

Testimony for Public Hearing on SB 5506  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Friday, April 14, 5-7 pm  
Newport Performing Arts Center

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Co-Chairs Senator Steiner, Representative Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Hans Radtke. I live at the Oregon Coast in Lane County south of Yachats.

I urge this Committee to recommend to the legislature a fully funded Marine Reserves program. This will provide biological and economic information for a sustainable marine environment while also attracting additional visitors to the Oregon Coast.

I have worked as a private natural resource economist on Oregon coastal issues for over 40 years. During the 1980's I worked on projects for the West Coast Fisheries Development Foundation that supported existing fisheries and helped develop new fisheries such as Pacific whiting.

In general, the Oregon fishing industry generates about 500 million dollars income annually, which supports about 10,000 Oregon FTE jobs. At present, management emphasis is more to sustain specific species and to maintain the marine environment for both commercial and recreational use.

Oregon's program to establish and maintain marine reserves is part of this conservation effort. The placement of marine reserves on the Oregon Coast can have a positive impact on the Oregon economy through increased tourism and attraction of research projects. An ODFW analysis shows only a tiny offsetting loss in fishing and other commercial use availability.

Economic investigations have generally concluded that marine reserves can provide positive economic impacts as well as economic benefits to society. An example analysis showing these economic considerations is the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary along the central coast of California.

Oregonians love their Coast – walking on the beach, observing wildlife, knowing that efforts are being made to conserve the amenities of the marine environment for future generations. As part of the coastal experience, visitors also enjoy eating meals prepared from the harvests of Oregon's marine resources. A program to expand consumption of Oregon seafood is part of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association's program to support the coastal economy. I am in favor of furthering this effort through passage of HB2909.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I would be happy to respond to questions.