

8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314 301-562-0777 tel 301-562-0888 fax www.aza.org

February 19, 2019

Governor Kate Brown 160 State Capitol 900 Court Street Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Governor Brown:

As Executive Director of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a national organization that oversees 233 zoos and aquariums across the country, I'm pleased and proud to support the Oregon Coast Aquarium's thoughtful and exciting plans. As an accredited member of the AZA, the Oregon Coast Aquarium meets the highest possible standards in all aspects of animal care and management. The Aquarium is dedicated to the conservation of marine wildlife in the State of Oregon and to engaging the public in active conservation. The Aquarium also has a significant economic impact on the community drawing visitors from the entire Pacific Northwest and beyond.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium educational efforts are extraordinary. Each year the Aquarium reaches thousands of children through engaging and unique educational experiences. The planned Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center will greatly expand the work of the Aquarium in wildlife rescue, care and rehabilitation, as well as expand the educational component of that vital work. The Oregon Coast Aquarium with its immersive exhibits and captivating programs provides the personal connection to marine life that inspires visitors of all ages to care for animals and for the oceans.

On behalf of the AZA, I respectfully request that you consider supporting the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This investment will provide countless learning experiences for the children of Oregon and ensure that this excellent community resource will continue to thrive and pursue its compelling conservation mission for many years to come.

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Kristin L. Vehrs Executive Director



February 13, 2019

Governor Brown 160 State Capitol 900 Court Street Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Brown,

Travel Oregon's vision is a better life for all Oregonians through, strong, sustainable local economies. This includes enhancing economies throughout the state by helping communities better leverage the state's \$11.8 billion tourism industry. It also means working together for improved and upgraded facilities that enhance the visitor experience while also enriching Oregonians' quality of life.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is one of the highlights of the Oregon Coast. From sea otters to harbor seals to jelly fish to Tufted Puffins, many of us grew up learning about local fauna by exploring the aquarium with friends and family. As a key driver of the tourism industry, Travel Oregon strongly supports the Oregon Coast Aquarium and their recent capital campaign. Enhancing and improving the aquarium will result in long-term, sustainable benefits for visitors and locals alike.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is not only a mainstay of the community, but it's also a pillar in the tourism economy as it attracts more than 400,000 visitors annually, with 35 percent traveling there from out of state. This visitation contributes greatly to the local tourism industry on the Central Oregon Coast, where visitors spend \$788 million, resulting in more than 8,900 folks directly employed in the industry.

Funding for the Oregon Coast Aquarium will generate sustainable economic benefits by strengthening the local tourism industry and will improve local livability. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Todd Davidson CEO, Travel Oregon

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY**

Strengthening Lincoln County's economy. Attracting and supporting primary jobs.

June 7, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County is pleased to offer unconditional support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Our Alliance has been actively providing economic development services to the county for over twenty years, and has worked closely with the aquarium since its inception at approximately the same time. The aquarium represents a unique and very valuable cultural asset. Its growth and expansion in functionality over the years reflects this. It is now a destination in its own right as it continues to beautify its landscape, provide educational experiences, and provide animal rehabilitation.

We understand that periodic improvements are necessary to modernize and upgrade the physical plant of such a large institution. The Community and Economic Development fund of Lincoln County has granted funds to the aquarium over the years. We urge others to do the same under the current fundraising campaign for capital and program improvements. Local support is strong and the community is highly involved in the workings of the aquarium. From the loyalty of staff and the large numbers of volunteers in every age range, the love and affection for the aquarium is evident. It is used for community events of all kinds.

The aquarium honors its visitors by its desire for the best and most professionally polished experience for them. We hope you will agree and support the fundraising campaign now underway.

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Caroline Bauman Executive Director



Stimulating economic growth in the greater Yaquina Bay region

May 21, 2018

The Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation (YBEF) is an all-volunteer 501(c)(6) corporation formed in 1981 to encourage and promote growth and economic development in the greater Yaquina Bay region. Numbering nearly 40, YBEF's Directors represent a dynamic cross section of public and private sector business and community leaders throughout the Newport and Toledo area.

YBEF was instrumental in the concept and development of the Aquarium over 25 years ago. As one of YBEF's premium projects, the Aquarium was developed and supported by YBEF to help revitalize the local economy, draw tourism, facilitate ocean research and education.

The Aquarium brings more the 400,000 people through its doors each year and is consistently ranked one of the top ten aquariums in the nation. The Aquarium works collaboratively with OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, NOAA, Oregon Coast Community College, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and many other key partners in marine science education. The Aquarium is an essential to Newport and surrounding communities in Lincoln County.

The members of YBEF strongly support the Aquarium's current fundraising campaign to enhance the current facility and programming so this legacy continues to thrive for the local community, the state of Oregon and beyond.

We strongly encourage foundations and philanthropists to support the Oregon Coast Aquarium's fundraising efforts and educational mission.

Brotte Ryslinge

Birgitte Ryslinge President, Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation



GREATER NEWPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 555 S.W. COAST HWY | NEWPORT OR. |97365 541-265-8801

August 8, 2018

The Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) 501(c)(6) corporation was formed in 1938 to encourage and promote tourism, growth and economic development in the greater Newport region. Numbering nearly 600 members, GNCC's membership represents a dynamic cross section of public and private sector business and community leaders throughout the Central Coast area.

GNCC was a strong partner in the development of the Aquarium more than 25 years ago. That partnership continues exceptionally strong today as we work together to help strengthen our local economy, draw tourism, and facilitate ocean research and education.

The Aquarium brings more than 400,000 people through its doors each year and is consistently ranked one of the top ten aquariums in the nation. The Aquarium works collaboratively with OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, NOAA, Oregon Coast Community College, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and many other key partners in marine science education. The Aquarium is an essential asset to Newport and surrounding communities in Lincoln County.

The Chamber and its Board members of GNCC strongly support the Aquarium's current fundraising campaign to enhance the current facility and programming so this legacy continues to thrive for the local community, the state of Oregon, and beyond.

We strongly encourage your support of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's fundraising efforts and educational mission.

Inn Patti Ferrv

Interim Director Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce



## **United States Department of the Interior**

FISIL & WILIDLIFB SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office 2600 SE 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100 Portland, Oregon 97266 Phone: (503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

Reply To: 8670.0057 File Name: OR Aq campaign support TS Number: 19-191

FEB 1 3 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are pleased to write this letter in support of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's strategic plan to further enhance its already outstanding programs in educational outreach and marine wildlife care and rehabilitation. The Aquarium has served as a longstanding partner to the Service in our conservation efforts, and plays a unique and critically important role in the care and handling of endangered and threatened sea turtles, protected sea birds, and other marine wildlife in the State of Oregon.

We are especially enthusiastic about the Aquarium's plans to build a new and improved Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The Aquarium provides critical medical care for a variety of stranded, sick, or injured marine wildlife, and over the years has participated in the successful rehabilitation and release of several endangered or threatened sea turtles. The Oregon Coast Aquarium is the only facility in the State of Oregon that is permitted to handle federally listed sea turtles or protected sea birds, but it has a limited capacity for doing so. Injured animals must often be moved to another facility in Washington or California for care, a stressful journey that many do not survive. The new facility planned by the Oregon Coast Aquarium will provide the ability to care for a greater number of these animals on site, thereby enhancing their prospects for survival and successful return to the wild. The wildlife rescue, care, and rehabilitation services provided by the Oregon Coast Aquarium are, simply put, invaluable; the new Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center with dedicated veterinary staff will allow this facility to further excel. We anticipate that the improved facilities will enable the Aquarium to further contribute to the recovery of endangered and threatened marine wildlife species in the years to come.

Increasing awareness and understanding of marine life and ocean processes through expanded outreach and education programs is another focus of the new strategic plan that we fully endorse. Our conservation efforts on behalf of marine wildlife and ecosystems rely on public support, which in turn depends on a public that is informed and engaged with regard to coastal and ocean environments and issues. The Oregon Coast Aquarium has a solid track record of providing outstanding educational opportunities to people of all ages and from all walks of life with regard to the importance of marine species and oceanic environments. In addition, the value of the opportunity to engage directly with marine wildlife through a visit to the Aquarium, and to forge a personal connection that manifests in a conservation ethic, cannot be overstated. Our oceans, our coastal environments, and our marine wildlife are all facing new and widespread threats, from plastic pollution to warming and acidification. Public education and engagement will be

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key in providing global solutions, but is also critical for addressing local challenges on our own Oregon coast. We support the Oregon Coast Aquarium's education and outreach efforts, and are particularly impressed by their efforts to bring educational opportunities to traditionally underserved communities through distance learning and by taking their school outreach program "on the road" to remote areas of Oregon and even beyond to neighboring States.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is an exceptional economic, educational, and environmental resource in our coastal community, and plays a vital role in inspiring and achieving the conservation of our coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife in Oregon and beyond. We encourage your support to help the Aquarium attain their strategic planning goals and fulfill their important conservation mission.

Sincerely,

Paul Henson, Ph.D. State Supervisor FROM THE DESK OF

### LAURA L. TODD

February 4, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the strategic goals the Oregon Coast Aquarium has developed to improve and expand its operations and educational resources. In my former position as the Newport Field Office Supervisor for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Aquarium was an invaluable partner in both educational programs and wildlife care and health.

Over the last 20+ years, the Aquarium has responded to countless bird illnesses and injuries, and to marine wildlife strandings, including sea turtles, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and other species. The Aquarium has rehabilitated several severely hypothermic and incapacitated adult olive ridley and Pacific green sea turtles, returning them to the wild. These animals were satellite tracked following their release, and the rescue not only returned individuals to the wild, but their care and tracking has contributed to science, husbandry, and recovery of these imperiled species. Without the Aquarium , it is unlikely that *any* of these animals would have survived.

The Aquarium's facilities and staff are instrumental in providing wildlife health services on the Oregon Coast. No other facility has the resources, expertise, or collaborative capacity to provide emergency treatment to incapacitated wildlife. While the Aquarium is invaluable in providing this care, the current space and staff availability limit the number of animals that can be simultaneously treated, and sometimes requires transferring animals to Seattle or California. The time and stress caused by such transportation reduces the likelihood of successful treatment. A state-ofthe-art Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center will address this gap and allow for more rapid response, more efficient and effective treatments, and greater likelihood of success. Such a facility would set the stage for Oregon to become a model for wildlife response on the West Coast and allow partners to strategically plan for future wildlife health needs.

lauraltodd@gmail.com

The Oregon Coast Aquarium is also instrumental in educating the public about coastal wildlife, and in particular, the issues that affect marine health. The rescues and the animals' stories are intensely interesting to the public and the extensive publicity garnered by the Aquarium's efforts serves to further the educational reach and messaging to the public. The Aquarium is able to show the consequences of environmental stressors and allow encourages people to contemplate personal, societal, and policy changes that can improve marine health. The care of a wayward sea turtle or tropical sea bird not only provides evidence of environmental change, but also illustrates the need for everyone to work together to address marine health issues.

The strategic priorities identified by the Oregon Coast Aquarium will contribute to the the health of both the institution and marine fish and wildlife, and it will be a significant investment in the future of the Oregon coastal community as well.

I look forward to continuing to support the Aquarium and its mission as it grows into the future.

Sincerely yours,

Janna Told

Laura L. Todd Newport Field Office Supervisor, Retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Resources Program 2040 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, OR 97365 (541) 867-4741 FAX (541) 867-0311 www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/

Oregon Kate Brown, Governor

January 29, 2019



To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Research Project Leader for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) Marine Reserve Program, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium is a key collaborator and contributor to science and education in our community. ODFW is the lead agency responsible for overseeing the scientific monitoring and management of Oregon's five marine reserve sites that have been designated within the state's nearshore waters. The Oregon Coast Aquarium has played a critical role in supporting the development of our long-term scientific monitoring program since the inception of our program in 2010. Together we have successfully developed a scientifically rigorous, volunteer dive program to gather monitoring data on underwater habitats, invertebrates, and fish communities. To date the dive program led by the Oregon Coast Aquarium has trained 29 divers, conducting over 600 monitoring dives in the first eight years of our program. Without the efforts of the Oregon Coast Aquarium, we would be unable to have a dive program contributing such valuable data to the long-term monitoring of Oregon's Marine Reserves. The commitment and contribution of the Oregon Coast Aquarium to our project is exemplary of their commitment and dedication to collaborating in cutting-edge science in the Pacific Northwest.

Furthermore, the Oregon Coast Aquarium is a master at turning science and fieldwork efforts into educational opportunities. As a partner with the ODFW Marine Reserves program, the Oregon Coast Aquarium has an educational kiosk about the marine reserves in their local sandy shores exhibit. Furthermore, their educational programs and communication staff broaden the reach of our program to share key messages about the science and creatures found in Oregon's waters. We are grateful to have them as a scientific and educational partner and support their capital campaign and project priorities for 2019 and beyond.

Ladsay aylesnorth

Lindsay Aylesworth, Ph.D Project Leader Marine Reserves Program Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife <u>lindsay.x.aylesworth@state.or.us</u>



Department of Fish and Wildlife South Willamette Watershed District Office 7118 NE Vandenberg Avenue Corvallis, OR 97330 (541) 757-4186 FAX (541) 757-4252

Jim Burke, Director of Animal Care and Life Support Oregon Coast Aquarium 2820 SE Ferry Slip Road Newport, OR 97365



February 4, 2019

Dear Mr. Burke,

I would like to provide my letter of support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium's new initiative to expand capacity to further create engaging experiences to inspire ocean education and conservation. I can particularly speak to the fact that the Oregon Coast Aquarium has been a partner to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for many years, including research at sea, outreach, and supporting shared conservation goals. The Oregon Coast Aquarium's planned expansion will increase capacity of the Aquarium to perpetuate and enhance the shared coastal goals of ocean literacy, stakeholder education and marine conservation. The Aquarium's thousands of local and international visitors annually also ensures that these messages are shared beyond just Oregonians.

The Aquarium's planned Wildlife Education facility will further enhance the Aquarium's ability to demonstrate the value of Oregon's marine wildlife, a goal that aligns with ODFW's mission to protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations. After this expansion, we also expect that the Aquarium will continue to be a key partner in research and conservation that benefits Oregon's diverse and unique natural resources.

Marine conservation requires a joint effort between many institutions, agencies, facilities and concerned stakeholders. The Oregon Coast Aquarium is one such facility, which serves in many regards as a hub for marine conservation along the Oregon coast. Facilities such as the Oregon Coast Aquarium will become increasingly important in the near future as we face new challenges in ocean natural resource conservation. For this reason, I provide my professional testament to the value of Oregon Coast Aquarium's planned expansion.

Dr. Sheanna Steingass Marine Mammal Program Leader Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife



### State of Washington DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE Mailing Address: P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207

Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

February 1, 2019

Dr. James Burke Director of Animal Husbandry Oregon Coast Aquarium 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd Newport, OR 97365

Dear Dr. Burke,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's proposed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. I work for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Program, Oil Spill Team and our team is responsible for response planning associated with wildlife injured by exposure to oil spills. Our current plans for responding to oiled sea otters involve working with all the great northwest zoo and aquariums to coordinate access to existing facilities and to their staff with expertise in handling sea otters. In addition to the Oregon Coast Aquarium, we also work with the Vancouver Aquarium, Seattle Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, and Oregon Zoo.

The financial responsibility of responding to oiled animals lies with the entity that spilled the oil and this would not be responsibility of your facility. That said, we believe that your facility could be of great assistance if there was a spill in Oregon or Washington. One of the main ways we think your facility might be able to assist in a spill response would be if we were to augment your facility at the time of a spill with equipment to wash and rehabilitate oiled animals. This would involve delivering specialized trailers and additional pools and cages for use in the response.

For over a decade, we have worked with the Oregon Coast Aquarium to develop a voluntary plan to utilize your existing back lot property for oiled sea otter response activities. These plans have been incorporated into the wildlife response section of Northwest Area Contingency Plan, a master document guiding oil spill response in the Pacific Northwest. (https://www.rrt10nwac.com/nwacp/). A facility like your proposed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center could greatly increase the speed with which we could begin to rehabilitate injured sea otters.

Sea otters are a highly charismatic marine mammal that are extraordinarily susceptible to injury and death from an oil spill. The public will be highly supportive of measures to help reduce the effects of an oil spill on these animals. Your proposed facility could be very useful in helping to house and rehabilitate sea otters and potentially other wildlife affected by an oil spill.

Thank you

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Don Noviello



Department of Clinical Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine 272 Magruder Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331 P 541-737-4456 F 541-737-6879

February 8, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I would like to extend my support for the capital campaign to raise funds for the proposed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This exciting project will play a critical role in enhancing the care of marine wildlife in the Pacific Northwest, which will only become more important as wildlife increasingly struggle to survive in the face of human impact on wildlife habitat and the effects of global climate change.

This proposed center will be a tremendous resource for our educational and research mission at the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. I have had the opportunity to work with staff at the Oregon Coast Aquarium on several occasions over the past ten years, and look forward to future collaborations, which will be significantly enhanced by this proposed center. As a veterinary anesthesiologist, marine wildlife present many challenges to providing safe and effective anesthetic care. This center will provide opportunities for myself, my colleagues, our students and our residents to learn and investigate many aspects of veterinary medicine, not the least of which is veterinary anesthesia.

I am particularly excited by the training opportunities this center will provide our veterinary students. The geographic location of this center in close proximity to the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine will be a tremendous asset that will significantly improve our ability to attract the brightest and best students from around the country. Education in wildlife medicine is constantly sought out by veterinary students, and I foresee this center as being a huge draw to future students.

Thank you for your consideration of this exciting capital campaign.

Flusten DVM

Ron Mandsager, DVM Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia Associate Professor and Section Head, Anesthesiology



**Marine Mammal Institute** 

Oregon State University 2030 SE Marine Science Drive Newport, Oregon 97365

**Jim Rice** P 541-867-0446 F 541-867-0128 jim.rice@oregonstate.edu

2/1/2019

Jim Burke Director of Animal Husbandry Oregon Coast Aquarium 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd Newport, OR 97365

Dear Jim,

I would like to offer my full support of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's capital campaign to implement the facility improvements outlined in your strategic planning document.

As the Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator for the Oregon coast, I have long valued my close association with the Aquarium, which has been a consistently willing partner in providing urgent care to distressed marine animals. Since 2006, the Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network and the Aquarium have collaborated on 21 rehabilitation cases, including 14 sea turtles and 8 pinnipeds. In my role as the primary responder of animal strandings along the Oregon coast, I can personally attest to the clear need for increased rehabilitation resources in our region, particularly for cold-stunned sea turtles that typically require immediate diagnostic evaluation and critical care. The Aquarium's proposed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center would provide a much needed animal care facility on the Oregon coast, as well as a dynamic educational portal through which compelling messages about responsible stewardship of marine wildlife can be communicated to the general public.

I look forward to working with you and your staff in the years to come and wish you great success in making this plan become a reality.

Sincerely yours,

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Jim Rice Coordinator, Oregon Marine Mammal Stranding Network Oregon State University



**The Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies** Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center, 2030 SE Marine Science Dr. Newport, Oregon 97365-5229

**P** 541-867-2059 **F** 541-867-7044

February 4, 2019

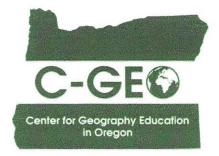
To: Funding Groups and Donors

It is my pleasure to write this letter supporting the Oregon Coast Aquarium's campaign for capital and operational priorities toward advancing its current strategic goals. The OCA is an important regional resource for marine science research, education, and outreach. I have worked with OCA staff over the last 10 years on projects involving underwater acoustic technology testing, autonomous vehicles, and diver assisted oceanographic mooring recoveries. This partnership has resulted in the successful acquisition of some of the first ever long-term recordings of ocean soundscapes in Oregon's offshore coastal waters. The ongoing collaboration between our ocean acoustics laboratory and the OCA has produced new insights for acoustic ecosystems research that we hope to share with the public through future OCA exhibits and materials.

I strongly support the Oregon Coast Aquarium's capital campaign efforts and its strategic goals toward building new and strengthening existing partnerships in the ocean sciences and education communities.

Sincerely,

Joseph Haxel Assistant Professor, Oregon State University Principal Investigator, NOAA-Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory joe.haxel@noaa.gov (541) 867-0282



February 18, 2019

Re: Support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium

To whom it may concern:

The Center for Geography Education in Oregon (C-GEO) is pleased to show support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium's (OCAq) master plan and education programming. As C-GEO's director, I have partnered with OCAq staff on creating and conducting educational programming. In my former position as the Director of Education at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, the Aquarium was an invaluable partner in our ocean literacy efforts, as well.

My experiences working with the OCAq staff has really helped me to understand the incredible value of their work in education and conservation, which goes far beyond simply reaching their visitors. For instance, the extensive publicity garnered by the Aquarium's animal rehabilitation efforts furthers their educational reach and messaging.

As a geography education organization, C-GEO is particularly supportive of the strategic priorities identified by the Oregon Coast Aquarium. They relate to improving and expanding their educational resources to include more geographic concepts, such as sense of place and fieldwork. OCAq is already recognized as a trusted resource for ocean education and conservation throughout the state. When these goals are achieved, they will serve as a significant investment in the future of Oregon.

I look forward to continued work with and support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Sincerely.

Nancee Hunter ' Director, Center for Geography Education in Oregon (Previously, the Director of Education at the Hatfield Marine Science Center)



Flaxen D.L. Conway, Professor and Director, Marine Resource Management Program College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences Oregon State University, 318 Strand Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331 T 541-737-1339 | fconway@coas.oregonstate.edu



February 13, 2019

TO: Interested Parties / Decision Makers

FR:

Flaxen Conway Man M. Conway Support for Oregon Coast Aquarium RE:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium. I have been engaged with the OCAq for years, decades actually, and I can unequivocally share my support for their strategic goals to improve and expand operations and educational resources. This would be wonderful for the OCAq, the city of Newport, Lincoln County, all of Oregon, and the many visitors from out of the state.

I am an Extension Specialist for Oregon Sea Grant. I'm also a professor at Oregon State University where I direct the Marine Resource Management (MRM; https://ceoas.oregonstate.edu/mrm/) graduate program. The MRM graduate program has been around since 1974 informing today's and training tomorrow's marine resource managers and educators. The MRM graduate program is rigorous and we expect great effort from our students. One of our five areas of focus is marine education and engagement. We have over 300 alumni doing great work across the globe, many of which have in one form or another worked closely with the OCAq.

I often enlist the expertise and mentorship of Dr. Kerry Carlin-Morgan to mentor graduate students and help conduct educational research on everything from marine animal stranding to marine pollution to fisheries/seafood management education. Our students have helped advance the science on these topics. They've also helped to inform and engage the public (and stakeholders). They've designed, developed, implemented, tested and improved educational programs that have opened the minds and hearts of informal and formal learners alike. They've participated in important engagement opportunities. All in all, working with the OCAq has helped everyone to learn a lot and make a difference.

But the benefit of the amazing facilities and staff at the OCAq goes beyond just college students. In 2017 Oregon State University hosted the national competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl. We had over 200 amazingly smart and marine-oriented high school kids from across the nation come to Oregon to complete for the national title. While they were here, we worked closely with the wonderful staff at the OCAq to host a dedicated tour for participants (a tour that was rated "freaking amazing" by the majority of participants!).

The strategic priorities identified by the Oregon Coast Aquarium will contribute to society and citizens, all the way down to some very tiny but important creatures. Investment in the OCAq is also an investment in the future of Oregon. I continue to look forward to working with and supporting the Oregon Coast Aquarium and its mission as it grows into the future.



14-Feb-2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I recently learned that the Oregon Coast Aquarium is seeking additional support from the Oregon Governor and legislators to support the aquarium's master plan and education programming. I am very happy to submit a letter of support for this expansion of the Aquarium's educational resources.

Every year, I teach a Marine Conservation Biology class at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB), the University of Oregon's coastal marine laboratory. I structure the class so that it emphasizes local Oregon conservation issues. Each week we visit different 'practitioners' of marine conservation, to get different perspectives from the people who are on the ground and in the water that are working in this field. One of the units of my class is on the role of aquaria in educating the public and actually supporting conservation of marine resources. For this unit, I bring my class to the OCAq, and we do three things: 1) we get a behind the scenes tour; 2) students get 'free' time to explore and study the aquarium exhibits; and 3) we meet with Dr. Kerry Carlin-Morgan (the aquarium Director of Education) for a lecture and discussion about how zoos and aquaria contribute to conservation generally, and what specifically the OCAq is doing in this regard.

My students, who are mostly juniors and seniors and all Marine Biology Majors, absolutely love this annual trip to the OCAq. Dr. Carlin-Morgan does a tremendous job of opening their eyes to a totally different perspective on marine conservation biology which stands out from other scientists and resource managers that we meet with on other trips. Oregonians should be very proud to have this amazing aquarium facility and insightful staff on our outer coast. It brings a lot of pride to the region.

The education that the OCAq provides touches our communities on many levels. Another example is that I am on the Oregon Marine Reserves Research Dive Team. We are scientifically trained SCUBA divers that do biological surveys of the fish, invertebrates, and kelp forests in the Oregon Marine Reserves. The OCAq plays an important role in the success of that program because we use the exhibits, which are expertly curated to represent Oregon's biodiversity, to train our research divers on how to identify organisms that are rare and we might otherwise not know if we encountered them while diving in the dark, deep, cold water out on the coast. A great example is the incredible array of local rockfish species that are in the Port Orford and Halibut Flats swim-through exhibits. The aquarium lets my graduate students and I have access to dive within these exhibits to test our gear and practice our fish identification and sizing skills before we go out to do this work on the ocean. I cannot over-stress the value of this resource to local marine biologists!

One of the challenges I ask my conservation biology students to consider is how we should educate the public about difficult management issues for marine animals, especially those that are endangered or threatened. One of the first steps to well managed resources (including healthy fisheries) is just helping people understand the complexity and diversity of life in our local oceans. The OCAq does a great job of addressing this first step. I've noticed that the aquarium



walks the fine line of educating people about these complex issues in a way that transcends politics. This can be hard to do, especially in a community and region that is largely supported economically by our commercial fishing, but the OCAq does it well.

My students and I love the aquarium. I am confident that any additional investment in resources we can make in the educational mission of the OCAq will benefit Oregonians in several ways. For one, we'll all be a little more informed about the creatures in the sea around us, and that is a good thing. Second, any investment we make here will help increase the draw of the OCAq as a tourist destination on the Oregon Coast, which benefits all of our coastal economies. Finally, and perhaps most importantly from where I sit, the aquarium is helping us to train the next generation of marine scientists, resource managers, fisheries biologists, and conservation practitioners.

I hope we support the OCAq's strategic priorities as it grows and plans for serving Oregon's public well into the future.

Aaron Galloway, PhD Assistant Professor Oregon Institute of Marine Biology Department of Biology University of Oregon 541-888-2581 ext. 303 agallow3@uoregon.edu



The Alaska SeaLife Center generates and shares scientific knowledge to promote understanding and stewardship of Alaska's marine ecosystems.

www.alaskasealife.org

February 5, 2019

To whom it may concern,

The Alaska SeaLife Center and the Oregon Coast Aquarium have been working together since we opened our doors. In 1998, an orphaned sea otter pup, (Aialik) was rescued by our wildlife response team and ultimately placed with OCA. Since then we have placed an additional three otters (Aada, MoJoe, and Nuka) with OCA. Along the way, we have jointly advanced sea otter medicine as well as informed the public of the unique place sea otters hold in the marine ecosystem.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium's new Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will greatly enhance the region's ability to respond to animals in distress and training the next generation of responders. As one of only three wildlife rehabilitation facilities in the Pacific Northwest, OCA fulfills a critical role but upgrades are needed to revitalize the program so that it is once again a state-of-the-art facility. Their current, aging warehouse is making it increasingly difficult to care for additional animals while safeguarding the Aquarium's collection and minimizing the impact of human contact during rehabilitation.

We strongly support their effort to build capacity in Oregon and strengthen the northwest network to help mitigate human impact on wildlife, and give threatened and endangered species help when they need it.

Tara L. Riemer, Ph.D. President and CEO

Carrie Goertz, M.S., D.V.M Director of Animal Health

January 26, 2019



PO Box 704 Siletz, Oregon 97380 elakha.alliance@gmail.com

Carrie E. Lewis, President/CEO Oregon Coast Aquarium 2820 SE Ferry Slip Rd. Newport, Oregon 97365

Dear Ms. Lewis:

I am pleased to offer the support of the Elakha Alliance to the Oregon Coast Aquarium for the major enhancements envisioned in the recent Strategic Plan. The Elakha Alliance is an Oregon non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration of sea otters to the Oregon coast and to the long-term conservation of this keystone species in Oregon's nearshore marine environment. We count the Oregon Coast Aquarium as a critical partner in fulfilling our mission.

We are very excited by the proposed veterinary hospital/marine wildlife rehabilitation facilities and the vital role they could play in successfully returning sea otters to Oregon's marine waters. As demonstrated by other aquaria on the West coast, the presence of such facilities is essential to rehabilitating orphaned or stranded sea otters for eventual return to the wild when possible. The presence of these facilities in Newport would be very important to the success of any translocation of animals from distant populations to Oregon. The importance of these facilities is magnified by the fact that scientists at Oregon State University's major new marine science facility at the Hatfield Marine Science Center will be only a few steps away.

We wish you success in your ambitious undertaking. If we can be of specific help, do not hesitate to ask.

Robert Bailey, Preside Board of Directors



Chintimini Wildlife Center 311 NW Lewisburg Ave. Corvallis, OR 97330

02/12/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to show our support for the work the Oregon Coast Aquarium is completing to expand their role as rehabilitators. Since our founding in 1989, Chintimini Wildlife Center (CWC), has provided care for injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning them to their natural habitat, and fostered a connection between people and wildlife through education. In 2018, we admitted over 1,900 patients - a 10% increase from the previous year. Being one of the few permitted facilities in the state authorized to treat birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles we expect those numbers to grow steadily. With patient numbers trending up, we are always happy to work with other rehabilitation facilities in the area and look forward to continuing our lasting partnership with the Aquarium.

We are confident the Oregon Coast Aquarium will enjoy continued success with their rehabilitation programs as they expand. The central coast of Oregon has a growing demand for a rehabilitation facility which, due to distance, cannot be sufficiently met by the next two closest facilities (Wildlife Center of the North Coast in Astoria and CWC in Corvallis). Expansions of space and staff for the Aquarium's rehabilitation program will greatly reduce the travel time to move patients to other facilities and lead to more intake in the the area. The Aquarium has already been an active member of the wildlife rehabilitation community and works extensively to follow all the best practices and techniques. We are confident any expansion to their efforts is built upon a strong foundation designed to grow with the best of the facilities serving Oregon's wildlife.

The impact of the Oregon Coast Aquarium rehabilitation efforts will be important across the region. At the patient level, the immediate benefit of decreased transport times will ensure patients receive care promptly and with as little added stress as possible. At the facility level, the addition of a third fully-operational rehabilitation facility in the area will help distribute the patient load more evenly, improving the quality of care administered at all three of our facilities.

We are happy to work with and support the efforts of the Aquarium and look forward to seeing their development throughout this process. If you have any further questions about our facility or the nature of our partnership with the Aquarium, please contact us at the information below.

Sincerely,

Sarah Spangler

Executive Director Chintimini Wildlife Center

# Daniel Lewer, DVM

## Willamette Veterinary Hospital - Owner

1562 SW 3rd St. Corvallis, OR 97330 541.753.2223 Dan.lewer@wilvet.com 2 February 2019

### To Whom It May Concern

We are issuing this letter of support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium and specifically the development of the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Facility.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium has long been a valuable resource for the Oregon coast in the form of education, conservation, outreach and support of our valuable natural resources within our beautiful state. The general public has always utilized the Oregon Coast Aquarium as a resource to help rescue, rehabilitate and further provide capability for our endangered marine mammals and turtles that wash up on our shores. They have long provided this service without the funding and or assistance from anything except the private funds raised through their wonderful donors.

With the ever increasing human presence and involvement with our oceans and marine ecosystems our marine mammal population are more and more affect by human interaction. The Oregon Coast Aquarium helps and assists with entangled seals and sea lions, saves and rehabilitates washed up sea turtles but this is taxing on the already stretched thin employees and facilities.

The surrounding states of the west coast have examples of marine mammal rehabilitation facilities and it is our belief that our centralized Oregon Coast site could benefit and help many more animals if given the opportunity to build a rehabilitation center. The rehabilitation center with be perfectly located in the center of the Oregon coast to deploy and facilitate rescue and rehab for all animals in need up and down the coast.

This facility could also create valuable educational opportunities for all age students ranging from children just learning to appreciate Oregon coast natural environment to those veterinary students ready to learn about and pledge their lives to helping our wonderful native species. If done correctly, with strategic partnerships, this rehabilitation center could be a education base for local schools, Oregon State University and University of Oregon students.

But this facility can only be built with the help of wonderful donors who believe in the procurement of our coasts marine animals. The Oregon Coast Aquarium has the correct people and relationships to make this happen, they just need the financial fortitude.

Many thanks,

Daniel Lewer, DVM

2 February 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the Oregon Coast Aquarium capital campaign. I speak as an Oregonian, parent, educator, wildlife enthusiast, and veterinarian.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium has a stellar reputation in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Any mention of the name invariably brings a smile and stories of visits, replete with facts learned and animal antics observed. The stories told of those visits enjoyed by so many spread, like so many ripples, over time and across generations. When little, my children memorized every path and animal habitat. Those early visits also helped to ignite curiosity in the natural world around them. Now nearly grown, they have a new appreciation for the creatures within, having accompanied me on bird rounds. This appreciation is sure to be shared with others, as those stories are told.

The creation and construction of a Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center would benefit many animals and people alike, in our community and beyond.

These modern facilities would greatly improve the ability to observe, diagnose, treat, and care for patients. The ability to care for patients is of utmost importance to me. Currently, the facilities are aging, and are limiting in their utility. The thoughtful creation of the new Center would also lessen the stress of wildlife admitted for treatment and provide for proper quarantine facilities, to protect those in human care from contagious disease brought in by their wild cousins. The Center would act as a center for education, from the youngest students to those in professional programs, and researchers in many fields. Veterinary students would have a unique opportunity to train at the Center. They do not have this sort of opportunity otherwise, without leaving the state. With our current situation, it is difficult to offer this sort of educational opportunity.

Our goal is outreach, care, and education at many levels, and this Center would help to do that.

Respectfully,

Julianne Vickstrom, DVM



Office of the Sheriff Sheriff Curtis Landers LINCOLN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER 510 NE Harney St. Newport, Oregon 97365 (541) 265-6610

February 4, 2019

Oregon Coast Aquarium Attn: James Burke 2829 SE Ferry Slip Road Newport, OR 97365

Dear Mr. Burke,

As a long-time supporter and advocate of the work done by the Oregon Coast Aquarium, I am excited to learn of the Aquarium's future plans.

When someone discovers an animal in distress, many people's first instinct is to call animal control or an animal shelter to learn how to help. At the Lincoln County Animal Shelter, we field many of these calls, and in the case of marine wildlife and birds, we point them to the Oregon Coast Aquarium—the experts in this field.

As a member of the Oregon Coast Aquarium's Animal Welfare Committee, I have had the opportunity to interact with staff and volunteers who are all fiercely passionate about the work you do and creating the best lives for the animals in your care. Knowing your priorities and goals, it is clear that all of the projects proposed are aimed at bettering visitors' experiences, assisting staff reach their goals, and expanding your life-saving work.

I am happy pledge my personal support of these projects, and to add my voice to the many regional partners who benefit from, and are grateful for, the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Please do not hesitate to share my contact information with any donor who would like additional information. My direct number is 541-265-0725 and email address is lbraxling@co.lincoln.or.us.

Sincerely,

Laura Braxling, J.D., CAWA Director February 18, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for the Oregon Coast Aquarium and its capital campaign in raising funds for the proposed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center in Newport Oregon. As a past board member for ten years and now serving as an Emeritus Board member and Capital Campaign Committee member, I have had the pleasure to work with this great Aquarium team in building one of the State's and Region's most exciting attractions. This new facility will advance the already exceptional work of this team that cares for wildlife at the Aquarium and those rescued on our beaches and other areas of the State and Region.

The value of the Aquarium is multi-faceted and reaches visitors, school children, researchers, on-line viewers, and others through its on-site programs, website and traveling education programs. As a board member we always saw four benefits of the Oregon Coast Aquarium to Oregon and the Region, or as I called them the 4 E's, 1) its Entertainment benefits, 2) its Educational benefits, 3) its Environmental benefits, and 4) its Economic benefits. The Aquarium provides wonderful exhibits and live programs that make it one of Oregon's most entertaining places to visit. It's been said scientists are made in middle-school, and the Aquarium's onsite educational programs and traveling school program provide hands-on real experiences for students to enable their learning. With global warming and pressure on the oceans and the rivers feeding the oceans resulting from climate change, the environmental focuses of the Aquarium provide valuable information on our role in protecting the environment. Lastly, as one of the State's and Region's top destination sites, the Aquarium brings Newport and the Oregon Coast significant economic benefits from tourism and research, which will be benefitted by the capital campaign in growing the number of visitors and users of its services.

So why should we invest in the Aquarium? Marta and I believe our investment, like others making a commitment to the campaign, is an investment in Oregon and the Region's future. Including the over 400 amazing volunteers working at the Aquarium and educating its visitors, the Aquarium supports many of Oregon's, the Coastal Communities', and Public's beliefs in having a good education system, a clean environment, a strong economy, and being a destination for visitors to the State to enjoy its beauty. Investing in the 4 E's in this campaign and the new facility fulfills these beliefs. Please join me in supporting the Oregon Coast Aquarium's Capital Campaign. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ken Trushen

Ken Thrasher Retired CEO of Fred Meyer & Compli Emeritus Board Member of the Oregon Coast Aquarium February 20, 2019

2019 Oregon State Legislators State of Oregon Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem OR 97301



To Oregon Senators and Representatives:

As you consider the Oregon Coast Aquarium's request for \$10 million for construction and education to support its next 25 years of providing vital education, environmental and economic opportunities for Lincoln County, Oregon and beyond, I want you to know why I am a Charter/lifetime member committed to the Aquarium's continued success.

In 1992, when the Aquarium was a trailer on newly acquired bay-front property in Newport with architectural drawings on its walls, I purchased my charter family membership and was told my family membership would include my grandkids too:

- My oldest grandson was with us for the first day in which members were able to see Keiko, the whale.
- My three younger grandkids looked forward to camp at the Aquarium each summer, as well as sleepovers with the sharks.
- Most recently, my great-grandson chose swimming with the sharks as his Aquarium adventure.
- All of them have an appreciation for the ocean and its importance because of their time at the Aquarium.

During the years since 1992, I've been at the Aquarium to see every new exhibit, to support the Aquarium in good times and challenging times, and to do what I can to make a difference.

- The Aquarium is one of the top three charities I support because I believe its outreach and onsite educational programs keep the importance of protecting our oceans and marine life front and center in our battle to mitigate climate change.
- When I retired, I took and passed the required Marine Science course so I could volunteer twice a month; and for two years, enjoyed interacting with visitors from all over the world.
- When I sold my Embarcadero Condo in 2012, and no longer traveled to Newport regularly, I signed on to help organize and staff annual events in Portland for Aquarium members.
- Now, I am an active volunteer on the Aquarium's Capitol Campaign Steering Committee, helping to assure the desperately needed Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation/Education Center is built, and the other badly needed upgrades are achieved.

It is my hope that you will see this request from the Oregon Coast Aquarium as an opportunity to financially support the vital partnerships the Aquarium has with NOAA, OSU, Oregon Coast Community College, Newport and Lincoln County, its 7,000 members and its more than 400,000 annual visitors. With state support, you will be fostering the kind of education, research and wildlife rehabilitation that makes this Oregon star such a vital resource for all of us in Oregon, the Northwest and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of this important funding request.

Jeanne Magmer, Charter Aquarium Member 12705 SE River Rd #103A Portland OR 97222

#### February 19, 2019

Hello, my name is Khyle White and I am currently an Aquarist Biologist for Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas. My current job requires me to work with hundreds of different aquatic creatures in many different ocean environments. This career path began as a youth volunteer at the Oregon Coast Aquarium (OCA). Here I was introduced to the Youth Program Coordinator Teresa Springer. I was only fourteen when I started and had little experience dealing with the public. I was very shy and this was definitely out of my comfort zone.

My first job was as a summer interpreter in various areas of the aquarium. Teresa and the staff did their best to make me feel comfortable by providing class materials and training, but it was not easy for me. Volunteering was hard, but it got easier as time went on. I could feel myself opening up and explaining things to guest more freely by the end of summer. I continued to volunteer at various outreach events. These events helped build my confidence with dealing with the public.

The second year of summer interpreting I was a lot more confident and was able to take on the role as Crew Chief. This new leadership role allowed me to help other youth volunteers by passing on my experiences. It enabled me to be more confident in dealing with the public as well as my peers.

Later that summer, I got an email asking if I wanted to try being a husbandry volunteer. I was very nervous, as I had no experience at the time and no idea what I was getting myself into, but I said yes. My first day working in the behind the scenes I was introduced to Sage Butts who was in charge of the Passages of the Deep, the largest exhibit at OCA. My first tasks were very simple. She had me help her with walkthroughs, food prep, cleaning, tank maintenance, and feedings. I will never forget that day. I always had a passion for animals and had an idea of what I wanted to do in the future, but this experience made my decision a lot easier.

As I continued to volunteer, both as a summer interpreter and volunteering in the behind the scenes, I started taking on more opportunities with the husbandry staff. This was a great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge through their guided training and support. Their efforts provided an avenue to explore other areas in aquarium husbandry which expanded my world.

Eventually, I was asked if I wanted to partake in a program to help spread awareness about ocean acidification and of course I said yes. At the time, I had no idea how much of a project it was going to be or how many people we were going to interact with. We were provided with the tools to take our ideas from conception to implementation. This included computer training, team building, brainstorming, product production, marketing and advertising. After a while we agreed on the name MOANA which stood for: Making Ocean Acidification Nationally Aware. In addition, it is the Hawaiian word for "ocean". Through MOANA we made several presentations at local schools and ended up presenting our work to February 19, 2019

staff and volunteers at Point Defiance Zoo and the Seattle Aquarium. I am very proud to have been part of this project.

These programs helped full my passion for marine sciences. This led me to apply for the Oregon Coast Community College's Aquarium Science degree program during my senior year of high school. Once I graduated high school I was no longer considered a youth volunteer, but continued to volunteer and intern through their adult program.

Upon finishing my degree in aquarium science, I was immediately hired as an Aquarist Biologist at Moody Gardens. The time spent volunteering at the Oregon Coast Aquarium has shaped me into the person I am today. When I first started volunteering at Oregon Coast Aquarium, I had no idea how much Oregon Coast Aquarium, Teresa and Sage would affect my life. I gained confidence, skills and many learning opportunities that have led me to teaching the public in my current job. I am enjoying passing on my knowledge to future generations thanks to the opportunities I received from Oregon Coast Aquarium and their staff.

Sincerely

Khyle White

Juny Hoch THORYN nationals if it weren't for your expert question reading skills and all the work that you put into helping us succeed. We really appriciate everything you do. We look forward to another Salman Bowl season! Thank you so much for being our Salmon Bowl coach! We never would've made it to NOT THON flbber, ILUNK YNCHT Genevieve Dear Toresa,

leese	I wont to thank you as very much for everything you have dene for me. I have learned as much while at or he and it is all thanks to will whether it is the	science of Clain Acidification and Climate Change during	professionalism and public speaking. I still remember	being a scored little 8th gradue cominy in the my we will use in you. I remember doing absolutely thereible on	my interpreter test during thaining and theming to be better in the future. And look where we are new! APt Is me anneed to all the possibilities of accertation	I became so pass where about the occan and becoming a Scientist. Und I'm going off to UN Pulfill this decoming	and it is because of what you have done. Whether you	Know it or rot. you have played such a high partin	During greeduction, our principal has a tradition	three people who had the most impact on their lives.	I am giving over at these lots of	Filerd. I could not thenk you enough. I hepe you will continue to do amazing things with the people	Still in the program and in the Puture to come.	Sincerely,	Leland
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Rear Teresa, Thank you very much for all that you have done! Wolunteer you have done! Wolunteer fun and I learned lots too! Although next year I'll no longer be an aquarium youth volunteer of the things I learned lots too! Be to college Thank you Teresa volunteering was a blast