



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

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Voting Members

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(South Coast Commercial Fisheries)*

*Nick Edwards
(Ports, Marine Transportation or
Navigation)*

*Kyle Motley
(Coastal Public Representative)*

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Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
(Oregon Coastal Indian Tribes)*

*Fran Recht
(Coastal City Elected Official)*

*Joe Liebezeit
(Statewide Conservation Organization)*

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

*Vacant
(North Coast Charter, Sport or
Recreational Fisheries)*

*Vacant
Commissioner, Coos County
(South Coastal County Commissioner)*

*Amelia O'Connor
(Coastal Non-fishing Recreation)*

*Duncan Berry
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*Mark Kujala
Commissioner, Tillamook County
(North Coastal County Commissioner)*

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*Jonathan Allan
Department of Geology
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*Scott Groth
Department of Fish and Wildlife*

*Alexis Taylor
Market Access & Certification Director,
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*Chandra Ferrari
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*Rian Vanden Hooff
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*Lisa Phipps
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Land Conservation and Development*

*Lisa Sumption
Director, Department of Parks and
Recreation*

*Karina Nielsen
Director, Oregon Sea Grant College
Program*

November 14, 2025

Governor Tina Kotek
160 State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: The Potential inclusion of Oregon OCS waters in any Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Action

Dear Governor Kotek,

On behalf of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), we write to express our thanks to your office for submitting the June 6, 2025, letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy (BOEM) Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager, Kelly Hammerle, commenting on the initiation of the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Programⁱ. At this time, we see the need for your office to continue to oppose any action by BOEM to include any lease areas off the West Coast, recognizing that the Pacific waters off Oregon are just a small part of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

The Council supports both state and regional efforts to oppose any offshore development related to oil and gas exploration off the coast of Oregon — particularly in the context of BOEM's development of the 11th National OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Programⁱⁱ. OPAC members, during our regular meeting on Oct. 29, 2025, unanimously supported any action you deem fit to support Oregon's continual opposition to oil and gas exploration, leasing and development. Precedent for this action exists, both at the regional level, through tri-state governor's office letters (2006ⁱⁱⁱ and 2017^{iv}) and state level, (all Governors of Oregon since 1984 have opposed such action).

Thank you for your ongoing leadership to oppose oil and gas exploration off the Oregon coast and to align state policy with the long-term interests of our ocean, shoreline and coastal communities. Your leadership at this moment will help protect Oregon's environment, economy and way of life for generations to come.

Best Regards,

Susan Chambers
Chair



Cc:

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ⁱ <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/BOEM-2025-0015-6544>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/national-program/national-ocs-oil-and-gas-leasing-program>

ⁱⁱⁱ Tri-State Governor's Office Letter of 2006. <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/outer-continental-shelf-documents/ocs-oil-and-gas-program/327-governor-kulongoski-2006-tri-state-letter-regarding-the-oil-and-gas-5-year-plan/file>

^{iv} Tri-State Governor's Office Letter of 2017. <https://oregonocean.info/index.php/resources-tools/other-resources/ooi-documents/outer-continental-shelf-documents/ocs-oil-and-gas-program/328-governor-brown-2017-tri-state-letter-regarding-the-oil-and-gas-5-year-plan/file>