From: Sherry Smith
To: TSP comments
Subject: Protect Rocky Habitats on the Coast
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As an advocate for birds, I support local birding societies in recommending strong consideration for 8 of the 12 Marine Conservation Area proposals that have gotten significant stakeholder and community support, expert input, and include clear long-term goals and objectives. This includes: Ecola Point MCA, Chapman Point MCA, Cape Lookout MCA, Cape Foulweather MCA, Coquille Point MG, Blacklock Point MCA, Cape Blanco MRA, and Crook Point/Mack Reef MCA.

In particular, I have traveled from the Portland area to seek out the views from Cape Foulweather. A few weeks ago, even during blustery winds, I escaped the stress of the pandemic and city life simply by gazing out at the ocean at this location. Reading about the marine life under the waves there, I have learned that kelp forests sustain fish and other sea creatures that draw gray whales to the area. Even with the bad weather and lingering pandemic, visitors at nearby Depoe Bay eagerly looked for whales—and visited many shops. So sustaining natural resources also seems to help local business.

On a personal note, one of my favorite birds is the black oystercatcher—with its bright red beak and song I can hear as soon as I get out of the car at the coast. An MCA designation will also help this bird. I hope that these proposals will succeed and appreciate all that the residents of the coast do for the rest of us in the state.

Best Regards,
Sherry Smith
West Linn, OR