

Cape Lookout Site Management Plan Workshop Meeting Summary

September 18th, 2024, 5:00pm-7:30pm

Located at Oregon Department of Forestry, Tillamook District Office

In-Person Participants

1. Eva Krukowski, DLCD
2. Brett Estes, DLCD
3. Andy Lanier, DLCD
4. Rhiannon Bezore, DLCD
5. Michael Krall, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS
6. Buddy Pickett, Charter Fishing (Pacific City) and Commercial Crabbing (Garibaldi)
7. Joe Hay, Haystack Fishing
8. Mark Lytle, Pacific City Fishing, small ocean guide operation
9. Dan Rocha, Rocha Dory Charter/ Eagle Charters Dory Fishing
10. Joey Rocha, Rocha Dory Charter
11. Tamara Mautner, Garibaldi Charters
12. Steve Griffiths, Seven Capes Bird Alliance
13. Kent Doughty, Seven Capes Bird Alliance
14. Jason Elkins, OPRD
15. Ray Monroe, OPAC, Pacific Dorymen's Association
16. Nat Macías, OSU Extension
17. Chrissy Smith, WEBS
18. Rachel Lertura Freeman

Remote Participants

19. Jim Carlson, Seven Capes Bird Alliance
20. Amanda Macnab, DLCD
21. Bryan Wright, ODFW Marine Mammal Program
22. Summer Henricksen, ODFW
23. Tim Kniser, Science Educator
24. Jay Pengelly, North West Outdoor Science School
25. Dick Vander Shaaf, The Nature Conservancy
26. Laurel Hillmann, OPRD
27. Heather Goble, Seven Capes Bird Alliance
28. Gwen Starrett, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS
29. Kaia Hazard, Surfrider Foundation
30. Albert LePage, National Coast Trail Association
31. Valerie Berseth, Oregon Sea Grant
32. Claire Fiegenger, DLCD

Meeting Notes

Clarification about Marine Conservation Area Designation:

- Chair of Pacific City Dorymen's Association asked for clarification on the MCA regulations at Cape Lookout. Discussion on issue of take and concerns on ability to fish and crab coming out of OPAC where he felt there was a different vote. Another fisherman was concerned that there will be the inability to boat around Cape Lookout.
- See regulation below from the [Territorial Sea Plan Part 3 \(page 70\)](#) and the [Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations 2024 page \(pages 83-84\)](#).

Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area Designation Description:

The goal of the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area is Conserve, to the highest degree possible, the ecological functions and rocky habitat resources in order to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations. There is no change to the existing use for commercial or recreational fish harvest. There is no change in the invertebrate harvest rules in the subtidal areas. The commercial harvest of invertebrates in the intertidal area is not allowed. Recreational harvest of invertebrates is allowed to, consistent with ODFW regulations. Marine plant harvest in the area is prohibited.

ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations 2024: No take of shellfish and other invertebrates in the intertidal except clams, Dungeness crab, red rock crab, mussels, piddocks, scallops, and shrimp may be taken. Site boundary: Begins on west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek, extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards.

Favorite features of Cape Lookout:

- Ridge trail
- Having water on both sides of the cape and the views
- Dramatic cliffs and the views
- Diversity of the geographic area including access to Netarts Bay and the Spit
- Cape Lookout is a big part of our livelihood
- Cape Lookout is an important part of the fishery, love to see the water coming up on the cliffs at sunrise.
- Cape Lookout from the water is an important part of boat tours
- Many participants spend over a hundred days a year on the water near Cape Lookout
- Good place to take divers out on the south side of Cape
- Good place for whale watching and birdwatching. Grey Whale was spotted last year.
- Generations of people come back to the park every year
- Ability of safe harbor for smaller vessels
- Taking people to the site teaching ways to protect area and be good stewards
- Annual ocean blessing event brings in a lot of Latino and Hispanic families to the park
- Hiking trails with children
- Cape Lookout is one of the 60 harbor seal haulouts on the Oregon Coast – it is the most unique of all the sites.
- Rent Camp Meriwether 20 weeks out of the year from Boy Scouts
- Cape Lookout inspired me to become a marine biologist
- Observe ocean life from top and bottom of Cape
- Feels like you're in the middle of the ocean when you are on the tip of the Cape
- Participating in site stewardship, removing ivy from campground
- Oregon Coast Trail is an adventure through the forest, significant geology: basalt flow from Eastern Oregon that reached out to the sea

Discussion Notes

Information Sharing: What are ways that visitors can receive information about Cape Lookout before, during, and after visiting? What tools or information is available now, and what should be developed?

- Need to make sure any signs that go up are in Spanish

Before

- Till Co. Visitor's Association has been working on stewardship messaging for visitors and short-term rentals.
- WEBS – Watershed Estuary Beach and Sea – Resource for information on the web.
- Tide information from Netarts Bay
- Provide information for hikers:
 - Trail info like distance, amount of time to complete, and level of difficulty or elevation gain
 - Identify different options like shorter versions of the hike
 - Common Sense for being prepared
 - The top trail is not as dog friendly as other trails because it is so narrow
- Outdoor school proximity is a resource to have kids develop value for ocean.

During

- Trail info listed above
- Information on wildlife and habitats you will be able to see depending on the season
 - Seasonality of kelp beds, whale migration and feeding
 - Natural cycles
- What makes whales migrate, when seals go to cave, when birds nest, where do they go when not here?
- Incorporate outdoor schools into signage creation – signage made by kids would stand out
- Digital versus physical sign:
 - Discussion about if QR code is better than physical sign.
 - Pros QR code: Read as you are walking. Problem is when on coast saltwater tears things up and a program would be needed to clean and maintain.
 - Some argued that physical signs are better. Don't have to look at phone when it's better to look at the view of the ocean rather than a screen
- Info signs are good at trailhead. Put a trail sign on the south beach. MCA info sign on south side too
- "Know before you go" signage
- Don't have signs that say what you can't do, have signs that say what you can do. For trails there are opportunities to get some learning information.
- High speed boats. No one reads signs. They go to the water.
- Pamphlets on charter boats would be helpful for charter boat staff interpretation
- Show the value and importance of fishing/blue economy into info sharing

- Watercraft near shore does not bother cormorants
- What are we trying to educate people about? Eva said good question...she asked the group what are the things from everyone's experience they feel there is more information needed?
- Amphitheater at Cape Lookout State Park can be a beneficial learning tool for the public

Interpretation Goals and Education

- Bring fishing community to outdoor school programs to strengthen the land/sea connection and build the MCA
- Re-create outdoor theatre space at state park, so they can have interpretation presentations
 - Most interp programs now take place on the north side of the cape
- Teach how to recreate safely (example: avoid sneaker waves)
- Remote sensing of the kelp bed on the south side of the Cape.
- ORKA project information available for visitors and a part of the interpretation story
- ODFW – Site specific information from observational programs. Haulout Atlas?
- Expansion of drone observations from land with an ODFW/OPRD?
- Tidepool etiquette – picking up an organism can be “taking” it. Engaging activities should be paired with how to be respectful of the area.
- Science school at Camp Meriweather – Geological habitats, species, unique characteristics.
 - What age groups are targeted – 10.5-17 years?
- Scouts do not maintain the access point to the beach from the parking lot at the top.
- Tribal presence of the Tillamook people, who never ceded lands in the area. The presence of archeological resources exist on the Cape. Traditional knowledge needs to be informed through their own voices/perspective.
- OPRD – need to reestablish a place for a theater...currently near campground
- Teaching people how to recreate safely.
- What is proper trail etiquette?
- Work with OVCA - Flyers at hotels, BnBs and restaurants, trailhead and tidepool etiquette
 - Flyers in tourist programs
- Why is this called a marine conservation and not a marine rocky habitat area? What are the problems we are trying to address here? This person has not seen this awesome place bothered by people as it is so hard to get to. What are the issues we are trying to address?
- 20 years ago, there was concern about building hotels and houses
- Fisherman say they rarely see people in tidepools
- Discussion about protecting kelp forest. There were differences in opinions about the health of kelp forest between angler community and conservation groups. Seven Capes Bird Alliance shared that there is a status report is coming out on the health of the kelp forest (See below).
 - Status Report from [Oregon Kelp Alliance](#) is available now:
[ORKA_StatusReport_2024-Digital-72dpi.pdf](#)

- The management plan is to teach people how to access and enjoy this area. We are trying to strengthen education aspects.
- 41 percent of Oregon Coast is rocky habitat however this is a way for us to review this area.
- Brochures: Are there resources for charters to use on birds and the Cape? One stated yes brochures for clients to read would be great. Charter fishermen state they are ocean educators
- Anglers are concerned when people start talking about something then regulations come in to play. There is concern of scope creep which would prohibit fishing / crabbing in Cape Lookout.
- This is not a marine reserve situation and if the site was considered as a Marine Reserve, that would be a separate proposal process. What we are talking about here is finding ways to bring more eyes to the area. There was concern from anglers when there are more eyes to a site then what happens is that this is one step closer to a proposal to stop fishing.
- Being involved and at the table is a way to say we were here discussing the site management plan at the beginning should further restrictions be proposed as a later time.
- OPRD thinks that they hosted a Doryman at state park in the past to give a presentation
- Teaching about the blue economy and responsible clamming/responsible take of marine life
 - Learn about the health of blue economies and conservation
 - Get in front of the problem and teach what responsible take looks like and what harmful take looks like
- Some consensus reached that one of the interpretation goals at Cape Lookout should include how the site has long been a fishing and crabbing site.
 - Important to protect/represent fishing and crabbing industry in the story

Site-Specific Monitoring Goals and Community Science

- Kelp alliance monitoring of the nearshore kelp bed – historically this area has been characterized by a persistent kelp bed. - interest in continuing to monitor this resource.
- Monitoring and community science – Comparison of this site to others on the coast, through consistency in methods for surveying the area and uses.
- Provide a coastwide perspective on the existing surveys, to understand status and trends over time.
- MARINE and PISCO conduct Seastar surveys.
- Marine Reserves program uses the same survey methods as Marine and PISCO
 - Surveys should be conducted at least once during the summer
 - Requires dedication and education about the protocols/methods for conducting the surveys
- Human disturbance: Want to make sure hikers aren't impacting the conservation value of cape lookout
- Photo monitoring sites/points – to understand impacts/concerns. Use methods that can be repeated over time.
- Monitoring from Bird alliance – black oyster catcher; seabird counts.
- Monitoring from the Oregon Kelp Alliance -kelp densities

- Community science is not the experts but more interested people.
- Current monitoring
 - Marine debris, plover monitoring, black oyster catcher, seabird counts, kelp densities, seastar surveys
- Future monitoring desires
 - ocean acidification
 - harmful algae blooms
- Green crab monitoring
- Question if there anything the fishing community wants monitored? The answer was that ODFW does a good job.
- Other community science – marine debris; black oyster catcher; algal blooms; green crabs
- Question- how does community science data get integrated? Example sea star wasting information gets passed back. How does community science get integrated or influence policy? Scenario given was a dead bird survey...people were trained to know species and fill out reports.
- Some fishing community members are skeptical of policies put in place after faulty science or data - an example given about yellow eye rockfish. Fishing community is ecology focused but they are skeptical of new rules.
 - Response was that site-based monitoring is important because different habitats could be unique and it is important to know why that is.
- Monitoring with kids: Use an inquiry-based questionnaire. Develop long-term trends. Range of topics and age groups. Marine debris monitoring.
- Outdoor education programs at Cape Lookout from pre-K to community college age
- College students take samples.
 - College age programs are resume builders
- Programs are just trying to get kids out there.
 - Are the youth programs on the south side of beach? Mostly done in the campground.
 - Are there challenges in programming? Stewardship coordinator dovetailing blue economy. Discussing green crab and algal blooms.
- OPRD – stopped interpretation after covid but now trying to build on it.

Enforcement and Compliance

- OPRD – beach rangers to visit the site on a recurring frequency
 - occasionally the beach ranger would visit from the south (via vehicle)
- Volunteer stewardship presence at the sites would be a deterrent at the site. Someone to discuss people's concerns.
- Confusion as to what it means to be Rocky Habitat area heard earlier
- OPRD south side of cape is least patrolled. Starfish in campground layed out in parking area and problem of taking them. If they see someone harvesting kelp, they address.
- Drones on the north side. OPRD drone policy is being developed but more focused on launching and landing. Hard to control where they are flying.

- South beach is special because of how few people go there
- You must be willing to get down to the south side and it can be limiting. Boulder field, slippery and easier to get injured. But there are not many reports of injuries from OPRD. Surfers may be culprits for switchback issues.
- Designation and awareness can bring more people. Concern that the designation could have impacts. Do not love it to death. Do not make the parking lot bigger.
- Our coast is seeing more people and an economic driver...we know people are coming...let's get ahead of the people and teach. They will come here anyway, and we need to get ahead of the flux and advance touching of the visitors. Here is how to safely visit a tidepool.

Public Testimony

1. Ray Monroe representing Pacific City Doryman's Association
2. Buddy Picket – surfer at Cape Lookout and more recently fisherman
3. Joe Hayah - Pacific City Fishing
4. Mark Lytle – Pacific City Fishing
5. Dan Rocha, Rocha Dory Charter/ Eagle Charters Dory Fishing
6. Joey Rocha, Rocha Dory Charter
7. Tamara Mautner – Garibaldi Charters
8. Steve Griffiths – Seven Capes Bird Alliance
9. Mike Crawl – Friends of Netarts Bay
10. Tim Kniser

Ideas for future discussions from anonymous workshop feedback surveys:

- In the future we should discuss how to build trust and partnership with diverse stakeholders. Ask, *what do we have in common? How can we support each other?*
- We should discuss how historic and current ecological knowledge can inform and directly benefit fishery. We didn't spend enough time discussing the interests of local tribes and confederacies
- Impacts to the beach and other natural resources/areas associated with the south slope trail in the forest and on the beach from recreational users such as hikers and surfers.
- In the future we should discuss blending perspectives and common ground among interested parties. We didn't discuss enough how to support the MCA.
- In the future we should discuss how Cape Lookout MCA is different from other MCAs on the coast, and how the processes are different not one leading to the next. We didn't discuss the clarity of how to meet these goals enough.
- We didn't discuss enough how the south side of the cape is an important safe harbor for all boats. In the future we should discuss no photo monitoring of the cape.
- In the future we should discuss how this work could impact the demographic of people who use the site positively or negatively.