



February 9, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
900 Court Street NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support House Bill 2903, Oregon Marine Reserves Program

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust, I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2903, a bill which would provide continued support to one of Oregon's most important coastal programs, Oregon's marine reserves. Specifically, the bill would implement Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council recommendations to adaptively manage these important coastal resources by developing and implementing sound objectives for monitoring and research, evaluating social impacts of marine reserves using measurable indicators, developing appropriate sampling protocols to inform and evaluate the role and importance of Oregon's marine reserves and protected areas, taking key outreach and engagement steps with coastal stakeholders and tribes, and assessing social impacts and co-benefits to inform policy decisions.

There is no more important time than now to enhance and amend Oregon's marine reserves statutes and express a renewed commitment to ensure these important coastal resources are monitored, managed, and assessed in ways that incorporate adaptive management and social impacts. Climate change stressors, ocean acidification and hypoxia, an increasing human coastal population, and numerous other factors make this bill an important and timely investment in Oregon's marine reserves to ensure we are responsible stewards in these economically and environmentally valuable marine resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LA", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Anderson, Chair
Oregon Ocean Science Trust
<https://www.oregonoceanscience.com>