



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

March 26, 2008

To the Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Dear Chair McMullen and Council Members:

In January, I dispatched my Chief of Staff, Chip Terhune, to spend three days visiting coastal communities to listen and learn about concerns and positive approaches to addressing the important issues of marine reserves and protected areas and the more recent interest in developing wave energy technology along the Oregon Coast. Mr. Terhune returned with clear messages from coastal communities and a series of recommendations.

I have also received and read the memo sent by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). In the memo, STAC expressed concerns about the timeframe I have established for OPAC to deliver recommendations to me on potential marine reserve sites. Additionally, STAC has stated concern that there are limited resources for a full evaluation of the scientific merits of marine reserve nominations.

Given this information, I want to be responsive to these concerns in three specific ways:

- Establish reasonable minimum expectations for OPAC and STAC,
- Issue an executive order refocusing state agency resources to assist your work, and
- Extend the deadline from November 1 to December 1, 2008.

Regarding funding, I fully understand that the evaluation, selection, implementation and management of any system of marine reserves or marine protected areas must be supported with adequate funding. Thus, I remain committed to presenting the 2009 Legislative Assembly with a request for funding to provide for such evaluation, selection, implementation and management. I cannot present the 2009 Legislature with funding requests unless I have some idea from OPAC and state agencies as to the true costs associated with those actions. To present these requests to the 2009 Legislative Assembly, I must have a certain minimum work product from OPAC by December 1.

Given the limited resources available to OPAC and STAC, I do not expect you to fully evaluate the scientific, social and economic merits of reserve nominations. Instead, it is my expectation that OPAC will provide recommendations of potential sites based on an initial,

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coarse review of general expectations, and also, with input from STAC, provide recommendations of specific criteria for more thorough evaluation by state agencies following adequate funding through the 2009 Legislative Assembly.

At a minimum, I expect OPAC to initiate the nomination process, provide general nomination guidelines and forward to me those nominations received before December 2008 that meet the general guidelines, along with recommended criteria for more thorough evaluation and review once funding is obtained. If OPAC believes it can accomplish more by recommending or prioritizing specific nominations, I welcome that information as well.

Once I receive OPAC's work product, I will seek funding to allow full evaluation of nominations received. When completed, the evaluations will be submitted to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and other agencies along with recommendations regarding reserves for final consideration.

Pursuant to Chip Terhune's trip to the coast and his recommendations to me, I have issued an executive order to several state agencies that sets the stage for agency actions which will complement and support the work I have outlined for OPAC and STAC in this letter.

Further, the order establishes a process for addressing wave energy issues. This process ensures that the deployment of permanent wave energy projects will not occur until Oregon conducts a full evaluation of the potential for such projects, their impacts on other ocean uses and where such projects can be accommodated. Finally, the order addresses the need to identify the economic impacts and opportunities that may accompany marine reserves or wave energy projects. I am enclosing a copy of my Executive Order with this letter.

I want to close by thanking each and every one of you for your service on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council and extend the same appreciation to the scientists serving on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. I know that your service comes at no small expense to each of you personally and professionally. But I also know that your service to me and the State of Oregon is indispensable. Accordingly, I am asking for your full support for the approach I have outlined in this letter.

Cordially,



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor