

LC 219
2026 Regular Session
1/9/26 (STN/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: This Act creates the Blue Economy Task Force and lets the Oregon Ocean Science Trust form a nonprofit. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.3).

Establishes the Blue Economy Task Force. Directs the task force to study Oregon's blue economy and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2027.

Authorizes the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create and maintain a nonprofit organization.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to organizations relevant to Oregon's coastal resources; and pre-
3 scribing an effective date.

4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

BLUE ECONOMY TASK FORCE

8 SECTION 1. (1) The Blue Economy Task Force is established.

9 **(2) The task force consists of no less than 13 members appointed**
10 **as follows:**

11 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from
12 among the members of the Senate.

13 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one**
14 **member from among members of the House of Representatives.**

15 (c) The President and the Speaker shall jointly appoint no less than
16 **11 members to represent:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 **(A) Public or private research institutions;**
- 2 **(B) Businesses innovating in blue economy sectors;**
- 3 **(C) Fisheries businesses;**
- 4 **(D) The tourism industry;**
- 5 **(E) Environmental organizations; and**
- 6 **(F) Equity investors in blue economy businesses.**

7 **(3)(a) The task force shall study and prepare a report on:**

- 8 **(A) The sectors of Oregon's blue economy;**
- 9 **(B) Existing economic development plans or strategies for the blue**
- 10 **economy; and**

11 **(C) Opportunities for the State of Oregon to facilitate or enhance**
12 **the growth of sustainable blue economy businesses while preserving**
13 **and protecting Oregon's coastal ecosystems.**

14 **(b) The report must include:**

15 **(A) Identification and synthesis of existing state or regional studies,**
16 **market analyses and federal and state programs relevant to the blue**
17 **economy in Oregon.**

18 **(B) Identification of existing state and local initiatives, including**
19 **workforce programs, efforts by research centers, efforts by ports,**
20 **grant programs and permitting pathways, to determine where existing**
21 **efforts overlap, could be expanded to fill in gaps and present opportu-**
22 **nities to be integrated into a unified strategic plan.**

23 **(C) A review and evaluation of efforts conducted by other states or**
24 **countries to identify best practices and policies to build sustainable**
25 **innovation in the blue economy.**

26 **(D) Prioritized recommendations specific to subject areas that in-**
27 **clude policy, investment, workforce development, research and devel-**
28 **opment and regulatory coordination.**

29 **(E) A roadmap for implementing the recommendations of the task**
30 **force that may include the establishment of a center for the blue**
31 **economy.**

1 (4) A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quo-
2 rum for the transaction of business.

3 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a ma-
4 jority of the members of the task force.

5 (6) The President and the Speaker shall jointly select one member
6 of the task force to serve as chairperson and another to serve as vice
7 chairperson, for the terms and with the duties and powers necessary
8 for the performance of the functions of the offices as the President
9 and the Speaker determine.

10 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority
11 shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

12 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the
13 call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the task
14 force.

15 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of
16 the task force.

17 (10) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided
18 by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to
19 the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to the en-
20 vironment no later than September 15, 2027.

21 (11)(a) The Legislative Policy and Research Office shall provide staff
22 support to the task force.

23 (b) The task force, through the office, may contract for services
24 necessary to carry out the duties and functions of the task force.

25 (12) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legis-
26 lative Assembly serve as volunteers on the task force and, unless they
27 are qualified members, as defined in ORS 292.495, are not entitled to
28 compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

29 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are
30 directed to assist the task force in the performance of the duties of the
31 task force and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to

1 **confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the**
2 **task force consider necessary to perform their duties.**

3 **(14) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (2)**
4 **of this section must be completed no later than 60 days after the ef-**
5 **fective date of this 2026 Act.**

6 **(15) The task force shall have its first meeting no later than 90 days**
7 **after the effective date of this 2026 Act.**

8 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2026 Act is repealed on December 31,**
9 **2027.**

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11 **OREGON OCEAN SCIENCE TRUST**

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13 **SECTION 3. Pursuant to ORS 196.566, the Oregon Ocean Science**
14 **Trust may create and maintain an entity that is exempt from federal**
15 **income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as**
16 **amended, for the purpose of advancing the mission of the trust.**

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18 **CAPTIONS AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

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20 **SECTION 4. The unit captions used in this 2026 Act are provided**
21 **only for the convenience of the reader and do not become part of the**
22 **statutory law of this state or express any legislative intent in the**
23 **enactment of this 2026 Act.**

24 **SECTION 5. This 2026 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date**
25 **on which the 2026 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative As-**
26 **sembly adjourns sine die.**

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