

November 19, 2019

MEMO

To: State Board of Agriculture (BOA)  
From: Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Subject: Appointment to the Oregon Coordination Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia

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In 2017, the passage of Oregon Senate Bill 1039 created the Oregon Coordinating Council on Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH Council) to provide recommendations and guidance for the State of Oregon on how to respond to this issue.

Oregon was one of the first places in the world to observe the direct impacts of ocean acidification - oyster hatchery production collapsed in 2007. Acidification continues to challenge oyster aquaculture productivity and has caused some producers to move operations elsewhere. Also, of great concern, acidification and hypoxia events are continuing to intensify and there are now clear signs that they are undermining the rich ocean ecosystem food web. Oregon's iconic fisheries and the coastal communities that depend on them — both of which quintessentially define the world-renowned Oregon Coast — are at risk.

The OAH Council was created to assemble interests that are currently and potentially impacted by OAH in Oregon. The OAH Council forum is composed of members of State agencies, academic experts, stakeholders, and Tribal interests, who collaboratively develop recommendations, and advise the State on the implementation of actions to support the sustainability of Oregon's ocean as OAH intensifies.

The OAH Council consists of 13 members (see attached member list): 1) Governor or Governor's designee; 2) The director of an initiative for integrative marine studies at OSU or director's designee; 3) The State Fish & Wildlife Director or designee; 4) The Director of Agriculture or designee; 5) The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or designee; 6) The Director of Land Conservation and Development or designee. The remaining seven members are appointed in consultation with the Governor's office including one member representing the shellfish mariculture (the cultivation of fish or other marine life for food) industry, appointed by the State Board of Agriculture.

Frank Barcellos, Food Safety Program Manager, serves on the committee as ODAs representative. The current shellfish mariculture representative Liu Xin with Oregon Oyster Farms Inc. in Newport has requested to step down from the OAH Council however will remain a member until a new representative is appointed. Appointed members serve a 4-year term and at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Members are eligible for re-appointment.

**FOR ACTION/DISCUSSION**

During the December BOA meeting the Board will need to identify a process to solicit public interest and identify possible representatives who may have an interest in serving on the Council. At the February 2020 meeting the BOA will need to select from the list of names and work with ODA to consult with the Governor's office to appoint a new member to the Council.

Attachment:

- 1) 2018 OAH Council membership list



## OREGON COORDINATING COUNCIL ON OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND HYPOXIA

**Dr. Kristen Sheeran**  
Governor's Office

**Dr. Jack Barth, Co-Chair**  
Oregon State University

**Dr. Caren Braby, Co-Chair**  
Department of Fish & Wildlife

**Frank Barcellos**  
Department of Agriculture

**Karen Tarnow**  
Department of Environmental Quality

**Andy Lanier**  
Department of Land Conservation &  
Development

**Dr. James Sumich**  
Ocean Science Trust

**Dr. Shelby Walker**  
Oregon Sea Grant

**Fran Recht**  
Conservation Organization

**Al Pazar**  
Fishing Representative

**Liu Xin**  
Shellfish Industry Representative

**Dr. Aaron Galloway**  
University of Oregon

**John Schaefer**  
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower  
Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians

