

**Teri B. Spencer**  
1051 Rogers Place  
Bandon, OR. 97411  
[tbowspen@gmail.com](mailto:tbowspen@gmail.com)

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my support for the efforts to nominate the Coquille Point area of Bandon as a designated Marine Garden. I am a resident of Bandon who spends countless hours on the beaches, including Coquille Point throughout the year. I participate in public education, wildlife monitoring and protection processes as well as just spending time observing and enjoying the beauty and wonder of the life within the intertidal zone of the Coquille Point area.

Each Bandon resident who cherishes the beauty of this area has unique experiences that illustrate the need to enhance the efforts to protect and preserve all of the natural processes that occur around Coquille Point. I would like to share a few of my observations from recent years where human activities harmed or caused potential harm to the natural life there.

April and May each year bring the Harbor Seal pupping season at Coquille Point. It is common to see 8-10 seal pups with their moms on the rocks and the beach on any day during that time. Harbor Seal moms routinely leave their pups on the beach alone during the day to allow the moms to go out foraging. In May, 2020, I saw a newborn pup resting on a rock in the intertidal zone at Coquille Point, when an unleashed dog ran across shallow water to grab the pup in its jaws and violently shake it before dropping it into the ocean. Although it was not formally determined that the seal pup expired, a carcass of a bloodied pup washed up nearby a few days later.

Each year during late spring and early summer, several pairs of the beautiful shorebirds, Black Oystercatchers nest and brood their chicks on the rocks around Coquille Point. Several of their nesting locations are on rocks accessible from the sand at low tides. In 2018, 2019, and 2020 I observed numerous incidents when people climbed onto the same rocks where the Oystercatchers were incubating eggs and/or brooding chicks, which startled the parent birds, causing them to fly off of their nests, leaving the eggs and/or chicks completely vulnerable to predation from the nearby gulls and Peregrine Falcons.

Throughout all the months of the year, I observe people climbing on rocks in the intertidal zone around Coquille Point, crushing the sea creatures and plant life under their feet. This is nearly a daily observation.

I want to note that I do not think any of the people involved in these incidents were intentionally trying to cause harm to the wildlife, they were simply not aware of current rules (e.g. not climbing on intertidal rocks, controlling dogs) that are already in place. Clearly stronger protective measures are needed to prevent future harm to the many species that inhabit the area.

Again, thank you for your efforts to nominate Coquille Point as a designated Marine Garden. It is sorely needed!

Regards,  
*Teri B. Spencer*