

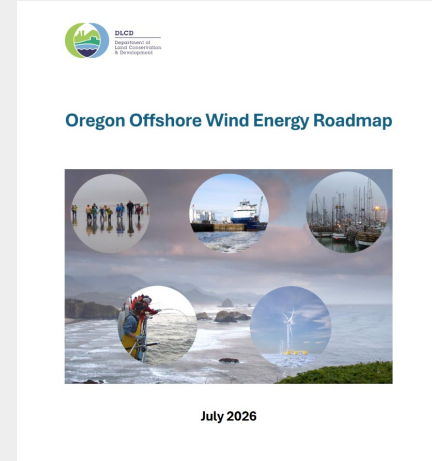
Ocean Science Updates

**Karina Nielsen, Oregon Sea Grant Director
Ocean Policy Advisory Council Meeting - 9.29.2026**

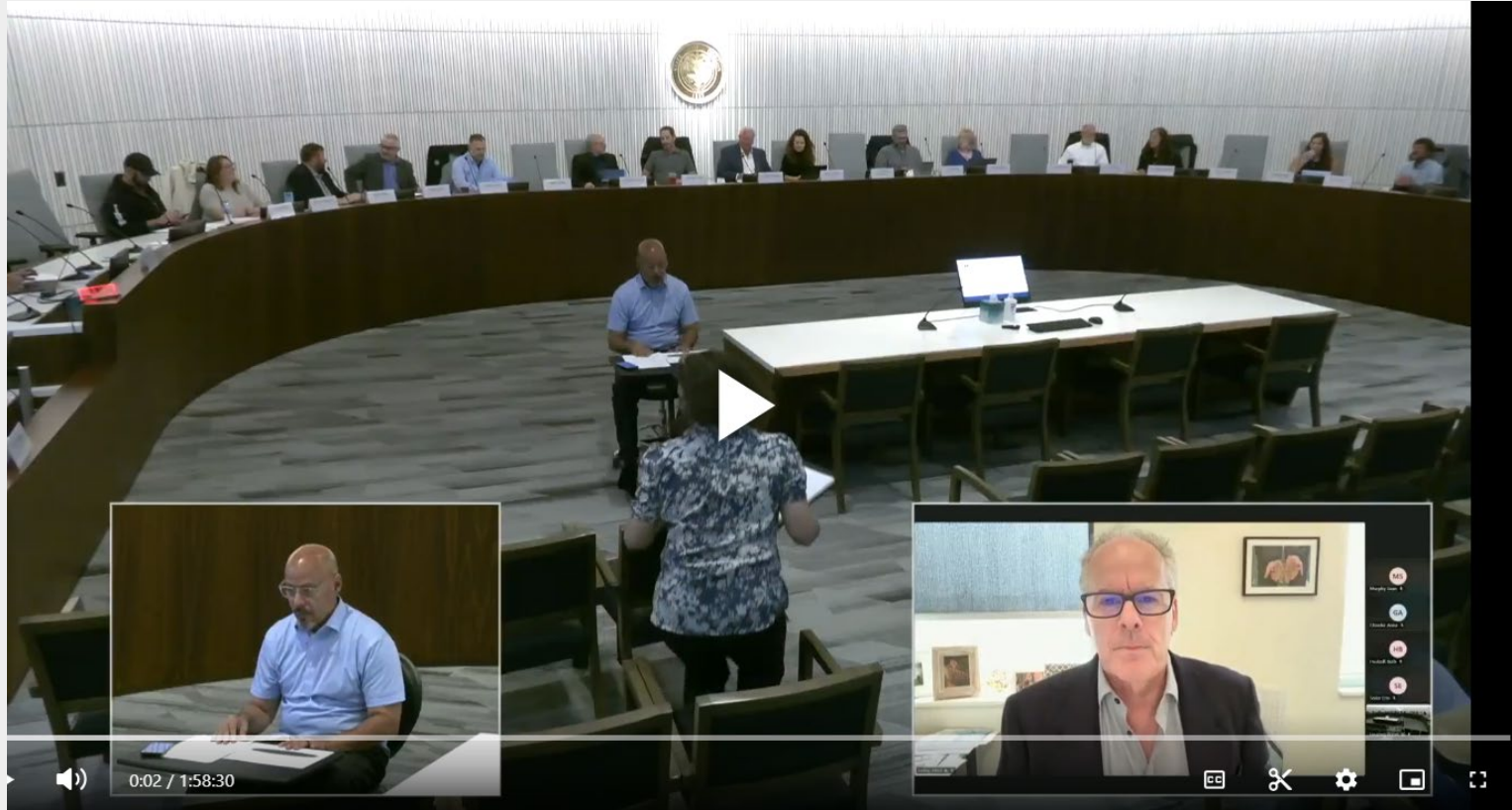


Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

- **STAC Report: Identifying and Prioritizing Offshore Wind Knowledge Gaps for Oregon**
 - Published as an *Appendix C Research Framework* in the [Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap](#)
 - Four key recommendations focused on research
 - Unfinished procedural step for OPAC: motion to formally endorse the report (quorum missing at April 2026 mtg)
 - *“This draft was presented to OPAC in January 2026, and the Council will consider endorsing the report at their April 2026 meeting.”*
- **STAC membership, term renewals**
 - Eight of ten members are current
 - Checking with two on willingness to serve another term
 - Three seats potentially available to be filled



Blue Economy Task Force



Blue Economy Task Force

- **Senate Bill 1525**

- Jointly chaired by Representative David Gomberg and Senator David Brock Smith
- 10 additional members
- The task force shall submit a report and may include recommendations for legislation to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the environment, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, no later than September 15, 2027.

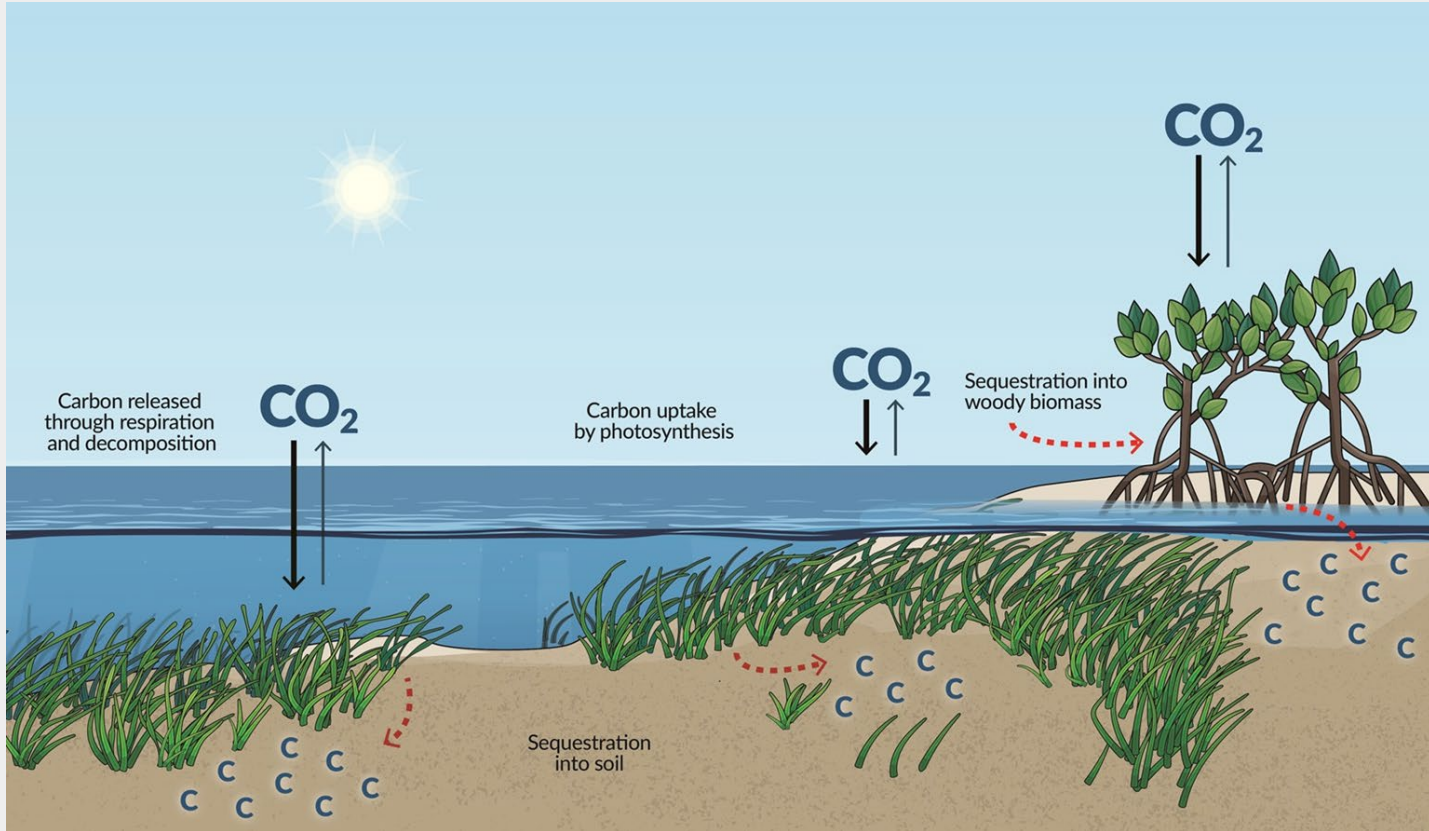
- **Meeting Schedule, meeting materials, email alerts, etc. via OLIS**

- Two meetings held: 9/2 (Salem) and 9/29 (virtual)
- Two additional meetings scheduled prior to Legislative Session starts: 10/28 (Seaside) and 11/30 (Salem), rest TBD

Blue Economy Task Force

- **9/2 agenda overview (see [meeting materials](#) for slide decks)**
 - Overview of Needs Assessment - LPRO Staff
 - Maritime Sector Workforce - Oregon Employment Department
 - National Perspective on the Blue Economy - National Caucus of Environmental Legislators
 - Task Force Discussion of Work Plan, Goals, and Objective
- **9/29 agenda overview**
 - Review of Work Plan - LPRO Staff
 - Economic Development in the Blue Economy - Business Oregon
 - Perspectives on the Blue Economy: Fisheries and Processing - Seafood Processing, Commercial Fisheries reps
- **Note - Meetings are public, includes public comment period**

Oregon's Blue Carbon Habitats, EO 25-26



Oregon's Blue Carbon Habitats, EO 25-26

- **Oregon Sea Grant collaborative effort on how OR's blue carbon habitats and marine ecosystems can strengthen coastal resilience**
 - Scientists, resource managers, and other relevant partners
 - Funding from multiple sources - some secured, some pending
- **Workshops and a white paper aligned with EO 25-26 and the recently finalized resilience attributes**
 - Apply resilience attributes to evaluate geographic opportunities and constraints
 - Prioritize actions that enhance ecosystem resilience and provide community, economic, and environmental benefits
 - Support state agencies to advance their programs, processes, and practices to protect Oregon's working lands and waters, provide practical guidance on actions likely to yield the greatest benefits
- **Planning for Spring Workshops**

Thank you!

Questions?

