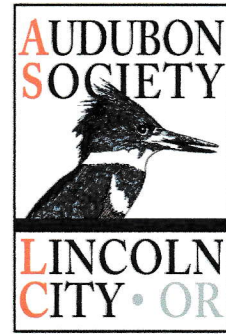

Audubon Society of Lincoln City

PO Box 38 Lincoln City Oregon 97367

www.lincolncityaudubon.org



April 27, 2020

Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council
C/O Andy Lanier, Marine Affairs Coordinator
635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301-2540

Dear Members of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council:

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City thanks you for the opportunity to participate in the process to protect more of Oregon's coastal rocky habitats. Our Audubon chapter has 148 members and has been serving Lincoln and Tillamook counties since 2006.

A large portion of the coast's rocky habitats is in our two counties. They are all extraordinary – from Cape Falcon in the north to Cape Perpetua in the south. In between are two of our favorites, Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather where steep, rocky cliffs provide nesting habitat for black oystercatchers, common murre, and cormorants. Migrating whales swim below the cliffs as they head north in the spring.

Our rocky shoreline also provides habitat for a variety of sea life. For millennia, Native Americans harvested mussels and seaweeds to supplement their diet. Today tourists come to the coast to explore tidepools and wonder at the abundant forms of life that they contain. In this interface between land and sea, scientists have a first-class laboratory to study the impact of a changing climate on marine resources.

We look forward to submitting proposals to help protect outstanding rocky habitats in Lincoln and Tillamook counties.

At your upcoming May 6th meeting we respectfully request that you take three key steps to advance this process:

- 1) Honor the work that has gone before us by implementing eight sites designated in 1994 and approved at that time by OPAC and DLCD. We ask that these sites be implemented as Marine Conservation Areas or Marine Research Reserves. Designating these sites now would be an auspicious beginning to the new proposal process. It would also provide community groups like ours the opportunity and time to focus our work on Rocky Habitat sites that were not designated in 1994, such as the north side of Cape Lookout, Cape Foulweather, and others.
- 2) Urge appropriate state agencies to partner with community groups like ours to develop Rocky Habitat site designation proposals. The proposal process is challenging and complex. In addition to gathering historical and scientific data on the site proposed for

Our mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.

designation, community groups must also build public support for the designation. With state agencies providing some of the scientific expertise and community groups conducting outreach to the public and stakeholders, these partnerships should result in the development of strong and convincing proposals.

- 3) Approve the Rocky Habitat Strategy but delay and extend the proposal submission window to a minimum of six months from the issuance of an executive order from Governor Brown lifting the current prohibition of non-essential social and recreational gatherings.

We make this request for two reasons: 1) in order to build public support for site designations and conduct stakeholder outreach, we need to meet face-to-face, offer educational programs, hand out literature, schedule outings to potential sites, and so much more; and 2) to prepare strong proposals, we need time to gather and digest complex data on each of the sites we propose for designation, a process that will run parallel to our public and stakeholder outreach.

Should Covid-19 spike again this fall and winter as some experts are predicting and we are required once again to practice social isolation, then the proposal submission deadline would need to be extended ever further.

We are in support of the comments submitted by the Oregon Audubon Council.

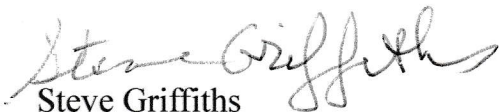
Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to your May 6th meeting, and we especially look forward to participating in this effort to protect more of the Oregon Coast and its natural resources that we all treasure.

Sincerely,



dawn villaescusa

President, Audubon Society of Lincoln City



Steve Griffiths

Vice-President, Audubon Society of Lincoln City