

April 26, 2020

Ocean Policy Advisory Council  
Oregon Ocean Dept of Land Conservation & Development  
635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301-2540

RE Oregon Territorial Sea Plan: Rocky Habitat Management Strategy

Dear OPAC Members:

As a native Oregonian and a 20-year north coast resident, I thank you and the Rocky Habitat Working Group for your important work on the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy update. Our rocky habitat is critical not only to plants and wildlife, but also our rural coastal economy and culture. With recent marine research on crab, rockfish and other fished species, we are learning even more about its importance.

I ask that you **adopt the Strategy today** and begin the initial proposal and review process.

On the north coast, important locations include:

- **Tillamook Head:** Partially designated as a Habitat Refuge in the 1994 plan, Ecola State Park.
- **Arcadia to Hug Point:** Multiple offshore rocks and islands, headlands, rocky shores
- **Arch Cape:** Just north of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, next to Oswald West State Park.
- **Cape Falcon:** Rocky habitat protected in a marine protected area and a marine reserve.
- **Cape Lookout:** Partially designated as a Habitat Refuge in the 1994 plan.

I look forward to working with other people in our coastal communities to explore which areas to pursue for designations, considering both wildlife and human aspects. However, because there are so many important areas and I am a volunteer with other work (and a young child!), it would be helpful if the previously recommended sites went forward automatically, particularly the sites that were designated as Habitat Refuges and Research Reserves recommended for designation in 1994. For example, Tillamook Head and Cape Lookout were recommended. Being the largest headlands on the north coast and being carefully considered and adopted previously by both DLCD and OPAC, we already know they are important enough to designate. That would allow community members to focus on lesser known rocky habitats.

Thank you for considering my public comments.

Sincerely,  
Nadia Gardner