



March 5, 2024

To: Members of the Oregon State Senate

RE: HB 4132 - Oregon Marine Reserves Program

We request your support for HB 4132. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Reserves Program was created over a decade ago as our only long-term nearshore marine monitoring program. For relatively low cost (~\$1.2 million/biennium), HB 4132 would support a state-of-the-art Marine Reserves Program that would allow more robust monitoring, adaptive management, and ocean resiliency in the face of a changing climate to support biodiversity and our economically important fisheries. HB 4132 follows recommendations from a 10-year review conducted by Oregon State University based on the best available science.

HB 4132 is also poised to help our Marine Reserves Program better facilitate collaboration and conflict management with ocean users and stakeholders through more robust community engagement that prioritizes listening to these diverse voices - such as our federally-recognized tribes and fishing communities - in order to better inform policy decision-making.

Funding for this program would result in the following benefits:

1. Make the Marine Reserves Program whole again and one of the best such programs in the country.
2. The Community Engagement position that is a vital liaison to coastal communities would be reinstated.
3. Increased ability to understand long-term ecological changes in our marine environment.
4. Increased ability to understand how our nearshore marine environment is impacted by climate related impacts like ocean acidification and hypoxia.
5. Greater opportunities for collaboration with the fishing community to better understand and manage our economically important fisheries in state waters.
6. Establish clear goals and metrics to ensure outreach and engagement with key stakeholders including federally recognized tribes.
7. Increased ability to track socio-economic data associated with the marine reserves to more easily inform policy decisions.

Please support HB 4132 and you will support healthy Oregon oceans!

Sincerely,

*From the Office of Sen. Dembrow
SD-23*

Joe Liebezeit, Assistant Director of Statewide Conservation
Bird Alliance of Oregon (formerly Portland Audubon)

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Ian Giancarlo
Oceans Advocate
Environment Oregon

Katy Bear Nalven
Program Manager
Cape Perpetua Collaborative

Michael Gaskill
Marine Programs Director
Coast Range Association

Ben Enticknap
Pacific Campaign Manager and Senior Scientist
Oceana

Jena Carter
Oregon Marine and Coast Director
The Nature Conservancy