

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 6350

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning marine waters management that includes marine spatial planning.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation (originally sponsored by Senators Ranker, Hargrove, Jacobsen, Rockefeller, Swecker, Marr, Fraser, Murray and Kline).

Senate Committee on Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation
House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
House Committee on Ways & Means

Background: Marine-related Authorities and Jurisdictions. Washington State has many statutory schemes related to marine issues, including the Shoreline Management Act, the Aquatic Lands Act, the Fish and Wildlife Code, and the Ocean Resource Management Act. Additionally, along with federal, tribal, and local governments, many state agencies have responsibilities and authorities relating to marine waters, including the Department of Ecology, Puget Sound Partnership, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Department of Commerce.

Coastal Zone Management Act. The Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) is a federal program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which encourages and assists states to develop and implement CZMPs. States prepare CZMPs that describe their coastal resources and how they are managed. In general, federal or federally permitted activities that affect any land use, water use, or natural resource of a state's coastal zone must comply with the enforceable policies contained in the CZMP.

Marine Spatial Planning. A 2009 document from NOAA describes marine spatial planning as a process through which compatible human uses are objectively and transparently allocated to appropriate ocean areas to sustain critical ecological, economic, and cultural services for future generations. Often, according to NOAA, the purpose is to reduce impacts in ecologically sensitive areas or to minimize disputes among incompatible activities sharing marine locations.

Summary: Marine Interagency Team. The Governor's Office must chair an interagency team (team) composed of Natural Resources cabinet agencies with jurisdiction over marine

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issues, including the independent agencies. The team must invite participation from a federal agency with lead responsibility for marine spatial planning.

Assessment and Recommendations. By December 15, 2010, the team must produce an assessment containing:

- specified analysis of existing planning efforts, including a summary of the goals and objectives of relevant planning efforts; and
- recommendations on a framework for integrating marine spatial planning into management planning efforts, including the Puget Sound, Columbia River estuary, and outer coast.

Review and Coordination of Planning. Subject to funding, all state agencies with marine waters planning and management responsibilities may include marine spatial data and planning elements in existing plans and ongoing planning. The Department of Ecology must work with specified entities to compile marine spatial planning information and incorporate it into ongoing plans. The Puget Sound Partnership must integrate marine spatial information and planning provisions into its Action Agenda.

Marine Management Planning. Subject to funding, the team must coordinate development of a comprehensive marine management plan for the state's marine waters, to include marine spatial planning. The team may develop the plan in geographic segments, and may incorporate elements from an existing plan. Elements of the plan include:

- an ecosystem assessment that analyzes the health and status of marine waters;
- a series of maps providing information on the marine ecosystem, human uses of marine waters, and areas with high potential for renewable energy production and low potential for conflicts with existing uses and sensitive environments;
- recommendations to the federal government for use priorities and limitations within the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- at the discretion of the Director of Fish and Wildlife, a fisheries management element: any provision outside of the fisheries management element that impacts fishing must minimize such impacts, according substantial weight to recommendations from the Director of Fish and Wildlife; and
- a strategy for plan implementation using existing state and local authorities.

In developing the plan, the team must seek input from throughout the state, specifically from marine resources committees, tribes, and communities adjacent to marine waters.

The team has two years to complete the plan once it initiates the planning process. Upon completion, the Director of the Department of Ecology must submit the plan to the federal government for review, approval, and inclusion in the state's CZMP.

Implementation. Following adoption of the marine management plan, each state agency and local government must make decisions in a manner that ensures conformance with applicable provisions of the plan to the greatest extent possible. The Department of Ecology must lead a process that periodically reviews state and local plans for consistency with the marine management plan.

State Position on Energy Projects. In consultation with specified agencies, the Department of Commerce must adopt guidance to all state agencies establishing procedures for the coordination of the state's position on the siting and operation of renewable energy facilities in marine waters. This directive is subject to funding, and must be completed within one year after funds are secured.

Existing Uses and Authorities. The act expressly provides that it does not create authority to affect any project, use, or activity existing prior to completion of the marine management plan. Additionally, the act does not supersede current state agency or local authority.

Plan Funding. Nonstate funding is a prerequisite for certain state agency actions, including development of the marine management plan. An appropriated account is created to hold grants, gifts, appropriations, and other funds provided for marine spatial planning. The account retains its interest earnings.

Terms are defined. A findings and intent section is included.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	44	2	
House	64	34	(House amended)
House	63	30	(House receded)

Effective: June 10, 2010