

## OTTER ROCK MARINE RESERVE COMMUNITY WORK GROUP – HUMAN DIMENSIONS

### Meeting Notes/Summary

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 - 3:00 PM

Location: Oregon Coast Aquarium-Conference Room

Present: Chair Kerry Morgan, Caroline Bauman (departed 3:50), James Carlson (arrived 3:25), Melody Lavrakas

Absent: Nancee Hunter, Edward Barrilleaux, Jr.

ODFW Team: Alix Laferriere, Melissa Murphy

City Staff: Pery Murray

The purpose of this workshop is to receive information on biological/scientific research from ODFW. Alix Laferriere provided handouts (copies attached to the original of this summary) and explained the marine reserve is not a fisheries management tool, it is like a state park on land. The Otter Rock marine reserve site is small and does not meet OPAC STAC size and spacing requirements. However, determining ecological value goes beyond size. The small size makes continued monitoring and study easier, and the site is considered to be a hot spot for biodiversity due to the emergent rock, bird populations and intertidal areas which are likely a good habitat for juvenile groundfish. She explained that no intertidal study has been completed yet. The goal for this year (2010-11) is to characterize the habitat, oceanographic condition and species assemblages in the reserve and comparison areas. Resources are limited, usually if something is not being done typically it is due to funding restraints. There is no planned fish extraction due to concerns of negative impact on the population. Bauman asked about catch and release. Alix said it is possible.

Alix referred to the Areas of Work chart, noting the moorings were pulled out on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The Foulweather comparison area is rocky, the Moolack comparison area is sandy (Otter Rock site has both rocky and sandy areas). Continued study will be to observe and record changes over time. Lavrakas asked if impacts of nature (storms, high seas) are noted. Alix confirmed they are, as well as human impacts. Morgan asked about transects of work areas. Alix said they are using a network perspective, grid system - measuring habitat and species, using random sampling points, noting that sand inundation affects depths. Morgan asked if there is extraction in the subtidal area. Alix said some activities are allowed in the intertidal area and that no area can be closed to razor clamming. Carlson said agates can be collected but not sold, need to determine the vegetation line for measuring the nearshore, there will be mussel harvesting in high water. Morgan asked where the line is between biodiversity and extraction. Alix explained that State Parks is in charge of signage, and there is no funding for intertidal work now. As work progresses efforts are re-prioritized with funding being the key, aside from staff time intertidal work is inexpensive.

Melissa advised that California had no baseline, at least Oregon will have some baseline data to begin. Lavrakas asked if analysis of accuracy of data is being done as it is collected. Alix said data is geospatially referenced and analysis will be done in the future. Lavrakas stressed the importance of knowing that data being used is both current and accurate and documenting efforts. Alix said methods and tools are constantly changing. Melissa said Alix is using acceptable tools, the most current spatial to create maps and provide information.

Morgan asked what ODFW wants communicated to the public. Alix said to let the public know the reserve is there, what animals are present now, and the ability to see the ocean bottom and those animals in their environment. Melissa said a major factor is what interests the public such as sand dollars, few people know much about them. Alix said fishermen are a good knowledge resource. Melissa added that the Otter Rock marine reserve was proposed by Depoe Bay fishermen, this reflects a collaborative effort with the scientific community. Signage is needed to inform the public of the presence of the marine reserve and its unique aspects such as named wash rocks, the shallowness and accessibility, and avian population (USFW colony counts). Carlson said the public needs to know that

the majority of human activity will be research, benefiting students in their studies. Alix agreed, noting the Otter Rock marine reserve is the most accessible site, easy for students to study and document their findings. Melissa said the uniqueness of each site should be shared, signage needs to be determined. OPRD has been invited to be involved since they are in charge of signage.

Alix said this Working Group can work on interpretive signage and brochures. Lavrakas asked about regulations. Alix said no, just interpretive, ODFW publishes regulations. Carlson suggested encouraging charter fishermen to use the marine reserve as a point of interest on whale watch tours, provide informational brochures for handouts aboard those vessels. The Working Group can help promote collaboration and economic benefits of the reserve (eg; marine reserve scenic tours), creating a model for other reserves. Lavrakas suggested incorporating fishing stories and folklore facts in the student learning process. Alix can provide underwater video and photos. Other suggestions are a marine reserve festival in June, creating an annual event; the OSU Seafest; OCA and Hatfield Marine Center educational efforts.

Lavrakas asked about permanent monitoring methods. Alix is obtaining permits and approvals for sensors for temperature and salinity (shelf life of 3 years). Future tools may include trap cameras, web cams. Independent research studies can do any activity as long as they are not extractive, then a permit is needed. ODFW has a list of needed data and research.

Lavrakas will attend the NSAT meeting Thursday evening to provide a report. Carlson also plans to attend the NSAT meeting.

Meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.