

OPAC Marine Reserves Process

DRAFT 5/16/2008 Proposal Form for Review

This document was prepared by the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). Until final approval is given by OPAC, this document is a working draft only.

PROPOSAL FORM FOR SITES FOR FURTHER EVALUATION

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

1. Where is the site located? What are its boundaries?

How many nautical miles does the site extend: a) along the coastline, and b) offshore?

Please use common place names, latitude/longitude or other boundaries, and onshore geographic references to identify the site. Also include a map or chart showing the proposed boundaries of the site.

2. Describe how the size, location, and characteristics of this site allows for scientific evaluation of ecological benefits, but avoids significant economic or social impacts.

3. To your knowledge, what habitat type(s) are present within the site?

Please check each appropriate box. If known, provide the approximate percentage represented by each habitat type.

If you have additional information about habitat(s) at the site, please describe.

Habitat Type	Intertidal (EHTL – ELTL)	0-25 m deep	> 25 m deep
Rocky Intertidal	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %		
Rocky Subtidal with Canopy- Forming Kelp		<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %	
Rocky Subtidal (without canopy-forming kelp)		<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %
Soft Bottom Subtidal		<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ %
Special natural features or other habitat types (please describe): 			

Note: Intertidal habitat is between the extreme high tide line (EHTL) and extreme low tide line (ELTL). For the rest of the habitats, "0" represents the territorial sea coastal baseline of Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) and it is possible that some habitat types may overlap.

4. What animal and plant species do you know exist at this site?

If known, provide statements about the relative abundance of species. Please indicate how knowledge of species and abundances was obtained (e.g., as a user of this site, scientific research you have conducted at this site, based on a study someone else has conducted at this site).

5. How was enforcement of future regulations considered in the design of this site?

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6. How does this site avoid significant adverse social and economic effects on ocean users and ocean-dependent communities?

Describe existing and potential future uses/users of the site, and estimate the degree they will be positively or negatively affected. Describe how the site is designed to be compatible with the needs of coastal communities.

7. What is the community support for this proposal?

Please list the people, groups, and/or organizations that have worked to develop and support this proposal. Briefly, describe the steps you took to develop this proposal, to collaborate with coastal community members, ocean users, and other interested parties and gather support.

8. List potential research opportunities at this site.

9. Can you recommend an area with similar habitats and other characteristics to this site, reasonably close by, that could be used as a non-reserve research comparison area?

10. Please provide additional site characteristics, including:

- a) What existing or proposed infrastructure/developments are located within or adjacent to this site? (e.g., a submarine cable, dredge spoil disposal site, wave energy project, port)
- b) What land or watershed activities/conditions exist adjacent to this site? (e.g., land development and use, river or estuary use)
- c) What protected areas exist in the terrestrial or marine environment adjacent to or within this site? (e.g., state park, marine garden, National Wildlife Refuge rock or island, etc.)
- d) Other characteristics you wish to describe

11. For coastal communities submitting site proposals:

If economic development money was available to your community, please describe a community project that you would be interested in pursuing.

12. Optional: Please describe any other reasons you think this site warrants further evaluation and study as a potential marine reserve site.

13. Optional: What other information would you like us to have about this site or your proposal (e.g., if you're submitting more than one proposal, how do they address the system-wide criteria).