

City of Bandon

PLANNING COMMISSION DOCUMENTATION

DATE:
08/27/2020

SUBJECT:
Rocky Habitats Strategy Brief

ITEM NO:
4.1

BACKGROUND:

See attached.

SUBMITTED BY:



Dana Nichols, Planning Manager



Dana Nichols, Manager
Bandon Planning Commission
RE: Rocky Habitats Strategy for Bandon

Dear Dana,

Thank you for placing Shoreline Education for Awareness on the Planning Commission agenda for the August 27 meeting. We appreciate the opportunity to present the current efforts of Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) to update the management of rocky habitats under Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan (TSP). The original recommendations of OPAC's working group were submitted over 25 years ago, with little being adopted.

The purpose of the original TSP as well as for the update is to ensure strong protections for Oregon's incredible habitat and state resources that all of our coastal rocky habitats have become. These dynamic ocean shoreline habitats are home to a diversity of creatures living on the edge of their ecological threshold, including fish, nesting birds, mammals, plants and invertebrates. Tens of thousands of local and state residents, as well as tourists from all over the world, come to Bandon every year to enjoy and explore our marvelous Bandon Stacks – home to these incredible rocky habitats. These folks visiting our beach, especially that portion of the beach from the South Jetty to Face Rock, are not always aware of the etiquette for how to behave in the midst of this fragile rocky habitat. Excited to be here and loving everything they are finding on the rocks and in the tide pools, they are sometimes "loving it to death."

It is the hope of Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and all of the coastal environmental groups participating in this update (including SEA) that we will be able to engage local leaders, business owners, commercial fishers and crabbers, and the residents of Bandon in these efforts. By doing this, whatever legislation comes from this update will be informed first and foremost by solid scientific research as well as by the wishes of each of the communities that will be impacted. Therefore, SEA and the State of Oregon are seeking input from Bandon's City Government, businesses, and citizens so that whatever designation is given to the rocks around Coquille Point have local support and collaboration.

Rather than go into greater detail in this letter, I direct your attention to the following link: <https://sea-edu.org/rocky-habitats-strategy/>, which is a page regarding this rocky habitat working groups efforts that appears on the SEA website. I invite you and the Planning Commission members to look it over so that at the Commission meeting we can discuss what kind of involvement the City of Bandon is willing to give to this effort and what strategies you could offer us for approaching the broader Bandon public for input.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Bill Stenberg, Vice President
[Shoreline Education for Awareness](https://sea-edu.org/)