

Craig Young, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology Size and Spacing Presentation about Invertebrates

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Marine Reserve discussions tend to stray away from invertebrates, but they are responsible for most marine animal diversity. Invertebrates in Oregon specifically are extremely important and outnumber fish, bird and mammal species combined.

Oregon has:

- Over 200 marine plants
- More than 3,000 marine invertebrate species
- About 500 species of marine fish
- 155 birds
- 26 mammals

Jim Carlton found 3,700 intertidal invertebrates between central CA and the northern border of OR. Most invertebrate species disperse as pelagic larvae and the diversity of these larval forms is amazing. Often, generalizations can't be made among taxa for dispersal distances or dispersal potential, so the longest and shortest distances of any species should be considered, rather than a simple average dispersal distance.

While Oregon may have limited data, it is much better data than many other places where marine reserves have been established, primarily thanks to Robert Fernald. The Oregon and Washington data for larval behavior and movement is better than anywhere in the world.