

December 5, 2020

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, #150

Salem, OR 97301

Greetings,

I am writing to you in support of Shoreline Education for Awareness' proposal that the State of Oregon designate the area of shoreline at the base of Coquille Point as a Marine Garden. This area of sand, rocks and islands is packed with a wide variety of marine life, from birds and harbor seals to sea stars and sea anemone. The rocks are home to close to 100.000 birds during the summer breeding season. The sand and rocks serve as haul-outs for seals and seal pups. And the myriad tidepools hold an astounding array of invertebrates, crustaceans and vegetation.

The "Bandon Stacks," as this six-mile long stretch of coastline is called, attracts thousands of visitors year-round. It is also the chosen stretch of coast for many local residents to use for exercise, exploration and enjoyment. Because it is so popular, it is also at risk for being damaged by uninformed users who get too close to the fragile life forms in the tidepools, to the vulnerable seal pups resting on the sand and rocks for mothers to bring food, and to the nests of birds that can be disturbed and destroyed by human encroachment into their breeding ground.

Designating Coquille Point as a Marine Garden will be an important step toward the preservation and protection of this valuable resource for Bandon, helping to ensure that it will still be a natural wonderland for our children and grandchildren. As Mayor of the City of Bandon, I strongly support Shoreline Education for Awareness' Coquille Point proposal. We believe this designation will help us attract a large team of local residents to become volunteer wildlife interpreters and educate visitors about the marine life they are seeing and the need for being careful while in the area.

Thank you for your positive action on this proposal.

Sincerely, `

Mayor Mary Schamehorn

City of Bandon

P. O. Box 521

Bandon, OR 97411