

HMSC Small Boat Committee
Summary of 12/18/2002 Meeting

Groups and representatives attending:

Ship Ops – Fred Jones
EPA – Dave Specht
NMFS AF – Cliff Ryer
NMFS NW – Rick Brown
Marine Mammal – Bruce Mate
COMES – Ian Fleming
PISCO – Chris Holmes
COAS – Tony D’Andrea (also Chair)

Not Present: ODFW, USFW, Sea Grant

Primary Agenda

1. Inventory of number and size of boats used by various groups.
2. Pressing issues for small boats at HMSC

Small Boat needs

NMFS NW – 5 weeks of mooring in summers, 1 boat (21’ or less), access to small crane
PISCO – 1-2 boats (up to 30’)
EPA – 24’ boat in water, launching for other 5 small boats
COMES – 2 boats (21’ or less); mostly in and out of the water on use
Bruce Mate – 4 boats: 24’ bayliner, 2-rigid inflatables; 55’ Seal would still be at Marina
ODFW – 3 boats; occasional use
COAS – 1 boat, (21’ or less [D’Andrea]); more boats (2-3) planned over the next 5 years
OSU-FW – 1 boat (21’ Whaler), variable needs for docking

Boat Docking Needs: ~ 5 constant, 2-5 variable needs

Primary Needs for Small Boats at HMSC

• **Boat launching and docking**

Current (*status quo*): launching and any mooring at South Beach Marina negotiated by groups individually.

1. SB marina annual/seasonal launch pass inexpensive (<\$100)
2. BUT limited number of seasonal passes (then none available)
3. 7 months for EPA to negotiate space for 24’ boat

Long-term needs: Boat Dock: 10 slips (6 smaller, <21’; 4 larger <30’)
Boat Launch: yes, but lower priority and difficulties identifying location that would not have low water issues.

• **Ability to load/unload gear**

Current: No capabilities at Marina

• **Boat Storage Facility**

Current: Storage the responsibility of the boat owner
Scattered throughout HMSC

• **Security**

2-3 attempts to steal EPA outboards despite being behind tall locked fence

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Avenues for dealing with HMSC small boat needs

1. Do nothing. Groups continue to utilize and deal with them based on individual group needs
2. Work out better arrangement with South Beach Marina. Negotiate as “HMSC” or “Multiple Agencies” as a block, emphasizing that as a group represent highest revenue in county next to Lincoln County School District
3. Plan building and construction on HMSC campus and/or lease (waterways) for small boat support

Basically, unless there are good arguments for capital construction, 1 or 2 should be the approach we use.

Arguments for Investment in Small Boat Infrastructure:

- A. Field course development. I.e. do you want to sit in line at the Marina for an hour launching the 3 boats for your class *OR* Elakha is the only choice for coastal field courses.
- B. “Viable” Marine Research Facility. What facilities investment does HMSC want to make? Do they want to have accessibility to attract visiting researchers (similar to some East Coast marine labs such as Duke Marine Lab or Baruch Institute)? Boats and facilities so OSU and other marine researchers do not need to purchase boats in order to do any work in shallow coastal waters.

Boat Storage

Covered structure capable of housing 10-12 boats

- Touch base with Randy Walker about storage structure for gear; can we combine boat shelter construction with this (assuming some form of funding is available)
- How would this fit into long-term building/expansion plans for HMSC (talk to George)

Boat Mooring / Dock

Ideally finger piers with 10 slips and some small crane access

- Fred said that engineers that built dock for Ship Ops may be willing to give an overview of permits/designs (before large amounts of \$\$ would be required)
- Fred has a copy of the HMSC lease of the waterway (essentially from Ship Ops to the pump house)
- Ultimate location may depend on permitting and expense. For example, the filling and pilings used for Ship Ops dock would be difficult to get permits for today.
- 2 locations: either by the pump house or as a finger pier off of Ship Ops
- Ship Ops has no space on the Elakha side or on the main dock but Fred did say that the west side could be possible. Committee saw this as best option since could potentially access Ship Ops crane to load boats

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- Where will we get the \$\$\$? Previous capital improvements here were done by federal agencies, none of which could contribute anything right now except for maintenance fees (on order of a \$1-2K per year mostly from the EPA).

Boat Ramp

Ramp on HMSC campus rather than at the Marina

- Lowest priority of boat needs discussed
- Ramp location possibilities are near Ship Ops or by pump house pier
- Need to find out where previous ramp was located
- Need an ~30' ramp to accommodate the sizes of boats
- Deep water issues?
- Need info from the county about boat ramp construction
- Contact the people involved with the ramp recently built in Toledo?