

Giant Pacific Octopus



Photo by Janna Nichols

Craig Burley Fish Management Division Manager, Fish Program

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting

April 12, 2013

Presentation

- **Objective: Present draft management options from advisory group process and seek additional guidance on refinements of options**
- **Process and schedule review**
- **Management options presented to advisors**
- **Advisory group recommendations**
- **Staff analysis**
- **Commission discussion and guidance**

Process and Schedule

- March 2013: Convene GPO advisory group and develop draft options for consideration
- April 12, 2013: Commission briefing on draft options and recommendations – Commission refinement of options
- April 23-24, 2013: Public workshops on draft options for protection of GPO (Port Townsend and Seattle)
- June 2013: Commission meeting and public testimony on draft options and recommendations
- August 2013: Commission action on draft options for protection of GPO in Puget Sound

Advisory Group Members

Name	Address	Notes
Bernd Cordes	Seattle	Designing Ocean Health Initiative at Vulcan and Paul G. Allen Family Foundation; 18 years marine conservation.
David Fessler	Olympia	PADI Project Aware Marine Environmental Award; PADI Master Instructor; Manager for Underwater Sports; Hunter/ Fisher
Caroline Gibson	Port Townsend	Marine Program Manager, Northwest Straights Commission.
Rhoda Green	Renton	PADI instructor; REEF advance Assessment Team; Annual marine surveys; AAUS Scientific diver; Beach Naturalist Captain Seattle Aquarium.
Bill High	Kenmore	Conducted studies on GPO; National diving office for National Marine Fisheries Service & NOAA; 150 publications on fisheries science studies; Past President NAUI
Peter Hudspeth	Tacoma	NAUI certified diver; Fisherman for 38 years; Hunter; Hiker/climber; Army National Guard.
Bill Minton	Tacoma	Sport fishing entire life; active scuba 13 years; small dive charter service for three years; several years participated in commission meetings.
Pete Naylor	Sedro Woolley	Nominated by Seadoc Society; Served on Rockfish Advisory Group.
Janna Nichols	Vancouver	Speaker at numerous dive clubs; ; Leads REEF Advanced Assessment Team field survey projects on west coast." 13 years with scuba clubs; Scientific diver for AAUS; Volunteer marine life surveyor; Outreach coordinator for REEF.
Mark Plunkett	Seattle	28 years with the Seattle Aquarium; Seattle Shoreline MPA; Chair of Marine Conservation Network; collaborator with Seattle City Council, Seattle Parks Department, Vulcan and SCUBA community on GPO outreach; nominated by Seattle Aquarium.
Mike Racine	Snoqualmie	Past President WA Scuba Alliance; PSRFE Oversight Com. ; Led divers for NOAA research; Nominated by WA Scuba Alliance.
Andrea Reiter	Bellingham	Spear fisher and angler; Obtaining masters in environmental education; Pro fishing and conservation.

Management Options

- Option 1: Status quo
 - Should the Department manage Giant Pacific Octopuses with the current recreational fishing regulations?
- Option 2: Puget Sound wide closure of recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopus
 - Should the Department promote viewing opportunities in Puget Sound by protecting Giant Pacific Octopuses from recreational harvest?
- Option 3: Closure to recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopus at popular dive sites in Puget Sound
 - Where are the popular dive sites in Puget Sound that would benefit most from protecting Giant Pacific Octopuses from recreational harvest?
- Option 4: Closure of recreational harvest of all species (no take) at popular dive sites in Puget Sound
 - Where are the popular dive sites in Puget Sound that would benefit most from additional protection?
 - What are the appropriate harvest opportunities at these areas?

Advisory Comments\Recommendations

- Option 1: Status quo
 - Should the Department manage Giant Pacific Octopuses with the current recreational fishing regulations?
- Support
 - Yes, should be managed according to abundance and harvest levels
 - Seems like few are being taken – could consider a catch record card
 - Consider outreach to dive community for voluntary protection
- Oppose
 - Some level of protection is needed, rules must be same for everyone
 - Needs additional protection for viewing opportunities
 - Consider a size limit to protect adult females about to spawn
 - Consider an annual limit with catch record card

Advisory Comments\Recommendations

- Option 2: Puget Sound wide closure of recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopus
 - Should the Department promote viewing opportunities in Puget Sound by protecting Giant Pacific Octopuses from recreational harvest?
- Support
 - Yes, too little is known to allow a directed dive fishery
 - Yes, request citizen support in monitoring, reports, and observations
 - Yes, divers choose to dive to view wildlife
- Oppose
 - No, resource appears to be in good shape
 - It is too broad and is not needed
 - We need more harvest opportunity not less
 - We need to manage for multiple purposes

Advisory Comments\Recommendations

- Option 3: Closure to recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopus at popular dive sites in Puget Sound
 - Where are the popular dive sites in Puget Sound that would benefit most from protecting Giant Pacific Octopuses from recreational harvest?
- Support
 - Would need to include all octopus species
 - Need to be full closure -- octopus species misidentified
- Oppose
 - Many of the most popular shore dive sites are already no-take

Advisory Comments\Recommendations

- Option 4: Closure of recreational harvest of all species (no take) at popular dive sites in Puget Sound
 - Where are the popular dive sites in Puget Sound that would benefit most from additional protection?
 - What are the appropriate harvest opportunities at these areas?
- Support
 - Yes, at most popular sites for certifying new divers
 - Yes, with a mixture of some sites with full closure others are not
 - Full closure with finfish exceptions
- Oppose
 - We already have a number of no take areas
 - Several of these sites are fishing reefs created to enhance fishing
 - All species too broad of scope
 - No scientific basis for doing this

Current Marine Protected Areas And Popular Dive Sites

- 9 Conservation Areas
- 16 Marine Preserves
- Hood Canal (MCA 12) closed to GPO and other species
- 29 initial advisor's popular dive sites in yellow



Summary of Recreational Harvest Restrictions

7 Sites currently protected (in Yellow)

Species categories

GPO = Giant Pacific

Octopus

Slm = Salmon

Trt = Sea trout

Btm = Bottomfish

Shl = Shellfish

FrF = Forage fish

Unc = Unclassified marine invertebrates and fish

Abbreviations used for table entries are:

C = Closed: no takes allowed.

O = Open

L = Limited openings

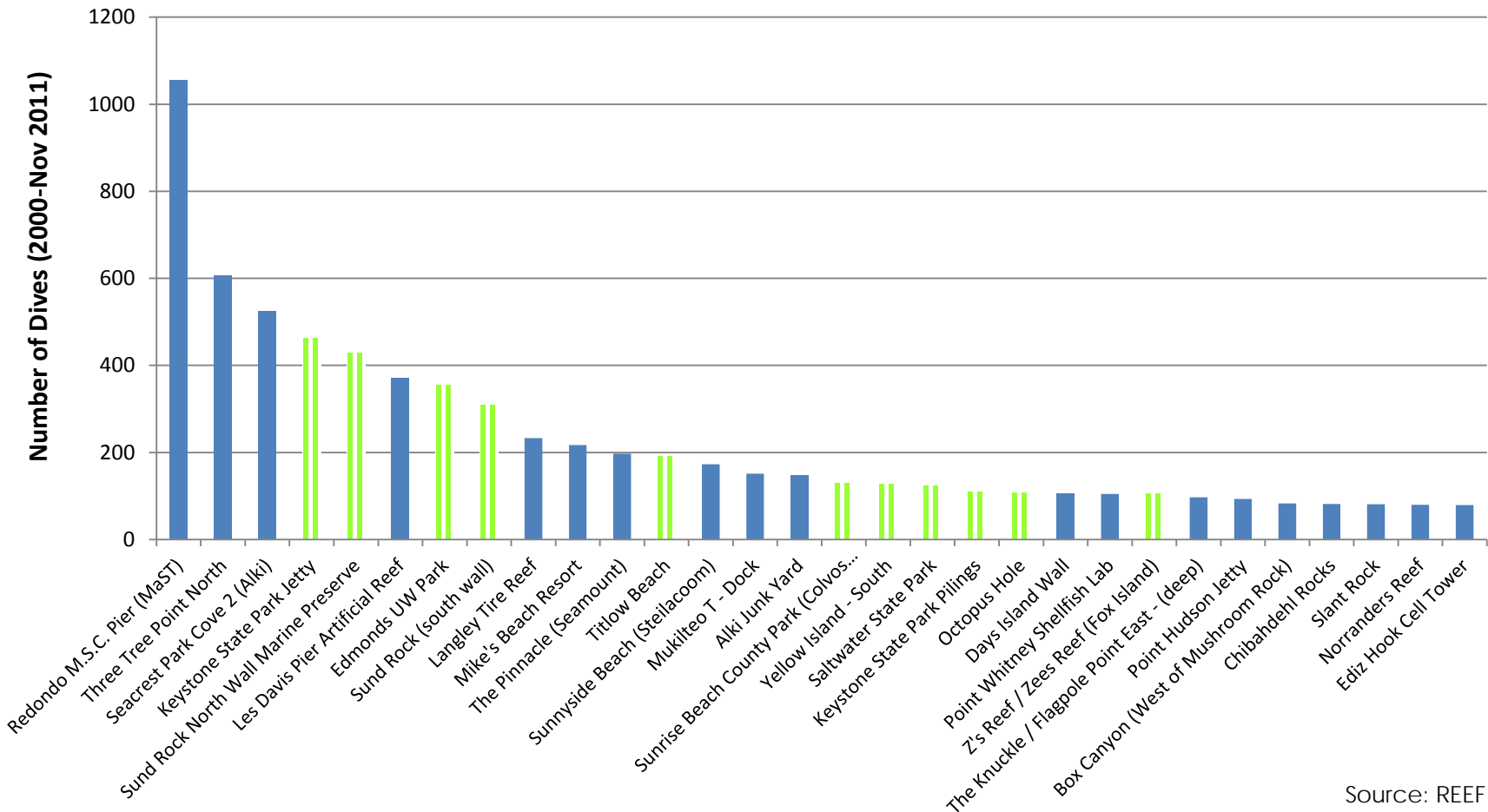
Current Marine Protected Areas	Recreational						
	GPO	Slm	Trt	Btm	Shl	FrF	Unc
<u>Admiralty Head MP</u>	C	C	C	C	L	C	C
<u>Argyle Lagoon MP</u>	C	O	O	C	C	L	C
<u>Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Carkeek Park MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>City of Des Moines Park CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>(Sunrise) Colvos Passage MP (Sunrise)</u>	C	L	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Discovery Park MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>Emma Schmitz Memorial Park MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>False Bay MP</u>	C	O	O	C	C	L	C
<u>Friday Harbor MP</u>	C	O	O	C	C	L	C
<u>Golden Gardens Park MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>Keystone CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Lincoln Park MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>Octopus Hole CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Orchard Rocks CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Richey Viewpoint MP</u>	C	L	L	L	C	L	C
<u>Saltars Point Beach CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Saltwater State Park MP</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Shaw Island MP</u>	C	O	O	C	L	L	C
<u>South 239th Street Park CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Sund Rock CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Titlow Beach MP</u>	C	L	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Waketickah CA</u>	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Yellow and Low Islands MP</u>	C	O	O	C	C	L	C
<u>Z's Reef MP</u>	C	L	C	C	C	C	C
<u>Sea cucumber & urchin EZs : Haro Strait & San Juan, Upright Channels</u>	O	O	O	O	O	O	C

Popular dive sites in Puget Sound

- Ranked by advisors supporting additional protection of species from recreational harvest
- Over half the advisors supported protection of all species at Redondo
- One third of advisors supported protection of GPO at seven sites

Site	Recreational Restrictions					
	GPO	Slm	Trt	Btm	Shl	FrF
Redondo Beach	91	45	55	64	55	64
Days Island	64	27	27	27	27	27
Three Tree Point North	64	18	18	18	18	18
Alki Beach (Seacrest Coves 1, 2 and 3)	45	9	18	18	18	18
Deception Pass	36	27	27	27	27	27
Les Davis	36	9	9	9	9	9
Alki Beach Junk Yard	36	9	9	9	9	9
Dalco	27	18	18	18	18	18
Sunnyside	27					
Possession Point	27		9	9	9	9
Edmonds (South of Ferry Dock)	18	9	9	9	9	9
Blakely Rock	18	9	9	9	9	9
Mukilteo	18					
Langley Marina	9					
Pinnacle	9					
Port Townsend	9					
KVI Tower	9					
Ed Munro	9					
Lime Kiln	9					
Long Island	9					
Pulali						

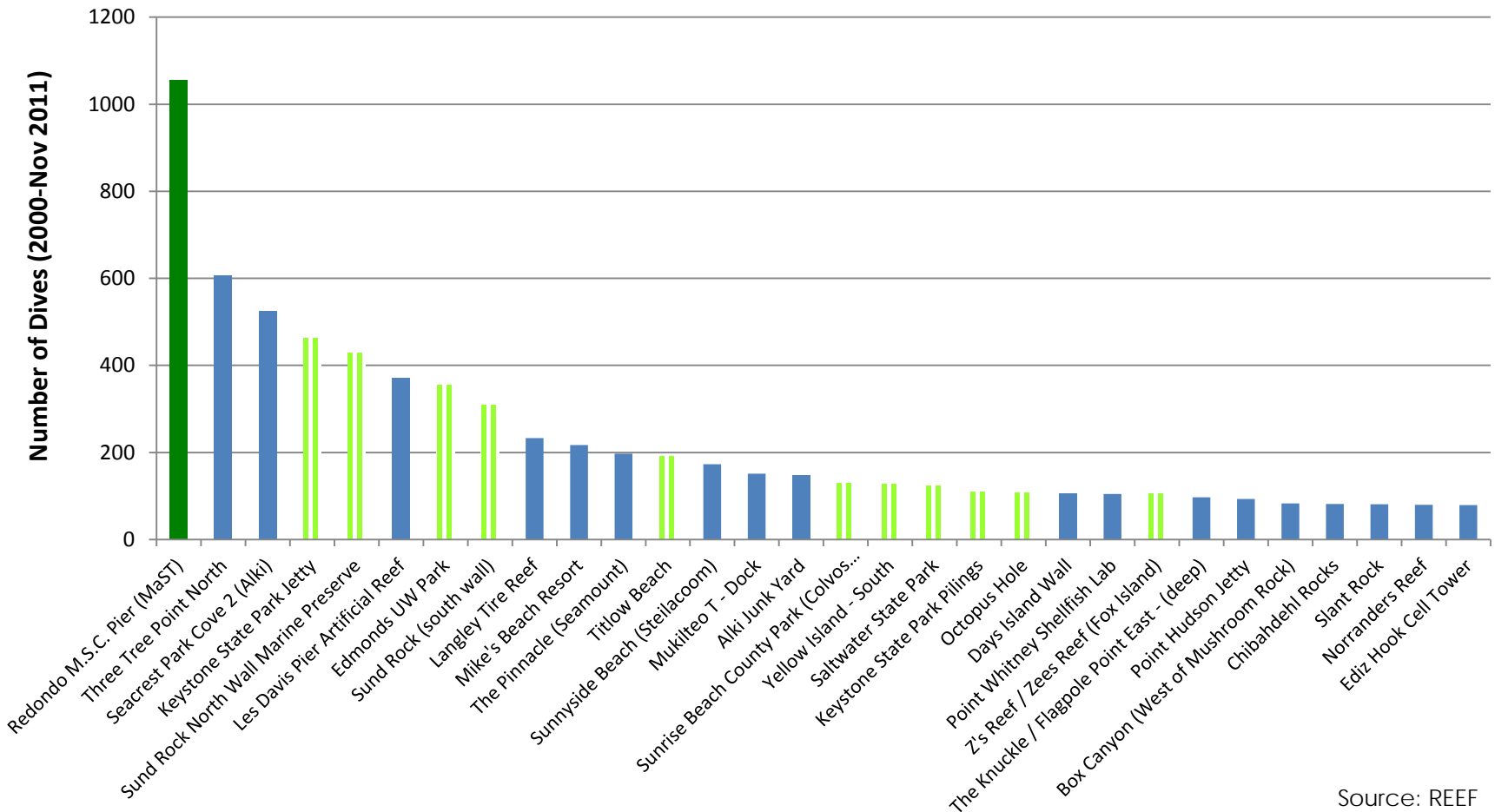
Popular Dive Sites (With Current Protection)



Source: REEF

Popular Dive Sites

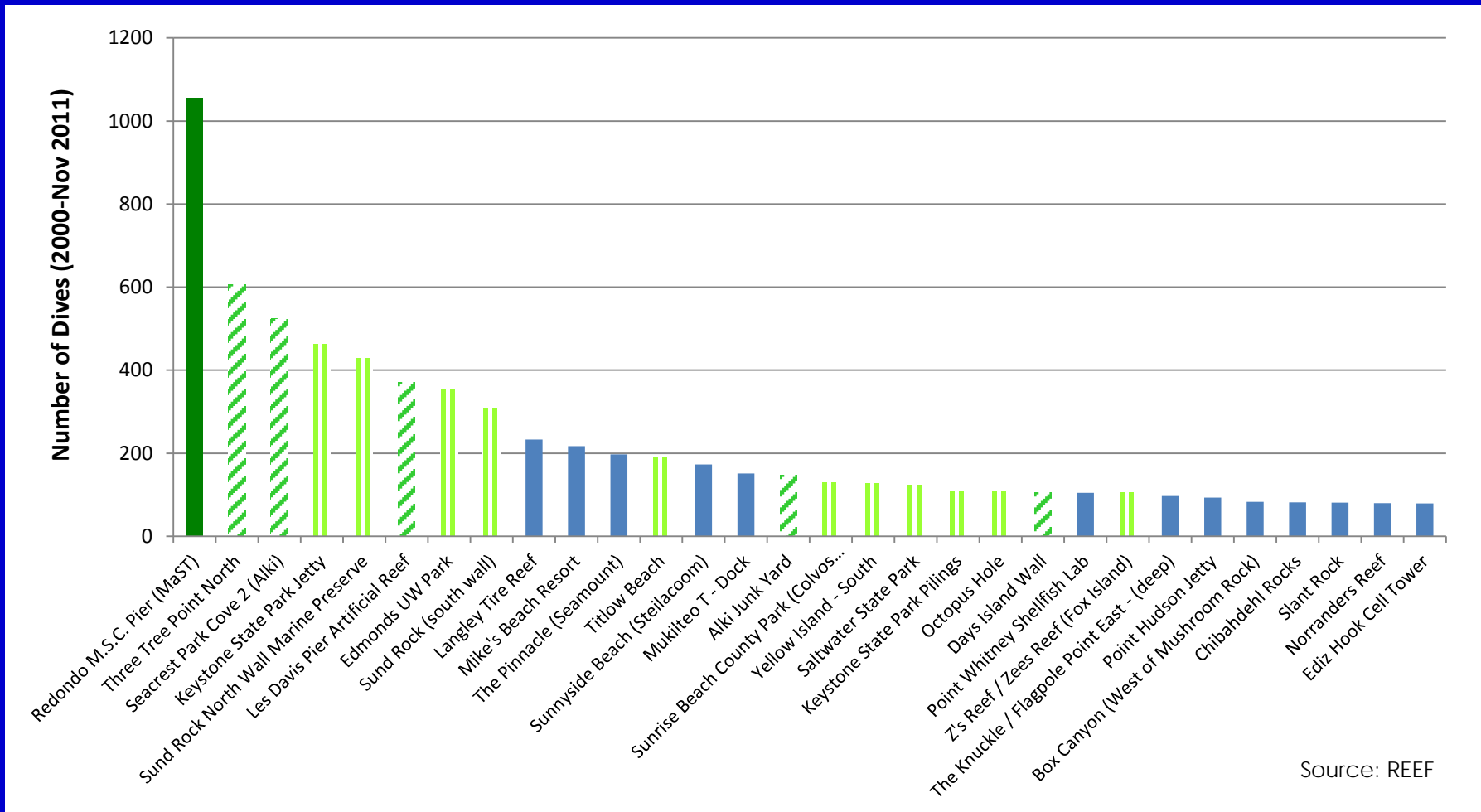
(Including proposed conservation area)



Source: REEF

Popular Dive Sites

(Including proposed CA and Marine Preserves)



Source: REEF

Staff Recommendations

- Option A: Status Quo
- Option B: Conservation Area -- no recreational harvest all species
 - Redondo Beach
- Option C: Marine Preserves -- no recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopuses
 - Redondo Beach
 - Three Tree Point
 - Seacrest Park Coves 1, 2 and 3 (excluding fishing pier)
 - Les Davis
 - Alki Beach Junk Yard
 - Days Island Wall
 - Deception Pass
- Option D: Puget Sound closure to recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopuses

Next Steps

- Commission discussion and refinements today for options for public comment and workshops
- April 23-24, 2013: Public workshops on draft options for protection of GPO (Port Townsend and Seattle)
- June 2013: Commission meeting and public testimony on draft options and recommendations
- August 2013: Commission action on draft options for protection of GPO in Puget Sound

Questions



Photo by Janna Nichols