



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

January 29, 2009

To the Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Dear Chair McMullen and Council Members:

I am in receipt of your recommendations dated November 29, 2008. I want to thank members of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC or "Council"), coastal communities, all the citizens and non-governmental organizations who participated for their hard and dedicated work considering potential areas for marine reserves within Oregon's Territorial Sea.

As I understand your recommendations, there were a total of six areas recommended to move forward for further consideration or development. Two of the areas, Otter Rock and Redfish Rocks, are recommended for designation as pilot marine reserve sites beginning this summer following appropriate rulemaking and consideration of baseline data needs. The other four areas require additional time for socio-economic and ecological information to be gathered, as well as more collaboration among ocean users including coastal communities, and other interested parties.

My office and state agencies are committed to supporting the marine reserves process. My 2009-11 recommended budget includes funds to support initial implementation of the two pilot marine reserve sites as well as funds for further evaluation and collaboration necessary to determine potential marine reserve sites within four other areas. Given limited resources and absent significant federal assistance, I believe this is a reasonable path forward. If substantial new federal funds become available as a result of the pending economic stimulus bill or resulting from new initiatives of the Obama Administration, I may ask OPAC, state agencies and the Legislature to revisit the issue to ensure we are making the most of all available funds and opportunities.

Again, I thank you for the time, dedication, and deliberation that each one of you put into this process and into OPAC's recommendations. The Council has provided a solid foundation upon which Oregon's system of marine reserves will be built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theodore R. Kulongoski".

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

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