Oregon Ocean Science Trust

OCTOBER 14, 2025

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

Introductions

Laura Anderson
Chair, Founder of Local Ocean Seafoo

Karina Nielsen, Ph.D.
ViceChair, Oregon Sea Grant Director
Professor of Practice, Oregon State University

Lisa DeBruyckere
Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs

About the Trust

Established by the Oregon State Legislature in 2013, the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) secures and distributes funding to promote ocean and coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of Oregon's resources, enhance coastal resilience, and support long-term ocean health for all Oregonians.

Trust Board Members

Laura Anderson, Local Ocean Seafood Founder, Chair

Dr. Karina Nielsen, Oregon Sea Grant, Oregon State University

Dr. Keith Wolf, KWA Ecological Sciences and Documentary Films

Dr. Ted DeWitt, Retired

Cristen Don, Consultant

Rep. David Gomberg, Non-voting member

Sen. Dick Anderson, Non-voting member

Tackling Emerging Oregon-relevant Issues

Climate solutions to protect, restore, and manage our coast

Energy infrastructure and its effects on ecosystems and people

Sustainable fisheries in the face of changing oceans and high fishery demand

Resilient species and habitats

Identify and fill knowledge and data gaps to support decision making

Funding

- Oregon Legislature: 2021-2022 bills totaling $2 million for ocean change and nearshore research
- OOST fundraising:
  - About $0.5 million for capacity building, Tribal engagement in Action Agenda, ocean science summits, and marine reserve review
- Outstanding meritorious grant requests: $200,000

The OOST as Catalyst and Co-Investor

OOST investments align with state, federal, and private funds to advance Oregon's ocean science priorities.

Examples: $1 in state funding leveraged $5+ in partner investment.

🧭 **Climate Monitoring Station**	OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Sea-Bird Scientific, Wendy & Eric Schmidt Marine Studies Fund	$97K OOST → $5M infrastructure + $200K co-funding
🐚 **Olympia Oyster Research**	Frontier Climate	$175K OOST → $450K co-funding
🌊 **Hypoxia Monitoring Network**	NOAA Collaboration	$385K OOST → $5.4M in co-funding

Trust Accomplishments

Set Oregon's Ocean Research Priorities

Two **statewide scientific summits** with 100+ experts and policymakers.

Created a Horizon-Planning Process

A mechanism to keep **emerging ocean and coastal science needs front and center** for the state.

Invested in Research & Monitoring

Over **$2M invested** through HB 3114 & HB 5202 to fund **14 collaborative teams** in **3 key areas**.

Strengthening Resilience & Communities

Advancing **science that protects** ecosystems, **supports** coastal economies, and **builds** community resilience.

1) Nearshore Ocean and Coastal Research

Filling knowledge gaps about rocky reefs and kelp forests to respond to complex management decisions

Should we allow large-scale removal of urchins?

Should we support re-introducing sea otters?

2) Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia

Research to help Oregon understand, plan, and adapt to ocean changes

- ➔ **Best practices for shellfish growers**
- ➔ **Ocean conditions & forecasts**
- ➔ **Eelgrass for reducing impacts in estuaries**
- ➔ **Effective science communication**

3) Assessing Oregon's Marine Reserves

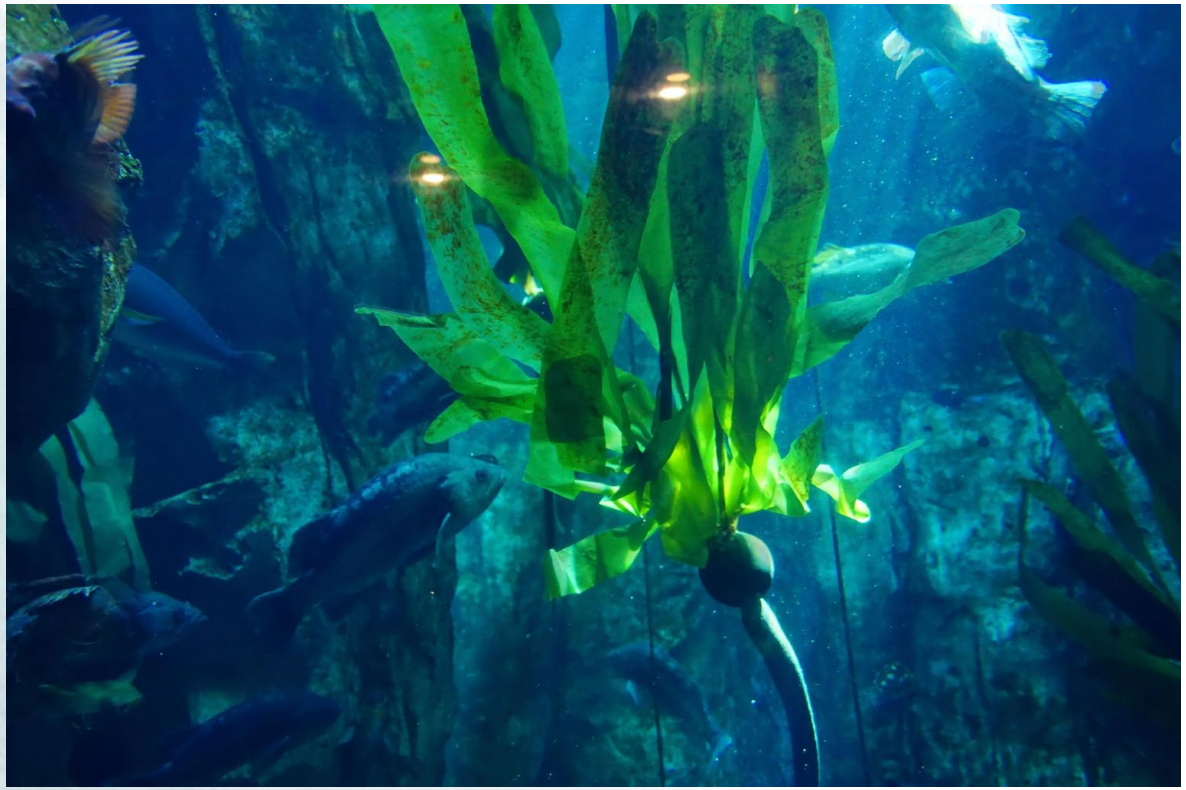
The Trust successfully fundraised to keep this legislatively-mandated – but unfunded – assessment on track

- ➔ **Partnership: Oregon Sea Grant, OSU, Oregon Community Foundation**
- ➔ **Confirmed reserves are effective; ODFW met its mandate**
- ➔ **Identified need for ongoing monitoring & adaptive management**
- ➔ **Informed HB 4132 (2024) to advance recommendations**

New West Coast Initiative

A collaboration between Oregon, California, and Washington to build the infrastructure, technology, and talent needed to meet the most pressing ocean and coastal challenges – with practical, inclusive, actionable solutions.

It starts with science…



Integrating the Ocean into Oregon's State Priorities

- **Transportation:** research on coastal hazards, erosion, and sandy shores.
- **Energy:** understanding the impacts of large offshore infrastructure.
- **Climate:** continuing research on ocean acidification, blue carbon, and marine carbon removal.
- **Food and Health:** ensuring a sustainable seafood supply and advancing regenerative aquaculture.
- **Economic Development:** fostering blue economy innovation and coastal jobs.

Thank you

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