



Memorandum of Understanding By and Between the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and the California Ocean Science Trust

I. Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is by and between OREGON OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST and the CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST and is effective as of 22 February 2024.

1.1. The Oregon Ocean Science Trust is an entity established in 2013 by the Oregon Legislature to enhance the state’s capacity to promote peer-reviewed competitive research and monitoring and innovative, collaborative, community-oriented institutional approaches to research and monitoring of Oregon’s ocean and coastal resources.

1.2 The California Ocean Science Trust is an entity established in 2000 by the California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act that seeks to provide funding for ocean resource science projects and encourage coordinated, multi-agency, multi-institution approaches to ocean resource science.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to formally establish a mutually beneficial working relationship and promote and foster collaboration between the Oregon and California Ocean Science Trusts (hereinafter referred to as “collaborators”) to accelerate ocean and coastal scientific research and monitoring in the California Current Regional Ecosystem in support of sound ocean policy and management. The collaborators recognize the growing importance of best available science to address climate change impacts on people, resources, cultural heritage, and coastal ecosystems, and the connections between Oregon and California’s natural environment and scientific research and monitoring communities.

III. Statement of Mutual Benefits and Interests

The California Current Regional Ecosystem spans the southernmost point of California through northern Washington and is a critical component to each coastal state’s respective economies, tourism, shipping, commercial and recreational fishing, social well-being, recreation, and development interests.

The collaborators recognize the importance of investing in ocean and coastal research and monitoring to address emerging ocean and coastal issues, inform state policies and management, provide scientific-based information to policymakers, and raise awareness, appreciation, understanding, and support of ocean and coastal research and monitoring among the general public.

The mutual mandates and interests of Oregon’s and California’s ocean science trusts are to facilitate and advance ocean and coastal science and monitoring using collaborative, coordinated, multi-agency, multi-institutional approaches that inform sound ocean policy and management.

Opportunities exist to highlight the need and urgency for expanded ocean and coastal research and monitoring along the West Coast to inform ocean policy and management in the California Current Regional Ecosystem.

Numerous opportunities exist to leverage and foster regional coordination, knowledge co-production, information data and management, outreach to policymakers, and other activities collaborators mutually agree will advance the goals of each trust.

IV. Statement of Mutual Agreement

The collaborators agree:

1. To seek opportunities to work collaboratively in support of ocean and coastal research and monitoring in the California Current Regional Ecosystem when it is consistent with the mission, purpose, and mandates of each collaborator.
2. To assist one another in identifying and assessing potential cooperative actions, including those that can leverage existing resources to advance mutual goals and interests and solicit enhanced federal investments in California Current ocean and coastal research and monitoring.
3. To periodically assess project collaborations and engage participation by interested parties, as appropriate.
4. To explore opportunities to engage the State of Washington to advance mutual interests in California Current Regional Ecosystem ocean and coastal research and monitoring.
5. To leverage efficiencies associated with sharing and managing information and data on California Current Regional Ecosystem resources.
6. To advance efforts to amplify collection of priority science and data collection efforts associated with the California Current Regional Ecosystem.

It is mutually agreed and understood by and between the signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding that:

1. Nothing in this MOU shall cause any entity that is party to the MOU to take any action that conflicts with any existing authority, responsibility, or obligation, established under state law or regulation.
2. This MOU in no way restricts collaborators from involvement in similar activities with other entities.
3. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating participating collaborators to expend funds or to provide resources or be involved in any obligation for future payment of money or provision of resources.
4. Modifications within the scope of this MOU shall be made by formal consent of the collaborators, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by the parties, prior to any changes becoming effective.
5. Any collaborator may terminate or withdraw membership in whole or in part at any time.
6. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor a funds-obligation document.

V. Principal Contacts

The principal contacts for each of the collaborators is:

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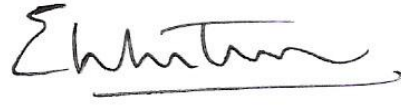
CALIFORNIA OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST
Liz Whiteman
Executive Director
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VI. Effective Date

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the collaborators hereto have executed this MOU as of the last written date below. The agreement remains in effect for two years following the signature date, and should be reviewed and updated every two years to address emerging issues and opportunities.



Laura Anderson, Chair 01/22/2024
Oregon Ocean Science Trust



Liz Whiteman, Executive Director 01/22/2024
California Ocean Science Trust