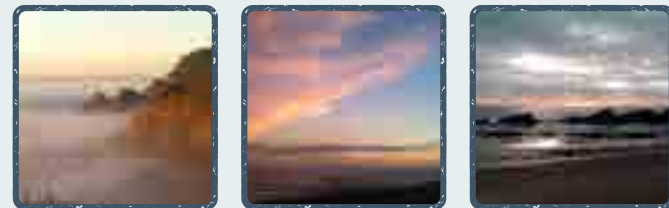


OREGON MARINE RESERVES



MORE INFORMATION

www.oregonmarinereserves.com or contact the ODFW Newport office at (541) 867-4741.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Report Violations to
Oregon State Police: (800) 452-7888



Photos Courtesy of: Gus Gates, Oregon Coast Aquarium,
Scott Groth

AN OCEAN OF AWARENESS AWAITS



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
MARINE RESERVES AND PROTECTED AREAS

THERE'S MORE BENEATH THE SURFACE

The spirit of exploration is alive in Oregon. Only now it's underwater. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) oversees five marine reserves off our coast where scientists are studying and learning how to best maintain our state waters for future generations. There's plenty more to discover about our ocean ecosystems, so let's dive in.

MARINE RESERVES

The marine reserves are areas of Oregon's coastal waters dedicated to conservation and scientific research. All removal of sea life is prohibited here, as is ocean development.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are adjacent to the marine reserves. These areas still prohibit ocean development, but allow for some limited fishing activities.



Follow our progress at www.oregonmarinereserves.com



WHERE ARE THEY?

All within 3 nautical miles from shore - Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks - are each named for local natural landmarks.



VISITING THE RESERVES

Marine reserves and protected areas are open to many recreational activities including SCUBA diving, wildlife viewing, surfing, kayaking, and tidepooling. You may collect small non-living souvenirs, but please leave behind the wildlife and plants for others to enjoy.



OUR LIVING LABORATORIES

For a state famous for exploration, we've only skimmed the surface of our coastal waters. Scientists are studying the reserves to learn more about the ocean environment and how people and coastal communities depend on its bounty. From these living laboratories Oregonians are learning how we can best maintain our seas for future generations.





Photo by Scott Groth



Photo by Gus Gates



Photo by Lois Miller



Photo by Ron LeValley



Photo by South Coast Tours



CAPE FALCON

Located just north of Manzanita, the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve is Oregon's northernmost site. Cape Falcon is the second largest of Oregon's marine reserves, encompassing 12.4 square miles of ocean. The two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) cover an additional 7.6 square miles.

Adjacent to the popular Oswald West State Park, several trails provide dramatic views of the marine reserve and the Cape's wildlife. Many visitors enjoy surfing, beach combing and wildlife viewing at Short Sand beach. Over 20 seabird colonies with thousands of nesting birds can be found in this area including common murrelets, black oystercatchers, marbled murrelets and bald eagles. The underwater rocky reef, sand and gravel habitats in the marine reserve are home to crab, black rockfish, lingcod, kelp greenling, and buffalo sculpin.

CASCADE HEAD

The Cascade Head Marine Reserve covers 9.6 square miles of ocean and the three MPAs include another 23.1 square miles. Much of the land around Cascade Head and the Salmon River is protected. There are many opportunities for wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreational activities in this area. You can see a breathtaking view of the marine reserve site from the Upper Viewpoint or The Nature Conservancy's hiking trails at Cascade Head.

The marine reserve and MPAs contain a variety of habitats important for marine life. There are 27 seabird nesting sites situated among more than 70 offshore rocks. This site includes a portion of the Siletz Reef, an extensive underwater rocky reef, providing good habitat for a wide variety of groundfish species.

OTTER ROCK

Located just north of Newport, the Otter Rock Marine Reserve can be accessed through Devil's Punchbowl State Park. This is the smallest marine reserve, covering 1.2 square miles of ocean. Visitors can explore tidepools, view seals and sea lions hauled out onto the rocks, or stroll along the beautiful sandy beach at Beverly Beach State Park.

The marine reserve encompasses an array of habitats including rocky reef, kelp beds, sand dollar beds, and several prominent offshore islands. This area is home to nine seabird nesting sites, providing great bird watching from both Devil's Punchbowl and Beverly Beach State Parks.

CAPE PERPETUA

Cape Perpetua hosts Oregon's largest marine reserve, covering 14.1 square miles of ocean. The three MPAs encompass an additional 41 square miles. The land adjacent to the reserve consists of protected old growth coastal rainforest. This is a great place for bird watching and includes the largest mainland breeding colony of Brandt's cormorants at Heceta Head. The area also has Oregon's highest concentration of marbled murrelets, a threatened seabird. The Cape Perpetua Visitor Center offers wonderful views, ranger led shore tours, and a wheelchair accessible deck.

The Cape Perpetua site is home to some of the most biologically diverse tidepools and rocky intertidal areas in the Pacific Northwest. Offshore in the reserve is a unique deep, isolated rocky reef that hosts a wide diversity of rockfish species including copper, vermilion, yelloweye, and quillback rockfish.

REDFISH ROCKS

Located south of Port Orford, the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve covers 2.6 square miles of ocean. The MPA encompasses another 5.1 square miles. Five dramatic rock formations rise above the surface of the ocean, with great wildlife viewing opportunities of nesting seabirds and seals and sea lions who call the rocks home. The best views of the reserve are from Battle Rock Wayside or Port Orford Heads State Park.

The Redfish Rocks site protects a wide variety of ocean habitats important for marine life including a rocky reef and an extensive kelp forest. The site is home to a variety of rockfish species including black, blue, copper and China rockfish. Other common sea life to find here include lingcod, wolf-eel, kelp greenling, as well as many invertebrates such nudibranchs, sea urchins and crabs.

