



# **PART THREE:**

# **Rocky Shores Management Strategy**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Why Manage Oregon's Rocky Shores**

Oregon's rocky shores are integral to the unique landscape and marine environment of the Oregon coast. From massive Tillamook Head looming above the Clatsop Plains south to the crenellated cliff at Brookings, rocky shores are a trademark of the Oregon coast. These biologically rich and visually dramatic shores have high value to Oregonians as places to use, enjoy, and learn.

Like other shore areas around the world, Oregon's seemingly durable rocky shores harbor many uniquely adapted life-forms that are vulnerable to the activities of mankind. There is no one threat. Rather, a web of combined causes poses the potential for habitat loss or destruction. Population growth in Oregon and elsewhere and more coastal recreation and travel mean increased urbanization of Oregon's coast. Decline and loss of salmon stocks create pressures for new and exotic fisheries and recreational activities. These seemingly unrelated activities can combine to affect Oregon's rocky shores. Thus, Oregon's commitment to protect its rocky shore treasures must ultimately lead to managing these areas to minimize or prevent human impacts.

Oregon's rocky shores belong to the public. That much is simple. After that, their ownership, management, use, and protection is complicated. The Oregon Division of State Lands is the trustee for the state on behalf of the people, up to mean high tide. The Division shares this management responsibility with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the part of the shore, whether rocky or sandy, covered and uncovered by the tide down to extreme low water. Most marine life is under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; a federal agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, manages the "dry" parts of offshore rocks and islands as part of a National Wildlife Refuge. Some rocky shore areas front the ocean at Oregon State Parks while others front federal lands and still others border private lands where uses are regulated by cities or counties. And there are a variety of other agencies that have some piece of the rocky-shore management puzzle.

Oregon's rocky-shores strategy is intended to provide clear policies and direction for strong, site-sensitive management and protection of these unique ecosystems along the entire Oregon coast.

### **2. What is the Rocky Shores Strategy?**

This Rocky Shores Strategy is one of several elements of Oregon's ocean-resources management program. The strategy is a combination of policy intentions (a goal and a set of policies and

objectives), supported by scientific background information on rocky shores areas and resources, applied to on-the-ground areas and situations. The strategy relies on authorities and programs of state and federal agencies to carry out activities in the field; the Ocean Policy Advisory Council will not implement the strategy.

The Rocky Shores Strategy addresses both shoreline and associated features as well as offshore rocks and associated reefs.

X **Shoreline types** include rocky tidepool areas as well as associated cliffs, submerged rocks or reefs and nearby rocks that may be reached by foot from shore (regardless of hazard or inconvenience); and

X **Offshore types** include underwater reefs and rocky islands accessible only by water in a boat or other means. These rocks and reefs are all within Oregon's territorial sea.

Six planning principles guided the Ocean Policy Advisory Council in preparing the strategy.

#### **a. A Coastwide Context**

The strategy encompasses a broad view of the entire coast to provide a larger ecosystem context for meeting local management needs and setting priorities for action through site management plans. A coastwide ecosystem context is important because the management and use of one site can affect management and use of nearby sites (a spillover effect) and because of the diversity of sites and conditions along the coast.

The scientific basis for the strategy is an extensive inventory and analysis of all rocky shore sites on the coast. The inventory was conducted by aerial surveys and field study during the summers of 1993 and 1994 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (this inventory is summarized in subsection F.1.).

#### **b. Site Plans**

The Council encourages local site-management plans for rocky shore sites, where needed, to carry out the overall management designation and prescriptions set by the strategy. Site-management plans will respond to complex site conditions, uses, biologic resources and agency management interests and should be prepared with the involvement and participation of affected agencies, citizens, and interested groups at a local level to make sure that local knowledge and interests in the site are accommodated as much as possible.

The Council is especially committed to site-by-site assessment and management solutions for offshore rocks and islands for which serious resource management or protection concerns have been identified. Among the thirty-some "sensitive sites" listed in the Ocean Plan, the Council has identified seven as "priority rock and reef" sites in this plan where special assessment of the situation and management actions may be needed.

### **c. Intergovernmental Coordination**

Intergovernmental coordination and cooperation has been critical to preparing out the rocky shores strategy and will be essential to carrying it out. The membership and mission of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council reflects legislative intent to make sure that the many governmental interests of coastal cities and counties, state agencies and federal agencies, and coastal Indian tribes are coordinated. A collaborative, coordinated effort, based on a commitment to cooperate, increases the likelihood of success and decreases the need to add laws and authorities for any individual agency.

### **d. Education, Information, and Interpretation**

The strategy recognizes that an informed public with an enhanced sense of personal stewardship is crucial to protecting rocky shores. The strategy seeks to educate and inform the public to increase awareness of marine resources as the most effective means of protecting and conserving a these resources. The Council will encourage educational and informational outreach programs at coastwide as well as the local levels. The Council encourages additional support for existing educational and informational programs and creation of new programs. Overall, the Council supports a coordinated coastwide communication and interpretation strategy to support and reinforce public information programs to meet growing usage and impacts on rocky-shore areas.

### **e. Research, Study, and Monitoring**

The strategy is based on the need for sound information to prepare, carry out, and evaluate management programs for Oregon's rocky shores. The key to effective assessment and necessary adjustment (adaptive management) of management programs is an active, responsive research, study, and monitoring program.

### **f. Financial Realism**

The Council recognizes that the solution to many management problems will require little or no additional funds, some solutions will require new or additional funds to carry out. The rocky shores strategy provides a coastwide context for determining funding needs and priorities. of Energy.