

News and Information from **Oregon International Port of Coos Bay**

For Immediate Release: March 17, 2011

Port of Coos Bay committee votes down marine reserves proposals

The Oregon International Port of Coos Bay's Marine Reserves Recommendation Committee voted Wednesday in support of "No Marine Reserves" by a majority vote. Three other options proposing a mix of marine reserves/marine protected areas failed to gain the 2/3-majority votes required by the Committee's voting guidelines.

The Committee's decision will generate a recommendation to the Port of Coos Bay Board of Commissioners, which, after public discussion, will forward a recommendation to Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council. Prior to finalizing a recommendation, the Committee will author majority and minority reports that will be submitted to the Port Commission.

The Committee consists of 34 voting members representing constituent groups, including the public at large; commercial, recreational and sport fishing; conservation groups; tribes; chambers of commerce and merchant groups; cities; ports; Coos County and research entities.

The Port convened the Committee in May 2009 to assist the state in considering whether there is an appropriate area between Reedsport and Bandon for designation as a Marine Reserve and/or Marine Protected Area that would not cause economic harm to coastal communities.

###

For additional media information, please contact:

Elise Hamner, Communications and Community Affairs Manager
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay
Phone 541 267-7678 / Email ehamner@portofcoosbay.com