

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

Date/Time: Thursday, January 13, 2011 – 3:00 PM

Location: ODFW South Beach Annex – 3238 Ferry Slip Rd., Newport, OR

Present: Jim Burke, Paul Erskine (ar 3:15), Terry Thompson, Gary Wise  
Staff: Alix Laferriere (ODFW), Pery Murray (City)

### **REVIEW of MINUTES – November 30, 2010**

Alix reviewed the decision at last meeting that there is not a designated chairperson, she will coordinate agenda items, the Group will try to meet at least once a month. It was agreed that Thursday afternoon (3 pm) on the day of regular NSAT meetings (third Thursday of the month) works for the Group to meet and members will rotate reporting to NSAT.

### **UPDATE ON SCIENCE PROGRESS**

Alix reported the team has not been in the water at Otter Rock since the last meeting. One plate has been built and placed at Redfish Rocks, a second plate with protectors has been built for Otter Rock. Placement will be on the backside and not too deep to also protect from sanding in. The installation at Redfish Rocks was a learning experience, the drill requires a lot of air, air tanks were insufficient so topside air was used. It was suggested to rent an air compressor and run an airline from topside at Otter Rock. Once the plate is installed, ODFW will monitor to determine what works and what doesn't and make changes as needed.

ODFW is uploading and analyzing data from 600 drops between the two marine reserve sites. They were at Otter Rock approximately 10 days during the summer months. Thompson is concerned about having an entire year of data. Alix responded that weather and budget drive activities, the boat contract (Mark Roberts, Pacific Mistress) has been extended to June. She agreed that year round data is needed. Burke said diving can commence again next month, protocols are needed. He can organize groups of divers, the same divers and the same protocols should be used on a quarterly basis. Thompson suggested using fleet divers, noting the policy agreement says the fleet will be used. Alix said there is no funding in this biennium to contract with charter boats for research efforts, maybe next biennium. Thompson said the long term success of the marine reserve depends in part on participation with the Depoe Bay fleet. Alix confirmed that long term efforts will include contracts with the fleet.

### **REVIEW – MONITORING PLAN**

Alix Laferriere provided a draft of the Biological Research and Monitoring Plan dated January 2011 (copy attached to the original of this summary). She recommends the plan include all sites, existing and future, noting this draft provides an overall plan for Oregon marine reserves. Each marine reserve will have a section specific to it in the plan. Questions: should there be a separate list of objectives in the Otter Rock section. Redfish Rocks is considering the same question. At the last meeting the Group added "gaining an understanding Oregon's shallow ocean waters" to the objectives, should this be in the Otter Rock section only? Some feel it would be repetitive to include it on page 5 and again in the Otter Rock section. It was noted that study of sand movement should be included the Otter Rock section. Burke suggested this be included in objective #5 (pg 5). Wise suggested adding items specific to the Otter Rock marine reserve. Alix said if added here, although site specific, it would apply to all marine reserves. There will an annual review of the plan with annual reports for each marine reserve being individual.

Thompson asked about citations included on page 4, why these were included and not others such as Ray Hillborne, University of Washington- "in a well-managed ocean marine reserves have a limited positive affect". Thompson assumes ODFW has historically done a good job of management. Alix said this is background information, intended to explain why there are marine reserves in Oregon, this plan is intended for all readers.

Alix noted there currently is an urchin study being conducted on the south coast, they want to conduct a study here as well. Also algae blooms in April. The draft plan is currently in internal, and some external, review. She is waiting for comments to finalize by the end of the month. Thompson confirmed that it goes to the legislature. Burke feels the objectives are good, but need Otter Rock specifics added such as sand movement study and use of the tickler chain. He asked if question #3 (pg 8) should be included. Wise asked if Bruce Mate has any whale research history/information specific to the Otter Rock site. Alix said yes, and it will be included in the report and management plan along with urchin surveys. Wise asked if there are opportunities for tagging fish in the marine reserve. Alix said the plan will have a complimentary section which will include study and research by others (not agency driven). Wise referred to the table of species. Alix said species are important for economic and ecological reasons, the list was generated by local fishermen from Depoe Bay and Newport. She requested input on the list. Thompson noted 8 species that are not in the Otter Rock site. Alix said these are south coast, should there be a separate list for each marine reserve? Erskine suggested a general list then identify indicator species. It was agreed there should be a separate list of species for each marine reserve. Alix will work on the species list and separate species by marine reserve. She also will revise objectives to be stronger on shallow water.

Wise asked if marine mammals are included. Alix noted they are not now, but are on the desired activities list and this Group is interested. She asked members to review the "Desired Research" list (pgs 39-40) and provide comment. Wise has concerns of marine mammal damage to fish populations, noting sea lions vs. fish at the Siletz River and the upper Willamette River at Oregon City. Discussion turned to the use of volunteers for head counts. Thompson reported that Bruce Mate is just recently out of the hospital, but he will contact him to try to set up a monitoring program. Alix said she is well aware of Oregon research activities but not so much on out of state researchers. Wise asked for names and research information she has.

Alix will separate the species list and asked for comments on the objectives. Wise requested, and everyone agreed, to include more language on marine mammals. It is only in the "Desired" section now. Mycids should be added as an indicator species. Include pinnipeds, whales, marine mammals. It was noted that sea otters are not pinnipeds. Erskine has seen two otters at the Otter Rock site. Before Christmas, a shark-bitten sea otter was found, it didn't survive. It is thought to be a Washington otter, genetics have been sent in for testing. White shark sightings are typical from November through April. Alix will send out the species list to everyone, asking each member to revise and send back to her.

Burke asked if OCA divers should use the protocol in the plan. Alix confirmed they should and she has the details. Erskine volunteered to assist aboard the boat. Burke invited all members to participate. They will coordinate the diving effort next month.

Discussion ensued on upcoming legislative action on the future of marine reserves. There is talk of a potential reserve south of Cape Blanco. ODFW states no more reserves north of Cape Blanco. California marine reserve system is used as a guideline for distance between reserves. Economic data is being collected and will be included in a separate report in the plan. Everything goes to Cristen who compiles the plan and reports, to be completed by June.

Wise asked when the Otter Rock marine reserve changed from a marine protected area (MPA). Erskine explained the Oregon Marine Garden is a protected area. Alix explained the Otter Rock marine reserve was never a MPA and the Otter Rock Marine Reserve will be official June 30, 2011. This date is written in the rules. Thompson questioned what happens if the legislature does not fund monitoring, the monitoring was to occur before closure per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Alix read from the MOU, "...if funding approved by legislature". The 2009 funding was considered adequate for required baseline studies. ODFW is proceeding as if there will be funding.

Thompson said his son Travis, currently a student at U of O, will be doing a sociological study for Depoe Bay project. He'll be contacting Melissa Murphy. Alix will let her know. Alix asked who could report to NSAT at their meeting next week. Thompson may be at the meeting, Erskine and Wise are not available. Burke volunteered to report next month.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.