

Submitter: Willis DeWitt
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I am writing to express my support of the funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Marine Reserves program, now in its statutorily mandated decadal review. Furthermore, I believe it's imperative the program retains its original budget and maintains the position for a Community Engagement Project Leader of ODFW's Marine Reserve Program.

- This is the only coastal marine conservation program of the state of Oregon.
- It's our only investment in ocean "parks" and only a fraction of the area of what we understand and protect on land and in our forests.
- It's the only conservation program of the agency with clear natural resource and ecological goals AND community economic goals related to resilience in the face of our changing oceans and climate

Investing in the preservation of our Marine Reserves and funding the full program is an investment in our state's climate, wildlife, and economic resiliency.