Executive Summary

RE: TSP Public Comments

Oregon's Territorial Sea plan is being amended to include areas of opportunity for marine renewable energy development. These amendments are to be made using a transparent and robust public process, meant to engage stakeholders and solicit input regarding draft recommendations. In this effort, the Territorial Sea Plan Working Group held seven public work sessions in coastal communities over a three month period to share information and gather public input. Additionally, an online form was created to facilitate the submission of public comments.

In total, 49 comments have been collected thus far. The majority (43) were collected during the public work sessions held on the coast. Additionally, comments were submitted online through http://www.oregonocean.info/ (5), or mailed to the Dept of Land Conservation and Development (1). The majority of comments were made by stakeholders who identified as commercial fishers (11), renewable energy reps (11), the conservation community (10), recreational users (8), and the public at large (6). Generally, stakeholders were pleased with the approach of the TSP process but expressed some concerns about process. Few comments addressed specific data sets or locations of interest. Several comment themes were reiterated by one individual at multiple meetings; those comments are marked with an asterisk. The quality and volume of public comments will most likely change as draft recommendations are distributed over the next round of public work sessions.

The themes that did emerge from the comments were as follows:

Process

- Appreciation for the TSP approach and outreach to stakeholders (12)
- The need for better outreach to the general public and local governments about the TSP process and opportunities for involvement (8)
- Better communication between advisory groups (e.g. TSPAC) (4*)
- Recognition of land use planning for shore side components of marine renewable energy development (3)

Data

- Inclusion of whale migration data (6*)
- Appreciation of the Marine map tool and datasets included (4)
- More explicit fishing effort maps (4)
- Inclusion of marine renewable energy "value" maps and site requirements(4*)

Location

Buffer zones should be placed around river mouths to allow for recreational fishing (1)

General

- Adequate and vetted emergency plans (8)
- Phased development (6*)
- Precautionary approach (5*)
- Concern over increased regulatory pressure to fishing groups (5)
- Value of recreational ocean uses (4)
- Flexible/adaptive planning tool (4*)

The public comment spreadsheet is organized so that you can sort entries based on forum, date, name, location, title, or comment type. In addition to the comment summary, each comment is presented in its entirety. If you prefer reading comments in an adobe format you can download that here.

I encourage you to read through all the comments and let me know how I can make this more useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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