OREGON MARINE RESERVES
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

HUMAN DIMENSIONS: UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECTING DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

WHAT DO FISHERMEN THINK ABOUT MARINE RESERVES?

FISHERMEN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MARINE RESERVES

Human dimensions research starts conversations with fishermen. It gives them a chance to share perspectives on their businesses, fishing practices, and future expectations.

Many fishermen are concerned with the implementation of marine reserves in Oregon. In interviews and survey research, they have asked: What are the real motivations underlying the marine reserves? What future conservation plans will affect their livelihood? This uncertainty makes it difficult for fishermen to make decisions about their businesses and plan for the future.

FISHERMEN'S CONCERNS

In interviews, most fishermen said they were unclear about the science behind the marine reserves.

In one study, only 10% of fishermen thought marine reserves were productive management tools; and 40% thought marine reserves were implemented for political reasons.

QUESTIONS FOR FISHERMEN

Are marine reserves productive for resource management?

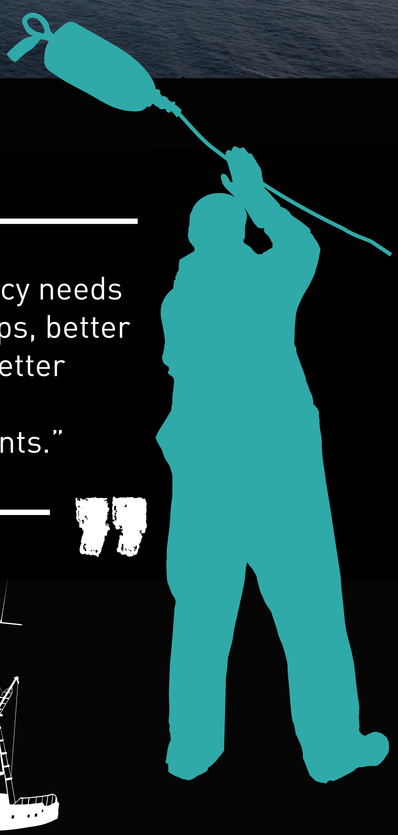
10% YES

Are marine reserves being implemented for political reasons?

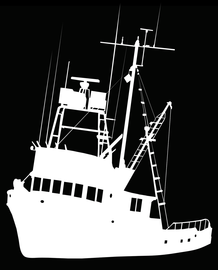
40% YES

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

LISTENING TO FISHERMEN



"The agency needs better maps, better science, better stock assessments."



"Fishermen are conservationists too. We don't want to catch the last fish either."

*All quotes are from interviews with fishermen for human dimensions research.

FINDING A WAY FORWARD

Despite periods of distrust, emerging data suggests that there is increased willingness among fishermen to collaborate with scientists. Many fishermen believe that their knowledge and expertise can improve marine science. We recommend that future marine scientific research draw on this vast expertise.