



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Ocean Policy Advisory Council

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*Shelby Walker*  
Director, Oregon Sea Grant College  
Program

*Kris Wall*  
Federal Agency Liaison, NOAA OCM

July 3, 2018

Governor Kate Brown  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Proposed Fiscal Year 2019 President's Budget

Dear Governor Brown,

At its April 26, 2018 meeting, the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) received a brief update on the proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019 and its potential impacts to the Oregon Coastal Management Program and the Oregon Sea Grant Program. In furtherance of our statutory duty to offer advice to your office, as well as to state agencies and local governments, OPAC provides the following general description of these programs and their importance to Oregon and our coastal communities. OPAC unanimously supports these programs and encourages you to support their continued funding in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019.

### Oregon Coastal Management Program

Created by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the National Coastal Management Program is a state-federal partnership that leverages federal funds in furtherance of coastal community goals, including economic development, enhancement of public access and recreation, and protection of coastal resources through the effective management of the states' coastal zones. In Oregon, the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) receives federal CZMA funds via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). That funding supports 11 positions that in turn provide technical and grant assistance to municipalities, local, and regional groups to do a range of work such as reduce risk from coastal hazards and help communities keep their comprehensive land use plans and estuary plans up-to-date.

The president's proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2019 zeroes out all NOAA Coastal Management grant funds. If this occurs, the OCMP would no longer have the capacity to serve the 32 cities and 7 counties in Oregon's coastal zone, the state agencies in Oregon's networked Coastal Program, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, the Lower Columbia Solutions Group (addressing Columbia River sediment management), ports, nonprofit environmental groups, environmental consultants, and Oregon's citizens that benefit from effective management of the coastal zone.

### **Oregon Sea Grant Program**

Using a non-regulatory approach based on competitive, peer-reviewed, sound science and technology, the Sea Grant College Program supports state and local decision makers as they address challenges facing coastal communities. Nationally, Sea Grant Programs are dedicated to supporting coastal communities and promoting responsible use of the nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources through informed personal, policy and management decisions.

Approximately 95 percent of Sea Grant's federal funding goes to the state programs where it is used to conduct research, carry out extension and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education activities, and deliver valuable coastal resiliency services. Moreover, federal funding through the Sea Grant program has a significant leveraging impact with every two federal dollars invested attracting at least an additional dollar in non-federal, matching resources. Sea Grant enables coastal economic interests to develop and thrive, which supports the growth and development of our coastal economy.

Oregon Sea Grant is part of this national network of programs and serves as a catalyst to promote discovery, understanding, and resilience for Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems. Oregon Sea Grant has been at the forefront of issues of critical interest to coastal communities, including: preparing coastal communities and local educators for the anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami; supporting research into ocean acidification impacts on oysters and other shellfish, and developing mitigation strategies; working closely with the fishing community to improve their access to and use of ocean condition forecasts; and collaborating with local community partners to support responsible coastal tourism.

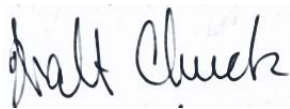
### **Summary:**

Recently, both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate have provided preliminary funding levels that looks promising for the CZMA and Sea Grant programs as well as other programs that deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision-makers. We are grateful the voices of coastal communities and stakeholders are being heard and encourage you to be an advocate for these important programs as the final negotiations occur on the federal budget for fiscal year 2019.

Best Regards,



Jena Carter, Chair  
Oregon Ocean Policy Council



Walter Chuck, Vice Chair  
Oregon Ocean Policy Council