

Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Summary – October 16th, 2014

Issues Decided/Positions Taken

- The Draft Meeting Summary of the June 5th, 2013 Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) was approved by consensus with 1 revision noted (adding a consensus decision by the council to host a public National Marine Sanctuary forum).
- The Council reached consensus to send a letter to the USCG (with revisions by specific council members) regarding the closure of the USCG Newport Air Station. (See Addendum A).

Presentations

- Implementation of the Marine Reserves Program at the Redfish Rocks Site. **Cristen Don** of ODFW, and Tyson Razor of the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve Community Team provided a program implementation update to the council.
- Implementation of a Regional Planning Body for the National Ocean Council by **John Hansen** of NOAA.
- Ocean Health Index Project presentation provided by **Conservation International Staff**.
- National Marine Sanctuary Program presentation on the revised nomination process and ongoing program implementation by **Bill Douros** of NOAA.

OPAC Members Attendance

Members Present (voting): **Scott McMullen** (North Coast Commercial Fisheries, OPAC Chair); **David Allen** (Coastal City Official), OPAC vice-chair; **Jim Pex** (South Coast Charter, Sport or Recreational Fisheries); **Jena Carter** (Statewide Conservation or Environmental Organization); **Robin Hartmann** (Coastal Conservation or Environmental Organization); **Walter Chuck** (Ports, Marine Transportation, Navigation); **Terry Thompson** (North Coastal County Commissioner); **John Holloway** (North Coast Charter, Sport or Recreational Fisheries); **Susan Morgan** (South Coastal County Commissioner); **Charlie Plybon** (Coastal Non-Fishing Recreation). **Brad Pettinger** (South Coast Commercial Fisheries) [11/14]

Members Present (ex officio): **Gabriela Goldfarb** (Office of the Governor); **Loren Goddard** (Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association); **Patty Snow** (Department of Land Conservation & Development); **Shelby Walker** (Oregon Sea Grant); **Chris Castelli** (Department of State Lands); **Caren Braby** (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife); **Jennifer Purcell** (Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality). [8/11]

Absent: **Vicki McConnell** (DOGAMI); **Mary Abrams** (Department of State Lands); **Kris Wall** (NOAA); **Laurel Hillmann** (OPRD). **Dalton Hobbs** (Dept of Agriculture) [4]

Members Absent: **Robert Kentta** (Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes);

Staff: Paul Klarin (DLCD); Andy Lanier (DLCD, OPAC Staff); Steve Shipsey (DOJ) Bridgette Lohrman (US EPA); Meg Gardner (DLCD); Cristen Don (ODFW); Dave Fox (ODFW).

Public Comment and Attendance

Public Comment speakers (with affiliation if provided): **Kristen Fletcher** (Conservation International); **John Hansen** (NOAA West Coast Regional Planning Body); **Brett Webb** (Port Orford Commissioner); **David Brock Smith** (Curry County); **Laura Anderson** (Local Ocean Seafood); **Robert and Betsy Bailey**;

Others in Attendance (with affiliation if provided): **Steve Bodnar** (Coos Bay Trawlers Association); **Dale Beasely** (CRCFA); **Rob Bovett** (Association of Counties); **Lon Ottorby** (Sierra Club); **John Schaad** (BPA); Hugh Link (Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission); **David Yamamoto**.

Acronyms and Initials:
 DLCD-Department of Land Conservation and Development; DOGAMI- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries; DSL- Department of State Lands; OMD – Oregon Military Department; ODFW-Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; OPRD-Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation; DOJ – Department of Justice; CRCFA- Columbia River Crab Fisherman Association; FACT-Fishermen’s Advisory Committee of Tillamook, TSPWG – Territorial Sea Plan Working Group (an OPAC Subcommittee), NNMREC – Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center; PEV- Pacific Energy Ventures; WCGA – West Coast Governors Alliance; BPA- Bonneville Power Administration; USCG- United State Coast Guard; TNC – The Nature Conservancy; WCSPA - West Coast Seafood Processors Association;

Distributed Materials

1. OPAC October 3rd, 2013 - Draft Meeting Summary

Additional Resources

1. [Department of Land Conservation and Development Website](http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/) (<http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/>)
2. [OPAC Website](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPAC): (<http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPAC>)
3. Oregon Ocean Information Website: [Http://www.OregonOcean.info](http://www.OregonOcean.info)
4. <http://www.newportfishermenswives.com/>

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For a copy of the video record of this meeting, please contact Andy Lanier at the contact information listed below, and complete a public records request available online at:

http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/publications/DO_110.02_PublicAccessstoDLCDRecords_RequestForm.pdf

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DAVID ALLEN, VICE CHAIR

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Voting Members

Scott McMullen, Chair
Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee
(North Coast Commercial Fisheries)

David Allen, Vice Chair
Newport
(Coastal City Elected Official)

Jena Carter
The Nature Conservancy
(Statewide Conservation Organization)

Walter Chuck
(Ports, Marine Transportation or
Navigation)

Rubin Hartmann
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
(Coastal Conservation Organization)

John Holloway
(North Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

Robert Kentia
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)

Susan Morgan
Commissioner, Douglas County
(South Coastal County Commissioner)

Brad Pettinger
Oregon Trawl Commission
(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)

James Pex
(South Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

Charlie Plybon
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)

Terry Thompson
Commissioner, Lincoln County
(North Coastal County Commissioner)

TBD
(Coastal Public Representative)

TBD
(Statewide Public Representative)

Ex-Officio Members

Mary Abrams
Director, Department of State Lands

Caren Braby
Marine Resources Program Manager,
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Loren Giddland
Oregon Coastal Zone Mgmt Association

Gabriela Goldfarb
Natural Resources Policy Advisor
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Jennifer Purcell
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Land Conservation and Development

Lisa Van Laanen
Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation

Kris Wall
Federal Agency Liaison, NOAA OCRM

Shelby Walker
Director, Oregon Sea Grant College
Program



John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

October 20, 2014

Hand-Delivered – Newport, Oregon

Rear Admiral Richard T. Gromlich
Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Thirteenth District
915 Second Ave., Room 3590
Seattle, WA 98174

Dear Admiral Gromlich:

The Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is the state's legislatively mandated marine policy advisory body to the Governor, state agencies, and local governments. Although we are not an advisory body to the federal government, we do want to provide comments on the proposal to close the helicopter Air Facility at Newport, Oregon. This is not a just a local issue – it has statewide and regional implications.

Fishermen from all along the coast, residents and visitors alike, fish off the central Oregon coast. This includes commercial as well as charter, sport, and recreational fisheries. Citizens from throughout the state and elsewhere recreate on the central Oregon coast. This includes activities such as surfing, kayaking, and others. In addition, a growing ocean research fleet, both federal and state vessels, has a significant presence on the central Oregon coast.

Closing the Air Facility at Newport could result in loss of life due to the slower response time resulting from deploying a helicopter from the remaining Air Stations at either Astoria, Oregon or North Bend, Oregon. The Air Facility at Newport was opened to fill a gap in quick response coverage on the Oregon coast. Closing this facility would result in longer transit times to marine casualties or accidents on the central Oregon coast, and greatly reduced search times once the helicopter does arrive. The water temperatures off the Oregon coast are generally between 50-59° Fahrenheit year round. At these temperatures, a victim's survival time in the ocean is measured in minutes. Adding an additional 45 minutes in response time could change a USCG flight from a lifesaving mission to one of recovering bodies.

In the ports of Newport and Depoe Bay, charter boat operators carry hundreds of passengers each day. As a practical matter, it would be difficult if not impossible to equip boats and educate passengers in the use of cold-water immersion suits. As such, response time is critical and remains a huge issue.

Moreover, Lincoln County is host to the most visited coastal state park in Oregon, serving over one million visitors annually. As the general trend of search and rescue increases for non-boater recreational users, closing the Air Facility at Newport would not only put these users at greater risk in the area of highest

concentration of use on the Oregon coast, but it would also put the lives of other local emergency responders at risk that depend on helicopter operations support.

Furthermore, closing the Air Facility at Newport would impact other USCG stations in the region, putting at risk both rescuers and victims alike. And unlike Astoria and North Bend, the Air Facility at Newport is outside the tsunami inundation zone in the event of a major earthquake. That alone should be reason enough to retain the Air Facility at Newport.

We understand that with the additional responsibilities for homeland security, the USCG has had to stretch its budget. Please let us know what can be done to encourage Congress to fully fund the search and rescue needs of the USCG.

The USCG's national standard for helicopter on-scene response time is two hours. This standard is applied nationwide. Survival rates are variable with cold-water immersion being the most likely scenario where loss of life occurs in an hour or less, depending on conditions. We ask that informed stakeholders have the opportunity to review this standard and work in partnership with the USCG to further refine response-time standards based, at least in part, on average water temperatures – cold versus warm – in each USCG district.

As Admiral Zukunft states in his **COMMANDANT'S DIRECTION 2014** document, which can be found at http://www.uscg.mil/seniorleadership/DOCS/CCG_Direction_2014.pdf, the U.S. Coast Guard will ensure readiness for all missions, maintain operational focus on prevention and response, and pursue excellence in mission execution and support.

With that said, OPAC unanimously supported at its October 16, 2014 meeting that USCG readiness for missions continue to include the helicopter Air Facility at Newport, Oregon.

Best regards,

Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council


Scott McMullen, Chair


David Allen, Vice Chair

Cc: Admiral Paul F. Zukunft (cert. mail)
Vice Admiral Peter V. Neffenger (cert. mail)
Governor John A. Kitzhaber
Oregon Congressional Delegation
Oregon Coastal Caucus
Newport Fishermen's Wives Association
OPAC members