

March/April 2007

Take Action to Protect Oregon's Ocean

Please speak up for Oregon's Ocean: Governor Kulongoski and your State Representatives need to hear from you today.

- ✓ **Support Mapping of Oregon's Territorial Sea (HB 2924)**
- ✓ **Insist on Marine Habitat Protection**
- ✓ **Demand Conservation Planning for Wave Energy Plants**

Governor Kulongoski and state legislators need to know Oregonians support protection of Oregon's ocean and that you are looking to their leadership to protect this public treasure for current and future generations.

1. Support Mapping of Oregon's Territorial Sea

A priority Ocean funding issue is now being considered in the 2007 state legislature:

Support HB 2924 Congratulate Deborah Boone for sponsoring the Territorial Sea Mapping bill and leading support for important scientific research.

Less than 5% of Oregon's territorial sea has been mapped.

A team of renowned scientists and state and federal researchers signed a Scientific Consensus Statement in March 2006 to urge the implementation of an Oregon state waters seafloor mapping plan.

A detailed seafloor map depicting geologic and habitat features is an essential scientific tool for informed decision-making for these purposes:

- Managing disaster preparedness for threats from a tsunami
- Describing and classifying nearshore habitats for conservation planning
- Assisting Governor Kulongoski's plans to establish a system of marine reserves and a national marine sanctuary off the Oregon coast

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2. Insist on Protection of Marine Habitat

Express your support for establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) and marine reserves in Oregon waters.

MPAs and reserves are proven tools for conserving marine habitats and biodiversity, and can provide invaluable protection from ocean dumping, fishing pressure, energy development, and mineral mining.

In the same way that Oregonians have protected outstanding natural areas like Mount Hood, the Willamette Mountains and the Rogue River, we need to protect special places in Oregon's marine waters.

In June 2005, Governor Ted Kulongoski asked his Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) to propose a system of marine reserves for Oregon. Almost two years later, the Governor has not committed any funding for marine habitat protection. **Ask the Governor and your state representative to provide funding to establish marine habitat protection.**

3. Demand Conservation Planning for Wave Energy Plants

Oregon's greatest natural resource—the Pacific Ocean—may offer the next biggest economic boom on the Oregon coast. The race is on: Oregon is seeking to lead the emerging wave energy industry worldwide.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski has proposed more than \$5 million for additional wave energy research and promotion in Oregon. Commercial interests, the State of Oregon, and researchers at Oregon State University are all vying to develop wave energy—an emerging form of renewable energy—off the Oregon coast.

In late February, PNGC Power and Ocean Power Technologies of New Jersey partnered to develop a wave energy project near Reedsport. The Reedsport project could become the first utility-scale wave energy facility in the country. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission gave preliminary approval Feb. 15 for up to 50 megawatts of power to be generated from the site.

Ask the Governor? How much of Governor Kulongoski's \$5 million state investment is earmarked for conservation planning? How will whale migration and other natural resource issues be evaluated and considered as Oregon rushes to establish wave energy?

Governor Kulongoski

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Your state legislators' addresses can be found at:
<http://bluebook.state.or.us/state/legis/legis.htm>

Thank you for your support.



Photos courtesy of Ben Nieves