

To: Shoreline Education for Awareness, Inc.

I want to thank you for the effort you have been devoting to Coquille Point (CP) for the past 30 years, spending time and talent to educating visitors to CP and especially to the rocks and tidepools around Elephant Rock, Coquille Rock, and North Coquille Rock. I understand that this area is rich in marine life all year round, and especially so in the Spring and Summer when harbor seals are having pups within close proximity to the beach and birds are nesting on the sea stacks.

While the area is biologically rich and robust, I recognize that it is also very fragile. Visitors who are excited to walk in the midst of this beautiful marine habitat can unintentionally harm the wild residents here and do immense damage to their reproductive efforts. I have witnessed visitors frightening harbor seals (sometimes with pups) by approaching too closely to take “selfies”, walking in tidepools, and climbing on rocks, crushing hundreds of living organisms. In the excitement of the moment, I’ve seen people get much too close to seabird and shorebird nests, scaring the adult from the nest and exposing the egg or the young to predation from gulls and raptors.

Our beach in Bandon is a treasure to both humans and marine life. I support you in your intention to have Coquille Point’s Elephant Rock area protected and given a special designation by the State of Oregon as a Marine Garden.

Regards,

*Bruce Williams*

Bandon, OR