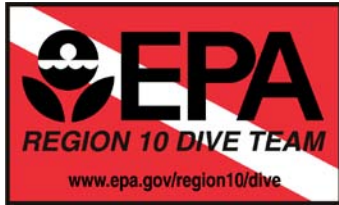


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## [EPA Region 10 Dive Team](#)

### **Oregon Coast Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites Survey Aboard OSV Bold**

**What:** The Region 10 dive team was asked to conduct video surveys of one proposed Ocean Dredged Material Research Site Benson Beach just north of the Columbia River, and two actual Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs), Chetco (near Brookings, OR) and Coquille (near Bandon, OR).

**Why:** This information will be used by the program to assist with determinations relative to:

- Movement of materials toward productive fishery or shellfishery areas [§ 228.10 (b) (2)]
- Evaluation of significant effects on biota characteristic of the general area [§ 228.10 (b) (3)]
- Dredge material disposed of at the site has accumulated at the site or in areas adjacent to it, to such an extent that major uses of the site or of adjacent areas are significantly impaired [§ 228.10 (c) (1)(iii)]

**Where:** Benson Beach just north of the Columbia River outlet into the Pacific Ocean, Chetco near Brookings, OR, and Coquille near Bandon, OR, close to the Oregon/California border.

**When:** August 24, 27, 28, 2008. Divers were aboard the Bold from Seattle to Coos Bay, August 21 through 29, 2008.

**How:** Divers utilized sidescan images taken from the June 2008 survey to identify potential higher value habitat areas that could be adversely impacted by dredge disposal. These waypointed targets were investigated for the type of rocky features that would support abundant marine life that could be adversely impacted by dredge material disposal.

**Equipment:** Rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) from the Bold, SCUBA equipment, 36% Nitrox to extend bottom time and safety, HC7 high definition video camera to take HD video while shooting 6 megapixel still images. Weather was a significant concern throughout the trip, at times cutting short dive operations due to wind-wave size. During the return from Chetco to Coos Bay, a 97 knot wind gust was recorded, with sustained winds between 30 and 40 knots.

**Results:** Photos, video, and narrative descriptions were conveyed to Region 10 Aquatic Resource Unit staff and the Chief Scientist for the Oregon Survey. Due to low to zero visibility conditions encountered at Benson Beach and Chetco, limited photos and video could be taken there. Visibility was considerably better at Coquille, allowing 6 dives to be made there. Several areas in the Coquille ODMDS supported higher value habitat. With this information EPA will assess whether the management of areas within the ODMDS need to be changed to sustainably manage this habitat.

**More Details:** [Ocean Survey Vessel \(OSV\) Bold](#)

[Video: Diver Survey of Coquille Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site, Southwest Corner \(Coquille #3\)](#), August 27, 2008, 3:30, (60 MB Quicktime video)

**Contact Information:** [Sean Sheldrake](mailto:Sheldrake.sean@epa.gov) (Sheldrake.sean@epa.gov), (206) 553-1220

Photos:

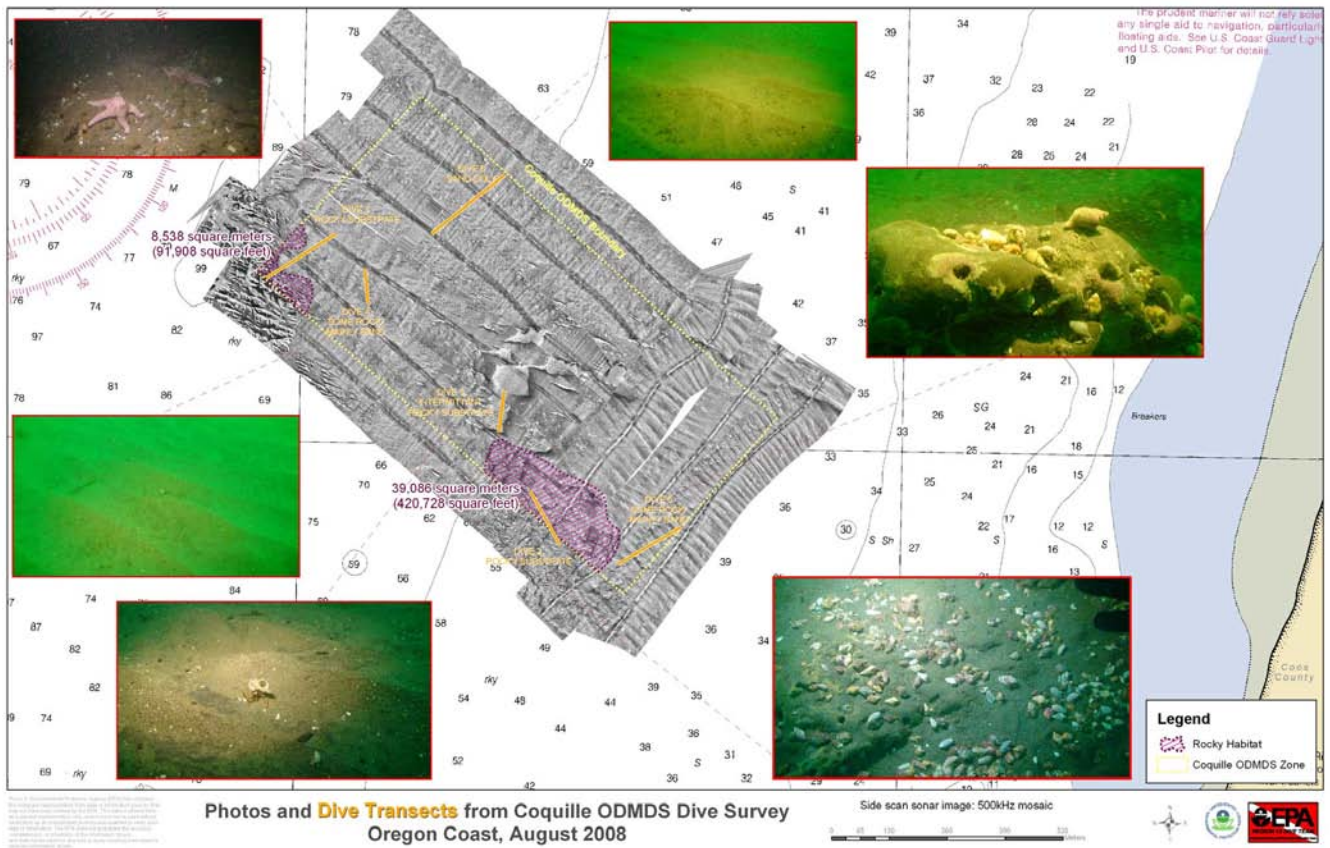


Photo of rocky habitat in the SW corner of the Coquille site, supporting a variety of fish and invertebrate life, August 27, 2008.



Snails on rocky habitat in the NE corner of the Coquille site.



Snails in the sandy area near the center of the Coquille site.



Sand waves in low visibility at the Benson Beach site, August 24, 2008.



Snails present on rocky habitat on east end of Coquille site.







Diver/Chief Scientist Christopher McArthur taking a compass heading across the Coquille site.



Bold crewmembers Emily Loose (Dive tech.) and Donny Rayhill (RHIB operator) filling



Project Divemaster Sean Sheldrake checking oxygen percentages before commencing

 <p>Bold in Port at Astoria at the beginning of the Oregon survey.</p>	 <p>Divers aboard the RHIB to begin the Benson Beach Survey.</p>	<p>Nitrox tanks.</p>  <p>Region 10 Divers Sheldrake, Pedersen, and Duncan prepare to board the RHIB for the Benson beach survey.</p>	<p>dives.</p>  <p>UDO Pedersen does double duty as a chemical hygiene officer for the duration; likewise all divers did double duty with the benthic sampling, CTD or both.</p>
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