BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO.   )   A RESOLUTION BY LANE COUNTY
)   ENDORSING MARINE RESERVES

WHEREAS, the State or Oregon, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the scientific community recognize that a system of marine protected areas including marine reserves are management tools that could work in tandem with the existing array of current management tools to ensure the health and sustainability of Oregon's ocean for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Executive Order 08-07 directs Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) to recommend not more than nine sites for consideration as marine reserves that, individually or collectively, are large enough to allow scientific evaluation of ecological benefits, but small enough to avoid significant economic or social impacts; and

WHEREAS, the health of Lane County's environment, economy and public health are inextricably linked to the health of the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners believes that building a system of state marine reserves, if appropriately planned with best available peer reviewed science, might contribute to the overall health of the ocean and may lead to increased and more viable fish, invertebrates and other harvested stock for present and future generations; and represents a precautionary ecosystem-based approach to managing the ocean environment; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners seeks to assure that the County's honorable and historical fishing heritage can continue to provide sustainable economic benefits to our coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Siuslaw, the Federal Government and the State of Oregon have invested millions of taxpayer dollars into the local infrastructure of harbors, docks and associated assets, it is of great concern to all parties that a long-term partnership be established to protect our natural resources as well as our infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for a continued, transparent process based in best available peer reviewed science and involving a diverse group of stakeholders, including sport and commercial fishermen who have a deep personal understanding of the marine environment and a direct stake in assuring the conservation of their resources, and

WHEREAS, there exists a desire to designate a prescribed system of marine protected areas and marine reserves in Oregon's state resource, its Territorial Sea within the context of existing policies regarding our ocean resources; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Board of Commissioners endorses the OPAC's decision of moving the Heceta Head/Cape Perpetua area forward for further dialogue, evaluation and analysis; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a clear timeline with benchmarks for the evaluation and analysis of potential sites would enhance the chances of public collaboration and support, and thus success, of this

long term marine stewardship effort; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Lane County Board of Commissioners acknowledge the citizens of Lane County have a vested long-term interest in maintaining a healthy ocean environment for the maximum benefit of Lane County and the greater state of Oregon, and does hereby endorse OPAC's recommendation for the possible establishment of a marine reserve and marine protected area in the vicinity of the Heceta Head / Cape Perpetua area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Lane County Board of Commissioners encourages the formation of a diverse group of stakeholders to engage in further planning and analysis for the Heceta Head/Cape Perpetual reserve area; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners shall deliver a letter to the Governor and the Chairman of the Ocean Policy Advisory Committee advising them of this Resolution.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
        Peter Sorenson, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date _3-23-09_____ lane county

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OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL