

COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION ACTION PLAN

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Compatibility Determination (CD) Action Plan (AP) recommends a process by which to determine what constitutes a compatible use of sanctuary resources. The NMSA directs the NMSP to facilitate uses that are compatible with the primary mandate of resource protection, but is silent on how compatibility should be determined. This AP describes a framework for developing a sanctuary compatibility analysis. The AP only recommends process; it does not determine the appropriateness of any specific sanctuary use, current or potential, nor does it recommend any actions that could affect the outcome of other action plans in this publication. Background information on compatible use determination is available at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/management/mpr/workinggroups.html>.

GOAL

The goal of the CD AP is to develop a framework to assess and evaluate whether existing or proposed human uses are compatible with the sanctuary's primary objective of resource protection.

OBJECTIVES

The CD AP has one objective and associated strategies to address the issues regarding compatible use (Table 35).

- CD.1—Develop a Framework for Sanctuary Compatibility Determination.

The estimated costs for implementation of the CD AP are indicated in Table 36. The performance measures are listed in Table 37.

TABLE 35. OBJECTIVES, ASSOCIATED STRATEGIES, AND PRIORITIES FOR CD ACTION PLAN.

Objective	Strategy	Priority
CD.1 Develop a Framework for Sanctuary Compatibility Determination	(1.1) Demonstrate the application of S-CAP.	High
	(1.2) Refine S-CAP by incorporating results of ongoing sanctuary monitoring.	Medium

CD.1 OBJECTIVE—DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR SANCTUARY COMPATIBILITY DETERMINATION

Background. SBNMS is considering using a Sanctuary Compatibility Analysis Process (S-CAP) to clarify and resolve compatibility issues. S-CAP uses a hierarchical approach, which flows from broad statements of SBNMS ‘vision’ and ‘mission’ to more specific management ‘goals’ and ‘objectives’ to determine whether uses are compatible with sanctuary resource protection. Figure 119 provides a hypothetical application of S-CAP to sanctuary management.

S-CAP is a means to screen whether a use is compatible, or how it could be made compatible, and thus consistent with the site’s vision, mission, goals and objectives. It is a potential decision-making tool for application in sanctuary management, including performance planning (such as in management plan reviews), and for addressing questionable situations regarding specific uses. S-CAP has the following objectives:

- Define the role of stakeholders and managers;
- Define the decision-making process, such that decisions are rational and transparent; and
- Address current uses, new uses, the scale of use, and the cumulative impacts of multiple uses.

[Note: Issues regarding conflicting uses that have no impact or risk of impact to sanctuary resources are not intended to be resolved by S-CAP or any other compatibility approach, as such issues present conflicts between uses, not between a use and resource protection].

Strategies (2) To Develop a Framework for Sanctuary Compatibility Determination

(1.1) Demonstrate the application of S-CAP. S-CAP will be used to answer specific questions regarding whether a use(s) is/are compatible with the sanctuary’s primary objective of

resource protection. The SBNMS vision, mission, goals and management objectives will provide guidance for S-CAP deliberations.

Priority: High

Status: Planned, 2011

Activities:

1.1.1 The NMSP will evaluate the application of S-CAP and determine its usefulness as a decision-making tool. The process is an objective approach, which seeks to incorporate the best available scientific information, allows for stakeholder involvement and should be easy to understand and apply. It can incorporate measurable standards and indicators as thresholds for decision-making, if advisable. Ultimately, a pilot study or monitoring program, preferably utilizing collaborative research, may be necessary to properly evaluate and refine the application of this tool in certain cases.

[Note: S-CAP should first consider whether a use is already prohibited or subject to regulation. A use in the sanctuary permitted or regulated by another agency pursuant to a different authority may still be found to be incompatible with the SBNMS vision, mission, goals and objectives. It is important at this point that the S-CAP clearly guide how to decide if and how a use can be made compatible by imposing mitigations and what those mitigations would be.]

Status: Planned, 2008

(1.2) Refine S-CAP by incorporating results of ongoing sanctuary monitoring. Regularly update monitoring information. Make the updated information available for S-CAP evaluation to ensure that the process remains applicable under changing environmental conditions and evolving uses of sanctuary resources.

Priority: Medium

Status: Planned, 2012

FIGURE 119. HYPOTHETICAL APPLICATION OF S-CAP PROCESS.

Issue: Does ‘x’ activity in the SBNMS harm marine mammals? Is it a use compatible with the sanctuary’s purpose?

Vision: Ecological integrity is protected.

Mission: Resource protection

Goal: Protect assemblages of marine mammals

Objective: Strengthen the protection of marine mammals by assessing and minimizing behavioral disturbance, including vessel strikes to and entanglement of marine mammals, and by fostering cooperation with cross-jurisdictional partners whose activities could impact marine mammals.

Standard: Marine mammal behavior is not altered and marine mammals are not struck or entangled by ‘x’ activity.

Indicators that standard is being achieved:

- No marine mammals are struck or entangled by ‘x’ activity.
- No change in marine mammal distribution due to ‘x’ activity.
- Surface-to-dive time ratio for marine mammals is within normal range and unaffected by ‘x’ activity.
- Marine mammal communication is unimpeded by ‘x’ activity.

TABLE 36. ESTIMATED COSTS FOR CD ACTION PLAN.

Strategy	Estimated Cost (\$000)*					Total Estimated 5 Year Cost
	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	
(1.1) Demonstrate the application of S-CAP.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(1.2) Refine S-CAP by incorporating results of ongoing sanctuary monitoring.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Estimated Annual Cost	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Cost estimates exclude federal labor costs.

TABLE 37. PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR CD ACTION PLAN.

Desired Outcome(s) For This Action Plan

Framework is established to assess and evaluate whether human uses are compatible with the sanctuary’s primary objective of resource protection.

Performance Measures	Means of Evaluation	Baseline	NMSP Measure
By 2011, demonstrate the application of the Sanctuary Compatibility Analysis Process (S-CAP).	SBNMS advisory council will form a working group, which will file a report on the utility of the process as a decision-making tool.	Application of S-CAP: 0	Living marine resources, habitat, and water quality.