

SEARCH The Oregonian Enter Keyword(s) GO FIND A BUSINESS Enter Keyword GO

- Home
- News+Biz
- Local
- Sports
- Forums
- Living
- Entertainment
- Travel

Search

Back To Your Search Results | Search Again

The Oregonian

Click here to subscribe!

» More From The Oregonian

The coast is Oregon's sanctuary

The state should pursue Gov. Ted Kulongoski's call for new protections for Oregon's ocean resources

Monday, December 19, 2005

When it comes to protecting its precious coastline, Oregon has built the equivalent of a driftwood shelter. It's cozy and safe from the everyday wind and blowing sand. But it's also full of holes and likely to collapse under the next big wave, whether it's a development boom or a push for offshore oil and gas drilling.

Given this rickety structure of coastal protections, Oregonians should welcome Gov. Ted Kulongoski's call for a National Marine Sanctuary designation for much, perhaps all, of the Oregon coast. At the very least the governor's push will draw much-needed attention to the state's fragile coastline.

Oregonians take great pride in their public beaches, but take the rest of their coastal resources for granted. A state that gets into rip-roaring arguments over logging burned trees, or adding a small wilderness area here or there, all but ignores the huge environmental issues on its coastline.

Advertisement

CONTINUE STORY

MORE SEARCHES

Classifieds

- » [Jobs](#)
- » [Autos](#)
- » [Real Estate](#)
- » [All Classifieds](#)

Death Notices & Obituaries

- » [Death Notices](#)
- » [Guest Books](#)
- » [News Obituaries](#)

Local Businesses

- » [Find A Business](#)

Entertainment

- » [Movies](#)
- » [Music](#)
- » [Arts & Events](#)
- » [Dining & Bars](#)

SEND THIS PAGE

PRINT THIS PAGE

Marketplace

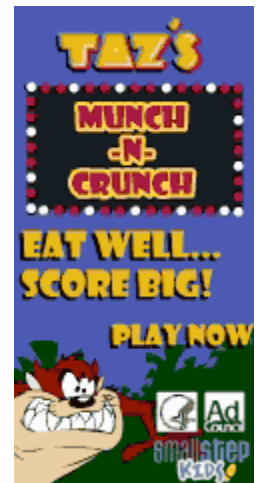
[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#)
[Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

» [All Classifieds](#)

Shop Oregon


» [Your Complete Shopping Section Online](#)

- » [Win tickets to see Pilots BBall](#)
- » [Bling in the New Year- Enter Here!](#)
- » [Find Deals from our Advertisers!](#)



**LOOK WHO'S
NEW IN
PORTLAND**

**26 acres of Cars,
Trucks, SUVs.
Every make and model!**

Dick Hannah 

DICKHANNAHFORD.COM

The Fantasticks
The longest-running musical
in American theater history
January 10th — February 5th

FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

- >> [Standard TV and Appliance-12 HOUR SALE!](#)
- >> [Find your dream home](#)
- >> [Super deals on new wheels!](#)

» **Advertise With Us**

OUR AFFILIATES



The ocean off Oregon, like oceans everywhere, demands attention. Some fish stocks have plunged. Global climate change is messing with traditional currents and food patterns, and increasing sea levels. This summer hundreds of seabirds rolled up on Oregon beaches, dead from starvation.

The coast also is struggling to accommodate new development. Sewage runoff and other pollution are flowing across many beaches. It's only a matter of time before the pressure for more oil and gas prompts another look at drilling off the Oregon Coast.

As it stands, Oregon has minimal control over ocean issues, and almost no money to spend protecting its coastline. Its jurisdiction extends just three miles from the beach. If somebody brought a proposal to Congress to allow drilling off our coast, the state would have little power to stop it.

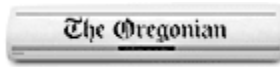
A marine sanctuary designation would allow Oregon to have greater control over its ocean resources across the continental shelf, to about 25 miles offshore. It would enable Oregon to work closely with federal agencies and others to manage ocean resources. It would attract federal money for much-needed marine research and monitoring.

That sounds promising, but it raises many questions. One of the most significant is how or whether the sanctuary designation would affect Oregon's commercial fishing industry. Kulongoski said that commercial and recreational fishing would continue within the sanctuary and remain under the purview of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

It's not clear whether Oregon will press for a coast-wide sanctuary -- which exists nowhere else in the country -- or seek the extended protections just for several of its most outstanding coastal areas. The governor has asked the state's Ocean Policy Advisory Council to help develop a specific request to be forwarded to the secretary of commerce, who will make a recommendation to Congress.

Any marine sanctuary designation surely is years away. But Oregonians should enlist now in the campaign that Kulongoski has launched. Oregon's coastline should be a sanctuary from oil and gas drilling. Its fish, wildlife and other resources must be better studied and understood. Our coast, in all its splendor, deserves the very strongest protection.

[The Best Local Classifieds: Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)



Special home delivery offer for non-subscribers! Try us out for two weeks -- on us! [Click Here!](#)

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).
©2005 [OregonLive.com](#). All Rights Reserved.

