

Marine reserve update (05/05/08)

The Governor is still set on creating something that could limit sport and commercial fishing in Oregon's territorial waters.

On March 27, '08 the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee's Marine Working Group (a sub-committee formed to deal with the implementation of marine reserves) met to hear the results of the coastal outreach . This series of meetings in port towns all along the coast cost \$80,000 of our tax dollars. The summary was that the vast majority of residents either wanted no marine reserves, or wanted them done according to science. The presentation was made by Ginny Goblisch and former ODFW Commissioner Jeff Feldner. Then Roy Elikor (ODFW's director) read an executive order by Governor Kulongoski. This order essentially said that OPAC was to see that up to 9 marine reserve sites would be nominated by Jan. '09- totally ignoring the feedback that was just given. In addition the Governor's staff was withdrawing from running the process and Director Elikor was to be the personal representative of the Governor.

Oregon Anglers' Executive Board met with Director Elikor, Assistant Fisheries Director Steve Williams, and other staff Monday April 28 and proposed a plan that we feel will work to the benefit of all. The basics of the plan are:

- 1) Nominate up to 4 or 5 "marine research areas" this year through the OPAC process.**
- 2) Research objectives must be set for each site. Species subject to research should fall under state, federal or international management plans.**
- 3) Both biological and geographical screening to see if site fits the objectives before any set asides or exclusions are enacted.**
- 4) ODFW will retain administrative authority.**
- 5) If research cannot continue, or site is not meeting expected objectives, the site will become part of the publically available territorial sea.**
- 6) No license or tag fees can be used to establish or maintain research areas.**
- 7) Local jurisdictions must be part of the siting process.**