

The Pacific City Dorymen's Association Inc.



December 9, 2022

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Dear OPAC Members,

The Pacific City Dorymen's Association (PCDA) is opposed to any designation of Cape Lookout for a Rocky Habitat Marine Conservation Area. Part of the PCDA's Mission Statement is to protect, defend and promote the traditional cultural and economic values of the dory fleet, and specifically, to actively seek laws and regulations that provide the maximum recreational and commercial fishing opportunities consistent with realistic conservation of the resources.

Will the designation at Cape Lookout restrict access to the area at the base of the cape? It looks like the proposed map has our area of concern as a designated zone.

Our fear is that regardless of the proponents' intentions that the designation will now or in the future restrict access. There is no guarantee that if the proposal is passed that there will not be mission crawl or future need for enforcement to meet their objectives.

Cape Lookout is an important fishing area as well as a safe harbor. It is the only area that a fisherman without a boat can have an opportunity to catch lingcod and rockfish. The large majority (most likely 90+ %) is inaccessible to humans just by the nature of its geography.

All that the proponents say they want to do (education and outreach) can be done without the designation.

The south side is used extensively by the Pacific City dory fleet. For all vessels navigating the area it is also used as a safe harbor and anchorage to escape the predominate strong northwest winds. In the summer a dory can make its way up there in the morning and spend a day fishing out of the hazardous sea's.

I am co-chair of the PCDA and was not contacted by the proponents until last week. Furthermore, I am unaware if the Fisherman Advisory Committee for Tillamook (FACT) who is appointed by the County Commissioners was contacted.

Please remember that when a rule or designation is put in place it usually negatively effects the smallest of user groups unintentionally.

Excluding historical users that have been a part of the ecosystem for over 100 years without any negative impacts is not necessary.

We are a fleet of small-scale vessels participating in a sustainable fishery that cannot afford to lose any access to fishing grounds now or in the future.

The Pacific City Dorymen's Association Inc.
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