



Oregon Nearshore Research Task Force Overview

The Oregon 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.”

RECOMMENDING A STRATEGY:

HB 3106 instructs the Task Force to consider key documents that outline existing nearshore priorities in the development of a funding and coordination strategy. This funding and coordination strategy must:

1. Review, consolidate and anticipate nearshore priorities for supporting research and monitoring, management and policy, and education and outreach;
2. Identify funding needs for current and anticipated nearshore programs;
3. Determine transparent procedures and oversight mechanisms for pursuing, securing, and administering public and private funds; and
4. Identify mechanisms for data sharing to coordinate, collaborate, and reevaluate priorities and programs among state agencies, institutions and other stakeholders.

STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES:

The following structure and procedures will govern the task force during its tenure:

1. Membership is intended to be balanced and diverse, with 14 voting members of equal standing from the following groups:
 - State agencies/institutions (7 members): Superintendent of Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, Director of Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Director of Oregon Sea Grant, Manager of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife – Marine Resources Program, Manager of Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) – Ocean & Coastal Services Division, Executive Director of Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association, Director of Department of State Lands;
 - Community (7 members): local government, conservation/environmental, commercial fishing industry, sport fishing industry, community-based fishing, nearshore industry (non-fishing), recreation (non-fishing); and
 - Federal agencies (non-voting members).
2. As directed by the Bill, Task Force members elected a chairperson from within their membership, Dr. Stephen Brandt, at their inaugural meeting on December 2, 2009. The Task Force also selected Sybil Ackerman as Vice Chair.
3. Meetings will be open to the public, will include time for public input, and are subject to public meeting laws. Public outreach materials and opportunities for comments are available on a website created by DLCD for the task force, <http://www.oregonocean.info/>
4. The Task Force is planning to submit any recommendations for legislation to the Governor and the Emergency Board no later than August 1, 2010.