

OREGON

MARINE RESERVES PARTNERSHIP

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2015–2019



Cape Falcon



Cascade Head



Otter Rock



Cape Perpetua



Redfish Rocks



Oregon Marine Reserves
Partnership

This strategic framework was amended August 6, 2015

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BACKGROUND

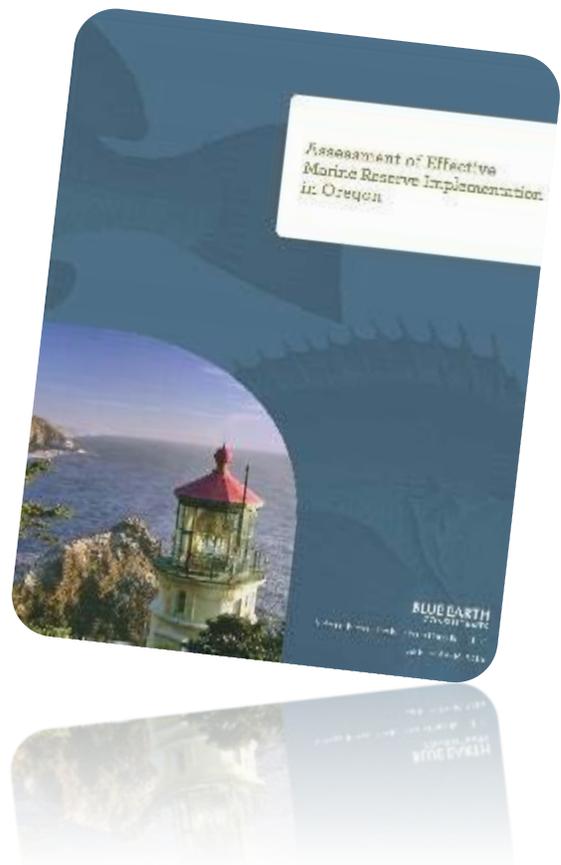
In 2012, Oregon designated a total of five marine reserve sites (Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, Redfish Rocks) and nine associated marine protected areas (all have one or more protected areas associated with them except for Otter Rock). The marine reserves and protected areas were established as part of an overall strategy to manage Oregon’s marine waters and submerged lands using an ecosystem-based approach. The Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) stated in 2008 that the purpose of these areas is to provide additional tools to help protect, sustain, and restore the nearshore marine ecosystem, its habitats, and species for the values they provide to present and future generations

In early 2012, two of the five marine reserve sites—Redfish Rocks and Otter Rocks—completed baseline monitoring and began implementing harvest restrictions, however, a complete understanding of status and needs of key elements for effective marine reserve implementation was lacking.

In 2013, Blue Earth Consultants, LLC, a consulting company, was funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to conduct an “Assessment of Effective Marine Reserve Implementation in Oregon.” The report, released in September of 2013, described the status and needs of five key elements for effective marine reserve implementation in Oregon, including:

- Legal framework
 - Eliminate legal loopholes
 - Make available information from monitoring data to inform decision making
 - Integrate marine reserves into Oregon’s Territorial Sea Plan framework.

- Strong management plan
 - A system-wide vision for what success and effectiveness looks like, including monitoring and evaluation needed to define progress and changes
 - Funding and human resources to implement the plan at the state and site scale in partnership with communities, NGOs, etc.
 - Implementation plan for each site that defines roles and responsibilities



- Operational capacity
 - Surveillance and enforcement—improve surveillance technological capacity, produce a realistic assessment of enforcement needs for the entire system, and obtain support from citizen watch groups
 - Monitoring and evaluation—system-wide precise monitoring measures/indicators, additional human resources for monitoring and evaluation, improved collaboration for monitoring and science
 - Outreach and education—improve collaboration and coordination and consistent messaging of regulations
 - Develop materials that translate science to resource users and the public
 - Support the creation of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust

- Social capital—stakeholder trust, support, and engagement
 - Build trust to build a constituency that supports marine reserves
 - Build capacity to address deficiencies in outreach
 - Develop opportunities for engagement and ownership

- Long-term financial stability
 - Conduct a costing study to determine long-term implementation costs
 - Develop a financial plan for the reserves

In addition, the report recommended linking marine reserves to other ocean and coastal policies and programs, such as fisheries management, climate change adaptation, coastal and marine spatial planning and water quality assessment and remediation.

The Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership is a coalition of organizations that formed in July of 2014 to leverage common resources and interests to address key needs and gaps associated with implementing Oregon’s marine reserves and protected areas.



Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership Strategic Framework 2015–2019

Working together to support Oregon’s marine reserves and protected areas through scientific research, community engagement, and communications

Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Vision

Our vision is a durable and ecologically sustainable system of marine reserves and protected areas for the Oregon coast.

Mission

The Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership (OMRP) is a consortium of organizations dedicated to implementing and maintaining Oregon’s marine reserves and protected area system for all Oregonians by supporting scientific research, community engagement, and effective communications among all stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

- We share information about Oregon’s marine reserve and protected area system.
- We promote coordination and cooperation to leverage the strengths, interests and values of Oregonians.
- We seek to foster a collaborative, respectful environment within which to advance the goals and long-term sustainability of marine reserves and protected areas.
- We recognize marine reserves and protected areas as additional tools for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem-based management, and the resilience of coastal communities.
- We advocate and support the use of science and cooperative research as the basis to inform policy and management decisions associated with the implementation of marine reserves and protected areas.
- We engage community members and all Oregonians in the implementation, evaluation and sustainability of marine reserves and protected areas.
- We advocate for needed financial and human resources to implement marine reserves and protected areas.

ENGAGING OREGONIANS IN MARINE RESERVES

Goal I. Raise awareness, support, and appreciation of Oregon’s system of marine reserves and protected areas through engaging, informative, and effective outreach and education initiatives.

a. Implement the OMRP Communications Plan.

1. Foster public involvement in ocean stewardship.
2. Create an understanding of the role of Oregon’s marine reserves and protected areas, including their short- and long-term costs and economic, societal, and ecological benefits.
3. Develop a shared awareness and support for studying, managing and integrating marine reserves and protected areas as part of a comprehensive healthy ocean management strategy.
4. Generate support for increased funding and leverage existing resources to adequately implement ecological research and human dimensions studies associated with marine reserves and protected areas.
5. Generate excitement for monitoring and management of Oregon’s marine reserves and protected areas.



MARINE RESERVE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING

Goal II. Participate in all aspects of planning and implementation for each of the marine reserves and protected areas.

1. Seek assistance in formulating key research and monitoring needs relative to Oregon's marine reserves and protected areas from the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council and, as needed, other scientists with expertise in researching and monitoring the ecological, economic, and cultural aspects of marine protected areas.
2. Support the establishment and creation of an Oregon Ocean Science Trust, and/or, seek other mechanisms to secure long-term sustainable funding to support Oregon's marine reserves and protected areas.
3. Attend and host coastal meetings and events related to the marine reserves and protected areas.
4. Host a marine reserves summit and other workshops to provide updates and progress on the implementation of marine reserves and protected areas and address key gaps and lessons learned.
5. Create an OMRP Community Advisory Committee to support the development and compilation of community engagement strategies to strengthen implementation of marine reserves, including participating in the development of an implementation plan for each marine reserve and protected area that defines roles and responsibilities for entities involved.
6. Advocate for long-term sustainable funding sources for marine reserve and protected area implementation.



MARINE RESERVES RESEARCH

Goal III. Build capacity for focused research that addresses key science and data needs to inform the implementation and management of marine reserves and protected areas.

1. Promote ecological and human dimensions research that advances our understanding of the ecological functioning of Oregon’s marine reserves, the association and connectivity of the reserves to nearshore ocean habitats, and the relationship of these special places to all Oregonians and their coastal ecosystems.
2. Promote opportunities for universities and institutions to conduct research in marine reserves and MPAs as foci for studies.
3. Solicit funding for ecological and human dimensions research projects to advance understanding of Oregon’s marine reserves and protected areas.
4. Help stakeholders identify important research and monitoring questions.
5. Support efforts that inform outcomes by sharing existing datasets and studies, seeking resources to add capacity for seasonal staff hires, and sharing with the data and information with Oregonians.
6. Promote research on the ecological function of marine reserves, including research that addresses habitat connectivity and the Land-Sea connection.



OMRP OPERATIONS

Goal IV. Manage the operations of the Oregon Marine Reserves Partnership to support implementation of the strategic framework and to create a system of business practices that support fiscal accountability.

1. Hire and provide oversight to contractors that achieve tasks in support of OMRP activities.
2. Maintain a strong working relationship with the OMRP fiscal sponsor, The Ocean Foundation.
3. Process invoices and other fiscal documents on time.
4. Manage the OMRP budget and provide monthly fiscal reports to steering committee members. Reconcile The Ocean Foundation accounting reports with the OMRP budget monthly.
5. Provide coordination support to marine reserve activities and programs, including writing press releases, working with graphic designers and printers on material production, soliciting bids, and awarding and administering contracts.
6. Conduct research to identify potential new sources of funding, develop relationships with new potential funders, and submit funding proposals to support OMRP activities.
7. Assist community teams and “Friends of” marine reserve groups with the establishment of fiscal sponsors.
8. Produce and distribute an annual report that documents the annual accomplishments of the partnership.
9. Produce and distribute monthly OMRP coordinator reports documenting activities and outcomes.
10. Create and forge new partnerships with other organizations and groups to expand the capacity of the OMRP and leverage messaging and activities associated with Oregon’s marine reserves.