



Oregon Ocean Science Trust

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100

Salem, OR 97301-1279

(503) 986-5200

FAX (503) 378-4844

OceanScienceTrust@dsl.state.or.us

DATE: June 13, 2016

TO: Ocean Policy Advisory Council

FROM: Louise Solliday, Executive Director, Oregon Ocean Science Trust
(OOST)

RE: Priority Nearshore Research and Management Questions

Voting Members

Louise Solliday
Executive Director

Laura Anderson
Emily Goodwin Martin
Jim Sumich
Krystyna Wolniakowski

Legislative Members

Sen Arnie Roblan
Rep David Gomberg

Please find the following priority nearshore research and management questions identified by the OOST at their regular meeting on June 8, 2016:

- **What are the distribution and abundance of economically and ecologically important species, and the habitats on which they depend, in the nearshore environment?**
- **How are economically and ecologically important species and their habitats affected by changes in the physical, chemical and biological nearshore environment?**
- **How do changes in ocean conditions affect state and local community vulnerability/resilience? What are the local drivers of changing ocean conditions?**
- **What options exist for adapting to, mitigating and possibly minimizing changes in ocean conditions that affect economically and ecologically important species, and the habitats on which they depend, in the nearshore environment?**
- **How does ocean health relate to livability, health and wellbeing, economic prosperity and safety in Oregon and its coastal communities?**

These questions were developed based on information gleaned from a two day science summit involving a number of ocean researchers and agency personnel involved in nearshore decision making. They would serve as the basis for seeking grant proposals to fund priority research and monitoring in the nearshore environment. OOST will be seeking public input on these questions and other issues related to a grant program later this summer and early fall with the goal of developing and adopting administrative rules in early 2017.

OOST has requested a policy option package (budget package) through the Department of State Lands budget to fund operations and a grant program beginning July 1, 2017. The request is for \$1 million in general funds. We hope to leverage state funds to seek federal and private funding to grow the grant fund over time.

OOST would appreciate any initial input from OPAC on whether these are the right priority questions that we need answers to in the nearshore environment.