Marine Reserves for All of Oregon: Statewide Survey of Social Values, Attitudes, and Opinions

Drs. Elise Granek (ESM), Max Nielsen-Pincus (ESM), Amy Lubitow (Sociology), and Public Administration PhD student and IGERT Fellow, Paul Manson were recently awarded funding from Oregon Sea Grant. The project grew out of the C4SI3 IGERT Conference hosted by Portland State University's ESUR IGERT in September 2013. The team is collaborating with Tommy Swearingen, Project Leader of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Human Dimensions Program and Paul Klarin, Marine Affairs Coordinator for Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

Although the Oregon marine reserves program and Territorial Sea Plan update for ocean renewable energy both triggered extensive social science research along the Oregon coast, there has been little examination statewide of Oregonians’ priorities and perceptions of marine reserves specifically and marine resources and management more broadly. This project provides an opportunity to conduct the first statewide and rigorous survey of attitudes, beliefs, and values Oregonians hold about the coast and marine reserves. Survey results will identify expected coastal and marine ecosystem services outcomes and benefits provided by Oregon’s marine reserve network and coastal areas.

Location and names of Oregon’s Marine Reserves. Photo courtesy of ODFW.

Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve by Ben Nieves/Lighthawk