

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor



Date: September 29, 2006
To: Scott McMullen, Chair, Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC)
From: Jessica Hamilton, Governor's Natural Resources Office
Re: National Marine Sanctuary Report

As you recall, Governor Kulongoski asked OPAC to offer advice regarding how an Oregon Coast National Marine Sanctuary could be shaped in order to benefit Oregon.

One of the benefits the Governor perceived that a national marine sanctuary would provide is increasing the state's policy influence over ocean activities in federal waters. He also believes that a coordinated plan within a national marine sanctuary could improve management across the large marine ecosystem off Oregon. The Governor has stressed that even if such a plan is in place, commercial and recreational fishing should still be managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and in state waters, by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

We appreciate the fact that OPAC has already gathered substantial information on the problems and opportunities associated with a national marine sanctuary, such as ones associated with the topics listed above. Recognizing that it would be difficult for OPAC to conduct an effective program of public engagement, analyze the public input and other information developed about marine sanctuaries, and provide a full report on the numerous components of a sanctuary by the December 31, 2006 deadline, as the Governor requested, the Governor asks you instead to submit an status report by that date. This report would be in lieu of the program of public engagement (at this time) and would be based on the information you have developed through your own work to date.

The status report should focus on the following two questions:

- 1) What have you learned about fisheries management in national marine sanctuaries? Based upon what you have learned, what are the challenges Oregon would face keeping fisheries management separate from sanctuary management?
- 2) What governance structures exist between federal and state governments within the national marine sanctuaries across the country? What is the feasibility of assuring that the state and local governments will have a strong voice in sanctuary management on an ongoing basis?

Upon reviewing OPAC's report on the problems and opportunities associated with governance and fisheries management, the Governor will then be able to suggest next steps for OPAC's analysis of the full national marine sanctuary proposal.

Thank you for your efforts to date on this important yet complex issue. We look forward to our continued work together to improve stewardship of Oregon's coast.