

Rocky Habitat Site Proposal Final Recommendation

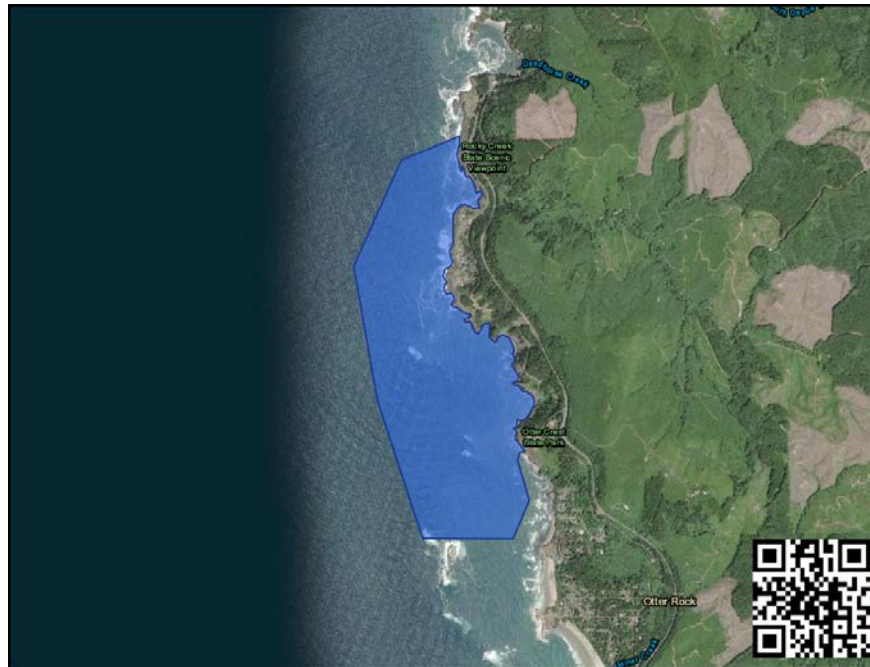
The Rocky Habitat Management Strategy Initial Proposal Process (2020-2021)

Proposed Site

Site Name: Otter Rock North Marine Conservation Area

Site Map: http://seasket.ch/y0uvvr4X_7

Proposal Materials: <https://bit.ly/3uQnGL4>



Final Recommendation

This document summarizes the site proposal evaluations conducted by the Rocky Habitat Working Group. The summary below represents an evaluation and recommendation synopsis for Otter Rock North Marine Conservation Area. During evaluations, the agencies and Working Group identified considerations for potential recommendation by the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). Consideration are those aspects of a proposal, identified through the evaluation process, which the Working Group believes should be addressed to facilitate implementation of the designation as proposed. These considerations were outlined in draft initial recommendation summaries, which were made available for a 30-day public comment period. Proposers were invited to submit written responses to the initial recommendations, and present their proposals and responses in the April 29, 2021 Working Group meeting. Following discussion with proposal presenters, the Working Group deliberated and crafted their final recommendations.

Final Recommendation: *Not Recommended (consensus)*

Summary of Considerations

The Rocky Habitat Working Group identified the implementation considerations listed below for the proposed Otter Rock North Marine Conservation Area. Any potential recommendation from OPAC should address these considerations as outlined in the following summary to ensure that implementation of the proposed site is a) consistent with state agency authority and coastal policy, b) appropriately inclusive and representative of stakeholder interests, c) reasonably achievable within the existing framework of rocky habitat site management, and d) in balance with the merits and goals of the proposed site.

Any potential recommendation for implementation of this site should address the following considerations:

- The proposal does not meet the completeness and sufficiency standards to facilitate proper proposal review

This site was identified using a scientifically-grounded geospatial analysis that largely relied on data and information provided in the Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool. While the geospatial analysis is potentially informative, the proposal does not include all the requisite factors agencies would consider in analyzing proposals. The proposal as submitted was incomplete with regard to the following sections: Goals, Enforcement Changes, Needed Regulations, Improvements to Management, Management Mechanisms, Stakeholder Engagement, and Outreach. Without additional efforts to provide sufficient information and rationale in these sections, the proposal cannot be properly analyzed. Additionally, the intention for the broad extent of subtidal habitat is concerning and insufficiently justified, and raises concerns about Marine Reserves perceptions and equity of access to harvest on the central coast.

Where possible, the Working Group supports addressing the considerations and concerns above through statewide and site-specific non-regulatory management plans, where appropriate, with a focus on volunteer monitoring, interpretation, education, and awareness efforts. Additional considerations for potential recommendation include the other merits and perspectives identified above and in the full packet of evaluation materials, in balance with the proposed site goals.