

Senate Committee Hearing
Rural Communities and Economic Development
March 26, 2013

SB0580 Background and Function

Background:

- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) was established in 2005 to aid and advise the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee (OPAC) - ORS 196.451.
- STAC's role was expanded to specifically advise ODFW on Marine Reserves in ORS 196.545; and by the legislature in 2009-2011 biennium pursuant to HB 3013.
- The Nearshore Research Task Force (NRTF), established in 2009 by HB 3106, recommended a process by which STAC could increase its membership; and stated that STAC's role should be expanded to provide science advice to additional entities, such as other state agencies. Part of the NRTF's justification in the 2010 report for this was as follows:

This expanded role [referring to having STAC advise ODFW on marine reserves] has proven valuable in the process of scientifically evaluating candidate areas for designation as marine reserves and developing monitoring processes for those selected.

SB0580 Function:

1. Maintains all existing responsibilities of STAC including its predominate role to advise OPAC.
2. Enables STAC to make recommendations to other state agencies on nearshore and ocean issues, as funding and time are available.
3. Solidifies the current process for expanding STAC membership in order to perform its duties, with final appointment by OPAC. The process is as follows:
 - a. STAC determines it needs new areas of expertise and solicits nominees in those areas of expertise from the public.
 - b. STAC reviews nominees for scientific expertise relative to STAC needs and for any potential conflicts of interest and submits the list of one or more nominees to OPAC.
 - c. OPAC reviews nominees and makes formal appointments to STAC.