

**ODFW Marine Reserves Program Work Plan
Summary of Public Comments Received and ODFW Response
January 17, 2013**

General Comments

- General support for the study, designation and implementation of Oregon's marine reserves and protected areas based on the best available science and broad stakeholder participation.
- Concern that marine reserves will hurt the economy.
- Lack of support for marine reserves from the fishing community.

Baseline Data Collection, Harvest Restriction Implementation and Ongoing Monitoring

- Concern that baseline data collection and harvest restriction implementation at Cape Falcon is scheduled to occur later than at Cape Perpetua and Cascade Head.
- Concern that ODFW has insufficient resources to conduct baseline data collection simultaneously at Cape Perpetua and Cascade Head.
- Concern that ODFW staff aren't monitoring at sites year round.
- Specific recommendations on how ODFW might disseminate information from monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Plans

- Recommend STAC review biennial monitoring reports and comment on agency's findings and recommend adaptations to methods.

Contracting Local Vessels

- Concern about the use of the term 'when feasible' with regards to use of local fishing vessels.
- Recommendation that ODFW dedicate a segment of the marine reserves website to information about contracting with local fishing vessels and other means of advertising vessel contract opportunities.

Community and Public Engagement

- Recommendations for meaningful engagement from a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders to work with the state on site implementation efforts.
- Host regular citizen engagement groups.

Management Plans

- Specific recommendations provided on development of site management plans and building local capacity and strategies for community engagement.
- Specific recommendations on implementation of site management plans.

Recommendations from Meeting with STAC on December 18, 2012

- Monitoring program review every five years, in consultation with STAC and scientific experts, is appropriate timeframe. Provide clarification that the next review will be in 2016.
- Extend timeframe for item H.2 to be Jan 1 – Sep 30, 2022.

ODFW Response

- ODFW has worked, in consultation and collaboration with STAC and 35 scientific experts, to develop a robust ecological monitoring program for Oregon's marine reserve system. This monitoring program is outlined in the *Oregon Marine Reserves Ecological Monitoring Plan* (ODFW 2012) and requires two

years of data collection at each marine reserve site and its associated comparison areas prior to the cessation of harvest activities, to establish a scientifically robust baseline/ T_0 dataset. The first two years require an intensive sampling regime, followed by less intensive ongoing sampling for establishing a long-term dataset. Baseline data collection has been completed and ongoing sampling has commenced at the Redfish Rocks and Otter Rock sites. Comparison area identification and sample planning has been conducted for the Cape Perpetua and Cascade Head sites and the first year of baseline data were collected in 2012. The second year of baseline data collection is to begin at these two sites starting in March 2013. With the current and foreseeable resources available to ODFW, comparison area identification and sample planning for the Cape Falcon site is scheduled to begin in late 2013, followed by baseline sampling in 2014. Currently oceanographic data collection occurs at sites and comparison areas 12 months out of the year. Data collection for fish, invertebrates, algae and habitats predominately occurs May-November.

- At the December 18, 2012 meeting with STAC it was agreed that, given ODFW's foreseeable available resources, the proposed phased in ecological monitoring approach was appropriate and would be able to provide scientifically robust data to inform the report due to the Legislature in 2023. In addition, it was agreed that the monitoring program should be reviewed and the monitoring plan updated every five years in consultation with STAC and other scientific experts. The next review of the monitoring program will be conducted in 2016, after baseline data have been collected for all five sites.
- ODFW has provided clarification in the Work Plan with regards to the use of local vessels. Vessel contracts must be awarded through the state's competitive bidding process (through ORPIN). Bids are scored based on estimated fees, qualifications/experience and project approach. The highest scoring bid must be awarded the contract. Preference will be given in the qualifications/experience segment to local vessels, with captains and crew that have local knowledge of the areas of work. Vessels unable meet vessel requirements to conduct the work or are found unsafe are not to be awarded a contract. ODFW cannot guarantee that a local vessel will be awarded the contract in every case.
- Community engagement at each marine reserve site is likely to be unique, in order to accommodate the distinctive interests and qualities of each community. The site management plan is also the appropriate mechanism for documenting site specific community engagement strategies and procedures for particular elements of marine reserves implementation (e.g., monitoring, outreach, compliance and enforcement, site specific management issues, community priorities and implementation efforts that complement the state's efforts).
- Although the Work Plan represents a high level overview, specific details of Work Plan implementation will be found in the individual site management plans. ODFW staff will continue to use this feedback on the Work Plan as specific actions and tasks are detailed in the site management plans and implemented.