



Oregon Coastal Notes

Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

January 2010

The Eagle is Landing: OPT Announces Wave Energy Buoy Deployment off Reedsport—Onno Husing, Director, OCZMA

Some of us have expected this news for several years. Wave energy is about to become *a reality* off the Oregon Coast. The purpose of this newsletter is to help people on the Oregon Coast understand that. In Oregon, we are preparing a comprehensive plan, the first of its kind, for siting renewable energy facilities in the Territorial Sea in a way that protects the marine environment, our fisheries, and, other important uses of the ocean.

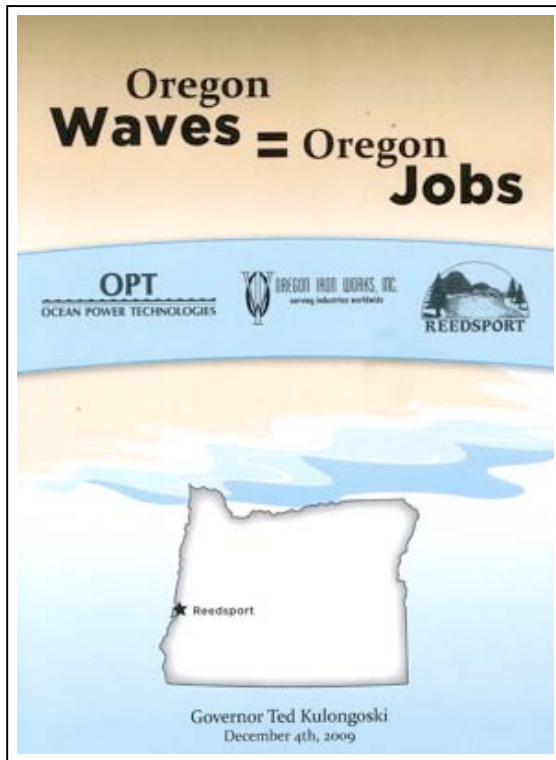
The ocean plan will only be as good as the information fed into the process. So, to be totally candid, this newsletter is also a call to action. We need many of you to share your knowledge about Oregon's ocean. And, as we get deeper into the planning process, your expertise will be needed again to help us understand the implications of the options facing us.

The Future is Now

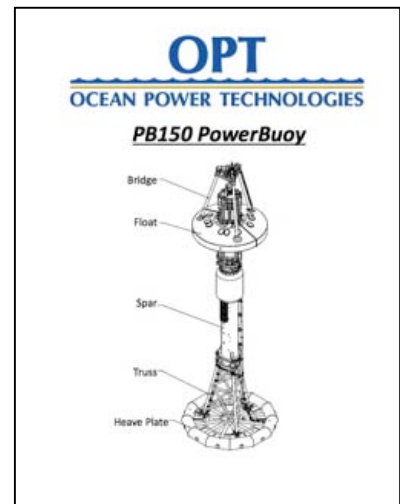
In the fall of 2010, Ocean Power Technologies, Inc. (OPT) will deploy a state-of-the-art wave energy buoy off Reedsport, Oregon. The buoy will be 140 feet long, 40 feet wide, and weigh 200 tons. It will generate 140 kilowatts and cost \$4 million to build. And, here's some good news. The buoy will be built in Oregon at Oregon Iron Works, Inc. (OIW) in Clackamas County. In 2011, OPT plans to deploy nine more buoys, to make *an array of 10 buoys*.

<http://www.oceanpowertechnologies.com>.

On December 4, 2009 at 4:30 p.m., a press conference was held at the Discovery Center in Reedsport to announce the deployment of the buoy. Reedsport Mayor Keith Tymchuk kicked off the discussion.



Cover of Notepad from Oregon Iron Works Ceremony



The management team from OPT, including Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mark Draper, participated.

Representative Arnie Roblan was asked to say a few words. Representative Roblan shared, “Two days ago, early in the morning, I drove up the coast from Coos Bay to a meeting in Newport. It was still dark of course. As I looked to my left, I could see the lights of the Dungeness Crab fleet out on the ocean. They were busy bringing home the bounty of the sea. I was proud to see them out there. There’s concern in our communities about wave energy, and what it may mean for our fisheries and the marine environment. We *must* work to ensure these two industries—wave energy and the fisheries—can be compatible.”

Representative Roblan explained, “I grew up in Port Angeles, Washington, a community based on natural resources. My family had a place on the Columbia River. My relatives were involved with the gillnet fisheries up there. I believe I know how important it is to keep our traditional ways of life going.”

For those of us who live on the Oregon Coast, those lights at sea twinkling in the dark are incredibly meaningful. Each light represents a family business, a neighbor, or a family member. Indeed, when we look west, we see more than a beautiful seascape. We see a place where *people we know* spend long hours making a living. And, we see a thriving marine ecosystem, a sacred place that sustains our communities. And when the ocean claims one of our friends or family, we endure that heartache.

So, at long last, when OPT announced they will deploy their first wave energy buoy off the Oregon Coast in 2010, it triggered mixed emotions. We experienced both exhilaration and concern.



Representative Arnie Roblan

What will this mean for the marine environment and the communities on the Oregon Coast? What are the pluses and minuses? To say there are diverse views on wave energy development in our region is an understatement.

Ceremony at Oregon Iron Works (OIW)

The ceremony at Oregon Iron Works, Inc. (OIW) held that same morning in Clackamas County began at 8:00 a.m. Governor Ted Kulongoski (see photo at right) and a host of other public officials and private sector folks were there. The management team from OPT was there. Mayor Keith Tymchuk was one of the featured speakers.



During the ceremony, the focus was on *jobs—manufacturing jobs*. *Energy independence* for the United States and *saving the planet* (addressing climate change) were other themes. You could feel the momentum behind wave energy. The smell of iron/welding drove home the fact that soon, wave energy development is coming to the Oregon Coast.

Again, OIW will make the buoys in Clackamas County. The buoys will be barged to Douglas County by Sause Brothers (headquartered in Coos Bay). The *jobs on the Oregon Coast* could come from some assembly, and from the deployment and operations/maintenance of the buoys. If the wave energy industry takes off, and, if large commercial-scale deployments happen off Oregon, more jobs could be created on the Oregon Coast at places like American Bridge Company in Reedsport. A welder from Coquille, Oregon, John Hanna, attended the ceremony at OIW to symbolize OPT’s and OIW’s commitment to create jobs on the Oregon Coast.

David Gibson, Renewable Energy Program Manager, OIW explained that building the buoys is going to be a sophisticated operation.

But, that’s what OIW does (e.g., build vessels for the Department of Defense, state-of-the-art streetcars). <http://www.oregoniron.com/>



David Gibson, Oregon Iron Works

David praised OIW’s workforce. He noted, “Our people are looking forward to this challenge. They feel this is something they will tell their grandkids about.” OIW’s workers looked sturdy and competent. They reminded me of people in the fishing industry.

OPT Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mark Draper made a gracious reference to **SOORC** (the

Southern Oregon Ocean Resource Coalition).

Draper said SOORC was one of the many

partners that made the Reedsport deployment

possible. SOORC’s leadership in developing

fishing grounds map overlays for *Oregon’s*

Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) has been a big

deal. This is a way to help reconcile conflicts

between recreational/ commercial fishing and

wave energy—identify general areas important

for fisheries and steer wave energy

development away from them.



Afterwards, David Gibson, who serves on the Oregon Wave Energy Trust (OWET), spent a

few minutes walking me through the plant. <http://www.oregonwave.org>

David showed me a work in progress: an enormous replacement gate (the Markland Miter Gates) for a lock in the Ohio River. Final assembly will take place at OIW's facility in Vancouver. The structure will be shipped by barge through the Panama Canal and up the Mississippi River to the Ohio River. It was a stirring experience to stand beside that hunk of iron and contemplate its impending journey.

Back To Reedsport

The press conference in Reedsport began at 4:30 p.m. One fisherman attended (Scott Cook, a salmon fisherman from Southern Coos County). That's because most fishermen were out at sea harvesting Dungeness Crab.

I was asked to make a few remarks. Representative Roblan said a lot of what I wanted to say. And that's good. I took a few minutes to reflect upon 2007. Those were the Gold Rush days when companies began applying to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for Preliminary Permits (PPs) in Oregon's Territorial Sea. They were, to say the least, unsettling times.

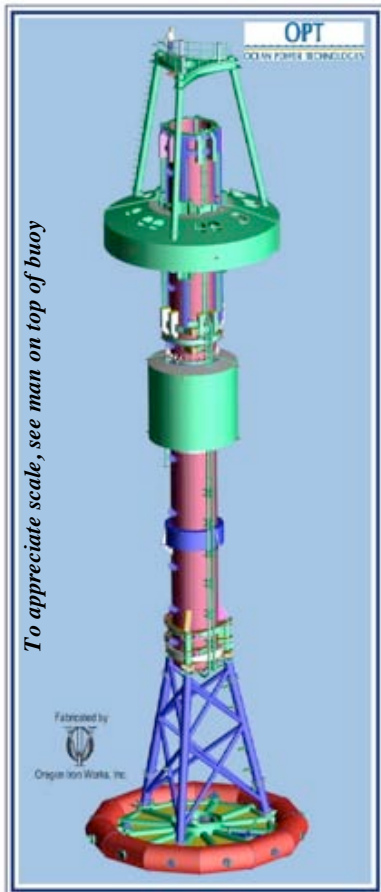
I said how impressed I was by the people of Reedsport—how they conducted themselves during the community meetings in 2007. I recalled, “The people in Reedsport asked all the right questions. They wanted to know how they could comment on this project without knowing *how many* other wave energy facilities were coming and *where* they'd be located. They also wanted clarity on marine reserves; like, how many would be designated and how big they would be.” I explained how people in Reedsport were alarmed to learn there was *no planning process* for wave energy; that companies could simply file for permits like the old mining days when you staked your claim.

Turning to OPT's Mark Draper in the front row I said, “Mr. Draper, I will always be grateful to OPT. OPT's representatives, and your management team in New Jersey, understood that *not* having an ocean plan was untenable; that it was bad for business. The meetings in Reedsport in 2007 helped all of us understand that.” Indeed, looking back, it was a defining moment. I also noted, “And, when the Oregon Wave Energy Trust (OWET) embraced ocean planning, that was also key.” By early 2008, it became clear to just about everyone that ocean planning was the path to *responsible* wave energy development.

As a result, today on the West Coast, Oregon is pioneering marine spatial planning (MSP). The State of Oregon has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with FERC, which reflects a mutual desire to see renewable energy development happen in a larger planning context. Community-based ocean resource planning groups, like SOORC, are key players in the process.



In November 2009, the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) adopted Part Five of the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP), after a lengthy stakeholder process through the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) and its TSP Working Group along with LCDC's TSP Advisory Committee (TSPAC). Part Five of the TSP lays the groundwork for marine spatial planning. This planning process, which is scheduled to be completed by late 2010-early 2011, will culminate in the identification of locations offshore for truly commercial-scale wave energy development facilities (in state and federal waters).



I also had positive things to say about OPT for its approach to the *settlement discussions*. That's where OPT, as the applicant, worked with state and federal agencies and stakeholders to negotiate a license application to FERC (a Notice of Intent-Preliminary Application Document, [NOI-PAD]). The development of a NOI-PAD is a very involved and painstaking process. OPT's license application to FERC contains robust research and monitoring programs funded with public sector and private sector dollars.

Early in the press conference, Representative Roblan remarked, "There have been times we've wanted to yell at OPT. But, OPT has always been there willing to work with us." Representative Roblan is right. OPT made some mistakes. For instance, OPT created controversy in early 2008 when they proposed expanding a potential 20-buoy demonstration project off Coos Bay to a 200-buoy commercial-scale project. (See OCZMA's June 2008 newsletter at <http://www.oczma.org>). And, OPT's 10-buoy demonstration project off Reedsport will occupy 30 acres of highly productive fishing grounds. Although that's not necessarily a mistake, it still bothers a lot of people. Fishing industry leaders serving on SOORC understand, though, that getting buoys in the water is important. We will all learn *a lot* about wave energy development from the Reedsport demonstration project.

So yes, OPT made some mistakes. But, that can happen when you plow new ground. In Reedsport, I felt it was important to talk about a few noteworthy things OPT got right because we should acknowledge when companies act responsibly.

I closed with commentary about "*adaptive management*". I explained, "Adaptive management is a simple concept. It's something we do everyday in our lives. It means, we learn by doing and make adjustments as we go along based on new information." Robust research and monitoring programs can ensure impacts on the marine environment are discovered so timely adjustments can be made. Sharing information, in real time, can make adaptive management work. And, deploying wave energy buoys *in stages*, like OPT's 10-buoy demonstration project off Reedsport, makes total sense.

In Reedsport, Jessica Keys from the Governor’s Office confirmed, again, that wave energy in Oregon will avoid impacting existing uses of the ocean and occur within the context of the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP). Her comments reflected Executive Order 08-07 (*Directing State Agencies to Protect Coastal Communities in Siting Marine Reserves and Wave Energy Projects*).

A Banner Crab Season

At the same time the upbeat press conferences on wave energy were happening, out at sea, Oregon fishermen were enjoying one of the best Dungeness Crab seasons ever.

Photo Courtesy of Nick Edwards



Just before New Year’s, Nick Furman (photo at left), Chair of SOORC, and Director of the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission called me. Nick said, “Everything clicked: fishermen and processors agreed on a price, crabs were plentiful and in top-notch condition, the weather cooperated.” He described how fishermen were calling in, reporting pots full of crab, a hundred pounds per pot, at \$1.75 a pound. Growing concerned, Nick said, “Most Oregonians have no idea how many tens of millions of dollars of earned income this fishery produces. It’s still

December. We are already close to landing 13 million pounds.” A Charleston-based fisherman, Nick Edwards (see photo at right—center), F/V Carter Jon, who also serves on SOORC, distributed a Christmas email greeting. Attached were photos of their first trip of the season—70,292 pounds of crab!

For the most part, in Oregon, sports and commercial fisheries are thriving. Everyone reports the best ocean conditions they’ve seen in their lifetimes. No one can put a price tag on the cultural importance these fisheries have in Oregon. This year’s crab season underscores what’s at stake. We just have to make Oregon’s ocean planning process work.



Photo Courtesy of Nick Edwards

Looking Ahead: Local-State-Federal Coordination is Key

We’ve come a long way since 2007. What’s next?

Complete the ocean plan. Along the way, keep our colleagues in the federal government fully engaged in the process. The West Coast Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) process will keep information flowing between the state and federal agencies.

<http://www.westcoastoceans.org>

Creating a seamless local-state-federal planning process for offshore renewable energy *for the entire West Coast* is in everyone's interest. For Oregon, state policies under Goal 19 (and under state statute) and federal policies codified under the 2005 Energy Policy Act complement each other. It's a great platform to build upon.

And, after OPT's buoy is deployed off Reedsport in 2010, we need to field a team of experienced and trusted people to *review the data* coming in from wave energy research and monitoring programs. In many ways, our work has just begun.



***Onno Husing**, author of this newsletter, has been Director of OCZMA since 1996. Husing serves on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) and served on the Oregon Wave Energy Trust (OWET) from 2007 to the fall of 2009.*

Information about OCZMA

The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA), formed in 1976, is a voluntary association of coastal counties, cities, ports, soil & water conservation districts, and the Coquille Indian Tribe on the Oregon Coast established to provide a forum for the resolution of issues of particular concern to the local governments of the coast and the people they represent.

Association Officers

Jack Brown • Chair (City of Depoe Bay)

Jeff Hazen • Vice Chair (Clatsop County)

Terry Obteshka • Secretary-Treasurer (City of Newport)

FY 2009-10

Association Staff

Onno Husing • Executive Director

Georgia York • Executive Assistant

Telephone: (541) 265-8918

Fax: (541) 265-5241

E-mail: onno_husing@class.orednet.org

georgia_york@class.oregonvos.net

Web Site: www.oczma.org



P.O. Box 1033; 313 SW 2nd, Suite C
Newport, Oregon 97365

Association Membership

Clatsop County

Coos County

Curry County

Douglas County

Lane County

Lincoln County

Tillamook County

City of Brookings

City of Cannon Beach

City of Coos Bay

City of Depoe Bay

City of Florence

City of Garibaldi

City of Lakeside

City of Lincoln City

City of Manzanita

City of Nehalem

City of Newport

City of North Bend

City of Port Orford

City of Reedsport

City of Rockaway Beach

City of Tillamook

City of Toledo

City of Yachats

Port of Alsea

Port of Astoria

Port of Bandon

Port of Brookings Harbor

Oregon International Port
of Coos Bay

Port of Garibaldi

Port of Gold Beach

Port of Nehalem

Port of Newport

Port of Port Orford

Port of Siuslaw

Port of Tillamook Bay

Port of Toledo

Port of Umpqua

Clatsop SWCD

Coos SWCD

Curry SWCD

Lincoln SWCD

Siuslaw SWCD

Tillamook SWCD

Umpqua SWCD

Coquille Indian Tribe