

Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Management Plan

Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy



DECEMBER 2025



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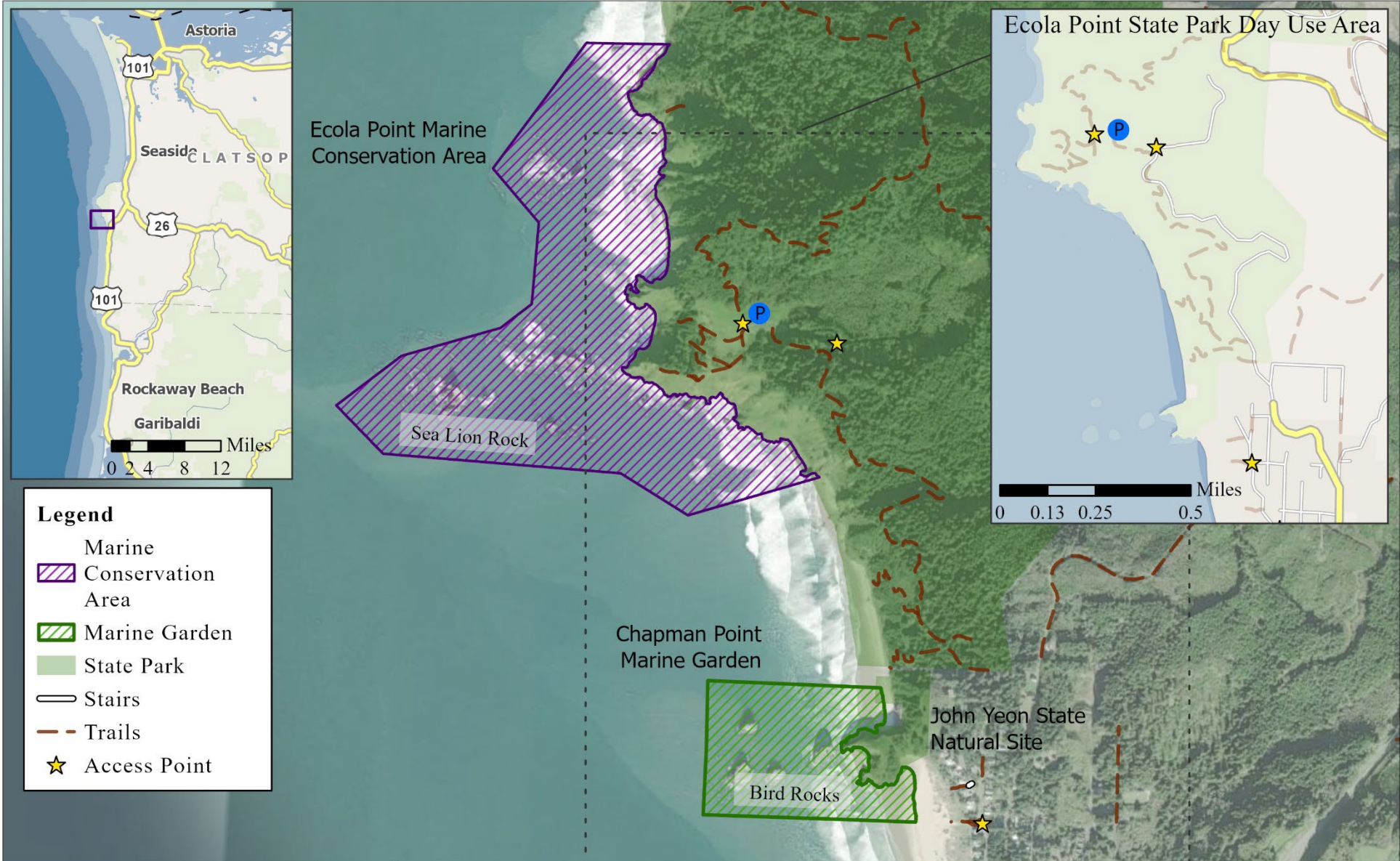
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DEPARTMENT OF LAND CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT



Cover Photo

Image 1: Aerial photo of Ecola Point, Oregon ShoreZone, 2011.

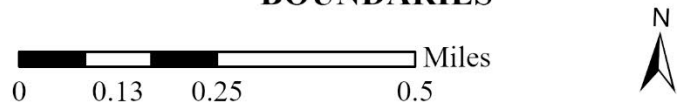
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ECOLA POINT MARINE CONSERVATION AREA & CHAPMAN POINT MARINE GARDEN BOUNDARIES



Access Points by OCMP
Trails by Open Street Map
Parks by Oregon Parks and Recreation Dep.
Reference Map by Oregon Dep. of Transportation
Imagery by Maxar
State Marine Managed Areas by:





Eva Krukowski, OCMP, Date Modified 12/30/2025

Map 1. The Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Boundary includes all state-owned submerged and submersible land encompassing the shoreline and ocean along the headland from 194 yards northeast of the tip of Bald Point to 176 yards north of Waterfall Creek to the south, including all beaches and nearshore rocks within the two lines.

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Clatsop County

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Department of State Lands

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon State Police

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Tribal Partners

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Other Partners

North Coast Land Conservancy
Haystack Rock Awareness Program
Friends of Haystack Rock
Seven Capes Bird Alliance

Bird Alliance of Oregon
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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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area goals are to preserve and strengthen the ecological integrity of the site including existing marine life, fish, seabird and shorebird nesting areas that exist in these rocky habitats for long term sustainability, and to preserve the area’s wilderness character in the face of increasing tourism and population on the North Coast.

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

Site information

Ecola Point and Sea Lion Rock are an otherworldly treasure of dramatic rock formations and extensive tide pools with healthy mussel beds and a rebounding population of sea stars, along with many other tide pool animals. This area is also a crucial haul-out site for seals and sea lions, and a home for nesting shorebirds and seabirds, the most threatened group of birds on our planet. Ecola Point was identified in the 1994 Rocky Shores Management Plan as an area with a “complex mixture of resources and high usage” needing “more detailed study and assessment before designation into” a management category. Similarly, Sea Lion Rock, right offshore of Ecola Point, was

designated as a “priority rock for possible study and future management measures.” However, no management measures have been enacted since then.

Located just north of the City of Cannon Beach and adjacent to Ecola State Park, this area is most accessible at low tides by walking on the beach from Chapman Point and Crescent Beach to the south or from Indian Beach to the north, or at any time from unmaintained trails from the Ecola State Park parking lot on the headland above. Sandwiched between high-visitation locales (Cannon Beach and Indian Beach), this relatively pristine area is at risk of increased visitation as we see visitor numbers rapidly increase on the North Coast. We are already seeing impacts of human visitation, including trampling in the intertidal and climbing on rocks where birds breed, walking on sand very close to bird nesting sites, disturbing marine mammals, as well as low flying aircraft and drones.

Ecola Point used by residents and visitors for beach walking, running, dog walking, tidepool exploration, photography, bird watching, fishing, kayaking, and bicycling.

MARINE CONSERVATION AREA DESCRIPTION

The Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area encompasses roughly 167 acres covering about 1.5 miles of shoreline. There are around 27 acres of intertidal habitat area and 4.2 acres of offshore rocks and islands within the boundary. The Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Boundary includes all state-owned submerged and submersible land encompassing the shoreline and ocean along the headland from 194 yards northeast of the tip of Bald Point to 176 yards north of Waterfall Creek to the south, including all beaches and nearshore rocks within the two lines. The largest sea stack within the boundary is called Sea Lion Rock.

The government agencies with jurisdiction within or nearby Ecola Point 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 that apply within the area.

How to use this document

The Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point. These groups include Tribal Nations, state, local, and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, charter and commercial fishing companies, residents, local businesses, tourists, researchers, and local schools.

The Plan can help communities:

- Understand how the policies and principles from the [Oregon Rocky Habitat Management Strategy](#) are applied at Ecola Point.
- Share the goals and objectives for management priorities at Ecola Point.
- 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 Ecola Point.
- 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: Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area with the following government agencies and Tribal Governments, as appropriate:

- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Chinook Indian Nation
- Clatsop-Nehalem Tribe
- Any other interested Tribe
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Department of Land Conservation and Development
- City of Cannon Beach
- Clatsop County

Site Management Objectives and Recommended Actions

The following site objectives are designed to align public activities within the Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area with both the community-identified goals for Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 North Coast Rocky Habitat Workshop, following consultation with community groups, state agencies, and other partners. The list below categorizes six main objectives and 55 associated actions. For the complete table of the recommended implementation action matrix, see Appendix H.

Objective 1: Coordinate with all interested Tribes on preserving and monitoring rocky habitat resources and site stewardship.

See Actions: 1*, 4, 5*, 11, 42*, 48*, 55*

Sub-Objectives:

- 1.1. Coordinate with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and non-federally recognized tribes like the Chinook Nation and the Clatsop-Nehalem and any other interested Tribes about stewardship decisions at Ecola Point.
- 1.2. Support Tribal-led monitoring, stewardship, interpretation efforts at Ecola Point.
- 1.3. Preserve cultural resources at Ecola Point, ensuring they are respected and protected in any activity within the Marine Conservation Area.
- 1.4. Include all interested Tribes in resource monitoring efforts.
- 1.5. 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 stranding¹.

Objective 2: Prioritize the long-term conservation of natural resources in rocky habitats.

See Actions: 1*, 2*, 3, 7, 8*, 13, 14, 23*, 25*, 26*, 34, 36*, 42*, 43*, 47*, 48*, 54*, 55*

Sub-Objectives:

- 2.1. Conserve biodiversity and support ecosystem functions by monitoring site conditions and minimizing human disturbance.
- 2.2. Maintain the ecological integrity of Ecola Point by preserving habitat complexity, species diversity, and healthy populations of keystone species as identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- 2.3. Prevent human disturbance of wildlife or habitats, particularly during shorebird nesting season (April – September).
- 2.4. Encourage responsible public behavior through education about proper etiquette around marine plants and animals, fostering stewardship and minimizing ecological impacts.
- 2.5. Support targeted research, monitoring, and community science initiatives to inform adaptive, science-based conservation practices.

Objective 3: Maintain scenic viewpoints and access to Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 2*, 6*, 10, 15*, 16*, 20*, 25*, 28, 34, 36*, 42*, 43*, 46*, 47*, and 54*

Sub-Objectives:

- 3.1. Maintain visual access of the Marine Conservation Area and offshore rocks by preserving unobstructed views of the ocean from public areas, benches, and key scenic viewpoints at Ecola State Park.

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

- 3.2. Maintain current levels of access to the beach at Ecola Point and discourage future upland trail maintenance that could increase visitation to the delicate marine ecosystem.
- 3.3. Implement strategies to minimize visitor impact on the environment.
- 3.4. Reduce trampling, littering, wildlife disturbance, and other physical impacts on sensitive habitats through education, signage, and controlled access when necessary.
- 3.5. Minimize promotion of Ecola Point in Cannon Beach and around the State.

Objective 4: Promote off-site educational opportunities at Ecola State Park and neighboring site, Chapman Point Marine Garden, while balancing visitor impact on the environment.

See Actions: 2*, 4, 5*, 10, 16*, 17-19, 20*, 21, 23*, 24, 25*, 26*, 27, 28, 30-33, 35, 42*, 43*, 45, 46*, 49, and 50

Sub-Objectives:

- 4.1. Provide accessible interpretive materials and educational opportunities that foster public understanding and appreciation of rocky habitats and their associated species.
- 4.2. Design educational opportunities located off-site for diverse communities and user groups.
- 4.3. Enhance public awareness of rocky habitat stewardship practices, tidepool etiquette, and responsible behavior.
- 4.4. Foster consistent and collaborative messaging about Marine Gardens and Marine Conservation Areas.
- 4.5. Integrate information about Ecola Point wildlife and appropriate stewardship behavior into the education program at Chapman Point.

Objective 5: Support site monitoring projects at Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area.

See Actions: 1*, 3, 5*, 6*, 7, 8*, 9, 11-14, 15*, 17, 23*, 29, 42*, 47*, 48*, 52, and 55*

Sub-Objectives:

- 5.1. Provide accessible engagement in community science and monitoring opportunities for diverse communities and user groups.
- 5.2. Prioritize public safety during field research.
- 5.3. Prioritize research projects that contribute to a deeper understanding of changing ocean conditions and habitat resiliency.
- 5.4. Use standardized and vetted data collection practices across all community science projects at Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area.
- 5.5. Monitor visitor use of the site by regularly assessing visitation patterns and their impacts on the habitat. Data gathered could guide adaptive management strategies at Ecola Point ensuring long-term protection of site resources.

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

See Actions: 2*, 6*, 8*, 9, 15*, 16*, 18, 19, 20*, 22, 24, 25*, 26*, 29-33, 35, 36*, 37-41, 42*, 44, 45, 46*-48*, 50-53, 54*, and 55*

Sub-Objectives:

- 6.1. Support visitor awareness of site rules, regulations, and ecological sensitivities through clear and consistent messaging (e.g. stay on sand 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 main objectives
1*	Engage tribes during the planning of monitoring projects like the ODFW rocky habitat inventory surveys, fish surveys, or community science initiatives.
2*	Inform Oregon Coast Trail hikers about sensitive areas particularly during harbor seal pupping season.
3	Participate in bioblitz(es) to measure site diversity on a regular basis.
4	Invite Tribal ambassadors, elders, and educators to speak at events about marine education.
5*	Host educational seminars for community members to learn about ongoing updates or results of monitoring efforts. Topics could also include basic ecological theory to discuss resilience. This is an opportunity to invite Tribal representatives to speak.
6*	Ensure community science trip guides follow beach safety recommendations.
7	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform adaptive management of Ecola Point.
8*	Develop standardized community science monitoring protocols that are consistent with all State Marine Managed Areas like Marine Reserves and Marine Gardens. Vet the developed list of protocols through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
9	Train community science volunteers to implement standardized data collection protocols.
10	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. For example, hosting an event that brings commercial and recreational users together.
11	Ensure datasets about research at Ecola Point held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.
12	Ensure data collected by community groups is accessible to the OCMP, ODFW, OPRD, and DSL. Oregon SeaSketch could be a potential data-sharing platform.
13	Consider adding ODFW monitoring sensors for Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia within the designation boundary.
14	Collaborate with educational institutions to develop future research projects based on community priorities.

15*	Establish consistent photo point locations where visitors can take repeatable photos and share them to a central database to document long-term change. The Oregon King Tides Project is an example of this kind of project.
16*	Collaborate with Consejo Hispano and OPRD to translate and distribute all written materials in Spanish throughout the local communities. 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.
17	Share resources like species identification guides with visitors. See the Oregon Tidepools webpage or Shoreline Education for Awareness website for examples of species identification lists.
18	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials. Develop brochures that can be shared online, at the chamber of commerce, outdoor gear stores, and local hotels or vacation housing.
19	Upload all site plans, signs, resources, and brochures online.
20*	With support from local organizations (Haystack Rock Awareness Program, Friends of Haystack Rock, North Coast Land Conservancy, Bird Alliance of Oregon, and Oregon Shores) create a schedule of volunteers and tools for educational outreach during low tides.
21	Host public presentations for community and school groups, individuals and organizations about the marine environment and ocean literacy. Locations for presentations could include rotary clubs, schools, library, and guided tours for people with mobility challenges.
22	Increase availability of information about protected areas where visitors are already going to look (e.g. State Parks, ODFW Website, Clatsop County, etc.)
23*	Partner with local schools to share education about tidepool etiquette and marine education. Organize school field trips to Ecola Point with a hands-on component (ex. tidepooling, complete a CoastWatch survey).
24	Participate in the development of a Rocky Habitat Communications Plan with ODFW and the Rocky Habitat Partners.
25*	Plan tidepool ambassador shifts around sensitive rocks seasonally, during daylight low-low tide periods.
26*	Educate drone users on how to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
27	Consider participating in a species spotlight podcast series to highlight some of the most important indicators of healthy rocky habitats. Potential partners could include the Oregon Coast Visitor Association and Shifting tides.
28	Partner with Cannon Beach Academy, Fire Mountain School, Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School to involve local kids in monitoring.
29	Site volunteers monitor visitor use by collecting data like the number of visitors and dogs to the Marine Conservation Area at low-tide.
30	Identify gaps in existing outreach materials to support the development of new materials.
31	Coordinate social media blasts about rocky habitats and tidepool etiquette. Including Oregon Coast Visitors Association, ODFW, OPRD, DLCD, North Coast Land Conservancy, and HRAP.
32	Table at large community events or festivals to spread awareness.
33	Develop a hospitality packet or a social media campaign that includes information about designated sites nearby and guidance for responsible tidepooling and safe recreation. Work with travel organizations to provide etiquette information & the impact of tourism on these sensitive ecosystems.
34	Promote monthly beach cleanups. Partners could include SOLVE and Surfrider.

35	Table at the Ecola Point Day-use area parking lot to teach the public about marine resources, environmental issues, rocky habitats, and to spread awareness about best wildlife viewing practices.
36	Discourage trail improvements to hiking trails to Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area from the Crescent Beach Trail.
37	Support volunteers' comprehension of state and federal regulations that apply on the beach and within the Marine Conservation Area by providing volunteers with Appendix D and Appendix E of the Plan.
38	Direct all recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.
39	Increase the number of available enforcement officers who could respond to emergencies or violations on the beach. Support discussions between Clatsop County Sheriff, Cannon Beach Police, OSP, USFWS, and OPRD so Patrol officers can respond at Ecola Point, if necessary.
40	Train volunteers to recognize when action is needed and how to respond appropriately in cases of violations or emergencies. Share Appendix F with volunteers for reference.
41	Provide an overview of state and federal regulations at annual tidepool ambassador training for volunteers and seasonal staff. Reach out to State Agency staff at OPRD, ODFW, USFWS, or DLCD to find staff to provide this training.
42*	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.
43*	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace. For example, work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 'Coast Like a Local Campaign'.
44	Host an annual meeting of OSP, CB Police, CB Lifeguards/Fire, ODFW/USFWS to discuss issues and propose solutions for the three rocky habitats in Cannon Beach.
45	Include a beach-safety briefing for participants at any event that takes place on the beach. Include some general beach-safety information in public workshops. Could be an opportunity to collaborate with first responders to speak at public workshops.
46*	Develop interpretive signage about rocky habitats that could go at the Crescent Beach trail head in Ecola State Park, Indian Beach Access Point, and the 7th St beach access point to Chapman Point.
47*	Work with local police department and OSP to enforce firework regulations during holidays like Independence Day and New Years Eve. Support these efforts by sharing information about wildlife disturbance and safety at firework vendors.
48*	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.
49	Coordinate messaging about Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS.
50	Coordinate messaging about visitation to Ecola Point with other organizations that steward rocky habitats on the North Coast like NCLC and HRAP. Visitation to Ecola Point should be discouraged and visitors encouraged to go to Haystack Rock or Chapman Point.
51	Notify USFWS, DSL, OSP, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear, inconsistent, or inaccessible online or printed on signage.
52	Document instances of wildlife or habitat disturbance, as appropriate. Share documented instances of wildlife disturbance with the OPRD Nehalem Bay Management Unit, USFWS Refuge Manager, or Oregon State Police Wildlife Division.
53	Communicate with enforcement agencies like OPRD, OSP, USFWS, or the Cannon Beach Police so that enforcement officers can respond if needed.

54* Reduce visitor impact to the environment by controlling access to sensitive areas during shorebird nesting season, for example.

55* Provide a regular opportunity for the community groups, Tribal Nations, and researchers to communicate with State Management Agencies on real and perceived ecological and human impacts to the site, including the summarized data gathered by ongoing community science monitoring projects and any trends observed.

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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point — will carefully plan their activities to protect the environment and avoid disturbing wildlife or natural habitats. Examples of habitat disturbance are trampling, removing plants or shells from the beach, or handling animals.

Public Access

Management agencies like Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure the long-term preservation of public visual access to the ocean and Sea Lion Rock. Viewpoints from the Ecola Point Day-use Area in Ecola State Park are the most accessible option to enjoy the Marine Conservation Area for people with mobility limitations.

This area is accessible at lower tides from three access points: (1) from the east by trails from the main Ecola State Park parking lot to Ecola Beach (trails are currently closed and not maintained); (2) from the south by walking from Crescent Beach, which is reached by two trails that lead from Ecola Road to Crescent Beach; and (3) from the north by walking from Indian Beach. See Appendix C for more details about public access to Ecola Point.

INFORMATION SHARING

Visitors learn about Ecola Point from a variety of sources. Goals about sharing information should focus on efforts to simplify and coordinate messaging about Ecola Point and Chapman Point. Information sharing could include signage, information available on websites or maps, tidepool etiquette materials, safety info/tide charts, etc.

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).

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

- Social media
- Local newspapers and magazines
- Local radio
- Local churches
- Local fishing organizations
- Whale watching charters
- Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Public Library
- Chamber of Commerce

Education and Interpretation

The Ecola Point 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.

To foster stewardship and education, the management strategy for Ecola Point supports off-site education and on-site community science projects, thereby facilitating increased stewardship. The education program in development at Chapman Point Marine Garden, south of Ecola Point, is the best venue for interpreting marine life at both Chapman and Ecola. Many visitors access Ecola Point by walking past Chapman Point, so volunteers based there would educate members of the public about Ecola Point.

An informed and aware public is critical to protecting rocky habitat resources and carrying out the goals and strategies of the Ecola Point 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.

The [Haystack Rock Awareness Program](#) operates a seasonal Rocky Shore Interpreter Program from February through November, to educate visitors on the local intertidal and seabird ecology, encourage the practice of proper tidepool etiquette, and educate visitors about the state and federal laws and agencies responsible for managing Haystack Rock.

The [North Coast Land Conservancy](#) is a nationally accredited, nonprofit land trust dedicated to safeguarding Oregon’s coastal land and seascapes. They operate a tidepool ambassador program at Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.

The [Bird Alliance of Oregon](#) is a nonprofit dedicated to the protection, conservation, and rehabilitation of wild birds in Oregon. The organization inspires and connects people to nature through a variety of programs that are grounded in science and learning.

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program, North Coast Land Conservancy, and the Bird Alliance of Oregon steward the three designated rocky habitats in Cannon Beach (see Map 2). Education and community science initiatives at Ecola Point and Chapman Point should coordinate with one of these organizations to ensure consistent messaging, shared resources, and alignment with site management goals.

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.
Rocky Shores Training 2025	Video recordings and summary of the 2025 Rocky Shores Training intended for volunteers, seasonal staff, and interns who provide front-line rocky shore interpretation along the coast of Oregon.

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

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Interpretive signs provide stories designed to stimulate visitors' interest while challenging their imaginations, and perhaps present new perspectives on familiar topics. Thematic signage enables visitors to understand more clearly the history, environment, or cultural significance of Ecola Point.

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 Ecola Point matter to a diverse population. Interpretive signage will be bilingual (English and Spanish). OPRD and USFWS will strive to provide translated versions of English-only signs on their websites. NCLC and HRAP will proactively recruit bilingual volunteers to support Spanish-language interpretive programming at Ecola Point.

Site Monitoring

Ecola Point has been a location for [long term intertidal research](#) and will continue to 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 rocky habitats coastwide. Monitoring efforts should track indicator species.

MULTI-AGENCY ROCKY INTERTIDAL NETWORK

The [Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network \(MARINE\)](#) has conducted long-term monitoring surveys at Ecola Point since 2001. The surveys are done by researchers at the University of California Santa Cruz and Olympic National Park. Long-term monitoring surveys currently target the following species: *Chthamalus/Balanus* (Acorn Barnacles), *Mytilus* (California Mussel), *Pelvetiopsis* (Dwarf Rockweed), *Neorhodomela* (Black Pine), *Saccharina* (Sea Cabbage), *Phyllospadix* (Surfgrass), and *Pisaster* (Ochre Star). For more information see the [Long-Term trends at this site](#).

[Biodiversity Surveys](#) were done in 2001, 2005, 2014, 2019, and 2023. The Biodiversity Survey grid encompasses one section that is approximately 18.9 meters (along shore) x 33 meters (seaward). For more information see the [Biodiversity Survey findings](#) at this site. See below for information about community science initiatives with MARINE at Ecola Point.

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 Ecola Point will build upon ongoing projects and emerging opportunities.

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.

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 and Marine Gardens.

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 Ecola Point 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. Park Managers will decide the most appropriate location for the regulation signage to go. The QR code (link) on the regulation sign will go to a site page for Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point through signs, tabling, 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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area 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 Ecola Point by the State of Oregon and members of the public

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

should prioritize Tribal interests. Management strategies should be planned and conducted in coordination with appropriate Tribal Staff and Governments including:

- [The Coquille Indian Tribe](#)
- [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.

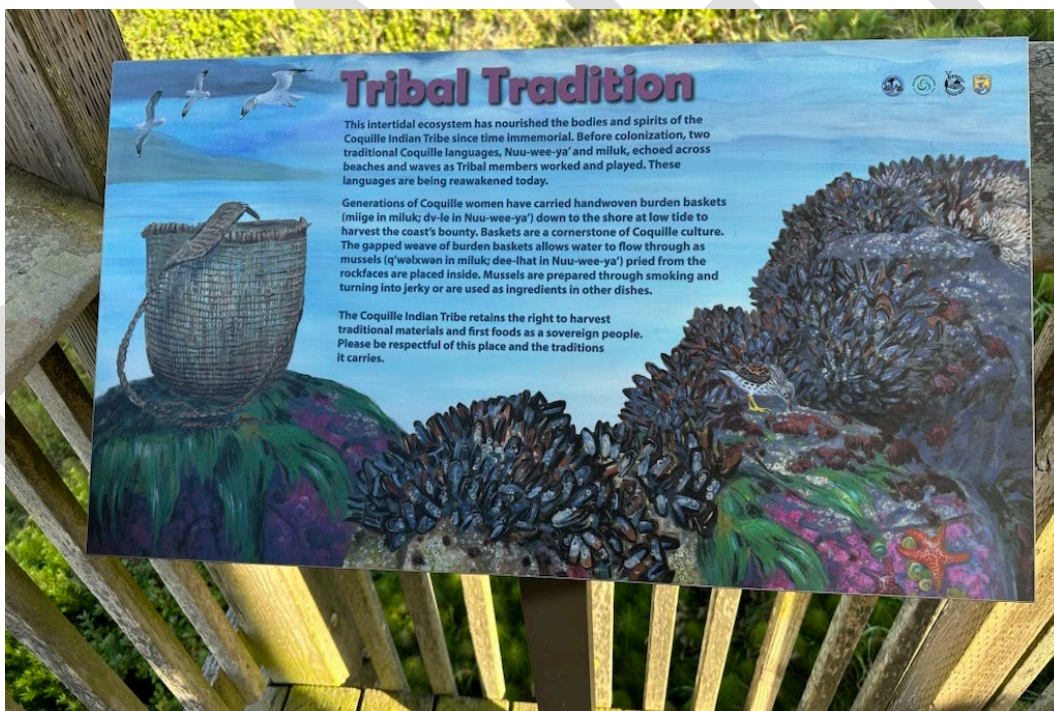


Image 4: Tribal Tradition interpretive panel at Coquille Point Marine Garden designed by the Coquille Indian Tribe in partnership with USFWS, Shoreline Education for Awareness, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, and art by Ram Papish. Photo by Micky Franks, 2025.

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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point, 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.

Ecola Point is an otherworldly coastal treasure of striking offshore and intertidal rock formations, dramatic cliffs, and extensive tidepools with healthy mussel beds and a rebounding population of sea stars, along with many other tidepool flora and fauna. The offshore and intertidal rocks provide essential nesting and roosting habitat for many species of birds and secluded haul-out sites for marine mammals.

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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area will benefit local industries by strengthening local environmental integrity and supporting the growing biodiversity of marine resources for the surrounding region.

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 (Juraneck, 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).

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.

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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area ranges from low to no risk depending on the severity of the water level increase. Low risk level could result in an 11-29% loss by 2100 no risk is anything below 10% habitat loss (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 Ecola Point, 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 Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area management strategies should align with recommendations in the Oregon Nearshore Strategy.

Chapter 5: Tools and Resources

Plan Evaluation

Program leaders in Cannon Beach will incorporate the strategies, objectives, and actions from the Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Management Plan into their internal program evaluations.

Communities will have the opportunity to periodically update the Plan based on changing recommendations over time. The Plan evaluators will assess the implementation of this management plan by answering three key questions:

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

The outcome of evaluation is to inform adaptive management of this plan. Adaptive management is a structured, iterative process of robust decision-making in the face of

uncertainty, with an aim to reduce uncertainty over time via system monitoring (Holling 1978). Adaptive management allows for future improvements to both natural resource protection and enriching visitor experiences.

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

Essential Species and Critical Habitats

Learn More About Essential Species and Habitats	
Natural Resource Management	Essential Species and Critical Habitats
NOAA & USFWS: Endangered Species Act Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Fish and Wildlife Species	Statewide species list from ODFW that includes state-listed status and federal-listed status.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Active Critical Habitat Report	<p>Critical Habitat Designations in Oregon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marbled murrelet – Threatened ▪ Northern spotted owl – Threatened ▪ Pacific marten, coastal distinct population segment – Threatened ▪ Western snowy plover – State Listed Endangered <p>No designated critical habitat for USFWS managed species specifically falls within the site boundary.</p>
NOAA Fisheries Pacific Fishery Management Council: West Coast Essential Fish Habitat	<p>Essential Fish Habitats (EFH) on the Oregon Coast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coho salmon – Threatened ▪ Chinook salmon – Candidate ▪ Groundfish EFH ▪ Coastal Pelagic Species EFH ▪ Highly Migratory Species EFH
NOAA Fisheries: Cetacean Biologically Important Areas	<p>The nearshore around Ecola Point is a Biologically Important Area for whale migration, feeding, reproduction, and cow/calf rearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grey whale – State Listed Endangered ▪ Southern Resident Killer Whale – Endangered ▪ Humpback Whale – Endangered
Oregon Department of Agriculture: State Listed Coastal Plants	<p>Threatened and endangered plants in Clatsop County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pink sand verbena – Endangered

Maps

Map 1: Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area and Chapman Point Marine Garden Boundary Map, Oregon Coastal Management Program, 2025

Map 2: Rocky Habitats in Cannon Beach, Oregon Coastal Management Program, 2025

Map 3: Ecola Point State Park Trails, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2020

Appendix

Appendix A – Site Designation Snapshot

The Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area boundary includes all state-owned submerged and submersible land encompassing the shoreline and ocean along the headland from 194 yards northeast of the tip of Bald Point to 176 yards north of Waterfall Creek to the south, including all beaches and nearshore rocks within the two lines.

Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area is closed to the take of shellfish and other marine invertebrates except single mussels may be taken for bait while fishing in the area. Sport fishing is allowed in the Marine Conservation Area. The collection of marine plants like kelp or seaweed from the ocean shore is not allowed within the site boundary, except by scientific research permit from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The harvest of marine resources by members of Federally Recognized Tribal Nations are unaffected by the Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area designation regulations. The new rules at the Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point and Chapman Point Site Management Plan Workshop summary from [October 10, 2024](#) is available online.

The North Coast Rocky Habitat Workshop was held on [August 26, 2025](#). More information about this event is online.

SITE PROPOSAL

In 2019, the Department of Land Conservation and Development invited community groups to propose sites to be added to the inventory of designated sites included in the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Following a robust review of potential sites, the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition proposed the nearshore environment at Ecola Point 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 twelve sites for the Ocean Policy and Advisory Council to evaluate. Eight of these sites were eventually adopted. The proposals underwent an extended review process by an Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) 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 that the Land Conservation and Development Commission designate two of the sites in 2020 and an additional six sites in 2022.

On April 20, 2023, the Land Conservation and Development Commission unanimously adopted the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy as an amendment to Part Three of the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan. This decision added Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area and five other sites that reflect the interests of the communities that proposed them. These designations completed a multi-year effort led by OPAC to revise the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy.

Read the [original proposal](#) by the North Coast Rocky Shores Coalition. [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.

[Oregon SeaSketch](#) is an online mapping tool that facilitates participatory marine spatial planning processes based on relevant science, observations, and public information. Map 2 shows the risk to intertidal areas under three different sea level rise projections: 50 cm, 100 cm, and 150 cm.

Sea Level Rise Scenario	Remaining Intertidal Habitat (in Acres)*
0.5 Meters	20.3
1 Meter	15.6
1.5 Meters	10.1

* 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.

Name	SLR 0.5m	SLR 1.0m	SLR 1.5m
Ecola Point	Low	Low	None
Indian Beach	Low	Low	Moderate

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

Map 2 shows the risk to intertidal areas under three different sea level rise projections: 50 cm, 100 cm, and 150 cm.

The risk of sea level rise within the Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area ranges from low to no risk depending on the severity of the water level increase. Currently, there are approximately 27 acres of intertidal habitat in the Marine Conservation Area. The 0.5-meter (1.6 feet) sea level rise scenario projects that Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area 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 16.9 acres of intertidal habitat by 2100. Low risk level could result in an 11-29% habitat loss whereas no/minor risk could result in a 10% loss or less by 2100.

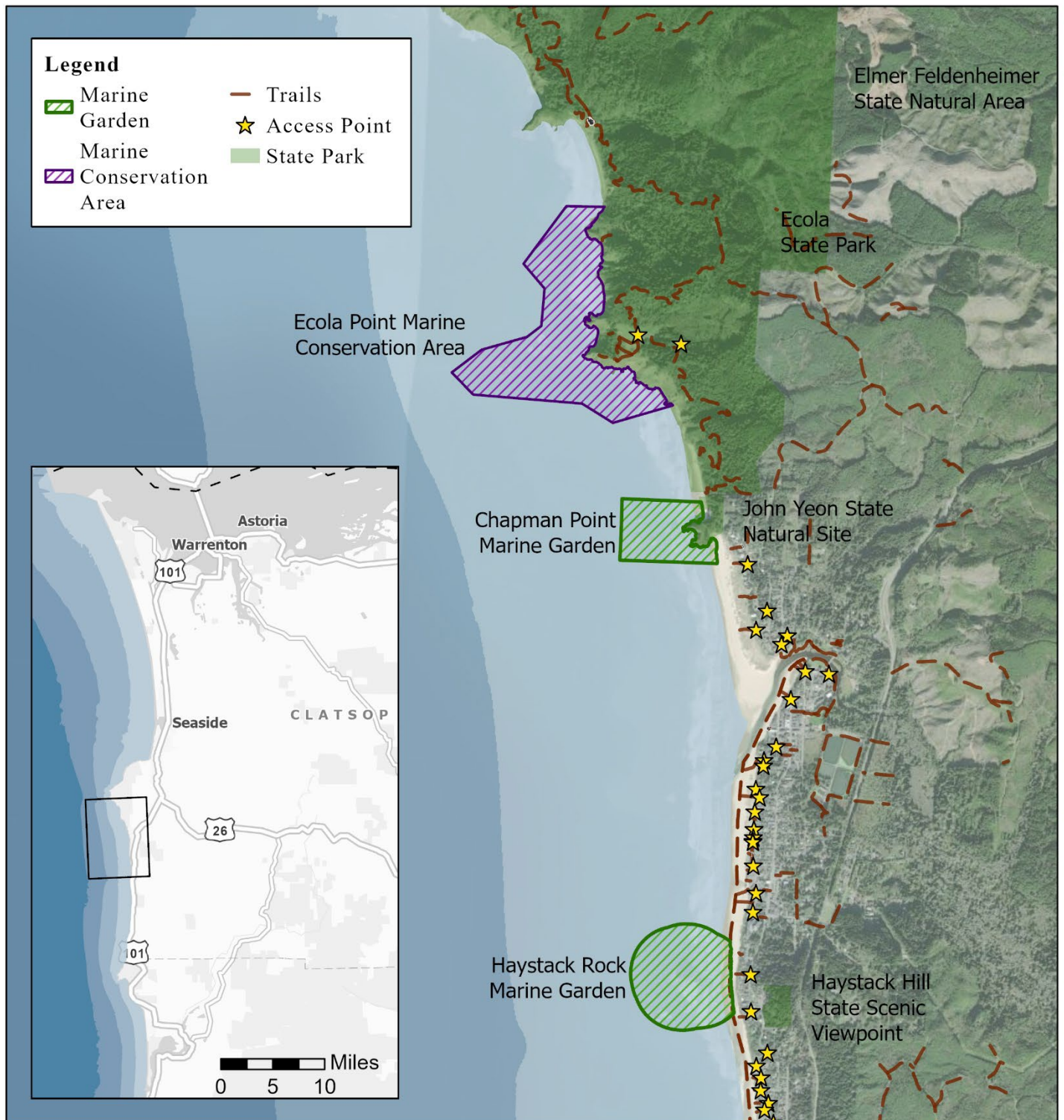
Researchers must conduct more studies on potential habitat impacts to accurately project the ecosystem implications at Ecola Point.

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

Appendix C – Public Access

The most accessible way of viewing Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area is from the Ecola Point Day-use Area in Ecola State Park. The Ecola Point Day-use area has a bathroom, parking lot, potable water, trash facility, park information and a picnic shelter. There is an accessible walking trail to scenic viewpoints of the islands at Ecola Point. Day-use parking permit is required.

The safest way to access the intertidal at Ecola Point is by walking north along the beach from Chapman Beach (near 7th street) to Crescent Beach at low tide. There are some hiking trails to the beach from Ecola Park Rd. and the Oregon Crest Trail, but these trails are unmaintained, moderately difficult, frequently closed due to unsafe conditions. See Maps 1, 2, and 3 for more details about public access options.




Legend

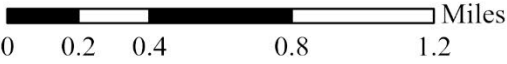
- Marine Garden
- Marine Conservation Area
- Trails
- Access Point
- State Park

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.




Projection Oregon Statewide Lambert, NAD1983 International feet, EPSG 2992

CANNON BEACH ROCKY HABITAT DESIGNATIONS



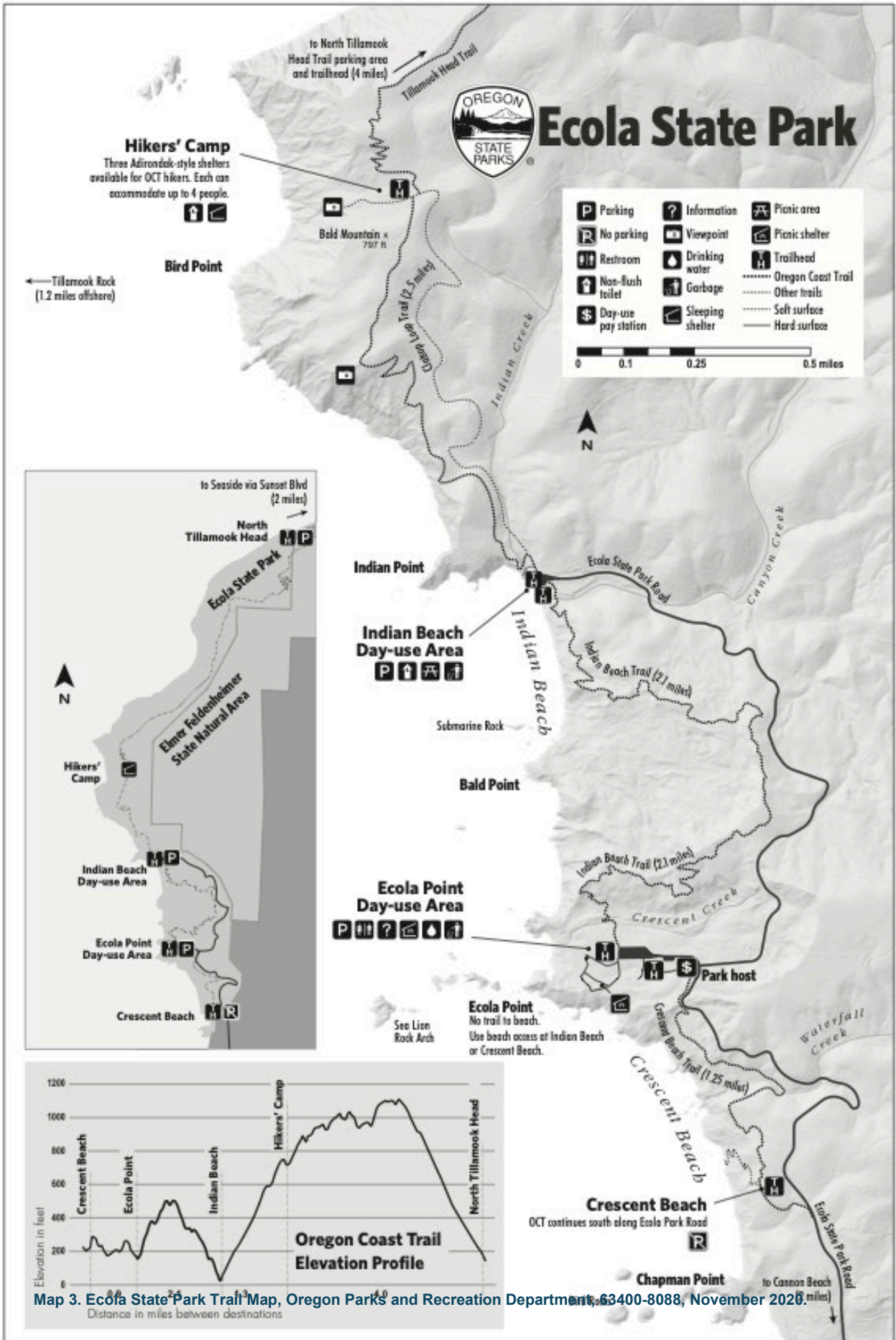


Access Points by OCMP
 Trails by Open Street Map
 Reference Map by ODOT
 Imagery by Maxar
 Marine Managed Areas by:

Eva Krukowski, OCMP. Date Modified 12/30/2025

Map 2. Cannon Beach Rocky Habitat Designations and Beach Access Points, Oregon Coastal Management Program, 2025



Map 3. Ecola State Park Trail Map, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 63400-8088, November 2020.

Appendix D- State Regulations for Ecola Point

All current state and local regulations relevant to the Territorial Sea and beaches apply to Ecola Point. In addition, there are specific regulations that apply within the Marine Conservation Area boundary at Ecola Point. 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 Ecola Point 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.

Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area Boundary: OAR [141-142-0160](#)

All state-owned submerged and submersible land encompassing the shoreline and ocean along the headland from 194 yards northeast of the tip of Bald Point to 176 yards north of Waterfall Creek to the south, including all beaches and nearshore rocks within the two lines, is within the Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 Ecola Point 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 single mussels may be taken (for bait). Site boundary: Encompasses shoreline and ocean along the headland from 194 yards northeast of the tip of Bald Point to 176 yards north of Waterfall Creek to the south, encompassing beaches and nearshore rocks within the site polygon. (Ecola Point MG Inset 1, 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 Ecola Point

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

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

The federal regulations associated with the National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Designation supersede the state regulations associated with the Marine Conservation Area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program • Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, Nehalem Bay Management Unit	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Park Office: 503-812-0650 34600 Garey St. Nehalem, OR 97131
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

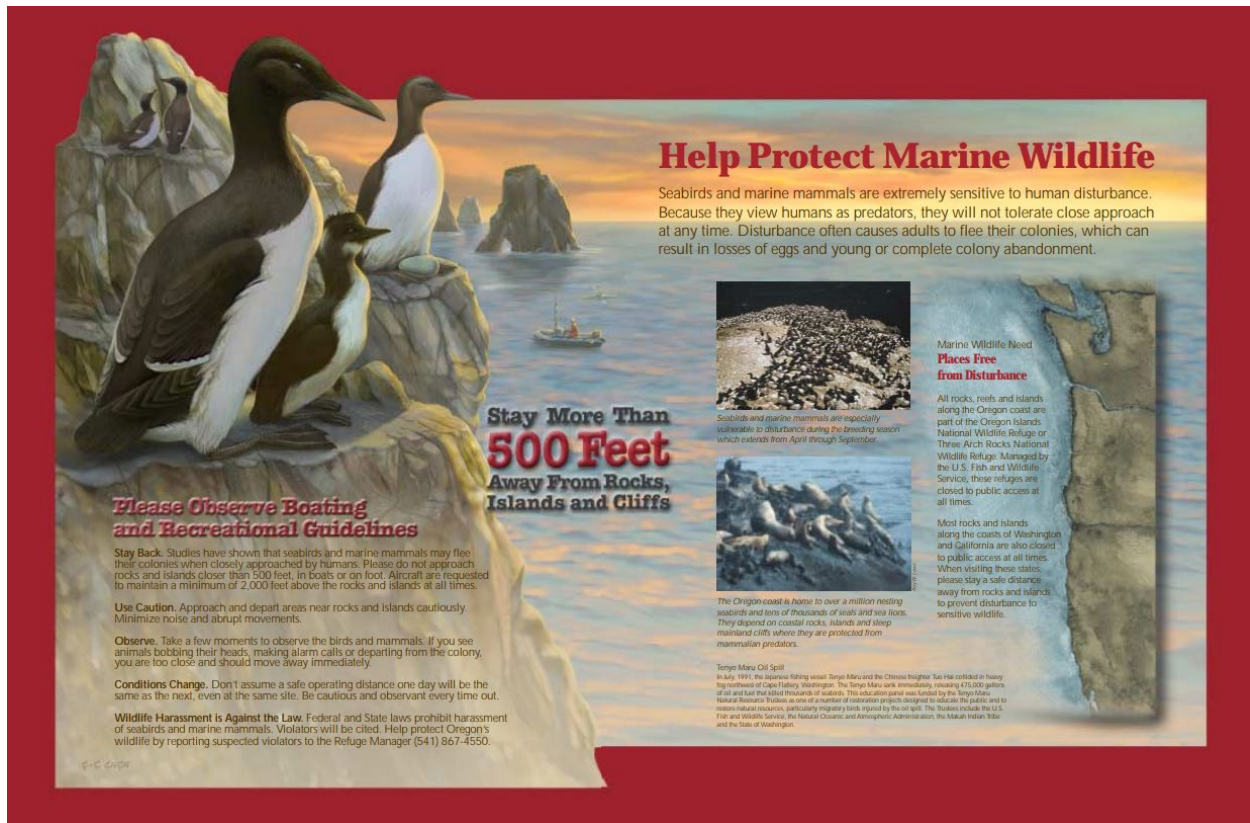


Image 8. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Poster, “Help Protect Marine Wildlife”, <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Boat%20Poster.pdf>

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.

DRAFT

Appendix H - Recommended Implementation Actions Table

See table below on pages 46-49.

Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area							
#	Implementation Action (*Priority objectives support three or more main objectives)	Objective 1. Coordinate with all interested Tribes on preserving and monitoring rocky habitat resources and site stewardship.	Objective 2. Prioritize the long-term conservation of natural resources in rocky habitats.	Objective 3. Maintain scenic viewpoints and access to Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area while balancing visitor impact on the environment.	Objective 4. Promote off-site educational opportunities at Ecola State Park and neighboring site, Chapman Point Marine Garden, while balancing visitor impact on the environment.	Objective 5: Support site monitoring projects at Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area.	Objective 6: Encourage public safety and regulatory compliance from all visitors.
1*	Engage tribes during the planning of monitoring projects like the ODFW rocky habitat inventory surveys, fish surveys, or community science initiatives.	X	X			X	
2*	Inform Oregon Coast Trail hikers about sensitive areas particularly 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	Invite Tribal ambassadors, elders, and educators to speak at events about marine education.	X			X		
5*	Host educational seminars for community members to learn about ongoing updates or results of monitoring efforts. Topics could also include basic ecological theory to discuss resilience. This is an opportunity to invite Tribal representatives to speak.	X			X	X	
6*	Ensure community science trip guides follow beach safety recommendations.			X		X	X
7	Help develop, host, or find community science projects that collect data to inform adaptive management of Ecola Point.		X			X	
8*	Develop standardized community science monitoring protocols that are consistent with all State Marine Managed Areas like Marine Reserves and Marine Gardens. Vet the developed list of protocols through a science-based group such as the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) or Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.		X			X	X
9	Train community science volunteers to implement standardized data collection protocols.					X	X
10	Strengthen relationships between commercial users of the area and those recreating. For example, hosting an event that brings commercial and recreational users together.			X	X		
11	Ensure datasets about research at Ecola Point held by state, federal, or research institutions is accessible to Tribes, researchers, and community groups.	X				X	
12	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	

13	Consider adding ODFW monitoring sensors for Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia within the designation boundary.		X			X	
14	Collaborate with educational institutions to develop future research projects based on community priorities.		X			X	
15*	Establish consistent photo point locations where visitors can take repeatable photos and share them to a central database to document long-term change. The Oregon King Tides Project is an example of this kind of project.			X		X	X
16*	Collaborate with Consejo Hispano and OPRD to translate and distribute all written materials in Spanish throughout the local communities. Make digital materials available in Spanish as well. Consider making translations available for the other most common languages spoken in Oregon: Russian, Mandarin, and Vietnamese.			X	X		X
17	Share resources like species identification guides with visitors. See the Oregon Tidepools webpage or Shoreline Education for Awareness website for examples of species identification lists.				X	X	
18	Interact with visitors through interpretation programs, tabling, junior ranger packets, and sharing outreach materials. Develop brochures that can be shared online, at the chamber of commerce, outdoor gear stores, and local hotels or vacation housing.				X		X
19	Upload all site plans, signs, resources, and brochures online.				X		X
20*	With support from local organizations (Haystack Rock Awareness Program, Friends of Haystack Rock, North Coast Land Conservancy, Bird Alliance of Oregon, and Oregon Shores) create a schedule of volunteers and tools for educational outreach during low tides.		X	X	X		X
21	Host public presentations for community and school groups, individuals and organizations about the marine environment and ocean literacy. Locations for presentations could include rotary clubs, schools, library, and guided tours for people with mobility challenges.				X		
22	Increase availability of information about protected areas where visitors are already going to look (e.g. State Parks, ODFW Website, Clatsop County, etc.)						X
23*	Partner with local schools to share education about tidepool etiquette and marine education. Organize school field trips to one of the three rocky habitats in Cannon Beach with a hands-on component (ex. tidepooling, complete a CoastWatch survey).		X		X	X	
24	Participate in the development of a Rocky Habitat Communications Plan with ODFW and the Rocky Habitat Partners.				X		X
25*	Plan tidepool ambassador shifts around sensitive rocks seasonally, during daylight low-low tide periods.		X	X	X		X
26*	Educate drone users on how to minimize disturbance to wildlife.		X		X		X
27	Consider participating in a species spotlight podcast series to highlight some of the most important indicators of healthy rocky				X		

	habitats. Potential partners could include the Oregon Coast Visitor Association and Shifting tides.						
28	Partner with Cannon Beach Academy, Fire Mountain School, Jane Goodall Environmental Middle School to involve local kids in monitoring.			X	X		
29	Site volunteers monitor visitor use by collecting data like the number of visitors and dogs to the Marine Conservation Area at low-tide.					X	X
30	Identify gaps in existing outreach materials to support the development of new materials.				X		X
31	Coordinate social media blasts about rocky habitats and tidepool etiquette. Including Oregon Coast Visitors Association, ODFW, OPRD, DLCD, North Coast Land Conservancy, and HRAP.				X		X
32	Table at large community events or festivals to spread awareness.				X		X
33	Develop a hospitality packet or a social media campaign that includes information about designated sites nearby and guidance for responsible tidepooling and safe recreation. Work with travel organizations to provide etiquette information & the impact of tourism on these sensitive ecosystems.				X		X
34	Promote monthly beach cleanups. Partners could include SOLVE and Surfrider.		X	X			
35	Table at the Ecola Point Day-use area parking lot to teach the public about marine resources, environmental issues, rocky habitats, and to spread awareness about best wildlife viewing practices.				X		X
36	Discourage trail improvements to hiking trails to Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area from the Crescent Beach Trail.		X	X			X
37	Support volunteers' comprehension of state and federal regulations that apply on the beach and within the Marine Conservation Area by providing volunteers with Appendix D and Appendix E of the Plan.						X
38	Direct all recreational anglers to the current issue of the ODFW Sport Fishing Regulations booklet.						X
39	Increase the number of available enforcement officers who could respond to emergencies or violations on the beach. Support discussions between Clatsop County Sheriff, Cannon Beach Police, OSP, USFWS, and OPRD so Patrol officers can respond at Ecola Point, if necessary.						X
40	Train volunteers to recognize when action is needed and how to respond appropriately in cases of violations or emergencies. Share Appendix F with volunteers for reference.						X
41	Provide an overview of state and federal regulations at annual tidepool ambassador training for volunteers and seasonal staff. Reach out to State Agency staff at OPRD, ODFW, USFWS, or DLCD to find staff to provide this training.						X
42*	Research a dedicated funding stream to support implementation of site goals.	X	X	X	X	X	X
43*	Participate in media campaigns that promote etiquette like leave-no-trace. For example, work with Oregon Coast Visitor Association to support their 2025 'Coast Like a Local Campaign'.		X	X	X		

44	Host an annual meeting of OSP, CB Police, CB Lifeguards/Fire, ODFW/USFWS to discuss issues and propose solutions for the three rocky habitats in Cannon Beach.						X
45	Include a beach-safety briefing for participants at any event that takes place on the beach. Include some general beach-safety information in public workshops. Could be an opportunity to collaborate with first responders to speak at public workshops.				X		X
46*	Develop interpretive signage about rocky habitats that could go at the Crescent Beach trail head in Ecola State Park, Indian Beach Access Point, and the 7th St beach access point to Chapman Point.			X	X		X
47*	Work with local police department and OSP to enforce firework regulations during holidays like Independence Day and New Years Eve. Support these efforts by sharing information about wildlife disturbance and safety at firework vendors.		X	X		X	X
48*	Notify the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or the Natural Resources Department Director from any other interested Tribes before any resource monitoring or extractive activity occurs within the Marine Conservation Area.	X	X			X	X
49	Coordinate messaging about Ecola Point Marine Conservation Area and the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge with USFWS.				X		
50	Coordinate messaging about visitation to Ecola Point with other organizations that steward rocky habitats on the North Coast like NCLC and HRAP. Visitation to Ecola Point should be discouraged and visitors encouraged to go to Haystack Rock or Chapman Point.				X		X
51	Notify USFWS, DSL, OSP, ODFW, OPRD, or DLCD if regulations are not clear, inconsistent, or inaccessible online or printed on signage.						X
52	Document instances of wildlife or habitat disturbance, as appropriate. Share documented instances of wildlife disturbance with the OPRD Nehalem Bay Management Unit, USFWS Refuge Manager, or Oregon State Police Wildlife Division.					X	X
53	Communicate with enforcement agencies like OPRD, OSP, USFWS, or the Cannon Beach Police so that enforcement officers can respond if needed.						X
54*	Reduce visitor impact to the environment by controlling access to sensitive areas during shorebird nesting season, for example.		X	X			X
55*	Provide a regular opportunity for the community groups, Tribal Nations, and researchers to communicate with State Management Agencies on real and perceived ecological and human impacts to the site, including the summarized data gathered by ongoing community science monitoring projects and any trends observed.	X	X			X	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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