

Oregon Ocean Policy Related Legislative Updates (DSL, DLCD)
May 17, 2021

SB 126 – South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Management Area

This bill adjusts the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) management area to include lands already owned and managed by the state. This adjustment will allow those lands to become eligible for additional federal funding once the formal National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) boundary adjustment process is completed.

SB 126 has passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. It is awaiting its second chamber third reading.

SB 5539 – Agency Budget

The Governor's Requested Budget includes a number of different policy option packages to support thriving lands, waters, and schools. Highlights include the transfer of Oregon's Unclaimed Property Program to the State Treasurer, funding for the Department to update its IT system, and making six essential limited duration staff permanent.

SB 5539 was heard by the Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources on March 29th and 31st.

HB 3371 – Mitigating Financial Risk for Waterway Cleanups

Requires the Department of State Lands to consider potential risks of entering into agreements for authorized use of submerged and submersible lands, and allows the Department to require risk mitigation or insurance coverage.

HB 3371 passed out of the House Committee on General Government and moved to Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation. HB 3371 is currently awaiting action by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 3114 – Oregon Ocean Science Trust

Appropriates moneys from the General Fund to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST), the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission totaling \$1.06 million to support research and projects related to Ocean Chemistry.

The Oregon Department of State Lands provides administrative support to the OOST but this is not an agency bill.

HB 3114 passed out of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural and moved to Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation. HB 3114 is currently awaiting action

by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 2603 – Undersea Cables in the Territorial Sea

Relating to the siting of undersea cables in the Territorial Sea. This bill codifies some of the Department's easement conditions regarding financial assurance and decommissioning of undersea cables. The measure also directs the Ocean Policy Advisory Council to review Part four of the Territorial Sea Plan and conduct a study relating to undersea cables.

HB 2603 passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Environment and moved to Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation. HB 2603 is currently awaiting action by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 3375 – Floating offshore wind energy

Relating to floating offshore wind energy. This bill provides a number of whereas statements documenting the potential benefits and drivers of offshore wind energy development. It declares that the goal of the state is to plan for the development of up to three gigawatts of floating offshore wind energy within federal waters off the Oregon coast by 2030. The bill also requires the state to maximize benefits while minimizing conflicts of between floating offshore wind energy, the ecosystem and ocean users. Section 2 of the bill directs the Oregon Department of Energy to conduct a literature review on the benefits and challenges of integrating up to three gigawatts into the Oregon electric grid by 2030, while also gathering input from a number of relevant agencies and organizations. Two public meetings will be held to collect public input and gather feedback from stakeholders on the benefits and challenges.

HB3375 passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Environment with bipartisan support, was unanimously approved by the House, and was referred to the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. A public hearing was held in the Senate E&E Committee, and a work session is scheduled for May 25, 2021.