



Oregon Ocean Science Trust

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February 9, 2018

To: Legislative Assembly

From: Louise Solliday
Executive Director of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust
(OOST)

Subject: 2018 OOST Biennial Report Executive Summary

Legislation creating the OOST was initially passed in 2013 (SB 737), with amendments occurring to that legislation during the 2014 session (SB 1545). The 5 voting OOST members were appointed by the Land Board in October 2015 and OOST held its first meeting in December 2015. OOST has met 7 times since its inception.

To date no state funds have been provided for OOST to operate. Despite that, some work has been accomplished. The OOST has:

1. Adopted by-laws;
2. Hosted a 2 day science summit, with financial support from The Nature Conservancy through a Packard Foundation Grant, to set priorities for research and monitoring in Oregon's nearshore. The OOST approved 5 priority questions that need to be answered to better inform decision making by managers and policy makers.
3. Developed an inventory of current research and monitoring projects in the nearshore;
4. Invited the California Ocean Science Trust to visit with OOST to share their efforts with us;
5. Adopted rules for a grant program for funding nearshore research and monitoring projects, should money be made available for the grant program in the future; and
6. Coordinated with other nearshore efforts including the Ocean Acidification Hypoxia Work Group, Ocean Policy Advisory Council, Oregon Coastal and Ocean Information Network, and Ocean Acidification Fishermen's Roundtable.

DSL staff provide administrative support to OOST. This includes staffing OOST meetings, maintaining a listserv of interested parties, processing travel reimbursements, and hosting the OOST Web site.

Lack of state funding has become a barrier to the Trust fully moving forward with its responsibilities. As such, OOST is looking at alternative funding strategies which include potentially seeking a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor or creating a separate 501(c)3 organization that can receive tax deductible contributions from individuals and businesses as well as private foundation grants to support its work. The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners has provided us with a small grant and The Nature Conservancy has expressed interest in continuing to support our work.

Serious issues confront Oregon's nearshore environment. OOST was created to encourage and support the research and monitoring needed to better understand the changes that are occurring off our coast and determine how best the state might avoid, mitigate or adapt to those changes. It is challenging to do this without adequate funding.

All documents referred to in this report can be found at www.oregon.gov/dsl/OOST/Pages/OOST.aspx.