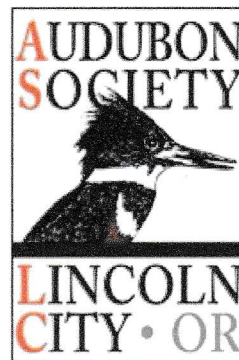

Audubon Society of Lincoln City

PO Box 38 Lincoln City Oregon 97367

www.lincolncityaudubon.org



February 6, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Dear Chair Ken Helm:

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) believes that Oregon's Marine Reserves benefit both the environment and our communities. We urge the passage of HB 2903 relating to Marine Reserves and its associated proposed funding.

Four of the five Marine Reserves are within our Lincoln and Tillamook county service area. A key part of our mission is to protect habitats found along Oregon's Central Coast. The Marine Reserves protect marine habitats, maintain biodiversity, and promote community engagement.

As conservationists, we take pride that our state conserves marine life at the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. As Oregonians, we marvel at the adaptations of marine life in tidepools at Roads End, Lincoln City within the Cascade Head Marine Reserve. As community members, we view the Otter Rock Marine Reserve as a living laboratory where our members can participate and contribute to community science programs like the Black Oystercatcher monitoring project. As birding enthusiasts, we recognize the ecological relationship between forage fish food resources within the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve, Marine Protected Areas, and the nearby seabird nesting colonies.

HB 2903 directs state agencies to develop an adaptive management plan, which includes elements such as a social monitoring program, for the Marine Reserves as recommended in the *2022 Assessment of the Marine Reserves* conducted by scientists at Oregon State University. A review of the first ten years of the Marine Reserves program demonstrates that the program is meeting its goal of protecting habitat and biodiversity while avoiding significant adverse social and economic impacts on ocean users and coastal communities. HB 2903 will provide funding to better understand socioeconomic effects of the Marine Reserves at a community scale.

The adaptive management program identified in HB2903 will ensure that the Marine Reserves program can continue to research issues that Oregonians care about such as ocean acidification, seastar wasting disease, and health of fish stocks. ASLC supports having a community-engagement process as part of the adaptive management program. HB 2903 provides guidance and funding support for the Marine Reserves program to continue to be a success story. Please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Villaescusa", is written over a horizontal line.

dawn villaescusa, President

dawnv@birdlover.com

503-507-8457

Our mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.