



Oregon

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Department of Fish and Wildlife

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To: Kevin Hayden, Legislative Administrator

From: Curt Melcher, Deputy Director

Subject: Report on the development of an ODFW Marine Reserves Program Work Plan

Senate Bill 1510 (2012) requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to report on the development of a Marine Reserves Program Work Plan to the Oregon Legislature on or before February 1, 2013. A copy of the ODFW Marine Reserves Program Work Plan and a report on the 2011-13 ODFW Marine Reserves Program planned budget expenditures and actual biennium program expenditures through December 17, 2012 are provided along with this summary report.

The goal of marine reserves (Ocean Policy Advisory Council 2008) is to: “Protect and sustain a system of fewer than ten marine reserves in Oregon’s Territorial Sea to conserve marine habitats and biodiversity; provide a framework for scientific research and effectiveness monitoring; and avoid significant adverse social and economic impacts on ocean users and coastal communities.” Formal discussion of marine reserves began at the state level in 2000. Marine reserves planning and siting was initiated in 2008 with the issuance of Executive Order 08-07. In 2008, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) solicited and received marine reserve site proposals from the public. After an extensive review process, OPAC forwarded site and policy recommendations to the Governor in December 2008. In 2009, the Legislature passed House Bill 3013 (ORS 196.540-196.555) directing state agencies to implement the OPAC recommendations. As directed by legislation, ODFW began implementing two pilot sites and evaluating three potential sites through a community team process. In 2012, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1510 directing state agencies to implement three new marine reserve and protected area sites, in addition to the two pilot sites already in place.

The ODFW Marine Reserves Program Work Plan provides a big picture, 10-year outlook for implementing Oregon’s system of five marine reserve and protected area sites, covering the span of time from the present to a report due to the Oregon Legislature in 2023 required by Senate Bill 1510. The Work Plan covers the responsibilities of the Department, as the lead agency in charge of implementing Oregon’s system of marine reserve sites, including developing and implementing: a) marine reserve administrative rules, b) site management plans, c) ecological monitoring, d) social and economic (human dimensions) monitoring, e) outreach activities, f) community and public engagement, g) enforcement (in partnership with the Department of State Police), h) implementation review and i) marine reserves evaluation. Although the Work Plan represents a high level overview, specific details of Work Plan implementation are found in the individual site management plans.

The Work Plan was drafted based on direction and guidance provided by House Bill 3013 (2009), Senate Bill 1510 (2012) and the OPAC *Oregon Marine Reserve Policy Recommendations* (2008). The Work Plan was further guided by the policies and procedures outlined in the *Oregon Marine Reserves Ecological Monitoring Plan* (ODFW 2012), the *Human Dimensions Monitoring and Research Plan* (ODFW 2012) and the *Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve Site Management Plan* (ODFW 2012) which were

developed in consultation with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), scientific experts, partner agencies and community members, and are part of current implementation efforts.

A draft of the Work Plan was released to the public on November 27, 2012, and public comment was sought through December 20, 2012. ODFW staff met in consultation with STAC on December 18, 2012 on the draft plan. In addition, ODFW staff consulted with the Department of State Police, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of State Lands. ODFW staff used the feedback received by STAC, partner agencies, organizations and the public to make revisions and clarifications to the Work Plan. ODFW staff will continue to use this feedback on the Work Plan as specific actions and tasks are detailed in the site management plans and implemented.

The ODFW Marine Reserves Work Plan was finalized on January 4, 2013. The finalized Work Plan and supporting documents, along with the budget report, are posted on the Oregon Marine Reserves website for public access at: www.oregonocean.info/marinereserves.

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