

8. Mack Reef Proposal Area: *Cape Sebastian to Whaleshead Island*

One of the most picturesque points on the southern coast, Mack Reef and the associated 25 Rocks adjacent to this area is truly a state treasure. What is less obvious but equally precious is the 300-acre bed of bull kelp that thrives under the water and the infinite world of marine life that finds shelter there. Recognizing the importance of preserving these offshore areas for future generations, a group of citizens from Curry County submitted a proposal to protect the Mack Reef Arch area in September 2008. The Our Ocean coalition included this area as part of a more comprehensive proposal for a statewide network of marine protected areas and reserves.



Prime habitat: The nearshore area from Cape Sebastian to Whaleshead Island is highly diverse and productive due to its unique combination of intertidal rocky habitat, large canopy kelp forest, deep rocky reefs and sand and mud seafloor habitats.

- Rocks off Crook Point and within the Mack Reef complex support the second largest seabird nesting area in Oregon — more than 200,000 birds total.
- The large canopy kelp forest at Mack Reef accounts for roughly 7.5 percent of the total canopy kelp forest in Oregon. These dense bull kelp forests provide the ideal habitat for urchins, sea stars, crabs, anemones, sea cucumbers, rockfish, surf perch and numerous other plants and animals.

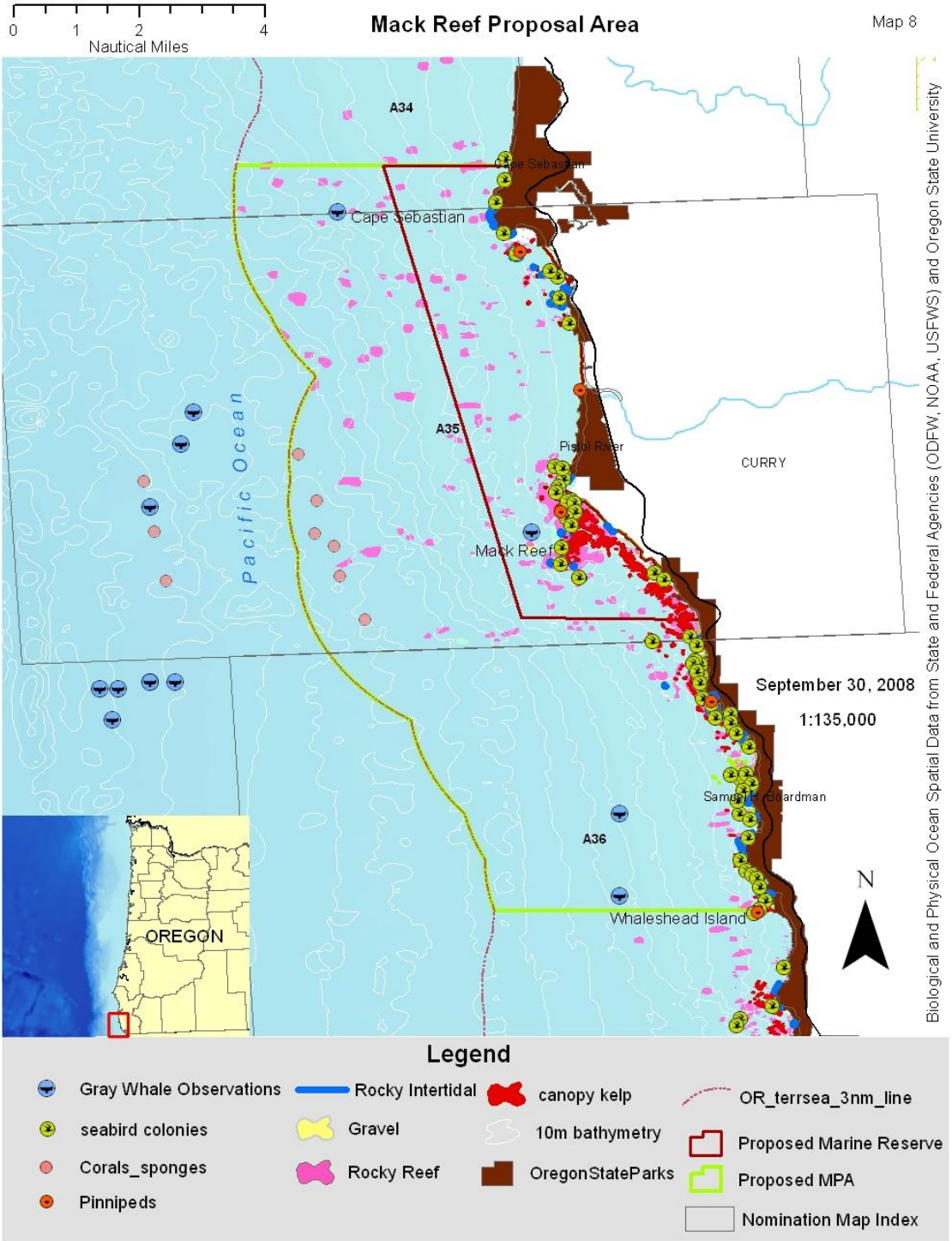
Proposed protections: This site combines a **marine reserve** and a **marine protected area**.

- The proposed site starts at the northern boundary of Cape Sebastian and ends at Whaleshead Island, extending down 12 nautical miles and out to the territorial sea boundary (3 nautical miles).
- Within the **marine protected area** is a smaller **marine reserve**, from Cape Sebastian to Hooskanaden Creek, which would extend 7.3 nautical miles, from 0.8 to two nautical miles from shore.

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 this area be eliminated from consideration as a marine reserve.



One nautical mile = 1.1507 terrestrial miles.

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