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RE: TSP.Comments@state.or.us Ecola Point, Chapman Point

Dear Chair and Members of the Rocky Habitat Working Group:

The entire Oregon Coast is a treasure to behold, however Ecola Point and Chapman Point are particularly dear to the North Coast. Thank you also for listening to the North Coast Rocky Habitat Management Coalition's proposed recommendation on restricting intertidal invertebrate harvests. Thank you for the important work you are doing to safeguard Ecola Point and Chapman Point by having the areas be considered Marine Conservation Areas.

While it is never an easy task to set boundaries on human behavior, it is by setting boundaries and standards that society moves forward. Oregon has endured catastrophic wildfires and the current deadly pandemic, all resulting in trauma and economic losses, on top of the climate crisis. The North Coast's fishing industries have already been affected by warming and acidification of ocean waters. Our beautiful starfish are dying. We are living in a time of peril and upset which affects people's behavior. We saw that this past year in our state and national park areas. We need to find ways to mitigate and adapt to these difficult times. One way is to say, right here, these areas, must be respected no matter what. We want to protect these areas for the living creatures that have nowhere else to be and need us to intervene on their behalf.

In these limited areas, Ecola Point and Chapman Point, it is reasonable to say, "Harvesting in this area is restricted. No, you may not climb on these rocks or jump and stomp in tidal pools that provide habitat for protected and endangered wildlife, marine birds, and intertidal invertebrates. Yes, you must put your dog on a leash near and around these areas, because untrained or uncontrolled dogs have injured, and killed marine life. This is not the place for drones, kites, and fireworks that pester the air and sound space of our marine birds."

The Oregon Coast has remained "the People's Coast" open for visitation, limited to development because of visionary policy that led to laws. One only needs to visit a beach in Southern California to note the incredible good fortune we enjoy with the accessibility of our coastal landscape. It is huge and wide ranging. It is reasonable that out of the entire coast, limited areas be protected. That means humans must curtail their behavior a bit. Just as surfers and horse-riders prefer certain beaches, people with dogs can choose to frequent other areas that allow their dogs to run wild and free. Children, teenagers, and agile adults can also find numerous other rock formations to climb. We're taught not to yell fire in a movie theater or horseplay in church. It is possible to change and control human behavior in protected marine areas, but first rules and standards must be created and put on the books. If the rules are stated, we will find ways to enforce them, because our North Coast Community residents love their neighborhood beaches. Write the rules and the volunteers will come.

Working in hospitality for over ten years, I saw firsthand the influx of visitors to the North Coast. Our visitors need to be educated not only on sneaker waves, but also fragile marine areas. Setting rules and standards for these areas will help to educate people heading out to enjoy the beach. Serving as a

Clatsop County Commissioner for four years, I also respect the task you have been given. It takes courage to act with vision.

The Rocky Habitat Working Group has the opportunity to set standards for a culture of protection for these wonderous and fragile areas in a time of great environmental stresses. Creating Marine Conservation Areas that protect Ecola Point and Chapman point are essential. Thank you for incorporating the recommendations of the North Coast Rocky Habitat Management Coalition on limiting harvest of intertidal invertebrates. Please also prohibit climbing and walking in these intertidal rocks areas, as well as requiring dogs be on leashes. This is reasonable and doable, as is restricting drones, kites, and fireworks. Remember at one time safety belts in cars were considered an infringement on people's freedom. Standards set do change behaviors and may also save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

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