



OREGON OCEAN
SCIENCE TRUST

29 September 2026
Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council



About the Trust

Established by the Oregon State Legislature in 2013, the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) secures and distributes funding to promote ocean and coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of Oregon's resources, enhance coastal resilience, and support long-term ocean health for all Oregonians.

Trust Board Members

Laura Anderson, Local Ocean Seafoods Founder, Chair

Dr. Karina Nielsen, Oregon Sea Grant, Oregon State University

Dr. Keith Wolf, KWA Ecological Sciences and Documentary Films

Dr. Ted DeWitt, Retired

Cristen Don, Consultant

Rep. David Gomberg, Non-voting member

Sen. Dick Anderson, Non-voting member

Lisa DeBruyckere, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs

Tackling Emerging Oregon-relevant Issues



Climate solutions to protect, restore, and manage our coast



Energy infrastructure and its effects on ecosystems and people



Sustainable fisheries in the face of changing oceans and high fishery demand



Resilient **species and habitats**



Identify and fill **knowledge and data gaps** to support decision making

Trust Accomplishments



Set Oregon's Ocean Research Priorities

Two **statewide scientific summits** with 100+ experts and policymakers.

Invested in Research & Monitoring

Over **\$2M invested** through HB 3114 & HB 5202 to fund **14 collaborative teams** across **3 key areas**:

- **Filling knowledge gaps about rocky reefs and kelp forests to respond to complex management decisions**
- **Research to help Oregon understand, plan, and adapt to ocean changes**
- **Assessing Oregon's Marine Reserves (successfully fundraised to keep this legislatively-mandated assessment on track)**

Strengthening Resilience & Communities

Advancing **science that protects** ecosystems, **supports** coastal economies, and **builds** community resilience.



Funding

- Oregon Legislature: 2021-2022 bills totaling \$2 million for ocean change and nearshore research
- OOST fundraising:
 - ~ \$0.5 million for capacity building, Tribal engagement in Action Agenda, ocean science summits, and marine reserve review
- Outstanding grant requests: \$200,000

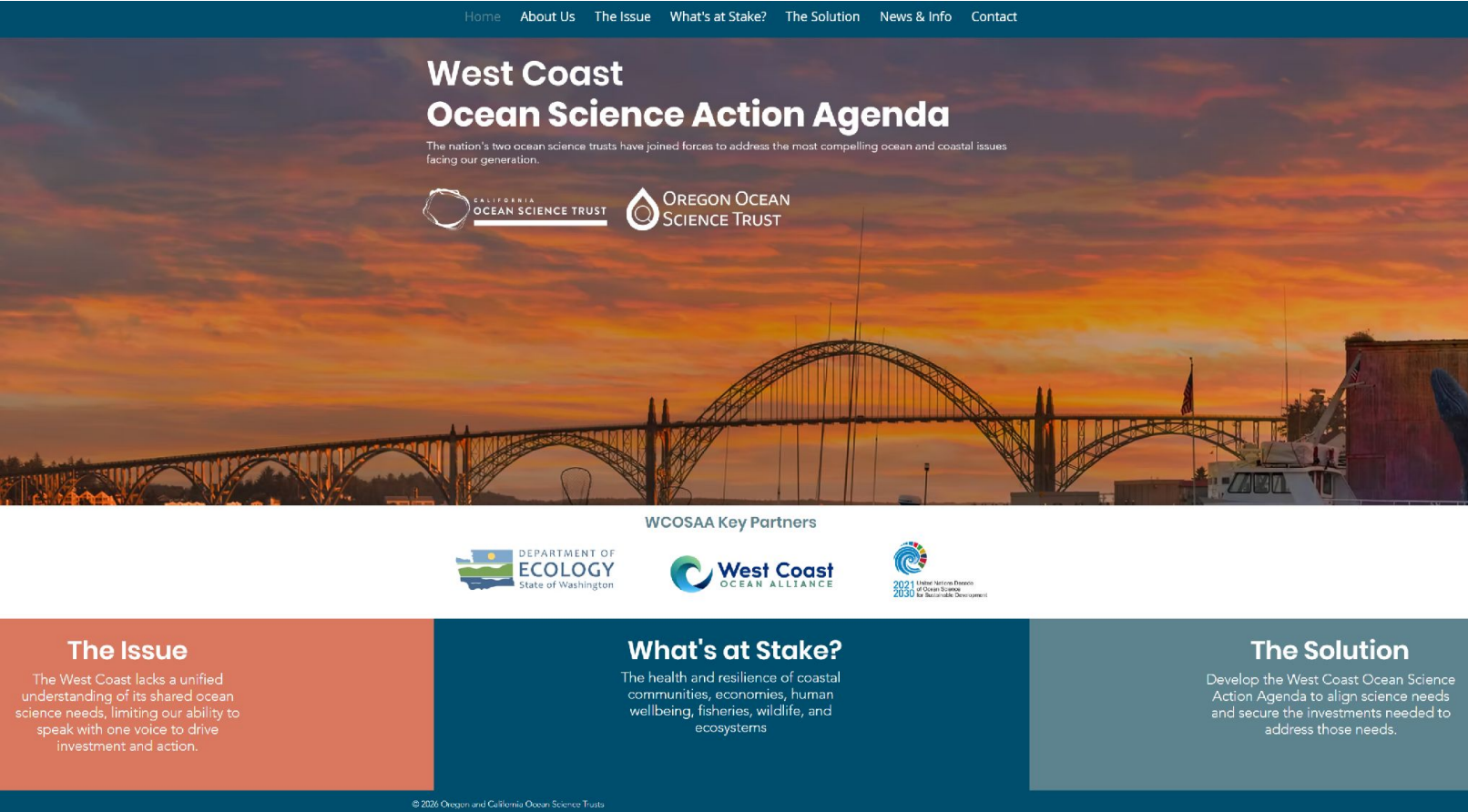


The OOST as Catalyst and Co-Investor

OOST investments align with state, federal, and private funds to advance Oregon's ocean science priorities.

Examples: \$1 in state funding leveraged \$5+ in partner investment.

 Climate Monitoring Station	OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center, Sea-Bird Scientific, Wendy & Eric Schmidt Marine Studies Fund	\$97K OOST → \$5M infrastructure + \$200K co-funding
 Olympia Oyster Research	Frontier Climate	\$175K OOST → \$450K co-funding
 Hypoxia Monitoring Network	NOAA Collaboration	\$385K OOST → \$5.4M in co-funding



New West Coast Initiative

A collaboration between Oregon, California, and Washington to build the infrastructure, technology, and talent needed to meet the most pressing ocean and coastal challenges – with practical, inclusive, actionable solutions.

<https://www.oceanscienceagenda.org/>



Oregon Ocean Science Legacy Fund

- Launching an independent 501c3 to advance ocean and coastal science by supporting, enhancing, and securing funds to amplify the priorities of the Trust.
- Expand the pool of private, charitable and grant funding available.
- Currently soliciting founding board members.

Executive Oregon No.25-26

Foster Resilient Lands, Waters, and Communities

- Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working
 - “The Department of State Lands, Department of Land and Conservation Development and Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall work with the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council, the **Oregon Ocean Science Trust** and Oregon Sea Grant to *evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of nearshore resources in Oregon, and incentivize and promote globally competitive ocean-reliant products derived through sustainable practices.*”
 - Target grants for nearshore habitat restoration and monitoring that align with State Wildlife Action Plan priorities
 - Fund applied research to define sustainability thresholds re: specific ocean conditions
 - Support expansion of OAH monitoring networks in the nearshore
 - Fund studies that quantify carbon sequestration potential and economic value of coastal habitats to support innovative market-based mitigation strategies
 - Fund applied pilot projects for globally competitive ocean-reliant products, e.g., native kelp or dulse farming, that actively improve local water chemistry or provide habitat, in support of nearshore resilience
 - Establish dedicated funding tracks for Oregon's federally recognized coastal Tribes to lead nearshore monitoring and sustainable product development, ensuring historical baselines inform modern state management

The Nexus Between OOST and OPAC

FUNDING ENGINE

Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST)

Secures and distributes funding to promote ocean and coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring.

Ensures the sustainable use of Oregon's resources, enhances coastal resilience, and supports long-term ocean health for all Oregonians.



POLICY, PLANNING & SCIENCE BROKER

OPAC

Provides recommendations on ocean resource planning, conservation, and sustainable ocean use, drafting policies and balancing maritime activities.



Thank you

- **Visit** OregonOceanScience.com
- **Email** OOST@OregonOceanScience.com
- **Follow** [@OceanSciOR](#) on LinkedIn and Instagram

