



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: 503-373-0050

Fax: 503-378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 1, 2020

CONTACT: Michael Moses (503) 934-0623, michael.moses@state.or.us



Updating Site Designations on Oregon's Rocky Coast: Submission Period for Public Proposals to Open June 1 – December 31, 2020

On May 6, Oregon's [Ocean Policy Advisory Council \(OPAC\)](#) unanimously approved a new process that provides an opportunity for the public to submit proposals for additions, removals, and changes to rocky habitat site management designations in Oregon's ocean. Through special designations known as *Marine Research Areas*, *Marine Gardens/Education Areas*, and *Marine Conservation Areas*, the public will be able to create proposals using the newly developed [Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool](#). The tool allows users to select an area of the coast or nearshore ocean to visualize and evaluate resources and site uses, communicate and collaborate with others, and create and submit proposals. This initial pilot phase of the process will be open June 1 - December 31, 2020, with initial proposals to be vetted in early 2021 and following on an annual basis through OPAC.

"It's exciting to introduce this new designation process and associated tools that will allow Oregonians to select and evaluate special rocky habitat areas in our ocean for potential proposals."

- Charlie Plybon, Chair of the Rocky Habitat Working Group

This opportunity is part of the ongoing update to Oregon's [Rocky Habitat Management Strategy](#), which aims to help sustain and support the use and health of rocky habitat resources. Approximately 41% of Oregon's 362-mile coastline is made up of rocky habitat. Most visitors would recognize the dramatic headlands, tidepools, rocky beaches, cliffs, and offshore rocks while traveling along Highway 101. These sites are managed by multiple state and federal agencies using a coordinated framework, known as the [Territorial Sea Plan](#). Part Three of this plan, the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, is being updated to assure its goals are being met and your input is needed!

The State of Oregon invites all members of the public including individuals, organizations, academic institutions/researchers, and governments, to engage in this initial site designation process, beginning June 1, 2020. Interested parties are encouraged to use the Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool's 'forums' feature to build collaborative proposals that represent a variety of interests, needs, and perspectives. Please visit <http://OregonOcean.info> for more information and resources, including a Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool [user guide](#) and [proposal walk-thru](#).

Review the draft strategy here – <https://bit.ly/3g34m5R>
Access the Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool here – <http://Oregon.SeaSketch.org>
Sign up for more updates on ocean planning and policy – <https://bit.ly/3gCf57y>

###

What is the Oregon Coastal Management Program?

The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) is a small federally recognized program housed within the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Originating from the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), we work in partnership with local coastal and tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure that Oregon's coastal and ocean resources are managed, conserved, and developed consistent with statewide planning goals.

The OCMP has been charged by the Legislature with managing coastal areas and the resources for the existing and future benefits that they hold. This is codified under Oregon's Land Use Planning Goal 19: The Ocean Resources Goal - which states all agency actions within Oregon must "conserve marine resources and ecological function for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social value and benefits to future generations."

Oregon's statewide land use planning program — originated in 1973 under Senate Bill 100 — protects farm and forest lands, conserves natural resources, promotes livable communities, facilitates orderly and efficient development, helps coordination among local governments, and enables citizen involvement. The program affords all Oregonians predictability and sustainability to the development process by allocating land for industrial, commercial and housing development, as well as transportation and agriculture.

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) administers the program. A seven-member volunteer citizen board known as the [Land Conservation and Development Commission \(LCDC\)](#) guides DLCD.

Under the program, all cities and counties have adopted comprehensive plans that meet mandatory state standards. The standards are 19 Statewide Land Use Planning Goals that deal with land use, development, housing, transportation, and conservation of natural resources. Periodic review of plans and technical assistance in the form of grants to local jurisdictions are key elements of the program. Find more information at www.oregon.gov/lcd/Pages/index.aspx.

###