



**a presentation to the Ocean Policy Advisory
Council**

October 29, 2025

Content of Presentation

- Who we are
- What we are doing
- Why there is a need
- Our current work



Who We Are

We're a collaborative of Oregon-based organizations, brought together by a shared focus on restorative mariculture on the Oregon coast with support from shared funders.

- **Ecotrust**
- **Oregon Aquaculture Association**
- **Oregon Kelp Alliance**
- **Oregon Sea Grant**
- **The Nature Conservancy**



What We're Doing

Working together to understand the potential for expansion of native and restorative shellfish and seaweeds through:

- Market and spatial assessments
- Outreach and learning
- Evaluating and enabling permitting
- Supporting pilot mariculture projects
- Exploring financing



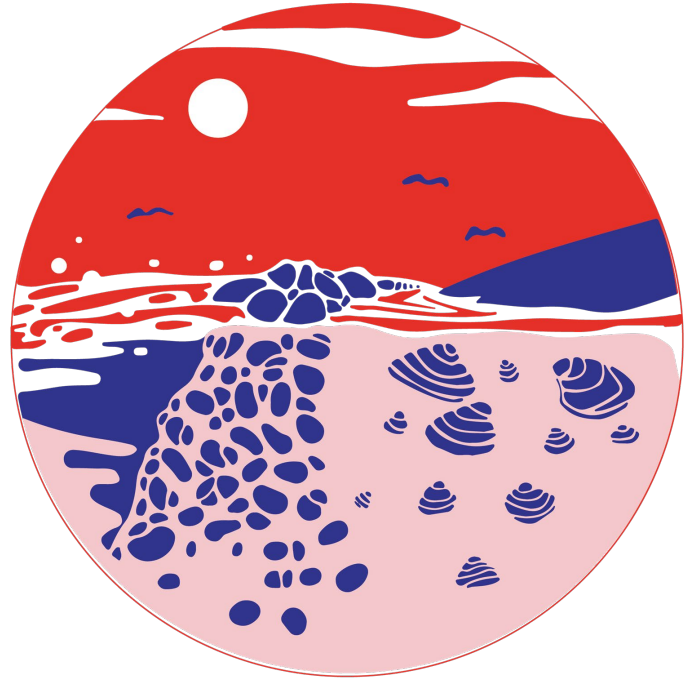


Why Is This Work Needed?

- Oregon has an underdeveloped mariculture sector relative to its potential.
- Interest by potential producers is hampered by lack of policy and permitting framework.
- There is uncertainty regarding suitable locations, species and methods.
- Restorative aquaculture could play an important role in resilience of estuaries and ocean habitats.

Where we are...

- Spatial Analysis - suitable areas for 8 species
- Market Analysis & Financial tools
- Piloting restoration and permitting pathways
- Strengthening Oregon Aquaculture Association
- Outreach & Networking
 - Connecting with the public through the “Tending the Tides” Podcast
 - Oregon Coast Mariculture Future Forum



Spatial Assessment

- Optimal locations: coast and estuary
- 8+ species needs
- Existing uses at coast
- Fitting into communities



Four models run for each species / gear

Exclusion Model

Is an ocean space available for mariculture?



Opportunity Model

Can a species be grown in this ocean space?



Suitability Model

Where are the optimal locations for growing a species in the areas of opportunity?



Ranking Model

What optimal location is best?

Opportunity Model

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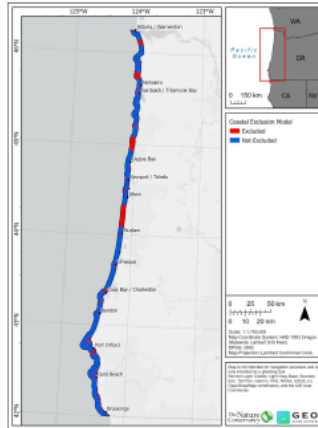
Depth



Salinity



Exclusion Model



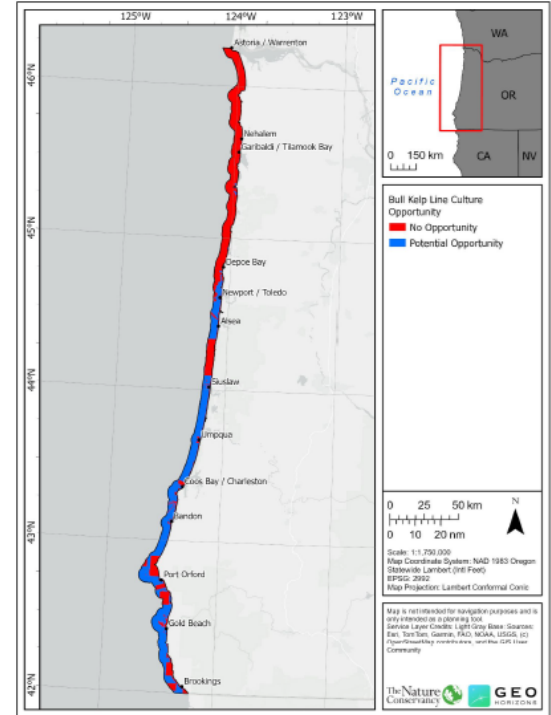
Current Speed



Temperature

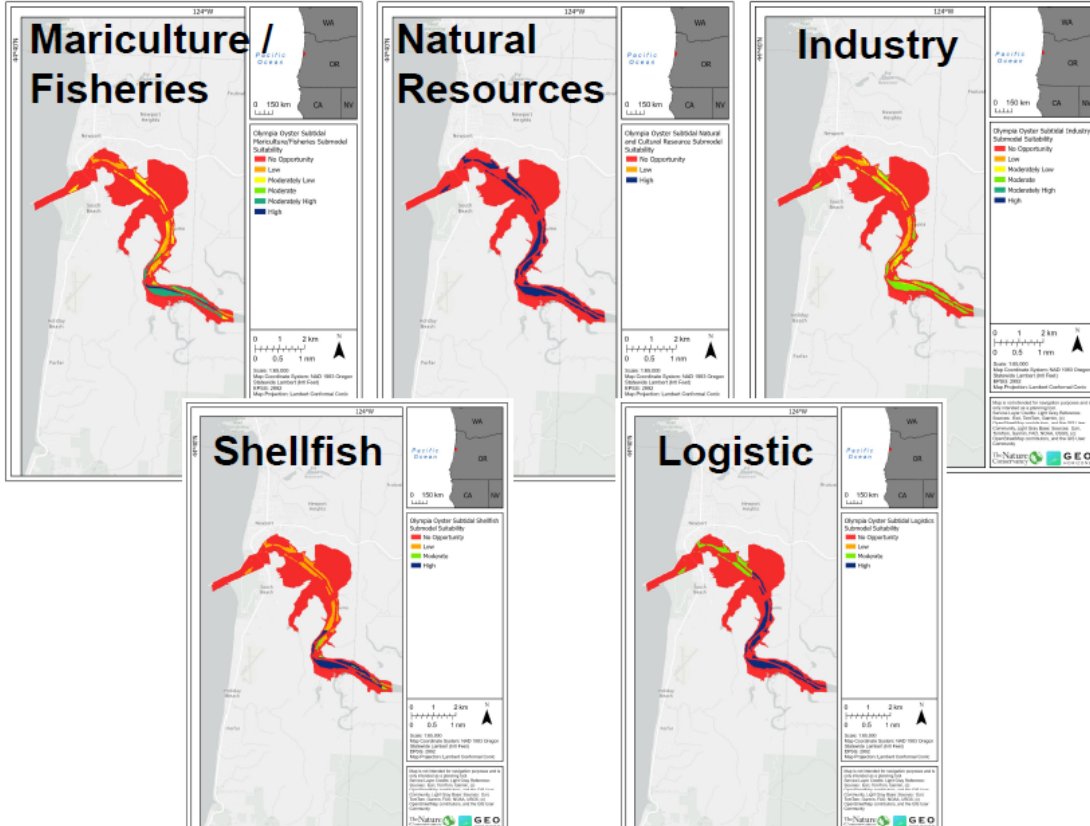


Bull Kelp Line Culture Opportunity Model

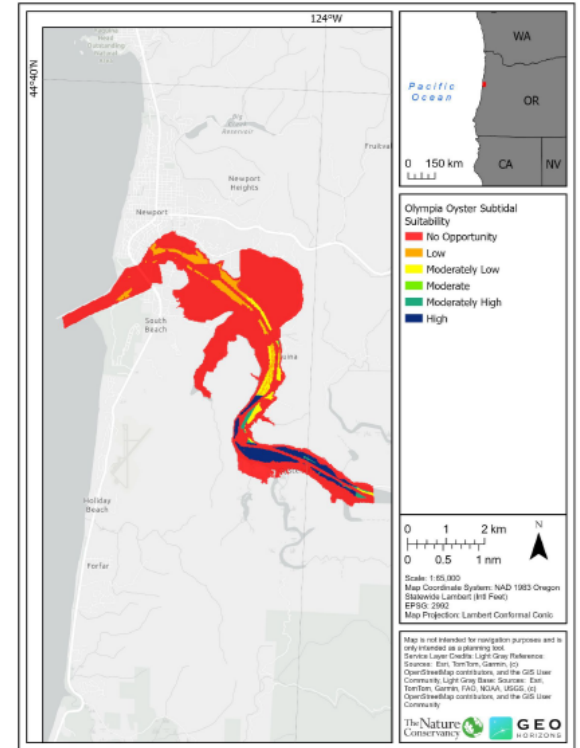


Estuary Suitability Models

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Olympia Oyster Subtidal Suitability Model



Permitting Pathways

How can we permit it?

- In water seaweed farms
- Lead agencies
- New regulations
- Co-culture options



Pilot Projects

- In-water, line grown bull kelp
- Urchin Culling
- Olympia oysters
- On land, circulating tank grown dulse & Urchin Ranching



Market and Finance Strategies



- Economic Feasibility?
 - Market opportunities:
 - Food
 - Bio-stimulants
 - Innovation
 - Physical Expansion
 - Increased production
- Provide Business Tools
- Restorative aquaculture

Mariculture Network

- Connecting practitioners and communities
- Knowledge sharing
- Resources
- Technical support
- In person and virtual events



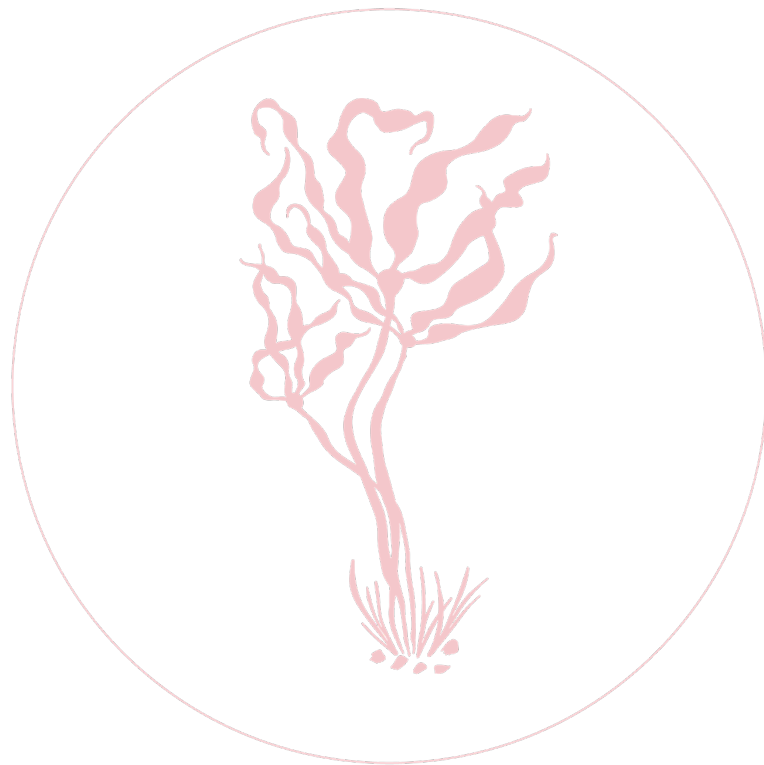
New Podcast Series



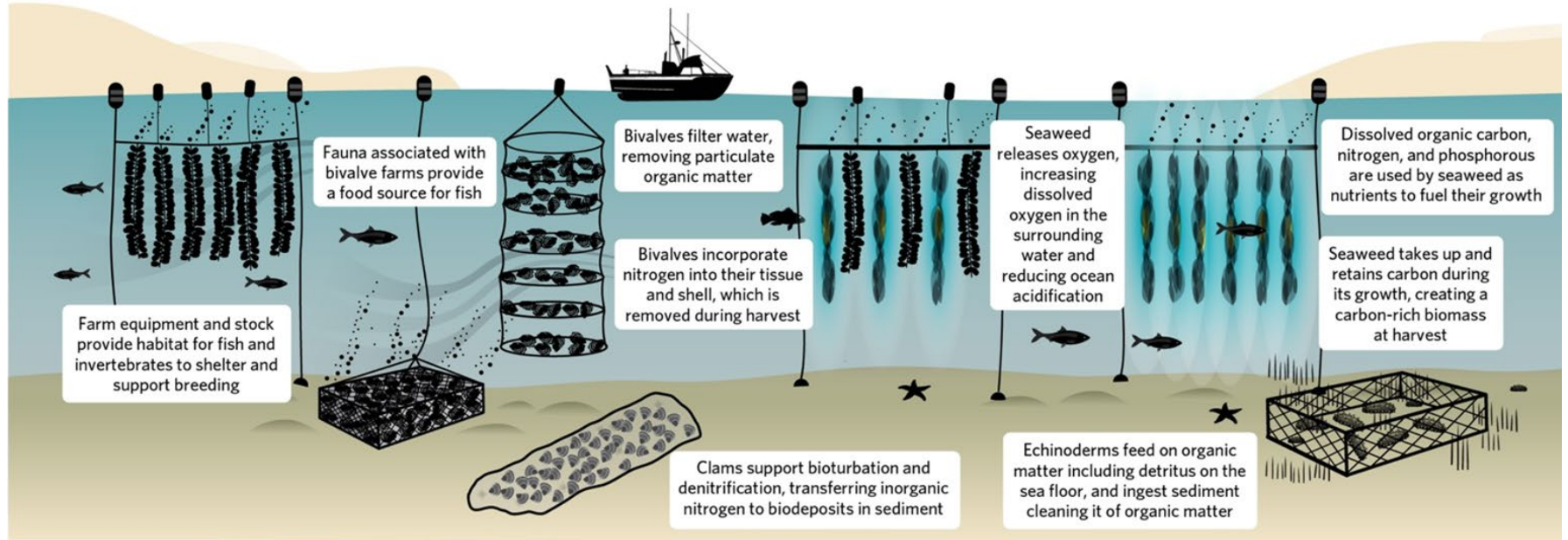
- Introducing Tending the Tides (Available Now)
- History on the Half Shell (Coming Soon)
- The Restoration Economy
- A Seaweed Snack
- Surf and Turf
- Visions on the Future

Mariculture Future Forum

- Theme
 - Cultivating health, wealth, and prosperity in Oregon's coastal communities
- Purpose & Goals
 - Build awareness and enthusiasm around developing and diversifying mariculture in Oregon
 - Identify mariculture development priorities for the next 1 to 3 years
 - Identify mariculture research needs for Oregon State University and other institutions
 - Identify funding pathways that build the future we want
 - Facilitate new connections and partnerships to move the mariculture sector forward



The opportunity: restorative aquaculture can actively benefit aquatic health





Thank you

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<https://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/oregon-coastal-mariculture-collaborative>