

OPAC Executive Committee Meeting  
March 23, 2007, 12:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., Newport  
**Summary**

**Attendees:** Jim Good, Scott McMullen, Jessica Hamilton (by telephone), Jay Rasmussen (present for STAC discussions) and Greg McMurray.

**STAC** – The Executive Committee (as well as Frank Warrens, MRWG chair) met with members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee over lunch. STAC members present included Jack Barth, Ralph Brown, Selina Heppell, Dave Sampson and Craig Young. (Susan Hanna and Dick Hildreth were unable to attend.) Discussion included the general operation of the STAC and the nature of the process by which it will interact with: OPAC *per se*; OPAC's working groups; and its own recommended experts to OPAC's working groups. The process will ultimately need to balance the need for vetting and translation of scientific information and advice with direct and efficient access and discussion among scientists and policy makers. At the meeting, the STAC agreed upon expertise and individuals they would recommend to provide that expertise to the MRWG. Members of the STAC indicated that clarification of the goal(s) of marine reserves is needed. In addition to the written response STAC will bring to the next MRWG, it was agreed that STAC would meet with the MRWG at the April meeting to gain a better sense of needs, issues, and definitions. STAC members may, on their own, participate with the MRWG. For STAC, clarification of goals and objectives as well as funding for participation and travel, currently not available, are key issues on how and when to move ahead.

**West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health** – Jessica reported on a meeting of the Washington, Oregon and California agreement principals with a cadre of representatives from the federal government. Liaisons from the Departments of Interior, Commerce (NOAA), and the EPA were identified and the states will continue to develop the substantive content of the agreement and will have public meetings in all three states (Oregon's will take place the week of July 22-26 in Portland, in connection with the Coastal Zone '07 meetings).

**Marine Reserves Working Group** – Jessica explained that without additional funding from some source, the planning process will need to be scaled to match available resources until such funding is secured. Otherwise, all members of the Executive Committee are appreciative of the efforts and progress made in getting the marine reserves process moving. Meanwhile Jim reported on continuing public efforts to secure funding for the process from the Oregon Legislature. Jessica reported that the Governor's Office will likely deliver a memorandum to OPAC concerning the marine reserves planning process in advance of the upcoming OPAC meeting.

**Wave Energy Working Group** – Greg reported that planning is proceeding for a wave energy ecological effects workshop to be conducted in early June. The workshop will take place under the aegis of OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center, but is linked to OPAC's Wave Energy Working Group and to a nation-wide workshop being conducted in July by the Minerals Management Service. The resulting report should go a long way to scoping Oregon's environmental issues. Otherwise, the working group is trying to identify its appropriate goals and objectives in the rapidly evolving and confusing wave energy arena.

**Public Comment Protocol Change** – Scott will try a new protocol for public comment at the next OPAC meeting: an issue-specific comment period will be tied to each major OPAC issue discussion and also prior to any OPAC action. This is an attempt to help reduce the seeming dissociation between the public’s comments and OPAC’s decisions.

**Next OPAC Meeting Agenda** – Greg will craft an agenda for the April 19 meeting in Reedsport, based on these discussions and circulate it for Executive Committee review prior to posting. Agenda topics include updates from the STAC and Governor’s Office, updates and discussion as needed for both working groups, and a presentation on DLCD’s consistency authority and certification process. Planning is also underway for an update on the science of marine reserves, given that a good deal of new work has been done over the past five years since the OPAC recommendation on reserves. That may be either at the April 19 or July 17 meeting, which will take place in Corvallis.