

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
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SUBMITTED BY: Tim Josi

February 1, 2012

Oregon State Legislators
Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97310

RE: Marine Reserve Bill (Draft Bill LC 149)

Dear Legislator:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding Draft Bill LC 149 which has been amended to read that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and Oregon State Land Board will implement Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas at Cape Perpetua, Cascade Head and Cape Falcon.

In Section 4, the bill calls for a draft report from the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee (OPAC) within ten years to be prepared by a public university with an assessment and recommendations for administrative actions and legislative proposals about the reserves. No actual goals for a working marine reserve have been listed.

No true compromise has been approved for policy consideration in the ongoing process to create marine reserves. The proposals put forth, to date, have been a taking of access to public resources by one interest group from another. No tangible benefit has been offered to help the displaced interests mitigate for this loss of access. What has, to date, been called compromise is simply offers to reduce the magnitude of unmitigated permanent displacement. True compromise occurs when both sides offer to trade tangible assets, real or granted by public policy, in order to satisfy the needs of each. Further, there was *not* 'consensus' on the north coast community teams, especially at Cape Falcon where ODFW crafted a different proposal after the community team process.

Few, if any, mitigation measures that the fisherman requested for giving up their fishing grounds are addressed in Draft Bill LC 149. These steps could include funding for: 1) scientific and data collection assistance that could result in opening areas presently closed; 2) process assistance and placement of artificial reef structures that could increase target and other species

abundance; 3) operation, maintenance, and upgrades for coastal fish hatcheries; 4) market promotion assistance for displaced user groups when alternative fishing grounds are not available (i.e.; crabbing).

Funding for expansion of fishing opportunities equal to that for marine reserves should be a mandated part of the marine reserve process. With this support a true compromise would be in place on a level playing field with no high ground (moral or otherwise) existing for any interest.

Marine reserves must have clearly defined and measurable goals and objectives. These goals and objectives must benefit the citizens of the state. Accountability must be an integral part of the process as is the case with fishery management.


Any marine reserve created must have a sunset clause requiring reauthorization within 4-6 years. If marine reserves are performing as promised then reauthorization should not be an issue of impediment.

Most notably missing in this draft bill is a non-performance clause. We concur with The Fisherman's Advisory Committee of Tillamook (FACT) that the north Oregon Coast will be hurt economically if Cape Falcon is included in the reserves being proposed. A 2007-2008 NMFS/FMC final Environmental Impact Statement cited the City of Garibaldi in Tillamook County as the most vulnerable and least resilient port city on the west coast to any fishing regulation changes.

The Tillamook County Creamery is losing ten percent of its employees this month. We cannot afford to lose any more jobs. Closing even a small amount of our fishing areas could affect commercial, charter and especially our recreational sport fleet. This means loss of jobs, loss of boats and the loss of opportunity at a time when our fishermen and our state can least afford it.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON



Tim Josi, Chair



Mark Labhart, Vice Chair



Charles J. Hurliman, Commissioner