

2. Three Arch Rocks Proposal Area: *Cape Meares to Cape Lookout*

Three Arch Rocks is one of the Oregon coast's best-known landmarks. Nearby Cape Lookout is a world-renowned whale-watching spot. From December to June visitors can observe some of the 20,000 grey whales that pass through, migrating from Alaska to Mexico each year. In September 2008, local groups from Oceanside and Netarts submitted a proposal to protect the rich waters surrounding Three Arch Rocks, Cape Meares and Cape Lookout. Based on their recommendations, the Our Ocean coalition included this area as part of a more comprehensive proposal for a statewide network of marine protected areas and reserves.



Three Arch Rocks and Cape Meares (USFWS)

One unique threat facing this area is a potential offshore development site west of Three Arch Rocks, which could bring noise impacts, habitat alteration and other cumulatively negative effects.

A key link in an overall network: This area is one of eight sites that comprise a proposed network of marine protected areas and marine reserves in Oregon state waters. By establishing a marine protected area and marine reserve, these communities can help preserve the area for future generations to enjoy, while still leaving the vast majority open to sport and commercial fishing and crabbing.

Prime habitat: The Three Arch Rocks/Cape Meares/Cape Lookout region is one of the most biologically rich and diverse areas of the Oregon coast. For example:

- One of the largest nesting common murre colonies south of Alaska and the largest tufted puffin colony on the Oregon coast can be found in Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, designated as Oregon's first refuge.
- The area also hosts the only Steller sea lion pupping site on the Oregon north coast.
- These highly productive nearshore waters support giant kelp forests, rare on the northern coast of Oregon. The abundant rocky reefs provide the perfect habitat for a rich array of plants and animals, such as rockfish (including the depleted yelloweye rockfish) and lingcod.

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

- The entire area extends down the coast 10.4 nautical miles, starting north of Pyramid Rock, ending south of Cape Lookout, and out to the Territorial Sea boundary (three nautical miles).
- Within the larger marine protected area is a **marine reserve**, which starts at Cape Meares and extends to south of the mouth of Netarts Bay.

The importance of a network

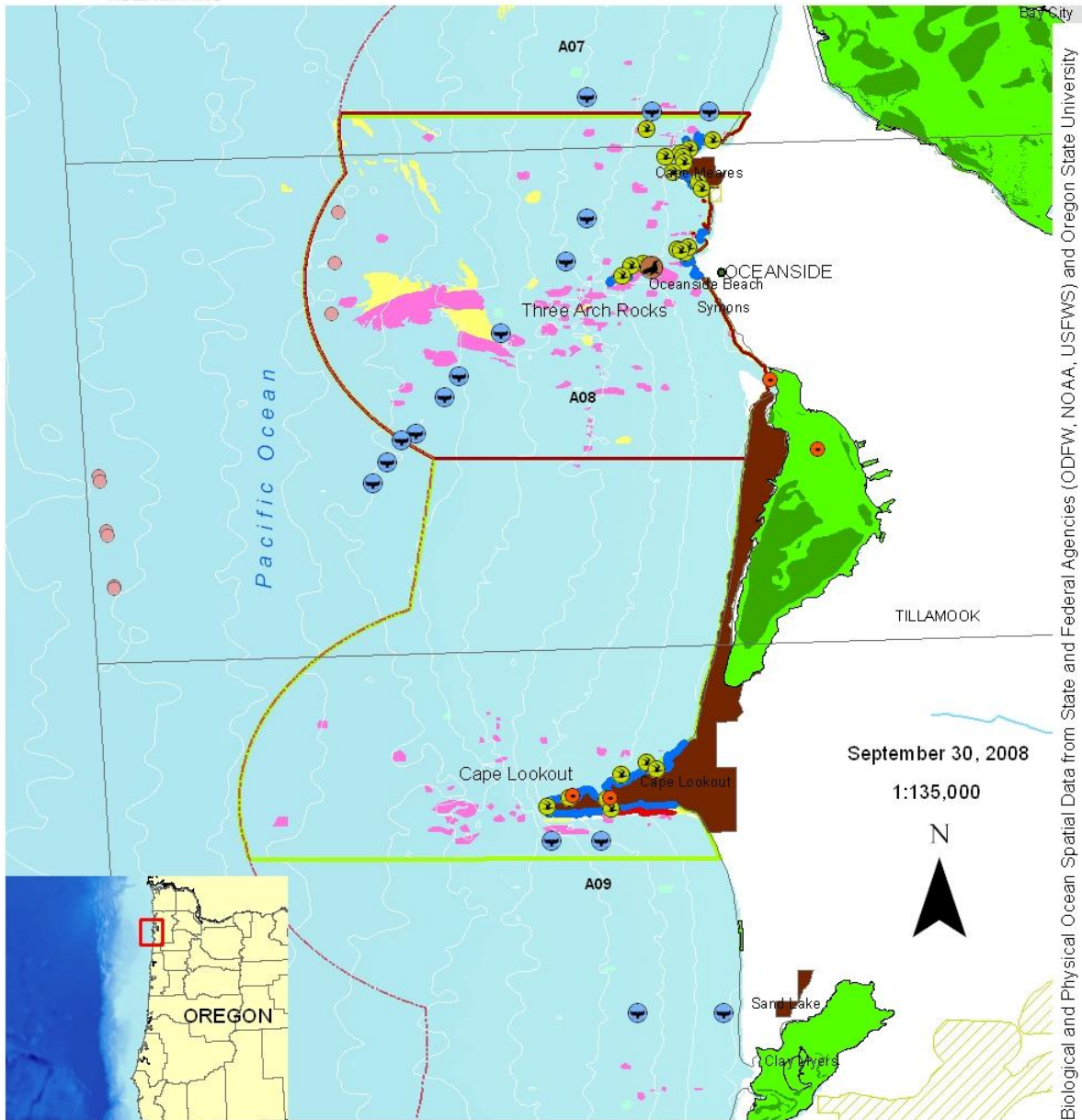
By providing a network of safe havens for marine life to feed and breed, marine reserves allow the ocean's natural productivity to restore the abundance of fish species and other marine life. Scientific research from existing marine reserves shows that a network of reserves and marine protected areas 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 recommended that this be eliminated from consideration as a marine reserve.



Three Arch Rocks Proposal Area

Map 2



Biological and Physical Ocean Spatial Data from State and Federal Agencies (ODFW, NOAA, USFWS) and Oregon State University

Legend

Gray Whale Observations	Rocky Reef	Gravel	OR_terrsea_3nm_line
seabird colonies	Rocky Intertidal	10m bathymetry	OregonStateParks
Corals_sponges	canopy kelp	seagrass	Proposed Marine Reserve
Pinnipeds	WSPlover_CritHab	estuaries	Proposed MPA
Steller Sea Lion Rookery	MarbledMurrelet_CritHab	Nomination Map Index	

One nautical mile = 1.1507 terrestrial miles.

4189 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97202

1628 North Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365

503.231.2718 **p**
503.230.0903 **f**

www.ouregonocean.org

Oregon Society of Portland
 Coast Range Association
 Environment Oregon
 Natural Resource Defense Council
 Oceana
 Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
 Pacific Marine Conservation Council
 Pew Environment Group

A PROJECT OF THE PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP