



April 15, 2019

RE: SB 753 – Oregon Ocean Science Trust - **SUPPORT**

Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources,

On behalf of our broader statewide membership of thousands of ocean users and coastal stakeholders, Surfrider Foundation expresses our strong support for SB 753, which establishes a practical mechanism to facilitate funding opportunities for Oregon's Ocean Science Trust. In 2013, the Oregon legislature established the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) through SB 737, which passed both chambers with unanimous support. While ocean science and research is critical to Oregon's \$2 billion coastal economy and its resource management by our state agencies, our state's revenue forecast for the past 5 years has created a political non-starter for facilitating legislative mechanisms to fund the OOST. Senate Bill 753 helps facilitate a viable mechanism for both legislative and private funding opportunities while keeping intact the original legislation's strong stakeholder balance and control.

About the Oregon Ocean Science Trust

The OOST was created to promote peer-reviewed ocean and coastal resource research and build on the state's commitment to improving our knowledge for management programs that support Oregon's coastal economy. This brought together a broad coalition of supporters from conservation and environmental to industry stakeholders, all which clearly understand the need for improving Oregon's nearshore science. Given the continual shortcomings of Oregon's funding commitment to coastal research and ocean science and our high economic and cultural dependence on the quality, availability and careful management of these natural resources, it was critical in the establishment of OOST that it be structured to accept a wide array of potential funding sources. Further, it was essential to establish clear mechanisms of neutrality and funding priority within the OOST to enhance the state's capacity, while maintaining unbiased in science and research to inform management and community innovation.

Despite the absence of a budget, OOST has accomplished much, due primarily to the dedication and selflessness of its volunteer executive director from among its members. It has adopted by-laws, established funding priorities for nearshore research and monitoring, developed an inventory of current research and monitoring in the nearshore and adopted rules for the competitive grant program that is called for in SB 737 creating the Trust.

OOST remains a popular measure supported by the people of our state, regardless of region or political affiliation. SB 753 authorizes executive director of OOST to enter into agreement with a private, nonprofit organization under which the organization solicits gifts, grants, and donations in support of the Trust's work. The bill would add other moneys from any source as eligible for deposit into the Trust.

Surfrider Foundation expresses our strong support for SB 753 and encourages your yes vote.

Sincerely,

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation
cplybon@surfrider.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Plybon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.