

29 March, 2006

Dawn Wright, Professor  
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Corvallis, OR 97331-5506

Dear Dr. Wright:

Thank you for your excellent presentation on the *Scientific Consensus Statement on Oregon Territorial Seafloor Mapping* at the March 17, 2006 meeting of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC). Council members were enthusiastic in their support for the statement and voted unanimously to provide this letter of endorsement and support. Frankly, we were surprised that so little of the territorial sea was currently mapped at scales useful for resource management. We concur that a good seafloor map of the entire territorial sea is critical to many of the tasks facing OPAC, particularly the identification of areas appropriate for marine reserves and consideration of the Governor's proposal for a National Marine Sanctuary. Such a map would also be valuable in nearshore fisheries management, especially considering the increased pressure on nearshore areas associated with Pacific Fisheries Management Council fishing limits further offshore. Finally, such a map, with its detailed bathymetry, will be valuable for improving tsunami inundation modeling and mapping. In short, it may help save lives when the inevitable "big one" strikes the Oregon coast.

Again, OPAC believes strongly that a detailed seafloor map of the territorial sea will be a valuable addition to our ocean information base. Please let me know if there is specific support we might provide in seeking funding for a proposal to develop such data.

Sincerely,

Scott McMullen, Chair  
Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Cc: OPAC Members, Governor Kulongoski