

3/16/2021

Testimony in support of HB3114

Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee:

My name is Laura Anderson and I am the Director of the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST). If this bill passes, OOST will be responsible for managing about \$1 million of State funds for Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) research. The OOST, and many other partner organizations have identified climate change and ocean acidification as a top research priority for the State of Oregon.

This OAH science is critical to the Oregon for many reasons:

- The commercial and recreational fishing economy are directly at threat by the advancement of rising OAH levels.
- The entire marine food web that our coastal communities love and value is at risk by advancing OAH .
- Expanding monitoring and modeling of OAH, will put the State of Oregon in a better position to contribute to West Coast and global efforts to understand and mitigate risks to all people and ecosystems.
- Public outreach/communication will help Oregonians make informed decisions regarding their influence on OAH.

Switching hats now, as a coastal seafood business owner, I have direct vested interest in this research.

Frankly, when COVID hit a year ago, we thought it could kill our restaurant business. But in fact, we were able to adapt new market channels, (namely, DockBox meal kits) and have thus survived this crisis so far. But when I think of the long term ecosystem changes due to OAH, I am more afraid of those impacts than about the pandemic. The loss of access to the abundant, healthy seafood resource off the Oregon coast could kill my business. I cannot imagine a future for Local Ocean, and thousands of businesses like it, that does not include Dungeness crab, Pacific oysters, pink shrimp and salmon. How do we prepare? Will we switch the species we source? How do we adapt? What are the other implications of these ecosystem changes? We need to have this research for early detection, monitoring and adaptation. The State's efforts today will help ensure that our seafood-businesses can continue to feed people in the future and our recreation and tourism businesses can continue to give people lasting experiences in nature.

Regards

Laura Anderson
Oregon Ocean Science Trust, Director
Local Ocean Seafoods, Owner

What is OOST?

The Ocean Science Trust (OOST) was established by the 2013 Oregon legislature to increase knowledge and understanding of our ocean and coastal resources.

- OOST is not a government agency, but it is linked to the state by supporting research and monitoring efforts that can help state agencies make better decisions. It is an independent non-profit organization.
- OOST does not do the science but serves as a fiscal platform through which funds can be leveraged from multiple public and private sources and then be distributed to agencies or through competitive grant programs to key science projects in coastal communities.
- OOST collaborated with over 50 Oregon scientists and policy makers to set ocean research and monitoring priorities to make sure that funds flow in the direction of the highest needs for the state.

Priority research areas:

- Distribution and abundance of nearshore species and habitats
- Species and habitat interactions and associations
- Effects people have on nearshore resources and vice versa
- ***Effects of climate change and OA on species and habitats and ecological function***