MEASURE: SB 1510
EXHIBIT: 1
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: John Holloway

Testimony on SB1510
By John Holloway
RFA-OR/Oregon Anglers
6823 SW Burlingame Ave
Portland, OR 97219
Oregon Anglers-RFA Position on Marine Reserves

Oregon Anglers-RFA does not wish to just say no to marine reserves. We believe that when the evidence is shown that this will be of benefit to the citizens of Oregon we will be very supportive. The real issue is one of sustainable fisheries economic survival. Oregon's nearshore fisheries have no economic wiggle room to support any constraints required to create marine reserves. The state fisheries have suffered many years of incremental constraints. This has never been due to fishing over allowed quotas. It has been caused by ever increasing precaution within management and through court decisions. There are even more regulatory constraints on the horizon for these same reasons. On top of this tidal wave of crushing economic devastation are potential constraints from wave energy and aquaculture. It is not good policy during statewide economic hardship to reduce employment opportunities and increase state spending for an unproven experiment.

Beyond economic issues there are the usual questions. Should citizen access to sustainably managed marine resources be denied when no existing problem with fishery management has yet been defined? If a philosophy of full protection is desired for places in the territorial sea that should be clearly stated and justified. Included must be a clear list of the tradeoffs necessary to implement this different philosophy. This list must include economic and cultural costs to Oregon citizens. Do the citizens want a reduced supply of local seafood and access to marine opportunities? Do they want more imported seafood from areas of the world where fisheries and product contaminations are not well managed? Do they want less access to healthy outdoor sportfishing opportunities? Is full protection really necessary when many direct (MPA's) and indirect protections (frequent adverse weather) are already in place?

Marine reserves will constrain fisheries economically. Oregon's Dungeness crab fishery, for example, is conducted in virtually all areas of the territorial sea. Any restrictions on extractive uses will affect this fishery, period. The other fishery sectors have been reduced to some of their lowest levels in history within the last ten years years through fishery management regulatory constraints and area closures. The relative low level of harvest makes additional protections unnecessarily redundant.

In summary it should be clear that fisheries and coastal fishing communities are in a fight for their very survival due to existing precautionary fishery constraints. The only endangered species in Oregon's ocean is fisheries. Fishing interests are working within the fishery management process to make it work. The bottom of constraints is in sight. Expansive no-fishing reserves could be the final blow. It would be heartbreaking if Oregon's cultural heritage of sustainable fisheries were to go extinct while the ocean is teeming with fish.

If SB1510 moves forward it is recommended that it contain a sunset clause of 4-6 years, a provision for mitigation to increase fishing opportunities beyond lost access magnitude, and a moratorium to prevent expansion during any active period before reauthorization.