

OREGON OCEAN POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCOTT McMULLEN, CHAIR
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(North Coast Commercial Fisheries)

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TBD
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Federal Agency Liaison, NOAA OCM



Kate Brown, Governor

May 11, 2015

Richard Whitman, Policy Director
Gabriela Goldfarb, Policy Advisor
Governor's Natural Resources Office
255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 126
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Richard and Gabriela:

On May 7, 2015, in Bandon, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) sponsored an educational forum for the general public to learn more about the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the new sanctuary nomination process adopted in 2014 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Along with the West Coast Regional Director for the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, panelists from a range of backgrounds, and involved in sanctuary advisory councils in California and Washington, addressed in detail a number of issues and questions about national marine sanctuaries.

The following day, at the OPAC meeting in Bandon, OPAC members had an opportunity to discuss what they learned at the May 7 forum, and also the role of OPAC in reviewing any future proposed nominations off the Oregon coast.

At both the May 7 forum and the OPAC meeting the following day, we were pleased to hear the Governor's Office reaffirm the primary role of OPAC in advising the Governor on any such nominations.

At the May 8 OPAC meeting, OPAC members also reached consensus on the following statement:

"The Ocean Policy Advisory Council held a National Marine Sanctuary public forum on May 7, 2015. While there is no pending nomination before the state, the Council does not believe that a federal National Marine Sanctuary is the appropriate regulatory or non-regulatory tool to address the issues facing the marine environment at this time."

We would like to thank everyone who participated in or attended the May 7 forum, as well as the May 8 OPAC meeting. It was an informative two days.

Best regards,

Scott McMullen
Scott McMullen, OPAC Chair

David W. Allen
David Allen, OPAC Vice Chair