



FAQ on the Oregon Marine Reserves Attitudes and Perceptions Survey (2021)

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Q1: Why is the Oregon Marine Reserves program conducting mail surveys on attitudes and perceptions?

Since the legislature created marine reserves in 2009, there has been a strong mandate to track and describe any socio-economic or human-dimensions impacts (including economics, cultural, social impacts or changes over time) from marine reserves implementation (more information on Oregon's marine reserves program on our [website](#)). In social science theory, knowledge, attitudes and perceptions are a key aspect of evaluating social impacts. In 2012 and 2015, ODFW collaborated with academic researchers on the first attitudes and perceptions surveys for Oregon's marine reserves (first surveying coastal residents in the [original survey](#), then surveying I-5 corridor residents in this [second survey](#)); this 2021 survey repeats that first effort (both coastal and I5 residents) to provide an understanding of any changes over time. ODFW has collaborated on many socio-economic impact studies, with attitudes and perceptions being just one component (see the full list of [studies](#) on the marine reserves website); with one staff person at ODFW responsible for all socio-economic work on marine reserves, collaboration with many academic researchers is necessary to collect adequate information to inform Oregon's management.

Q2: Who selects the questions in the survey?

The questions in the survey are largely a direct repeat of the 2012/2015 surveys. However, in each iteration of the survey, the academic collaborators have chosen a small subset of questions that serve in their on-going academic research. Part of the agreement between ODFW and OSU in collaboratively developing this survey (and OSU's willingness to contribute in-kind staff and student time) is that OSU has the right to include questions that are solely in service of their research, and these questions are not repeated (comparing 2012 and 2021 surveys). For the 2021 [survey](#) (and cover [letter](#)), questions 35 and 36 are the questions designed by a graduate student, and will be used solely to inform that graduate thesis project. Out of approximately 400 elements in the survey, these two questions represent 12 elements.

Q3: Will questions 35 and 36 be incorporated into Oregon's marine reserves analysis?

No, these questions will not be considered or used by ODFW in evaluation of the Oregon marine reserves. They are solely for academic research.

Q4: Why are questions 35 and 36 even relevant?

These questions are designed to inform the influence of authoritarianism (BOTH conservative and liberal) on support for marine protections. The scales and intent are the subject of peer-reviewed journal articles, including the two attached here (Bizumic and Duckitt, 2018; Manson, 2020). In the words of the OSU collaborator (Dr. Mark Needham, Department of Forestry at Oregon State University):

We hypothesize that people with stronger left or right wing views may be less supportive than more moderate folks, as they may perceive the reserves as a government "grab" or overreach. Many other studies have seen this, but only in terrestrial (land based) parks and protected areas, especially when new state parks or national parks have been proposed. This issue has never been examined in marine protected areas, which is why this small part of our research is novel. The scales and items used in these questions were not created by us. Instead, they were created by other leading researchers, have been used extensively in previous research, and are well developed in the literature...We received a similar volume of [complaints] and questions from a forest herbicide questionnaire a couple of years ago.

Q5: Are state funds being used to pay for this survey – including paying OSU’s time to conduct it?

State funds partially pay for the survey. Since the Human Dimension Project is funded as a single position with a very modest research budget, external collaboration with OSU and others is necessary to meet the mandated research responsibilities. Students involved in the research have been compensated through grants, university stipends, and a variety of competitive sources. Our ability to undertake these studies requires that we share work, share funding responsibilities, and make allowances for collaborators to include independent research. State funds are used for ODFW socio-economic (human dimensions) staff, research carried out by ODFW staff, and five current projects funded with research contracts carried out by academic researchers and The Research Group (marine fisheries economics consulting firm). The biennial budget for the human-dimensions work by ODFW is \$377,000. Of this budget total, \$224,000 is Personal Services for ODFW’s one FTE and \$152,000 in Supplies and Services for contracting. The contract with OSU for the attitudes and perceptions survey is \$72,409 over a two-year period (2020-2022; includes indirect rate to OSU).

Reports and Infographic on Oregon Marine Reserves Attitudes and Perceptions (from 2012/2015 surveys):

- a. Infographic: [What Do Oregonians Know and Think About Marine Reserves](#) (ODFW 2016)
- b. [2016 Resident Perceptions of Oregon Marine Reserves](#) (OSU 2016)
- c. [Coastal Resident Perceptions of Marine Reserves in Oregon: Additional Analyses](#) (OSU 2016)
- d. [2013 Coastal Resident Perceptions of Marine Reserves in Oregon](#) (OSU 2013)

Peer-reviewed literature on “authoritarianism” questions in social science surveys (attached and with links):

- Bizumic and Duckitt (2018) <https://doi.org/10.5964/jspp.v6i1.835>
- Manson (2020) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2020.110251>

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