



P.O. Box 5389
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January 9, 2012

Dear Oregon International Port of Coos Bay Commissioners,

As scientists who served on the Port of Coos Bay Marine Reserves Recommendation Committee, as well as those of us who serve on the Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, and Cape Perpetua community teams, we wish to offer the following comments on the Cape Arago Marine Reserve committee's March 16th recommendation to the Port Commission

Our comments are based on our concerns for the design of the Oregon marine reserve network as a whole. We base these comments on the OPAC Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) marine reserve size and spacing guidelines. These were developed in 2008 at a workshop attended by 31 scientists to summarize the best available science to inform the design requirements of marine reserves in Oregon. These guidelines were used by both ODFW and the Oregon community action teams at Cape Falcon, Cascade Head and Cape Perpetua.

Specifically, the guidelines state the following requirements for ecological significance of a marine reserve system in Oregon's Territorial Sea:

"The unique geomorphology of the Oregon coast and alongshore differences in bottom habitat and water-column characteristics (currents, stratification, primary production) should be taken into account when deciding the spacing of marine reserves.

For the objective "to protect key types of marine habitats in multiple locations along the coast to enhance resilience of nearshore ecosystems to natural and human-caused effects," marine reserves should be distributed along the full Oregon coast and in each biogeographical region.

Larvae released from a reserve will be dispersed up and down the coast, depending on season and distance from shore. Larvae with short planktonic larval durations, up to about one week, will tend to reseed reserves of 5-10 km (2.7-5.4 nautical miles) in size, while larvae with longer pelagic larval durations, for example around 30 days, will seed greater than or equal to 25 km (13.5 nautical miles) to either side of the reserve (Shanks et al, 2003). The spacing guideline used in the MLPA (Marine Life Protection Act) of 50-100km apart alongshore (27-54 nautical miles) was generally agreed to as a starting point, with the caveat that long stretches of sand habitat in the center of the coast would have to be considered."

(STAC report to OPAC on Size and Spacing of Marine Reserves Workshop 2008

http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OPAC/docs/resources/Oregon_Size_and_Spacing_Workshop_Report.pdf?ga=t)

The workshop report includes a discussion of the size and spacing relevance with respect to Oregon and the majority agreed that the recommendations from California were scientifically defensible when applied to Oregon.

The lack of a marine reserve between Port Orford (Redfish Rocks) and Cape Perpetua, a distance of more than 120 nautical miles, ensures that these guidelines cannot be met. We need to ensure that the time, effort and funds that the state is committing to the marine reserves initiative allows ODFW to make a meaningful test of the ecological benefits of marine reserves

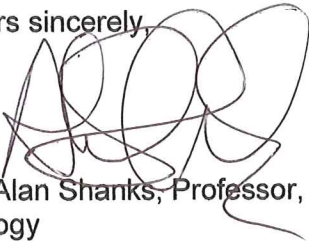
within Oregon's territorial sea. We believe that without a reserve in the region between Port Orford and Cape Perpetua the state cannot fully meet its objectives to determine the efficacy of marine reserves.

We encourage you to:

1. Table the recommendation from the Port of Coos Bay Marine Reserves Recommendation Committee on no marine reserve in the Cape Arago region.
2. Ask ODFW to convene a community action team for the entire region from Cape Blanco to Cape Perpetua that would use the process pioneered by other marine reserve community action teams to determine if there is a site suitable to meet the guidelines outlined in the size and spacing report.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Yours sincerely,



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Dr. Steve Rumrill, Research Scientist and Program Coordinator, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve



Dr. Jan Hodder, Associate Professor, University of Oregon, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology



Dr. Bill Peterson, Oceanographer, Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Newport



Dr. Curtis Roegner, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Point Adams Research Station



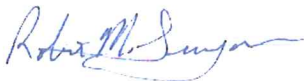
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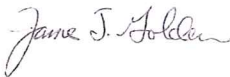
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