast communities to convey the importance of certain fishing grounds to local fishing fleets.)

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_____

We hope that you have found the 2011 West Coast Forum case study to be a valuable exercise. The Fisheries Forum strives to provide relevant and accessible educational materials, and we welcome your feedback on how we many continue to improve these resources. Please contact Kim Gordon or John Henderschedt with any comments or questions about the case study (http://www.fisheriesforum.org/about-us).