

## 1. Cape Falcon Proposal Area: *Tillamook Head to Cape Falcon*

Thanks to its spectacular natural landscape and biodiversity, this area draws tourists from all over the world, lures retirees from across the state and attracts a variety of recreational and commercial fishermen. The people of Manzanita, Seaside, Cannon Beach and Nehalem are proud of this area's natural resources and understand that a sustainable plan for preserving them is essential for the future of their communities. Notably, the communities of Cannon Beach, Lincoln City, Yachats and Port Orford passed resolutions supporting this common-sense approach.



Photo: Looking south from Ecola State Park, Tillamook Head (Ben Nieves).

One unique threat facing this area is a potential offshore development site for wave energy at Cape Falcon, which could bring noise impacts, habitat alteration and other cumulative effects.

**Prime habitat:** This area contains a variety of prime habitats for marine life. For example:

- This site is home to twenty-four seabird colony sites with thousands of nesting sea birds — including over 16,000 nesting common murrelets at Sea Lion Rock. Cormorants, western gulls, black oystercatchers, bald eagles and peregrine falcons all inhabit or use this area.
- With their sheltering nooks and crannies, the large, rocky reefs at Tillamook Head and Cape Falcon provide the perfect habitat for a rich array of plants and animals, such as rockfish (including the depleted yelloweye rockfish), lingcod and giant Pacific octopus.
- The many rocks provide marine mammal resting areas.

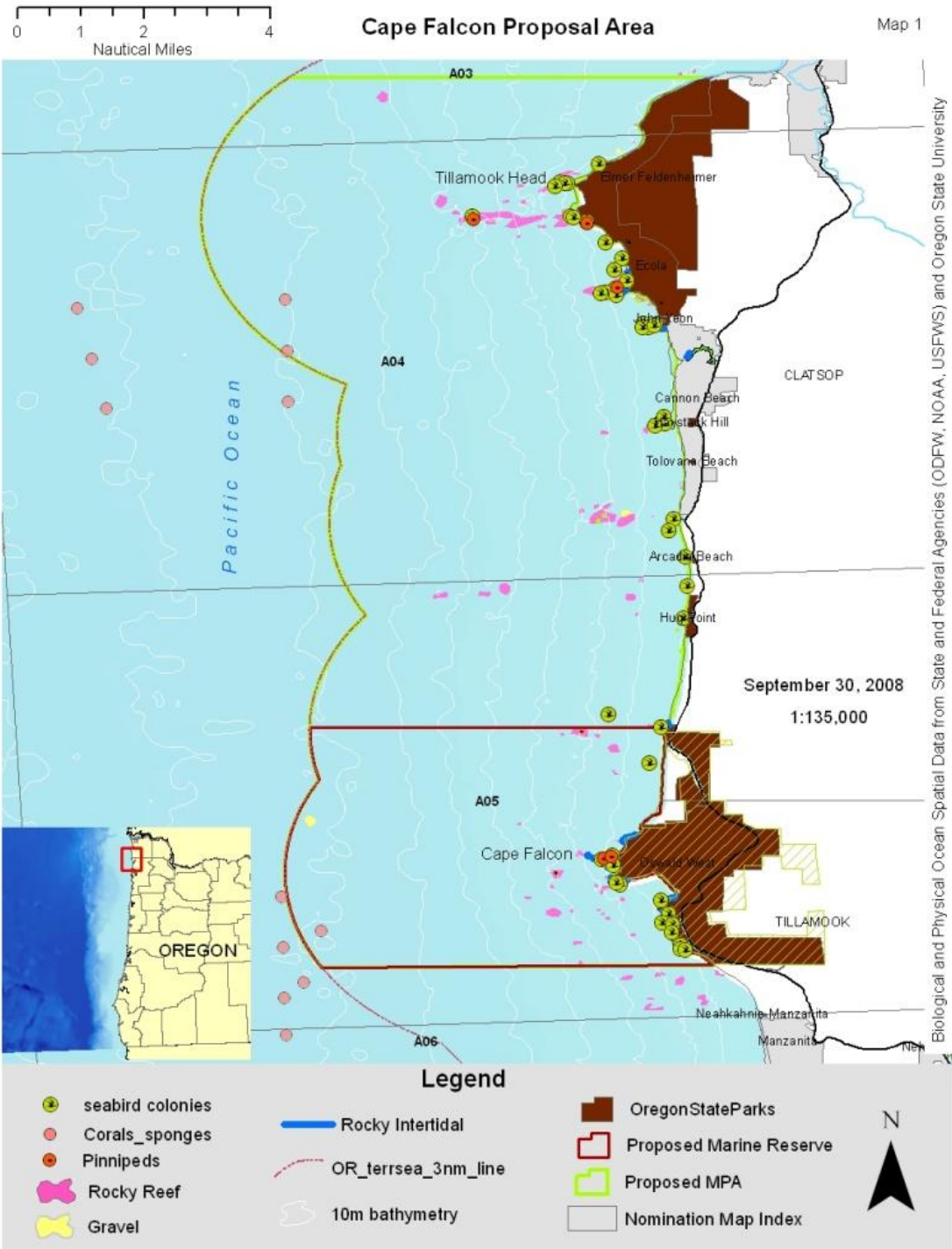
**Proposed protection:** This site combines a **marine reserve** and a **marine protected area**.

- The overall **marine protected area** extends 14 nautical miles from Tillamook Head to Cape Falcon, and out three nautical miles.
- Within the larger marine protected area is a **marine reserve** at Cape Falcon that extends 3.8 nautical miles along the coast.

### **The importance of a network**

By providing a network of safe havens for marine life to feed and breed, marine reserves allow the ocean's natural productivity to restore the abundance of fish species and other marine life. Scientific research from existing marine reserves shows that a network of reserves and marine protected areas facilitates larval dispersal of aquatic species and makes them resilient. A network is necessary to protect a sample of all of Oregon's ocean habitats.

**OPAC forwarded Cape Falcon marine reserve as an area for further evaluation.**



**One nautical mile = 1.1507 terrestrial miles.**

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