

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

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 – 6:00 PM

Location: Otter Rock Community Hall – 6515 Gladys St., Otter Rock, OR

Present: Jim Burke, Paul Erskine, Terry Thompson, (Brian Haley resigned 11/17/10)

Absent: Gary Wise

Staff: Alix Laferriere (ODFW), Pery Murray (City)

REVIEW of MINUTES – October 21, 2010

Thompson noted that at the last meeting he'd said that there should be two classes of marine reserves. While the Otter Rock Marine Reserve is too small to be a fisheries purpose reserve, it is very suitable for a unique habitat reserve since it is such a unique habitat area. Reserve monitoring should occur each quarter of the year, not just once a year.

SCIENCE GOALS – MONITORING PLAN

Alix Laferriere provided a draft summary of the Biological Monitoring Plan (copy attached to the original of this summary). This draft has been sent to Dave Fox, ODFW, the blue hi-lited sections are notes to him, and as a draft is not public at this time. Alix asked if the Working Group wants goals and objectives in concert with ODFW's. Burke feels the Working Group's goals should echo ODFW's. Alix said there can be additions made by the Working Group specific to the Otter Rock reserve. Thompson asked if cost estimates are included. Alix said cost estimates will be in the management plan. Thompson voiced concern on the effectiveness of videos for fish assessments, suggesting a trawl survey. ODFW had discussed this option, but discarded it due to potential mortality rates. They feel divers can do a better job. Discussion ensued on the possible use of a smaller trawl using knotless twine, experimenting with the video lander to obtain better data, selection of "repeatable" sites (rocky vs. sandy), revisiting sandy areas to observe change (big swells).

Objectives in the draft plan were reviewed with the following comments: Obj. 1 is well along the way, possibly discard comparison areas that are not heavily fished, revise Obj. 2 to include changes over a ten year period for all species, develop two classifications of marine reserves (1) unique habitat and (2) fish biodiversity, track impacts of otters (Erskine reported a couple otters in the area recently), monitor urchins, kelp and non-fish activity. It was noted that urchins are counted and measured, a sizable population of purples and reds exist at the northern end of the reserve and outside. Alix said ODFW will attempt to use a mini ROV, which may not have enough power to handle the current, but it may be another tool to use. During the first year different methods and tools will be tried, to see what works. Trawling was again suggested, Alix said ODFW can propose methods and could do trawling if approved. The ongoing question of should there be extraction out of such a small reserve hasn't been determined yet. It was suggested to add a tickler chain to the sled under the video lander to enhance results. The Group supports the draft objectives as general objectives for the reserve, it was suggested to add "gaining an understanding Oregon's shallow ocean waters". Thompson said that with two categories of marine reserves, there can be fisheries research and unique habitat study/research, he does not want to see Otter Rock expanded to accommodate fisheries research. Monitoring of pinnipeds was discussed, including suggestions of who could do the monitoring, such as Coast Watch, high school students, job corps, and asking the Human Dimensions Working Group for ideas. Thompson volunteered to contact Bruce Mate for assistance.

UPDATE ON SCIENCE PROGRESS

Alix reported that Burke has been working with ODFW on placement of the sensor inside Gull Rock. The DSL permit has been obtained. She showed the Group the equipment, Burke explained it will be placed about 20 feet deep where it is easy to return to. Alix said that oceanographic data is summarized and lander data is 90% reviewed, which can be provided to the Working Group along with video tape if desired. It was agreed that at the next meeting she will bring video clips from video lander and sled drops, she may have clips from the lander with the tickler chain installed by then. She and Burke will coordinate the placement of the sensor.

ELECT CHAIRPERSON

Everyone agreed to not designate a chairperson, members will report to NSAT on a rotational basis. ODFW and City Staff will coordinate meeting dates and agendas with members.

Alix encouraged members to provide comments on the draft monitoring plan to her. She reported that the Redfish Rocks Group has provided feedback on their draft plan, they have done a site visit, are thinking of projects for grad students outside of ODFW projects, and are discussing writing grants. Alix asked if there is interest in meeting with the Redfish Rocks Group. Everyone thought it a good idea, at a later time. Burke encouraged thinking about additions to the Group's membership.

It was agreed to not hold a meeting in December, the next meeting will be in January 2011. It was suggested to hold future meetings during the day time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.