

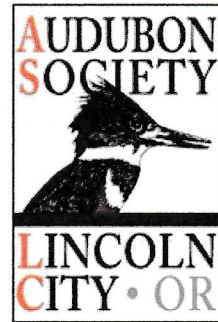
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# Audubon Society of Lincoln City

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[www.lincolncityaudubon.org](http://www.lincolncityaudubon.org)

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February 8, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4132

Dear Chair Ken Helm:

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) believes that Oregon's Marine Reserves benefit both the environment and our communities. We urge the passage of HB 4132 relating to Marine Reserves and its proposed funding.

Four of the five Marine Reserves are within our Lincoln and Tillamook county service area. A key part of our mission is to protect habitats found along Oregon's Central Coast. The Marine Reserves protect marine habitats, maintain biodiversity, and promote community engagement.

As conservationists, we take pride that our state conserves marine life at the **Cape Falcon Marine Reserve**. As Oregonians, we marvel at the adaptations of marine life in tidepools at Roads End, Lincoln City within the **Cascade Head Marine Reserve**. As community members, we view the **Otter Rock Marine Reserve** as a living laboratory where our members can participate and contribute to community science programs, like the Black Oystercatcher monitoring project. As birding enthusiasts, we recognize the ecological relationship between forage fish food resources within the **Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve**.

HB 4132 directs state agencies to develop an adaptive management plan, which includes elements such as a social monitoring program, for the Marine Reserves as recommended in the 2022 Assessment of the Marine Reserves conducted by scientists at Oregon State University. A review of the first ten years of the Marine Reserves program demonstrates that it is meeting its goal of protecting habitat and biodiversity while avoiding significant adverse social and economic impacts on ocean users and coastal communities. HB 4132 will provide funding to better understand socioeconomic effects of the Marine Reserves at a community scale.

The adaptive management program identified in HB 4132 will ensure that the Marine Reserves

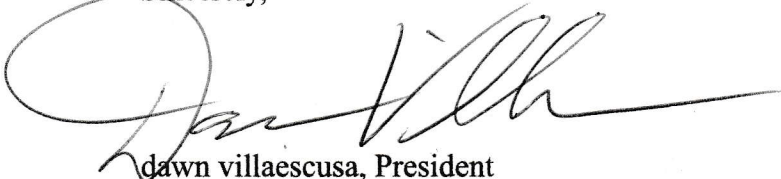
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*Our mission is to encourage residents and visitors to protect and enjoy the native birds, other wildlife, and habitats found on the Central Oregon Coast.*

program can continue to research issues that Oregonians care about such as ocean acidification, seastar wasting disease, and the health of fish stocks. HB 4132 fosters 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. HB 4132 provides guidance and funding support for the Marine Reserves program to continue to be a success story.

Please support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Villaescusa', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Dawn villaescusa, President

Audubon Society of Lincoln City

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