



## Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



### Meeting Summary:

#### Update on the Oregon Commercial Sea urchin Fishery and Presentation of results from 2011 Sub-tidal Surveys

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, April 26, 2012 / 6:00 PM

Location: Port Orford Public Library, 1421 Oregon Street, Port Orford, Oregon

---

ODFW held an open public meeting on April 26, 2012 to provide an update on the status of the Oregon sea urchin populations and to discuss options for management of the sea urchin fishery. Each sea urchin permit holder was mailed an invitation to this meeting one month prior. The meeting was attended by two representatives from ODFW (Steve Rumrill, Shellfish Program Leader; Scott Groth, South Coast Shellfish Biologist) and six representatives of the Oregon commercial sea urchin fishery (Mike Ashmon, Tom Butterbaugh, Tom Calvanese, Travis Easlon, Tim Foley, Kevin Hiersche). Scott Groth delivered a presentation on the current and historical status of the Oregon sea urchin fishery, and new data was presented to illustrate trends in the urchin populations and harvest statistics which must be considered during the discussion of any future changes in management. After the presentation, an open discussion was held to solicit comments and ideas about any new management measures to ensure that the urchin resource is harvested sustainably into the future. Several alternative management options were discussed, including: (1) status quo; (2) area-based management; (3) depth restrictions; (4) no-take marine reserves; (5) seasonal restrictions; (6) size limits/slot limits (i.e. 3.5-5.0" or 3.75-5.5"); (7) permit restrictions; and (8) quota-based management. Each of these alternative management options was discussed by the group to identify positive and negative aspects. Option 7 (permit restrictions) was identified by the meeting participants as the preferred management option, which would include allowing the current maximum number of permits (about 30) to decrease by attrition to about 12-15 permits in order to place a proactive cap on future expansion of harvest pressure.