

PARTNERSHIPS IN PARTICIPATORY MAPPING: THE PACIFIC REGIONAL OCEAN USES ATLAS

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The Pacific Regional Ocean Uses Atlas project was collaborative effort between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and NOAA to document where and how people use the ocean offshore Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. NOAA's participatory mapping techniques were used to gather new information on the full spectrum of ocean uses from a total of 375 participants at 15 interactive mapping workshops. For this ambitious effort, partnerships were critical in achieving project objectives.

In Washington, BOEM and NOAA partnered with the Washington State Department of Ecology and Department of Natural Resources, who will use the ocean, uses information to develop a state Marine Spatial Plan. In Hawaii, the federal agencies partnered with the State of Hawaii Office of Planning, who will use the project information to inform coastal zone planning strategies and permitting decisions. The agencies also partnered with SeaSketch, a web-based mapping and collaboration tool, to provide workshop participants with an innovative way to view and comment on their data during the project's data validation phase. These partnerships leveraged the agencies' resources, improved the breadth of the networks the project could tap to identify ocean uses experts, and enhanced overall buy-in for the final products.