

Larry Basch, Ph.D.
62296A Crown Point Road
Charleston, Oregon, 97420

Mr. Bill Stenberg, Vice- President:
Shoreline Education for Awareness
billberg47@gmail.com

Dear Bill:

The South Coast Rocky Shores Group and I as an individual strongly support the efforts of Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) to protect rocky coast habitats in Coos county, Oregon. Specifically, we support the proposal that SEA is preparing to submit to designate Coquille Point as Marine Garden (Public Education Area) under Oregon's Rocky Habitat Management Strategy.

The Coquille Point site merits designation and is very appropriate. It is an area with easy, safe public access to the beach, has a group (SEA) of willing, capable volunteers to provide steward-interpreter services, and rocky intertidal habitats interspersed with sandy beach so it is easy to access and is relatively safe for visitors. Additionally the adjacent fragile coastal bluff has been protected and the vegetation restored by USFWS and has paved walking paths so that the coastal bluffs are further protected from human use. Continuing to provide steward-interpreter services at Coquille Point and instituting similar stewardship at other south coast rocky sites is a very appropriate way to support intertidal education and stewardship.

The management recommendations within SEA's proposal foster community engagement in ecosystem-based management through stewardship and education. Climate change impacts can be better addressed through these designations. Most importantly, the designations will protect the rich biodiversity of these sites while still providing access for Oregonians to fish, tidepool, boat, birdwatch and enjoy the amazing natural habitats and landscapes of our coastal communities.

We commend SEA on their efforts to designate Coquille Point as a Marine Garden. Please keep us informed on the status of your proposal for designating rocky habitats there.

Sincerely,

Larry

Larry Basch, Ph.D.
member, South Coast Rocky Shores Group
member, Board of Directors, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
Research Associate (courtesy appointment), Oregon Institute of Marine Biology