

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

The State of Oregon is engaged in an ongoing process to designate a system of marine reserves in Oregon's Territorial Sea. By virtue of a 2008 Executive Order, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) is the lead agency that worked with the state's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) to identify possible marine reserve sites in 2008 and is working on implementing OPAC's recommendations in 2009 and beyond.

OPAC worked from 2007 through 2008 to identify possible marine reserve sites in Oregon. After much consideration, OPAC forwarded those recommendations to the Governor, who endorsed the recommendations and requested funding for implementation in the Governor's Recommended Budget for 2009-2011. In June of 2009 the Oregon legislature passed House Bill (HB) 3013, which directs state agencies to implement the OPAC recommendations, provides for funding, and directs the department, in consultation with others, to develop a work plan to implement the OPAC recommendations. HB3013 also directs the department and other relevant agencies to adopt rules to "establish, study, monitor, evaluate and enforce" two pilot marine reserve sites.

The department is moving forward with implementing HB3013's directives. During the summer of 2009, staff developed a marine reserves work plan in consultation with scientists, relevant state agencies, ocean users, coastal communities, and the general public. As part of implementing the work plan, the department is currently engaged in the rulemaking process. Staff will appear before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) at the December 2009 meeting to request adoption of marine reserves rules for the two pilot sites.

The attached report summarizes Oregon's marine reserves process to date, the marine reserves proposal process and OPAC recommendations, marine reserve related legislation from the Oregon Legislature's 2009 session, department actions concerning marine reserves, and an explanation of what the marine reserves rulemaking effort will entail.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has been very involved in Oregon's marine reserves process, from submitting proposals for reserve areas to attending and testifying at OPAC meetings and legislative hearings. Specific to department processes, the public has been attending workshops and commenting on the department's marine reserves work plan. Additionally, the department will hold three public meetings in late October to discuss and take public comment on the proposed marine reserve rules. A summary of those public meetings will be provided to the Commission at the December 11, 2009 meeting.

**ISSUE 1**

**INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON THE OREGON MARINE RESERVES PROCESS**

**ANALYSIS**

The attached report summarizes Oregon’s marine reserves process to date, the marine reserves proposal process and OPAC recommendations, marine reserve related legislation from the Oregon Legislature’s 2009 session, agency actions concerning marine reserves, and an overview of what the marine reserves rulemaking effort will entail. Department staff will appear before the Commission at the December 11, 2009 meeting to request adoption of marine reserves rules.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Informational only; no action requested at this time.

<b>DRAFT MOTION</b>	No action requested at this time
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	N/A