



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: (503) 373-0050

Fax: (503) 378-6033

www.oregon.gov/LCD

Voting Members

Scott McMullen, Chair
Oregon Fishermen's Cable
Committee
(North Coast Commercial Fisheries)

David Allen, Vice Chair
(Coastal City Elected Official)

Jena Carter
The Nature Conservancy
(Statewide Conservation
Organization)

Walter Chuck, Jr.
(Ports, Marine Transportation or
Navigation)

Jaime Fereday
(Coastal Public Representative)

Meagan Flier
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)

Robin Hartmann
Oregon Shores Conservation
Coalition
(Coastal Conservation Organization)

Richard Heap, Jr.
(South Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

John Holloway
(North Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)

Bob Main
Commissioner, Coos County
(South Coastal County
Commissioner)

Brad Pettinger
Oregon Trawl Commission
(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)

Charlie Plybon
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)

Fred Postlewait, Jr.
(Statewide Public Representative)

Terry Thompson
Commissioner, Lincoln County
(North Coastal County
Commissioner)

Ex-Officio Members

Brad Avy
Director, Department of Geology
And Mineral Industries

Caren Braby
Marine Resources Program
Manager,
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Lindsay Eng
Market Access & Certification
Director,
Department of Agriculture

Loren Goddard
Oregon Coastal Zone Management
Association

Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Manager
Governor's Office

Jim Paul
Director, Department of State Lands

Jennifer Purcell
Department of Environmental
Quality

Patty Snow
OCMP Manager, Department of
Land Conservation and
Development

Lisa Sumption
Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation

Shelby Walker
Director, Oregon Sea Grant College
Program

Kris Wall
Federal Agency Liaison, NOAA OCM

April 21, 2017

Governor Kate Brown
160 State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Proposed Fiscal Year 2018 President's Budget

Governor Brown,

At its April 17, 2017 meeting, the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) received information and an update on the proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018, detailing impacts to the Oregon Coastal Management Program, the Oregon Sea Grant Program, and other programs of coastal and statewide significance. In furtherance of our statutory duty to offer advice to your office, as well as to state agencies and local governments, OPAC provides the following general description of these programs and their importance to Oregon and our coastal communities. OPAC unanimously supports these programs and encourages you to seek their continued funding in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

Oregon Coastal Management Program

Created by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the National Coastal Management Program is a state-federal partnership that leverages federal funds in furtherance of multiple coastal community goals, including economic development, enhancement of public access and recreation, and protection of coastal resources through the effective management of the states' coastal zones. In Oregon, the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) receives federal Coastal Zone Management funds through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). That funding supports 11 positions that in turn provide both technical and grant assistance to municipalities and other local and regional groups. Efforts to reduce the risk of damage from coastal hazards such as erosion and tsunamis, to plan for ocean development through the Territorial Sea Plan, to help communities keep their comprehensive land use plans and estuary plans up-to-date, and to update and maintain information on ocean and coastal resources exemplify the importance of these partnerships.

However, the proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018 zeroes out all NOAA Coastal Management grant funds. If this occurs, the OCMP would no longer have the capacity to serve the 32 cities and 7 counties in Oregon's

coastal zone, the state agencies in Oregon's networked Coastal Program, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, the Lower Columbia Solutions Group (addressing Columbia River sediment management), ports, nonprofit environmental groups, environmental consultants and Oregon's citizens that benefit from effective management of the coastal zone.

Oregon Sea Grant Program

Using a non-regulatory approach based on competitive, peer-reviewed, sound science and technology, the Sea Grant College Program supports state and local decision makers as they address challenges facing coastal communities. Nationally, Sea Grant Programs are dedicated to supporting coastal communities and promoting responsible use of the nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources through informed personal, policy and management decisions. Approximately 95 percent of Sea Grant's federal funding goes to the state programs where it is used to conduct research, carry out extension and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education activities, and deliver valuable coastal resiliency services. Moreover, federal funding through the Sea Grant program has a significant leveraging impact with every two federal dollars invested attracting at least an additional dollar in non-federal resources in matching funding. Sea Grant enables coastal economic interests to develop and thrive, which supports the growth and development of our coastal economy.

Oregon Sea Grant is part of this national network of programs and serves as a catalyst to promote discovery, understanding, and resilience for Oregon coastal communities and ecosystems. Oregon Sea Grant has been at the forefront of issues of critical interest to coastal communities, including: preparing coastal communities and local educators for the anticipated Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake and tsunami; collaborating with the fishing industry and the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center to determine off-shore renewable energy research locations; supporting research into ocean acidification impacts on oysters and other shellfish, and developing mitigation strategies; working closely with the fishing community to improve their access to and use of ocean condition forecasts; and collaborating with local community partners to support responsible coastal tourism.

Federal funding should continue for those programs that deliver economic, environmental, and education benefits to our state and local decision makers. The Sea Grant program does this while also increasing our coastal communities' resiliency in a cost-effective manner.

United States Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) provides services to support life-saving operations, pollution and maritime enforcement, and homeland security. Oregon's commercial, charter and recreational ocean and bay fisheries are a large and important component of Oregon's coastal economy. On the central Oregon coast alone, over 250 commercial boats, and thousands of recreational and charter boats that ply the Pacific Ocean depend upon the life-saving services of the USCG. Additionally, millions of tourists visit the Oregon coast annually, and a number of

them find themselves in distress while on beaches, ocean cliffs, surfing, swimming or participating in other popular ocean recreational activities. Our coastal waters range between 49 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit, temperatures that would render an overboard mariner or recreational user functionally disabled in less than 30 minutes. Without the speedy and life-saving response of the USCG's helicopter operations, hundreds of thousands of lives could be at risk annually under our unique ocean conditions and current level of recreational, commercial fishing and mariner activities. According to USCG's data from Newport, Oregon alone, from 2007-2013 the USCG saved 159 lives and 3,780 lives were assisted. OPAC has previously recognized the critical services of the USCG and its helicopter search and rescue operations in Newport. OPAC urges continued funding of the USCG Air Facility Newport and all other USCG facilities along the Oregon coast in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

BEACH Grants Program

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act authorized the BEACH Grants Program to provide federal assistance to coastal states to monitor water quality at beaches and to notify the public when bacteria levels exceed health standards. Elimination of the BEACH Grants Program puts beachgoers at risk and threatens the nation's coastal recreation and tourism sector. Because Oregon depends solely on this federal grant to pay for our Oregon Beach Monitoring Program, without that federal funding all governmental monitoring and associated public health advisories for contaminated coastal waters and beaches would cease. Oregon's public beaches are critical to our coastal economy; over 21 million visitors each year spend an estimated \$1.8 billion in our coastal communities. Eliminating monitoring would put both visitors' and coastal residents' health at risk. OPAC recognizes the importance of these monitoring activities to the health of our coastal waters, recreational users and our coastal economy, and supports funding of the BEACH Grants Program in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 29 coastal sites designated to protect and study 1.3 million acres of coastal estuarine systems. The Coastal Zone Management Act authorizes the reserves partnership between NOAA and the coastal states that manage each site on a daily basis as well as provides funding and national guidance. States, communities, and people depend on these estuaries to protect them from flooding, keep water clean, sustain and create jobs, support fish and wildlife, and offer outdoor recreation.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is a state-owned property, with state run facilities. It directly benefits Oregon by providing education, stewardship and research activities. The South Slough Reserve protects approximately 6,000 acres of open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas and forested uplands. Approximately 12,600 people visited the South Slough Reserve in 2016. About 325 coastal managers and decision makers received assistance from the South Slough Reserve last year with science-based training and information to support coastal management decisions that reduce stormwater runoff, protect water quality and

aquatic habitat, reduce erosion, and protect critical highway infrastructure. The South Slough Reserve collects weather and water quality monitoring data to track and predict short-term and long-term changes to water quality, weather, and climate trends, and provides essential support to city planners, research students, shellfish growers and emergency response teams. At its April 17, 2017 meeting, OPAC learned that the South Slough Reserve operates two, out of only a handful, of Oregon stations monitoring ocean acidification. OPAC supports funding of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

Projects supported by the PCSRF have improved management practices and increased the availability and quality of salmon and steelhead habitat, which will in turn result in more fish over time. OPAC supports continued funding at the current level for this valuable program.

Federal Fishery Management Programs

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act has established fisheries conservation and management requirements to provide sustainable, healthy fisheries. Many previously depleted stocks are now healthy, while a few others have harvest cuts to bring them back to a sustainable level. The fishery management system is working, but it needs funding to operate. Stock assessments, monitoring and enforcement programs, fisheries data collection and analysis, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, long-term extended time-series fishery surveys and other similar programs are all key to this success story. Without funding at the current level, Oregon and the nation will suffer. Simply put, without fishery management, there can be no fishery. The enclosed congressional letter, dated April 4, 2017, provides more detail. OPAC urges continued funding of the elements of fishery management spelled out in the enclosed letter.

Best Regards,

Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council



Scott McMullen, Chair



David Allen, Vice Chair

Enc: Congressional Letter – April 4, 2017
Cc: Oregon Congressional Delegation
Oregon Coastal Caucus
OPAC Members

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable José Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Culberson and Ranking Member Serrano:

We request your assistance to provide adequate levels of funding for fiscal year 2018 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) marine fishery data and resource management programs through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Fisheries conservation and management requirements have increased substantially since the last reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The fishery management councils and NOAA Fisheries have imposed a variety of restrictions designed to ensure sustainable fisheries and rebuild overfished stocks. Reductions in harvest quotas to avoid bycatch of overfished stocks and vast closed areas to protect both fish stocks and their habitats have been implemented. Progress on ocean and fisheries initiatives has been slowed by the sheer amount of scientific knowledge needed to provide conservation while allowing sustainable commercial and recreational harvests to occur on healthy fish populations.

Our requests for specific accounts funding these marine fisheries programs are as follows.

PPA: Regional Councils and Fisheries Commissions

The Regional Fishery Management Councils ("RFMC") are the workhorses of the Federal regulatory process for marine fisheries. Each RFMC is working to revise fishery management plans under its jurisdiction to end overfishing and rebuild fish stocks. The three Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions are funded annually within this account to assist the States, NOAA Fisheries and the Councils develop and monitor management regimes for fisheries that are inter-jurisdictional in nature. **We are recommending that the Regional Councils and Fisheries Commission Line Item be funded at \$34,250,000, the amount provided in the FY 2017 House Commerce-Justice-Science & Related Agencies Appropriations (CJS) Bill.**

PPA: Inter-Jurisdictional Fisheries Act Grants

The IJFA was established by Congress to promote state activities in support of the management of inter-jurisdictional fishery resources throughout their range. The IJFA supports the monitoring and assessment programs of the States and Interstate Commissions, as well as funding for research to gauge the health of commercially and recreationally important fish stocks. The IJFA is a matching grant program. Funds received by the States are matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This is a successful example of an effective and affordable federal/state partnership

designed specifically for the management of nearshore fisheries with inter-jurisdictional boundaries. These funds are also used to combat the spread of marine invasive species. **We support \$3,000,000 to maintain this important collaboration between the Federal Government and the States. This is the same amount included in the FY 2017 House CJS Appropriations Bill.**

PPA: Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments

This line item funds critical data collection, fish stock assessments and longstanding fishery surveys nationally. This includes the commercial fishery data program for the West Coast ("PACFIN"); the commercial fishery data program for the North Pacific ("AKFIN"); and the recreational fishery data program ("RECFIN"). These are joint federal-state programs designed to collect, assimilate, and distribute baseline fisheries data. The information is used by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA Fisheries, the States, and the U.S.-Canada Pacific Salmon Commission to manage annual fishing seasons. The line item also funds efforts to expand and improve fish stock assessments, a Federal obligation strengthened by the Congress when it reauthorized the MSA. Also included are long-term, extended time series stock assessments used to manage fisheries throughout the Nation. For the West Coast, these include West Coast groundfish; the Alaska crab fisheries; Alaska pollock and groundfish, rockfish, halibut, and sablefish. Both the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council rely upon these fishery surveys to determine annual catch limits and monitor the health of these stocks. **We are recommending \$164,749,000 for this line item, also the amount included in the FY 2017 CJS Appropriations Bill. We recommend, however, that the base funding level for the Fish Information Networks be increased to \$22,500,000 to account for inflationary changes and recent NOAA program overhead charges, and offer the following report language:**

"Within the amounts provided for Fisheries Data Collections, Surveys, and Assessments, \$22,500,000 shall be made available to fund the Fish Information Networks".

PPA: Habitat Conservation and Restoration

These programs support efforts to protect and restore coastal and marine habitat to rebuild commercial and recreational species, recover species, and improve the resiliency of coastal communities. Habitat loss and degradation directly threaten the sustainability of our nation's fisheries and the communities that depend on a healthy coast. Funding for habitat restoration directly confronts these challenges. This includes the Community-based Restoration Program ("CBRP"). Through public-private collaboration with states, localities, citizens' organizations, businesses, and colleges and universities, CBRP accomplishes on-the-ground projects to restore the nation's coastal, marine, and migratory fish habitat. **We recommend that Habitat Conservation and Restoration PPA be funded at \$68,400,000, with a minimum of \$21,100,000 for the Community Based Restoration Program and \$10,000,000 for Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grants.**

PPA: Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

The States of Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska, and Idaho must submit projects on a competitive basis to promote the recovery and sustainability of wild salmon and steelhead stocks. Projects supported by the PCSRF have improved management practices and increased the availability and quality of salmon and steelhead habitat. **We believe that the conservation benefits realized by PCSRF projects justify the base funding amount of \$65,000,000. This is the same amount provided in the FY 2017 Senate CJS Appropriations Bill and would fund the program at its existing level in the current CR.**

PPA: ESA Salmon

This program strives to recover and sustain all threatened and endangered salmon populations on both coasts to maintain healthy ecosystems. **We urge that this PPA be funded at \$63,500,000 and \$6,224,000 for Pacific and Atlantic Salmon, respectively, the same amounts provided in the FY 2017 House CJS Appropriations Bill.**

PPA: Salmon Management Activities

This account supports many important salmon management activities on the West Coast and Alaska. These activities include but are not limited to the operation and maintenance of the Mitchell Act hatcheries; the mark and coded wire tag programs; the Pacific Salmon Treaty and the Chinook Salmon Agreement; and ongoing work to establish a genetic stock identification database. **We support funding for this program at the amount of \$35,500,000, the same amount in the FY 2017 House CJS Appropriations Bill. This funding will help meet obligations faced by the Pacific Salmon Commission as well growing demands on the Mitchell Act hatchery system to meet production goals while implementing hatchery reforms.**

We appreciate your support for NOAA marine resource conservation and data management programs. We ask that you strongly support these budget items as recommended in your FY 2018 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



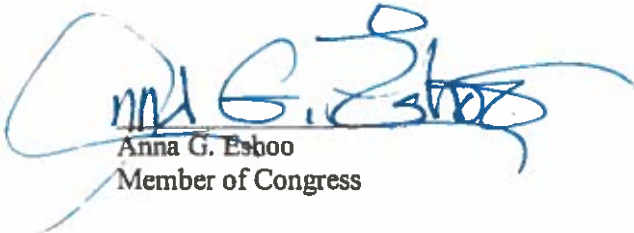
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



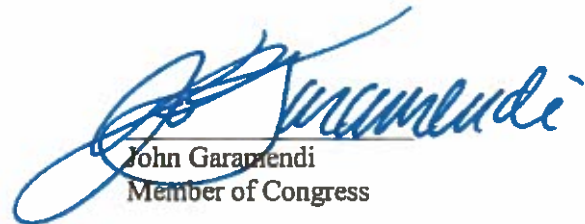
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress




Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress