

House Bill 4132

Dear Legislators

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 4132. The need for continuing analysis of the role of reserves in ocean and fishery science is essential for Oregon's future. This bill will provide funding and guidance for the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, to implement the Ocean Policy Advisory Council recommendations for adaptive management and socioeconomic monitoring programs to support understanding of our marine reserves.

This reserve program is an important part of Oregon's Ocean Policy and goals for sustainable management. Clearly adequate funding assistance is needed to expand the analysis and recommendations for changes and key questions that concern impacts from climate change and species shifts, as well as other challenges from developments both onshore and offshore.

This bill articulates an important goal of additional outreach for stakeholders from diverse informed publics and ensures facilitation by professional outside party. The data sharing aspects of this will enhance the present and future analyses of the role of marine reserves in supporting a robust and resilient ocean ecosystem.

The process of outreach will provide an opportunity for sharing of knowledge from recreational and commercial fishers, Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, scientists and our communities and public leaders.

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