

The 2022-23 Assessment of Oregon's Marine Reserves Program

Ten years ago saw the final designation of [Oregon's five nearshore marine reserves sites](#). This year the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) released a [Synthesis Report](#), providing a comprehensive overview of the Marine Reserves Program and the first 10 years of implementation. The White Lab and several colleagues at OSU and other universities have been tasked with reviewing this assessment and providing policy recommendations based on the [Synthesis Report](#). That is, we are reviewing the outcomes of Oregon's Marine Reserves Program.

Marine reserves are areas of our oceans where the removal of marine life, and ocean development, is prohibited. They are often dedicated to conservation and scientific research. Oregon has five marine reserve sites - Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, Otter Rocks, Cape Perpetua, and Redfish Rocks. These were implemented to conserve marine habitats and biodiversity; provide a framework for scientific research and monitoring; and avoid significant adverse social and economic impacts on Oregon's coastal communities. Collectively, they cover 9% of our state waters. One-third of these areas are designated marine reserves, and two-thirds are marine protected areas (where limited development and fishing activities are allowed). Significant outreach and public engagement were integral to the planning and implementation of Oregon's marine reserve sites.

Our assessment of Oregon's Marine Reserves Program will review how the Reserves Program was implemented, how the reserves have been monitored, the ecological and socioeconomic results and takeaways from the reserves thus far, and the challenges and lessons learned during the first 10 years of implementation. This work supports the transparency of the Marine Reserves Program, and ensures that the future of the reserves is founded on strong ecological and socioeconomic science.

For more info:

- Oregon's Marine Reserves site: <https://oregonmarinereserves.com/>
- ODFW's Synthesis Report 2022: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hn8GJnlsJRGSwpS1vMIZ0G87b45r3f-/view>

Photos:



Intertidal surveys

<https://oregonmarinereserves.com/media/photos/>



Cascade Head

<https://oregonmarinereserves.com/media/photos/>



Outreach

<https://oregonmarinereserves.com/media/photos/>