

Issue: Protect critical and sensitive habitats



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS)

NCCOS Program Goals & Objectives

NCCOS Strategic Goal 1.3
Determine the effectiveness of coastal managers' decisions in NOAA-protected areas

Issues & Problems

NCCOS Societal Stressor 2.2
Determine the social, economic, and biologic effects of human activities on specific coastal ecosystems

Research Response

NCCOS Project Title
"Evaluation of Critical Offshore Habitats and their Susceptibility to Fishing/Harvest Impacts at the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary"
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NMSP Management Need

Determine need to provide enhanced protection to critical and sensitive habitats

June 2004, 276 meters
Live gorgonian (soft coral)
with attached crinoids
observed at OCNMS



Fishing activity



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Performance Measures

Presence of deepwater coral/sponge habitat, indication and level of disturbance

Characterization

Ground truth previous survey records, determine extent of critical habitats and potential susceptibility to human activities

Achievement of outcome: Improve understanding of deepwater critical habitats to inform management strategies for OCNMS

Adaptive Management & Research Refinement

