

Depoe Bay Near-Shore Action Team
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 17, 2007 – 6:00 pm
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Chair L. Goddard, R. Davilla, M. Grover (departed at 7:16 pm), J. O'Brien, L. Robison
Advisory Council: F.C. Robison (departed at 7:20 pm), T. Thompson

ABSENT: B. Fasciano, M. Fitzpatrick, V. Sovern

STAFF: City Recorder P. Murray

Chairman Goddard called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 6:13 pm.

Approve Minutes: March 15, 2007 Regular Meeting

MOTION: O'Brien moved to approve the minutes as written. Grover seconded the motion.

Hearing no objection, Goddard stated the minutes are approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NSAT Evaluation and Guidance Workshop This item is postponed until more members can be present.

Socio-Economic Study It was noted that there is no new information on potential funding.

Budget Goddard announced the Budget Committee approved NSAT's request of \$7,500 in fiscal year 2007-08 budget.

DVD Editing, Distribution Work is continuing on editing.

NEW BUSINESS

Briefing on ODFW/NAC Meeting

Goddard reported he attended the April 11th meeting, which was the second meeting of that group. The first 9 of 16 categories were reviewed and ranked. Hal Weeks, who has been serving as group leader, is leaving due to a new job.

Goddard noted that Fitzpatrick attended the FINE meeting last night. Thompson, reported that FINE is working on a draft report on the fishing industry, its challenges and possible resolutions.

Lincoln County Fisheries Needs Survey Results and Analysis

Goddard hopes to incorporate this survey information into NSAT's presentation at the Western Groundfish Conference in October.

MPA- MR Discussion

Goddard stressed the importance of discussing and deciding if NSAT wants to be proactive in identifying proposed locations for Marine Protected Areas/ Marine Reserves. Grover suggested assigning areas on a rotational basis, opposed to permanent assignments. By identifying where fishing had previously been good, but not currently, the area could benefit from being an MPA for a period of time for recovery purposes. Discussion included areas impacted by "dead zones", time frames of these

occurrences, and fish returns. Areas fished by small boats vs. larger boats can be different. Thompson asked if NSAT represents small sport boats as well as larger boats and suggested communication with Newport. L. Robison suggested looking for fish producing areas that are not fished frequently, as an example, currently fishermen avoid areas where yellow-eye are predominant due to protection of that species. Thompson said some species may be removed from the endangered list in the near future, survey techniques are changing which may impact results. Surveys are being conducted annually now. It was noted that there are arguments against MPA's due to areas closed for endangered species protection. Goddard clarified that if NSAT should define a proposed area for recommendation the recommendation is presented to the City Council, Lincoln County Commissioners and to OPAC.

Further discussion included issues to be addressed 1) crabpots/storm relocation, 2) enforcement, 3) accumulative effects of wave energy generator sites and reserves, 4) economic impacts/baseline study. B. Robison relayed that in his experience the establishment of reserves in Alaska had little effect on fishermen. Compromise is the key to establishing the MPA/MR, if done correctly it could be the same here. Some believe the area around Gull Rock and Whaleback Rock would be a good candidate for MPA/MR. Thompson has concerns about a reserve in a known dead zone, designation of this area would affect Newport fishermen since the reserve would not be limited to shallow water but extends out 3 miles. He suggested moving to the south of Otter Rock, but should look at the urchin fishery and any potential impacts. O'Brien suggested looking at guidelines and requirements for MPA/MR first, before trying to identify an area. It was suggested 1) to collect fish population data on an area for 2 to 3 years before recommending designation, data could be collected locally or by the state; 2) the first step should be to work on defining parameters of requirements for selecting MPA/MR designations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Loren Goddard, Chairman

Pery Murray, City Recorder