

# Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council

Meeting Summary – May 7, 2025

Virtual Meeting

## Meeting Agenda Link

[View the Meeting Agenda Here: https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/ocean-policy-advisory-council/opac-meeting-documents/272-opac-draft-meeting-agenda-may-7-2025](https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/ocean-policy-advisory-council/opac-meeting-documents/272-opac-draft-meeting-agenda-may-7-2025)

## Issues Decided/Positions Taken

OPAC approved the following consensus motions:

- To approve that Dr. Kelsey Emard and Dr. Jenna Tilt are appointed to STAC.
- To approve proposed changes to the STAC charge, as described in the language below:
  - In support of OPAC, the Oregon’s Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap process, and in the context of a proposed regional OSW research entity to inform adaptive management needs for research and monitoring:
    - Develop an offshore wind energy “research prioritization framework” to prioritize key knowledge gaps for further research or monitoring
    - Summarize regionally relevant research to identify current knowledge gaps
    - Deliver/present an initial short report to OPAC (summer)
  - In support of OPAC, Oregon’s Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap process, and in the context of a proposed regional OSW research entity to inform adaptive management needs for research and monitoring:
    - Crosswalk STAC identified knowledge gaps with those identified by the OSW Roadmap work group(s), revise STAC summary
    - Apply “research prioritization framework” to knowledge gaps summary to identify priority research and monitoring needs for Oregon
    - Deliver a final report to OPAC (fall/winter)
- Regarding OPAC Executive Committee Membership:
  - Susan Chambers was re-elected as Chair
  - Tara Brock was re-elected as Vice Chair.
  - Amelia O’Connor and Joe Liebezeit were elected as the two At-Large Members.
- OPAC directed the executive committee to send a funding support letter to the Governor for Oregon ocean and coastal management programs, including the addition of the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Coordinating Council and Oregon Ocean Science Trust to other programs addressed in a previously approved letter (December 2024). Letter included as addendum 1 to this meeting summary.
- OPAC directed the executive committee to send a letter to the Governor raising awareness to and characterizing the federal cuts to the ocean related agencies and programs that were represented in the panel. Letter included as addendum 2 to this meeting summary.

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## **OPAC Members Attendance**

**Members Present (voting):** **Tara Brock** (Coastal Conservation Organization; Vice-Chair); **Susan Chambers** (South Coast Commercial Fisheries; Chair); **Margaret Corvi** (Oregon Coast Indian Tribes); **Jamie Fereday** (Coastal Public At-Large); **Richard Heap** (South Coast Charter, Sport or Recreational Fisheries); **Joe Liebezeit** (Statewide Conservation or Environmental Organization); **Amelia O'Connor** (Coastal Non-Fishing Recreation); **Fran Recht** (Elected City Official)

**Members Present (ex officio):** **Justin Ainsworth** (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife); **Laurel Hillmann** (OPRD); **Rian Hooff** (Department of Environmental Quality); **Lisa Phipps** (Department of Land Conservation & Development); **Kris Wall** (NOAA Office for Coastal Management); **Karina Nielsen** (Oregon Sea Grant); **Ray Monroe** (Coastwide Organization representing small ports and local governments); **Nataliya Stranadko** (Department of State Lands); **Blake Helm** (DSL)

**Staff:** **Amanda Macnab** (DLCD); **Andy Lanier** (DLCD, OPAC Staff); **Steve Shipsey** (Dept. of Justice)

### **Public Comment**

**Public Comment speakers (with affiliation if provided):**

No one shared public comment at 1:00pm

**Others in Attendance (with affiliation if provided):**

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**Scott Marion** (ODFW), **Jeff Burrigh** (DLCD), **Andrea Sumerau** (CTSI), **Delia Kelly** (ODFW), **Eva Krukowski** (DLCD), **Jim Carlson**, **Carl Hendrickson** (Oregon Kelp Alliance), **Annie Merrill**, **Dan Hellin**, **Delia Kelly**, **Jenny Koester**, **Katie Darr**, **Melanie Bukovec**, **Kate Sullivan** (CSULA), **Jena Cater**, **Lisa DeBruyckere**, **Anna Roller** (DLCD), **Laura Anderson** (Oregon Ocean Science Trust), **Sara Hamilton** (Oregon Kelp Alliance), **Bob Cowen** (Hatfield Marine Science Center), **Patricia Fox** (South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve), **Jan Newton** (Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observatory Systems),

### **Distributed Materials**

All documents available online at [www.oregonocean.info/](http://www.oregonocean.info/)

Draft Meeting Summary for December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024: <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/ocean-policy-advisory-council/opac-meeting-documents/208-opac-draft-meeting-summary-december-11-2024/file>

### **Meeting Video**

The meeting recording is available to watch on the OPAC website and at YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/fB73k4uaBcs>

### **Additional Resources**

1. OPAC Website: <http://www.oregonocean.info/opac>

2. [Department of Land Conservation and Development Website](http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/)  
(<http://www.oregon.gov/lcd/> )

Next meeting:

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Scheduling out OPAC for Spring 2026: April 20<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Acronyms and Initials:

DLCD-Department of Land Conservation and Development; DOGAMI- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries; DSL- Department of State Lands; OMD – Oregon Military Department; ODFW- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; OPRD-Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation; DOJ – Department of Justice; TNC – The Nature Conservancy; CTCLUSI – Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, SEA-Shoreline Education for Awareness; LUCS-Land Use Compatibility Statement; STAC-Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee;

*For a copy of the video record of this meeting, please contact Andy Lanier at the contact information listed below, and complete a public records request available online at:*

<https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/About/Pages/Public-Records-Requests.aspx>

[Andy.Lanier@dlcd.oregon.gov](mailto:Andy.Lanier@dlcd.oregon.gov), (503) 206-2291



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Ocean Policy Advisory Council

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: 503-373-0050

Fax: 503-378-5518

[www.oregon.gov/LCD](http://www.oregon.gov/LCD)

## Addendum 1

### Voting Members

*Tara Brock, Vice Chair  
Oceana  
(Coastal Conservation Organization)*

*Susan Chambers, Chair  
West Coast Seafood Processors Assoc.  
(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)*

*Nick Edwards  
(Ports, Marine Transportation or  
Navigation)*

*Jamie Fereday  
(Coastal Public Representative)*

*Margaret Corvi  
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower  
Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians  
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)*

*Fran Recht  
(Coastal City Elected Official)*

*Joe Liebezeit  
(Statewide Conservation Organization)*

*Richard Heap, Jr.  
(South Coast Charter, Sport or  
Recreational Fisheries)*

*Vacant  
(North Coast Charter, Sport or  
Recreational Fisheries)*

*Vacant  
(South Coastal County Commissioner)*

*Amelia O'Connor  
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)*

*Vacant  
(Statewide Public Representative)*

*Mark Kujala  
Commissioner, Tillamook County  
(North Coastal County Commissioner)*

### Ex-Officio Members

*Jonathan Allan  
Department of Geology  
And Mineral Industries*

*Scott Groth  
Department of Fish and Wildlife*

*Alexis Taylor  
Market Access & Certification Director,  
Department of Agriculture*

*Ray Monroe  
Oregon Coastal Zone Management  
Association*

*Chandra Ferrari  
Natural Resources Advisor  
Governor's Office*

*Blake Helm  
Department of State Lands*

*Rian vanden Hooff  
Department of Environmental Quality*

*Lisa Phipps  
OCMP Manager, Department of  
Land Conservation and Development*

*Lisa Sumption  
Director, Department of Parks and  
Recreation*

*Karina Nielsen  
Director, Oregon Sea Grant*

June 19, 2025

Governor Tina Kotek  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Funding of Ocean and Coastal Programs and Marine Reserves

Dear Governor Kotek,

As relayed in our November 11, 2023, letter and discussed at our December 11, 2024, meeting, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council unanimously supports full and complete funding for ocean and coastal management programs. Specifically, the Council expresses concern over proposals to cut the marine reserves program and the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council, the need for additional funding to support offshore wind and sustained funding to support the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy implementation, and the need for ongoing funding and support for tribal engagement and co-management of marine resources.

The Council has repeatedly supported and requested additional funding for ocean and coastal programs. This support was reinforced during Council meetings and transmitted to your office over the past several years. Given the strong support from your ocean advisory body and a diverse group of interested and affected parties, the Council remains concerned about the state of marine program funding into the future.

The Council requests any consideration of future budget cuts to the marine programs affecting Oregon's Territorial Sea in the state agency or Governor recommended budgets be presented to the Council before incorporation into final proposals. Properly funding the staff and resources necessary to implement policies that the Council and their workgroups have volunteered countless hours developing is especially poignant at this juncture. With federal funding in jeopardy, it is unclear how the state intends to fill funding gaps and ensure coastal programs can carry out their mandates. We request an update and report at our next meeting (scheduled for October 29, 2025) on the state's plans to fill funding gaps and ensure critical services and programs are maintained.

The Council strongly recommends the administration and state agencies consult with tribal governments early and often when developing ocean policies for the state to ensure the perspectives of tribal nations are well-represented. The coastal tribal sovereigns in Oregon have been the stewards of ocean and coastal places since time immemorial; their knowledge, expertise, connection, rights, and roles in stewardship recognized in recent co-management agreements between the tribes and the state.

Members of the public, agency staff, tribal members, and Council representatives have spent countless hours discussing, advising on, and refining the policies and processes that guide uses of Oregon's Territorial Sea. We reiterate the importance of fully funding Oregon's marine reserve program, the implementation of Territorial Sea Plan Part Three:



Addendum 1 - Continued

Rocky Habitat Management Strategy through Site Management Plans, the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council, and the development of an Offshore Wind Roadmap including necessary updates and amendments to our state's enforceable policies. HB 3587 – the Rocky Habitat Stewardship bill – is the kind of legislation that would help move forward the TSP Part Three implementation.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations. We remain committed to this work to ensure the state retains the uniqueness of our ocean and coastal resources for the benefit of all Oregonians and look forward to hearing from your office soon.

Sincerely,



Susan Chambers  
Chair



Tara Brock  
Vice-Chair

Cc:

Governor's Natural Resources Office –  
Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, Geoff Huntington  
Natural Resources Advisor, Chandra Ferrari  
Department of Land Conservation and Development –  
Director, Brenda Bateman  
Department of Parks and Recreation –  
Director, Lisa Sumption  
Department of Environmental Quality –  
Director, Leah Feldon  
Department of State Lands –  
Director, Vicki L. Walker  
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries –  
Director, Dr. Day-Stirrat  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife –  
Director, Dr. Debbie Colbert



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## Addendum 2

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Oceana  
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*Susan Chambers, Chair  
West Coast Seafood Processors Assoc.  
(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)*

*Nick Edwards  
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OCMP Manager, Department of  
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*Lisa Sumption  
Director, Department of Parks and  
Recreation*

*Karina Nielsen  
Director, Oregon Sea Grant*

June 20, 2025

Governor Tina Kotek  
160 State Capitol  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Federal Funding Gaps and Risk to Oregon's Coastal and Ocean Programs

Dear Governor Kotek,

The Ocean Policy Advisory Council hosted a panel to discuss federal funding of ocean and coastal science and management programs at our May 7 meeting. During the presentations, the Council learned about the large amount of federal funding supporting ocean science and management in our state to better understand the existing funding streams in place and educate the public about what is at risk.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife receives more than a quarter of its funding from federal sources, mostly from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, including continuing and competitive grants. This includes funding for commercial and recreational fisheries monitoring and management, stock assessments, habitat assessments, and harvest strategies for our state fisheries that are vital economic drivers for our coastal economies.

Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center has already lost more than a dozen people and expects to lose another 10 to 15 people. The Center is facing program closures including entire labs. The federal government is proposing to eliminate Oregon Sea Grant, which is based at OSU with staff located at Hatfield and coastal Extension offices throughout Oregon. The National Science Foundation is facing cuts to half its funding including resources received by Oregon State University. The federal government is proposing to limit facilities and administration rates to 15 percent. This would equate to a reduction of \$40 million per year in funding cuts (representing 300 jobs) to Oregon State University alone including funds that support high speed computing, research libraries, janitorial and security services, and hazardous waste management.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve manages around 7,000 acres of coastal area. Half of SSNERR's funds come from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, representing nearly \$1 million that supports 22 staff. SSNERR runs community and educational programming, hosting more than 125 classes annually and 1,400 students last year alone. Research conducted at the Reserve includes 30 years of water quality monitoring data and research into the invasive five spine European green crab, which holds the potential to decimate Dungeness crab and oyster habitat and populations vital to Oregon's coastal economies.

## Addendum 2 Continued

The Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems provides the public with vital data and information to solve problems and is wholly funded by the federal government through NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System. Information provided by NANOOS includes data that support safety at sea, shoreline protection, navigation and ports, seafood competitiveness, tsunami evacuation, and technological innovation. NANOOS funds coastal radars that track surface currents to increase the efficiency and accuracy of search and rescue operations as well as identify and guide safe routes for navigation. Their work supported the development of a tsunami mobile application in partnership with the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, modeling and real-time wave data at ports to aid bar pilots and mariners for safe passage, the sampling, analysis, and noticing for harmful algal blooms to protect public health, and the development of a recreational user mobile application to provide boaters, surfers, and beachgoers with real-time information to assess safe passage.

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development oversees our state's Coastal Management Program, a network of 41 cities and counties on the coast and 11 state agencies. Federal funding under Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act covers salary for 11 of 16 staff under the Oregon Coastal Management Program at DLCD. These staff administer the goals and mission of the coastal management program to conserve and preserve the state's coastal resources while promoting resilient and vibrant coastal communities. Importantly, DLCD oversees the state's federal consistency determinations, one of the few avenues where the state can weigh in on federal actions affecting our coastal resources to ensure those actions are consistent with our enforceable policies that include statewide planning goals, statutes, rules, and local land use plans and ordinances.

Oregon Sea Grant is a cooperative program between OSU and NOAA, similar to university Land-Grant programs, that delivers integrated programs of locally relevant, ocean and coastal research, extension services, and education. ORSG programs focus on environmental literacy and workforce development, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and healthy coastal ecosystems. Two-thirds of ORSG's funding (\$3.5 million) is provided via NOAA under the National Sea Grant College Act. ORSG supports 40 staff positions, and over 60 student jobs each year, providing important technical capacity for Oregon's rural coastal zone. Its programs generate \$14 million in economic benefits for Oregon and serve almost 80,000 people every year, including youth, educators, fishermen, university students, local businesses and organizations, and the public.

NOAA funding that flows to our state is expected to be reduced by 50 percent. These impacts are severe and will hobble our state's leadership on science-based ocean and coastal management. This loss may also affect Oregon's regional ocean leadership that we share with Washington and California.

As evidenced by the summaries above, the threats to Oregon's marine natural resources, science and management are real. Because this is so important, OPAC excerpted this

Addendum 2 Continued

funding discussion segment from our meeting, which can be found on the Oregon DLCD YouTube site: [https://youtu.be/gxuF0C15vDU?si=d9vf2BNSBp\\_yeT0D](https://youtu.be/gxuF0C15vDU?si=d9vf2BNSBp_yeT0D) .

Given the current potential loss of federal funding sources and the resultant severe impacts to state management, it is incumbent on the State of Oregon to step up and better support our state agencies and scientific institutions. Robust funding for our state agencies with responsibilities for Oregon's Territorial Sea, advocacy to defend federal funding for state-wide ocean and coastal programs, and bills such as HB 3587 – the Rocky Habitat Stewardship bill and HB 3786 - the Oregon Ocean Science Trust Blue Economy bill are examples of ways that the State can provide support. OPAC stands ready to help and provide guidance as the state navigates the challenging times ahead.

Sincerely,



Susan Chambers  
Chair



Tara Brock  
Vice-Chair

Cc:

Governor's Natural Resources Office  
Senior Natural Resource Policy Advisor, Geoff Huntington  
Natural Resources Advisor, Chandra Ferrari  
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