

Depoe Bay Near-Shore Action Team
Special Meeting – Town Hall
Thursday, January 10, 2008 - 7:00 pm
Depoe Bay Community Hall

PRESENT: Chair L. Goddard, R. Davilla, M. Fitzpatrick, J. O'Brien, L. Robison, G. Snyder,
V. Sovern
ABSENT: B.Fasciano, M. Grover
STAFF: City Recorder P. Murray

Chairman Goddard opened the meeting and introduced NSAT members present, noting by name remaining members. He provided a brief background on NSAT and its efforts since created in August 2005. He followed with information on marine reserves, the state's process currently underway, OPAC's criteria for a marine reserve, and NSAT's proposed site for nomination (referring to the handout provided, copy attached). He noted that public nominations for sites are scheduled for April with OPAC's review and recommendations by November. He then opened discussion, asking for questions and comments. (approximately 50 persons were in attendance, copies of sign-in sheets are attached to the original of these minutes)

Question: Is there an estimated size for a marine reserve? Response: State has not yet defined, NSAT proposed site is roughly 71 acres and includes diverse habitat types. Question: Will other types of recreation besides fishing (kayaking, surfing) be restricted in a reserve? Response: Not yet defined, have heard that surfers won't be impacted. Question: Is OPAC connected with the OSU research group? Response: Only in that many factions of scientific, fishing and governmental communities are affiliated. Question: Does NSAT have an alternate site identified? Response: No, this appears to be the best site to meet criteria, temper impacts to users and have a shared site with Newport. Question: Can stipulations be included with a site nomination, such as allowing boat traffic for whale watching? Response: Stipulations can be included with nominations, but there is no guarantee of acceptance. Note that the boundary line of the proposed site allows for whale viewing in the area. Question: The proposed site is frequented by fishermen staying at Beverly Beach State Park, why not move the site further north, from Otter Rock to Whale Cove? Response: The area from Otter Rock to Whale Cove is heavily fished. Comment: The difference between a Marine Reserve and Marine Sanctuary is that a Marine Reserve can be traversed through, all of the ocean is already a Marine Protected Area (MPA). Response: The definition being applied to MPA is different in the state's process. Question: We already have a large marine reserve with the 40 fathom curve, has this been discussed? Response: Yes thoroughly discussed, it is outside Oregon waters for the most part.

Comment: Thank you to NSAT for speaking for the community, 80% of my (motel) business is fishing related, concerned about social and economic impacts. Response: NSAT appreciates the attendance and input received tonight and encourages continued participation.

Question: Has funding been addressed, costs estimated? Response: NSAT has lobbied for no unfunded mandate. Currently there is no good estimate of monitoring or enforcement costs. NSAT has submitted criteria to be undertaken before establishing reserves to OPAC (including funding be provided). This criteria has since been adopted by a number of entities.

Question: Is Newport submitting the same site? Response: NSAT has scheduled a meeting in Newport next week to discuss the proposed site. While some Newport fishermen are aware of the proposal, many

are not and reactions are unknown at this time. Question: It was stated that the Governor proposes ten sites, is this a minimum? Response: No, ten sites will be the maximum. Question: Will the impact of wave energy areas be considered as marine reserves are designated? Response: Not at this time, although the state seems to be beginning to look at the entire picture vs separating these related issues.

Other comments included: OPAC's recommendations on site nominations are reviewed by the Division of State Lands and Dept of Fish and Wildlife, they make the final decision on site establishment. The state has no control over wave energy, applications are processed at the federal level. NSAT is recommending a five year review of marine reserve sites. It appears that no marine reserves is not an option, there will be reserves. There is a lack of baseline data in support of sites, research is needed before establishing any. NSAT hopes that its proposed site will satisfy the Oregon process, and that the process will include an evaluation period for any site designated.

Question: If an MPA is established, what about impacts to other areas, what is the potential of other sites being over-fished? NSAT uses statements like "economic engine" unsupported by facts and has not conducted a socio-economic study, when will the study be done and how much will it cost?

Response: NSAT top priority is the socio-economic study, cost is estimated at more than \$25,000. On January 17th, Chip Terhune, Governor's Office, will be hosting meetings in Lincoln City, Newport and Waldport. It is hoped information will be provided at these meetings.

Further discussion included the following comments: Marine reserves should be sited based on science, not politics. Only Depoe Bay and Port Orford have come forth as pro-MPA, all others have said no-way. Depoe Bay is not in favor of establishing MPAs, just want to provide input if they are to be established. Every public statement should begin by saying that current measures are adequate but, if marine reserves are going to be established, then those affected need to be included in the process. An example of the economic impact of the harbor is when the harbor was closed for construction of the seawall (1950's) many businesses closed because they couldn't hang on financially even though it was a temporary situation. Otter Rock is a popular spot for surfing, kayaking and fishing, if surfing is not restricted, the proposed site is do-able. Funding of socio-economic studies should be from the state, not special interest groups. Experience has shown that you have to be pro-active in this kind of process, once something is lost, it is not given back. The safety issue of small boats having to go further to fish must be considered.

Goddard asked for a show of hands for approval of the proposed site. A majority of those present raised their hands in response. It was noted the next meeting will be on January 17th, 7 – 8 pm at Englund Marine in Newport. Then a town hall meeting will be on January 29th, 7 – 8 pm at Depoe Bay Community Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Loren Goddard, Chair

Pery Murray
CityRecorder