

Background for discussion with Oregon Military Department and fishermen

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The State of Oregon is near completion of a multi-year process to amend the state's Territorial Sea Plan to accommodate marine renewable energy. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is coordinating this effort. A significant outcome will be to "...identify appropriate locations for future wave energy projects that minimize adverse impacts to existing ocean resources and resource users." *Oregon Executive Order No. 08-07*

In the next couple of months the Territorial Sea Plan Advisory Committee (TSPAC) is expected to craft recommendations that will include identification of several areas within Oregon's territorial sea (out to three nautical miles) that may be acceptable for marine energy testing and development. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), where adoption is expected in January.

In Clatsop County the ocean "live fire zone" off of Camp Rilea is under consideration as a wave energy site. This area encompasses about 4.2 square miles. It is periodically closed to ensure public safety during weapons training. Weapons training is the primary mission of Camp Rilea and results in a significant economic benefit for Clatsop County. The Oregon Military Department commissioned a feasibility study that suggests that the Danger Zone and other locations in federal waters could accommodate the phased introduction of a variety of energy producing devices that would connect to cables coming ashore at the National Guard base. This project would provide an alternate source of power during emergencies, feed electricity into the grid, create economic development and educational opportunities, and contribute toward the Military Department's goal of Net Zero non-renewable fuel dependence.

This area also produces abundant Dungeness crab and groundfish. Sardines sometimes school in the vicinity. The nearshore ocean from Seaside to the South Jetty is extensively fished. Even the Danger Zone has historically been used by crabbers and trawlers when the range is not conducting live fire operations.

Most of the current wave energy technologies create a footprint that would displace fishing activity. The fishing fleet would likely adjust to some displacement, but at some point there would be economic loss. The big question is how to test and deploy wave energy technology – and achieve the benefits expected from the Camp Rilea project – without harming the fishing industry.

You can comment on the changes to the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan by going to www.OregonOcean.info. This website lists future meetings of TSPAC and other public testimony opportunities. The Ocean Policy Advisory Council will also review the TSPAC recommendations and listen to your comments.