

REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact, no statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Baertschiger, Burdick, Close, Prozanski, Roblan
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Racquel Rancier, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/28, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Oregon Ocean Science Trust (Trust) to promote ocean and coastal resource research and monitoring, and, subject to funding availability, establish competitive grant program. Directs State Land Board to appoint members to Trust and defines eligibility requirements. Specifies Trust operating procedures, including that members serve as volunteers without compensation or reimbursement. Directs Department of State Lands and other agencies as necessary to provide personnel support to Trust. Creates Oregon Ocean Science Fund (Fund) consisting of donations, legislatively appropriated moneys, interest, and moneys received from federal government under Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA). Appropriates Fund money to Trust. Distributes 30 percent of moneys received under OCSLA to coastal counties adjacent to lands for which state distributive share is received. Authorizes reimbursement to State Treasurer, Department of State Lands, and other agencies for costs, not to exceed five percent of total moneys deposited in Fund per biennium. Requires report on Trust progress to Legislative Assembly by March 31 of even-numbered years. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Research project conducted on rock fish ecology
- Funding needed to support nearshore research to inform resource management and allocation decisions
- Provisions of federal OCSLA and amount of distributive share to state from leases

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: Under OCSLA, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior administers mineral exploration and development of submerged lands three to 200 miles from the shore and distributes a share of receipts from leases to adjacent states. In 1985, OCSLA was amended to share revenues from oil and natural gas generated between three to six miles offshore, with states receiving 27 percent of the revenues. In 2005, Congress added marine renewable energy to the revenues shared with the states under OCSLA.

In 2009, House Bill 3106 created the Oregon Task Force on Nearshore Research (Task Force) to recommend long-term funding and coordination strategies for implementing the nearshore priorities of the state including research and monitoring; management and policy formation; and education and outreach. The Task Force recommended creating a trust to provide a funding mechanism to support the implementation of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and identified research and monitoring needs. Senate Bill 737 A establishes a Trust to promote ocean and coastal resource research and monitoring. In addition, the bill creates the Oregon Ocean Science Fund, which includes moneys received by the federal government under OCSLA, to support Trust activities.