

## **21st International Conference of The Coastal Society**

### **The Reedsport Settlement Process: A Model for Wave Energy Planning?**

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The Oregon Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation is engaged in the first comprehensive settlement process related to wave energy development for the proposed Reedsport Wave Energy Project. Surfrider, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, is a key stakeholder in this process because its members, primarily surfers and other recreational ocean users, will be directly affected by wave energy development. Surfrider recognizes that wave energy may offer important benefits as a renewable source of energy, as well as a cutting-edge industry for coastal communities. The organization also recognizes that many questions about wave energy remain, including potential impacts to nearshore ecology, ocean recreation, public safety, aesthetics, and fishing access. To ensure appropriate consideration of these issues, Surfrider has participated in a settlement process with federal and state agencies, stakeholder groups, conservation organizations, and Ocean Power Technologies (OPT) to agree on a precautionary approach to wave energy in Reedsport. Negotiations have developed a draft settlement agreement that includes an adaptive management approach. This includes several study plans that OPT has agreed to implement to identify any adverse effects from the first and second phases of the wave energy project. The company hopes to install one buoy and then ten buoys before a potential build-out to 200 buoys. Adaptive Management ensures that parties reassess implementation of the project at each phase to avoid or minimize degradation to aquatic resources.

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