

Questions and Answers: Proposal to Disapprove Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program

1. What is being proposed by NOAA and EPA?

On December 20, 2013, NOAA and EPA issued their intent to find that Oregon has failed to submit an approvable coastal nonpoint pollution control program. Oregon is one of 11 coastal states that do not have a fully approved coastal nonpoint pollution program.

2. What is the effect of program disapproval?

If the final decision by NOAA and EPA in 2014 is to disapprove Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program, the Oregon Coastal Management Program under the Department of Land Conservation and Development will lose 30% of its Coastal Zone Management Act funding and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality will lose 30% of its nonpoint source management program funding. DLCD uses the coastal zone management funding for coastal program staff, planning assistance and technical assistance grants to coastal cities and counties and contracts for special services such as the soon-to-be released Tsunami Land Use Guide for Local Government.

3. Who should comment on the proposal to deny approval of Oregon's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program?

- People who benefit from the financial and technical support provided by the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP)
- State and local government entities who partner with the OCMP to implement program elements such as: planning for coastal hazards, marine planning, maintain beach access for the public, preserving working waterfronts, preserving natural estuary systems, federal consistency reviews and supporting local efforts to identify and protect wetlands, riparian areas and wildlife habitat.
- People who have seen the application of management practices to protect and restore water quality and aquatic habitat increase in the last fifteen years and people who have witnessed improvements in water quality, aquatic habitat, and indications of salmon recovery in Oregon's coastal watersheds.

4. How do I comment on the proposal to disapprove?

Public comments should be sent by March 21, 2014 to Joelle Gore, Acting Chief, Coastal Programs Division (N/ORM3), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOS, NOAA, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910 or by email joelle.gore@noaa.gov.

5. Why are NOAA and EPA making this proposal?

The federal agencies are making the proposal at this time as a result of a settlement agreement that required EPA and NOAA to make a preliminary decision on the Oregon Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program by November 15 and a final decision by May 15, 2014. There are ten other states that have remaining elements of their coastal nonpoint pollution control programs to be approved, but Oregon is the only state with a settlement agreement.