


Oregon Territorial Sea Plan Rocky Habitat Management Strategy

Caren Braby and Dave Fox
Marine Resources Program
June 18, 2021



1



Overview

- Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, part of Oregon’s Territorial Sea Plan (Oregon Revised Statutes 196.405-196.515)
- 2018-2021 process to revise the original 1994 Strategy, re-evaluation of rocky intertidal and addition of subtidal habitat along Oregon’s coast
- Portions of the updated strategy, site proposals, may require Commission action in 2022



2


2



What and where is rocky habitat?

Rocky Intertidal

- About 41% of Oregon's 362 mile shoreline
- High biodiversity of marine invertebrates and algae
- Highly productive environment
- Fish nursery areas, seal and sea lion haulouts
- High public access and visitation, educational values
- Oregon's marine living laboratories








3

3



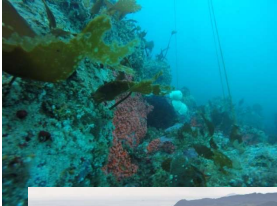
What and where is rocky habitat?


Rocky Subtidal (Rocky Reefs)


- Highly productive for fish, invertebrates and algae
- Kelp beds
- Important for fisheries

Offshore Rocks and Islands

- USFWS wildlife refuge (about 1300 rocks and islands)
- Seabird nesting colonies (about half of entire west coast seabird nesting occurs off of Oregon)
- Sea and sea lion haulouts and pupping areas








4

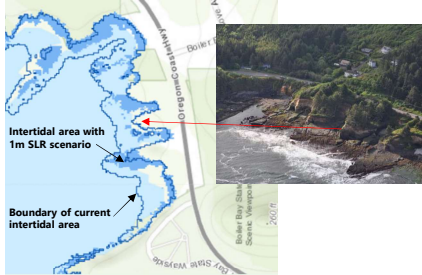
4




Need for rocky habitat management

- **Ecological importance**
Diverse communities, fish, birds, mammals, ecological hot spots
- **Relatively scarce habitat**
Subtidal: 7% of the Territorial Sea
Intertidal: < 0.2% of the Territorial Sea; only about 1,300 acres
- **Vulnerability**
High human use, especially in some rocky intertidal habitat
- **Climate and ocean change**
 - Current reductions in kelp beds and abalone
 - Acidification, hypoxia, sea level rise will have larger impacts on rocky intertidal habitat than other types of marine habitat
 - Greater human use and visitation
 - Management and awareness will help build resilience


Sea Level Rise Impacts
Boiler Bay Example





5

5




Territorial Sea Plan

Territorial Sea Plan


- Provides framework for coastal resource management and uses in Oregon's territorial sea (3 miles)
- Developed by Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) and adopted into state rule by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC)
 - Originally adopted in 1994; 2020-2021 revision
- Provides policies, management standards, and program recommendations
- Implemented by individual state agency authorities

ORS 196.485(3) State agency coordination requirements; incorporation of plans:
(3) State agency programs or rules for management of ocean resources or ocean uses shall be consistent with the Oregon Ocean Resources Management Plan and the Territorial Sea Plan. [1987 c.576 §17; 1991 c.501 §17]



6

6



Territorial Sea Plan


Rocky Habitat Management Strategy (Part 3)

Goal: Provide a coordinated and adaptive planning framework focused on the long-term protection of ecological resources and coastal biodiversity within and among Oregon's marine rocky habitats, while allowing appropriate use.

Objectives: maintain, protect, or restore rocky habitats and biological communities through coordination, collaboration, raising awareness, stewardship, research, monitoring


Implementation: Coast wide management principles and policies; site-specific management designations, regulations

- Currently 14 sites along the coast; first site dates back to 1962
- Marine Gardens, Marine Research Areas, or Habitat Refuge/Marine Conservation Area
- Sites are described in the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations book



7

7



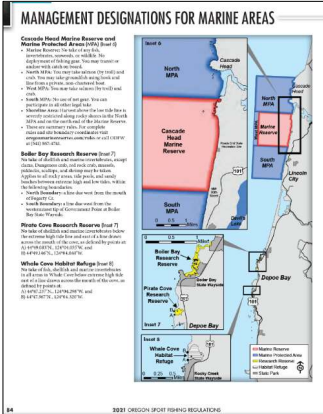
Current rocky habitat management


State (multi-agency OARs)

- Dept. of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Territorial Sea Plan, coastal zone management
- ODFW harvest regulations
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept. (OPRD) intertidal seaweed/kelp regulations, intertidal use regulations, Ocean Shore permitting, upland management
- Dept. of State Lands (DSL) subtidal seaweed/kelp regulations, submerged land management & permits
- Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) vessel regulations (can restrict vessel access)

Federal

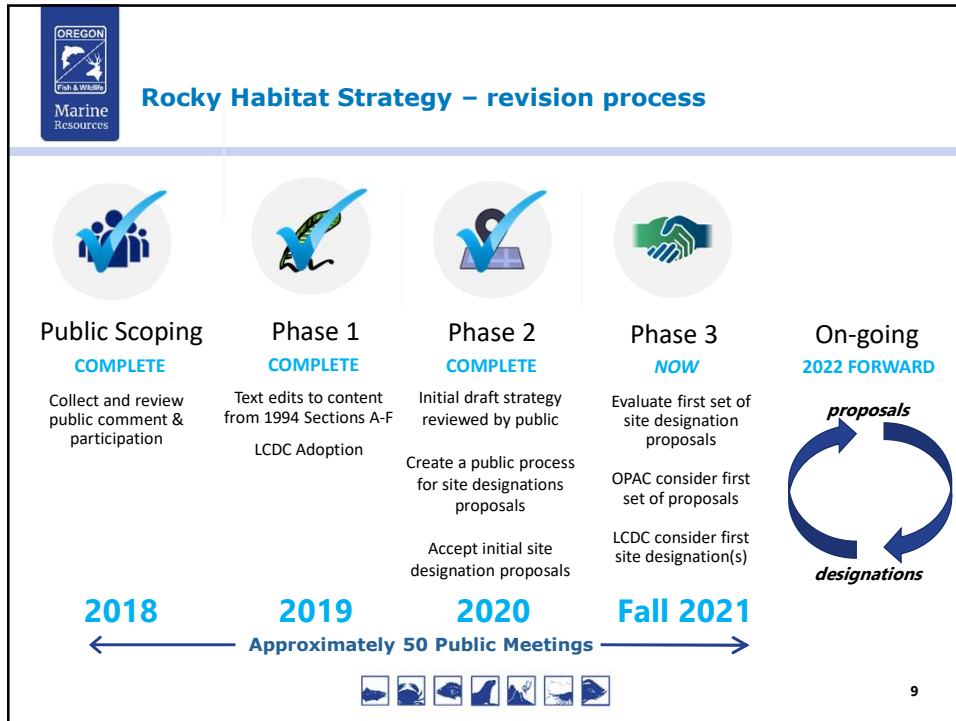
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) offshore rocks, island, and refuges management
- US Forest Service (USFS) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) upland land management in some areas





8

8



9

OREGON
Fish & Wildlife
Marine Resources


Proposals process

- 2020:** Public proposals solicited and 12 submitted by the Dec. 31 deadline
- Early 2021:** Agency, working group and public review of proposals to develop recommendations to OPAC
- May 17, 2021 OPAC meeting**
 - 2 forwarded to LCDC by OPAC:**
 - Coquille Point Marine Garden (MG)
 - Cape Blanco Marine Research Area (MRA)
 - 6 recommended to continue evaluation:**
 - Process later this year and early next year
 - 4* recommended to not move forward:**
 - Need substantial revisions
 - * 3 sites are shown on the map, the 4th proposal was a coast wide (not site-specific) proposal

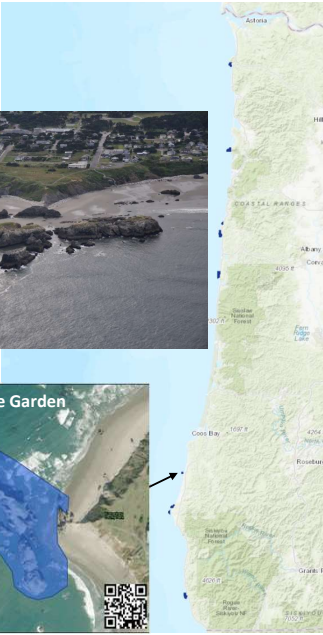
- Ecola Point MCA
- Chapman Point MCA
- Cape Lookout MCA
- Fogarty Creek MCA
- Cape Foulweather MCA
- Otter Rock MCA
- Seal Rock MCA
- Coquille Point MG
- Blacklock Point MCA
- Cape Blanco MRA
- Crook Point MCA

10


10



Coquille Point Marine Garden



- MG Goal - *Protect rocky habitat resources to support public enjoyment, learning opportunities and maintain ecological integrity*
- Easily accessed, relatively small intertidal area with high visitation; susceptible to human impact
- Seabird nesting colonies and seal haul outs
- Established education/stewardship program
- Harvest restrictions proposed:
 - Intertidal invertebrates
 - Marine algae






Seabird Nesting Colony









11


11

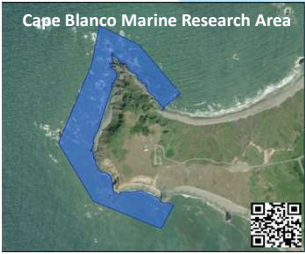



Cape Blanco Marine Research Area




- MRA Goal - *Maintain the natural system to support scientific research and monitoring while maintaining ecological integrity*
- Extensive rocky intertidal area with high biodiversity
- Long history of research, C. Blanco represents two marine ecoregions
- Propose public interpretation and education
- Harvest restrictions proposed:
 - Intertidal invertebrates
 - Marine algae









12

12



Next steps

- Land Conservation and Development Commission action Fall 2021:
 - Consider adoption of Rocky Habitat Strategy revisions, including the 2 new site designations
 - Any adopted components with harvest restrictions would require Commission rulemaking action to implement (likely early 2022)
- Six site proposals recommended for continued evaluation:
 - Consideration by Ocean Policy Advisory Council in spring 2022, and by Land Conservation and Development Commission later in 2022
- Ongoing periodic consideration of new management areas



13

13



Questions



14

14