

OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
2007 PROGRESS REPORT
October 2006 to September 2007

Introduction

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) uses program performance measures (PPMs) as the yardstick to measure progress towards its strategic goals and objectives as prescribed through the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and related authorities. Currently, there are twenty-one performance measures representing many functional areas that, combined, represent the breadth of the ONMS mission and goals. Seven of these performance measures have been tracked by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) since 2004, in order to gain an understanding of the efficacy and efficiency of the ONMS. The other fourteen PPMs measure the performance of the ONMS in areas not represented in the PART measures; they offer a mechanism for assessing the fulfillment of other elements of our mandate in the NMSA. While the ONMS is not held accountable by OMB for the remaining fourteen measures, it is important to keep track of performance on a broader scale.

This progress report will give the ONMS a means to internally assess its own progress and to provide external audiences (e.g., the budget offices of the National Ocean Service (NOS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of Commerce (DOC), respectively, or the OMB) with the most current and detailed ONMS performance data. This is the second annual report published by the ONMS on this topic; therefore, it not only provides a snapshot of the current performance of the ONMS, but it also shows the progress made by the ONMS since 2006. The results of the progress report show how well the ONMS meets its mandates and how efficiently it uses its funding. It also assists the ONMS in internal prioritizing of activities. In addition, the progress report can be used as a messaging tool to inform various stakeholders, including Sanctuary Advisory Councils, on the efficacy of the ONMS.

This report is a companion to the ONMS Performance Evaluation Manual. The Manual describes each performance measure in detail, including definition of key words, and provides specific information on how the ONMS tracks each performance measure. The first progress report was based on the 2006 calendar year. Subsequently the ONMS decided to align progress reports with other fiscal year reporting; from now on the progress reports will be based on the fiscal year. This report focuses on the ONMS efforts made in FY07; therefore, there is a one-quarter overlap from September to December 2006 with the first progress report.

Results of the FY07 Performance Evaluation Process

Of the seven PPMs tracked by OMB, six were found to be on track to meet their final targets, up from five in 2006. The permit efficiency and the NOAA's ARCH database performance measures are back on track, showing a definitive improvement since 2006. However, one of the four outcome-oriented measures for the ONMS (i.e., measures that show how the efforts of the ONMS can result in real change in the environment per the ONMS's mandate) has started to fall

behind schedule. This is primarily due to external factors over which individual marine sanctuaries have limited control, including invasive species and marine debris inputs and continuing habitat loss. Fishing impacts also continue to be of concern at some of the individual sanctuaries. This merits attention since the outcome measures are the most direct tool used by the ONMS to show the difference it is making in protecting these special places.

Of the 14 remaining PPMs, only half were found to be on track to meet their final targets. One is not meant to be reported on until 2008, and six of the PPMs were found to be behind schedule. Last year two-thirds of the PPMs were on track; therefore performance seems to be suffering from the enduring low budget compared to the budget climate in which these performance measures were created (FY04 and FY05). There is a strong risk of not meeting the final targets for the six PPMs behind schedule unless significantly more effort and/or funding are devoted to improvement of the functional areas that the PPMs represent.

Table 1 provides a summary of the status of the 21 PPMs. Appendix 1 provides a detailed report about each of the PPMs, resulting from information collected according to the tracking plans for each PPM in the ONMS Performance Evaluation Manual.

Table 1: Current progress toward meeting the targets for the 21 program performance measures

Performance Measure	Rating	Explanation	Action
1. Number of sites in which water quality , based on long-term monitoring data, is being maintained or improved.	OT	Nine sites are on track, which is equal to the 2010 target. Those in which water quality is not maintained are experiencing issues with coral bleaching, hypoxia, and warming temperatures.	The ONMS should continue to prioritize resource protection activities aimed at improving water quality.
2. Number of sites in which habitat , based on long-term monitoring data, is being maintained or improved.	OT	Nine sites are on track, which is equal to the 2010 target. Those that are not on track are experiencing issues with marine debris, deep coral fishing impacts, siltation, and invasive species. Since last year more information about the presence of marine debris in the Papahānaumokuākea MNM has been gathered, resulting in a negative rating for 2007, after having a positive rating in 2006.	The ONMS should continue to prioritize resource protection activities aimed at improving habitat
3. Number of sites in which select living marine resources , based on long-term monitoring data, are being maintained or improved.	BE	Five sites are on track; which is behind the 2005 target. Those in which living marine resources are not maintained are experiencing issues with decline of key species, invasive species, overfishing, coral bleaching, disease, biodiversity loss, impacts of fishing by-catch, and debris ingestion.	The ONMS should concentrate more effort into resource protection activities aimed at improving living marine resources
4. By 2015, 100% of the sanctuary system adequately characterized .	OT	85% of the sanctuary system has been characterized, which is higher than the 80% target for FY06. The upcoming target for FY08 is 90%.	To meet the next target, the ONMS will need to address specific components of site characterization topic areas.
5. By 2007, 100% of ONMS permits are handled timely and correctly.	OT	97% of permits were handled timely and correctly in 2006; which is higher than the 95% target for this year. It is also a significant improvement since last year's 64% compliance. In particular, only three sites did not meet the 95% target.	The National Permit Coordinator will work closely with site permit coordinators to improve the process at the sites experiencing problems with meeting this measure.
6. By 2010, all education programs implemented in national marine sanctuaries will be assessed for effectiveness against stated program goals and objectives and National Science Education Standards.	OT	Programs reflecting 25% of the education budget allocation are currently being evaluated. In addition significant development work has been completed toward achieving the 2010 target.	The ONMS Education program will focus next on piloting evaluation measures developed in 2007. Planning efforts for full implementation, working with evaluation partners and education coordinators, continue.
7. By 2015, 100% of known historical, cultural and archaeological resources within each national marine sanctuary boundary will be inventoried within the NOAA's Arch database.	OT	The database was transferred to another software and is not fully operational. The data from presently documented sites has been entered This is a large improvement since 2006; the target is on track.	The ONMS should continue to gather data on the other known sites to complete the information needed in the database

8. By 2015, increase by 20% public awareness of national marine sanctuaries and the sanctuary system.	OT	Public awareness has increased by 28% since 2005, which is higher than the overall target for 2015.	The benchmark should remain unchanged until one more year of data can be gathered. A national survey of public awareness is being developed, and the results of such a survey will help the ONMS directly measure its impact on public awareness.
9. By 2017, 100% of the marine zones or networks of zones in place in the ONMS have methods implemented to assess their effectiveness.	OT	FY07 provided preliminary information for this updated performance measure. A more detailed tracking plan will be developed in FY08 to help determine the baseline for this measure.	This new performance measure is more challenging than the one it replaced, therefore the ONMS will need to continue to prioritize monitoring efforts at all sites containing marine zones. The condition reports will be used as a mean of prioritizing needs.
10. By 2010, all sites are reflected in state or territorial NOAA Cooperative Enforcement Agreements (Phase I) and have transitioned to site-specific operation plans within the yearly Joint Enforcement Agreements (Phase II) and are able to demonstrate results based on stated goals and objectives	OT	All sites except for Thunder Bay are at Phase I. One site is in Phase II (GRNMS) and five sites are moving into Phase II.	The ONMS is improving enforcement capabilities at most sites. A number of improvements need to be made; namely, strengthening the JEAs with states and implementing the existing agreement with the National Park Service.
11. By 2010, increase by 25% the number of volunteer hours dedicated to ONMS science, public awareness and resource protection activities.	BE	94,640 volunteer-hours were donated this year, which was lower than the number donated in 2006. The baseline was recalculated and found to have been over-estimated.	Budget cuts affected the ability of the ONMS to continue its site-based volunteer programs at the pace they were conducted in 2006. The baseline and subsequent targets were recalculated; however, the ONMS will still be challenged to meet the targets unless more funding is put in volunteer efforts.
12. By 2010, the ONMS is assessing the effectiveness of all significant partnerships across the sanctuary system.	BE	The ONMS manages up to 400 partnerships of different types per year. Because of the varying degrees of complexity between these partnerships, the ONMS has not yet started assessing their effectiveness. There has not been any progress on this measure since 2006, despite an initial intention to evaluate three partnerships in 2007 as a pilot project.	Despite the extension of the final target to FY08, the ONMS is currently far from meeting this performance measure. The ONMS should prioritize the completion and implementation of the partnership assessing plan in order to start making progress on this measure.
13. Complete final management plans for all sites currently in management plan review by 2008.	BE	All management plan reviews (MPRs) in progress since 2004 should be completed by 2008. Six of the seven MPRs started in 2004 or earlier are still in progress; four of which involve significant regulatory changes. Five of the MPRs are in the process of analyzing comments and writing the final document. One has not released a draft management plan yet.	A significant amount of effort must remain dedicated to this process at the site level and at the HQ level once the document enters clearance.
14. By 2010, decrease the average length of time to complete a draft revised management plan to 36 months.	OT	The new management plan reviews are on track for being completed in 36 to 48 months, which is on track with the targets for this measure.	A significant amount of effort, both at the site and headquarters level, must remain dedicated to this process.

15. By 2010, sanctuary advisory councils will provide significant input on 150 priority projects across the ONMS	OT	Advisory councils have already provided significant input on 149 projects in the past two years, which is almost the final target for 2010.	The ONMS will revise the target for this performance measure at the 2008 SAC Coordinators Meeting in Newport News, VA.
16. By 2015, all infrastructure needs are funded to adequately support safe and effective operations .	BE	35% of infrastructure needs are funded, which is behind the 2007 target of 50%. Flight hours, in particular, are lagging behind the 50% target.	The ONMS should prioritize available funding and/or built partnerships to increase the number of flight-hours occurring in the NMS system.
17. By 2010, five new collaborative projects with either new or existing international partnerships will be initiated and demonstrating protection of the marine environment.	OT	Three projects were completed this year; which is on track with the target. The projects involved personnel exchanges with Chile, capacity building in southeast Asia and two-way capacity building on eco-tourism with Italy.	Lack of funding for international activities in FY08 may undermine the ability of the ONMS to meet this measure.
18. By 2006, all national marine sanctuaries (excluding Monitor NMS) will be trained in the use of SHIELDS and its components (e.g., RUST).	BE	Nine sites have been trained in the use of SHIELDS, which is below the target of 13 sites being trained by 2006. GRNMS received training, partly via teleconference, in FY07. Budget limitations continue to restrict travel, and contractor support for training as well as maintaining the database itself.	The completion date for this measure needs to be moved to 2010. The ONMS will have to dedicate funding to SHIELDS training for the remaining four sites.
19. By 2020, all sites will have implemented monitoring programs, based on the System-Wide Monitoring program framework, for relevant natural and maritime archaeological resources.	OT	The current number of sites is undetermined because the protocol for this performance measure is not complete. The full tracking plan for this measure, including the determination of a baseline, will be developed in FY09.	At least one monitoring program based on the System-Wide Monitoring program should be developed each year in order to meet the 2020 target.
20. By 2013, the ONMS will increase by 30% the amount of advertising dollars leveraged by each dollar spent by the ONMS outreach budget on media relations.	n/a	The first target for this new efficiency performance measure is FY08 (baseline).	No action necessary at this time.
21. By 2011, operational “days at sea” (DAS) on ONMS small boats will increase six-fold with less than a 10% increase in total DAS costs.	BE	The ONMS provided for 249 DAS on small vessels in FY07, which is slightly short of the 260 DAS target for this year but shows a dramatic increase since previous years.	The ONMS should prioritize available funding to operate the new small vessels in a way that will meet the target for FY08.

Legend: OT means that the measure is on track; BE means that the measure is not on track.

Note: The PART measures are highlighted in white, the other program PMs are highlighted in grey.

FY08 Implications and Beyond

The ONMS's performance, as measured by the seven PPMs included in the PART, plays a role in the annual allocation of funding. Because of their importance in the budget development of the ONMS, the PART measures should take priority when it comes to internal budget decisions and prioritizing of management actions. In its 2006 report, the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) recognized that the "future of the sanctuary program depends on its ability to convince Congress, the OMB, and the leadership of NOAA that it deserves stable funding – or perhaps even a growing share of federal spending on marine issues."¹

While the ONMS strives to meet the annual and long-term targets for all its performance measures, there are instances when targets will not be achieved. The reasons for both the successes and the failures of the ONMS with regards to PPMs are discussed in detail in the individual PPM reports in Appendix I, in order to inform and guide the budget planning process of the upcoming years. If the ONMS is to fulfill the targets of the performance measures in times of financial uncertainty and hardship, it should prioritize projects that result in a high likelihood of meeting PPMs. To date, this process has just begun to take place systematically during budget planning efforts thanks to emerging detailed information on PPM progress. By providing information on each PPM, this progress report provides ONMS leadership with an additional tool to make decisions in AOP planning and future budget allocations.

Recommendations for FY08

Based on the results of this progress report, the ONMS will only be amending two PPMs for FY08:

- The targets for the volunteer performance measure will be reduced to reflect the baseline miscalculation made in 2006. The new target will be 119,000 volunteer-hours by 2010.
- The target completion date for the SHIELDS training performance measure will be postponed from 2008 to 2010 due to difficulties in fulfilling the goals of this measure.

In addition, in order to meet future targets of the PART measures currently lagging, the ONMS will:

- Intensify efforts to work with NMFS and the regional fishery management councils to reduce gear impacts in sensitive habitats
- Pursue new avenues for monitoring of and responding to invasive species introductions
- Continue support for efforts to remove marine debris from sensitive habitats, educate the public about its dangers, and respond to emergencies involving marine debris (e.g. whale entanglement)

¹ National Academy of Public Administration. Ready to Perform? Planning and Management at the National Marine Sanctuary Program. October 2006. Page 7.

APPENDIX 1

Progress Report by Performance Measure

Note: Appendix 1 provides a detailed report about each of the PPMs, resulting from information collected according to the tracking plans for each PPM in the ONMS Performance Evaluation Manual. For more information on how these data were collected and the definition of key words in the performance measures, please refer to the ONMS Performance Evaluation Manual. In addition, the first progress report was based on the 2006 calendar year. Subsequently the ONMS decided to align progress reports with other fiscal year reporting; therefore, from now on the progress reports will be based on the fiscal year.

1. Number of sites in which water quality, based on long-term monitoring data, is being maintained or improved

FY07 Target: Between 6 sites (2005) and 9 sites (2010)

Overall Target: 12 sites by 2015

Current Status: 9 sites; ahead of schedule

Background:

The number of sites with maintained or improved water quality increased from six in 2006 to nine in FY07. Water quality was shown to have been maintained or improved in the following sites: Stellwagen Bank (SBNMS), Monitor (MNMS), Gray’s Reef (GRNMS), Florida Keys (FKNMS), Cordell Bank (CBNMS), Gulf of the Farallones (GFNMS), Monterey Bay (MBNMS), Channel Islands (CINMS), and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale (HIHWNMS) National Marine Sanctuaries. Water quality was not maintained in the following sites: Flower Garden Banks (FGBNMS), Olympic Coast (OCNMS), Fagatele Bay (FBNMS) National Marine Sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). The indicators showing a declining trend in water quality are shown in the table below. Water quality in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) is not currently measured because they lack a water quality monitoring program. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Site	Indicator	WQ Maintained or Improved?
CBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
CINMS	No indication of change	Yes
FBNMS	Water temperature increasing	No
FGBNMS	Impacts from freshwater intrusion events increased bleaching frequency	No
FKNMS	No indication of change	Yes
GFNMS	No indication of change	Yes
GRNMS	No indication of change	Yes
HIHWNMS	No indication of change	Yes

Site	Indicator	WQ Maintained or Improved?
MNMS	No indication of change	Yes
MBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
PMNM	Water temperature increasing	No
OCNMS	Hypoxia	No
SBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
TBNMS	n/a	n/a

Discussion:

The addition of three sanctuaries (GFNMS, MNMS and MBNMS) on the list of sites with maintained or improved water quality is significant. It is the result of resource protection as well as improved monitoring programs. Currently, the performance measure is on track with targets for 2010 and 2015; with continued effort the ONMS may be able to continue meeting the targets, but it is likely that external factors will make this difficult for some sites. Water temperature changes, for example, may continue to cause bleaching at coral reef sites, and water quality improvements may require action on a scale beyond both the ONMS's funding and jurisdiction.

Disposition: *Continue*

This measure is one of the outcome-based performance measures for the program, as well as being one of our seven PART measures. Hence, while the ONMS may experience difficulties in keeping up with this measure, generally due to external factors over which we have little control, it is an essential part of the mission of the ONMS. Therefore, this measure should be maintained as is.

2. Number of sites in which habitat, based on long-term monitoring data, is being maintained or improved

FY07 Target: Between 6 sites (2005) and 9 sites (2010)

Overall Target: 12 sites by 2015

Current Status: 9 sites; ahead of schedule

Background:

Despite the performance measure being ahead of schedule, the number of sites with maintained or improved habitat quality decreased from ten in 2006 to nine in FY07. Habitat was shown to have been maintained or improved in the following sites: SBNMS, GRNMS, FKNMS, FGBNMS, CBNMS, CINMS, HIHWNMS, FBNMS, and MBNMS. Habitat quality at the following sites has not been maintained or improved: OCNMS, GFNMS (although the offshore habitat met the requirements), and the PMNM. TBNMS and MNMS are not included in this performance measure. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Site	Indicator	Habitat Maintained or Improved?
CBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
CINMS	State trawling ban and state/federal marine reserve network are protecting habitat	Yes
FBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
FGBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
FKNMS	Seagrass, corals monitoring	Yes
GFNMS	Siltation, Invasive Species	No
GRNMS	No indication of change	Yes
HIHWNMS	No indication of change	Yes
MNMS	n/a	n/a
MBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
PMNM	Marine debris	No
OCNMS	Deep coral fishing impact	No
SBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
TBNMS	n/a	n/a

Discussion:

Focused efforts in the NMS system have resulted in a rapid attainment of the current target; in fact the current status has already met the 2010 target in 2006. Last year the PMNM was listed as maintaining water quality; however, during the development of the condition report, a recent publication was discussed that indicates higher marine debris levels than previously estimated, and the rates of incoming debris exceed removal rates.

Disposition: *Continue*

This measure is one of the outcome-based performance measures for the program, and it sends a strong message about conservation efforts in the NMS system. The ONMS will still find that reaching the 2015 target is a challenge.

3. Number of sites in which living marine resources (LMRs), based on long-term monitoring data, is being maintained or improved

FY07 Target: Between 6 sites (2005) and 9 sites (2010)

Overall Target: 12 sites by 2015

Current Status: 5 sites; behind

Background:

The number of sites with maintained or improved living marine resources decreased from six in 2006 to five in FY07. Living marine resources were reported to have been maintained or improved in the following sites: FKNMS, OCNMS, CBNMS, HIHWNMS and PMNM. The following sites did not report maintained or improved living resource quality: GFNMS (invasive species, overfishing), FBNMS (diseases), TBNMS (invasive species), SBNMS (invasive species), GRNMS (invasive species, sponge contamination), FGBNMS (coral bleaching, disease), MBNMS, and CINMS (key species decline). MNMS did not report due to a lack of biological monitoring at the site. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Site	Indicator	LMRs Maintained or Improved?
CBNMS	No indication of change	Yes
CINMS	Key species declining	No
FBNMS	Diseases occurring	No
FGBNMS	Bleaching, Disease	No
FKNMS	Fish, Spiny lobster maintained	Yes
GFNMS	Overfishing, Invasive Species	No
GRNMS	Invasive species, sponge contamination	No
HIHWNMS	No indication of change	Yes
MNMS		Not conclusive
MBNMS	Biodiversity loss, impacts of by-catch, domoic acid events	No
PMNM	No indication of change	Yes
OCNMS	No indication of change	Yes
SBNMS	Invasive species	No
TBNMS	Invasive species	No

Discussion:

The current status has dropped below the 2005 target levels for living marine resources. In particular, MNMS was reported as a “yes” in 2006, but the rating was changed to “not conclusive” due to the lack of biological monitoring information. MBNMS, in preparing its condition report in 2007, investigated more completely the status of resources in three sanctuary habitats, estuarine, <30 meters depth, and >30 m depth. In doing so, it changed its positive rating in 2006 to a negative one in 2007, due to biodiversity and habitat loss

in one estuary that is part of the sanctuary (Elkhorn Slough), impacts of fishing on by-catch species and domoic acid events which negatively affect marine mammals. PMNM received a positive rating compared to 2006 because it has shown that the living marine resources have been maintained within the monument since then. With increasing effort the ONMS may be able to meet the targets, but it is likely that external factors will make this difficult for some sites. External factors include the introduction of non-indigenous species and increasing levels of coral bleaching that may be caused by changing regional temperature regimes. In addition, impacts of fishing practices such as the removal of biomass, fishing gear impacts on habitat, or by-catch of non-targeted species may affect marine living resources in sanctuaries. A sustained effort will be required if the ONMS is to achieve the final 2015 target, including reaching out to partners who have control over some of the factors driving the issues.

Disposition: *Continue*

This measure is one of the outcome-based performance measures for the program, as well as being one of our seven PART measures. Hence, while the ONMS may experience difficulties in keeping up with this measure, generally due to external factors over which we have little control, it is an essential part of the mission of the ONMS. Therefore, this measure should be maintained as is.

4. By 2015, 100% of the sanctuary system adequately characterized

FY07 Target: Between 80% (2006) and 90% (2008)

Overall Target: 100% by 2015

Current Status: 85%; on track

Background:

All sites have made significant progress towards meeting this measure, but no additional characterizations were conducted this year. Several sites have completed their requirements under this measure, as described in the tracking plan. However, most have several topic areas that will require attention before the next target deadline. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Discussion:

Successful completion of this measure requires sites to develop and coordinate information on seven major topic areas relating to the natural, cultural and human dimension resources and processes of each sanctuary. The ONMS successfully met the FY06 target of 80% outlined by this performance measure. While there is no specific target for FY07, the target for FY08 is 90%. Therefore, the current completion rate of 85% is on track with the needs of the ONMS. All sites invest in characterization related activities on an annual basis, and in most cases sites have significant data holdings in each of the relevant topic areas defined in this measure. A major contributor to the success of ONMS progress on this measure stems from the biogeographic assessments completed by the Biogeography Team of NCCOS for six sanctuaries. To meet the next outlined target the ONMS will need to address specific components of site characterization topic areas. The ONMS is currently drafting site-specific document that lay out the suite of characterization information available for each site; this effort will likely uncover new information that can be used for characterizing sanctuaries.

Disposition: *Continue*

This performance measure is crucial to the ONMS because it is linked to a NOAA-wide Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measure as well as included in our PART. This performance measure is designed to ensure the ONMS meets the congressional requirement to adequately characterize the entire National Marine Sanctuary System. To date the ONMS is on target and the measure is proving to be an effective planning and management tool to keep ONMS investments in characterization activities on track and focused to addressing key program requirements.

5. By 2007, 100% of ONMS permits are handled timely and correctly

FY07 Target: 95%

Overall Target: 100% by FY08

Current Status: 97%; on track

Background:

210 of 216 permits/authorizations/amendments issued timely and correctly in FY07. All sites met or exceeded the target except for Channel Islands, Monitor, and Gray's Reef NMS. The data used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Discussion:

This year's results are a dramatic improvement in performance over 2006 (64%) while applying identical standards and methodology. New habits and procedures are taking hold at all levels of the organization with a particular focus on NEPA compliance. The program is confident it can continue to meet or exceed this level of performance in the future.

Some specific results of note:

- Permit, decision memo, and OSPREY database scores are all up compared to FY06.
- The average time to issue a permit (once a complete application is received) dropped over 40% in one year, from 22.3 days (FY06) to 13.0 days (FY07).
- Unlike 2006, the analysis this year includes all Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument permit actions (54 in FY07).
- The sites issuing the largest numbers of program permits (MBNMS, FKNMS, and PMNM) consistently performed exceptionally well.
- Some sites that had difficulties with performance in 2006 also experienced problems in 2007. In part, that is due to the fact that these sites issue very few permits; therefore, they have less experience with applying the proper procedures.

The following actions need to occur in order to meet the FY08 target:

- Work individually with sites that continue to experience difficulties with meeting this measure to ensure staff can apply the proper procedures.
- Discussions are currently underway on how to best handle NEPA compliance when authorizing certain other agency permits (primarily a MBNMS and FKNMS issue).
- Staff will be reviewing 2006-2007 results and determine if changes are needed to applicant guidance or program standards based on actual performance.

Disposition: *Continue*

The final target year has been adjusted back to 2008 to account for the time needed to comply with the new methodology instituted in 2006. Once the program consistently scores at or near 100% for this measure, an additional measurement that looks specifically at some other aspect of process improvement is expected to be added.

6. By 2010, all education programs implemented in national marine sanctuaries will be assessed for effectiveness against stated program goals and objectives and National Science Education Standards

FY07 Target: Between 25% (2006) and 65% (2008)

Overall Target: 100% by 2010

Current Status: 25%; on track

Background:

The ONMS has assessed the effectiveness of 25% of its education programs. In working towards attainment of the performance measure the National Marine Sanctuary Program Education Crosscut staff has engaged in the following efforts:

- Developed an online evaluation resource library of relevant literature, methods and sample instruments for Education Teams members to use as reference for planning evaluations of education activities (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/evaluation/welcome.html>);
- Held teleconferences with Education and Outreach staff to determine framework components required for the program effectiveness evaluation system;
- Held a three day training workshop for all Education Crosscut team members to focus on implementation of the evaluation system; and
- Pilot tested various effectiveness measures in the B-Wet program and other education programs throughout the system.

Discussion:

In 2007 all California B-Wet grant recipients were required to implement evaluation plans on the effectiveness of their programs in advancing ocean literacy and stewardship behaviors of their participants. Current efforts are underway by an external evaluator to compile this data and validate the methodologies used. Once the methodology for assessing the effectiveness of education programs is perfected using the results of this BWET pilot study, it will be used to evaluate all the other education programs within the National Marine Sanctuary Program. The information used for reporting completion percentages for this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan with B-Wet constituting a large percentage of the metric. Planning and development work during 2007-08 will create a systematic approach to incorporate the remaining educational programs in this evaluation system by 2010.

Disposition: *Continue*

With these accomplishments and the work done in previous years the ONMS is on target for meeting the 2010 performance measure. At that time, the ONMS will have an elaborate evaluation scheme in place to replace this measure with a more outcome-based, ocean literacy-oriented measure.

7. By 2015, 100% of known historical, cultural and archaeological resources within each national marine sanctuary boundary will be inventoried within the NOAA's ARCH database

FY07 Target: Between 10% in 2006 and 50% in 2010

Overall Target: 100% by 2015

Current Status: 13.1%; on track

Background:

As of September 30, 2007, the NOAA's ARCH archaeological site database has been made operational and the data for all presently documented archaeological sites have been entered. The total number of presently known sites is 893. The total number of documented sites is 117. This means that we have so far documented 13.1% of the known sites and have thus surpassed our 2006 target of 10%. The definitions of “known” and “documented archaeological” sites can be found in the tracking plan for this performance measure in the ONMS Performance Evaluation Manual.

Discussion:

Significant progress has been made this year; the NOAA's ARCH database was completed and the data for all the currently documented sites has been entered into it. The following table provides the number of known sites by sanctuary:

PMNM	18
HIHWNMS	20
FBNMS	0
SBNMS	18
TBNMS	50
CINMS	25
MBNMS	25
GFNMS	10
CBNMS	0
OCNMS	8
FKNMS	719
TOTAL =	893

Disposition: *Continue*

In order to continue making progress, the ONMS will need to gather data on the remaining 776 known archaeological sites and populate the database with the new information. This will require significant funding to be directed to the Maritime Heritage Program in the next few years.

8. By 2015, increase by 20% public awareness of national marine sanctuaries and the sanctuary system

FY07 Target: 4%

Overall Target: 20% by 2015

Current Status: 28%; ahead of schedule

Background:

The ONMS already met the 20% increase for web page visits and media impressions. Visitation is close behind with a 17% increase in one year. Print media coverage in FY07 exceeded 275,743,000 impressions, an increase of 28% over FY 06. Public awareness overall has increased 21.9% in total impressions (print media impressions and web hits combined) from last year. This year's percentage is 43.9% over the original target for 2015.

Discussion:

The large increase can be attributed to the significant investment the ONMS has made in internet and media efforts the last few years. The increases for web page visits and media impressions will likely increase over the next several years but at a lower rate. Visitation to sanctuary visitor centers should continue to increase as new centers open and marketing of other centers improves. Overall awareness of sanctuaries still needs to be evaluated based on a public opinion poll that will be conducted in 2008 contingent on available funds. This output measure will serve as a broad benchmark for awareness of sanctuaries throughout the country. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Disposition: *Continue*

Although the final 2015 target has already been met in 2006 and further surpassed in FY07, the benchmark should remain unchanged until one more year of data can be obtained to confirm the current trend. In addition, we still do not have a national survey of public awareness that will serve as a baseline to help plan future benchmarks (first data was supposed to be collected in 2007). Due to large funding cuts in FY07, the program was unable to develop a survey to gather the baseline data required to report on this benchmark. If the funding scenario improves, we will work closely with partners to create a baseline for this portion of the measure. It is also unlikely that this increase will continue at this rate if the outreach budget remains flat or decreases.

9. By 2017, 100% of the marine zones or networks of zones in place in the ONMS have methods implemented to assess their effectiveness

FY07 Target: Baseline

Overall Target: 100% by 2017

Current Status: undetermined; on track

Background:

There are currently ten sites with marine zones of some type established under the NMSA: FKNMS, FGBNMS, OCNMS, GFNMS, CINMS, MBNMS, PMNM, CBNMS, and FBNMS. TBNMS, SBNMS, MNMS, and GRNMS do not have marine zones and are not included in this measure. Using this approach, there are 33 marine zones in the national marine sanctuary system (see table below). The various information needs for reporting on this measure are still being developed, so the baseline will continue to be determined in FY08.

Marine Zone Monitoring				
Region	Sanctuary	Monitoring?	Zones	Designation by:
NE/GL	TB	n/a	-	-
	SB	n/a		-
	M	n/a	-	-
SE/GOM	GR		Research Only (designation in progress)	ONMS
	FK	Y	SPAs	ONMS
	FK		Ecological Reserves	ONMS
	FK		Research Only	ONMS
	FK		Existing management areas	
WC	OC		Overflight	
	CB	N	<50 fm invert no take	ONMS
	GF	Y	Overflight	ONMS
	GF		Area of special biological significance	
	GF		Vessel Traffic Zone	
	GF		No-Vessel Operation Area	
	GF		Dredge material disposal zone	
	MB	Y	Overflight	ONMS
	MB		Personal water craft	
	MB		Area of special biological significance	
	MB		Dredge material disposal zone	
	MB		Jade collection	
	MB		Limited harvest	
	MB		No harvest	
	MB		Shark attraction prohibited	
	MB		Recreational/State Beach	
	MB		Recreational	
MB		Vessel Traffic Zone		

	CI	Y	Marine reserves (shallow)	State
	CI	Y	Marine Reserves (deep)	
	CI		Limited harvest	
	CI		Overflight	
	CI		Seabed Alteration Prohibited	
	CI		Vessel Traffic Zone	
	CI		No-Vessel Operation Area	
Pac	HIHW		Overflight	-
	NWHI	Y	SPAs	Declaration
	FB	N	Fishing zones	ONMS

Discussion:

Monitoring program planning has been underway for several years in the ONMS and sanctuaries, along with partners, have successfully implemented a number of monitoring programs within many marine zones. But funding shortfalls have limited the ability to implement monitoring for all zones or other sanctuary areas. Funding remains a priority need to continue and to implement new monitoring plans. More effort needs to be dedicated to this function of the ONMS.

Disposition: *Continue*

FY07 provided preliminary information for this updated performance measure. A more detailed tracking plan will be developed in FY08 to help determine the baseline for this measure. This new performance measure on marine zone monitoring is more challenging to meet than the previous one, but it will result in a more meaningful reporting of the ONMS's efforts to monitor marine zones.

10. By 2010, all sites are reflected in state or territorial NOAA Cooperative Enforcement Agreements (Phase I) and have transitioned to site-specific operation plans within the yearly Joint Enforcement Agreements (Phase II) and are able to demonstrate results based on stated goals and objectives

FY07 Target: Between 9 sites in 2006 and 11 sites in 2008 (at Phase II)

Overall Target: 12 sites by 2010 (unless PMNM is designated as a NMS and a constitutional amendment occurs in NC; currently these two sites cannot legally enter into cooperative enforcement agreements with other agencies)

Current Status: All sites except for Thunder Bay are at Phase I. One site is in Phase II (GRNMS) and five sites are moving into Phase II (FKNMS, MBNMS, CINMS, GFNMS, and CBNMS)

Background:

Eleven sites are reflected in the NOAA cooperative enforcement agreement program with their respective states and territories (Phase I). NOAA and the State of Michigan are in negotiations regarding the development of a CEA that would address the enforcement issues in Thunder Bay. Of these eleven sites, a number of sites fund separate enforcement agreements with their respective states and are being transitioned into the annual site-specific operation plans within the Joint Enforcement Agreements (Phase II). One site, GRNMS, will be implementing the second year of a site-specific plan. For example:

- GRNMS has a site-specific operations plan within the NOAA Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with Georgia Department of Natural Resources to provide on-water enforcement at the site.
- FKNMS has a direct agreement with the State of Florida, and provides funds for administrative support from NOAA Office for Law Enforcement (OLE);
- Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries both have separate agreements with California Fish and Game.

Of these eleven sites, five sanctuaries are in states or territories with existing JEAs, all of which will be updated by OLE to incorporate additional language on sanctuary enforcement and site specific operations plans, although they do not provide any direct funding support. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan. The ongoing development of the 3-year Enforcement Assessment and Program Development Plan has identified enforcement challenges across the program, and will identify appropriate assets, partnerships and technologies to be tested at each site. This will in turn inform the development of a 10-year Enforcement Requirements Program Plan.

Discussion:

While the Phase 1 target was exceeded, a number of improvements need to be made in the short-term to address the Phase II requirements. Strengthening the JEAs for states with sanctuaries in their state waters or adjoining federal waters, and implementing the enforcement aspects of the agreement with the National Park Service will enhance enforcement efforts. Also, continued improved coordination and communication

between ONMS, OLE, and NOAA General Counsel will yield benefits at the program-wide level in terms of focus and enforcement consistency.

As far as demonstrating results based on goals and objectives, the ONMS is not fully operational because the 3-year Enforcement Assessment and Program Development Plan and the subsequent 10-year Enforcement Requirements Program Plan, that would contain the goals and objectives, has not yet been finalized. Nevertheless, the ONMS is making progress to strengthen the existing partnerships. The Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General, made nine enforcement specific recommendations which ranged from development of site-specific operations plans to the development of a national summary settlement schedule. In FY07, specific language was added in to the Joint Enforcement Agreement for a GRNMS-specific work plan that lays out in some detail what the State of Georgia Dept of Natural Resources will provide to the site for on-water enforcement and reporting of their activities to assist with management decision-making. The work plan will serve as a model for other sites participating in JEAs. At MBNMS, work is on-going to develop a letter of agreement between the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and ONMS/MBNMS that specifies the terms of the relationship for the sanctuary-funded OLE enforcement officer, in terms of funding, work assignments, supervision, etc. The letter of agreement will become the model for the rest of the ONMS.

Disposition: *Continue*

This performance measure should be continued until the target level is achieved or the results of the 3-year Enforcement Assessment and Program Development Plan and the subsequent 10-year Enforcement Requirements Program Plan, lead to development of a new PPM. The performance measure has been refined to more accurately reflect the current situation and the evolving stepwise process, but the essence of the performance measure and the targets remain the same.

11. By 2010, increase by 25% the number of volunteer hours dedicated to ONMS science, public awareness and resource protection activities

FY07 Target: 116,875 volunteer-hours

Overall Target: 137,500 volunteer-hours by 2010

Current Status: 94,640 volunteer-hours (baseline); behind

Background:

The FY06 baseline of 110,000 volunteer-hours was found to be the result of a miscalculation. The actual FY06 baseline was 95,180 volunteer-hrs. Due to funding cutbacks, the REEF program experienced a cut, resulting in only 94,640 volunteer-hrs in FY07. This represented a drop of 0.5% in volunteer-hrs for the ONMS instead of the necessary increase to meet the targets for this measure.

Discussion:

This measure is behind because it is highly dependent on increased funding to the program. Flat or minor budget increases over next few years will necessitate reexamining the 25% goal in 2010. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Disposition: *Modify*

The targets for this performance measure need to be recalculated due to the adjustment to the baseline from 2006. The 25% increase by 2010 will now require 119,000 volunteer-hours instead of 137,500. Despite this change, the ONMS may fall behind its intended targets for the following years if resources are not dedicated to activities relating to volunteering.

12. By 2010, the ONMS is assessing the effectiveness of all significant partnerships across the sanctuary system

FY07 Target: 3 partnerships evaluated

Overall Target: All partnerships evaluated by 2010

Current Status: Undetermined; behind

Background:

The ONMS has been delayed in taking the actions necessary to fulfill the goals of this measure. The ONMS was supposed to develop a plan, including definitions for the key words in the measure (i.e., effectiveness, significant, partnership), and evaluate three partnerships by September 2007. This has not been completed yet.

Discussion:

The ONMS manages up to 400 partnerships of different types per year. Because of the varying degrees of complexity among these partnerships, the ONMS has identified the need to assess for effectiveness the portion of these partnerships that are considered significant. However, other projects with higher priority precluded this from happening. There is still no tracking plan in place, including definitions for the key words in the measure. The ONMS will finalize the partnership tracking plan development phase in FY08, and beginning the assessment of three partnerships.

Disposition: *Continue*

The moderated target (from 2006) end date of 2010 should be met, provided the ONMS puts a higher priority on completing the plan and beginning the assessment of each significant partnership.

13. Complete final management plans for all sites currently in management plan review by 2008

FY07 Target: Between 5 management plans (2005) and 2 management plans (2007) still in progress

Overall Target: All management plans in progress since 2004 completed by 12/31/2008

Current Status: 5 management plans still in progress; behind

Background:

CINMS, MBNMS, GFNMS, CBNMS, and SBNMS are still undergoing management plan review. The revised management plan for FKNMS was completed in early January 2008. The completion of the management plan occurred after the end of FY07, but it still brings the ONMS closer to meeting its target by 2008.

Discussion:

The four California sanctuaries remain in process. The Jmpr management plans have been delayed at least several months due to the unexpected need to prepare a supplemental DEIS to deal with a vessel graywater discharge issue. The CINMS was also delayed by the need to prepare a supplemental DEIS to deal with large vessel discharge issues; this document is expected to be approved and released for public comment in November 2007. While the California sanctuaries experienced a delay due to this additional step, progress continues to be made continually. The SBNMS draft management plan has been delayed for six months by the need to respond to comments from NMFS. The FKNMS final management plan was completed shortly after the end of FY07, after an extended iterative review process between the state of Florida and NOAA.

Disposition: *Continue*

While the current status is late, all but one of the draft management plans have been published and the public comment periods have closed. It remains possible that the final management plans will be completed by the end of 2008, if a significant amount of effort remains dedicated to this process.

14. By 2010, decrease the average length of time to complete a final management plan to 36 months

FY07 Target: Average length of time for MPR completion between 48 months (2005) and 36 months (2010)

Overall Target: 36 months by 2010

Current Status: On track

Background:

TBNMS and FGBNMS were started in 2006; FGBNMS remains on track. However, TBNMS is several months behind due to slowing down MPR efforts for four months for the summer research season and to start considering the sanctuary advisory council's recommendation for major expansion of the sanctuary. HHHWNMS completed its five-year review in a timely fashion and will initiate its process to consider additional resources in 2008. FBNMS and OCNMS have both delayed starting their MPRs until FY08 due to lack of budget. If budget allows, the MNMS will also initiate its MPR in FY08.

Discussion:

Following the MPR retreat in Beaufort in October 2005, the ONMS focused on better pre-planning for the upcoming MPRs. The beginning of some MPRs was delayed to ensure that adequate staff time, both at the site and headquarters levels, would be available in order to complete the MPR within the allotted time in this performance measure. The MPRs for TBNMS and FGBNMS were initiated with specific deadlines for all phases of the MPR to ensure completion within 36 months. It is crucial that the ONMS continues to invest a significant amount of effort in MPR to ensure completion of this measure for the sites currently undergoing MPR and those that will follow in the future.

Disposition: *Continue*

Though there is concern about the progress on the TBNMS, the ONMS is still capable of completing the final management plans for TBNMS and FGBNMS within the targeted timeframe. The completion of an MPR process requires significant staff time on both the site and the headquarters levels; therefore, prioritization for completing these reviews requires continued support from site and headquarters as necessary to meet this measure.

15. By 2010, sanctuary advisory councils will provide significant input on 150 priority projects across the ONMS

FY07 Target: 40 projects

Overall Target: Input on 150 cumulative priority projects by 2010

Current Status: 149 projects; on track

Background:

The ONMS received input from the sanctuary advisory councils on 84 projects in FY07, a significant increase from 67 projects in 2006. This high number shows the commitment of the ONMS to incorporate local knowledge of both the sanctuary resources and the community into sanctuary management. It also shows the high level of commitment and dedication of the ONMS advisory council members, many of whom volunteer their time to serve on the councils.

Discussion:

As expected, there was some disparity between the numbers of projects on which each advisory council provided input on to the different sites of the NMS system. This is due to a number of factors including the greater time commitment of an advisory council during management plan review, the size of the site, the size of the council, and the number of issues and/or the complexity of the issues the site and the council face. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the protocol outlined in the tracking plan.

Disposition: *Revise*

The baseline collected in 2006 accounted for almost half of the final target for 2010. This indicated that the final target may need to be increased in order for the measure to remain challenging for the ONMS, however the target for FY07 was left unchanged until data could be gathered for another year. Considering that the ONMS has nearly reached the 2010 target already and that the two-year trend shows that it is likely to keep growing, the targets for this performance measure will be increased. The new target will be determined during the council coordinator's session of the 2008 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting in Newport News, Virginia.

16. By 2015, all infrastructure needs are funded to adequately support safe and effective operations

FY07 Target: 50% needs funded by 2007

Overall Target: 100% needs funded by 2015

Current Status: 35%; behind

Background:

Small Boats – One 10-meter new boat was added to the ONMS inventory. This boat was originally designed for Fagatele Bay NMS but currently resides in the Thunder Bay NMS. This brings the ONMS to 50% of the new boats requirements, and 11% of the replaced boats requirements.

Facilities and Exhibits – During FY07, a total of nine facilities and exhibit projects were initiated, including:

- Exhibits at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA;
- Exhibits at the Oakland Museum in CA;
- Exhibits at the Georgia Aquarium, GA;
- Exhibits at the Channel Islands Harbor, CA;
- Exhibits for Pacific Islands sanctuaries in Hawaii and American Samoa;
- Development of the National Kiosk Plan;
- Exhibits at Thunder Bay;
- Design for the Cordell Bank office expansion and storage; and
- Fund allocation for pier space in Maui, HI.

Including these projects, there are now 21 projects funded and/or completed out of the 40 priority projects identified as targets for the completion of the facilities/exhibits part of the performance measure, which translates to 53% completion. 100% of funds allocated for exhibit projects were obligated and 82% of funds allocated for facility projects were obligated. The remaining amount was not obligated but committed pending a long term agreement with the National Park Service for the Crissy Field renovation at GFNMS.

Aircraft – In 2007* the program leveraged a total of 682 flight hours on NOAA planes and chartered aircraft. The ONMS provided for 26% of the flight hours needs projected for 2015. This is 3% less than 2006 due to the inability to operate the aircraft assigned to the Channel Islands NMS.

Chartered or NOAA Ships – In FY07 the program was allocated 193 sea days on the *Hi'ialakai*, *McArthur*, and *Nancy Foster*. This translates to 46% completion of the 100% requirement target of 421 days at sea.

Discussion:

Small boats –The ten-year Small Boat Requirements plan calls for 26 new vessels. Three were delivered in FY06 and one in FY07. Contracts were awarded for two more new boats and three replaced boats to be delivered before the end of 2008. The Navy

transferred to the program an 85 foot Guardian Marine Patrol Boat. This boat will be refitted for approximately \$1 Million in 2007-2008 to meet the programs mission needs. This platform is a Small Research Vessel Class that the program will be testing over a 2 year period, to see if it can meet a need for operations beyond the offshore operating range of the *Fulmar* and *Shearwater*. This platform will also be tested to determine if it can be suitable to work in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Thus we are ahead of schedule in meeting the 10-year plan, due to Congressional interest in funding specific small boat needs. Briefings on the progress made in the 10-year Small Boat Requirements plan should be continued. While the Program is ahead of schedule in the delivery of new small boats due to PAC funding and/or earmarks, base funding to safely and efficiently operate and maintain these vessels remains a challenge and may impact this PPM in future years.

Facilities and Exhibits – Currently, the ONMS has approximately 40 highly ranked facility and exhibit project proposals, which would cost approximately \$21M to complete (in FY06 dollars). Twenty-one of these projects are already completed or funded and nearing completion. As in the case of the small boats, completing a facility or exhibit project is just the tip of the iceberg. Ongoing base funding is then needed to effectively operate and maintain that facility or exhibit over time. This remains a challenge and may impact this PPM in future years.

Aircraft – The only aircraft assigned to the program, the *Lake* in Channel Islands NMS flew 90 hours less than the two previous years, due to mechanical problems.

Chartered or NOAA Ships – Our projected 100% requirement is 421 days by 2015, and we are moving towards achieving our requirements by adding platforms to our inventory in addition to using NOAA ships. It should be noted that the total sea days in 2005 were 221, and 175 days in 2006.

Disposition: *Continue*

Considerable time and effort was spent designing the 10-year requirement for small boats and the long range facilities and exhibits plan (also a ten-year plan that has been updated biannually). The time needed on aircraft or ships is directly linked to site needs for monitoring and research. While the ONMS is not currently able to fully meet all these needs, they are justified and the performance measure should not be changed. It helps demonstrate that sustained funding is required to meet the projected infrastructure needs of the ONMS.

* The estimated flight hours were estimated on the calendar year, therefore the data here includes the estimated hours for the first quarter of FY08. The error associated with this timing issue is acceptable as long as we are consistent with how we measure flight hours from year to year, given that we are more interested in measuring the change in performance from year to year.

17. By 2010, five new collaborative projects with either new or existing international partnerships will be initiated and demonstrating protection of the marine environment

FY07 Target: 1 project

Overall Target: 5 projects by 2010

Current Status: 4 projects for FY07; on track

Background:

The target for 2007 was one new collaborative project demonstrating protection of the marine environment. The ONMS has met and exceeded that through the following projects:

- The implementation of projects identified in the partnership between the ONMS and the country of Chile began in FY07. Specifically, among a host of other projects, the ONMS has provided practical, place-based experience for two Chilean colleagues, who are now applying that real-life experience in their daily work lives. Chile is currently hosting a ONMS education specialist, who will bring home real-life experience from Chile to apply in California. The ONMS is also cooperating with Chile to develop a joint plan for the conservation of the pink-footed shearwater, a shared resource between the U.S. and Chile.
- The MPA Capacity Building Program trained 165 MPA practitioners from seven countries in management planning, planning for sustainable tourism, and dealing with specific issues related to a region's MPAs, resulting in increased expertise being applied at MPAs around the world, including a number of individuals in Vietnam who are undergoing advanced training to become trainers themselves. Additionally, new partnerships were created in FY07 that will result in the training being offered in four additional regions in FY08 (South Pacific, Mexico, Cambodia, and the Coral Triangle.)
- The partnership between the ONMS and Italy has produced two significant results for FY07. The first, an increased capacity in both countries to support sustainable marine tourism, resulted from a conference in Italy attended by the ONMS West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros, to develop a sustainable tourism plan that involved Sardinia's terrestrial and marine protected areas. The three day conference included other international experts and led to an action plan that the conferees adopted to help guide Sardinia's development of a sustainable tourism plan. The ONMS conducted a conference in November 2007 that mirrored the conference held in Sardinia and was designed as a pilot project in central California (Monterey Bay) to develop a network of business and government (local, state and federal) leaders that will promote sustainable marine tourism focusing on a national marine sanctuary.
- The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) has been working with the country of Colombia for a couple of years. Regional director Billy Causey participates in the International Advisory Board (IAB) for Coralina, a network of protected areas in the San Andreas islands, Colombia. This year's project was to install 80 buoys marking a corridor for vessels transiting around and through each

island chain. Completion of the project was an important first step in implementing the management plan for the Rosario and San Bernardo National Parks. The boundary area marking will assist the Park Rangers in resource management and protection, something lacking in the past. FKNMS will continue to assist the Colombian National Park in future projects including; law enforcement training, mooring buoy technology, coral disease identification, research and monitoring, and resource management.

The second result is the development of a new management tool to be developed by Italian officials to identify protection strategies for two marine protected areas in Naples, Italy. The program was facilitated by the ONMS's West Coast Region, who provided baseline data, habitat sensitivity maps and metadata on how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration develops sensitivity indexes and response programs on the west coast of the United States. The Italian agencies were able to model what they believe will be a successful program after the methodologies and framework applied in the United States by NOAA.

Discussion:

International projects may be led primarily by ONMS Headquarters, a region, or an individual site. The ONMS has not had a budget for international activities in FY06 or FY07; the projects highlighted above were conducted mainly with ONMS staff time and outside funding. A possible budget for international activities in FY08 is still undetermined. Lack of funding may therefore imperil future attainment of this PPM.

Disposition: *Continue*

The ONMS International Program explores new management approaches to improve global marine resource protection while achieving one of the National Marine Sanctuary Program's main purposes, to cooperate globally with other marine protected area programs. Our international partnerships help build better technical and MPA management capacity in sanctuary staff and in our colleagues throughout the world. Despite concerns about funding, this PPM should remain.

18. By 2006, all national marine sanctuaries (excluding Monitor NMS) will be trained in the use of Sanctuaries Hazardous Incident Emergency Logistics Database System (SHIELDS) and its components (e.g., Resources and UnderSea Threats database (RUST))

FY07 Target: 13 sites

Overall Target: 13 sites by 2008

Current Status: 9 sites; behind

Background:

OCNMS, CBNMS, GFNMS, MBNMS, CINMS and FKNMS staff have been fully trained in the use of SHIELDS and its components. Additional site training for key staff at FGBNMS and PMNM was completed in FY05 during the Resource Protection Meeting held in Washington, DC. GRNMS staff received abbreviated training, partially via teleconference, in FY07. All site managers were given a comprehensive overview of SHIELDS and its components in FY05. Only four remaining sites require training, plus supplemental training of additional staff at FGBNMS and PMNM.

Discussion:

Significant training was incorporated during preparations for Safe Sanctuary/Safe Seas drills in 2005-2006. Budgetary restrictions on travel and contractor funds, as well as increased demands on key training personnel posed by program priorities, prevented comprehensive on-site training during FY07. Plans were made to complete abbreviated training in January 2007 through the Maritime Heritage Program's annual meeting; however, the meeting was cancelled due to budget constraints under the continuing resolution. GRNMS staff received abbreviated training, partially via teleconference, in FY07. Development of a training CD is currently being explored. In addition, the issue of staff turnover needs to be addressed to ensure that sites with staff that is currently trained do not lose that capacity.

Disposition: *Modify*

The training of the sanctuary staff in the use of SHIELDS and its components is key to incident response in protecting sanctuary resources. Alternative training methods are being evaluated to ensure the measure's successful implementation; however, it will not likely be completed by the end of 2008, due continued budget limitations. The revised plan for meeting this performance measure targets one additional site trained in 2008, one additional site in 2009 and the remaining two sites in 2010. The year of completion for this PPM should be postponed to 2010.

19. By 2020, all sites will have implemented monitoring programs, based on the System-Wide Monitoring program framework, for relevant natural and maritime archaeological resources.

FY07 Target: Baseline

Overall Target: 14 sites by 2020

Current Status: Undetermined; on track

Background:

This year some preliminary baseline information for this new performance measure was collected; however, the System-Wide Monitoring program framework needs to be finalized before the baseline can be fully assessed. This performance measure is based on an aggressive target schedule, and it will require significant resources to meet the target in 2020.

Discussion:

This year the ONMS developed a new, more challenging performance measure for monitoring. The new measure includes a broad range of monitoring efforts reflected in the SWiM reports, in addition to ocean observance systems. In addition, the new measure focuses on monitoring efforts directly undertaken by the ONMS as well as efforts to influence adequate monitoring from other entities. The information used for reporting on this measure was collected following the draft protocol outlined in the tracking plan. The tracking plan will likely not be finalized until FY09.

Disposition: *Continue*

This new performance measure requires the ONMS to meet some challenging targets; however, adequate monitoring programs in all sites are necessary for the ONMS to manage the resources in an adaptive way. Efforts should be made to prioritize monitoring projects when developing annual budgets.

20. By 2013, the ONMS will increase by 30% the amount of advertising dollars leveraged by each dollar spent by the ONMS outreach budget on media relations.

FY08 Target: None

Overall Target: 30% by 2013

Current Status: n/a

The first target for this new efficiency performance measure is due in FY08. Therefore, no FY07 reporting is needed for this measure.

21. By 2011, operational “Days at Sea” (DAS) on ONMS small boats will increase six-fold with less than a 10% increase in total DAS costs.

FY07 Target: 260 days at sea

Overall Target: 780 days at sea by 2011

Current Status: 249 days at sea; behind

Background:

In FY07, the ONMS was able to provide a significant number of DAS using its own fleet of small boats. The *Auk* and the *Fulmar* provided for 64 and 185 DAS, respectively, for a total of 249 DAS. The average cost for these 249 DAS was approximately \$2,200 per day.

Discussion:

The baseline of 130 days at sea (DAS) for this efficiency performance measure was calculated by adding up the number of DAS in 2005 on NOAA ships in east and west coast sanctuaries. The cost for these DAS on NOAA ships was approximately \$6,100 per day, which is more than double the current cost of a DAS on a ONMS small boat. The ONMS has been developing its small boats program in order to be able to provide boat support to the sanctuaries independently from NOAA ship support, which affords more flexibility but also more cost efficiency. This is the first year that the ONMS is gathering information on the number of DAS on its small boats. The target of 260 DAS was not met because of inclement weather and some mechanical problems experienced on the new small boats, however the final number of DAS for FY07 was very close to the target and showed that the first-year target was well chosen.

Disposition: *Continue*

This new performance measure is in the early stages. After a couple of years of data gathering, it will be possible to evaluate whether it is challenging enough for the ONMS.