Oregon
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Memo

To: **Territorial Sea Plan Advisory Committee, Ocean Policy Advisory Council**

From: **Todd Hallenbeck, Sea Grant Fellow**

Date: **Nov 15, 2012**

Re: TSPAC/OPAC Public Comments

Oregon's Territorial Sea plan (TSP) is being amended to plan for the development of marine renewable energy while balancing ecological resources and existing ocean uses. The draft plan developed by the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) in April 2012, has been augmented and refined by the Territorial Sea Plan Advisory Committee (TSPAC) before it goes back to OPAC and ultimately to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). These amendments are being made using a transparent and robust public process, meant to engage stakeholders and solicit input regarding draft recommendations.

In this effort, Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) staff and members of TSPAC held three public work sessions in North Bend, Newport, and Astoria over a two-week period in early November to share information and gather public input on the draft Territorial Sea Plan, Part 5 and proposed Development Areas. Additionally, the Tillamook Futures Council held a fourth public meeting in Tillamook. This summary represents the themes and tone of the public comment collected at those four meetings as well as that received online or in the mail between Oct. 17, 2012 and Nov. 15, 2012. A TSP Survey was conducted by the Tillamook Futures Council; you can view the results here. Public comment will continue to be collected at tsp.comments@state.or.us and considered by OPAC and LCDC until the final plan is adopted at the January 24, 2013 LCDC hearing.

A total of 158 comments were received to date. Despite the designation of proposed Development Areas, this is roughly half the number of comments collected prior to when TSPAC began its work. The largest number of public comments came from individuals who were identified as "public at large" (84), as opposed to commercial and recreational fishing (34), conservation (15), or ocean energy (5) representatives, indicating that outreach efforts are getting to this stakeholder group. Generally, stakeholders are supportive of ocean energy development on a limited basis and pleased with the approach of the TSP process, but expressed some concerns that the process needs more time for adequate public input. Stakeholders reiterated the need to protect fishing grounds, viewsheds, and ecologically sensitive areas. Many comments were directed at proposed sites, suggesting modifications or opposing them outright for fishery, ecological, or viewshed impacts.

Comment Themes:

General

- Support Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas as exclusion areas (49)
- Encourage highest protection for rock reefs, headlands, and river mouths (33)
- Concern for cumulative impacts to fishing industry (12)
- Support adaptive, phased, precautionary approach (11)
- Support plan for testing and research, as opposed to commercialization (9)
- Support flexible plan with large Development Areas (7)
- Support "micro-siting" approach (4)
- Concerns over adequacy of financial bonding requirements (3)

Location

- Camp Rilea
    - Oppose (3) – Impacts to fishing
- Pacific City/Nestucca
    - Oppose (20) – Impacts to fishing, viewsheds, tourism
    - Modification (9) – Move northern boundary below mouth of Nestucca R.
- North Newport
    - Oppose (3) – Proximity to Otter Rock MR, NNMREC, whale migration
- Waldport
    - Oppose (2) – Impacts to fishing
- Reedsport
    - Oppose (1) – Impacts to fishing
    - Modification (9) – Move northern boundary below mouth of Tahkenitch R.
- Lakeside
    - Support (4)
- Langlois
    - Oppose (13) – Impacts to fishing
    - Modification (11) – Reduce size, move southern boundary north to avoid viewshed impacts
        - Support POORT Alternative (6)
- Gold Beach
    - Oppose (17) – Proximity to Rogue reef and Rogue R.

Process

- Support for the TSP approach and outreach to stakeholders (21)
- Concern over the pace of the process and lack of public input (13)

Data

- Data Gaps
    - Seabird and marine mammal foraging and migration (5)
    - Effects of anchors on soft sediment (3)
    - Cost/Benefit analysis (2)

In addition to this executive summary, each comment is presented in its entirety. You can find those comments on Oregonocean.info and at the following links:

TSPAC/OPAC Public Comments - General, Nov. 12, 2012

TSPAC/OPAC Public Comments - Location, Nov. 12, 2012

TSPAC/OPAC Public Comments - Process, Nov. 12, 2012

TSPAC/OPAC Public Comments - Data, Nov. 12, 2012