

HMSC Management Committee Meeting
28 January, 2005, 1:30 PM
Conference Room US Fish and Wildlife Service

Attending: George Boehlert, Roy Lowe (USFWS), Hollis Lundeen (NOAA/NWFSC), Clare Reimers (CIMRS) Cyreis Schmidt (ODFW), Marion Mann (HsO), Al Stoner (NOAA-AFSC), Janet Webster (Guin Library), Gil Sylvia (COMES), Steve Ferraro (EPA), Ken Hall (HMSC), Fred Jones (Ship Ops), Jon Luke (OR Sea Grant Ext.)

Not represented: USDA-ARS; NOAA-PMEL

Introductions

Presentation by Roy Lowe on USFW activities. All activities pertain to managing OR National Wildlife refuges and education associated with the refuges. Overview of refuges managed and highlights of recent activities:

Cape Meares – Peregrine falcon nest live TV feed at visitor center. Expansion of parking area is in progress.

Nestucca – road building and tidal marsh restoration

Bandon – reclaiming pasture land to be restored into tidal marsh. Large project just stated with expected completion by 2008.

Oregon Islands – management of 1, 853 coastal and offshore rocks. Predator management plan for red foxes has been submitted. Red foxes introduced on some rocks are eliminating some sea bird breeding colonies.

Siletz bay – marsh restoration continues. Area of large woody debris in estuary is part of the project. Education - New outreach projects include shorebird education.

Budget cuts for USFWS, as for all agencies, severe. Ultimately a flat budget is to be expected until 2007. Ameri-Corps position worked well and recently included a biologist and outreach specialist.

Old Business

Previous action items

The Tsunami evacuation drill and education meeting were successes. Discussion ensued about repeating the drill periodically, once a year. Preparation of Tsunami information and material for new HMSC personnel is considered important.

HMSC Speakers Bureau: forms still to be distributed as basis for developing list of personnel interested and willing to speak at public venues in response to invitations from schools, business groups, community organizations, etc.

HMSC Distinguished Lecturer Program

As previously discussed by the management committee, the goal is to have a distinguished lecturer on a quarterly basis, where each of the 12 agencies or OSU units would take on the rotating responsibility for inviting and hosting a speaker. Visit could be coupled with a research forum and/or public lecture. Approval of speakers is coordinated by the committee chaired by Bob Dziak. Individual agencies/units should put forth candidates and dates given their preferences based on a table handed out at the meeting. The Guin Library is willing to sponsor a non-scientist presenter, such as in the arts or literature.

Information distributed about upcoming scheduled and proposed speakers:

Amatzia Genin on Feb 18-19, sponsored by CIMRS/NWFSC
Verena Tunnicliff in Q2 of 2005, sponsored by PMEL
Daniel Pauly (possible speaker proposed for Q3 2005)
Jeff Polovina (proposed for Q4 2005)

New Business

Revising the annual HMSC report

Discussion on format: small glossy format or leave as is? Questions about who the targeted audience is, which in turn should dictate structure and content. Some agencies use the sections submitted within their internal reports, therefore it does not increase the workload. A small glossy format is preferred by most, but needs to include a compiled budget, bibliography and staff information. It was suggested that the format could follow that of the HMSC Strategic Plan. Organizational diagrams and detailed agency information could be referred to a web link. Several were in favor of an online report in the kind of format of the existing report, with the printed version being more brochure-like and also capable of being assembled in a manner that would allow "customized" printouts for different audiences. A draft "straw man" format for the report will be developed for discussion for the upcoming annual report.

HMSC Community Newsletter

Plan is for newsletter to come out 5 times a year. Ken Hall distributed information on how to submit to group contacts, and the deadlines for copy for the newsletter. Group contacts will be alerted before the deadline and the newsletter will be assembled with the materials received. Distribution to HMSC community via email notification that PDF is available on the web (for viewing/downloading), and limited number of hard copies sent to each building for posting in mail rooms and bulletin boards. Let Ken know if you would like additional hard copies. Ship-ops reported they weren't seeing them.

Reminder of publication dates and deadlines for content submission:

- January 15 publication – Jan. 7 submission deadline
- March 15 publication – March 1 submission deadline
- June 15 publication – Jun 1 submission deadline
- August 15 publication – Aug 1 submission deadline
- October 15 publication – Oct. 1 submission deadline

Guidelines for articles: News – brief updates on any issue i.e. research, hires, conferences attended, announcements, upcoming events. Feature story – average of 200-300 words with a limit of 750 words. Personal news – all new hires, photos, background, interests. Photos submitted need to be at least 180dpi.

Newsletter discussion led to comments about widespread confusion about how communications across the HMSC are handled. Lack of orientation for new hires about HMSC e-mail distribution lists – who is on them, how to sign up to get on one, etc. Orientation should be on the HMSC web site, but need remains to alert new HMSC members where important and relevant information can be found.

Visiting scientist program

Although HMSC does not have a formal visiting scientist program, many researchers, students, and other temporary visitors come and make use of facilities here. Quantifying the number and kinds of visitors that HMSC has hosted in recent years would help develop a better understanding of what

kind of demand there is or for our facilities and how to attract more visiting scientists. Ken distributed information about the National Science Foundation's "FSML" program to fund upgrade/modernization of facilities and equipment at marine labs/biological field stations, and draft categories for visiting scientists. Ken is requesting help in collecting information regarding scientists that came to, or have been at HMSC for a day, a year, or longer. A follow-up request will be forthcoming.

Property leases and Subtidal Requirements

Request for additional property leased from Oregon Dept. of State Lands to establish an oyster mooring facility by USDA/ARS. The question was posed if any other need existed for additional subtidal space, in order to have a master plan for the entire compound. Current port charges are modest, and generally leases are for 15 years. EPA had concerns about not using areas with submerged eel grass beds for any oyster culturing or other activity, since these areas were vital for wintering water fowl, geese. No other group expressed an interest in additional lease space.

OSU Capital Campaign and development of HMSC Alumni lists

Ken briefed the committee on the current effort to identify "alumni" of HMSC – that is, students, postdocs, faculty, staff who spent time at HMSC over the past 40 years. The goal is to build a database with current contact information for those individuals and re-establish contact. He asked whether agencies could help in any way with this effort. The most immediate need for this information is to invite people back to HMSC for a 40th anniversary celebration event in 2005 – possibly at SeaFest. ODFW mentioned that a list had recently been compiled for a retirement and might thus be available. OSU will also be starting up a capital campaign in the coming years, with obvious interest in contacting many of these people.

Sea Fest – Set for June 25th, 2005. Each agency or unit is again asked to contribute \$500.00 towards the cost of the event. Remaining financial needs will be covered by outside donations.

Roundtable Updates

New Exhibit – Invasive species exhibit at the V.C. will open on Feb. 26.

Small boat topic and issues will be discussed at next meeting.

Action Items

1. Ken Hall to distribute forms for developing an HMSC Speakers Bureau.
2. Agencies and groups that have not done so need to choose and sign up for Distinguished Lecturer time slots.
3. HMSC to develop straw man annual report format for discussion.
4. HMSC to distribute hard copy of instructions on the email lists, including their purpose and instructions on how to sign up.
5. HSMC to review new employee orientation packet for content and to provide appropriate materials to agencies for their employees.
6. HMSC to distribute and collect information on visiting scientists for a summary for the NSF proposal.
7. Request to be made for "HMSC alumni" from different groups.