

**Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Marine Reserves Recommendation Committee
December 9, 2010**

**Charleston - OIMB
Town Hall Public Comments**

Public Commenters: Edgar Bowen, Coos Bay; George Barton, Coos Bay; Susan Allen, Our Ocean – Portland; Robin Hartmann – Roseburg; Tom Forгатsh, Bandon; Butch Shields, Coos Bay; Dan Varoujean, North Bend; Doug Jones, Charleston; Reed Lockhart, Coos Bay; Melvin Leshner, North Bend; Dennis Phillips, Coos Bay; Terry Jensen, Coos Bay; Louise Whitehead, Coos Bay; Darrell Pruden, Coos Bay; Dana Gaab, North Bend; Kara Lincoln, Charleston; Steve Munson, Bend; Nicole Jackson, Coos Bay; Roger Pryce, Coos Bay; Daina Swanson, Bandon; Craig Young, Coos Bay; John Ward, North Bend

Mr. Pex asked people to limit their comments to the area that the Committee has under consideration, which is between the south jetty at Coos Bay and the north jetty of the Coquille River out to the 3-mile Territorial Sea boundary. He said there is a timer with signs who will signal the speaker when they have one minute left. He said the Committee was attempting to build a record and that speakers would be videotaped. He said the Committee would review the records of all comments made before moving forward with the next step.

Tom Forгатsh – Bandon

He said one of his degrees is in geology/marine biology and that he has been scuba diving in the area since 1958. He said there is no need for more passive set-aside studies like these and that people need the useful application of science. People need fish and fish need habitat. People need to build habitat in low habitat areas, which includes reefs out of ship hulls, concrete or terrapods. He said the material needed to be safe and in a water depth greater than 80 feet. He said there is no need to cut people's access to the ocean, that people and the fish don't need more administrative rules. He commented it was all about habitat and the need for fish nurseries, fish for food, fish for jobs and not aquaculture, but natural culture. He said natural culture is habitat that has been studied worldwide for decades with positive and clear results. There is no need to re-invent the wheel. He said recreational fishing generates income, using salmon as the example. For a recreational fisherman to catch a salmon, the cost runs about \$400 a pound when figuring everything including boats. He said habitat generates fish and natural fish conservation and natural fish is money. He said it's all about money, jobs, food and fun – and the need for habitat. He said State government, which is using Lottery money, is in the buy-and-deny stage and that State Parks and other outside groups are buying coastal property and then eliminating access. He said State Parks doesn't have funds to improve or provide access. He said the state doesn't need more codes or restrictions that deny people the ability to enjoy coastal areas. He commented that Coos County is a very depressed economic area and denying use or access is not going to make it any better. He said a well-built reef could be part of the solution. He showed some photos of terrapods used around the world not only for habitat but also used for tsunami barriers. He said they are considered the best reef material and can accomplish three things at once, as structure for habitat, reducing tsunami damage and providing jobs for local Oregon residents. He said some of the terrapods that are used in Crescent City, Calif., were built in Reedsport so they already have the forms. He said he proposed that the south area, where there is low habitat, could be used as a project area to build a reef as an economic project. He said the economy is

one of the things that the Governor has said he wanted considered and this could provide economic benefits while making habitat for more fish.

Mr. Pex reminded those giving comment to state their name and spell their last name for the record.

Butch Shields – Coos Bay

Mr. Shields said he was raised in Charleston and wanted to go on record against Marine Reserves. He said he looked at it from a business standpoint and was told today by his accountant that he was paying \$20,000 more this year because of regulations for the same amount of money he made in his business last year. He said if a Marine Reserve is put in place here, just from a financial standpoint it would put businesses such as Betty Kay Charters and a lot of the fishermen out of business. It also would cut many people's incomes. He said he spends a lot of money on boats and other items so he can catch fish. He said if he had a \$3 billion deficit there is no way he would think about cutting some of his income. He felt it was ludicrous and that these people need to be more businesslike. He said he understands that the fish need to be saved, but he feels ODF&W is doing a fine job, that people are not even waiting to see whether the reserves that they have implemented meet expectations. He said many of the fishermen at the meeting already know the things that have been implemented are working and that there are more ling cod and other species. He said regulations already cut off 50 to 60 percent of the ocean by May, when fishing is limited to 40 fathoms and then 20 fathoms, leaving only 20 percent of the traditional area with limits on those fish. He said it was a very poor business decision. If businesses can't pay taxes, his business will be forced to pay more taxes to make up the difference.

Dan Varoujean – North Bend

Mr. Varoujean said he had heard a couple of people say Marine Reserves could be the solution, but his question is: "What is the problem?" He said there isn't a problem and the Committee admitted that in its beginning meetings. He said he was very interested in hearing about the proposed reserve inside the reef, and just walking around tonight he had met five guys who said they fished inside the reef, as does he. He asked people to go to Englund Marine or call the business to list their names and addresses if they fish inside the reef, because the Committee needs to know how many people are doing that. He commented that it should be the Committee's responsibility to compile those numbers. He said it is ridiculous to start drawing lines in the ocean without knowing who is using what. He said the *Macrocystis*, which makes up the Great Kelp Forest, is at its northern limit in terms of normal distribution, and current uses aren't going to destroy it. He said if people really want to go back to a pristine ecosystem, they would need to clone extinct Steller's sea cows and let them show up. Then there wouldn't *Macrocystis* out there anymore. He said he talked to several people in the room who have ideas about doing research and with a reserve they believe they can garner the money. He said if they have testable hypotheses, they should go through the normal process to get research money. If they can't get it now, maybe it's not worth funding. He said people believe they are spending \$30 million a year on salmon research right now, except that's not the case, because the money is going into watersheds. He said \$300 million in the last 10 years has been spent and they cannot statistically show that they have brought back one adult salmon.

The last point he wants to mention is that he has worked on a many oil spills all over the world. He asked if people remembered one that occurred in San Francisco more than a year ago, the COSCO Busan, and how a sheen from the spill had gone into the Marine Reserve. The oil caused no measurable damage to anything. He said, however, that the fine print of the Marine

Reserves rules in California would have let the State confiscate an \$80 million vessel. He said they didn't get it because the company paid a settlement, but he believed it was government-sanctioned extortion. He said that fishermen should read the fine print, that if fishing vessels drip oil and drift into one of these Marine Reserves 10 years from now, they are done.

Doug Jones – Coos Bay

Mr. Jones said he was here to speak to the cultural aspect and that he had grown up at Bastendorff Beach. He said he plays at Cape Arago and he can't even get down there now in the spring because it is closed off for research and sea lions. He said his kids can't go down there. He said he fishes in a boat and fears that will be closed. Marine Reserves supporters say it's for the future generations but future generations are going to be locked out. He wanted to know where Oregon will get the money for research. They don't have it now and the State is in dire financial straits. To even facilitate this process, ODF&W is taking money from fish hatcheries. He said it's just not worth it.

Reed Lockhart – Coos Bay

Mr. Lockhart said he has been in the area for about 14 years and has learned to enjoy surf fishing. He said he had written a letter but wasn't going to read it. He said most of what he had to say has probably been covered, but in the course of writing his letter, he had done some Internet research using U.S. Census information. He said according to the 2008 Census, the Coos County median income was \$37,000 compared to \$50,000 statewide. The poverty rate was 17.8 percent compared to 13.5 statewide. Unemployment in Coos County is at 12.8 percent more than 20 percent higher than the State average. He said in his opinion establishing Marine Reserves in the proposed areas will be highly regressive both economically and socially, and by socially regressive, he meant the same things that Mr. Jones' commented regarding family activities, and all the things that have gone on for years becoming more difficult. He said by far the greatest impact of any closures will be borne by least affluent. He said people who have big boats might not worry about loss of fishing in the reserves. If a person has a 30-foot Boulton boat, with a couple of 200-horsepower motors, he guessed they could go where they wanted, but for people of modest means can't, and they will feel the highest impact. He said working people have very few opportunities remaining to fish in saltwater and local businesses catering to fishermen will be impacted heavily. He felt Marine Reserves are a regressive policy in the making and he does not support any of it.

Melvin Leshner – North Bend

Mr. Leshner said he had been a resident of this area since 1936. He said he agrees with all of the night's comments either in whole or partially. He suggested taking a conservative approach to Marine Reserves and recommended looking back at the timber industry and what has happened on the sand dunes. He said he is a diver and fisherman and just bought a new 26-foot Alumaweld boat. He said the Marine Reserves concept is a good idea but they should be located in an area that isn't as well used as this area. The area proposed is a short distance for boaters and fishermen. He suggested proposing a Reserve around Sea Lion Caves where there is similar habitat, but very few people use the area. He encouraged the Committee to study the economics of the proposals and economic value of the area. He said it would put people out of work. For example, the owner of the new fish market in Coos Bay fishes in this area. He said the permit limits him to where he can fish. Mr. Leshner thanked everyone and said he was very excited by how many people showed up and urged people to stay informed on what is happening in the State of Oregon or people will lose the State.

Dennis Phillips – Coos Bay

Mr. Phillips said if there were other species testifying he wouldn't bother to take part in contributing, but since there are no species being heard other than humans, he would like to offer a different perspective. He said he has been involved in hundreds of meetings for 50 years and has seen a whole lot of what he calls pseudo-solutions where people try to make themselves think they are going to get something accomplished by this process. In reality, the core issue is so much more profound than what is happening here. He said if it isn't addressed, none of this is going to matter. He said the Hopi have a phrase for the problem, "Life out of balance." He said he has a proposal for eliminating all of the Marine Reserves, wilderness areas, environmental impact statements, findings of no significant impact and all of the stuff he has been involved with over the last 50 years. The way to do it is by reducing human fertility until there are 10 million people on the planet. With 10 million people on the planet, the whole ocean will be a Marine Reserve without any declaration. People then could eliminate all of the fishing regulations and fishing licenses, and do whatever they want. There would be small government as well.

Terry Jensen – Coos Bay

Mr. Jensen said he had lived here since 1948 and wanted to address this issue because he is a fisherman who has spent approximately \$125,000 on fishing since 2003. He said if the State imposes Marine Reserves and fouls up his fishing, he'll be seeking a check for about \$100,000 for his boat. He said he has seen many closures and if the State gets this in he suspects people won't be able to fish at all in a year or two. He said he can't even go into the woods to go hunting now because he is trespassing. He said he retired to cut firewood, fish and hunt, but he can't cut firewood because he can't get a permit. He said he felt a lot of people would agree with him on that and that if Marine Reserves go in people will lose the right to fish.

Louise Whitehead – Coos Bay

Ms. Whitehead said people scream and holler about the small area that they won't be able to fish in, and in some cases they still would be able to fish. She said there is a whole flippin' ocean to fish in. She supports having a small area off limits for awhile to see how it recovers and how the fish and wildlife come back in that area. She said she wants to let scientists and people who generally go into the area report on what is happening and allow things to recover. Fisheries all over this country and in other countries are disappearing because no one is doing anything to prevent it. They are reacting when it is late to save them. She said the Marine Reserves concept is astonishing in that people are acting beforehand. She said resources are on the slip-slide because they have been overused and there is overpopulation. But it is also because people overuse and abuse, taking because that is what they have always done. She said it's time to stop doing that. She said it is time that people listen to other things besides themselves. She said, for example, people complain about the snowy plover and that they are horribly deprived when prevented from going into small areas, but they have miles, and miles, and miles of beach that they can access. She said feels it's the same issue with the ocean; people have miles and miles to access.

Darrell Pruden – Coos Bay

Mr. Pruden said he was a marine biologist for 10 years. He said he remembered a few years back there was a man from the Governor's office who came to the North Bend Public Library and asked people about these reserves. He said he asked the man if there was a reason for the reserves. Mr. Pruden said the fisheries here are in pretty good shape. Sport fishermen get one big fishery, which is the black rockfish. He said this is a good set up on the black rockfish and there

is recruitment from Fort Bragg, Calif. It is a shame that there are continued restrictions just from the standpoint of regulating. He said he also is concerned about the Marine Protected Areas. He said that the definition of the MPA is vague and it appears to be one step from another reserve. He said he is worried that with government, people get scared and it just takes a clerk to do the wrong thing and there will be another Marine Reserve. He warned people to be careful and to keep in mind that this shoreline already has a series of reserves under another definition. He said that if there are more closures, there isn't going to be much area left to fish. He agreed that there are problems up to a point.

Dana Gaab – North Bend

Mr. Gaab said he doesn't have any specifics as far as proposals for any areas, but he believes that all people deserve work and deserve work that has value. This is 2010, almost 2011, he said, and there is no reason why it shouldn't be better than it ever was. He said the oceans are not privately owned and so that puts them within the realm of what we would call the commons, the commonwealth. They belong to everyone. They belong to people here today and they belong to some generations that aren't here yet. The U.S. Constitution, the Preamble Article One, talks about providing for the general wellbeing. He said he thought Marine Reserves are a part of the general wellbeing. He said people have the opportunity to make it better than it ever was for everyone – a win-win situation.

Kara Lincoln – Charleston

Ms. Lincoln said she was a newcomer and was living at the docks in a sailboat. She said she has tried to talk to people since she was in Brookings Harbor, trying to understand this whole process and that it has been quite confusing. She wanted to know where the original Marine Reserve questions were, and if there were a Marine Reserve and the Governor wanted this initiative, what he meant by that. She wanted to know what resources he was talking about and the economic perspective. She asked about how much energy is being invested with regard to personnel compared to comments that the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W) is not adequate. She wondered if the agency's regulatory process is not functional. She said she spoke with an Our Ocean representative who said there needs to be more research and scientists aren't doing a good enough job for the ODF&W. She also felt that by this time the Committee would have had more information and detail available. She said she would like to see the Port of Coos Bay take a stand as a strong force for ecological sustainability. She said people need to have common sense because the waterways are polluted. There is fecal matter on the beaches, and there is a sea lion issue on the docks because they are overpopulated. She thanked the new Harbormaster and said there are a lot of people trying but they aren't supported, while others bring in new processes. She said she knows a few divers who are very qualified to work for ODF&W, but tonight's ODF&W representative said it's not possible to assess an area. She said there are very skilled people who can do that. She said feels that the people should analyze what the Governor is proposing, look at expenditures and the inadequacies of the people working right now and determine how to make them work better.

Susan Allen - Portland

Ms. Allen introduced herself as the director of Our Ocean. She said she was born and raised in Southern Oregon in Klamath County and went to school at Oregon State University and taught for awhile at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB). She said she loved fishing here with her daughter and her dad. She said she wanted to talk about the process the State has been going through for the last 10 years to get to this point. She feels it is important to realize that on the North Coast there was a 32-person community team similar to the Coos Bay group that

evaluated a site. Team members came up with final recommendations that led to majority votes. At Cape Perpetua, it was 15-to-1 vote, in Cascade Head it was 12-to-4, and in Cape Falcon it was 9-to-7. She said they went to OPAC and most people, like Mr. Pex, have an incredible wealth of information just like the people she has heard in this room. She said after more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time, the teams came up with these recommendations that OPAC scrutinized and unanimously decided to move forward. She said that after three years of talking to people and learning a lot from fishermen, she's found that everyone wants to know more about how best to manage this resource. She said everyone likes to fish and hunt, and everyone wants access for their children and families, and wants to have jobs. She thinks it's a good idea to talk about a business model that says Oregon is open for business. She said in addition to harvesting sustainably, which is what she sees as the goal of conservationists, she sees in the potential to add to the revenue stream. The fishing fleet could opt in and help collect the research with OIMB, Oregon Sea Grant and the Hatfield Marine Science Center, since the ocean is the largest natural resource that Oregonians share responsibility for managing. She said she wanted to clarify that and wanted to clarify that of the areas that were considered, each of the groups came up with a small area that was a Marine Reserve and then added Marine Protected Areas. She said she was here to tell the group, politically, when there is have a room full of people representing everything from commercial and recreational fishing all the way up to conservationists and local government that all agree as to what those lines look like, there is no politician who would want to change that for quite a period of time.

Steve Munson – Bend

Mr. Munson said he comes from the other sea in Oregon, the sagebrush sea from the eastern two-thirds of the State. He said he has 4,000 acres of sagebrush with cattle and quarter horses and he is raising native bunch grass seed. He said one thing he has observed in the sagebrush sea is that it is too bad that society and the people who lived over there didn't do studies of what was going on with the land 100 years ago. He said it was too bad it wasn't done 70 years ago, because then half of the entire arid grasslands of Oregon wouldn't have been degraded. Mr. Munson said he wasn't from around here and he thought local people were well advised to have policy input. He said he hoped that the group continues to do that. He said the area needs this science, and that if the current proposed Reserves areas aren't appropriate, then people should choose another spot that is less intrusive. He said he believes there is a need for data and wishes he had it over in Eastern Oregon because the sage lands would be in a lot better condition.

Nicole Jackson – Coos Bay

Ms. Jackson said she is speaking because she had the feeling that the Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas might unpopular and she wants to make sure people know that there are members of the community who are in favor of the concept. She said she has listened to a lot of people who are resistant to the idea of regulation and a feeling that regulation has made their lives worse. She said she had noticed in her life that there are regulations that have made her life better. Those who are drinking water are benefiting from the Clean Water Act and those who are breathing air are benefiting from the regulations that protect air. She said she doesn't think all regulation is bad and that each regulation and its potential impacts on people should be evaluated individually. She said in the case of these Marine Protected Area and Marine Reserve recommendations, she is specifically interested in the Simpson Reef Great Kelp Study Area. She said she believes that any protected area or reserve that is designated should definitely include the Great Kelp bed, because the kelp is such a unique population in Oregon. She said she knew one person suggested earlier that it's not unique in that this is the northernmost reach of its habitat, but scientists are finding that growing regions are changing over time. What may be a

Page 6 of 9

northernmost reach, a boundary for one species at this time, may not continue to be the furthest reach in the future. She said it may at one point be at the middle of its range, but people won't know the significance if they don't set things aside and study to learn what may have been lost. She said she will be submitting most of her comments in writing, but she is in favor of the idea of a reserve.

Robin Hartmann – Roseburg

Ms. Hartmann said she worked for Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, which is an organization with members on the coast and inland. She said she speaks on behalf of people who have an interest, not only in the fish in the ocean, but in all the species that are there and are interconnected. They need a voice and the people she represents want her to speak on their behalf for the protection of those species. Ms. Hartmann said she serves with Mr. Pex on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council and just went through two marathon days in Newport this week, listening to people who worked on the community teams who that worked together to find some areas where they could compromise. She thanked those who took the risk of getting involved in trying to put some places on the map for everyone to consider. She reiterated that if there are places that people suggest different from the existing proposals to submit that information to Mr. Pex and the local Marine Reserves Committee. She said she had called father at home in the Ozarks because he was her touchstone on these issues, being a former Fish and Wildlife employee. She said he had grown up on the Missouri River bottoms and that she had been keeping him up-to-date on what she had been doing at OPAC. She said he had told her a lot of good stories about fishing on the Missouri and the Mississippi, but said he wishes that the areas he had visited as a kid had received some protection back then. He is in his 70s now and he understands what it is to work with communities, but he is saddened by the loss of unique habitat types that were neglected or unprotected before development came in. She said she appreciated what was going on in the community and thanked the committee for its work and for the people who attended.

George Barton – Coos Bay

Mr. Barton, who speaks as a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, said he had spoken previously on Tribes' Treaty rights for gathering in these areas, but tonight he wants to address a different issue. He said regulations are based on unintended consequences and that is why they are necessary. He gave the example of living out by Smelt Beach for many years, as he approaches 75 years old. He said in the summer he used to be able to walk down in front of his house and dip smelt out for drying and preserving for the winter, in addition to having them fresh to eat. He said a few years ago, commercial fishing began dragging for shrimp off the southern Oregon coast. He said he occasionally has breakfast down at the Boat Basin and listens to the fishermen and for the first few years he heard the big complaint, "I spent all night shoveling smelt overboard because they were full in my net." He said one time he saw a slick of dead fish that was nearly 1/4-mile long. He said that was an unanticipated result. He said it has been five years since he has seen a run of smelt on the beach in front of his house. He said the fishing practiced cleaned out the smelt completely and that is an unintended consequence and why regulations are needed.

Edgar Bowen – Coos Bay

Mr. Bowen, who spoke as a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, said he had been listening to everyone, and it appeared to him that people cannot afford Marine Reserves. He said they can afford another prison and extending people's sentences, but they are not going to vote for Marine Reserves because there is no money. He said

being an Indian he owns land right where they are talking about. He said that when it comes to a vote, they feel they will be outvoted. He said there are a few Indians and there are a few thousand whites and the Indians lost their rights, so they look at it pretty strongly. He said Indians gave their land, their women, and a lot of other things to this society. He said the Indians have gone about as far as they can. He said he appreciated the help to fix the problems, so that they can still do their thing because they were not going to stop. He said he had heard a lot of different ideas and that he had read in a book one time that said what a person does to the “least among you, you also do unto me.” He said it seems to him that some people are willing to do unto others. He said he does not want the process to turn into a lawyer’s retirement plan, but it looks like that was where it was headed unless everyone gets a fair shake.

Roger Pryce – Coos Bay

Mr. Pryce said he had been fishing since 1960 in the same spot that they want to mark off for a reserve. He said he has not seen any reduction in fish on that reef over the years from Cape Arago down to Whiskey Run. He said he knows every rock and even has some of them named. His favorite is called “alligator” because it will get your gear. He said he believes the Marine Reserves process is just government wanting to get another thumb on people.

Daina Swanson – Coos Bay

Ms. Swanson said her interest in the ocean and the state of the ocean began a year ago with participation in “Washed Ashore,” which is a Bandon-centered environmental art project recycling plastics that wash up on the ocean. She said kayaker Margo Pellegrino, a 42-year old stay-at-home mom of two very young children who lives in New Jersey, also inspired her. Pellegrino paddles an outrigger canoe and this summer spent two months paddling down the Pacific Coast from Seattle to San Diego, 1,500 miles, to call attention to the fragile state of the ocean. Ms. Swanson said Sylvia Earl, an oceanographer and former chief scientist of NOAA, is quoted in the October 2010 issue of National Geographic magazine, “the sea appeared to be a blue affinity, too large, too wild, to be harmed by anything people could do,” which she said years ago. “And millions of years have shaped the sea’s delicate balance of web of life and yet just in mere decades a single human lifetime the blue wilderness is threatened by irreversible damage and collapse by human activity mostly driven by the industrial technological machine that is modern civilization,” she said in reference to the Gulf oil spill. She said on page 79 of the issue, she quoted a new study that suggests people’s current appetite for fish could lead to worldwide fisheries collapse. In the past 50 years, annual seafood catch has more than quadrupled from 16.7 million metric tons in 1950 to more than 85.2 million metric tons in 1994 and 78 million in 2006. She said this is an example of short-term views. It is about taking and not respecting the web of life and seeing humans as the only important creatures. She said the oceans belong to the commonwealth and all other forms of life, not only to humans, and the best available science indicates that a network of Marine Reserves will maintain critical habitat and support biodiversity and resilience in the ocean. She said Marine Reserves are an investment in the future health of the world’s oceans and their productivity and will sustain the health of coastal economic economies and ecosystems. She urges the Committee to support all three recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

Craig Young – Coos Bay

Mr. Young said he is the director at OIMB. He said he is proud to live in Charleston and has lived here for quite a few years. He said he is impressed with the group. People were eloquent, passionate and good neighbors, and OIMB would like to be good neighbors to them as well. He said that he wanted to set a couple of things straight but he wasn’t going to say whether he was

for or against Marine Reserves. He said OIMB is often set up as an ivory tower on the hill, with a “those guys against us fishermen” mentality and he didn’t like that. He said he hoped no one in the room was actually guilty of that, because OIMB spends a lot of time in the community offering resources. He could say with certainty that OIMB as an institute of the University of Oregon doesn’t have a position on Marine Reserves. He said there are people who have opinions and individuals are entitled to their own opinions, but the institution is not against others. OIMB is neither against nor in favor of Marine Reserves, although the individuals are free to have their own opinions. He wanted to counter the statement that “those scientists want this territory so they can get money for research.” He said this is not true. He said OIMB does research and has between \$6 million and \$7 million in government funding and very little, maybe \$20,000 at the most, is spent on local fisheries-related problems. He said OIMB works all over the world and doesn’t need a Marine Reserve to get research funded. He said the rationale for a Marine Reserve is not, and never has been, for scientists to have another place to do research. He said they can do research in these places anyway. He said the involvement that they have is to provide support for State agencies if they need it, to provide advice for State agencies and local fishermen or anyone else who needs it, based on OIMB staff’s knowledge of the ocean. He said they have a tremendous knowledge of the ocean that compliments and supplements those who have been fishing here all their lives and he has a great respect for that kind of knowledge. Mr. Young said he hoped they could work together as a community, because it really isn’t us against them, and, he said, he frankly doesn’t care which way this goes.

John Ward – North Bend

He said the gentlemen preceding him said something he thought was pretty interesting by saying that people can study this area with or without a Marine Reserve. He said it really rang a bell with him and he wondered why people should be kicked out of the areas proposed for reserves. He said scientists can study it and let people fish it at the same time. He added that 70 percent of the time fishermen can’t get out there due to the Oregon Coast’s weather conditions. He said this part of the coast is a *de facto* Marine Reserve 70 percent of the time, which brings into question the amount of harm people are doing. He said he heard people speak in vague generalities about the whole ecosystem, the whole ocean. The focus should be on these four proposals right here and that fishing in these proposed reserve areas is already regulated by ODF&W and the federal government. Those regulations have gotten tighter and tighter over the years, so he’d like to see the justification for adding a Marine Reserve. He said it seemed very political. He said he understands why the concept is appealing on this very vague general level. He said he wasn’t against the concept of Marine Reserves and he was sure there are good places for them, and as some people already have said there are some places not too far from here that would be preferable where they could study, work with it and not throw fishermen off the waters. He said ODF&W and the federal government already keep good track of fishermen. All commercial and sport boats are checked when they come into harbor. He said he wants the Marine Reserves placed somewhere else, where they won’t impact the economy and people’s way of life.

Mr. Pex closed the meeting by having the Marine Reserve Recommendation Committee members stand. He said committee members are not the government but members of the community obligated to look at this issue. He said the Committee will make a recommendation this spring, which will be based upon people’s input. He thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.