

Submitter: Aaron Longton

On Behalf Of: Port Orford Sustainable Seafood

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2903

Port Orford Sustainable Seafood (POSS) was formed in 2009 to help fishermen and the community retain more of the value from local ocean resources. Port Orford's sustainable seafood community includes local fishers, employees, friends and family, and everyone who shares a connection to the ocean. We purchase fish directly at the dock and distribute it locally, keeping more resources in the hands of the people who are out there putting it on the line.

We love Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area for so many reasons and are a proud supporter and collaborator! Redfish Rocks is a very well studied slice of local habitat which helps us understand how our nearshore fisheries are performing. It also offers economic opportunities for local boats and their crews to charter their services in conducting science – whether by contract with ODFW or universities.

The conservation story of Redfish Rocks adds value to our catch – especially with conscientious consumers who are often compelled to come to Port Orford to visit. This has a multiplying effect with other parts of the local economy. Once people connect the resource with a fisherman and the place they fish, it enhances the importance of stewardship throughout the value chain.

The Reserve has also attracted recreational interests and even brought a new business to our dock, South Coast Tours, that offers boat tours of Redfish Rocks. The Reserve has been embraced by the fleet and the greater community and, importantly, it has attracted academic institutions to our community with OSU operating the Port Orford field station. It's a win-win proposition.

Please vote “yes” on HB 2903 to strengthen Oregon's Marine Reserves Program!