

OTTER ROCK MARINE RESERVE COMMUNITY WORK GROUP – BIOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC
Meeting Notes/Summary
Date/Time: Thursday, August 26, 2010 – 6:00 PM
Location: Depoe Bay Community Hall

Present: Chair Brian Haley, Jim Burke, Paul Erskine, Cristen Don/ODFW
Absent: Terry Thompson, Gary Wise
Staff: Pery Murray
NSAT member Roy Hageman was also in attendance.

RESEARCH WORK STATUS

A copy of Alix Laferriere's August 25, 2010 report was distributed and reviewed (copy attached to the original of this meeting summary). Cristen Don reported that Alix and the dive crew are scheduled to begin work Monday, the dive boat will be in Depoe Bay.

Burke reported that he and two other OCA divers have done some preliminary dive work at the Otter Rock Marine Reserve site. They found much more sandy bottom area than anticipated, from Gull Rock to shore it is sandy, Whale Back area has lots of broken off cobble, the best rocky habitat is at Otter Rock. Don said Alix and Keith will be conducting video lander work. An oceanographic mooring just outside of Otter Rock is capturing general oceanographic characteristics. Two months worth of data will be collected, it is to be pulled in September. ODFW is collaborating with OSU, using their equipment. Alix will produce an overlay of work findings (dives and video lander) on nautical charts and bring to the next meeting. Divers are doing fish counts and invertebrates. Erskine asked if data can be gathered by walking the beach at low tide. Burke said divers will be able to most of the area, except sandy.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Haley asked if ODFW has a draft monitoring plan. Don said a rough draft is prepared for review by OPAC STAC. Haley questioned the Working Group's role. Don responded to develop goals and future objectives for the Otter Rock pilot site, as well as review information gathered. Burke referred to the Redfish Rocks Goals & Objectives document (copy provided by Don as a sample, attached to the original of this summary), saying he anticipates the Otter Rock goals and objectives will be similar. Don said Alix will redraft later this fall for the Working Group's review and comment. The Working Group may identify unique research projects for the future. She noted that this area has many unique features and is one of the least studied areas along the coast. It was agreed to research any available historical information on the existing marine garden.

Hageman suggested that the question "what does the marine reserve do for the fisherman" be addressed. There was discussion that this issue would be addressed in the socio-economic work by the Education/Outreach/Socio-Economic Working Group. What data is of interest to fishermen, and how to provide that data needs to be determined. Information on existing fishing activities (eg: crabbing, kayak fishing) and dive data gathered over the next five years were mentioned. Haley suggested that one goal could be to provide the scientific data to the Education/Outreach/Socio-Economic Group for them to convey to the public.

Don provided a chart of Monitoring Activities at Otter Rock (copy attached to the original of this summary) which is a detail of objectives. Burke said a goal is to recommend future monitoring activities to ensure ongoing information gathering. Don said some activities occur each year, some every two, five or ten years. The Working Group will review and comment on draft plans, identify

research projects, receive public comments, make contacts with the public, seek funding opportunities for projects. Research projects can include such items as additional diving, a more aggressive schedule, more information on urchins, etc.

Haley said the Group needs interpreted data for review, he questioned what ODFW goals are for the site. Don responded that research to determine how the ecological area changes over time and learning more about unique habitat areas are goals. Hageman suggested a goal be to determine any future changes needed to the site, such as a possible boundary change. Don clarified that fisheries enhancement is not a goal of marine reserves per the Governor and OPAC. Oregon's marine reserves are for habitat protection and bio-diversity, which is an entirely different design mechanism. There may be localized "spillover" increased fisheries, but that is not the purpose of the marine reserve. We need to learn how they work as a management tool, to assist in determining if they could be a fisheries enhancement tool in the future.

Erskine asked if there is a species list. Don said that Alix had developed a list with the help of the Near Shore Action Team (NSAT), she will provide the list to this Group. She noted that while data is gathered on many species, analysis work focuses on the indicator species. Burke suggested a goal be to conduct ongoing mature rockfish, urchin and kelp studies, the northwest corner of the site for urchin population in particular. Compare kelp in the marine reserve area with kelp in areas where urchins are harvested. Don cautioned that no manipulation may occur in the marine reserve but comparisons can be done. She encourages creative thinking in identifying projects, don't restrict due to funding limitations. Volunteers may be used (Burke may be able to do some diving work through the aquarium), OSU research, etc. She anticipates that data gathering will be done in the next few months with the information being provided to this Working Group. The written management and monitoring plans need to be done by next spring.

Haley offered to draft Goals and Objectives, using the Redfish Rocks sample and the Monitoring Activities chart and email to everyone. He requested Don send him a list of what ODFW has on hand (moorings, divers, boats, etc) and an electronic version of the Redfish Rocks Goals & Objectives document.

The next meeting is tentatively set for the 4th Thursday in September (9/23/10) at 6:00 pm, location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.