Science Workshop for

ODFW's Ecological Atlas

A component of Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan for Renewable Energy Siting

September 20-21, 2011 Comfort Suites (Salbasgeon Suites), Corvallis, Oregon

Workshop goals

This workshop will focus on scientific review of data and methods used in the Ecological Atlas project, a marine spatial planning tool that will be incorporated into Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) process. For more information on the TSP, see http://www.oregonocean.info/. The Ecological Atlas will have maps of individual marine resources (e.g. kelp beds in Oregon waters) and will also identify ecological hotspots. The TSP process will use this ecological information, along with other information at a future series of meetings to determine areas to be protected from ocean development projects in the future, according to Goal 19 statewide policy.

Background

The Ecological Atlas is a collection of ecological data sets (biological, oceanographic, habitat) that can be displayed and analyzed in a spatially explicit way to determine ecological hotspots in the Territorial Sea (0-3 miles offshore). To view data sets that have already been finalized for the Ecological Atlas, see Oregon Marine Map (OMM): http://oregon.marinemap.org/. The Google Earth based OMM includes data sets for the Ecological Atlas, as well as data sets for other topics (e.g. socioeconomic), and will be used as a marine spatial planning decision-support tool. OMM will be the center piece of discussion for a series of public meetings that will occur along the Oregon coast and in the Willamette Valley later this year (October-November 2011).

Who may attend?

The workshop intent is to bring together invited scientific experts for specific technical review of data and analysis. However, anyone is welcome to attend and observe the proceedings. There will be a way to provide written public comment at the workshop, but there will be no public comment time period for verbal submission of comments. No decisions about marine spatial planning or ocean energy development will be made at this workshop; these types of decisions will begin at the October-November 2011 public meetings mentioned above. A detailed agenda for the workshop (including start/stop times) will be posted by September 15th at: http://www.oregonocean.info/.

If you have questions on the Ecological Atlas, the TSP process or the workshop, please direct them to:

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