

OTTER ROCK MARINE RESERVE COMMUNITY WORK GROUP – BIOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC
Meeting Notes/Summary

Date/Time: Thursday, October 21, 2010 – 6:00 PM

Location: ODFW Marine Reserve Office - 3248 Ferry Slip Rd., South Beach, OR

Present: Chair Brian Haley, Jim Burke, Terry Thompson

Absent: Paul Erskine, Gary Wise

ODFW: Alix Laferriere

City Staff: Pery Murray

REVIEW of MINUTES – September 23, 2010

No comments.

UPDATE on SCIENCE PROGRESS (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER)

Alix Laferriere apologized for not being at meetings, explaining that she has been working on sampling at both the Otter Rock and Redfish Rocks sites. While providing her report she referred to her handouts, report dated September 23, chart showing Areas of Work and chart showing Primary Habitat (copies attached to the original of this summary). Thompson asked who determines the work to be done, ODFW or this Working Group. Alix replied that the Working Group serves in an advisory role, reviewing information collected and compiled by ODFW and providing comments and suggestions. It is important the Working Group review draft plans and proposals and provide comments.

Alix noted that comparison areas serve as reference areas to determine the response of the marine reserve. Thompson said the inner and outer reef areas are very different from each other. Burke believes there is more rock than what is reflected on the chart. OSU geology work has been conducted on the other side of Yaquina Head, using jet skis and sonar equipment. Alix said there are other tools and equipment that can be used but many are cost prohibitive (eg; \$12,000 per day). Haley is well acquainted with persons at OSU who would be willing to volunteer their time next summer. Alix reported the divers have characterized emergent rock and did 16 fish transects (30 meters long), including invertebrates, algae, fish and juveniles. Thompson said data on light penetration and time of day should be included. Alix has obtained a sensor to monitor temperature and salinity, which could be installed by a paid diver, then use volunteers to collect data for a three year period. Burke offered to do this work. This sensor needs to be placed and extraction sampling needs to be done. Gail Hansen, the kelp lady, has been working with Redfish Rocks, she will be able to do algae work next spring at Otter Rock.

Alix summarized the work to be done: sensors, extractive sampling, photo quadrants over time, and determination of permanent sites. She needs input on which tasks to pursue, what monitoring should be done, what tools to use, and specific areas of monitoring. Thompson said that the northern comparison area should be extended to the upper reef, cutting off at Cape Foulweather. Alix requested input on extractive sampling design, including size of area, total versus partial extraction. Burke asked what data is needed by the end of the year. Alix responded baseline characteristics of habitat, species presence, abundance and distribution, species habitat correlations, general characteristics of temperature, salinity, light, dissolved oxygen kelp percent of cover and biomass. Thompson asked about marine mammals and predatory prey. Alix feels that minimal effort will be needed for marine mammal presence and

counts. Thompson feels work needs to be done on predatory prey in marine reserves, noting that fishermen are not the only impact. Alix reminded everyone of the lack of resources but will check into scat and flesh sampling. Focus will be on pinnipeds and possibly ling cod to determine what they are feeding on (rockfish cannibalism is a factor). Alix suggested working with sport fishermen and fish checkers to collect data. Thompson suggested providing local fishermen with sample bottles to obtain ling cod stomach content.

Alix explained that baseline characterization is a test of methods and design, making adjustments as determined necessary. Currently systemic sampling is within a 200 foot grid area, and stratified samplings of species and habitat by depth are included. She had submitted the Otter Rock draft monitoring plan to OPAC STAC, on which she has received extensive feedback. Upon receiving the feedback, ODFW re-evaluated the plan and began this sampling work. Haley said this group needs to see the plan. Alix offered a consolidated summary, noting the revised plan has been approved to try, and has been implemented. She added that there can be additional work and site specific studies. Since the plan is still in draft form it is not public at this time. She requested assistance with defining three additional studies.

Burke said to establish the baseline, replicate in consecutive years, be realistic with resources. He volunteered to dive 2 to 4 times a year, replicating for many years, noting that the availability of videos for analysis by anyone would be of great benefit. Thompson invited Burke to assist him in determining places to monitor marine mammals and organizing volunteers to conduct the work. Alix said it is okay for volunteers to do some of this monitoring work and ODFW can help. Alix summarized the discussion: 1) monitor light using a light meter, 2) more research on the inner area of the reserve using jet skis, 3) investigate the northern area extension suggested by Thompson, and 4) conduct ling cod stomach analysis.

Haley suggested incorporating his draft Goals and Objectives (copy attached to the original of this summary), with the monitoring plan. Burke asked what the process is if the data is not completed in time. Thompson replied that at least one year's data is needed for the baseline, the MOU requires the data before closure of the reserve, a request for extension may need to be presented to the legislature. He noted that ODFW has been given unrealistic timelines.

Haley suggested the Goals and Objectives be discussed at the next meeting. Alix confirmed she will provide the plan summary to this group. There was brief discussion on the date for a November meeting. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, it was agreed to determine the date, time and place later.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.