

Depoe Bay Near-Shore Action Team  
Special Meeting – Town Hall  
Tuesday, January 29, 2008 - 7:00 pm  
Depoe Bay Community Hall

PRESENT: Chair L. Goddard, R. Davilla, M. Fitzpatrick, M. Grover, J. O'Brien, L. Robison

ABSENT: B. Fasciano, G. Snyder, V. Sovern

Chairman Goddard opened the meeting and introduced NSAT members present. He provided a brief background on NSAT creation (August 2005) and its efforts since. Marine reserves are considered a management tool in response to increasing uses/demands on the ocean; in 2002 Gov. Kitzhaber received a recommendation from OPAC that Oregon establish a limited system of marine reserves and evaluate their effectiveness; in 2005 Gov. Kulongoski asked OPAC to continue their efforts and in 2007 provided specific guidance that OPAC utilize a public process to identify marine reserve sites. The City of Depoe Bay has tasked NSAT to gather information and provide input to the state. NSAT has proceeded with the understanding that “no marine reserves” is not an option. He also provided information on the state’s process currently underway (public nominations for sites are scheduled for April with OPAC’s review and recommendations by November), OPAC’s criteria for a marine reserve, and NSAT’s proposed site for nomination (referring to the handout provided, copy attached). He noted that the proposed site meets OPAC’s criteria, plus addresses other issues such as an easily identifiable boundary, less difficulty in enforcement. He then opened discussion, asking for questions and comments.

Question: What are the next steps? Response: NSAT will compile results from the outreach meetings, whether or not there is a consensus on the proposed site, present to the City Council for approval to move forward, and if approved submit to OPAC as a site nomination. Question: What are the restrictions for an MPA? Response: NSAT can not impose, but can recommend, conditions. It is understood it would be a “no-take” zone (no extractions). The following information from Jessica Hamilton, Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Advisor, was read for informational purposes: *1. Can I drive my boat across the marine reserve? YES 2. Will I be able to walk my dog on the beach or dig for clams? YES. 3. Can I kayak or surf? YES. 4. Can people do research? Yes, but research will have to get state permits. 5. If there is a storm and there is an emergency, can I anchor inside a reserve? YES.* Question: Would an organized letter writing campaign be effective? Rep. Jean Cowan: All efforts are effective to varying degree, timing is typically critical to effectiveness. There exist strong perceptions that the ocean is in trouble, currently outreach efforts like NSAT and Sea Grant meetings are critical to providing input to the decision-makers. The Governor met with representatives from the greater fishing communities, including the coastal caucus, out of which came the statement that less than 10 marine reserves will be designated. He wants recommendations by fall of 2008 so he can include funding in the 2009 budget for baseline studies, enforcement, etc. It is not known if marine reserves will accomplish what they are intended to do, studies are necessary. Question: Doesn’t California have reserves and can’t their experience be used? Response: No, can’t compare California’s ocean to Oregon’s, too many differences. Maybe Oregon can establish a couple reserves to study and assess their effectiveness. It is a process that should take time, shouldn’t let a budget cycle drive the timeframe. Port Orford is also working on nominating a site. Onno Husing, OCZMA: He has served on OPAC for 11 years, understands the Sea Grant meetings are going well, he encourages continued involvement, and suggested there may be job creation through the establishment of marine reserves. Goddard read a letter from Fran Recht, Depoe Bay, into the record (copy attached to the original of these minutes). A Newport

commercial fisherman said there needs to be economic impact studies, rules should be in place regarding allowed activities, boundaries and enforcement before sites are designated. He suggests trying another meeting to obtain input from the Newport fishermen before moving ahead with nominating the proposed site Neil Taunton feels reserves and the process are a waste of time and money. Rep.Cowan suggested allowing the OPAC and Sea Grant processes to develop in the next month, and maybe have another meeting shortly before site nominations in April. Jack Brown feels that Depoe Bay needs to be ready to intelligently address other nominated sites, and explain why NSAT's is a better site.

Goddard asked for a show of hands of those who feel NSAT's proposed site is acceptable. A majority of those present raised their hands in response. One comment was as long as it does not go three miles off shore. Jack Brown said OPAC has to take NSAT's nomination seriously and anticipates it will be forwarded to the Governor.

There being no further business and due to the cold temperature the meeting was adjourned.

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Loren Goddard, Chair

Minutes prepared by Pery Murray