MEETING NOTES

Columbia Near-Shore Project Partners Meeting

Wednesday, November 9 – 1:30 PM
OSU Seafood Center, Astoria, Oregon

In attendance:

Project partners:

Jim Bergeron, Convener
Doris McKillip, USCOE
Matt Hunter, ODFW
Dale Beasley, CRCFA
Renee Davis-Born, INR
Greg McMurray, DLCD
Robert Warren, CREST
Theeme Holznagel, CRCC
Bob Burkle, WDFW
Dan Jordan, Col. Bar Pilots
Patrick Wingard, Clatsop County
Jonathan Allen, DOGAMI
Patrick Corcoran, SeaGrant

Interested parties:
Dale Blanton, DLCD
Chuck Gale, Southwest Washington Coastal Communities

I. Declaration of Cooperation

The Declaration of Cooperation had been signed, and will be distributed. The Declaration lists the work done by the group during phase I of this project, and recognizes the commitments of funding from eleven different project partners to enable the 2005 Demonstration.

II. 2005 Nearshore Demonstration

The 2005 Demonstration project was implemented successfully in mid-September. Steve Greenwood recognized and thanked everyone who contributed to the successful implementation of the project, which was in question literally until the day before. He especially thanked Cathy Tortorici of NOAA Fisheries, who completed both the ESA and Essential Fish Habitat analyses in far less time than normal, in order for the project to proceed.

Dale Blanton of DLCD shared photos of the event and talked about his observations while on the dredge Essayons during the demonstration. Among his observations is that “the south jetty is in real trouble”.

Greg McMurray presented the preliminary findings from SAIC, cautioning that these findings were incomplete and that all the information had not been analyzed yet. Preliminary findings included:

- Operationally, the demonstration was a success. The material was successfully dispersed from the dredge at an even rate, very accurately along the planned monitoring lines.
- The SPI images showed that the material dispersed is very close to the size and type of existing sediment in the project area. This has very positive implications for the biological impacts of the project, as the benthic community should (and did) easily repopulate the new surface.
- The SPI cameras did not go as deep into the material as planned. The deepest were in the range of 5-6 cm, rather than 5-6 inches. Therefore we will likely be unable to estimate depths of accumulation based upon SPI data alone.
- In part because of the similarity of material, there was no "clear line" of delineation between the old and new material. Further analysis may yield more definitive results.

Greg said that the final report will analyze the SPI images along with the bathymetry and grab samples, from which we hope to get a clearer picture of the bottom accumulations. The final report is due sometime in December.

Bob Burkle said that he was very disappointed that the demonstration appeared to not answer the basic question about the depth of bottom accumulations using the enhanced dumping method. Steve agreed, but said that we should wait for the final results.

Jonathan Allen suggested looking at the mineralogy of the grab samples, to determine differences between the dispersed material and natural material.

Dale Beasely pointed out that although the demonstration worked well operationally, that it requires the dredge Essayons, or something similar.

There was discussion about alternatives to SPI that could be used to more accurately measure the bottom accumulations. Suggestions included underwater photography and "depth of disturbance" rods.

III. Next Steps: Phase II Workplan

Doris McKillip reported that the Congressional Conference Committee has recently come to agreement on the Corps' FY 2006 budget, which included more than $250,000 for the Nearshore Project. (This had not been in the President's recommended budget , but had been lobbied for as an "add" to the budget by the Lower Columbia Solutions Group.)

Renee Davis-Born said that she knew that there had also been a request for funding through the Coastal Zone Management program for work by OSU on this project. She said she would check on the status of that request, but had not heard about that funding being approved.

Steve Greenwood presented a brief outline of Phase II issues and tasks, based upon the Science-Policy Workshop in May, and the Demonstration results. They incuded:

- Further work on Enhanced Dumping
- Sediment migration patterns
- Wave direction and impacts
- Dungeness Crab and other biological communities

The group discussed these potential work tasks, mindful of budget limitations. A number of points emerged from the discussion:

1. More work may be needed (pending the final report) on measuring Depth of Accumulation from enhanced dumping.

2. A less expensive and potentially more accurate method for assessing crab abundance in the area is the technique, recently demonstrated, of trolling with underwater cameras.

3. May need more field monitoring of wave/current patterns in order to construct or design a model.

4. Need to construct and run a wave and current model for the nearshore area.

In response to concerns about budget – and what can realistically be done in 2006 given the budget – a number of suggestions were made:

- Analyze the <u>previous</u> wave and current data collected by the Corps
- Need to coordinate with NOAA, USGS, and others who are working in this area, to utilize their modeling efforts.
- Take existing models for wave data and model the impact of build-out: will it really protect the jetty?