Cape Lookout

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: Cape Lookout, Oregon ShoreZone, 2011.

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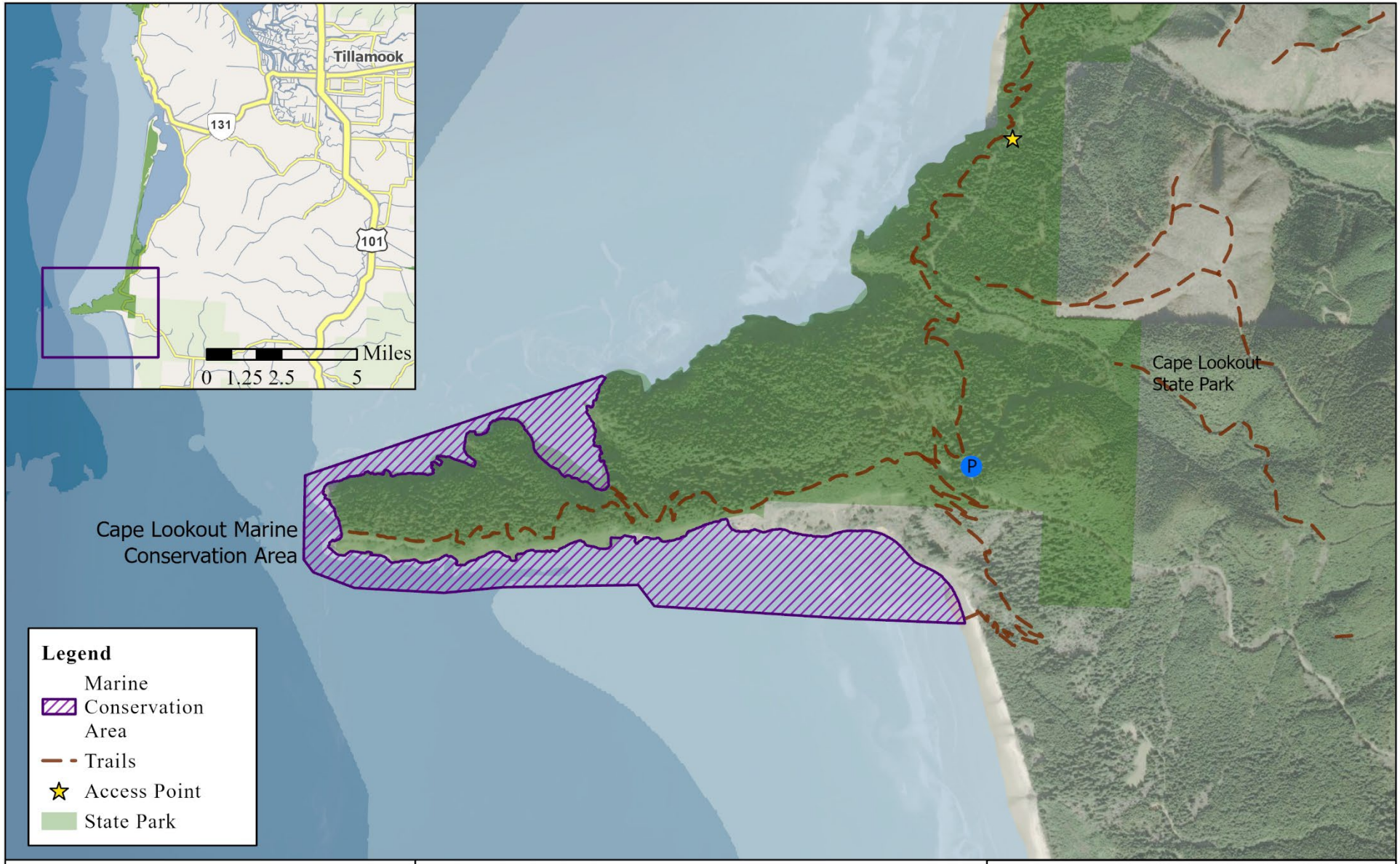

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Projection Oregon Statewide Lambert, NAD1983 International feet, EPSG 2992

CAPE LOOKOUT MARINE CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

N

Access Points by OCMP
Trails by Open Street Map
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 12/23/2025

Map 1. The Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area Boundary includes all state-owned submerged and submersible land beginning from the west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek and extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards.

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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.

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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. The 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.

The goal of the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area designation is to conserve, to the highest degree possible, the ecological functions and rocky habitat resources in order to provide long-term ecological, economic, and social benefits for current and future generations.

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

Site information

Cape Lookout is a long, thin strip of land that juts out a mile-and-a-half into the Pacific Ocean. Perched on the edge of the continent, ten miles southwest of Tillamook, the cape is one of the most beloved headlands on the Oregon coast. Samuel Boardman, Oregon's first State Parks Superintendent, called Cape Lookout State Park one of Oregon's crown jewels It boasts beautiful trails through Sitka Spruce, and breathtaking cliffs that drop 400 feet to the sea. What began as volcanic lava flow, has become valuable habitat, alive with nesting seabird colonies, fish, a multitude of intertidal and subtidal invertebrates, kelp forests, seals, sea lions, and migrating gray whales.

The name Cape Lookout is the result of historical confusion among early explorers and surveyors. An early British mariner named John Meares gave the name Cape Lookout to a promontory that is today his namesake. The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey mistakenly labeled a cape ten miles south as Cape Lookout and that location name was widely used by mariners. When the survey realized its mistake, it chose to leave the now Cape Lookout with that name and assign the name Cape Meares to the northerly promontory.

In 1975, the cape was registered as a Natural Heritage Conservation Area in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan. The purpose of the registration was to: "1) protect sea bird nesting habitat; 2) protect old growth spruce stands; 3) protect headland ecosystems; and 4) highlight this area to scientists and educators as an undisturbed standard from which to accumulate baseline data on coastal headland terrestrial and marine ecosystems" (Juday 1975).

Jutting nearly two miles straight out into the Pacific Ocean, Cape Lookout's magnificent 400-foot-high basalt cliffs, old-growth Sitka Spruce forests, and nesting colonies of sea and shore birds represent an unparalleled marine ecosystem along the Oregon Coast. In 1935, State Parks Superintendent Samuel Boardman acquired 950 acres from the U.S. Lighthouse Service as the first step in establishing Cape Lookout State Park. Boardman envisioned the Cape as a natural history preserve. Except for the Cape Trail and a small parking lot that provides access to it and the Oregon Coast Trail, the Cape remains in its natural state. Campgrounds and associated facilities have been developed near the beach north of the Cape. The Cape Trail is a popular hiking destination throughout the year, especially during whale-watching season. Boardman enjoyed referring to Cape Lookout as one of Oregon's "crown jewels." Most Oregonians familiar with the coast would likely agree.

Cape Lookout is 15 miles southwest of Garibaldi and 7 miles north of Pacific City. Most of the uplands on the Cape are part of Cape Lookout State Park. The plan area includes intertidal and subtidal rocky habitats at the base of the cliffs on both the north and south

sides, as well as boulder/sand intertidal habitat and a shale/cobble beach located at the Cape's southeast shoulder.

The Marine Conservation Area includes nearshore habitats on the tip of the Cape and along a portion of the north side. On the Cape's south side, the seaward boundary is drawn to include a subtidal hard substrate submerged reef that parallels the base of the cliffs and the boulder/sand matrix intertidal rocky habitat located at the southern shoulder. The proposed boundary on the south side of the Cape is similar to that of the habitat refuge designated in 1994.

SITE USES

Cape Lookout supports diverse outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, surfing, wildlife viewing, and diving, making it an important location for recreation on the Oregon coast. The Cape Lookout Trail, which spans two miles along a scenic peninsula, provides extensive views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding coastline. This trail is recognized as a key attraction, with one of the best places on the coast for whale watching from shore.

Fishing is another significant activity in the area, with both charter and shore fishing being commonly practiced. Commercial crabbing boats use the area seasonally. Both recreational and commercial dory boats also frequent the area.

The region's consistent surf conditions, particularly in the spring and summer, make it a popular destination for surfing as well. Additionally, Cape Lookout is a noted site for diving, with underwater reefs and kelp beds offering excellent spear-fishing and exploration opportunities for divers.

Visitors enjoy hiking, driving, picnicking, camping, bird watching, whale watching, wildlife viewing, surfing, SCUBA, tidepooling, photography, spiritual communion and worship, storm watching, sightseeing, boat-based fishing (charter and personal), shore angling, crabbing, clamming, paragliding, and kayaking at Cape Lookout. The Scouts, OMSI, Tillamook Outdoor School, and other organizations based out of Camp Meriwether use the intertidal habitat on the south shoulder of the cape for educational programs. The Cape Lookout State Park campground and day use area experience the heaviest use. Seasonal use of the trail to the tip of the cape also has heavy use. Commercial fishing boats use waters on the leeward (south) side of the cape as a temporary harbor anchoring for the night when on multiday fishing trips.

MARINE CONSERVATION AREA DESCRIPTION

The Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area encompasses roughly 227 acres covering about 3.8 miles of shoreline around the Cape. There are around 24.8 acres of intertidal habitat. The Marine Conservation Area boundary includes all state-owned submerged

and submersible land beginning from the west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek and extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards.

Most of the shoreline is bounded by basalt cliffs. Most of the intertidal area is located on the southern shoulder of the Cape. Subtidal areas are dominated by a hard substrate shelf on the south side of the Cape and a soft sedimentary shelf along the north side. The maximum depth of the plan area is 69 feet. There are 25 islands and offshore rocks within the MCA. The MCA does not include federal land managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which is generally offshore rocks and islands above the mean high tide.

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

How to use this document

The Cape Lookout 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.

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 Cape Lookout. 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, Camp Meriwether, Scouting America, the Pacific City Doryman's Association, tourism support services, educational institutions and local schools.

The Plan can help communities:

- Understand how the policies and principles from the Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy are applied at Cape Lookout.
- Share the goals and objectives for management priorities at Cape Lookout.
- 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 Cape Lookout.
- Access outreach and educational materials about rocky habitats.

Land Acknowledgement

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 Lookout 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 Lookout 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 Lookout Marine Conservation Area with the following government agencies and Tribal Governments, as appropriate:

- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of 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
- Tillamook County

Site Management Objectives and Recommended Actions

The following site objectives are designed to align public activities within the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area with both the community-identified goals for Cape Lookout 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 Lookout 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 Cape Lookout 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 H.

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, 4*, 10, 23*, 29, 36*, and 40

Sub-objectives:

1.1. Support Tribal-led monitoring, stewardship, interpretation efforts at the Cape Lookout.
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 long-term conservation of natural resources in rocky habitats.

See Actions: 1-3, 7, 12, 16*-19, 21*, 24, 30, 31, and 36*

Sub-objectives:

2.1. Promote a better understanding of the biodiversity, population trends, and the physical, biological, and chemical interactions for intertidal habitats within the MCA, especially those located at the southern shoulder of Cape Lookout.
2.2. Maintain the habitat complexity, species diversity, and healthy populations of keystone species as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
2.3. Conserve biodiversity and support ecosystem functions by monitoring site conditions and minimizing human disturbance.
2.4. Maintain the spatial area of kelp beds within the mid to upper range of annual natural variability.
2.5. Engage community members and interested groups in adaptive management decisions.
2.6. 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 and access to Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 2*, 9, 14*, 21*, 23*-26, 32, and 36*

Sub-objectives

3.1. Maintain current levels of access to scenic viewpoints of the ocean along the Cape Lookout Trail.
3.2. Implement strategies to minimize visitor impact on the environment.

[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/.

3.3. 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 Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 2*, 4*, 9, 13, 14*-16*, 22*-29, 31, 33, 26*, 37, 41, and 42

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 Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area.

See Actions: 1, 3-8, 10-12, 16*, 18-20, 24*, 27, 30, 32, 36*, 43, and 44

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 Lookout.
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: 2*, 5, 6, 14*, 17, 21*, 22*, 25*, 28*, 33-36*, 38-40, and 45

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 Actions support three or more objectives
1	Engage tribes during the planning of community science and monitoring projects.
2*	Inform Oregon Coast Trail hikers about sensitive areas like during harbor seal pupping season.
3	Participate in bioblitz(es) to measure site diversity on a regular basis.
4*	Host educational seminars or lectures at the Cape Lookout Amphitheater 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	Ensure community science trip guides follow beach safety recommendations.
6	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform management.
7	Develop community science monitoring protocols consistent with all designated Marine Reserves and Rocky Habitats.
8	Train community science volunteers to implement the protocols.
9	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. Examples could include hosting an event or creating a survey of all users.
10	Ensure datasets about research at Cape Lookout are held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.
11	Ensure data collected by community groups is accessible to the OCMP, ODFW, OPRD, and DSL. Oregon SeaSketch could be a potential data-sharing platform.
12	Consider adding ODFW monitoring sensors for Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia within the designation boundary.
13	Work cooperatively with educators, institutions, organizations, and media services to expand public awareness of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy and the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area through electronic social media, school outdoor education curriculums, and interpretive opportunities. Engage the public in awareness of issues facing rocky habitats and proper stewardship.
14	Provide educational opportunities through signage at the Cape Lookout south parking lot and the north day-use area describing the ecology of rocky habitats and unique rocky habitat features at Cape Lookout. Signage should be consistent with the natural

	character of the landscape. Provide education but do not encourage additional use of rocky habitat.
15	Work cooperatively with Camp Meriwether, OPRD, State agencies, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS neighborhood group, and other interested organizations to implement a volunteer stewardship program for the Cape Lookout MCA. With appropriate training and data management tools, these volunteer stewards will: educate the public on appropriate use and enjoyment of rocky habitats, encourage good tidepool etiquette, document site uses, document natural resource conditions, and report any observed enforcement concerns. Stewardship programs may be seasonal dependent on programming for Camp Meriwether.
16	Evaluate the feasibility, protocols, funding mechanisms, and support to implement a biological monitoring program that will provide a better understanding of trends in biodiversity and/or key species abundance for accessible intertidal rocky habitat. Implement a monitoring program, if feasible, that engages community science in monitoring.
17	Work with OPRD to incorporate management of rocky habitats into the Cape Lookout State Park Comprehensive Plan.
18	Communicate and collaborate with regional (west coast) agencies, researchers, and other entities focused on the management of rocky habitats to understand regional ecosystem trends.
19*	Coordination between managing agencies and researchers to develop rapid qualitative survey methods for early identification and management responses to invasive species. Implement at a coastwide scale among all rocky habitat designations.
20	Encourage and support community science programs through cooperation among managing agencies, researchers, and non-governmental organizations to identify and implement monitoring programs that help fill information gaps for the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area (MCA). Develop and implement at least one additional community science project within the first two years of designation.
21	Provide education on how to avoid wildlife disturbance when operating drones. Educational strategies include onsite volunteer stewards, social media, and signage.
22*	Make digital and printed materials available at Garibaldi harbor and boat launches to inform watercraft operators on appropriate precautions to avoid disturbing seabirds during nesting season and pinnipeds at haulouts.
23	Develop inclusive interpretive activities at the state park campground. For example, geological stories about the Cape, guided walks, moonlight hikes with astronomy interpretation, sensory experiences for people with vision impairment, and art activities.
24	Work with Scouting America and Outdoor Schools at Camp Meriwether to design a rocky habitat stewardship program or “patch” for tidepool etiquette for children.
25*	Work with OPRD, marine educators and charter boat companies to develop a lamented handout or interpretation guide that charter tours can share with visitors on boat trips around the Cape.

26	Host guided tidepool walks for Day-use visitors on the north side of Cape Lookout.
27	Partner with the Dory fleet to host public workshops focused on the importance of kelp beds for nearshore marine species. Present at pub talks, Pacific City Doryman's Association meetings, share research at Dory Days, Clovers Day, etc.
28	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.
29	Support programming and events like the annual Ocean Celebration, guided hikes, community science programs, or other stewardship opportunities at Cape Lookout for Indigenous and Latino communities. Partner with organizations like Juntos Afuera, Vive NW, and Latino Outdoors.
30	Partner with Oregon Kelp Alliance, reef check, ODFW, and any interested Tribe to pursue kelp bed monitoring and restoration work.
31	Work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 ‘Coast Like a Local Campaign'.
32	Track the number of participants at on-site events.
33	Support volunteers' comprehension of state and federal regulations that apply on the beach and within the Marine Conservation Area by providing Appendix D and Appendix E of the Plan.
34	Direct recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.
35	Increase the number of available enforcement officers who could respond to emergencies or violations on the beach. Support discussions between Tillamook County Sheriff, OSP, USFWS, and OPRD so Patrol officers can respond at Cape Lookout, if necessary.
36	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.
37	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace.
38	Invite first responders to public workshops to speak on beach safety.
39	Invite OPRD Beach Rangers, an OSP Lieutenant, and other law enforcement officers to train volunteers and staff on how to properly engage with the public and respond to different scenarios.
40	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.

41	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials.
42	Coordinate messaging about Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS and OPRD.
43*	Rely on established scientific monitoring and data collection protocols with current research in the region.
44*	Vet data collection methods through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
45	Notify USFWS, DSL, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear or accessible online or on signage.

SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

This section identifies management issues specific to the Cape Lookout 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. The review may trigger adaptations to strategies and updates to this segment of the site management plan.

COMMUNITY CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE HARVEST RESTRICTIONS

The waters around Cape Lookout are important for fishing. Commercial fishing and crabbing vessels often operate in the area. Charter boats visit Cape Lookout for fishing, diving excursions, and sightseeing. The dory fleet (both commercial and recreational) out of Pacific City values fishing and crabbing around Cape Lookout. Protected waters on the south side of the cape offer both fishing and moorage when wind and wave conditions are less favorable elsewhere.

While there are no site-specific fishing restrictions, and only minimal site-specific restrictions on intertidal invertebrate harvest, concern about future site-specific restrictions was a common sentiment expressed at a stakeholder workshop.

Fishing and crabbing interests should be represented in future discussions of management for the Cape Lookout MCA. Interpretive materials should also acknowledge the importance and long history of fishing and crabbing in this area.

Maintaining access and use for all is a central tenet of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Restricting fishing or invertebrate harvest, now or in the future, is neither the intent nor an objective for this MCA.

REMOTE CHARACTER OF CAPE'S SOUTH SIDE

The south side of the Cape is accessible only by hiking a steep and poorly maintained trail downhill from the headland trailhead, through participation in activities at Camp Meriwether, or via a long beach approach from the south. While the remote character of the south side of the Cape makes interpretive programming more challenging, it is considered by many to be the area's most significant asset. The area currently experiences light visitation. Those that seek it out enjoy a near wilderness experience. Implementation of the MCA designation seeks to preserve the value and remote quality of the Cape's south side.

LIMITED INFRASTRUCTURE

Scheduling of MCA events should avoid peak use times and popular access points to minimize parking congestion. The north side of Cape Lookout is supported by the State Park campground, day use area, fee parking, and restrooms. The primary access point to the south side of the Cape begins at the trailhead, which also serves the trail access to the tip of the Cape. Parking demand, especially on summer weekends, far exceeds capacity at this trailhead. Overflow parking often results in illegally parked cars on the side of the road that could impede emergency vehicles.

Chapter 3: Rocky Habitat Management Strategies

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 Cape Lookout is everyone's responsibility: visitors, community members, researchers, planners, and land managers alike. Organizations that host public programs — such as beach walks, field trips, or community events at Cape Lookout — 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.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Education and interpretation will be a collaborative effort among community organizations to develop a comprehensive plan to raise awareness of Cape Lookout MCA. Education actions include collaboration with Camp Meriwether, social media posts and published articles, signage, volunteer stewardship, and on-site interpretive

events. Opportunities to collaborate with OPRD on campground talks will also be explored.

The communications objectives are to raise awareness about the values and functions of rocky habitats (both coastwide and specifically those at Cape Lookout) and inform users how to responsibly enjoy them.

Users include visitors, neighbors, coastal trail hikers, commercial and recreational fishers, charter boat operators, conservation groups, schools and other educational venues, community groups, and businesses. Camp Merriwether, located just south of Cape Lookout, operates a summer residential camp program as well as outdoor schools in the spring and autumn.

Communications and outreach focus on raising awareness of rocky habitats and other marine designations through MCA program activities. Program attributes include:

- Connect people with birds, other wildlife, and marine life found in rocky habitats at Cape Lookout;
- Learn how to enjoy rocky habitats responsibly and safely;
- Learn how to enjoy rocky habitats responsibly and safely; and
- Contribute to the understanding and management of rocky habitats

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

Onsite interpretation and interaction	Outreach will inform local community members about on-site interpretive events happening at the Cape Lookout MCA. These interpretative activities are described in the section on education and interpretation.
Social media and websites	News about upcoming events, monitoring information, volunteer opportunities, and what is happening at Cape Lookout are regularly posted on this Facebook page and other social media. Outreach is enhanced through sharing posts on the Seven Capes website sevencapes.org and those of connecting organizations.
Printed material	One-page flyers are available in the community and visitor information centers. These flyers describe the purpose of the MCA and ways to responsibly enjoy the area.
Earned Media	Relationships with media sources are nurtured by sharing information on general marine conservation issues and how they relate to Cape Lookout.
Signage	See Signage section for a full discussion.

Videos	A short video highlights the Cape Lookout MCA. This video includes Spanish captions.
Off-site presentations and events	Off-site presentations (as described in the section on education) will be promoted through local connections, social media, and information hubs.
Print and email communications	Seven Capes prints a newsletter that goes out to its membership twice annually. Stories about the MCA and event news are shared in this newsletter. Seven Capes also sends out a bi-weekly coastal email that highlights marine conservation issues, action alerts, and news about the rocky habitat and other marine designated sites.
State of the Cape Symposium	A biennial State of the Cape symposium is an ideal platform to foster collaboration of community, agencies, Tribal Nations, and interested organizations in routinely evaluating progress toward achieving the designation goals and objectives. Results of monitoring, restoration, and any research within the Cape Lookout MCA and nearby marine designations will be presented at these symposiums. The first symposium for the Cape Lookout MCA will be in 2027.

CONNECTIONS

Planning workshops identified pathways for community outreach. In addition to Seven Capes Bird Alliance, connector groups can amplify outreach through their own networks. 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 connections that might help expand communications as identified at planning workshops.

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

- Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Boy Scouts of America
- Camp Meriwether
- Cape Perpetua Collaborative
- Cascade Head Biosphere Collaborative
- Coast Range Association
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Mary's Peak Group of the Sierra Club
- MidCoast Watershed Council
- North Coast Land Conservancy
- Oregon Audubon Council
- 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
- Tillamook Visitors Association
- WEBS (Friends of Netarts Bay; Watershed, Estuary, Beach, and Sea)

LOCAL EVENTS

Local and visitor audiences can be reached through tabling at local events. The following list of events provides outreach opportunities. It is not anticipated that tabling will occur at all these events.

- Cape Perpetua Land and Sea Symposium
- Dory Days Pacific City
- Garibaldi Days
- Pacific City Farmers Market
- Tillamook Farmers Market
- World Ocean Day at Oregon Coast Aquarium

Information Sharing – Local Hubs

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 fishing organizations
- Local newspapers and magazines: *Lincoln County Leader, Lincoln Chronicle, Tillamook Headlight Herald, Tillamook Pioneer, Pacific City Sun, Oregon Coast Today*
- Local libraries
- Local radio
- Local websites and listservs
- Tillamook Community College

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).

Education and Interpretation

The Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area offers a unique opportunity to inform visitors about statewide marine conservation efforts and the value of those areas to the

nearby communities. For many coastal visitors, Oregon's beaches and tidepools are often their first experience of the ocean. Education and interpretation are the best way to spread awareness about ocean systems, encourage best practices for viewing marine life, and enhance the visitor experience.

Oregon's coastal rocky habitat is one of the richest ecological systems in the world, home to thousands of species in a multitude of habitat types. An informed public is more apt to be better stewards and advocate for funds to implement necessary management actions to achieve Rocky Habitat Management Strategy goals and objectives. Increased public awareness will foster stakeholder involvement in an ecosystem-based management approach for newly designated sites. While public access to the shoreline is an iconic value for Oregonians, some habitats are being negatively impacted by over-visitation due to uninformed and unintentional misuse. Education should emphasize proper tidepool etiquette, measures to protect wildlife, and the ecology of rocky habitats.

Opportunities for onsite education on rocky habitat exists at both the Camp Meriwether facilities and the State Park core use area. Defining the range of future educational activities oriented toward rocky habitat and participation levels is subject to coordination and planning once the Marine Conservation Area is designated. The camp program draws participants from 20 states as well as throughout Oregon. In recent years, the Tillamook County Outdoor School has been conducting programs out of the camp with more than 1,000 students per year involved in experiential environmental education. Tidepool walks at the intertidal boulder habitat at the southern shoulder of the cape are part of these learning activities.

The Seven Capes Bird Alliance will work with other interested organizations to integrate learning opportunities on rocky habitat and how to responsibly interact with rocky habitat resources into ongoing programming at the camp. Additional education opportunities potentially include scheduling guided hikes or other events at Cape Lookout to celebrate and share information about seabird colonies, intertidal habitats, and the ecological importance of kelp forests. Onsite learning programs will be designed to integrate well with the camp and State Park management plans.

An informed and aware public is critical to protecting rocky habitat resources and carrying out the goals and strategies of the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area Management Plan. In many cases, education is the strongest tool to increase informed visitation habits and discourage disturbance.

For the most effective results, education and interpretation should be a collaborative effort among community groups to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at raising awareness about marine ecosystems. Examples of collaborations are sharing marine education curriculums with educators and summer camps, coordinating social media posts, publishing articles, designing interpretive signage, and organizing interpretive events.

CAMP MERIWETHER

Camp Meriwether, located immediately south of Cape Lookout, is owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America. The camp offers a residential camp experience for boy scouts during the summer as well as residential outdoor school during the spring and early autumn. Environmental education is a key component of the programs at the camp. Community groups will collaborate with the camp to identify opportunities for community group volunteer activities to be either integrated with or complement camp programs. The aim will be to raise awareness of the ecological importance of rocky habitats.

ON-SITE EVENTS AND INTERPRETATION

Key conservation messages can be incorporated into all interpretive activities. Topics for formal programs will likely include: seabird nesting, kelp ecology, tidepooling, and geology. Informal interpretation can be integrated into all stewardship activities.

Potential on-site interpretive activities include:

- Campground talks at Cape Lookout State Park
- Boat tours with Garibaldi Charters focused on seabirds
- Provide charter boat operators with natural history information to share with clients
- Dory boats, then and now presentation
- Tidepooling

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.

STEWARDSHIP

Fostering personal stewardship is an objective of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. The Strategy provides policies and direction for strong, site-based management. Stewardship is an important component of site-based management. There are relatively few nearby residences as a source for volunteer stewards. While the northern end of the rocky habitat is readily accessible, the access to the intertidal habitat on the south side of the cape requires a strenuous hike or direct access for those participating in programs at Camp Meriwether. Therefore, stewardship emphasizing participation at one of the many programs operated out of Camp Meriwether has a higher potential for successfully recruiting stewards. This opportunity will help protect the rocky habitats through education. Perhaps even more importantly, it will instill a deeper appreciation of rocky habitat and the fascinating array of species dependent on these habitats. That appreciation will propagate throughout the state as camp participants return home and share their newfound appreciation.

USER RESPONSIBILITY

Public education on how to responsibly use rocky habitats and etiquette for interacting with 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 stewardship interactions to inform the public about good stewardship and etiquette in a positive, user-friendly way..

The following are key messages on user responsibility:

- 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 drone regulations as well as coastwide regulations.

MARINE EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Coastal communities have a long-term goal for state investment in the development of a marine education curriculum focused on rocky habitat ecosystems that would be incorporated into the science standards for school-age children. Marine educators, local school-age educators, Coastal Tribal educators, and state agencies would contribute to the K–12 education program to teach students about the ecology of marine habitats.

Outside of the classroom, there are many other opportunities for incorporating rocky habitat education into youth programming. Outdoor School, afterschool programs, day camps and sleep-away camps are all great opportunities to bring young people into the field for hands-on learning experiences.

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.

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.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

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 describing the ecological functions of rocky habitats and kelp forests enhance the visitor experience. Objectives for interpretive signage identified at planning workshops include:

- Signs that contain positive messaging about what one can do are better received
- Engaging youth artists in sign design engages the audience

Placement of signs requires coordination with the managing landowner (OPRD) regarding the design, permitting, messaging, placement, installation, and maintenance agreements for interpretive signs.

SIGN MAINTENANCE

Maintenance agreements need to be established before sign installation. Maintenance of regulatory signs is the responsibility of the regulating state agency. Entities responsible for maintenance of interpretive signs will be identified in the permitting process.

An interpretive signage plan will be developed. The scope of signage will be initially small to stay within the capacity limitations of the local community. A signage plan will identify both near and long-term opportunities. Funding opportunities 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.

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 Cape Lookout 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. Program organizers at Cape Lookout should proactively recruit bilingual volunteers to support Spanish-language interpretive programming at Cape Lookout.

Site Monitoring

Cape Lookout will function as a key location for scientists and community members to collaboratively monitor the effects of changing conditions on rocky habitats and intertidal zones. Monitoring these ecologically sensitive areas is crucial for effective management

of the Marine Conservation Area and of rocky habitats coastwide. Monitoring efforts should track indicator species.

Monitoring builds upon established programs. The following criteria will be applied to identify monitoring programs that are most suitable to implement as part of this MCA.

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
- Employ methods vetted by a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- 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 community group engaged in nearshore community science efforts.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE NESTING SURVEYS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducts aerial surveys of breeding birds at seabird colonies along the Oregon coast. 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.

COMMUNITY SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Community science is about working with communities to engage science in locally relevant problem-solving that addresses community priorities, values, and aspirations. Community science is a monitoring and research approach that empowers anyone, regardless of educational background, to collect and contribute data to research efforts. Community science projects at Cape Lookout will build upon ongoing projects and emerging opportunities.

Community science allows monitoring to operate on a large-scale, ongoing basis, which provides scientists with large and diverse data sets that might have been otherwise unavailable. Volunteer efforts of community scientists allow rapid scaling for relatively little capital. Additionally, it provides opportunities for two-way engagement between the

public and scientists, which can lead to increased site stewardship and provide linkages between the community and the Marine Conservation Area. Pending funding for program development and management, community science projects may be oriented towards a rotating group of youth participating in environmental education programs at the nearby Camp Meriweather. The scope and feasibility of a community science program is subject to funding and expertise needed to establish a program.

According to the Oregon Conservation Strategy, investments in conservation should be strategic, effective, and accountable. The success of these investments can be measured by (1) assessing existing conditions, (2) identifying desired conditions, and (3) measuring change over time. Nearshore resources are still poorly understood relative to the state's other natural resources. Monitoring provides information that provides a scientific foundation for adaptive management. Despite many ongoing programs, nearshore resources are still poorly understood relative to the state's other natural resources (Nearshore Strategy, 2016). While monitoring to better understand trends in ecosystem health and biodiversity of rocky habitats is desirable, funding availability to expand state implemented nearshore monitoring programs to be inclusive of Cape Lookout MCA are at best uncertain. There are; however, many successful community science led intertidal monitoring programs to consider as models when evaluating the potential for biological monitoring at Cape Lookout.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

At a minimum, social monitoring should document the level of stewardship at an MCA and indicators as to the level of public use. 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.

For example, the number of volunteer hours will be documented and monitored monthly. Community groups engaged in stewardship at rocky habitat site designations will develop a shared and simple list of volunteer activities (broadly categorized) for which volunteer hours will be tallied.

The number of visitor intercepts will be recorded and monthly totals reported. Social monitoring may address some or all of the following questions regarding Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area:

- What is the level of stewardship?
- What are the trends in public use?
- How well is the public informed about rocky habitat?
- What are the public's attitudes toward the MCA?
- How can the user experience be enriched while still protecting rocky habitats and the organisms dependent upon them?
- What do people value about rocky habitats?
- How do we build climate change resiliency?

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 within the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area, pause, collect information, and evaluate the appropriate response.

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

REGULATION SIGNAGE

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is developing regulation signage in coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The QR code (link) on the regulation sign will go to a site page for Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area housed on the Oregon Tidepools website with more information about site regulations and a site boundary map. Spanish language translation of the sign should be available on the website.

COMPLIANCE WITH TIDEPOOL ETIQUETTE

Education is the best way of addressing wildlife disturbance and compliance with site regulations. Staff and volunteers will share rules, regulations, and tidepool etiquette at Cape Lookout through signs and oral interpretation.

Beach visitors and site stewards who witness wildlife or habitat disturbance should document the scenario and report it to the appropriate channel. Do not intervene during an instance of wildlife violation because it could be unsafe and cause more harm to do so. For violations needing an urgent response, see Appendix F for more details.

An essential element of site-based management for rocky habitats is public education about how to responsibly visit rocky habitats. Public education about best practices for interacting with marine plants and wildlife can be accessible as signage, informational flyers, guided outings, and stewardship interactions.

Tidepool etiquette includes respecting the fragile marine ecosystem found in tidepool. Below is a list of recommended guidelines that the public should follow when visiting rocky habitats. Following these guidelines helps to keep visitors and wildlife safe. Many agencies and organizations have developed their own lists of visitor guidance in rocky habitats.

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 Lookout Marine Conservation Area Management Plan cannot begin 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 Cape Lookout 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 Coquille Indian Tribe

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

- The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- 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.

Image 4: 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.

Sign Text:

> This intertidal ecosystem has nourished the bodies and spirits of the Coquille Indian Tribe since time immemorial. Before colonization, two traditional Coquille Languages, Nuu-wee-ya' and miluk, echoed across beaches and waves as Tribal members worked and played. These languages are being reawakened today.
>
> Generations of Coquille women have carried handwoven burden baskets (*miige* in miluk; *dv-le* in Nuu-wee-ya') down to the shore at low tide to harvest the

coast's bounty. Baskets are a cornerstone of Coquille culture. The gapped weave of burden baskets allows water to flow through as mussels (*q'walxwen* in miluk; *dee-lhat* in Nuu-wee-ya') pried from the rockfaces are placed inside. Mussels are prepared through smoking and turning into jerky or are used as ingredients in other dishes.

The Coquille Indian Tribe retains the right to harvest traditional materials and first foods as a sovereign people. Please be respectful of this place and the traditions it carries.

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 Cape Lookout 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).

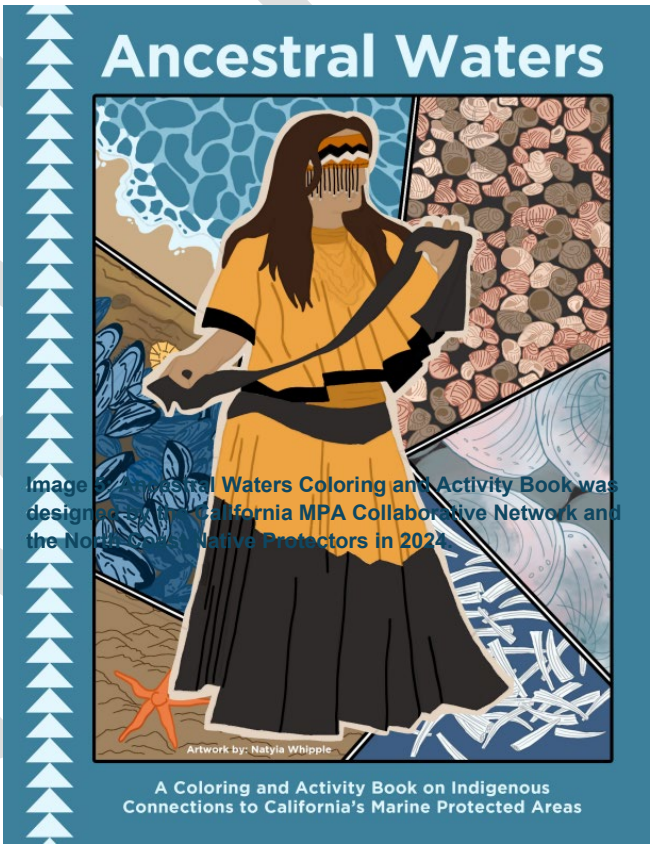
Some Marine Conservation Areas limit the harvest of shellfish and marine plants for non-tribal community members. Tribal members have the right to collect marine

resources within the Cape Lookout 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 Cape Lookout 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 Cape Lookout, 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.

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

Image 6: 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.

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.

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 coastal economy in Oregon depends on a healthy marine ecosystem for industries like commercial fishing, shellfish harvesting, recreational fishing and foraging, and the tourism industry to thrive. Millions of visitors come to the Oregon Coast every year to enjoy the unique coastline and coastal communities. Protected areas like the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area will benefit local industries by strengthening local environmental integrity and supporting the growing biodiversity of marine resources for the surrounding region.

Physical Environment: Winds and ocean circulation affect wave patterns in and around Cape Lookout. 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 brings nutrient-rich waters to the surface. While normally these nutrients benefit coastal ecosystems, too much upwelling can cause a hypoxia event. Although hypoxia events are not unique to Oregon's coastlines, they remain significant conservation concerns that should be addressed when managing the site.[2]

Bird Colonies: Cape Lookout is home to several seabird colonies, including Common Murres, Brandt's Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, and Western Gulls. These species flock to the meeting point of land and sea along the Cape's cliffs.

Marine Mammals Haul-out: A wave-cut bench at the western tip of Cape Lookout serves as a haul-out site for pinnipeds, including sea lions. The cape is also a biologically important area for cetaceans, with gray whales frequently observed feeding within and around the kelp forests. Other whale species are likely to use the area as well, with the Cape offering excellent viewing opportunities during their annual migrations.

Kelp Forests: A submerged subtidal reef runs parallel to the southern side of Cape Lookout, supporting large bull kelp beds. According to the 2025 *Oregon Kelp Status Report* put out by the Oregon Kelp Alliance, the kelp beds are of high conservation concern. These kelp forests, which account for approximately 1% of Oregon's total kelp beds, are a vital part of the local marine ecosystem.

Intertidal Habitat: The intertidal exposed boulder fields on the southern shoulder of Cape Lookout are recognized in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan (2015) as a high-quality representation of this habitat type. These rocky habitats offer educational

[2] https://coastalatlas.net/index.php/learn/topics/19-oceanprocesses

opportunities, with the nearby Camp Meriwether facilitating outdoor learning for school children. Tidepools allow for exploration and the study of the ecological intricacies of intertidal life in a natural, isolated environment. There are 24 acres of intertidal habitat within the MCA.

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 (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.

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.

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 and 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).

The site provides excellent opportunities for scientists and community members to monitor the impact of changing environmental conditions on rocky habitats, kelp forests,

and intertidal zones. Monitoring these ecologically sensitive areas is crucial for effective management of the MCA.

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.

KELP LOSS

The Oregon Kelp Alliance 2024 Oregon Kelp Forest Status Report:

> Oregon kelp forests have declined substantially since 2010. Between 2010 and 2022, aerial surveys documented that, across the south coast of Oregon, only a third of previous kelp forest canopy remains—a loss of nearly 900 acres. Additionally, ORKA's 2023 kelp forest monitoring work demonstrates that an estimated 69% of historical kelp forest habitat no longer supports robust kelp populations. Dramatic increases in purple sea urchin populations are the most likely driver of these losses, although a suite of changes to the marine environment, driven by climate change, have likely contributed as well—particularly marine heatwaves.[3]

The kelp forest on the south side of Cape Lookout is one of several monitoring sites recommended in the Status Report.

[3] Hamilton, S. L., T. Calvanese, S. A. Gravem, A. W. E. Galloway, D. Chabot, E. Vidusic, and N. Webster. 2024. 2024 Oregon Kelp Forest Status Report. The Oregon Kelp Alliance, Port Orford, OR.

Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise refers to the increase in the level of the world's oceans caused by many factors. The two major causes of global sea level rise are thermal expansion caused by warming ocean water and increased melting of land-based ice, like glaciers. Rising sea levels affect the Oregon Coast in a variety of ways like increased storm surge intensity, higher tide levels, and reduced river drainage during precipitation events.

The extent to which sea level rise will change the ecological structure of the rocky habitats in Oregon is unclear. Rising sea levels over time are likely to reduce the availability of low-lying islands and headlands, which could lead to habitat loss for seabirds and marine mammals. Other intertidal plants and animals are vulnerable to habitat loss because many organisms evolved to survive in specific intertidal zones (e.g. low tide zone, middle tide zone, high tide zone, splash zone).

The risk of sea level rise within the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area ranges from no risk to high risk depending on the severity of the water level increase and the exact location of the habitat on the Cape. No or minor risk level means an increase of habitat or less than 10% habitat loss. Low risk level could result in an 11-29% habitat loss while high risk could result in more than 50% loss of habitat by 2100 (Oregon SeaSketch, 2025). See Appendix B for more details on this report.

Natural Resource Protection

Understanding the distribution and abundance of marine resources is critical for any kind of natural resource management. At Cape Lookout, 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 Lookout Marine Conservation Area management strategies should align with recommendations in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy.

Chapter 5: Tools and Resources

Plan Evaluation

Evaluating the implementation of this management plan focuses on answering three key questions:

- Have the recommended management actions been implemented?
- Are the site-based management actions contributing to meeting the goal and objectives of this management plan?
- What adaptive management measures are recommended to better meet the goal and objectives of this management plan?

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. An adaptive approach also allows management actions to be responsive to climate change resiliency, despite the high degree of uncertainty.

Organizations participating in the implementation of this MCA will be encouraged to evaluate both individual events as well as overall programs. Event participants can be asked to fill out a simple survey form to evaluate their experience. Evaluation criteria may include knowledge of the event leader, group size, quality of experience, inclusivity, and safety. Programmatic evaluation will occur at least biennially at the State of the Cape Symposium.

The biennial State of the Cape Symposium provides a scheduled opportunity to evaluate the management plan. Community groups, agencies, Tribes, program 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.

This management plan is a living document that will be updated bi-annually based on adaptive recommendations.

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	Statewide species list from ODFW that includes state-listed status and federal-listed status.

Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Fish and Wildlife Species	
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 Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area boundary.
NOAA Fisheries Pacific Fishery Management Council: West Coast Essential Fish Habitat	Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) on the Oregon Coast: ▪ 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 Lookout is a Biologically Important Area for whale migration, feeding, reproduction, and cow/calf rearing: ▪ Grey whale – State Listed Endangered ▪ Southern Resident Killer Whale – Endangered ▪ Humpback Whale – Endangered
Oregon Department of Agriculture: State Listed Coastal Plants	Threatened and endangered plants in Tillamook County: ▪ Pink sand verbena – Endangered ▪ Point Reyes bird's-beak – Endangered ▪ Coast Range fawn lily – Threatened ▪ Nelson's checkermallow – Threatened ▪ Cascade Head catchfly – Threatened

Maps

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

Appendix

Appendix A – Site Designation Snapshot

All state-owned submerged and submersible land beginning from the west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek and extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards is within the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area.

At Cape Lookout there is no take of shellfish and other invertebrates in the intertidal except Clams, Dungeness crab, red rock crab, mussels, piddocks, scallops, and shrimp may be taken. Marine plant harvest in the area is prohibited.

Table 2 summarizes site-specific harvest regulations that are a result of this MCA.

Table 2. Harvest Regulations

Type of Harvest	Commercial	Recreational
Fish	Statewide regulations	Statewide regulations
Invertebrates	Subtidal statewide regulations; intertidal closed	Subtidal statewide regulations; intertidal partially closed, open for commonly harvested species*
Algae	Already closed	Subtidal kelp harvest closed*; intertidal closed
Other	Boat access/anchorage are unaffected	Boat access/anchorage are unaffected
**Intertidal closed for shellfish and other invertebrates. Clams, Dungeness crab, red rock crab, mussels, piddocks, scallops, and shrimp may be taken*.		

Fish: There are no site-specific fish harvest regulations (recreational or commercial) that are a result of this MCA designation. Coastwide fish harvest regulations apply.

Invertebrates: Shellfish and other invertebrates may be harvested within subtidal areas according to coastwide regulations. Within intertidal portions of the MCA, commercial harvest of invertebrates is closed with the exception of purple sea urchins. For recreational harvest within intertidal portions of the MCA, there is no take of shellfish and marine invertebrates, except clams, Dungeness crab, red rock crab, mussels, piddocks, scallops, squid, shrimp, and other invertebrate species that ODFW determines are appropriate to be harvested. Sea urchins may be commercially harvested according to coastwide regulations. Harvest of sea urchins (commercial or as part of habitat restoration) will be promoted when monitoring indicates urchin populations are at levels likely to lead to overgrazing of kelp beds. Harvest for scientific or educational purposes requires a permit from ODFW and OPRD.

Algae: Commercial and recreational harvest of algae within the intertidal zone is prohibited. Harvest of bull kelp within subtidal waters of the MCA is prohibited (OAR 141-142).

Other: Boat access and anchorage are unaffected by the MCA designation.Access and harvest by members of federally recognized Tribal Nations is unaffected by this MCA designation.

The harvest of marine resources by members of Federally Recognized Tribal Nations are unaffected by the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area designation regulations. The new rules at the Cape Lookout 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 Cape Lookout Site Management Plan Workshop Part 1 summary from September 18, 2024 is available online.

The Cape Lookout Rocky Habitat Workshop Part 2 was held on September 2, 2025. More information about this event is online.

DESIGNATION HISTORY

In 1975, Cape Lookout was registered as a Natural Heritage Conservation Area in the Oregon Natural Heritage Plan in recognition of its nesting colonies of seabirds and old-growth Sitka Spruce forest. Cape Lookout was recognized as an undisturbed standard against which to monitor environmental quality, and an area from which to accumulate baseline data on coastal headland terrestrial, marine, and aquatic ecosystems. This designation was a precursor for its subsequent rocky habitat site designation.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) conducted a two-phase inventory of the natural resources of Oregon's rocky shores in 1993-1994. Work conducted during 1993 (phase 1) focused on compiling coastwide rocky shore resource information into a report entitled Oregon Rocky Shores Natural Resource Inventory. This report summarizes existing information as well as the results of a qualitative examination of rocky shore sites conducted by ODFW staff in Spring and Summer 1993. In addition to the report, ODFW also conducted a low tide aerial photo survey of Oregon's rocky shores using color infrared film. The photo survey was designed to support more detailed future assessments of rocky shores.

In 1994, the rocky habitat on the south side of the Cape was designated a Habitat Refuge, a designation that was never implemented.

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 review of potential sites, Seven Capes Bird Alliance (formerly Audubon Society of Lincoln City) proposed the nearshore environment at Cape Lookout 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 eventually were 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 an amendment to Part Three of the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan's Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. The decision added six new management areas (plus two previously approved 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 multiple-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. View a StoryMap of the six sites studied for further consideration.

Appendix B Sea Level Rise Projections

The Sea Level Calculator is a tool developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management that produces location-specific scenarios for sea level and flooding. The Sea Level Calculator uses projection scenarios to help communities and planners make informed decisions about adaptive coastal management. The scenario projections range from low to extreme water levels (mean sea level) by the year 2100.

Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise is predicted to cause the following changes in the intertidal habitat within this designated area.

Sea Level Rise Scenario	Remaining Intertidal Habitat (in Acres)*
0.5 Meters	18.1
1 Meter	8.8
1.5 Meters	3

* due to the fact that future intertidal areas may be above present-day MHW, this analysis is based on intertidal area contained in the unclipped site polygon.

Sea Level Rise Risk

Nearby sites have the following estimated risk from sea level rise (slr) of 0.5, 1.0, and 1.5 meters.

Name	SLR 0.5m	SLR 1.0m	SLR 1.5m
South Cliff Face	Low	Low	Moderate
South Intertidal	None	Moderate	High

Ranges for Estimated SLR Risk Levels:

Minor. Increase or Less than 10% Loss
Low. 11-29% Loss
Moderate. 30-49% Loss
High. More than 50% Loss

Table 1: SeaSketch Reporting Tool, Generated December 2025, https://www.seasketch.org/oregon/app.

Oregon SeaSketch is an online mapping tool that facilitates participatory marine spatial planning processes based on relevant science, observations, and public information. The risk to intertidal areas under three different sea level rise projections: 50 cm, 100 cm, and 150 cm are shown in the Table 1.

The risk of sea level rise within the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area ranges from no risk to high risk depending on the severity of the water level increase. Currently, there are approximately 24.8 acres of intertidal habitat in the Marine Conservation Area. The 0.5-meter (1.6 feet) sea level rise scenario projects that Cape Lookout MCA could lose up to 6.7 acres of intertidal habitat by 2100. The more severe scenario of 1.5-meters (4.9 feet) of sea level rise could result in the loss of 21.8 acres of intertidal habitat by 2100.

Researchers must conduct more studies on potential habitat impacts to accurately project the ecosystem implications at Cape Lookout.

Appendix D- State Regulations for Cape Lookout

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

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 Lookout 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 Lookout Marine Conservation Area Boundary: OAR 141-142-0145

> All state-owned submerged and submersible land beginning from the west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek and extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards is within the Cape Lookout 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 Lookout 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. Rules that apply more specifically to Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area can be found in the current annual Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations.

> No take of shellfish and other invertebrates in the intertidal except clams, Dungeness crab, red rock crab, mussels, piddocks, scallops, and shrimp may be taken. Site boundary: Begins on west-facing sand beach 880 yards north of Rover Creek, extending west along the Cape's south flank, around the tip, then east along the north flank for 1,425 yards. (Cape Lookout MCA Inset 3, Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations, 2026, page 84).

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 E – Federal Regulations at Cape Lookout

There are several Federal Regulations that are relevant to Cape Lookout 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 Cape Lookout 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 F – 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, Cape Lookout State Park	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Park Office: 503-842-4981 13000 Whiskey Creek Rd. Tillamook, OR 97141
Refuge Manager, Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex	Headquarters: (541) 867-4550 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 G – Outreach Materials Example USFWS Poster

Image 8. 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 H - Recommended Implementation Actions Table

See table below on pages 54-58

Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area							
#	**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 long-term conservation of natural resources in rocky habitats.**	**Objective 3. Maintain scenic viewpoints and access to Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.**	**Objective 4. Promote educational opportunities at Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.**	**Objective 5: Support site monitoring projects at Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area.**	**Objective 6: Encourage public safety and regulatory compliance from all visitors.**
1	Engage tribes during the planning of community science and monitoring projects.	X	X			X	
2*	Inform Oregon Coast Trail hikers about sensitive areas like during harbor seal pupping season.		X	X	X		X
3	Participate in bioblitz(es) to measure site diversity on a regular basis.		X			X	
4*	Host educational seminars or lectures at the Cape Lookout Amphitheater 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	Ensure community science trip guides follow beach safety recommendations.					X	X
6	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform management.					X	X
7	Develop community science monitoring protocols consistent with all designated Marine Reserves and Rocky Habitats.		X			X	
8	Train community science volunteers to implement the protocols.					X	
9	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. Examples could include hosting an event or creating a survey of all users.			X	X		

10	Ensure datasets about research at Cape Lookout are held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.	X				X	
11	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	
12	Consider adding ODFW monitoring sensors for Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia within the designation boundary.		X			X	
13	Work cooperatively with educators, institutions, organizations, and media services to expand public awareness of the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy and the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area through electronic social media, school outdoor education curriculums, and interpretive opportunities. Engage the public in awareness of issues facing rocky habitats and proper stewardship.				X		
14*	Provide educational opportunities through signage at the Cape Lookout south parking lot and the north day-use area describing the ecology of rocky habitats and unique rocky habitat features at Cape Lookout. Signage should be consistent with the natural character of the landscape. Provide education but do not encourage additional use of rocky habitat.			X	X		X
15	Work cooperatively with Camp Meriwether, OPRD, State agencies, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS neighborhood group, and other interested organizations to implement a volunteer stewardship program for the Cape Lookout MCA. With appropriate training and data management tools, these volunteer stewards will: educate the public on appropriate use and enjoyment of rocky habitats, encourage good tidepool etiquette, document site uses, document natural resource conditions, and report any observed enforcement concerns. Stewardship programs may be seasonal dependent on programming for Camp Meriwether.				X		
16*	Evaluate the feasibility, protocols, funding mechanisms, and support to implement a biological monitoring program that will provide a better understanding of trends in biodiversity and/or key species abundance for accessible intertidal rocky habitat.		X		X	X	

	Implement a monitoring program, if feasible, that engages community science in monitoring.						
17	Work with OPRD to incorporate management of rocky habitats into the Cape Lookout State Park Comprehensive Plan.		X				X
18	Communicate and collaborate with regional (west coast) agencies, researchers, and other entities focused on the management of rocky habitats to understand regional ecosystem trends.		X			X	
19	Coordination between managing agencies and researchers to develop rapid qualitative survey methods for early identification and management responses to invasive species. Implement at a coastwide scale among all rocky habitat designations.		X			X	
20	Encourage and support community science programs through cooperation among managing agencies, researchers, and non-governmental organizations to identify and implement monitoring programs that help fill information gaps for the Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area (MCA). Develop and implement at least one additional community science project within the first two years of designation.					X	
21*	Provide education on how to avoid wildlife disturbance when operating drones. Educational strategies include onsite volunteer stewards, social media, and signage.		X	X			X
22*	Make digital and printed materials available at Garibaldi harbor and boat launches to inform watercraft operators on appropriate precautions to avoid disturbing seabirds during nesting season and pinnipeds at haulouts.				X		X
23*	Develop inclusive interpretive activities at the state park campground. For example, geological stories about the Cape, guided walks, moonlight hikes with astronomy interpretation, sensory experiences for people with vision impairment, and art activities. Another opportunity to partner with Indigenous storytellers and educators.	X		X	X		

24*	Work with Scouting America and Outdoor Schools at Camp Meriwether to design a rocky habitat stewardship program or “patch” for tidepool etiquette for children.		X	X	X	X	
25*	Work with OPRD, marine educators and charter boat companies to develop a lamented handout or interpretation guide that charter tours can share with visitors on boat trips around the Cape.			X	X		X
26	Host guided tidepool walks for Day-use visitors on the north side of Cape Lookout.			X	X		
27	Partner with the Dory fleet to host public workshops focused on the importance of kelp beds for nearshore marine species. Present at pub talks, Pacific City Doryman's Association meetings, share research at Dory Days, Clovers Day, etc.				X	X	
28	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
29	Support programming and events like the annual Ocean Celebration, guided hikes, community science programs, or other stewardship opportunities at Cape Lookout for Indigenous and Latino communities. Partner with organizations like Juntos Afuera, Vive NW, and Latino Outdoors.	X			X		
30	Partner with Oregon Kelp Alliance, reef check, ODFW, and any interested Tribe to pursue kelp bed monitoring and restoration work.		X			X	
31	Work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 ‘Coast Like a Local Campaign'.		X		X		
32	Track the number of participants at on-site events.			X		X	
33	Support volunteers' comprehension of state and federal regulations that apply on the beach and within the Marine Conservation Area by providing Appendix D and Appendix E of the Plan.				X		X

34	Direct recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.						X
35	Increase the number of available enforcement officers who could respond to emergencies or violations on the beach. Support discussions between Tillamook County Sheriff, OSP, USFWS, and OPRD so Patrol officers can respond at Cape Lookout, if necessary.						X
36*	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.	X	X	X	X	X	X
37	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace.				X		
38	Invite first responders to public workshops to speak on beach safety.						X
39	Invite OPRD Beach Rangers, an OSP Lieutenant, and other law enforcement officers to train volunteers and staff on how to properly engage with the public and respond to different scenarios.						X
40	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
41	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials.				X		
42	Coordinate messaging about Cape Lookout Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS and OPRD.				X		
43	Rely on established scientific monitoring and data collection protocols with current research in the region.					X	
44	Vet data collection methods through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.					X	

45	Notify USFWS, DSL, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear or accessible online or on signage.						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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