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Rocky Habitat Working Group
Ocean Policy Advisory Committee
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Dear Working Group Members:

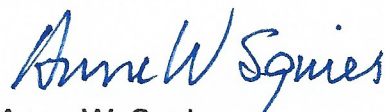
I write to vigorously support moving all twelve of the currently listed potential Rocky Shores Marine Conservation Area designations to the OPAC with a "do protect" recommendation. I do so after more than 60 years of involvement in Oregon's coastal resources, starting with field work at Boiler Bay (now a research reserve) with Dr. G.F. Gwilliam in 1958.

By way of background, in 1976 I was the Land Conservation and Development Commission member most involved in developing and pushing to adoption our Ocean Resources Goal 19, from which ultimately sprang the TSP and RHMS. Concern for protection of Oregon's rocky shores and nearshore marine habitats has never been out-of-mind, whether in a public role or as a guide for groups of children visiting rocky shores and needing much coaching to understand the fragility of the rock surface and tidal pool communities.

While some of these candidates are more at risk or richer in resource variety than others, I believe that most if not all deserve the proposed designations. I especially urge designation, protections, and education for those sites important for Abalone (e.g. Crook Point – Mack Reef), Black Oystercatcher (e.g. Blacklock Point, Ecola Point), and pinniped haul out/pupping sites (e.g. Fogarty Creek). Critical also is protection of existing and potential/restorable Kelp beds/forests throughout the nearshore Oregon Coast, for protection of their own biodiversity values and to buttress the possibility of restoring Sea Otter to connect the northern and California populations.

It would not be helpful to repeat the resource information in the proposals before you. My hope is that the current designation proposals and process will lead to many new Marine Conservation/Research Areas. This is an opportunity for the Working Group (and then OPAC) to move Oregon's stewardship of Rocky Shores and nearshore habitat toward a level commensurate with Oregon's proven ability to lead in management of Ocean Resources.

Sincerely,



Anne W. Squier