



Governor Ted Kulongoski

Offices



Press Release

December 15, 2005

Gov. asks Congressional Del. for support for designation of Oregon Coast as Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

(Salem, OR) Governor Ted Kulongoski today sent a letter to members of the Oregon Congressional delegation inviting them to support his efforts to have the Oregon Coast named a National Marine Sanctuary. The designation of National Marine Sanctuary status would secure long-term stewardship of the coast by providing a unique federal-state partnership to enable a broad plan of action regarding the marine environment and uses such as fisheries, research, energy development, water quality, and recreation.

"Oregonians desire vibrant coastal communities, healthy and resilient marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, clean and safe shorelines, and enjoyable and inspirational recreational opportunities," said Governor Kulongoski. "I believe that the unique state-federal partnership of a National Marine Sanctuary gives Oregon an opportunity to reinforce these longstanding values and commitment."

Governor Kulongoski cited several benefits for his desire to see the coast named a National Marine Sanctuary. First, designation as a National Marine Sanctuary would enable the state and federal agencies to work collaboratively with tribes, ocean users and the public to plan and manage all uses and resources. Second, it would attract federal dollars for marine research and monitoring of the ocean area, which Oregon cannot afford to do on its own. Third, it would end the threat of offshore oil and gas drilling once and for all. Fourth, it would boost tourism by drawing national and international attention. National Marine Sanctuaries are magnets for nature travelers, outdoor adventurers, photographers and marine recreationists.

At present, Oregon has jurisdiction within three nautical miles of shore. A National Marine Sanctuary would enable Oregon to work with federal agencies from the ocean shore to the toe of the continent margin. Oregon's waters are part of a global ocean that has increasingly severe problems, which means that Oregon must step up its efforts to protect the marine legacy from overuse, pollution, habitat loss, and effects of climate change.

The sanctuary process required by law is a public procedure that will result in an environmental assessment and a draft sanctuary management plan. These plans will be developed with the assistance of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and state agencies, and with significant public input. The Secretary of Commerce makes a formal determination and sends his recommendation to the Congress for its approval.

"This is a historic step for Oregon. I appreciate the amount of effort that this designation will require of all of us, but I believe that the legacy that we will leave to future generations will be well worth it," said Governor Kulongoski.

[PDF of Letter](#)