

## 7. Cape Arago Proposal Area: *Gregory Point to Haystack Rock*

Cape Arago is home to the largest populations of northern elephant seals and Steller sea lions found anywhere on the Oregon coast and the only significant beds of giant kelp (*Macrocystis*) in Oregon. Off of Coquille Point is a rocky reef important to many species of fish. Nearby, the offshore rocks and islands that are part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge are important to nesting seabirds.

Communities here recognize the value of the area's unique natural resources. Protected state lands adjacent to this site include Sunset Bay State Park, Shore Acres State Park, Cape Arago State Park, Seven Devils State Wayside and Bullards Beach State Park. Offshore rocks above mean high water are part of the USFWS Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.



**Prime habitat:** This coastline supports an abundance of plants and animals.

- Home to the largest populations of northern elephant seals and Steller sea lions found anywhere on the Oregon coast
- The rocky reef complex provides home to a rich array of fish and wildlife, such as rockfish (including the depleted yelloweye rockfish), lingcod, dungeness crab and giant octopus.
- Coquille Point provides a home to diverse seabird colonies, including cormorants, common murre and pigeon guillemot.
- The long giant kelp stalks slow incoming waves, providing a calm place for a diverse assortment of fish and wildlife to take shelter and feed.

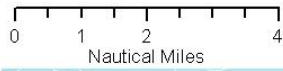
**Proposed protections:** This site combines a **marine reserve**, a **marine protected area** and an **evaluation area** south across the ecologically important reef near Bandon.

- The **marine reserve** inside the larger protected area extends 5.5 nautical miles from the middle cove at Cape Arago to Whisky Run. Our Ocean is proposing more evaluation, including additional community involvement, for the area from Whisky Run to Haystack Rock.
- The **marine protected area** (which includes the marine reserve) extends 8 nautical miles to the north of Cape Arago.

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

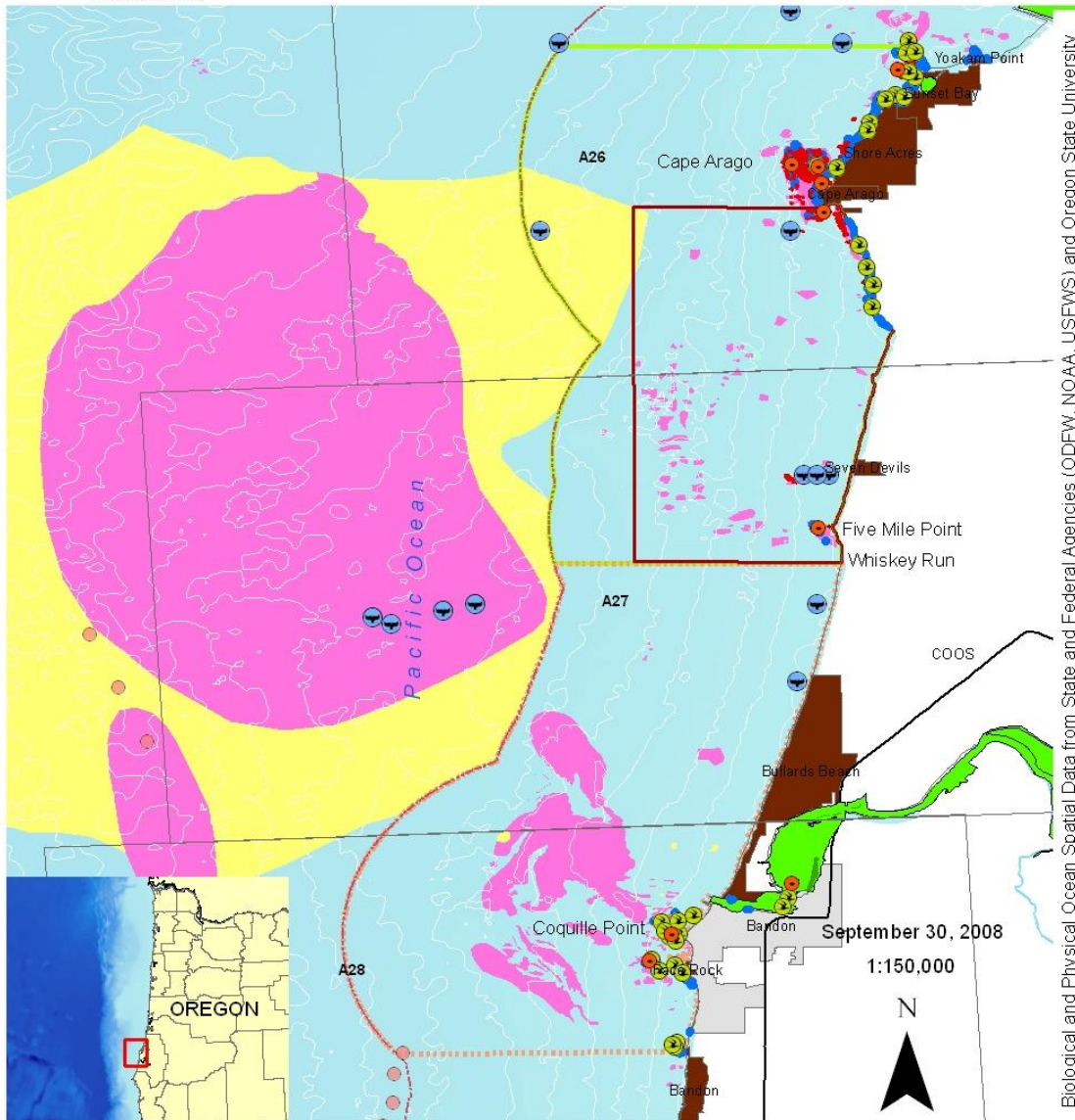
By providing a network of safe havens for marine life to feed and breed, marine reserves allow the ocean's natural productivity to restore the abundance of fish species and other marine life. Scientific research from existing marine reserves shows that a network of reserves and marine protected areas 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 the Cape Arago area for further discussion and evaluation.**



### Cape Arago Proposal Area

Map 7



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

#### Legend

- |                         |                  |             |                         |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Gray Whale Observations | Rocky Intertidal | estuaries   | OR_terseas_3nm_line     |
| seabird colonies        | Gravel           | seagrass    | OregonStateParks        |
| Corals_sponges          | Rocky Reef       | canopy kelp | Proposed Marine Reserve |
| Pinnipeds               | 10m bathymetry   | Study Area  | Proposed MPA            |
|                         |                  |             | Nomination Map Index    |

One nautical mile = 1.1507 terrestrial miles.

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