

**Oregon International Port of Coos Bay  
Marine Reserves Recommendation Committee  
July 15, 2009; 5:30pm**

**North Bend City/Coos Curry Housing Authorities  
1700 Monroe Street, North Bend, OR 97459**

**AGENDA**

**Attendance:** Bill Russell, Wayne Butler, Jamie Doyle, Bob Main, Valerie Pena, Jim Pex Sr., Steve Bodnar, Chuck Freeman, John Griffith, Steve Rumrill, Keith Tymchuk, Rick Goche, Mike Lane, Margery Whitmer, Mike Graybill, John Schaefer, Jan Hodder, Gus Gates, Dave Lacey, Alan Shanks, Dr. Shimotakahara, Cristen Dawn, Reg Pullen Dean Warner Matt LeDoux, Kathy Wall, Aaron Simons, Mike Gaul,

**Guests:** Timm Slater, Kathy Verger, Jeff Griffin, Dave Fox

**Open:** The meeting was opened at 5:40 pm

- ❖ Opening comments – Mike Gaul
- ❖ Self-introductions
- ❖ Approval of minutes from the June 2009 meeting. Upon a motion by Bill Russell, second by Rick Goche, the Committee approved the minutes from the June 2009 meeting.

Mike Graybill introduction: He lives in Charleston and manages the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. He is a recreational fisherman and has lived in Charleston just over 30 years. He is a Marine Biologist by trade and has spent most of his career in the Pacific NW. For the last 25 years he has managed Oregon's oldest marine protected area, the South Slough. Just this last weekend, they celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary since they have been designated as a National Estuarine Research Reserve. He works with Steve Rumrill and 19 or 20 other employees. Their mission is to improve understanding and management of estuaries and coastal watersheds in the region that is under consideration here. He has been a student and watched and observed what Marine Reserves and Marine Protective areas can and cannot do. His program is tied to a Federal legislation so they have a working relationship with NOAA that is charged with managing national estuarine research reserves. The South Slough Reserve was the first site designated in this national system that NOAA administers. There are now 27 sites in this same program scattered throughout the U.S. coastal zones.

Mr. Gaul said there would be one addition to meeting Agenda. It is a review of a Marine Reserves science meeting which Steve Rumrill, Mike Graybill and Jan Hodder attended. They will be asked to report on the meeting after the ODF&W presentation.

Mr. Gaul added that there will be no meeting in August so the next meeting will be September 16<sup>th</sup>, which is the third Wednesday.

Mr. Dave Fox is the program manager of the ODF &W program in Newport OR. Mr. Fox was asked to give a presentation on the knowns and unknowns on the Oregon nearshore environment. Nearshore is defined as mostly an area of state water within the first three miles of shore. He talked some on how Marine Reserves can be used in a research context. (We should be able to get a copy of presentation for details)

There were some questions asking if any of the six species he had listed had rebounded? Yes, Ling Cod has. Was it due the management plan? Was the assessment done prior to the Magnusson Act? He said yes, these species had been listed in the Magnusson Act as over fished. There were thirty or thirty five species which had stock assessments. Mr. Fox said that he is doing more of a general research and not getting into the fine details of species.

Then Mr. Fox went on with his presentation. He gave some more background and then gave some of ODF&W's ideas of the use of a Marine Reserve as a research and monitoring tool to help with resource management.

More discussion continued about which species were covered in the report and where they were found. Mr. Fox was focused on various rock fish species in his presentation.

Rick Goche brought up some controversy on types of fish used in the presentation - a lot of discussion went on around the table.

Someone asked if there were places between Port Orford and Gold Beach established as unofficial Marine Reserves – already not fished places. There are un-fished areas in nearshore rock already and can be studied according to Rick Goche. You don't need to close off miles to study it.

Marjorie Whitmer reminded everyone that our focus should be the Cape Arago area.

There were some questions asked about why the 8 fish Mr. Fox was talking about were assessed and not the other 35 or so. Was it because of money or a place to conduct research? Mr. Fox said that the assessments were not just a matter of money, they were also a matter of the commitment needed to do the assessment long enough to get the data. Mr. Fox commented that a lot cannot be done in a fished area. It requires a long-term un-fished area as part of an integrated research program.

A question was asked about how much biennial expense would it take for this kind of research and how do you meet the challenge to develop a monitoring program and to spread it out long term.

Another question was asked how the monitoring was done. Do you use underwater cameras or do you kill the fish. The goal would be to use a non-lethal method, but there is certain data that cannot be obtained without killing the fish.

If you are going to use un-fished areas for monitoring – do you need to identify specific site and use it over and over? Does it need to be a site far enough away from the Marine Reserve site so it is not affected by the reserve but close enough?

Should we be considering looking at sites for possible control sites rather than Marine Reserve sites to use as stepping stone to see if there is a need for a Marine Reserve?

**10 minute break.6:30pm**

**Restart: 6:50pm**

After the break some discussion continued about the presentation and about fishery management and what is being done and how it is working and some of the comments involved specific species followed by fishery management.

There were some more comments on virgin biomass based on historical catch records.

Question: Do you have research systems in place currently to utilize Marine Reserves? What do you want from Marine Reserves?

Mr. Fox said that there is a small research program doing work in the near shore area currently. He went on talking about his programs and said ODF&W would be making recommendations to the legislature for methods for long term funding/long term commitment for research. Someone asked where the funding would come from and Mr. Fox said that there was a task force to try to determine that.

Someone expressed concern about reducing the revenue stream saying that once you reduce the revenue stream, you will still need to find funding as well as ways to replace the revenue.

Someone wanted to look at different fishing efforts port by port down the coast of Oregon as well as commercial versus recreational fishing. It would be good to look at the habitat and species specific to our area.

Dean Warner said he is not a fisherman but he talked to a lot of commercial and recreational fishermen in the Reedsport area as well as the general public. What he is finding is that they do not trust the motive behind Marine Reserves. His Chamber totally disagrees with the Marine Reserve program. Business has suffered because of timber receipts – fishing was next and now it is being shut down – Charter boats are few compared to what they were once. He feels it is because of a lot of research. He feels any political motivation behind this kind of thing is wrong; it is not serving the population of Oregon. If we want to be resource conscious we need to look at our

number one resource, our kids and we are not educating them. Why not use the money for educating instead of these Marine Reserves programs.

Question: If there would be a reserve offshore – what would be the size? Mr. Fox said that there have been recommendations and it seems that the bigger the better – home range of species. 3-5 kilometers in size was in the OPAC recommendation (about 3.5 miles). You can't just state a size; you need to look at a lot of factors.

Question: For this purpose of this group what would ODF&W suggest if they would suggest, for this local.

\*\*We should get someone who could talk about size on this site only.

Jim Pex – Whatever information you have on biomass on Cape Arago he would like to see. Also, how the numbers are calculated; they are usually based on catch. If you survey areas you see a trend but there is no biomass data available.

Re: Dean's statement - How can we possibly look for money for this project when Oregon is in such bad shape with education, unemployment and the number of people going hungry?

Someone spoke up and said he would be very interested in a presentation on the predicted benefits to the fisheries of this area from the Marine Reserves.

Mr. Fox said that the size that was recommended in the Governor's guidelines was 5-10 kilometers and 50 - 100 kilometers apart. The Governor has said the reserve should be large enough to be relevant but not so large there are economic problems for the community.

Margie Whitmer apologized for missing the last meeting and then she shared comments from the Charleston community on the Marine Reserves. Some of the comments are as follows: Marine Reserve is a disaster to community; take away fishing opportunity and this community goes away; Winchester Bay developed and things went well, then they took away fishing and it died; you can't let bureaucracy exceed meeting the needs of the local people; the need for Marine Reserve does not exceed any justification for installing to an off limit to fishing area, opportunity is already decimated by regulations already in place; no tourism; Charleston and the marina would be a ghost port if a Marine Reserve goes in at Cape Arago; all the businesses in Charleston will be impacted; they will be looking to Governor Kulongoski for compensation for lack of revenue due to a Marine Reserve; it is a bad choice for a location of a Marine Reserve; why are Portland and Salem telling us where to put a reserve when they don't know the area. The Charleston Merchants are not in favor of any Marine Reserve from Cape Arago to Bandon.

Margery also commented on point six of Alan Shanks economic impact of a Marine Reserve, she shared her experience for being in business for 20 years. Since 1993,

90% of our sport fishing has been rock fishing trips between Cape Arago and Bandon. Since 1993, there has been little opportunity for salmon fishing which was a mainstay. Decades of regulations has taken away the salmon fishing opportunities. She continued and said if you were to take 4 square miles from Cape Arago to Bandon away from the rock fishing, you would take about 60% of our fishing grounds away and the other 40% left to fish would be severely impacted by the extra 60% effort that would be placed on this 40% area left to fish. Rock fishing is our mainstay. A Marine Reserve would kill my business and severely impact the other businesses in Charleston and the whole community. If you would go out there and study the rock fish, you would see how healthy our rock fish species actually are.

Wayne Butler made the comment that we need to focus on do we need a Marine Reserve? Is one justified here? He continued and said he felt information on the following would be helpful to this group:

Catch per unit per effort coast wide – you will find that our catch per unit is higher here than anywhere on the Coast - because of healthy stock and good management.

A question was asked if anyone had tracked migration of rock fish. Mr. Fox said that yes they were doing some studies of home ranges, normal travel issues. Someone asked if he could provide data on it.

A comment was made about having a Marine Reserve and then having a control area for comparison next to it. However, the control area now becomes an over-fished area. How do we balance control versus the Marine Reserve?

Mr. Gaul said that yesterday there was a Marine Reserve science meeting and he has had a couple of emails about it. He would like to have Dr. Rumrill give us an overview as well as some others that attended.

Dr. Rumrill said that there was a group of about 30 people to discuss the timeline for doing the baseline assessments of the two pilot projects areas. There is about \$1 million of left over funds from the New Carissa that have been transferred from the Oregon Dept. of State Lands to ODF&W specifically for this initial assessment of baseline conditions and to set up a monitoring program to look at the effectiveness of Marine Reserves. He said they broke up into groups and talked about the objectives of baseline characterization at Depot Bay and Port Orford..

There were opportunities for collaborative research and other opportunities for agencies, universities other than ODF&W to get involved.

Dave Fox gave some more background. The Legislative HB 3013 gives directives to state agencies, primarily ODF&W –1<sup>st</sup> step for the bill is a developmental work plan with a requirement for specific scientific input, then community and public input. They wanted to get ideas on monitoring of sites and then to correlate that to a draft work plan in the next couple of weeks. In early August, there will be a Public workshop to get additional input. They will then put together an outline work plan to

help move the process forward. Then the details will be given to the individual community groups and the public over the next 14 months.

Dr. Rumrill added that they would look at the ecological and the socio economic conditions.

Someone asked to see some of the work and was told that over the next couple of weeks there would be something.

There was a question about the fishery off of Port Orford and south. Three of the fishermen that he talked to in Winchester Bay were questioning the Cape Arago selection. Why not pick the one by Port Orford? No one fishes there; it is difficult to get boats in the water because of the sling they have to use; it would not be interrupting fisheries that people really use. If they use Cape Arago it would force some of the sports fishermen in smaller boats to go where they shouldn't be in deeper water. So it takes them out of the opportunity to fish.

Rick Goche: Regarding this timeline: The next 12-18 month of meetings and design work, when do you start spending money in the water? It will be this fall. How much of million dollars will be in meetings and how much in the water? Mr. Fox could not answer that question. He said the Legislature had \$2 million, but only \$1 million was provided. The House Bill specifically addresses additional sources of funds.

The discussion continued with controversy over budgeting and how the money would be spent and who would spend it.

Mike Graybill made the comment that he was impressed with how much work ODF&W has done in a short time since the bill was signed July 1<sup>st</sup> and this meeting was just two weeks later. They provided a number of hand outs as preparation for the meeting and in anticipation of the fact that not everyone would be able to attend. They provided a one page description of the process; a copy of the Legislation; and a copy of the draft work plan which the scientific committee reviewed. The draft work plan is being fine tuned and it is early to distribute it but it might be informative to distribute some of the other documents. Some of the pages outlined what the Law was and what ODF&W's plan or strategy is to carry out the instructions in this new legislation.

Mr. Graybill continued and said that another million dollars from the New Carissa is going to Oregon State University for some mapping and survey work to fill in gaps and do some high resolution biomass. That money from the Oregon State Legislature was specifically targeted at doing mapping and one of the priority areas for mapping is the Cape Arago region. Some of the mapping will be taking place this summer.

Another thing Mr. Graybill learned is it attracts additional money. For every \$1 million of State money, NOAA is committing \$7 million more dollars to do

additional mapping and make sure we have a better understanding of the nearshore waters.

Bill Russell: The predictions of doom and gloom sound overstated to him. We are talking about 3 miles to 35 miles from Cape Arago to Bandon- 105 square miles. He was told he was way off. He would like someone to correct him because our proposed Marine Reserve area represents about 3.8% of that area. He feels it is hard to think that the impact of that small area would be such a big impact on the businesses of the area.

Some people thought we were getting off track and just getting into heated discussions. The discussions needed to be more focused. The subject changed again back to baseline studies done by ODF&W.

Mike Gaul and Christen Don brought the discussion back to who the group wanted for presentations or what information would be helpful. There was a request for movement studies, tagging systems, ranges. Someone asked what we wanted from Marine Reserves. Christen said that OPAC definition was to protect habitat for biodiversity.

Someone said they would like to have a speaker talk to the group about life cycle/life terms and long term trends. He is stunned the group is talking about a one year baseline study. What will that tell us? ODF&W answered that the baseline study was just the beginning of a long term study. Then there was a scattered discussion about the studies. The goal of the project- economic impact; the reason for spending the money; how it will be paid for in the long term- and what are we going to get in return. Bill Russell would like to hear more from the scientific community, the general marine research community. There are four universities along the west coast that have joined a consortium. They are called PISCO and he thinks they should make a presentation about what are the justifications for Marine Reserves. Why do we want them? What is our goal? What are we trying to achieve by establishing this limited system of Marine Reserves. The federal government has done some studies on ports from here to Alaska and it is pretty accurate for Oregon State, of economical data. There could be an EIS for things like that when they were looking at how we were going to change fisheries. It is valuable information.

Someone asked about public comment. Mike Gaul said it would be accepted at Town Hall meetings. The time line for those meetings would be determined by the progress of this committee.

Jamie Doyle had a list of things she has kept over these meetings of what people want to have available. She will print it out and forward to Christen.

Someone wants speakers from the two pilot projects; what are the sizes and challenges.

Mike Gaul asked if they still wanted Frank Warrens to speak. R. Goche would like to hear from Frank. What can we expect Marine Reserves doing which not already doing?

Mike Gaul suggested 5 speakers: one at a time.

Presentation: current mapping and usage for Sept. Then this group needs their own baseline of what is out there and what can be expected to be achieved.

What has OPAC been going through for last few years; group needs history presentation Sept – Members of OPAC

MG: The September meeting will be for Frank Warrens and OPAC history. ODF&W will put together some presentations for the next couple of meetings off of the list made tonight.

❖ Next meeting date: Wednesday, September 16

❖ Adjourn 8:30pm