

# **Recommended Long-Term Funding and Coordination Strategy for Implementing Nearshore Priorities of Oregon**

**Submitted by:**

**Oregon Task Force on Nearshore Research**

**1 August, 2010**

## Executive Summary

As required by HB 3106, the Oregon Task Force on Nearshore Research is recommending a long-term funding and coordination strategy for implementing the nearshore priorities of the state and to help Oregon address the significant challenges it confronts in managing its diverse marine resources. It is fundamentally important the state have the best scientific information that is both trusted and free of conflict of interest and that limited scientific funding is targeted towards the most pressing research and monitoring needs. The strategy in the report builds upon Oregon's existing ocean management and research programs and adds new or modified mechanisms to strengthen the state's ability to obtain independent scientific advice and set research and monitoring goals.

After considerable deliberation and evaluation, the Task Force is making six **interrelated** core recommendations:

- 1) Develop a multi-year Nearshore Strategic Plan.
- 2) Establish Oregon's Ocean Work Group to aid in the development of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and in long-term coordination of state activities.
- 3) Establish the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) as an independent science advisory body.
- 4) Create an Oregon's Ocean Science Trust as a stand-alone non-profit 501c3 entity with the overall mission to provide a funding mechanism to support the implementation of the state's Nearshore Strategic Plan and identified research and monitoring needs.
- 5) Ensure that citizens and communities are fully involved in the processes associated with the first four core recommendations.
- 6) Establish a coordinated data management system under the auspices of the Oregon Coastal Management Program to integrate disparate and diverse data sources.

These six recommendations are closely integrated and, as a package, are intended to provide a mechanisms for science-informed decision-making to carry out effective long-term management of Oregon's ocean resources. Together, the recommendations strengthen and streamline marine research by providing mechanisms to support and coordinate planning, data management, science advice, establishment of a funding mechanism, and input from those with the direct expertise and investment in Oregon's nearshore environment.

The Task Force has included a number of essential elements within each of these recommendations to ensure appropriate checks and balances. This report provides the rationale for, and specific approaches to address each of the six core recommendations.

## Introduction and Rationale

The Oregon Task Force on Nearshore Research (Task Force) was developed by the state legislature with the passage of House Bill 3106 in June, 2009. The Task Force is charged with recommending “a long-term funding and coordination strategy for implementing the nearshore priorities of the state.” The overall purpose of this strategy is to “ensure the protection and utilization of Oregon’s nearshore resources.” As stated in HB 3106, the strategy recommended by the Task Force must:

1. *Review, consolidate and anticipate nearshore priorities for purposes relating to:*
  - a. *Researching and monitoring nearshore resources;*
  - b. *Management of nearshore resources and policy formation; and*
  - c. *Education and outreach.*
2. *Identify the funding needs of current and anticipated nearshore programs.*
3. *Determine transparent procedures and oversight mechanisms for pursuing, securing and administering public and private funds.*
4. *Identify mechanisms for data sharing to coordinate, collaborate, and reevaluate priorities and programs among state agencies, universities and other stakeholders with an interest in nearshore resources.*

HB 3106 instructs the Task Force to consider key documents that outline existing nearshore priorities in the development of a funding and coordination strategy: 1) Oregon’s Territorial Sea Plan, 2) Oregon Nearshore Marine Resources Management Strategy, 3) the West Coast Regional Marine Research and Information Plan developed by Sea Grant and 4) the West Coast Governor’s Agreement on Ocean Health Action Plan. All of the Task Force recommendations are also consistent with the policies and requirements of Goal 19.

HB 3106 and the resulting Task Force recommendations were developed to help Oregon address the significant challenges it confronts in managing its diverse marine resources. The Task Force, in accordance with HB3106, recognizes that it is important to have unbiased, science-informed policy and management of Oregon’s Nearshore environment. To achieve this, **the scientific approach needs to be prioritized, coordinated, targeted at key issues and be funded at higher levels through unbiased processes that ensure that the science is trusted and free of conflict of interest. This is a key, overarching recommendation of the Task Force.**

Without a cohesive plan for nearshore research, Oregon will continue to react to both opportunities and threats as single issues, rather than proactively address the interconnected research and planning needs. Without this shift, difficulties in supporting nearshore needs will continue.

The Task Force recognizes there are multiple efforts for understanding and managing Oregon’s nearshore. The recommendations represent a comprehensive and carefully integrated state-wide approach for coordinating, funding, and implementing nearshore research needs not already being met by existing funding for agencies and institutions. They also address how to improve the coordination and stakeholder engagement processes to leverage efforts across the state to attract funding for nearshore research needs. This will allow Oregon, without compromise, to steer its own course in addressing the needs most important to the state.

Currently there is insufficient state funding to meet the information needs demanded by current use conflict over the Territorial Sea. Oregon has not yet identified the specific research or monitoring needs to support critical management decisions. Also, there are fundamental needs for better coordination and collaboration between institutions and stakeholder communities. The guiding documents illustrate the breadth and complexity of the nearshore issues facing the state of Oregon and the region. With increasing resource competition, continued economic stress, and increased demands for ecosystem-based management and spatial planning, the need for comprehensive scientific understanding will increase. These challenges, however, will also provide significant opportunities to develop and implement coordination and gain meaningful stakeholder involvement in process and identification of critical research and monitoring efforts. The Task Force recommendations address how to meet the needs that are not already being met by existing funding for agencies and institutions, as well as, how to improve the coordination and stakeholder engagement processes to leverage efforts across the state to attract funding for these additional needs without compromising Oregon's agenda for how to manage its nearshore territorial sea.

The Task Force recognizes that investment in a knowledge-based strategy to address nearshore issues is vital. Put simply, an investment strategy for performing nearshore research will allow Oregon to make better-informed management decisions for utilizing and protecting nearshore resources, which will create better long-term economic and ecological benefits for Oregon's citizens. This report presents a strategy that builds upon Oregon's existing ocean management and research programs. It adds new and modified mechanisms to strengthen the state's ability to obtain unbiased scientific advice to set research and monitoring goals.

## **Task Force Process**

The Task Force met eight times since December 2009 (Appendix A, Table 1), exploring strategy components to meet the directive from HB3106. The Task Force worked almost entirely through consensus. The specific recommendations were endorsed by a unanimous vote for all six core recommendations except recommendation #1 which had one abstention. At the first meeting, the Task Force elected a Chairperson (Brandt) as required by the legislation and also elected a Vice-Chairperson (Ackerman) and an Operations Team (Brandt, Ackerman, Silvia, Braby) that provided the continuity between full Task Force meetings. The Task Force also created a number of working subcommittees, and brought in expert speakers and panelists as well as hired contractor services through a competitive process to evaluate institutional frameworks used in other states and countries (Appendix A, Table 1). With a team of committee members from multiple stakeholder groups and management institutions (Appendix A, Table 2), the Task Force has developed recommendations using guiding principles including:

- Authentic collaboration (HB3106, SECTION 1. (5)(d))
- Sharing of data and information (HB 3106, SECTION 1. (5)(d))
- Transparency of funding process (HB3106, SECTION 1. (5)(c))
- Scientific rigor and peer-review (social and natural sciences)
- Innovation and creativity in problem-solving

- Use of existing bodies and processes, whenever possible, to develop and implement plans, to improve efficiency, and be fiscally conservative
- Meaningful community engagement, outreach, and education

## **Nearshore Strategic Plan**

***The Task Force recommends that the State of Oregon should develop a multi-year Nearshore Strategic Plan.***

Central to the successful cooperation and coordination of the recommendations put forth by the Task Force would be the development of a multi-year Nearshore Strategic Plan. This plan will build upon prior Oregon ocean guiding documents by targeting specific short and long-term needs to guide state and federal activities in Oregon's nearshore. Identifying goals and priorities will provide the agencies responsible for ocean management a coordinated and comprehensive approach. This will unify Oregon's nearshore activities, enabling the State of Oregon to leverage more funds to address nearshore needs. A state strategic plan can also be used to help drive regional and national initiatives.

The development of an institutionalized, Oregon Nearshore Strategic Plan through an inclusive and transparent process is vital. It is critical that all stakeholders and communities have an open participation in the process. The development of this plan would be initiated and led by the Oregon's Ocean Work Group (described below). The Task Force recommends that the Plan be an adaptable document, able to accommodate evolving management needs. The Strategic Plan would cover a 6 year period and would be evaluated and updated every two years. This Plan would describe the state's broad-based goals and priorities to guide the State's nearshore research, monitoring, community engagement, education and outreach, and data management activities. The Task Force recommends that the Nearshore Strategic Plan and biennial updates be approved and adopted through standard state procedures.

The Nearshore Strategic Plan would be the basis for the development of an integrated document that describes the specific scientific research and monitoring needs required to achieve the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (described below) would lead the development of the research and monitoring needs assessment once the state has established priorities. Overall, the Nearshore Strategic Plan would also provide direct guidance to the funding entity (described below) in acquiring and allocating funds for research, monitoring and other activities to meet the state's science information needs relative to nearshore policy and management objectives.

The Task Force specifically recommends that the Nearshore Strategic Plan include:

- Community engagement mechanisms to involve Oregon communities and the broader citizenry in nearshore research and monitoring
- Education and outreach enhancement strategies
- Data management and coordination strategies

## **Oregon's Ocean Work Group**

***The Task Force recommends that an Oregon's Ocean Work Group be established to aid in the development of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and in long-term coordination of state activities.***

Currently, the state does not have a formal mechanism or coordinating body to oversee the state's marine activities. The Task Force recognizes that it is necessary to create a coordinating body to initialize and run the process to develop the states Nearshore Strategic Plan. The Task Force recommends the creation of a Work Group **with targeted responsibilities**.

This Work Group should be small enough to be effective and have equal representation of stakeholder s and agencies. The Work Group (not to exceed 7 members) should be comprised of the members listed below which include key state agencies responsible for nearshore management, stakeholder advice, and science advice. The recommended work group seats have the expertise, experience, funding, and staffing required for developing the Nearshore Strategic Plan and coordinating implementation including involvement of stakeholders throughout the state.

- Representative of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- Representative of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Representative of the Oregon Department of State Lands
- Representative of the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council
- Representative of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- "Citizen at large" from the fishing industry
- "Citizen at large" from the conservation community

Oregon's Ocean Work Group would be responsible to:

- A. Develop, regularly evaluate, and update a Nearshore Strategic Plan through an open and transparent public process that includes the general public, and local, state and federal entities.
- B. Provide continual coordination of statewide efforts in nearshore research, monitoring, community engagement, education and outreach, and data management.

## **Marine Science Advice**

***The Task Force recommends that the Legislature establish the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) as an independent science advisory body.***

At present, Oregon has no formal independent and trusted scientific advisory body to directly advise the Executive branch, including state agencies, or Legislature on scientific issues related

to nearshore ocean management and policy or on priorities for scientific data, research and monitoring, outreach or educational needs. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) required in ORS 196.451 currently advises the Ocean Policy Advisory Council “in the performance of its functions.” The 2009 Legislature directed the STAC to advise the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on implementation of marine reserves during the 2009-2011 biennium pursuant to HB 3013. This expanded role has proven valuable in the scientific review of the marine reserves designation and monitoring processes. Neither responsibility covers the scientific advice needed for the much broader nearshore issues. The Task Force agrees that such an independent scientific advisory body is necessary for the development of the state’s broader research and monitoring priorities and to provide a standing body to provide scientific evaluation and review of scientific issues relative to state nearshore priorities. Such a body is needed to ensure that the state’s goals and objectives are science-informed. It is key to separate the science from the policy.

The Task Force recommends that the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) be established as an independent science advisory body and that its membership be expanded to include a wider range of scientific disciplines to better serve the more comprehensive needs of the state. The process for selecting new members to STAC is modeled after that of the National Academy of Sciences model with additional opportunities for public input. The Task Force proposes that expansion of the STAC membership proceed as follows: 1) current STAC members recommend new disciplines that need to be represented and solicit open nominations for members to serve those roles from the public; 2) STAC will evaluate the scientific capabilities of the nominees and put forward specific names to solicit written public comment; and 3) new members would be then approved by STAC members. Acceptance of new members would be based on individual scientific expertise, lack of conflict of interest, and availability of time to serve.

The STAC would serve four primary functions:

- A. Prepare the specific scientific research and monitoring needs required to achieve the goals set out in the Nearshore Strategic Plan. This should be completed with each update of the Nearshore Strategic Plan. This portion of the Strategic Plan would provide an estimated budget required to complete the recommended projects.
- B. Provide science advice to the Oregon’s Ocean Work Group, OPAC, Governor, Legislative Branch and state agencies related to the goals and priorities in the Nearshore Strategic Plan or to new issues that may arise. In this role, the STAC could convene sub committees, sponsor symposia or panels of experts, write technical reports, or conduct special studies as needed to address emerging scientific and data needs. STAC may also respond to other requests by private or public entities. Such requests will be accepted on a case-by-case basis and dependent on relevance to the Nearshore Strategic Plan and available funding to complete the request. STAC may also initiate inquiry on its own.
- C. Advise the funding entity (the Trust), by developing standards or procedures to help ensure that the results of scientific research or monitoring are high-quality science and consistent with the research and monitoring needs of the Nearshore Strategic Plan.
- D. Aid the Oregon’s Ocean Work Group in preparing the Nearshore Strategic Plan. This input will be provided through the STAC representative who sits on the Work Group.

The Task Force recommends that the following principles frame the STAC composition and mission:

- Seek and utilize expertise based upon topic, without regard to the geographic location of the expertise.
- Provide balance and breadth among disciplines to cover strategic needs avoid conflicts of interest in the scientific review process.
- Ensure the integrity of the scientific process (i.e. rigorous; repeatable).

## **Oregon's Ocean Science Trust**

***The Task Force recommends that an Oregon's Ocean Science Trust be created as a stand-alone non-profit 501c3 entity with the overall mission to provide a funding mechanism to support the implementation of the state's Nearshore Strategic Plan and identified research and monitoring needs .***

The Task Force recognizes that 1) the demands for nearshore research, monitoring, data management, education, and outreach exceed available funding, 2) the state does not or cannot take advantage of all potential funding sources, especially from non-governmental sources, 3) coordinated use of available funds could stretch scarce resources and leverage projects that otherwise could not be completed, and 4) the state is in need of a trusted and transparent mechanism to pursue, receive and allocate funding from a wide range of sources to address nearshore research, monitoring, education, outreach, and data management needs.

The Task Force recommends that an Oregon's Ocean Science Trust be created as a stand-alone non-profit 501c3 entity with an Executive Director and a Board of Directors (not to exceed five members) with a membership who has expertise in fundraising, accounting, and fiduciary management and not be selected on the basis of interest groups. The Board of Directors would be responsible to oversee the Trust's functions and set general policies. The Board of Directors should be independent of members of the Oregon's Ocean Work Group, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), and STAC. This Trust would be safeguarded with clear, strong procedures and standards to seek and receive funds only from sources interested in funding priorities as described in the Nearshore Strategic Plan. The overall mission of the Trust would be ***to support the implementation of the state's Nearshore Strategic Plan.*** Such a nonprofit body is the mechanism frequently used in analogous situations in other states, such as in Washington and California, to enable diverse private and public sources to contribute to an entity whose objectives and purposes are coincident with those of the state while retaining high standards for accountability and a transparent process of decision-making.

The Task Force suggests that the Trust could be chartered (i.e. incorporated) and board members selected in one of several ways: by the Legislature, by another party at the specific direction of the Legislature, by action of the Governor, or a combination of these. Regardless of the actual method of chartering and selection of board members, it would be beneficial for the Oregon Legislature to confer official approval of the formation of such an entity.



The Task Force recommends the following basic functions for the Trust:

- A. Pursue, receive, and hold funds from many sources including state, federal, and other public funds, private foundations, businesses, individuals, and other organizations. The Trust would accept funds only for purposes consistent with the Trust's mission to support the implementation of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and the identified research and monitoring needs.
- B. The Trust would develop standards and procedures to ensure that funded proposals are aligned with the Nearshore Strategic Plan and these procedures would be developed through an open transparent public process.
- C. Allocate funds through a competitive, peer-review process (See sidebar for definitions) to support the priorities set within the Nearshore Strategic Plan such as research, monitoring, data management, outreach and engagement pursuant to by-laws and procedural guidance documents adopted by the Board. The Trust should consider using existing structures and processes to maximize efficiencies and minimize costs. If a specific agency is identified to conduct a task in the NSP, the Trust can directly allocate funds (not using a competitive peer-review process) to the Oregon state agency subject to legislatively approved spending limitation.
- D. Manage grants and funded projects. This includes ensuring that grantees are performing work as proposed, measuring impacts of funded projects, collecting complete reports on funded work, ensuring results are evaluated by technical experts, and making all results of funded work available to the public in a timely manner.

For proposal-driven processes, the Trust, in collaboration with the STAC, would develop standards and procedures based on the following principles to ensure the scientific integrity of the use of these funds using existing processes when available.

- Scientific integrity: provide a firewall between funder and research methods and results
- Transparency: be open, neutral, transparent through a trusted process
- Consistency: fundraising and allocation are consistent with the current Nearshore Strategic Plan
- Value-added: augment research systems that currently exist and leverage funding success such as through matching funds
- Fiscal conservatism: be administered with low overhead
- Accountability: provide annual reports to public/legislature on research results

## **Engagement of Community Groups and Individuals**

*The Task Force recommends that citizens and communities are fully involved in the processes associated with the first four core recommendations.*

Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal #1 established the charge "**To develop a citizen involvement program that insures the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.**" Communities, as well as individuals, possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise on our nearshore resources. This knowledge is extremely valuable to help inform

decision making, yet it is often hard to capture without formal mechanisms for community involvement<sup>1</sup>. Active participation of communities is essential to secure and maintain support for coastal and ocean management. A robust public process to engage community groups must be transparent, include broad and balanced representation of stakeholders, and provide multiple pathways for participation.

The Task Force recognizes that enhancing community capacity will strengthen the knowledge base of our citizenry and enhance our state's ability to address nearshore research needs in the long-term. The Task Force additionally recognizes that many existing groups in Oregon actively participate and collaborate with the state adding both experiential and technical knowledge to state processes. Each has a unique breadth of expertise specific to their own interest, the issues they focus on, and often reflective of the size and characteristics of their community.

Task Force also recognizes that new community groups are developing all the time. These groups generally emerge when a new nearshore issue poses challenges that can best be addressed through involvement of a community group. Some community groups exist even though the issue they are formed around is resolved or becomes irrelevant. Others will adapt and expand their own expertise in order to make a valuable contribution on emerging issues.

Given the wealth of knowledge that existing and future community groups bring to Oregon's nearshore, the Task Force recommends that the Nearshore Strategic Plan (and the planning process) ensure that all types of new and existing community groups:

- Have a meaningful role to provide input and advice during the development of the Nearshore Strategic Plan and over the long-term through multiple and transparent mechanisms so that all stakeholders (groups and individuals) are represented.
- Are invited as collaborators (and compensated for their contribution) on state research and monitoring and education and outreach efforts when their expertise and capabilities will enhance outcomes.
- Are provided, when possible, with technical support and partnership from state agencies and universities to build their skills and capacity to succeed over time.
- Are eligible and invited to compete for funding of research projects, education and outreach efforts, and coordination at the local level through the Oregon's Ocean Science Trust and other funding mechanisms.

Finally, the Task Force recommends establishing either 1.0 FTE or hiring a consultant through an RFP process to serve as a community group liaison. The liaison's role would be to ensure two-way communication between the community groups and the Oregon's Ocean Work Group during development and implementation of the Nearshore Strategic Plan.

## **Data Management and Coordination**

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of this report, communities can be defined by their connection to a specific location, their interest in a specific issue, or both. Discussion of communities or community groups does not exclude individual citizens.

***The Task Force recommends establishment of a coordinated data management system under the auspices of the Oregon Coastal Management Program to integrate disparate and diverse data sources.***

Ocean management processes within the state, such as planning for ocean alternative energy and marine reserves, require a wide variety of data and information to be used by agencies, scientists, communities and stakeholder groups. Efforts to find, share, and manage needed data to evaluate these processes have exposed the need for Oregon to improve current data management and data sharing practices and capabilities. The emerging policies of the federal government to utilize marine spatial planning to address marine management and policy at the regional and state levels reinforce the need for Oregon to better structure its marine data and information sharing practices and to minimize duplication of effort.

The Task Force agrees that a strategically conceived and executed program of data management is necessary to ensure that data and information from a variety of sources are available. This program should to be flexible to account for the constant addition of new data and scientific information, evolving needs among potential users, and the continuing advances in data technologies.

The Task Force recommends that the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) be the lead entity for developing a marine data management network with supporting standards and protocols. The OCMP has broad statutory responsibilities for coordinating ocean and coastal planning and management and has direct coastal management liaison duties with NOAA and other federal agencies.

The Task Force expects that a marine data network would:

- A. Establish a framework community of data stewards for key marine data sets.
- B. Specify metadata standards consistent with federal standards for all data acquired or used by the agencies and organizations responsible for ocean management in Oregon.
- C. Maintain a data catalogue to track new datasets that are developed and clarify when datasets become obsolete.
- D. Facilitate data interoperability by the adoption of cross-platform open standards.
- E. Accommodate a variety of information including traditional geospatial (GIS) data; gridded data from ocean and coastal observing data from satellites, radar, and models; point observation data from sensors such as current meters and wave buoys; and non-geographic informational data such as PDFs, reports, images, websites, and spreadsheets.

## **Cost of Task Force Recommendations**

Our guiding principal was to use existing institutional resources and bodies to bring together stakeholder, scientific and agency expertise to join in the process. It is expected that the brunt of the workload to implement the recommendations here would largely fall on state agencies, which have statutory authority to produce the proposed planning documents. New funds would be

required to ensure that the STAC have sufficient funds to do their expanded work, to ensure community engagement process and to provide start-up costs for operation of the Trust..

## Appendix A

Table 1. Task Force meeting schedule

Date	Meeting location	Invited Speakers
December 2-3, 2009	Newport	Jessica Keys, Governor Kulongoski's Office
January 21-22, 2010	Newport	Dave Fox, ODFW Rick Brown, NOAA Jack Barth, Ocean Observing Initiative Jonathan Allan, Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems Bruce Menge, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans
February 18, 2010	Newport	None
March 29, 2010	Charleston	Amber Mace, California Ocean Science Trust
May 4, 2010	Astoria	Deerin Babb-Brott, Massachusetts Assistant Secretary for Energy and Environment John Weber, Senior Marine Policy Planner, MA Coastal Management Program Heather Reiff*, Independent Contractor
June 3-4, 2010	Corvallis	Tegan Hoffman*, Hoffman and Associates, LCC Gabriela Goldfarb*, Goldfarb Consulting
June 28-29, 2010	Newport	Tegan Hoffman*, Hoffman and Associates, LCC Representative Arnie Roblan Barbara Gibbs, Meyer Memorial Trust Mike Dickerson, Shorebank Enterprise
July 22-23, 2010	Portland	None

\*Individuals were hired as contractors for the Task Force

Reiff, H. (2010). "Characterization of Oregon's Nearshore Research and Monitoring Enterprise."

T.C. Hoffmann & Associates, LLC and Gabriela Goldfarb Consulting (2010). "Evaluation of Institutional Frameworks for Scientific Input into Oregon State Ocean and Coastal Decision-Making."

Table 2. Membership of the Nearshore Research Task Force.

Seat	Name	Institution/Representing
A	Gil Sylvia <i>Operations Team</i>	Superintendent, Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, Oregon State University
B	Craig Young	Director, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, University of Oregon
C	Stephen Brandt <i>Chairperson</i>	Director, Oregon Sea Grant
D	Caren Braby <i>Operations Team</i>	Manager, Marine Resources Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
E	Bob Bailey	Manager, Ocean Coastal Services Division, Department of Land Conservation and Development
F	Onno Husing	Executive Director, Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association
G	Jeff Kroft	Director (designee), Department of State Lands
H(i)	Terry Thompson	Local government: Commissioner, Lincoln County
H(ii)	Sybil Ackerman <i>Vice-chairperson</i>	Conservation
H(iii)	Mike Lane	Commercial fishing: Dungeness crab
H(iv)	Frank Warrens	Sport fishing: Charter
H(v)	Leesa Cobb	Community-based fishing: Port Orford Ocean Resource Team
H(vi)	Laura Anderson	Nearshore industry (non-fishing): Local Ocean Restaurateur
H(vii)	Gus Gates	Nearshore recreation (non-fishing): Surfrider Foundation
b	Cathy Tortorici	Federal (non-voting): NOAA
b	Roy Lowe	Federal (non-voting): USFWS

## **Side Bar in the Trust Section: Quality Science – Trusted Information**

The Task Force agrees that information acquired and used for ocean resources management must be scientifically sound and unbiased. In order to ensure this, information generated from research, monitoring, and other activities supported by the Oregon's Ocean Science Trust must be produced through credible and accepted processes. Such processes include peer-review, scientific conferences or panels, and technical advisors during a project. The Task Force believes that it is important to clarify these processes with respect to definitions accepted by members.

Peer Review: The peer review process the Task Force refers to is an accepted method within professional communities, whereby the work, research, or ideas of an individual are evaluated by other experts in the same field. The Task Force expects that the competitive proposal process and majority of new data and information acquired through projects funded by the Oregon's Ocean Science Trust will be subjected to rigorous peer review. Such review can be an anonymous process (known as blind review), which is typically used to select proposals for funding or review of articles prior to publication in scientific or professional journals. Peer review can also be an open process in which the reviewers are known and their reviews published. The purposes of peer review are to maintain professional or scientific standards, improve performance, and ensure credible results.

Technical or scientific reports, conferences and panels: The Task Force envisions situations where it will be desirable to convene a special conference or panel of experts to address emerging issues that require specialized information or synthesized assessments. It is expected that this will largely be done through STAC. For example, the National Academy of Sciences utilizes committees to convene experts in specific fields to synthesize specialized reports. Such venues provide the opportunity for experts in one or more fields of interest to discuss, evaluate, and compile new information. These panels or conferences can also include professionals who represent expertise not currently present within the academic community to provide additional expertise on a given subject.

Technical advisory committees: It is common practice by scientific bodies to use a technical advisory panel to review projects or programs. The Task Force anticipates that this practice will be employed as appropriate in carrying out projects funded by the Oregon's Ocean Science Trust.