Cape Foulweather Complex

Marine Conservation Area Management Plan

Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy

DECEMBER 2025

OREGON
Coastal Management Program
DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Cover Photo

Image 1: Aerial photo of shoreline segment along Cape Foulweather, Oregon ShoreZone, 2011.

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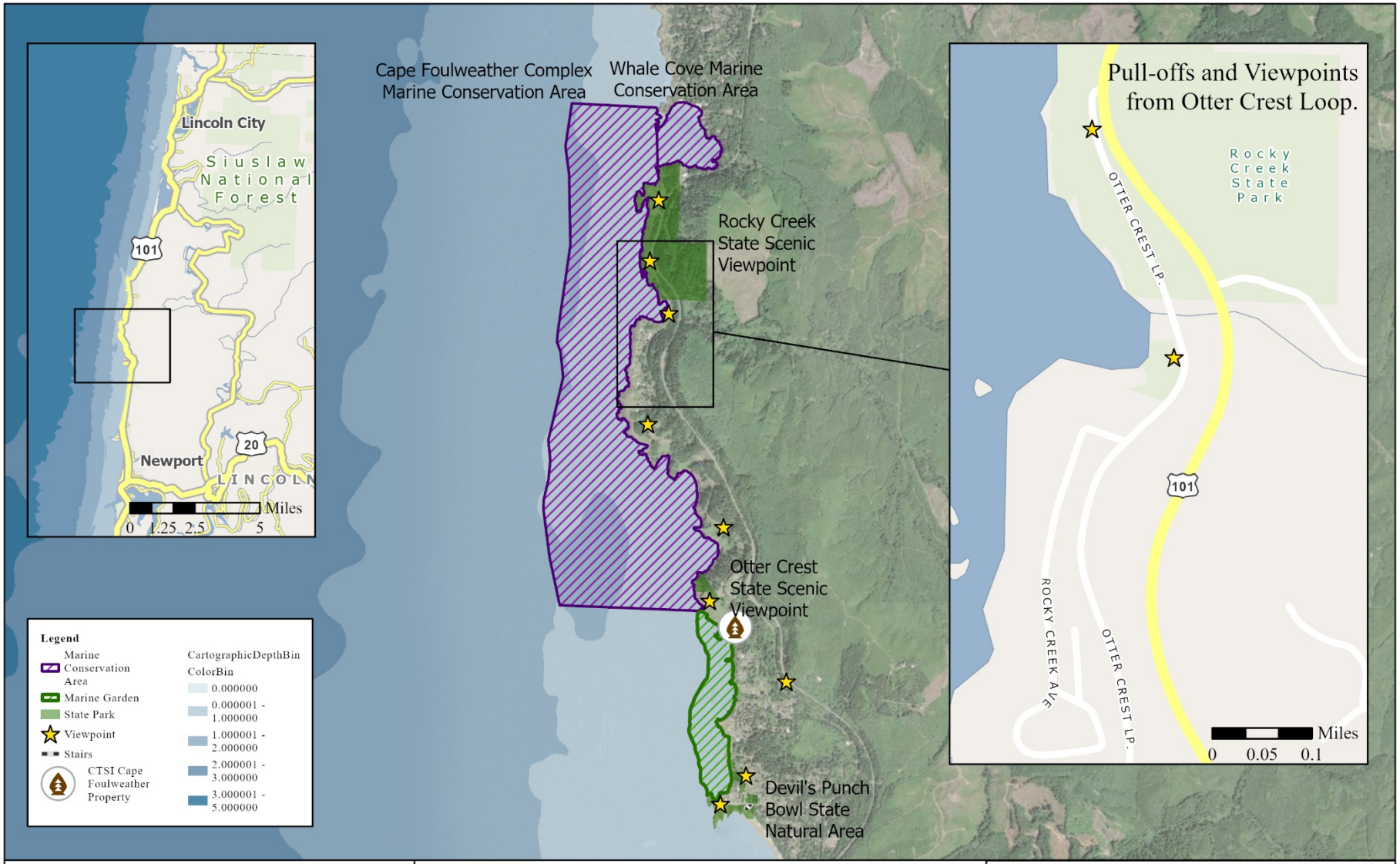

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Projection Oregon Statewide Lambert, NAD1983 International feet, EPSG 2992

CAPE FOULWEATHER COMPLEX MARINE CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

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Viewpoints by OCMP
Tribal Property by Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI)
Parks by Oregon Parks and Recreation Dep.
Reference Map by Oregon Dep. of Transportation
Imagery by Maxar
Marine Managed Areas by:

NOAA | OREGON Department of Land Conservation & Development | OCMP Oregon Coastal Management Program

Eva Krukowski, OCMP, Date Modified 12/11/2025

Map 1. The Cape Foulweather Complex boundary includes the intertidal and subtidal land starting 12 miles north of Newport and extending to 1.5 miles south of Depoe Bay, encompassing 1.9 miles of shoreline.

Acknowledgements

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DLCD would like to thank those who provided input to this planning guide and associated resources:

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City of Depoe Bay

Lincoln City

Lincoln County

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Department of State Lands

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon State Police

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Tribal Partners

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Other Partners

Seven Capes Bird Alliance

Bird Alliance of Oregon

Friends of Otter Rock

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Land Conservation and Development Commission

Native people have lived and used beaches, dunes, and rocky environments since time immemorial. We strongly encourage Oregonians and others to learn about the people indigenous to Oregon from the materials and resources made available by the tribes themselves. Learn how the state interacts with Tribes from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction

Summary

A Marine Conservation Area is any area within Oregon's territorial sea or adjacent rocky intertidal area that the State designates to conserve the ecological integrity of the habitat. A Marine Conservation Area designation allows for different types of management prescriptions based on site conservation goals and needs allowing for variation and adaptability overtime. These sites are characterized by high levels of biodiversity.

Marine Conservation Areas are established through a public proposal process outlined in the Territorial Sea Plan Part Three, Section E., facilitated by the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). Community members can propose new or revised designations, which OPAC reviews and then recommends to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for approval. The Land Conservation and Development Commission is the governing board of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Once approved, state agencies like Oregon Parks and Recreations Department (OPRD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) must adopt new rules through a formal rulemaking process.

In April 2023, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) approved the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area (MCA), which was initially proposed by Seven Capes Bird Alliance (formerly Audubon Society of Lincoln City). The term "Complex" is part of the MCA's name because there are a complexity of marine designation types nearby.

The only site-specific regulatory change is the closure of bull kelp harvest for personal use within subtidal areas of the Marine Conservation Area; learn more about applicable regulations in Appendix B and C Other existing coastwide harvest regulations apply. A paramount management consideration is maintaining habitat integrity at the Cape Foulweather Complex to serve as a comparison to Otter Rock Marine Reserve.

In coordination with the management of other nearby marine designations, the goal of the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area is to conserve the ecological functions and rocky habitat resources to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations.

This Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Management Plan provides a framework for implementing site-based management actions at the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area. Management focuses on education, stewardship, and community science to protect the rich biodiversity at this site.

Site Information

Cape Foulweather rises 500 feet above the Pacific Ocean, providing sweeping views from Yaquina Lighthouse north to Cascade Head. Gray whales cavort and feed in the kelp beds below a series of scenic viewpoints. Seabirds nest on the Cape's sheer cliffs, and waves crash onto the rocks below. Nowhere is the wild spirit of the central Oregon coast captured better than at Cape Foulweather.

Along the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area eastern boundary, recreation facilities include Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint, Rodea Point pullout, Rocky Creek bridge pullout, Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint, and the Look-Out on Cape Foulweather historic building and gift shop.

Visitors and residents enjoy vast ocean views, whale watching and other wildlife viewing and short trails along Otter Crest Drive and at the Otter Crest State Scenic Viewpoint. Rocky Creek State Scenic Viewpoint and Rodea Point offer dramatic views. Offshore, both personal and charter recreational fishing vessels commonly target groundfish found next to and within subtidal rocky habitats, especially where kelp forests abound. Both residents and visitors fish from shore. Kayak fishing is also becoming increasingly popular.

MARINE CONSERVATION AREA DESCRIPTION

The Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area (MCA) is on the central Oregon coast 12 miles north of Newport and 1.5 miles south of Depoe Bay. The Cape Foulweather Complex MCA encompasses 598.5 acres with 1.9 miles of shoreline, shoreline, inclusive of basalt cliffs, intertidal habitats, and submerged reefs (see Map 1).

Within the Marine Conservation Area (MCA) boundary, there are 31 islands and offshore rocks that together total one acre. Due to the steep terrain, there is limited intertidal habitat. There are 587 acres of subtidal habitat within the MCA, most of it

dominated by rocky substrate. The maximum depth is 72 feet. The seaward boundary of the MCA is inclusive of hard substrates, which provide habitat for canopied kelp forests.

Image 2: The Look-Out on Cape Foulweather building, cliffs on the southern border of Cape Foulweather Complex, Sherman

The plan area includes 75 acres of kelp forest, which accounts for approximately 1% of the total kelp beds in Oregon's Territorial Sea (Oregon SeaSketch, 2025). Cape Foulweather kelp beds were listed in the Oregon Natural Areas Plan (ONHAC 2015) as the best example of a priority marine habitat type that is unrepresented in the plan's protected areas.

The shore boundary of the Marine Conservation Area is the mean high tide contour. However, the extent of rocky habitat as defined in the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy (Part B1b, pp 9-10) extends landward to the statutory vegetation line–or, if unvegetated, the contour at 16 feet above sea level. Although the landward boundary is at the mean high tide, management recommendations for the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA consider rocky habitat needs and functions inclusive of the area between mean high tide and the vegetation line.

The government agencies with jurisdiction within or nearby Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area are the Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Lincoln County, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See Appendix B and Appendix C for more information about specific state and federal regulations at apply within the Marine Conservation Area.

How to Use This Document

The Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Management Plan (further referred to as “the Plan”) is multipurpose: 1) it is a tool for community members to learn about rocky habitat management and support programming in the area, and 2) it will help government agencies implement regulations for marine conservation areas and coordinate stewardship of the habitat.

Image 3: Trail along shoreline at Cape Foulweather, Sherman.

The Plan includes regulatory and non-regulatory management strategies for achieving management goals. Regulatory strategies are added restrictions to the harvest of marine plants and animals associated with the Marine Conservation Area designation. Non-regulatory strategies describe the resources and existing or desired efforts and programs for educational programming and scientific monitoring.

The audience for this Plan is all individuals and groups with an interest in the ecological health and resilience of the Cape Foulweather Complex. These groups include Tribal Nations, state, local, and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, charter and commercial fishing companies, residents, local businesses, tourists, researchers, and local schools.

The Plan can help communities:

- Understand how the policies and principles from the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy are applied at the Cape Foulweather Complex.
- Share the goals and objectives for management priorities at the Cape Foulweather Complex.

- Document what efforts community groups and government agencies can contribute towards achieving Plan goals.
- Foster increased engagement between interested groups and the public.
- Participate in scientific monitoring at the Cape Foulweather Complex.
- Access outreach and educational materials about rocky habitats.

Land Acknowledgment

Indigenous tribes and bands have been with the lands that we inhabit today throughout Oregon and the Northwest since time immemorial and continue to be a vibrant part of Oregon today. We would like to express our respect to the First Peoples of this land, the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon: Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and The Klamath Tribes.

It is important that we recognize and honor the ongoing legal and spiritual relationship between the land, plants, animals, and people indigenous to this place we now call Oregon. The interconnectedness of the people, the land, and the natural environment cannot be overstated; the health of one is necessary for the health of all.

We recognize the pre-existing and continued sovereignty of the nine federally recognized tribes who have ties to this place and thank them for continuing to share their traditional ecological knowledge and perspective on how we might care for one another and the land, so it can take care of us. We commit to engaging in a respectful and successful partnership as stewards of these lands. And as we are obliged by state law and policy, we will uphold government-to-government relations to advance strong governance outcomes supportive of tribal self-determination and sovereignty.

Legislative Commission on Indian Services. Land Acknowledgment Guidance. Retrieved July 2024, from https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cis/ Pages/education.aspx

Chapter 2: Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Management Objectives

Chapter 2 covers objectives and implementation actions for habitat management strategies such as information sharing, interpretation, site monitoring, and compliance.

Management strategies and objectives for the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area will foster cooperation and coordination among local, state, and federal resource management agencies, and Tribal Nations, to ensure that ecosystem-based management principles guide decision-making for marine resources, wildlife, and habitat.

Communities should coordinate stewardship efforts at Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Management Plan with the following government agencies and Tribal Governments, as appropriate:

- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- Any other interested Tribe
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- City of Depoe Bay
- Lincoln County

Site Management Objectives and Recommended Actions

The following site objectives are designed to align public activities within the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area with both the community-identified goals for the site and the broader guidance from the Territorial Sea Plan Part III: Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. These objectives and implementation actions build upon the coastwide standards for management of Marine Conservation Areas while also addressing site-specific needs for the habitat and local community.

Nonprofits, community groups, research teams, government agencies, and other interested parties planning projects in or involving the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area should use these objectives and recommended actions as a framework to guide their activities and ensure consistency with site management priorities. Common themes for the objectives below include collaborative planning, natural resource conservation, inclusive and equitable access to views and public marine education, long-term site monitoring, and public safety.

Workshop participants developed recommended implementation actions during the 2025 Central Coast Rocky Habitat Workshop, following consultation with community groups, state agencies, and other partners. The list below categorizes six main objectives and 45 associated actions. For the complete table of the recommended implementation action matrix, see Appendix F.

Objective 1. Foster regular coordination among Tribal Nations and local, state, and federal resource management agencies to ensure that ecosystem-based

management principles guide management decisions for marine resources, wildlife, and habitat at the Marine Conservation Area.

See actions: 1*, 3, 4*, 9, 30*, 33*, and 38*

Sub-Objectives:

1.1. Support Tribal-led monitoring, stewardship, interpretation efforts at the Cape Foulweather Complex.
1.2. Include all interested Tribes in resource monitoring efforts.
1.3. Coordinate with all interested Tribes on the appropriate handling and collection of marine life particularly if the research involves a tribally significant species or in the event of marine mammal stranding[1].

Objective 2. Prioritize the ecological integrity of Cape Foulweather Complex and support the site serving as a comparison site for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve.

See Actions: 1*, 2, 5, 6*, 11, 21, 30*, 31*, 33*, 38*, and 44*

Sub-Objectives:

2.1. Maintain the habitat complexity, species diversity, and healthy populations of keystone species as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
2.2. Conserve biodiversity and support ecosystem functions by monitoring site conditions and minimizing human disturbance.
2.3. Maintain the spatial area of kelp beds within the mid to upper range of annual natural variability.
2.4. Engage community members and interested groups in adaptive management decisions.
2.5. Prevent human disturbance of wildlife or habitats, particularly during shore-nesting seabird colonies and Black Oystercatchers that use rocky habitat during nesting season from (April – September).

Objective 3. Maintain scenic viewpoints of the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA at public areas, particularly along Otter Crest Drive, while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 8, 12*, 13*, 17*, 30*, 31*, 38*, 39*, 40, 41*, 42, and 44*

Sub-Objectives:

3.1. Support inclusive access to scenic viewpoints along Otter Crest Drive that accommodates a diversity of users and activities.

[1] Read about an example of agency partners coordinating with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians during a whale stranding response in 2025. https://ctsi.nsn.us/confederated-tribes-of-siletz-indians-assist-in-yachats-whale-stranding-response/.

3.2. Implement strategies to minimize visitor impact on the environment.
3.3. Reduce trampling, littering, wildlife disturbance, and other physical impacts on sensitive habitats through education, signage, and controlled access when necessary.

Objective 4. Promote educational opportunities at the Cape Foulweather Complex while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 3, 4*, 8, 13*, 14-16, 17*, 18, 20-26, 30*-32*, 34, 38*, 39*, 40, 41*, 42, and 43

Sub-Objectives:

4.1. Enhance appreciation for and foster personal stewardship of rocky habitats through education, interpretation, and outreach.
4.2. Provide educational and interpretive opportunities to advance public appreciation of rocky habitats and the species dependent upon these habitats.
4.3. Design educational opportunities for diverse communities and user groups.
4.4. Enhance public awareness of rocky habitat stewardship practices, tidepool etiquette, and responsible behavior.

Objective 5. Support site monitoring projects at the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area.

See Actions: 1*, 2, 4*, 5, 6*, 7, 9-11, 12*, 14, 26, 30*, 32*, 33*, 36, 38*, 39*, 41*, 43, 44*, and 45

Sub-Objectives:

5.1. Identify knowledge and management gaps for implementing site goals and develop research, monitoring, and community science to fill those gaps.
5.2. Provide accessible engagement in community science and monitoring opportunities for diverse communities and user groups.
5.3. Prioritize public safety during field research.
5.4. Prioritize research projects that contribute to a deeper understanding of changing ocean conditions and habitat resiliency.
5.5. Use standardized data collection practices across all community science projects at Cape Foulweather Complex.
5.6. Monitor visitor use and regularly assess visitation patterns and their impacts on the habitat.

Objective 6. Encourage public safety and regulatory compliance from all visitors.

See Actions: 6*, 7, 12*, 13*, 15, 16, 17*, 19, 20, 23-25, 27-29, 30*, 32*, 33*, 35-37, 38*,

Sub-Objectives:

6.1. Support visitor awareness of site rules, regulations, and ecological sensitivities through clear and consistent messaging (e.g. watch your step or look don't touch).
6.2. Ensure State and Federal regulations are accessible and visible.
6.3. Center public safety in planning discussions about site improvements and programming.
6.4. Support informed stewardship programs by empowering program staff, volunteers, and other visitors to evaluate the appropriate response to an unsafe event or violation.

#	**Recommended Implementation Actions List:** *Priority objectives support three or more main objectives
1*	Engage tribes during the planning of monitoring projects like the ODFW rocky habitat inventory surveys, fish surveys, or community science initiatives.
2	Coordinate with the Oregon Kelp Alliance to implement restoration of kelp beds.
3	Invite Tribal ambassadors, elders, and educators to speak at events about marine education.
4*	Host educational seminars for community members to learn about ongoing updates or results of monitoring efforts. Topics could also include basic ecological theory to discuss resilience. This is an opportunity to invite Tribal representatives to speak.
5	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform adaptive management of the site.
6*	Develop standardized community science monitoring protocols that are consistent with all State Marine Managed Areas like Marine Reserves and Marine Gardens. Vet the developed list of protocols through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7	Train community science volunteers to implement standardized data collection protocols.
8	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. For example, hosting an event that brings commercial and recreational users together.
9	Ensure datasets about research at Cape Foulweather Complex held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.
10	Ensure data collected by community groups is accessible to the OCMP, ODFW, OPRD, and DSL. Oregon SeaSketch could be a potential data-sharing platform.
11	Collaborate with educational institutions to develop future research projects based on community priorities.
12*	Establish consistent photo point locations where visitors can take repeatable photos and share them to a central database to document long-term change. The Oregon King Tides Project is an example of this kind of project. Keep track of changes to visual access overtime.
13*	Translate all printed materials into Spanish. Make digital materials available in Spanish as well. Consider making translations available for the other most common languages spoken in Oregon: Russian, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.

14	Share resources like species identification guides with visitors. See the Oregon Tidepools webpage for examples of species identification lists.
15	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, guided hikes, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials. Develop brochures that can be shared online, at the chamber of commerce, outdoor gear stores, and local hotels or vacation housing.
16	Upload all site plans, signs, resources, and brochures online.
17*	Monitor and maintain the interpretive panels at the site. If a sign needs maintenance, notify the Beverly Beach OPRD Park Manager and the USFWS Refuge Manager.
18	Host public presentations for community and school groups, individuals and organizations about the marine environment and ocean literacy. Locations for presentations could include rotary clubs, schools, or the library.
19	Increase availability of information about protected areas where visitors are already going to look (e.g. State Parks, ODFW Website, Lincoln County, etc.)
20	Participate in the development of a Rocky Habitat Communications Plan with ODFW and the Rocky Habitat Partners.
21	Connect interpretation materials or events to sustainable seafood networks.
22	Consider participating in a species spotlight podcast series to highlight some of the most important indicators of healthy rocky habitats. Potential partners could include the Oregon Coast Visitor Association and Oregon State University.
23	Identify gaps in existing outreach materials to support the development of new materials.
24	Table at large community events or festivals to spread awareness.
25	Develop a hospitality packet or a social media campaign that includes information about designated sites nearby and guidance for responsible wildlife viewing and safe recreation. Partner with Oregon Coast Visitor Association and the Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership.
26	Track the number of participants at on-site events.
27	Direct all recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.
28	Train tidepool ambassador volunteers to recognize when action is needed and how to respond appropriately in cases of violations or emergencies. Share Appendix D with volunteers for reference.
29	Provide an overview of state and federal regulations at annual tidepool ambassador training for volunteers and seasonal staff. Reach out to State Agency staff at OPRD, ODFW, USFWS, or DLCD to find staff to provide this training.
30*	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.
31*	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace. For example, work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 ‘Coast Like a Local Campaign'.

32*	Monitor climbing violations on the cliffs along the Cape Foulweather Complex.
33*	Notify the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or the Natural Resources Department Director from any other interested Tribes before any resource monitoring or extractive activity occurs within the Marine Conservation Area.
34	Coordinate messaging about Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS.
35	Notify USFWS, DSL, OSP, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear, inconsistent, or inaccessible online or printed on signage.
36	Document instances of wildlife or habitat disturbance, as appropriate. Share documented instances of wildlife disturbance with the OPRD South Beach Beverly Beach Management Unit, USFWS Refuge Manager, or Oregon State Police Wildlife Division.
37	Communicate with enforcement agencies like OPRD, OSP, USFWS, or the Lincoln County Sherrif's Office so that enforcement officers can respond if needed.
38*	Host annual State of the Cape Symposium to bring community together and share results of stewardship efforts over the year.
39*	Establish consistent methos for monitoring visitor numbers and intercepts.
40	Partner with Shifting Tides.
41*	Coordinate interpretive messaging with Whale Watching companies.
42	Work with local state parks like Boiler Bay, Cape Foulweather Visitor Center, and Devil's Punchbowl to coordinate interpretive messaging about how to care for the environment.
43	Survey visitors about what information they would like to learn about.
44*	Support community science projects that use crowdsourcing photos like whale observations (IndividuWhale), mapping annual kelp beds (Oregon Kelp Alliance), seabird nesting monitoring (Bird Alliance of Oregon), and the Oregon King Tides Project.
45	Review CoastWatch efforts annually to analyze the impact of visitor disturbance on habitats. Shre results with OPRD Park Manager.

Chapter 3: Rocky Habitat Management Themes and Opportunities

Learn more about the main themes of rocky habitat management strategies that are currently being implemented on the Oregon Coast and what programs are being developed. See Chapter 4 to learn more about Tribal engagement.

Natural Resource Conservation

The protection of natural resources at the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area is everyone's responsibility: visitors, community members,

researchers, planners, and land managers alike. Organizations that host public programs — such as hikes, field trips, or community events at Cape Foulweather — will carefully plan their activities to protect the environment and avoid disturbing wildlife or natural habitats. Examples of habitat disturbance are trampling, removing plants or shells from the beach, or handling animals.

Public Access and Community Engagement

There is no direct public access to the intertidal at the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area. Access to scenic viewpoints of the site are along the Otter Crest Loop (see Map 1).

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

The plan's communications objectives are to raise awareness about the values and functions of rocky habitats (both coast wide and specifically those at Cape Foulweather) and inform users how to responsibly and safely enjoy them. Communications inform the public not only about Marine Conservation Areas, but also all the other marine designations in the Cape Foulweather vicinity.

Users include visitors, neighbors, coastal trail hikers, commercial and recreational fishers, charter boat operators, conservation groups, schools and other educational entities, community groups, businesses, and Tribal members.

Communications will initially focus on community perceptions and interests during the planning phase. DLCD will host two community workshops to discuss management issues including information sharing, interpretation, site-monitoring, and enforcement.

The focus will shift to building a volunteer base during initial plan implementation. During implementation, communications and outreach will focus on programs, events, and seasonal updates.

Communication and outreach include the following venues and opportunities, which will evolve as site implementation progresses.

Venues/Media	Opportunities
Onsite interpretation and interaction	Outreach activities inform local community members about on-site interpretive events happening at the Cape Foulweather MCA. These interpretative activities are described in the section on education and interpretation.
Social media	News about upcoming events, monitoring information, volunteer opportunities, and what is happening at Cape Foulweather are regularly posted on Facebook, Instagram and other social media. Outreach is enhanced by sharing posts on the Seven Capes website and websites of connecting organizations.
Printed material	News about upcoming events, monitoring information, volunteer opportunities, and what is happening at Cape Foulweather are regularly posted on Facebook, Instagram and other social media. Outreach is enhanced by sharing posts on the Seven Capes website and websites of connecting organizations.
Earned media	Relationships with media sources are nurtured by sharing information on general marine conservation issues and how they relate to the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA. Efforts are coordinated with the Marine Reserves outreach programs.
Signage	See below
Videos	A short video highlights the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA. This video includes Spanish captions.
Off-site presentations and events	Off-site presentations (as described in the section on education) are promoted through local connections, social media, and information hubs.
Seven Capes communications	Seven Capes serves as the key community group engaged with this MCA and maintains a website with MCA updates (www.sevencapes.org). The biannual Seven Capes newsletter and monthly eNews provide additional outlets for public outreach.
State of the Cape Symposium	A biennial State of the Cape Symposium fosters collaboration of community members, agencies, Tribal Nations, and interested organizations in routinely evaluating progress toward achieving the MCA goals and objectives. Results of

	monitoring and research Cape Foulweather Complex MCA and nearby marine designations will be presented at these symposiums, and the first symposium for the Cape Foulweather MCA will be in 2026.

Communications and outreach focus on the following:

Raise awareness of rocky habitats and other marine designations	**Encourage engagement** through MCA program activities
Emphasis: ● What types of marine designations occur at Cape Foulweather? ● Why are there different types of designations? ● What can I do or can't do at each designation?	Emphasis: ● Connect people with birds, other wildlife, and marine life found in rocky habitats at Cape Foulweather. ● Learn how to enjoy rocky habitats responsibly and safely. ● Contribute to the understanding and management of rocky habitats.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Planning workshops identified pathways for community outreach. Connector groups can amplify outreach through their own networks, and events and information hubs can publicize MCA activities. Other organizations, businesses, and community members may serve to reach a larger or more diverse audience.

Following is a partial list of connectors who might help expand communications reach as identified at planning workshops.

- Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Cape Perpetua Collaborative
- Cascade Biosphere Collaborative
- Coast Range Association
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Depoe Bay Chamber of Commerce
- Friends of Otter Rock
- Little Whale Cove Homeowners Association
- Mary's Peak Group of the Sierra Club
- MidCoast Watershed Council
- Miroco neighborhood residents
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Oregon Coast Community College
- Oregon Coast Visitors Association
- Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
- Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies
- Redfish Rocks Community Team
- St. James Santiago School

- Seven Capes Bird Alliance
- Surfrider Foundation

LOCAL EVENTS

Local and visitor audiences can be reached through tabling at local events. The following list of events provides outreach opportunities.

- Cape Perpetua Land and Sea Symposium, Yachats
- Depoe Bay Salmon Bake
- Lincoln City Farmers Market
- Lincoln City Kite Festival
- Newport Farmers Market
- Oregon King Tides Project, Coastwide
- Spring and Winter Whale Watching Week, Depoe Bay
- World Ocean Day at Oregon Coast Aquarium, Newport

INFORMATION SHARING

Community discussions suggested that many people in the community get their information from local radio and newspapers, as well as social media. Communications that use these pathways are a good way to reach local audiences and stakeholders. Community members identified local hubs where they seek or find information:

- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Local churches
- Local fishing organizations
- Local newspapers and magazines: *Lincoln County Leader, Tillamook Headlight Herald, Tillamook Pioneer, Pacific City Sun, Oregon Coast Today*
- Oregon Coast Community College: *Catch the Wave*
- Local libraries
- Local radio
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Social media
- Whale watching charters, Depoe Bay

When organizations or agencies design materials for public consumption, the content should be inclusive of diverse user groups. For example, including options for translated materials, sharing relevant information about different types of recreation activities, and using plain language to be accessible to varying levels of education and ocean literacy.

As part of the 2019-2023 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) conducted a statewide visitor survey of Oregon State Park users. The five most common information sources for visitors in the Coastal Region were official OPRD websites, relying on

knowledge from previous visits, recommendations from friends and family, highway signs, and brochures (Bergerson, 2019).

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Image 3: *Meet the Tufted Puffin*, interpretive panel that used to be at along Otter Crest Drive at Cape Foulweather, USFWS, OPRD, ODFW, BLM, USFS, CTCLUSI, CTSI, 2020

Interpretive signs offer stories that are designed to stimulate visitors' interest while challenging their imaginations, and perhaps present new perspectives on familiar topics. Thematic signage content enables visitors to understand more clearly the messages of history, environment, and/or cultural significance of the rocky habitat within this MCA.

Interpretive signage and/or digital narratives at key viewpoints along Otter Crest Drive and at Otter Crest State Viewpoint can enhance the visitor experience by describing the ecological functions of rocky habitats and kelp forests.

Placement of signs will require coordination with the managing landowner (Lincoln County for Otter Crest Drive right of way and OPRD for state park lands) regarding the design, permitting, messaging, placement, installation, and maintenance agreements for interpretive signs.

An interpretive signage plan will be developed in the first two years of MCA implementation (2025-2026). The scope of signage may be initially small to stay within capacity limitations of the local community. A signage plan will identify both near and long-term opportunities. Funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation and other grants for signage will be evaluated during the first year of implementation. Within four years of the finalization of this management plan, signage is anticipated to be installed with a supporting maintenance agreement.

Education and Interpretation

An informed and aware public is critical to protecting rocky habitat resources and carrying out the goals, objectives, and policies of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. It is essential for the continued ecological functioning and wellbeing of Oregon's rocky habitats that visitors interact responsibly in these areas. Fostering a culture of stewardship of rocky habitat resources will help protect the ecological, cultural, and economic resources of Oregon's rocky coastline. Targeted messaging is crucial, including information on ways that individuals and groups can take action to positively affect these rocky habitats. Education can also greatly enhance the visitor experience.

Education and interpretation will be a collaborative effort among community groups to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at raising awareness of the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA. Education actions include the development of a K-12 education program, social media posts, published articles, signage along Otter Crest Drive, and possibly other physical/visual access points, volunteer stewardship, and on-site interpretive events.

MARINE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

The development of a K-12 education program will be developed in collaboration with local educators. It will be aimed at educating young minds about the ecology of rocky habitats. Education should emphasize proper tidepool etiquette, measures to protect wildlife, and ecology of nearshore and subtidal habitats. Traditional uses, both past and present, is an educational topic that is best informed through involvement of local Tribes. This collaborative effort will help ensure future generations have the knowledge and appreciation of these sites to help maintain and protect them. The goal is to have these programs in place by 2027.

Initially, implementation of this curriculum will be aimed at extracurricular programs including after-school programs, holiday events, Rec Kids Lincoln City Recreation Department, Lincoln City Cultural Center, and OMSI's Camp Gray. Introducing a new curriculum into K-12 schools can be challenging due to capacity considerations.

Image 4: Photo by Rachel Freeman

Rocky Habitat Educational Resources

Oregon Tidepools	Great resource for field trips and general visitors.
Tidepools Are Alive! Brochure, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Printable brochure with tidepool etiquette and an interpretive species guide. The map on the back is not up to date with new restrictions.
Oregon Coast Stem Hub	The Oregon Coast STEM Hub is a great resource for educators. They have a library of equipment for outdoor education (rain boots, microscopes, scales, ROV kits, etc.)
Oregon Sea Grant K-12 Science Curricula	Tidepool Tussle (Grades 6-8): https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/orsea-tidepool-tussle Check out the Oregon Sea Grant website for more resources and events for educators: https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/visitor-center/marine-education

Redfish Rocks Community Team	The Redfish Rocks Community Team has compiled a list of education resources.
Ocean Literacy Guide	Guide for all ages.
Charleston Marine Life Center	Online and onsite school programs.
Oregon Coast Aquarium Education Programs	Online and onsite school programs, youth camps, and marine education for all ages.
CoastWatch in the Schools	Coordinates guest educators to be on the beach with teachers and students; provides training for community science projects; introduces classrooms to scientists and researchers. Schools submit miles reports just like all CoastWatch volunteers.
Tidepool Unit Study, Teachers Pay Teachers	Downloadable tidepool curriculum for a variety of ages designed by an Oregon educator.
Rocky Shores Training 2025	Video recordings and summary of the 2025 Rocky Shores Training intended for volunteers, seasonal staff, and interns who provide front-line rocky shore interpretation along the coast of Oregon.

Education should emphasize proper tidepool etiquette, measures to protect wildlife, and ecology of nearshore and subtidal habitats. Indigenous traditional uses of marine resources, both past and present, is an educational topic that is best informed through involvement of local Tribes. This collaborative effort will help ensure future generations have the knowledge and appreciation of these sites to help maintain and protect them.

ON-SITE EVENTS AND INTERPRETATION

A set of key messages will be developed that can be incorporated into all interpretive activities. Topics for formal programs will likely include seabird nesting, kelp ecology, marine area designations, and whale watching. Informal interpretation can be integrated into all stewardship activities. Most of the interpretation will be conducted from observation overlooks along Otter Crest Drive. Groups will be kept small (15 or fewer). Interpretive events will initially focus on birds and their relationship to rocky habitats, as this is a core strength for Seven Capes.

OFF-SITE PRESENTATIONS AND EVENTS

There will be at least two presentations or events per year focused on rocky habitats. These events may be in person or with a virtual audience. Publicity for events will

proactively seek communication pathways that engage diverse and underrepresented audiences.

SIGNAGE AND DIGITAL NARRATIVES

Signage includes regulatory signs and interpretive narratives. See the section on signage for details.

Digital narratives will be posted through social media with a goal of informing a larger audience of the importance of the site and the role it plays as an MCA. These narratives should include site biodiversity, climate resiliency, and site etiquette.

USER RESPONSIBILITY

Public education on how to responsibly use rocky habitats, and safe ways to interact with the plants and animals dependent on them, is an essential element of site-based management for this MCA. Education will use signage, information flyers, guided outings, and personal interactions to positively inform the public about good stewardship and responsible behavior.

Access to rocky habitats at Cape Foulweather is quite limited by topography. Users are strongly advised to enjoy these resources from vantage points along Otter Crest Drive and State Scenic Viewpoints. Boaters are advised to heed marine water conditions as wave refraction off the cliffs often makes local ocean conditions turbulent.

Key messaging on user responsibility focuses on:

- Practice good tidepool etiquette.
- Avoid disturbing nesting seabirds.
- Avoid disturbing pinnipeds.
- Keep your distance from wildlife.
- Maintain appropriate aircraft altitude, especially over USFWS offshore rocks and islands.
- Enjoy bird and wildlife viewing while boating, but follow good practices to avoid disturbance. Boaters are encouraged to maintain 500 feet from rocks, islands, and cliffs when seabirds or other wildlife are present.
- Observe drone operation rules and apply tips for responsible drone use.
- Understand and follow all site-specific regulations as well as coastwide regulations.

Black Oystercatcher Nest Education: Friends of Otter Rock currently provides information on how to avoid disturbance of Black Oystercatchers that use rocky habitat during the nesting season (April –August). These efforts can be expanded to include other sites within the MCA.

Drone Operation Education: Educate drone users on avoiding wildlife disturbance through on-site volunteer stewards, social media, and signage.

Boater Education: Enhance visitor experience and educate watercraft operators on minimizing disturbance to seabirds during nesting season by sharing information about natural history. Distribute digital and printed materials at Depoe Bay and Newport harbor boat launches for easy access to this information.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO MARINE EDUCATION

A wide range of legal standards exist for the design, alteration, construction, and maintenance of interpretive signs. This includes the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards, which ensure baseline access to public lands for the disability community. Planners must holistically consider the full spectrum of disability identities within the ADA and ABA frameworks to ensure that built environments accommodate the diverse experiences and needs of people with disabilities.

Access and enjoyment of the Cape Foulweather Complex matter to a diverse population. Interpretive signage will be bilingual (English and Spanish). Seven Capes Bird Alliance, OPRD, and USFWS will strive to provide translated versions of English-only signs on their websites.

Site Monitoring

Both agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are engaged in monitoring at Cape Foulweather. Monitoring builds upon existing programs that are ongoing within the MCA boundaries and coastwide established programs. The following criteria will be applied to identify monitoring programs that are most suitable to implement as part of this MCA.

Monitoring programs should:

- Rely on established protocols with ongoing monitoring locally or elsewhere on the West Coast.
- Be relevant to meeting the goal and objectives of the MCA.
- Be complementary, or at least compatible, with use of the site as a comparison area for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve.
- Employ methods vetted by a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).
- Provide for engagement by a diverse community.
- Be within the capabilities of volunteer community groups.
- Prioritize safety as a paramount concern.
- Contribute to the understanding of climate change resiliency.
- Be considered a priority for both rocky habitat and marine reserve friends groups.

ODFW's Marine Reserves Program

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) leads scientific monitoring and research at Oregon's marine reserves. ODFW is studying both the ecology and the human dimensions of the reserves. They have created long-term ecological monitoring and human dimensions research programs that quantify and evaluate ocean changes as well as understand changes and impacts on ocean users and coastal communities over time.

A basic element of the marine reserves monitoring program is to monitor within the reserve (closed to harvest) as well as within comparison areas (similar nearby habitats open to harvest by regulation). The nearby Otter Rock Marine Reserve, managed by ODFW, uses the area around and within the Cape Foulweather MCA as a comparison site for its monitoring programs.

For the last ten years, ODFW has used the Cape Foulweather area as a comparison site as part of the long-term monitoring for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve. ODFW is conducting long-term monitoring of fish, invertebrate, and macroalgal (seaweed) communities. They are tracking changes over time in organism size, organism abundance, and community composition inside and outside of the reserves.

In addition, the ODFW Shellfish Program has conducted sea urchin surveys in the site and adjacent areas periodically since the mid-1990s, and that work will continue. Data from these studies are likely sufficient to identify trends or events that might trigger adaptive management actions within the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA that are necessary to preserve the ecological integrity of the area as a suitable comparison site. Assessment of habitat integrity and biodiversity at Cape Foulweather is a secondary objective to the primary task of ongoing monitoring as a comparison site.

ODFW (2012) provides details on the design, analysis, and data management for the marine reserves monitoring program.

USFWS Seabird Nesting Surveys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducts aerial surveys of breeding birds at seabird colonies along the Oregon coast. Seabirds nesting on the cliffs and offshore rocks at Cape Foulweather are within the survey area (Naughton et. al. 2007). This project provides valuable data to both the Migratory Bird and National Wildlife Refuge programs within the USFWS, as both seek to understand and manage the many seabird species that are an integral part of the Pacific Northwest coast.

Observers enter nesting count data into the Oregon Seabird Colony Database, which helps identify the current distribution and abundance of Common Murres and cormorants at colonies on the Oregon coast. These counts are part of a large historical data set that goes back to the early 20th century.

CoastWatch

CoastWatch is a coastwide program initiated and managed by the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition. CoastWatch engages people in documenting Oregon's sandy beaches and rocky shores for natural and human-caused changes, wildlife, and phenomena. Volunteers are linked to a section of the Oregon coast to observe seasonally. The program offers education about shoreline ecology and natural history, with opportunities to contribute data to community science.

Management of the Cape Foulweather MCA will seek to ensure CoastWatch volunteers have adopted shoreline mile segments contiguous with the MCA. Opportunities for how to effectively share CoastWatch data with other data management platforms (e.g., SeaSketch) will be explored.

There are many community science projects to get involved in along the Oregon coast. Learn more about all these projects here:

- Oregon Ocean Information Links
- Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership Links
- Oregon Tidepools Links
- Oregon Shores Community Science Links
- Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) Links

Image 5: Photo by Michael Sherman

Learn More and Get Involved

Community members can get involved with one or more community science projects. Whether you are looking for a one-day educational family adventure or an ongoing

commitment, there is something for everyone https://www.sevencapes.org/community-science.

INATURALIST

iNaturalist is an online social network platform for people to share biodiversity information and observations publicly. Users can learn how to identify plants and animals while also generating spatial data points that contribute research-quality data for science and conservation efforts. Some selected iNaturalist project observations focused on the coast are now available on Oregon SeaSketch - the marine spatial planning tool for the State of Oregon.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department facilitates an ongoing project on iNaturalist called the Oregon State Parks Coastal Species Inventory. Start adding observations today!

COASTWATCH

CoastWatch is a coastwide program initiated and managed by Oregon Shores. CoastWatch engages people in documenting Oregon's sandy beaches and rocky shores for natural and human-caused changes, wildlife, and phenomena. Volunteers adopt a section of the Oregon coast to observe seasonally. The program offers education about shoreline ecology and natural history, with opportunities to contribute data to community science.

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER MONITORING

The Bird Alliance of Oregon organizes an ongoing community science project to monitor Black Oystercatchers nests coastwide. The Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*) is a shorebird found in rocky habitats along the Oregon coast and elsewhere along the west coast of North America. The species' global population is relatively small with a low reproductive rate. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2021, Black Oystercatchers are a species of high conservation concern and may act as an indicator of intertidal ecosystem health.

The Bird Alliance of Oregon monitors the nesting and fledgling success for Black Oystercatchers along the Oregon coast. Researchers will use monitoring information as part of a regionwide effort in California and Oregon to assess Black Oystercatcher population viability and estimate impacts from human disturbance, predation, and other factors. They will use all collected data to inform the conservation and management of this species.

FRIENDS OF OTTER ROCK COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAMS

Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserve engages in many community science projects for the area just south of the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA. These activities include:

- Annual Bioblitz (tide pool diversity/abundance measurement using iNaturalist)
- Black Oystercatcher nest monitoring

- COASST (Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team) beached bird program
- King tides project
- Marine mammal stranding network
- NOAA marine debris survey
- OSU/MARINe sea star monitoring
- Ocean acidification monitoring
- Sea star monitoring

KELP MONITORING

The Oregon Kelp Alliance (ORKA) published a status report on kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana)* that documents the distribution and condition of kelp forests within Oregon's Territorial Sea. The status report includes monitoring recommendations. Opportunities to integrate the monitoring recommendations in the kelp status report with ongoing long-term monitoring by the ODFW Marine Reserve Program should be explored.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Community groups associated with newly designated rocky habitats as well as several associated with marine reserves all incorporate community science within their local programs. These community groups recognize the benefits of conducting similar activities that rely on standardized protocols and data management. Relevant community groups will collaborate to identify priority issues for community science programs. At least one of these prioritized issues will be developed into a community science program at Cape Foulweather.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Successful monitoring programs must ensure data quality, usefulness, accessibility, and preservation. Community groups associated with each of the newly designated rocky habitats will work together to define uniform data collection, processing, reporting, and archiving protocols. SeaSketch is a data platform that will be used, but not necessarily exclusively. Compatibility with CoastWatch data is also an important consideration as CoastWatch provides a long-term record.

Get Involved

Are you a scientist interested in conducting research in connection with the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA? Please contact the ODFW at https://oregonmarinereserves.com since the area within and surrounding this MCA serves as a comparison site for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve. Please note that some research activities may require a permit.

Social Monitoring

Social or human dimensions monitoring looks at how people use, experience, value, and depend on the natural environment. Understanding how people interact with rocky habitats can help shape future management. Additionally, since there are a variety of marine designation types near Cape Foulweather, social monitoring can also document public perceptions and knowledge of the different marine designations.

Evaluating the effectiveness of education and stewardship as conservation tools is another objective of social monitoring. As an example, decreasing frequency of human disturbance to Black Oystercatcher nests may be, in part, attributable to site-based education and stewardship.

At a minimum, social monitoring should document the level of stewardship and public use at the MCA. Social monitoring programs will develop over time. Implementation of social monitoring will also benefit from consistency in protocols and data management across multiple rocky habitat designated sites.

BASIC INFORMATION

The number of volunteer hours will be monitored monthly. Community groups engaged in stewardship at rocky habitat site designations will develop a shared list of broadly categorized volunteer activities for which volunteer hours will be tallied.

The number of visitor intercepts (binned by the same categories used for volunteer hours) will be recorded and monthly totals reported. A visitor intercept is defined consistently among all the rocky habitat and marine reserve community groups.

Social monitoring may address some or all the following questions:

- What is the level of stewardship?
- What are the trends in public use at Cape Foulweather MCA?
- What is the public level of knowledge on rocky habitat?
- What is the public level of knowledge on various marine designations and what rules apply to each?
- What are the public's attitudes towards the Cape Foulweather MCA?
- How can the user's experience be enriched while still protecting rocky habitats and the organisms dependent upon them?
- What do people value about rocky habitats at Cape Foulweather?
- How do we build climate change resiliency?

The depth and complexity of social monitoring will build over time. Initially, social monitoring will be limited to documenting volunteer hours, visitor intercepts, and social data collected by CoastWatch.

Community groups and agencies involved with management at designated rocky habitat sites will periodically assess the needs and capabilities for social monitoring. The scope of social monitoring may be expanded as human and financial resources become available.

Compliance and Enforcement

The best way to avoid instances of rule violation or habitat disturbance is by following an education-first model that the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation practices. Education-first in this context means prioritizing public education about the marine ecosystem, followed by sharing information about rules, regulations, and tidepool etiquette, and relying on enforcement measures as a last resort.

Robust public education and interpretation programs are the State's greatest compliance tool to combat violations. By centering public education, nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and beach visitors can support compliance efforts. Individuals and groups that do not have enforcement authority can share information about tidepool etiquette, marine ecosystems, and general information about regulations to support public compliance within Marine Conservation Areas.

Enforcement of rules and regulations on the ocean shore is the responsibility of Oregon State Police, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Beach Rangers, and some local police units. Volunteers should not engage directly with members of the public who appear to be committing a violation. If a concern arises at Cape Foulweather, pause, collect information, and evaluate the appropriate response.

Severe wildlife disturbance like poaching is a serious violation of state and federal law; see Appendix D for a list of whom to contact about an emergency, habitat law violation, or other scenarios on the beach.

REGULATION SIGNAGE

The State and federal agencies with management jurisdiction are responsible for regulatory signage. The only site-specific regulation relevant to the Cape Foulweather is a restriction on harvesting kelp in subtidal areas, which is a boat based activity. Therefore, there is not a strong need for regulatory signage.

There are no site-specific harvest regulations for this MCA other than a closure of kelp harvest within subtidal areas. Since access to subtidal waters is almost exclusively vessel-based, no regulatory signs will be placed in upland access points to this MCA.

Website	Outreach Materials and Best Messaging about Viewing Marine Life
Oregon Tidepools	Being Good Visitors Webpage

Haystack Rock Awareness Program	It's Their Home. We're Just Visiting Webpage
Oregon Coast Visitor Association	How to Visit Oregon's Coastal Tidepools Webpage Coast Like a Local Campaign
Shoreline Education for Awareness	Tidepool Etiquette Webpage
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	It's All Connected Handout
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Viewing Marine Life Webpage

Chapter 4: Guidance on Tribal Engagement

Indigenous Significance of Rocky Habitats

Rocky habitats, ecosystems uniquely positioned between land and the Pacific Ocean, have provided rich marine resources for thousands of years. Since time immemorial, Indigenous communities have lived around estuaries and bays, near marine resources found in rocky habitats, like clams, mussels, and seaweed that provide sustenance and materials for their families and culture.

Today, Coastal Tribes continue a meaningful connection with Ancestral Homelands

between land and sea in rocky areas. These lands are locations for gathering first foods, ceremonies, traditional cultural practices, and are a part of coastal, indigenous identities. The health of these coastal lands is inextricably linked to the wellbeing of coastal indigenous communities, which is why indigenous communities and Tribes must be included in stewardship, monitoring, protection, and restoration efforts that occur in rocky habitats.

The Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Management Plan cannot begin

Tribally Significant Species

The cultural sensitivity of the species listed below should be prioritized when researching and managing wildlife and their habitats.

Marine and Estuary Plants:

- Eelgrass
- Giant kelp
- Bull Kelp
- Sea lettuce
- Surf grass

Marine and Estuary Animals:

- Shellfish (crab, snails, mussels, barnacles, abalone, dentalium)
- Rockfish (lingcod, sculpin, perch, greenling)
- Lamprey (all species)
- Flounder
- Eulachon
- Sea urchin
- Salmon (all species)
- Sea mammals
- Halibut
- Herring
- Chiton

to appropriately summarize the rich lineage of tribal use of the coast and traditional lifeways related to abundant rocky habitats. Rocky habitat management strategies implemented at the Cape Foulweather Complex by the State of Oregon and members of the public should prioritize Tribal interests. Management strategies should be planned and conducted in coordination with appropriate Tribal Staff and Governments including:

- The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- The Coquille Indian Tribe
- The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
- The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Chinook Indian Nation
- Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes

Communities may contact the Legislative Commission on Indian Services to determine which Tribal nations have an interest in specific geographic areas in Oregon and to inquire about project collaboration.

Interested community members should visit the Tribal websites listed above and review content published by the Tribes to learn more about individual cultural history surrounding these areas.

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF SILETZ INDIANS' ADJACENT PROPERTY

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI) own land on the shoreline just south of the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area boundary (see Map 1). Cape Foulweather is of cultural and ecological significance to the Siletz people and serves as a hunting, fishing, and gathering site. The CTSI have long helped steward the Oregon coast – even though they lost 100 miles of coastal shoreline ownership out of the original one million acres of land that the federal government set aside for the Tribe in 1855.

Cape Foulweather's rocky shores contain important salt spray meadow and Sitka spruce forest habitat which will be permanently protected on CTSI lands for its ecological, cultural, and visual benefits, bolstering the resilience of the Tribe and coastal community. Peter Hatch, the History and Archaeology Specialist with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians Culture Department said in a statement about the property acquisition, "Alongside its inherent ecological, scenic, and cultural value, this land was originally set aside in 1855 as a part of a permanent homeland for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz. We are grateful to have the chance to steward it once again, and thankful to those who made it possible" (Fienger, Carney, 2023).

Image 6: Tribal Tradition interpretive panel at Coquille Point Marine Garden designed by the Coquille Indian Tribe in partnership with USFWS, Shoreline Education for Awareness, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, and art by Ram Papish. Photo by Micky Franks, 2025.

KEY THEMES TO CONSIDER WHEN ENGAGING WITH TRIBES:

The State of Oregon has a formal relationship to Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon and must follow legal requirements for Tribal coordination. Although not legally obligated, community organizations working on rocky habitat stewardship are strongly encouraged to develop relationships with the local indigenous communities, Tribal representatives, and Tribal Governments. Below are some key themes and contexts to consider when reaching out to indigenous communities and Tribal Nations.

Engage Early and Often: The best time to engage with Tribal Nations is before the initiation of a project (ideally during the grant writing stage) or at the beginning of a project. Building partnerships takes time, so it's essential to begin relationship-building early. Each Tribal Government is unique and will have specific procedures and policies for coordination.

If you are working directly with individual Tribal members rather than formally engaging with a Tribal Government, remember that one person's perspective may not represent the views of the entire Tribal Nation. It is important to understand when someone is speaking on behalf of a Tribe in an official or subject matter expert capacity.

Respecting Tribal Sovereignty: Recognize and respect the sovereignty of Tribal governments. Unlike treaty rights, Tribal sovereignty was not bestowed on Tribes by the U.S. Government; tribes always possessed sovereignty rights and never gave them up. Tribal Nations have their own laws, regulations, and government structures.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty: Openly share data and findings about marine resources at the site with Tribal Governments. Respect Tribal Nation's right to protect and steward their own data about cultural and natural resources.

Protecting Access to First Foods: Beaches and rocky shores provide essential habitats for fish, marine plants, and shellfish that have long supported the traditional sustenance and cultural practices of coastal Indigenous peoples. Shirod Younker of the Coquille Indian Tribe explains how, "Exercising that ancestral right to gather traditional food helps exercise what we call food sovereignty," (Museum of Natural and Cultural History, 2020).

Some Marine Conservation Areas limit the harvest of shellfish and marine plants for non-tribal community members. Tribal members have the right to collect marine resources within the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area in accordance with Tribal laws and regulations.

Respecting Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Traditional ecological knowledge is the cumulative body of place-based knowledge and practices passed down through generations within Indigenous communities, reflecting thousands of years of place-based wisdom. It is a powerful form of cultural teachings and ways of knowing.

Traditional ecological knowledge should be integrated into natural resource or area-based stewardship plans through respectful collaboration with Tribes. Implementation of traditional knowledge in natural resource management can result in increasing biodiversity, strengthening relationships between people and the natural environment, and fostering meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Including Tribal Voices in Interpretive Materials: Interpretation at the Cape Foulweather Complex should celebrate traditional cultural uses of the habitat and offer educational opportunities for all member of the public to learn about the indigenous significance of coastal environments.

Engage with Tribes to include indigenous voices and stories in rocky habitat interpretive materials. Include Tribes in planning for interpretive materials associated with rocky habitats early in the development and plan for enough time for meaningful engagement and review of materials by Tribes.

Before publishing materials, ensure that the Tribe has granted appropriate permissions. Multiple Tribes may have an interest in the Cape Foulweather Complex, and each Tribe may have different perspectives, stories, and experiences associated with the area.

The Ancestral Waters Coloring and Activity Book is an example of successful collaboration between nonprofits, state agencies, multiple Tribal Nations, and Indigenous voices to develop a powerful interpretive material about Marine Protected Areas.

Image 7: Ancestral Waters Coloring and Activity Book was designed by the California MPA Collaborative Network and the North Coast Native Protectors in 2024.

Revitalizing Native Languages: Many Tribes and Indigenous communities are actively working to preserve native languages by reintroducing ancestral languages into common practice. Interpretive materials about rocky habitats present an opportunity to support native language revitalization. For example, signs, brochures, tidepool species guides, website content, or other learning materials could include translations of common terms like “clams”, “sea star”, “rock”, “seal”, etc. in multiple native languages.

Learn more about coastal native languages:

- Miluk, Hanis, and Athabaskan: Languages – Coquille Indian Tribe
- Hanis Coos, Miluk Coos, and the Sha'yuushtl'a uhl Quuiich: Languages - CTCLUSI
- Athabaskan: Language - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Chinuk Wawa: Language - Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Takelma: Language – Cow Creek Education

Deepening Relationships: Building relationships with Tribal Governments and communities is a long-term commitment that requires trust, respect, and consistency. One way to strengthen these relationships is by participating in public events hosted by local Tribes, such as Powwows or cultural gatherings, and by inviting Tribal representatives to community events. Reaching out to Tribal Education, Cultural, or Natural Resource departments can also open doors for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Above all, prioritize clear, respectful communication and focus on building authentic partnerships not only achieving specific outcomes.

The Oregon Coastal Management Program developed the Oregon Coastal Public Access Guide for Local Government Planners that includes a detailed chapter on Tribal Engagement Guidance. While written for local planners, the guide can also be helpful for organizations and other government agencies pursuing Tribal engagement.

Image 8: The Kalapuya Talking Stones are an example of an Indigenous interpretive display along the Willamette River in Eugene, Oregon that features fifteen basalt boulders carved with Yoncalla Kalapuya words and their English translation Eugene Parks & Open Space, 2022.

Chapter 5: Marine Ecosystem

The rocky coastline which makes up Oregon's intertidal zone, is a dynamic and ecologically significant environment. The rocky intertidal and subtidal zones serve as a biodiversity hotspot by providing homes and breeding habitats for marine life like fish, seabirds, marine mammals, shellfish, invertebrates, and marine plants that have all become well adapted to the ever-changing landscape of the tides. These habitats also play an important role in breaking wave action and the movement of sand on the beach.

The Cape Foulweather Complex MCA includes both intertidal and subtidal rocky habitats. The intertidal habitat at the base of the cliffs and adjacent subtidal rocky reefs are home to extensive canopied bull kelp forests (spanning 75 acres) that are rich in biodiversity. These kelp forests provide gray whales with abundant food resources and serve as a nurturing habitat for Pacific coast groundfish and salmon. Pinnipeds are also common, either hauling out on the rocky shoreline or seeking refuge within the kelp, making them an integral part of the area's diverse marine life.

The kelp forests at Cape Foulweather are the largest and most significant kelp beds along Oregon's central and north coasts. However, these kelp forests are threatened by the exploding purple sea urchin population in the region. Purple sea urchins feed extensively on algae like bull kelp, resulting in dramatic losses of kelp forests, putting the area's biodiversity at risk. It's notable that the kelp forests at Cape Foulweather seem to be more resilient to the advance of purple sea urchins, along with a few other locations on the Oregon coast. Thus, they could serve as a comparison site for researchers studying sea urchin impacts.

The rocky shoreline serves as a vital nesting habitat and feeding ground for various seabird species, including large colonies of Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants, as well as Pigeon Guillemots and Black Oystercatchers. However, these are not the only avian species inhabiting the site. During the summer and early fall, flocks of Brown Pelicans exploit the rich kelp forests for feeding, while Bald Eagles are known to prey on nests.

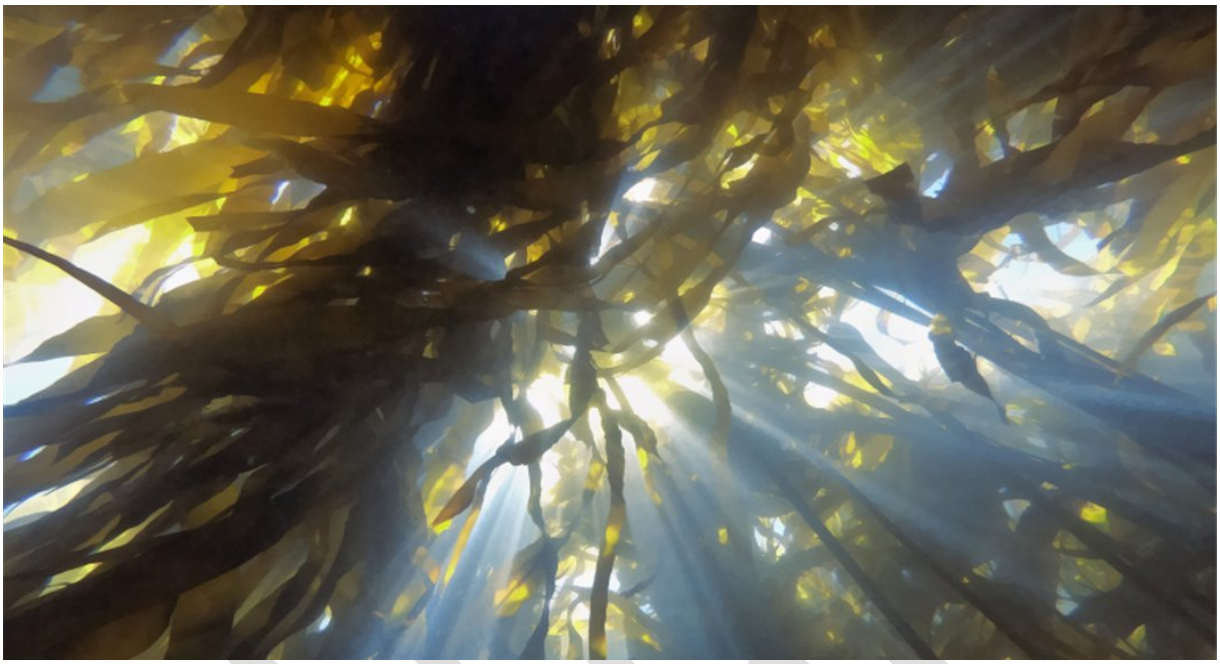

Image 9: Underwater photo of kelp forest, Hamilton.

Environmental Stressors

Rocky habitats, including subtidal and intertidal zones, are vulnerable to stressors like marine debris, habitat disturbance, pollution from both land and sea, and changing ocean conditions. These environmental stressors have various implications for the economic, environmental, and cultural value of rocky habitats in Oregon.

These unique habitats are subject to the growing risks associated with warming ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and hypoxia. Oceans take on some of the worst impacts of changing environmental conditions. by absorbing 93% of excess heat in the atmosphere and 30% of carbon dioxide emissions (Juranek, et al., 2024). Carbon dioxide emissions mixed with seawater produce carbonic acid, which decreases the pH level in the chemical make-up of the ocean. More acidified seawater, or ocean acidification, results in negative implications for all marine life, particularly for shell-forming species found in intertidal habitats.

Winds and ocean circulation affect wave patterns in the Cape Foulweather Complex. In winter, storms originating from the Aleutian low pressure systems generate onshore winds, while in summer, the North Pacific High promotes winds that flow from north to south along the coast. When out of balance, caused by El Niño and La Niña years, these wind-driven movements can cause upwelling, which bring nutrient-rich waters to

the surface. While normally these nutrients benefit coastal ecosystems, too much upwelling can cause a hypoxia event.

In recent years, the Pacific Ocean has experienced record-breaking marine heatwaves and disease outbreaks that negatively affected key rocky habitat species like the Sunflower Sea Star (Prentice, et al, 2025). Marine heatwaves and disease outbreaks are causing abrupt changes in community structures and food webs. These environmental stressors result in changes in tide patterns and intensity, which in turn influence nutrient availability and oxygen levels. Similar marine heatwave events are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Learn more about Oregon regulations on Climate and Ocean Change Policy.

Some of the impacts of changing ocean conditions along rocky coastlines are:

- Ocean warming and marine heat waves
- More frequent and increased intensity of storms
- Loss of marine life and habitat
- Sea-level rise
- Sea ice melt
- Change in ocean circulation
- Hypoxia (low or depleted oxygen levels in seawater)
- Ocean acidification (more acidic seawater)
- Harmful algal blooms
- Increased ocean stratification

Research and monitoring efforts are necessary to understand the current state of ocean conditions related to intertidal habitats and to assess the extent of these long-term impacts. (Meunier 2024, and Deluca 2025).

Sea Star Wasting Disease and Marine Heat Wave

The sea star wasting disease outbreak and the coinciding marine heat wave occurred on the West Coast between 2014 and 2016. This event negatively impacted intertidal and subtidal marine species resulting in a severe decline of ochre sea star *(Pisaster ochraceus)* and sunflower sea star *(Pycnopodia helianthoides)* populations in Oregon.

Biological communities in Oregon's rocky habitats shifted in response to the marine heatwave and disease outbreak (Meunier 2024). Some invertebrate populations like gooseneck barnacles, California mussels, and purple urchins increased during this time because of the decline in predators like sea stars (Hamilton et al., 2024). Ochre sea star populations have recovered since the event, but research suggests that sea stars may have lower resilience than other intertidal organisms.

Site Specific Management Issues

This section identifies management issues specific to the Cape Foulweather MCA and provides non-regulatory management strategies to address the issues in concurrence with the MCA goal and objectives. A review of issues and strategies will be conducted at each State of the Cape Symposium (described in Chapter 3). The review may trigger adaptations to strategies and updates to this segment of the site management plan.

SEABIRD AND PINNIPED DISTURBANCE

Motorized and non-motorized watercraft approaching too close to the cliffs, rocks, and offshore islands have a high potential for disturbing seabirds and pinnipeds. Disturbances can result in the reduction or loss of eggs and chicks, and in some cases in colony or rookery abandonment. Low flying aircraft, including drones, have a high potential for disturbing seabird nesting grounds and pinniped breeding and resting sites (USFWS 2009).

The USFWS advises all motorized and non-motorized watercraft to remain at least 500 feet away from all islands and emergent rocks and reefs associated with the Oregon Islands NWR. Watercraft venturing closer than 500 feet may disturb wildlife and place the boat operator in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The USFWS requests aircraft pilots to maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) or maintain a one-half nautical mile lateral distance from all coastal rocks and islands. Overflights lower than 2,000 feet AGL or closer than one-quarter to one-half mile have a high potential for disturbing seabird nesting grounds as well as pinniped breeding and resting sites.

Recreational use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS/drones) is prohibited at Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which includes the rocks and islands along the Cape Foulweather shoreline. Pilots need to ensure that they comply with all FAA regulations and guidance for flying drones (See Appendix C).

COMPARISON AREA

Continued use of the MCA and surrounding waters as a comparison site for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve is a key management issue. All management actions for the MCA must be compatible with this objective. Comparison areas are monitoring sites that are open to fishing which are near a marine reserve that is closed to fishing. Comparative monitoring inside the reserve (closed to harvest) and outside the reserve (open to harvest) helps scientists understand fish population changes over time. Comparison areas are in proximity and have characteristics like those of the marine reserve.

MULTIPLE MARINE AREA DESIGNATIONS

The Cape Foulweather Complex MCA is near several other adjacent marine area designations. Each of these designated sites has a unique goal and management strategy. The MCA provides an opportunity to educate visitors about the various marine area designations, their purpose, and what activities are restricted within each designation.

Whale Cove Habitat Marine Conservation Area, established in 1994, has a goal of conserving, to the highest degree possible, the ecological functions and rocky habitat resources to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations. ODFW's regulations at Whale Cove prohibit harvest of both marine invertebrates and fish (OAR 635-005-0260). No collection of marine plants is allowed within the ocean shore in these areas, except by scientific research permit from OPRD (OAR 736-020-0003).

Otter Rock Marine Education Area, immediately south of the Cape Foulweather MCA, boasts some of the best tidepools along the Oregon coast. ODFW's regulations protect the rocky intertidal invertebrate community from harvest impacts (OAR 635-005-0260).

Otter Rock Marine Reserve lies 0.7 miles south of the MCA. As established in the OPAC policy recommendations, Oregon defines a marine reserve as "....an area within Oregon's Territorial Sea or adjacent rocky intertidal area that is protected from all extractive activities, including the removal or disturbance of living and non-living marine resources, except as necessary for monitoring or research to evaluate reserve condition, effectiveness, or impact of stressors." (OPAC 2008)

Marine Protected Areas are adjacent to the Otter Rock Marine Reserve. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which allow or prohibit specific extractive activities, are also included in Oregon's marine reserves system. As established in the OPAC policy recommendations, Oregon defines an MPA as "any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein." (OPAC 2008, adopted from Presidential Executive Order 13158 issued May 26, 2000).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) owns and manages the shoreline immediately north and south of Whale Cove as well as offshore rocks and islands. Offshore islands and rocks above the mean high tide and separated from land at high tide are managed by the USFWS, Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 USC § 668dd-668ee), and Oregon Islands Wilderness; Wilderness Act. (16 USC §§ 1131-1136)). The Oregon Islands NWR is primarily managed to provide seabird nesting habitat, and unauthorized human access is prohibited.

Natural Resource Protection

Understanding the distribution and abundance of marine resources is critical for any kind of natural resource management. At Cape Foulweather, it is important to consider key protected species and critical habitats when making management decisions.

The list of marine fish and invertebrate species that have been assessed as the 2026 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) is available on the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) website.

The SWAP now includes the Oregon Nearshore Strategy. The Oregon Nearshore Strategy is a tool developed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Marine Resources Program to coordinate management efforts and support the long-term sustainability of nearshore resources in Oregon. Species in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy are found to have the greatest conservation needs in a broad social and ecological context. The Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area management strategies should align with recommendations in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy.

Chapter 5: Tools and Resources

Plan Evaluation

Program leaders at the Cape Foulweather Complex will incorporate the strategies, objectives, and actions from the Plan into their internal program evaluations. The Plan is a living document that will be periodically updated based on adaptive recommendations.

Plan evaluators will assess the implementation of this management plan by answering three key questions:

1. Have managers implemented the recommended actions?
2. Are the site-based actions helping achieve the plan's goal and objectives?
3. What adaptive management measures can improve progress toward the goal and objectives?

The outcome of evaluation is to inform adaptive management of this plan. Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of robust decision-making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reduce uncertainty over time via system monitoring (Holling 1978). Adaptive management allows for future improvements to both natural resource protection and enriching visitor experiences.

Evaluations will occur at both the event and programmatic level. Event participants will be asked to fill out a simple survey form to evaluate their experience. Evaluation criteria may include event leader expertise, group size, quality of experience, inclusivity, and safety. Programmatic evaluation will occur at least biennially.

The biennial State of the Cape Symposium provides a scheduled opportunity to evaluate the management plan. Community groups, agencies, Tribes, volunteers, and the public will collectively look at how well the MCA objectives are being met. Documentation on the number and types of programs and participation levels will help inform this evaluation. CoastWatch records provide additional context on the site's stewardship.

Community organizations and agencies stewarding rocky habitats should be empowered to make small updates to this Plan as needed for their own programming or work plans.

Essential Species and Critical Habitats

Learn More About Essential Species and Habitats	
Natural Resource Management	**Essential Species and Critical Habitats**
NOAA & USFWS: Endangered Species Act Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Fish and Wildlife Species	Statewide species list from ODFW that includes state-listed status and federal-listed status.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report	Critical Habitat Designations in Oregon: ▪ Marbled murrelet – Threatened ▪ Northern spotted owl – Threatened ▪ Pacific marten, coastal distinct population segment – Threatened ▪ Western snowy plover – State Listed Endangered No designated critical habitat for USFWS managed species specifically falls within the site boundary.
NOAA Fisheries Pacific Fishery Management Council: West Coast Essential Fish Habitat	Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) near Cape Foulweather: ▪ Coho salmon – Threatened ▪ Chinook salmon – Candidate ▪ Groundfish EFH ▪ Coastal Pelagic Species EFH ▪ Highly Migratory Species EFH
NOAA Fisheries: Cetacean Biologically Important Areas	The nearshore around Cape Foulweather is a Biologically Important Area for Grey whale migration, feeding, reproduction, and cow/calf rearing. ▪ Grey whale – State Listed Endangered ▪ Southern Resident Killer Whale – Endangered
Oregon Department of Agriculture: State Listed Coastal Plants	Threatened and endangered plants in Lincoln County: ▪ Pink sand verbena – Endangered

	▪ Point Reyes bird's-beak – Endangered ▪ Seaside gilia – Endangered ▪ Coast Range fawn lily – Threatened

Maps

Map 1: Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Boundary, Oregon Coastal Management Program, 2025

Appendix

Appendix A – Site Designation Snapshot

The Cape Foulweather Complex boundary is on the central Oregon coast 12 miles north of Newport and 1.5 miles south of Depoe Bay. The shoreline is within T9S, R11W, Sec. 17,20,29. The plan area encompasses 599 acres with 1.9 miles of shoreline.

The Marine Conservation Area (MCA) designation allows for different types of management prescriptions based on site conservation goals and needs. The Cape Foulweather Complex MCA, in coordination with management of other nearby marine designations, will conserve the ecological functions and rocky habitat resources to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations. Cape Foulweather Complex MCA will serve as a comparison area for the nearby Otter Rock Marine Reserve.

There is no change to the commercial or recreational fish harvest rules with this new designation. There is no change in the invertebrate harvest rules in the area. The recreational harvest of marine plants is allowed in the intertidal areas, consistent with existing regulations which allow a souvenir quantity. Harvest of marine plants in the subtidal areas is prohibited.

The harvest of marine resources by members of Federally Recognized Tribal Nations are unaffected by the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area designation regulations. The new rules at the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area do not affect Consent Decrees, Co-Management Agreements, or other agreements between the State of Oregon and any Federally Recognized Tribe in Oregon. These rules do not change any state agency policy recognizing Tribal harvest rights in rocky habitat areas.

WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

The Fogarty Creek MCA and Cape Foulweather Complex MCA workshop summary from October 2, 2024 is available online.

The Central Coast Rocky Habitat Workshop was held on August 6, 2025. More information about this event is online.

SITE PROPOSAL

In 2019, Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) invited community groups to propose sites to be added to the inventory of designated sites included in the Strategy. Following a robust review of potential sites, Seven Capes Bird Alliance (formerly Audubon Society of Lincoln City) proposed the nearshore environment at Cape Foulweather to be a Marine Conservation Area. Extensive stakeholder consultation was an integral component of the proposal development process. In December 2020, community groups and individuals submitted proposals for 12 sites to OPAC for evaluation. Eight of these sites were eventually adopted. The proposals underwent an extended review process by an OPAC chartered committee known as the Working Group. The membership of the Working Group included representatives from federal and state agencies, non-government organizations, port authorities, and marine industries. Based on the Working Group's review and further evaluations, OPAC recommended approval of two sites in 2020 and an additional six sites in 2022.

On April 20, 2023, the Land Conservation and Development Commission unanimously adopted the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy as an amendment to Part Three of the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan. This decision added six new management areas that reflect the interests of the communities that proposed them. Rocky Habitat Management Areas focus on balancing use and conservation through the enhancement of visitor experiences with education and interpretation, to limit wildlife disturbance and habitat degradation.

These designations completed a multi-year effort led by OPAC to revise the Management Strategy. The effort included extensive input from agencies, organizations, governments, and individuals on revisions to the Plan.

Read the original proposal by the Seven Capes Bird Alliance in 2020. View a StoryMap of the six sites studied for further consideration here https://arcg.is/5yu09.

Appendix B- State Regulations for Marine Conservation Area

All current state and local regulations relevant to the Territorial Sea and beaches apply to the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area. In addition, there are specific some regulations that apply within the Marine Conservation Area boundary at Cape Foulweather. The following is not an exhaustive list of all applicable State regulations.

There are no special fishing or shellfish harvest restrictions for this Marine Conservation Area, follow statewide ODFW harvest rules. The collection of marine plants is limited to a souvenir quantity in intertidal areas and prohibited in subtidal waters.

Acronyms: Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LAND

The Oregon Department of State Land has jurisdiction of the submerged and submersible land within the Territorial Sea. Rules regarding the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area can be found in Chapter 141 Division 142.

General Provisions: OAR 141-142-0020

> The department will only grant an authorization or a removal-fill permit for a regulated removal-fill activity if the use, or removal, fill or alteration of material is necessary to study, monitor, evaluate, enforce or protect or otherwise further the studying, monitoring, enforcement and protection of the marine reserve, marine garden, marine conservation area, marine protected area, marine research area, or seabird protection area.

Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area Boundary: OAR 141-142-0135

> All state-owned submerged and submersible land starting 12 miles north of Newport and extending to 1.5 miles south of Depoe Bay, encompassing 1.9 miles of shoreline, is within the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area.

Learn more about DSL Removal Fill Permits.

OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is both a landowner of Oregon State Parks and manager of the ocean shore recreation area. The ocean shore is the land between the extreme low tide line and the statutory vegetation line or headland. Rules regarding the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area can be found in Chapter 736 Division 21.

Cultural, Historic, Natural and Wildlife Resources: OAR 736-021-0090

> A person may not pick, cut, mutilate, trim, uproot, remove or attempt to take or possess any living or non-living plants or seaweeds in areas designated for Rocky Habitat Site Management (Marine Research Areas, Marine Gardens (Marine Education Areas), and Marine Conservation Areas) under Oregon Territorial Sea Plan Part Three unless specifically allowed under management goals for the designated site or authorized under Section (3).
>
> Section (3): A person who is an enrolled member of an Indian Tribe as defined in ORS 97.740 may collect natural products as part of their traditional cultural heritage or as authorized in any agreement between an Indian Tribe and the

department, in accordance with procedures established by the department and in state rules. Upon request by a park employee, a person collecting natural products under this section must present tribal enrollment identification.

Learn more about OPRD Scientific Research Permits.

Drone Usage on beaches and in State Parks: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is in a rulemaking process to update State rules about take-off and landing regulations related to recreational drone usage. Follow the rulemaking process in 2025 and 2026 to learn about the proposed OPRD rules.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) manages fish and wildlife in their habitats. Within rocky habitats this primarily includes marine invertebrates, shellfish, fish, and birds within the intertidal habitat, beach, and tidepools.

Sport fishing regulations that apply to fish, shellfish, and marine invertebrates can be found in Chapter 635 Division 11 and Division 39.

Commercial harvest regulations that apply to commercial shellfish and marine invertebrate fisheries can be found in Chapter 635 Division 5. Information about commercial harvest regulations within marine managed areas can be found in OAR 635-005-0260.

For more information on shellfish regulations and licenses, visit the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet is available online and updated annually. Most outdoor gear stores offer a free hard copy of the booklet. Always check the Oregon Department of Agriculture Shellfish Safety page for recreational shellfish biotoxin closures in your region before taking.

Appendix C – Federal Regulations at Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area

There are several Federal Regulations that are relevant to the Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area including policies that apply to protected species, critical habitats, airspace, and federally protected land. The following is not an exhaustive list of all applicable Federal regulations.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) owns and manages the offshore rocks and islands within and adjacent to the Marine Conservation Area. All offshore rocks and islands above the mean high tide line are a part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and are designated as Wilderness. (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2009). The federal regulations associated with the National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Designation supersede the state regulations associated with the Marine Conservation Area designation.

Boaters should keep a 500-foot buffer zone around rocks and islands to prevent wildlife disturbance and damage to vessels. Pilots must always maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above offshore rocks and islands.

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Seabirds
Visit the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and learn more about this work.
Explore a map of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.
Download the Pacific Northwest Seabirds Brochure.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has enforcement authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The USFWS is also jointly responsible for enforcing the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

All activities within the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge that require review, permits and clearances will undergo appropriate review and obtain necessary permits or clearances as needed. Examples of activities requiring review are Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 endangered species consultation, and a 401-water quality permit.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) has multiple offices that have a role in coastal and rocky habitat management in Oregon. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service or (NMFS), oversees fisheries management and is jointly responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) with the USFWS.

The Office for Coastal Management (OCM) implements the National Coastal Zone Management Program, providing federal consistency authority. Additionally, the Office of Response and Restoration coordinates the Oregon Marine Debris Action Plan.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) oversees Oregon's airspace and requires all recreational and non-recreational drone users to be licensed to fly legally in the United States. The FAA prohibits recreational use of unmanned aircraft at the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge and in any congressionally designated Wilderness or Primitive Area. Learn more about recreational drone usage:

- FAA has information about flying drones legally: Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- OPRD developed a list of Recreational Drone Best Practices
- USFWS: Tips for Responsible Drone Use
- NOAA Fisheries: Viewing Marine Life from the Air

Appendix D – Enforcement Contact List

Urgent Response Contact List: For rapid responses please use the contact information below depending on the circumstances.

Situation	Phone Number	More Information
Emergencies or Life-Threatening Situations	Dial 911	• Connects to a local emergency dispatch center.
Non-Emergency Assistance Report a Wildlife or Habitat Law Violation	Dial ***OSP** or *677 from your mobile phone or dial **1-(800)-452-7888**	• Fish & Wildlife Division • Phone number connects to one of Oregon State Police Command Centers. • OSP.FWD@osp.oregon.gov • TIP@osp.oregon.gov
Report a Stranded or Injured Marine Animal	West Coast Hotline: (866) 767-6114 OSU Marine Mammal Stranding Network: (541) 270-6830	• NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program • Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network • Fill out an online form to report the stranding of a marine mammal or sea turtle.
Report an Entangled Whale	West Coast Hotline: (877) SOS-WHALE; (877) 767-9425	• National Marine Mammal Entanglement Response Networks

Non-Urgent Contact List: Other contacts for general information about enforcement not for emergencies or rapid response.

Division/Position	Agency	Contact Information
Lieutenant, Fish & Wildlife Division	Oregon State Police - Fish and Wildlife Division	Office: (503) 378-3720 3565 Trelstad Ave SE Salem, OR 97317
Park Manager, South Beach and Beverley Beach Management Units	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Park Office: (541) 867-4715 5580 SW Coast Hwy, Newport, OR 97366
Refuge Manager,	U.S. Fish and Wildlife	Headquarters: (541) 867-4550

Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge	Service - Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 2127 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, OR, 97365
Marine Resources Program	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - Marine Resources Program	Office: (541) 867-4741 Marine Resources Main Office, 2040 SE Marine Science Drive, Newport, OR 97365

Appendix E – Outreach Materials Example USFWS Poster

Image 11. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Poster, "Help Protect Marine Wildlife", https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Boat%20Poster.pdf

Messaging for observing boating and recreational guidelines:

- Stay back. Studies have shown that seabirds and marine mammals may flee their colonies when closely approached by humans. Please do not approach rocks and islands closer than 500 feet, in boats or on foot. Aircraft are requested to always maintain a minimum of 2,000 feet above the rocks and islands.
- Use Caution. Approach and depart areas near rocks and islands cautiously. Minimize noise and abrupt movements.
- Observe. Take a few moments to observe the birds and mammals. If you see animals bobbing their heads, making alarm calls, or departing from the colony, you are too close and should move away immediately.

- Conditions Change. Don't assume a safe operating distance one day will be the same as the next, even at the same site. Be cautious and observant every time out.
- Wildlife Harassment is Against the Law. Federal and State laws prohibit harassment of seabirds and marine mammals. Violators will be cited. Help protect Oregon's wildlife by reporting suspected violators to the Refuge Manager (541) 867-4550.

Appendix F – Recommended Implementation Actions Table

See table below on pages 54-58.

Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area (MCA)							
#	**Implementation Action (*Priority objectives support three or more main objectives)**	**Objective 1. Foster regular coordination among Tribal Nations and local, state, and federal resource management agencies to ensure that ecosystem-based management principles guide management decisions for marine resources, wildlife, and habitat at the Marine Conservation Area.**	**Objective 2. Prioritize the ecological integrity of Cape Foulweather Complex and support the site serving as a comparison site for the Otter Rock Marine Reserve.**	**Objective 3. Maintain scenic viewpoints of the Cape Foulweather Complex MCA while balancing visitor impact on the environment.**	**Objective 4. Promote educational opportunities at Cape Foulweather Complex MCA while balancing visitor impact on the environment.**	**Objective 5: Support site monitoring projects at Cape Foulweather Complex MCA.**	**Objective 6: Encourage public safety and regulatory compliance from all visitors.**
1*	Engage tribes during the planning of monitoring projects like the ODFW rocky habitat inventory surveys, fish surveys, or community science initiatives.	X	X			X	
2	Coordinate with the Oregon Kelp Alliance to implement restoration of kelp beds.		X			X	
3	Invite Tribal ambassadors, elders, and educators to speak at events about marine education.	X			X		
4*	Host educational seminars for community members to learn about ongoing updates or results of monitoring efforts. Topics could also include basic ecological theory to discuss resilience. This is an opportunity to invite Tribal representatives to speak.	X			X	X	
5	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform adaptive management of the site.		X			X	
6*	Develop standardized community science monitoring protocols that are consistent with all State Marine Managed Areas like Marine Reserves and Marine Gardens. Vet the developed list of protocols through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.		X			X	X
7	Train community science volunteers to implement standardized data collection protocols.					X	X
8	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. For example, hosting an event that brings commercial and recreational users			X	X		

	together.						
9	Ensure datasets about research at Cape Foulweather Complex held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.	X				X	
10	Ensure data collected by community groups is accessible to the OCMP, ODFW, OPRD, and DSL. Oregon SeaSketch could be a potential data-sharing platform.					X	
11	Collaborate with educational institutions to develop future research projects based on community priorities.		X			X	
12*	Establish consistent photo point locations where visitors can take repeatable photos and share them to a central database to document long-term change. The Oregon King Tides Project is an example of this kind of project. Keep track of changes to visual access overtime.			X		X	X
13*	Translate all printed materials into Spanish. Make digital materials available in Spanish as well. Consider making translations available for the other most common languages spoken in Oregon: Russian, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.			X	X		X
14	Share resources like species identification guides with visitors. See the Oregon Tidepools webpage for examples of species identification lists.				X	X	
15	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, guided hikes, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials. Develop brochures that can be shared online, at the chamber of commerce, outdoor gear stores, and local hotels or vacation housing.				X		X
16	Upload all site plans, signs, resources, and brochures online.				X		X
17*	Monitor and maintain the interpretive panels at the site. If a sign needs maintenance, notify the Beverly Beach OPRD Park			X	X		X

	Manager and the USFWS Refuge Manager.						
18	Host public presentations for community and school groups, individuals and organizations about the marine environment and ocean literacy. Locations for presentations could include rotary clubs, schools, or the library.				X		
19	Increase availability of information about protected areas where visitors are already going to look (e.g. State Parks, ODFW Website, Lincoln County, etc.)						X
20	Participate in the development of a Rocky Habitat Communications Plan with ODFW and the Rocky Habitat Partners.				X		X
21	Connect interpretation materials or events to sustainable seafood networks.		X		X		
22	Consider participating in a species spotlight podcast series to highlight some of the most important indicators of healthy rocky habitats. Potential partners could include the Oregon Coast Visitor Association and Oregon State University.				X		
23	Identify gaps in existing outreach materials to support the development of new materials.				X		X
24	Table at large community events or festivals to spread awareness.				X		X
25	Develop a hospitality packet or a social media campaign that includes information about designated sites nearby and guidance for responsible wildlife viewing and safe recreation. Partner with Oregon Coast Visitor Association and the Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership.				X		X
26	Track the number of participants at on-site events.				X	X	
27	Direct all recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.						X
28	Train tidepool ambassador volunteers to recognize when action is needed and how to respond appropriately in cases of violations or emergencies. Share Appendix D with volunteers for reference.						X

29	Provide an overview of state and federal regulations at annual tidepool ambassador training for volunteers and seasonal staff. Reach out to State Agency staff at OPRD, ODFW, USFWS, or DLCD to find staff to provide this training.						X
30*	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.	X	X	X	X	X	X
31*	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace. For example, work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 ‘Coast Like a Local Campaign'.		X	X	X		
32*	Monitor climbing violations on the cliffs along the Cape Foulweather Complex.				X	X	X
33*	Notify the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or the Natural Resources Department Director from any other interested Tribes before any resource monitoring or extractive activity occurs within the Marine Conservation Area.	X	X			X	X
34	Coordinate messaging about Cape Foulweather Complex Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS.				X		
35	Notify USFWS, DSL, OSP, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear, inconsistent, or inaccessible online or printed on signage.						X
36	Document instances of wildlife or habitat disturbance, as appropriate. Share documented instances of wildlife disturbance with the OPRD South Beach Beverly Beach Management Unit, USFWS Refuge Manager, or Oregon State Police Wildlife Division.					X	X
37	Communicate with enforcement agencies like OPRD, OSP, USFWS, or the Lincoln County Sherrif's Office so that enforcement officers can respond if needed.						X
38*	Host annual State of the Cape Symposium to bring community together and share results of stewardship efforts over the year.	X	X	X	X	X	X

39*	Establish consistent methos for monitoring visitor numbers and intercepts.			X	X	X	
40	Partner with Shifting Tides.			X	X		
41*	Coordinate interpretive messaging with Whale Watching companies.			X	X	X	
42	Work with local state parks like Boiler Bay, Cape Foulweather Visitor Center, and Devil's Punchbowl to coordinate interpretive messaging about how to care for the environment.			X	X		
43	Survey visitors about what information they would like to learn about.				X	X	
44*	Support community science projects that use crowdsourcing photos like whale observations (IndividuWhale), mapping annual kelp beds (Oregon Kelp Alliance), seabird nesting monitoring (Bird Alliance of Oregon), and the Oregon King Tides Project.		X	X		X	
45	Review CoastWatch efforts annually to analyze the impact of visitor disturbance on habitats. Shre results with OPRD Park Manager.					X	

Glossary

Adaptive management: Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of robust decision-making in the face of uncertainty, with an aim to reduce uncertainty over time via system monitoring.

Biodiversity: The diversity of lifeforms and biotic communities that occur in the coastal zone, including nearshore ocean waters. Diversity is a concept that means "variety or multiformity, a condition of being different in character and quality."25 There is no single way to define, measure, or evaluate diversity of life; rather there are at least four interrelated ways:

- Species diversity, which refers to the variety and abundance of species in an ecosystem.
- Ecological diversity, which refers to the variety of types of biological communities found on Earth.

Conservation: To manage in a manner which avoids wasteful or destructive uses and provides for future availability. A principle of action guiding Oregon's ocean resources management, which seeks to protect the integrity of marine ecosystems while giving priority to the protection and wise use of living marine resources; as used in the Oregon Ocean Resources Management Plan, the act of conservation means "that the integrity, diversity, stability, complexity, and the productivity of marine biological communities and their habitats are maintained or, where necessary, restored" and "accommodating the needs for economic development while avoiding wasteful uses and maintaining future availability."

Critical Habitats: Critical habitats refer to specific areas within the coastal zone or Pacific Ocean occupied by the species that have physical or biological features essential to conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

Cultural Areas: Archaeological sites and landscape features of cultural interest. This includes landscape features that are:

- Integral to a tribe's history, legends, traditions, and stories.
- Traditionally used for wayfinding.
- Traditionally used for gathering first foods and materials.
- Integral to ongoing tribal cultural practices.
- Traditional trails.
- Sites that support traditions of a culturally identified group.

Cultural Resources: Resources vital to or the product of the perpetuation of traditional practices, ceremonies, and lifeways.

Data Sovereignty: The right of a nation to govern the collection, ownership, and application of its own data.

Ecosystem: The living and non-living components of the environment which interact or function together, including plant and animal organisms, the physical environment, and the energy systems in which they exist. All the components of an ecosystem are interrelated.

Extreme high-water line: The highest elevation reached by the sea as recorded by a tide gauge during a given period.

Extreme low-water line: The lowest elevation reached by the sea as recorded by a tide gauge during a given period.

Habitat: The portion of the environment in which an organism, species, or community lives. Just as humans live in houses, within neighborhoods, within a town or geographic area, within a certain region, etc., marine organisms live in habitats which may be referred to at different scales.

Holistic: Referring to an interconnected system rather than by its individual parts.

Important Marine Habitats: Marine habitats that must be specifically considered when an inventory-and-effects evaluation is conducted following Goal 19, including but not limited to: habitat necessary for the survival and conservation of Oregon renewable resources (e.g. areas for spawning, rearing, or feeding), kelp and other algae beds, seagrass beds, seafloor gravel beds, rocky reef areas and areas of important fish, shellfish and invertebrate concentration.

Indicator Species: A species that is relatively common. A species that occurs frequently enough to be monitored and respond to certain actions or represent the desired condition.

Rocky Habitat: Consists of outcrops or deposits of the above-described material either along the shoreline or in submerged areas. The individual rock structures or fragments within a rocky habitat area are often interspersed with gravel or sediment and overlain with biogenic habitat features. This creates a complex mix of substrate characteristics that all contribute to the form and function of the rocky habitat. Thus, rocky habitat can have non-rock (sand, gravel, biological) components. These habitats are variously referred to as rocky reefs, rocky banks, rocky beaches, rocky intertidal areas, rocky subtidal areas, boulder fields, rocky debris fields, benches, rock pavement, sea stacks, wash rocks, pinnacles, and many other names.

Oregon's rocky habitats are grouped into three major classifications based on proximity to shore, jurisdictional boundaries, and ecological zone. Within these main classifications many other sub-classifications may be present including rocky intertidal and subtidal, cliffs, tidepools,

Rocky Shoreline: All rocky habitat between the statutory vegetation line described in ORS 390.770 and extreme low water (encompasses cliffs, tidepools, and rocky intertidal). These areas may be reached by foot from shore (regardless of hazard or convenience).

Rocky Upland: Rocky habitat area between the statutory vegetation line and extreme high-water line. In unvegetated areas, this is delineated at the 16-foot elevation contour.

Rocky Intertidal: Rocky habitat area between extreme high-water line and extreme low-water line.

Submerged Rocky Habitat: All rocky habitat below extreme low water, out to the deepest limits of the territorial sea. This area includes submerged rocky reefs, shallow rocky subtidal, and other submerged rocky habitats.

Ocean Literacy: An understanding of the ocean's influence on humanity and humanities influence on the ocean.

Offshore Rocks and Islands: Any rock or landform within the territorial sea separated from the mainland at mean high water which remains above the surface of the sea at mean high water.

Territorial Sea: The ocean and seafloor area from mean lower low water seaward three nautical miles.

Vegetation line: Statutory line of established upland shore vegetation and as described in ORS 390.770.

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