



Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

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Stewardship Area Launch Abstracts

Jan Hodder, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Title: Learning About Where We Live - Marine Science for Oregon Coastal Schools

Description:

Information about the National Science Foundation OIMB GK12 project that is part of the Langlois Port Orford grade school program.

Rachel Moore, Surfrider Foundation

Title: Community Outreach & Partnership Building

Description:

Surfrider and POORT have been collaborating on a community outreach project to build understanding and support for the concept of a Community Stewardship Area. A major component of the project has been strengthening partnerships among different local groups that promote watershed stewardship. Project leader, Rachel Moore (POORT) has presented information to the following groups on the Stewardship Area planning and secured their support and participation:

- o POORT Community Advisory Board
- o South Coast Watershed Council
- o Friends of the Elk River
- o Elk River Land Trust
- o Port Orford Planning Commission
- o Cape Blanco Challenge
- o Garrison Lake Restoration Committee
- o Ecotrust Forestry LLC
- o The Nature Conservancy
- o Floras Creek WSC
- o Elk/ Sixes River WSC
- o Chamber of Commerce
- o Port Orford Watershed Council
- o Curry County Soil and Water Conservation District

Title: Ocean Education and Outreach

Description:

Surfrider and POORT are collaborating on a variety of ocean education and outreach efforts. These include the storm drain marking project which reminds citizens that pollution on land ends up in the ocean! Participants include Driftwood Elementary School students, fishermen, and other volunteers. Surfrider and POORT have also collaborated to organize events such as the Port Orford Water Festival w/ educational scavenger hunt and the 'Source to Sea' movie screening.

Markus Mead, Surfrider Foundation

Title: Identification of Water Quality 'Best Management Practices'

Description:

Surfrider is conducting land-use planning research to assess the sufficiency of current terrestrial management to meet the Stewardship Area objectives a) protect water quality; b) protect anadromous fish stocks . Project Leader Markus Mead is leading completion of the following reports:

- Complete draft report identifying watersheds within the proposed Stewardship Area, associated regulatory agencies, management regulations and water quality standards
- Complete draft report analyzing these regulations and standards for consistency with the Area's Goals and Objectives.
- Complete draft report identifying existing regulatory and/or administrative deficiencies for the purposes of stormwater management within the Stewardship Area.
- Complete draft report identifying a series of stormwater BMPs and general implementation methods including draft recommendations relevant to the Port Orford status

Matt Kay, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

Title: Collaborative assessment of Santa Barbara Channel Islands MPA's for spiny lobster - a model for POORT?

Description:

This project joins commercial lobstermen and marine scientists in an effort to assess the impact of newly implemented (2002) no-take Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) on the conservation and fishery for California spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) at the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. Monitoring of lobster populations inside and outside the reserves is conducted with the support of commercial fishermen and employs traps identical to those used in the commercial fishery. This design allows us to relate average and number per trap to performance of the commercial fishery. Additionally, this project establishes a basis for industry-led monitoring of the reserves as well as the resource. The study also generates basic life history information (growth, population structure, movement) for use in traditional or MPA-based stock assessments.

Beth Pietrzak, South Coast Watershed Council

Title: Curry SWCD Agricultural Water Quality Program

Description:

The Curry Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) Agricultural Water Quality Program provides technical assistance & planning for implementation of projects to improve water quality related to agricultural lands in Curry County.

Title: Cranberry Innovations

Description:

The Cranberry Innovations projects through the South Coast Watershed Council improve watershed health, agricultural management strategies, and work toward a sustainable local economy.

Title: South Coast Watershed Restoration Projects

Description:

The South Coast Watershed Council and Curry SWCD have been implementing on-the-ground restoration projects for salmonid habitat for over 12 years. Restoration project types to be displayed include riparian fencing and planting, fish passage, large wood placements, wetland and estuary improvements, off-stream watering, gully stabilization, road sediment reduction, and bioengineering projects.

Cindy Myers, South Coast Watershed Council

Title: Water Quality in Stewardship Area Watersheds

Description:

Over the last six years, the South Coast Watershed Council has investigated water quality within the watersheds draining into the Marine Stewardship Area, Floras/New River, Sixes River, Elk River, and Euchre Creek. Multiple water quality parameters were checked at least every two weeks for a year to isolate the effects of rural residential and agricultural influences. Overall the water quality in the area is excellent, with a few problem areas. During the summer, elevated temperatures create less than optimum conditions for salmonid rearing. In places where circulation is restricted, such as in estuaries and coastal lakes, we have observed dissolved oxygen levels that are low enough to cause rearing stress. Dissolved oxygen declines when organic

matter, provided by algae and other aquatic plants, decays. Human activities may be responsible for elevated levels of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that feed excess growth. During the winter, sediment, nutrient, and E.coli-laden runoff is associated with storms. With the help of over 50 volunteers, eight storms were sampled to locate source areas – our “Stormchaser” program. An analysis of the causes of high concentrations is ongoing, but both land use activities and natural soil/forest stand characteristics appear to be responsible. In order to calculate total pollutant loads to the ocean from each watershed, their relative flows must be estimated. Local effects on nearshore and marine environments may depend on the type of habitat and capacity of the vegetation to use the nutrients. During winter conditions with southwest swells, runoff from the Rogue River clearly influences the southern end of the Stewardship Area, and perhaps should be considered as part of the upland influence area. Identifying pollutant sources helps the Watershed Councils and their partners to allocate financial and technical resources for restoration. Road and gully stabilization, riparian and wetland improvements, and habitat/channel stabilization activities benefit both aquatic organisms and water quality.

Curtis Farrell, US Coast Guard

Title: Saving Fishermen's lives

Description:

As the Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator for the Coast Guard my goal is saving fishermen's lives. Therefore, I would enjoy presenting and marketing many of our safety initiatives. Our Dockside Examination Program is one such activity that fishermen can engage in to ensure their vessel has all required safety equipment. The examination is free and non-punitive. The most important safety initiative is training. All the safety equipment in the world will not save a life if the mariners do not know how to use it. Therefore, I will present data and life saving statistics resulting from fishermen getting training on the use of their life saving equipment in the hopes of driving up demand for the "Drill Conductor Class".

PMCC

Title: STEWARDSHIP PLAN Integrating Stewardship, Access, Monitoring and Research: Port Orford Community Stewardship Area

Robyn Darbyshire, US Forestry Service

Title: Forest Service Euchre Creek Watershed Analysis

Description:

The Forest Service will be completing a Watershed Analysis for the Forest Service portion of the Euchre Creek watershed. Existing information about watershed conditions will be gathered and summarized. Participants at the Stewardship Area Launch will be invited to share any information that they have about Euchre Creek that could be included in the Watershed Analysis.

Jared Tarr, Blue Water Task Force, Surfrider Foundation

Title: Blue Water Task Force

Description:

Surfrider has partnered with Pacific High School and POORT to implement a citizen-based water quality testing program. The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) is Surfrider's water quality monitoring, education and advocacy program. Water quality sampling is conducted by Pacific High School students, Surfrider volunteers, commercial fishermen, and other interested folks. Lab analysis is conducted by students at Pacific HS as part of a science-based curriculum. Data is posted on Surfrider's website and the POORT office.

Dick Vander Schaaf, The Nature Conservancy

Title: Cape Blanco Conservation Action Plan

Description:

The Cape Blanco Conservation Plan identifies a suite of strategies to conserve and restore natural resources and the biodiversity that is present at the site. This "Summit to the Seas" site encompasses the Elk and Sixes Rivers and Floras Creek watersheds as well as the nearshore ocean. The Plan was developed with the assistance of local residents and resources management experts with the expressed purpose of promoting wise stewardship of resources from forests, rivers, ocean and the coastal plain. The goal of the Plan is to support implementation of conservation-based actions that will restore watersheds and benefit ecosystem processes to insure the sustainability of this unique environment on the South Coast.

Jerry Becker, Elk River Land Trust

Title: Land Conservation

Description:

Elk River Land Trust works to conserve land using outright purchase or conservation easements to protect the land for fish and wildlife habitat. We also educate land owners about these activities.

Dr. Kristen Milligan, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)

Title: Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)

Description:

The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans is a long-term research and monitoring program designed to understand the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. PISCO takes an integrated approach to studying the complex, economically important coastal ocean along the west coast of North America. Because PISCO findings are relevant to conservation and management, PISCO scientists actively share their results in public forums. Through university courses, PISCO helps train the next generation of scientists in interdisciplinary approaches to marine research and policy. Historically in the Port Orford area, PISCO monitored oceanographic conditions, kelp forests, and intertidal rocky reefs. Currently, intertidal rocky reef monitoring is conducted. All data are made publicly available.

Steven F Theberge Jr, Oregon State University Extension Sea Grant

Title: Releasing gravid female rockfish: Is it an effective Management tool?

Description:

Purpose of Project: 1) To determine if mark-recapture techniques are a valid tool for evaluating groundfish survival and movement patterns in nearshore waters, and to determine how tagging can contribute to local monitoring of various groundfish species that are of commercial importance to the live fish industry. 2) To determine if gravid female rockfish that are released after hook-and-line or longline capture survive barotrauma and release their larvae.

Christina Package, Oregon State University

Title: Improving Oregon Fishing Community Profiles: Providing Depth through Collaboration

Description:

Christina L. Package, Flaxen Conway, Leesa Coob, Bryan Tilt

In an effort to supplement the recently completed NOAA fishing community profiles and help to fulfill the requirements of National Standard Eight of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery conservation and Management Act, three coastal Oregon communities were chosen as sites for a community partnership project designed to produce long-form profiles. In order to provide a representation of the diversity of the communities of the Oregon coast, Newport, Port Orford, and Garibaldi were included based on community size, fishery types, and gear types. Social scientists at Oregon State University trained fishing community peers to serve as researchers in each community to collect ethnographic data missing from the existing profiles. A draft of the long-form profiles has been created and describes fishing community perceptions about: characteristics

of fishermen and their families, importance of fishing to the community, changes in fishing effort, management and effects of management, seafood, fishing support services, communication, the ocean, its resources, and the future. This report will better inform fisheries management decisions.

Title: Fishing Community Collaboration: Improving Oregon Community Profiles through Partnership

Description:

Package, Christina, Flaxen Conway and Leesa Cobb

In an effort to supplement the recently completed NOAA fishing community profiles, three coastal Oregon communities have been chosen as sites for a community partnership project designed to produce long-form profiles. In order to provide a representation of the coast Newport, Port Orford, and Garibaldi, Oregon have been included based on community size, fishery types, and gear types. Community researchers from each community along with social scientists at Oregon State University have teamed up to collect ethnographic data not included in the already existing profiles. The community researchers were trained in interviewing techniques, interviewing their own peers in their communities, providing depth of information not frequently available to scientists. Data has been analyzed and a report is being completed for use by fisheries managers. When completed, it is hoped that this project will provide a model for collaborative research between the science community and fishing communities.

Karen and Ralf Meyer, Greenfire Productions

Title: Building Public and Policy Support for a New Approach to Ocean and Coastal Management

Description:

Green Fire Productions is developing an education campaign with video outreach tools to build awareness and support for holistic ocean and coastal resource management - currently referred to as ecosystem-based management. Green Fire is aiming to profile 3-5 communities on the West coast that are implementing elements of “ecosystem-based management” in an effort to better manage coastal and marine resources. The Port Orford/Cape Blanco region is one of areas the production will focus on.

The first product Green Fire has produced as a part of the project is a 14-minute DVD on the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team, The Port Orford Community Stewardship Area: Rethinking Ocean Management. Told by Port Orford fisherman, this short video will serve to create greater awareness and support for POORT, their concerns and the solutions POORT envisions.

The next element is a longer video program looking at land and ocean management. It is our goal to open pathways, on a state and national level, to initiate fundamental change that will benefit our ecosystems as well as the working landscapes these ecosystems support. Specifically, we aim to help create a climate for the Port Orford Community Stewardship Area to be implemented, to influence the state of Oregon as they begin shifting to ecosystem-based management and to leverage the work of project partners.

Kimberly Heiman, Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS)

Title: Developing a framework for marine ecosystem-based management implementation based on case study experiences

Description:

Through this project, the Communication Partnership for Science and the Sea (COMPASS) strives to facilitate and catalyze the continued scientific advancement and implementation of marine ecosystem-based management (EBM) by collaboratively developing a practical framework for connecting EBM concepts with management realities. The EBM framework development process was informed by the careful analysis of EBM case studies and grew out of discussions among scientists, practitioners, and legal / policy experts. The case study analysis provided information about how marine EBM is currently implemented and what aspects of EBM are challenging to implement. The EBM implementation framework connects lessons-learned

from ongoing management experiences to the conceptual and scientific underpinnings of EBM in a manner that resonates with practitioners. The EBM framework is designed to be a useful communication tool in both practitioner and scientific circles.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Activities in or near the POORT Stewardship Area

Title: Edson Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Description:

The BLM and partners are restoring one mile of the riparian vegetation along Lower Edson Creek (Sixes River). We have been removing invasive Himalaya Blackberry and replanting with native shrubs and trees. The Northwest Youth Corps crews have manually removed Himalaya for the past five years. Approximately one thousand trees have been replanted along the stream, and some of the planted trees are now over twenty feet tall. Ultimately, we hope to have a riparian zone with a lower layer of shrubs and an upper canopy formed by conifers and hardwoods. This will provide cooling for Edson Creek, which is outside acceptable limits for fish rearing, and improve the appearance of Edson Campground.

Title: Edson Thinning

Description:

The Edson Thinning project, located in the Sixes and Floras watersheds, is planned for this year. Approximately 490 acres of 30-60 year old stands are being thinned. The project is designed to improve stand health and restore desired forest habitats and will also supply timber to the local economy. Several forest roads are being renovated or improved. Some roads will be decommissioned at the completion of project activities.

Title: New River ACEC

Description:

BLM has been monitoring New River channel conditions for several years. This summer we will continue measuring channel cross sections and complete a longitudinal survey to determine changes from winter flows and breaching of the foredune. We will also be monitoring flood elevations in the New River system to determine the effects of foredune breaching.

A new climate/hydrological station is planned to be installed this summer at Storm Ranch. Station data will be available real-time over the internet. The station will collect and transmit river stage, water temperature, weather data, and digital images of New River.

The BLM recently partnered with the South Coast Watershed Council to conduct an aquatic weed inventory that will support weed management planning in the New River ACEC.

Title: Sudden Oak Death (SOD) treatments

Description:

Phytophthora ramorum, Sudden Oak Death, is a recently introduced invasive pathogen that kills tanoak trees, wild rhododendron, and evergreen huckleberry. Just recently, it has also killed Oregon Myrtle in the Azalea Park area of Brookings. In Oregon, the disease has been limited to Curry County but appears to be moving north. The BLM has been cutting the infected plants and susceptible plants within a 300 foot radius of infected areas. Other vegetation is often cut to facilitate falling and burning. The BLM has treated or plans to treat approximately 133 acres this year.