

# COAST RANGE ASSOCIATION



**A monthly newsletter of ocean science, marine conservation  
and climate news.**

All of us at the Coast Range Association hope you and your loved ones are staying healthy and following best practices for protecting yourself and others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For our part, the Coast Range Association has cancelled all in-person events and we are all working from home.



This edition of Oregon Coast Ocean News is a bit different. We are still providing links to stories and research on important coastal climate and science news. We are still sharing updates from Oregon's marine reserves, partners and ODFW. We have also included important coastal stories on COVID-19.

However, due to the Coronavirus there is little to update on coastal events. Most if not all events have been cancelled. We are providing links to digital resources shared by our partners which should provide some great entertainment and educational opportunities during the stay-at-home order. Please send us your coastal resources and stories to be included in future newsletters and on social media at [andrew@coastrange.org](mailto:andrew@coastrange.org).

Jim Carlson is CRA's coastal field staff. He works closely with the strong coalition of organizations and agencies that work to protect Oregon's coast and the nearshore marine reserve system. He can answer your questions and direct you in the right direction regarding coastal issues. Reach Jim at 503-801-5538, or [jim@coastrange.org](mailto:jim@coastrange.org).

## Ocean Issues News

**ocean warming, sea level rise, acidification, and other  
Oregon Coast news**

### Coastal Closures Provide Relief for Some, Anxiety for Others

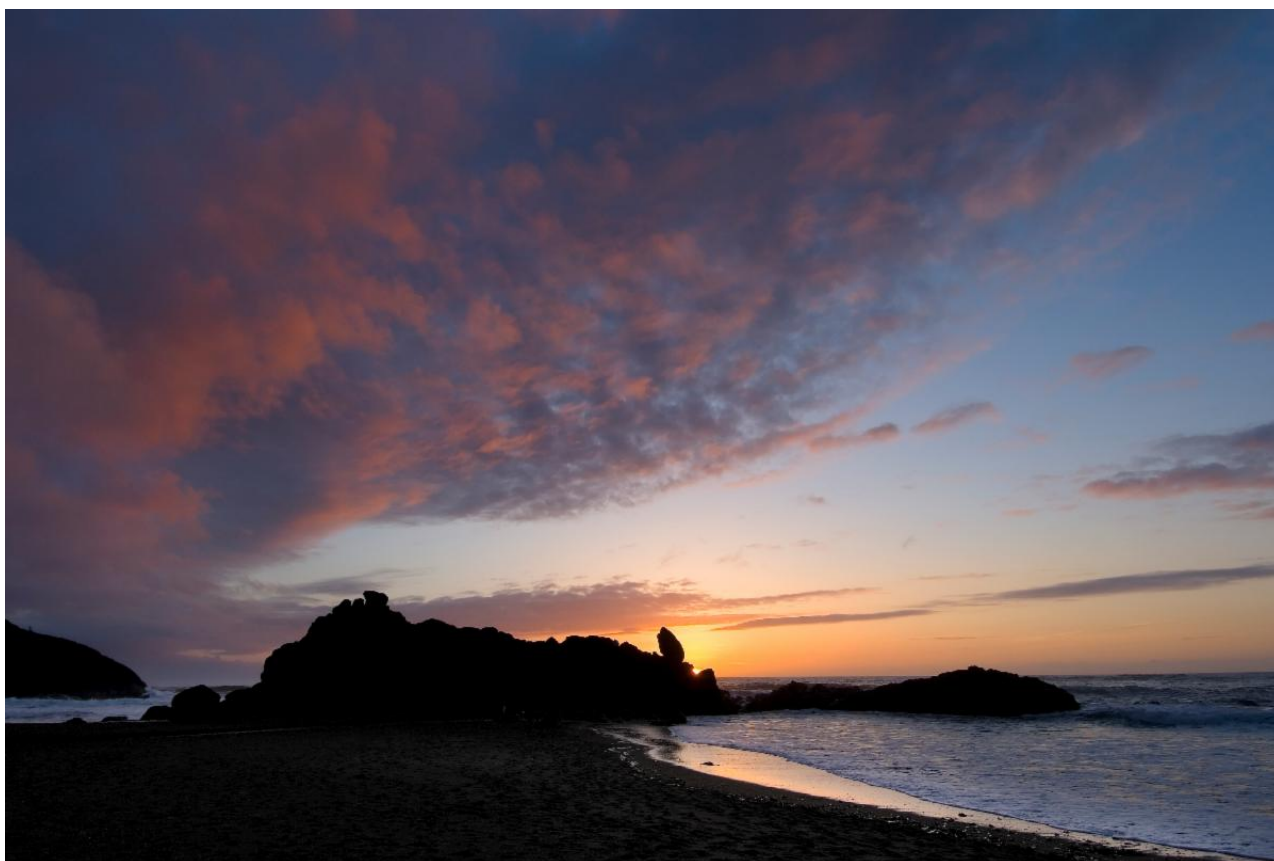
#### **Surfrider Foundation Oregon Chapters, 3.30.20**

For a lot of coastal Oregonians, we sometimes daydream of spring without spring breakers where the locals can rule the beaches, waves, bars and restaurants and highway 101 is absent of slow moving cars and RVs. And with the State of Emergency and global health crisis we're currently facing with COVID-19, that locals-only notion went to level ten as droves of spring breakers descended upon the coast representing a greater threat than crowded line ups and highway 101 traffic.

### Beaches, coastal cities empty as Oregon's stay-home order takes hold

#### **KGW8, 3.29.20**

CANNON BEACH, Ore. — Oregon is nearly a week into the stay-home order and so far, Gov. Kate Brown believes it is working to help flatten the curve. It seems like many people are taking it seriously, especially when you look at the number of people on the Oregon coast this weekend compared to last weekend.



### New data for the black oystercatcher: Oregon's iconic bird of the rocky coastline

#### **Bandon Western World, 3.26.20**

PORTLAND — A new study finds the Oregon black oystercatcher breeding population is small but stable with only several hundred individuals. This distinctive bird is considered a Bird of Conservation Concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to its dependence on rocky shoreline habitats, its rarity and vulnerability to threats including climate change and human disturbance. This study relied on members of the public - "community scientists" - to help collect data. It is timely as Oregon is updating its coastal rocky habitat management plan which will guide habitat protection decisions that may impact this species.

### [Antarctic glacier retreats nearly 3 miles, could foreshadow huge sea level rise](#)

**CNET, 3.24.20**

Researchers have found that the Denman Glacier in East Antarctica has retreated nearly three miles in the last 22 years, signaling a potential rise in sea levels if climate change trends continue. Sea levels worldwide would rise almost five feet if the Denman was fully thawed, researchers at the University of California, Irvine, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a Monday release. The scientists' assessment of the glacier and surrounding area was published in a paper in the American Geophysical Union journal Geophysical Research Letters.

### [Go whale watching on the Oregon coast remotely with live video feed](#)

**The Oregonian, 3.23.20**

Gray whales have returned to the Oregon coast for their annual spring migration, but it will be empty shores they pass going north. The coronavirus outbreak in Oregon had already forced the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to significantly scale back its Spring Whale Watch Week event, and with state parks set to close to the public Monday evening, whale watching this season is all but done for.

Watch on the OPRD [YouTube Channel](#)

### [After Federal Approval, What Next For LNG?](#)

**Jefferson Public Radio, 3.23.20**

The Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas (LNG) plan got a major green light recently. FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, gave its approval to the plan for an export terminal near North Bend and a 230-mile pipeline running to it.

### [Coronavirus in Oregon: Coast towns Lincoln City, Newport, Yachats vote to remove visitors](#)

**The Statesman Journal, 3.23.20**

In three extraordinary days, the Oregon Coast closed down to visitors amid fears of the coronavirus pandemic. Lincoln County Commissioners approved an order Monday night barring tourists from staying in towns including Lincoln City, Newport and Yachats. The move followed similar measures barring visitors from Oregon's North Coast — from Tillamook to Astoria — that passed Saturday and Sunday. With some exceptions, it essentially means nobody who lives outside the area can spend the night in an area known as a tourist destination worldwide.

### [FERC approves Jordan Cove project conditionally](#)

**The Coos Bay World, 3.19.20**

WASHINGTON D.C — Early Thursday, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission moved to conditionally approve the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline.

### [Oregon State University researchers use satellite data to bolster understanding of kelp](#)

**The Register-Guard, 3.9.20**

Oregon State University researchers have analyzed 35 years of satellite data to further study the long-term effects of climate change and winter waves on kelp forests.





Photo: Rick Obst / [Flickr](#)

### **As sea levels rise, high marshes along the Oregon coast are likely to shrink** **Yale Climate Connections, 3.4.20**

Where the land meets the sea, you'll often find coastal wetlands called salt marshes. During high tide, salt water floods the low-lying part of the marsh, the tidal flats. The high marsh, a drier sandy area, floods less frequently. When there's a storm, the high marsh provides an important buffer – helping protect inland areas from waves and flooding. But as the climate changes, rising seas could put high marshes in jeopardy.

### **Half of world's sandy beaches could disappear due to sea level rise by 2100** **The Conversation, 3.2.20**

Up to half of the world's sandy beaches are at risk of disappearing by the end of this century if no action is taken to limit greenhouse gas emissions. That's according to a new study, published in Nature Climate Change. Even assuming a better outcome for action on climate change, where global emissions peak around 2040, well over one-third (37%) of the world's beaches would be lost by 2100.

## **Oregon Marine Reserve News**

**From the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Marine Reserve Program. To sign up for their newsletter visit their [website](#).**



Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

## Update on Spring Field Season

The ODFW Marine Reserves Program has made the decision to postpone the spring field season. This is in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing best practices, and recent [Executive Order](#) issued by Governor Kate Brown urging Oregonians to “[Stay Home, Save Lives](#).” Keeping volunteers, contractors, and staff safe is top priority right now. The current plan is to postpone the field season through May 31st. ODFW will be reassessing in the coming weeks and months to determine if or when they might begin summer or fall field work when it is safe to do so.

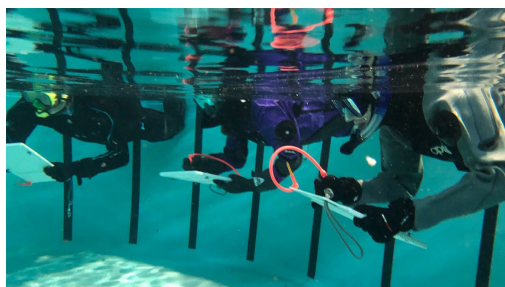


Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

## Annual SCUBA Survey Volunteer Training

In February, ODFW held their annual two-day training for volunteer scientific divers. These trainings are held with the help of research collaborators at the Oregon Coast Aquarium and are focused on the SCUBA survey scientific methods ODFW divers use to collect data on fish, invertebrates, and algae. This year ODFW had six new volunteer scientific divers attend the training. All marine reserve SCUBA surveys are

Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

## Understanding Cape Perpetua Visitors: New Report

Beyond the research conducted by the ODFW Marine Reserves Program, the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and surrounding area is attracting additional human dimensions research. One example is the recently released report from a two-year, year round, visitor survey conducted at shoreside locations along the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve.

[Read More](#)



Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

## “Sense of Place” A Short Film by OSU-MSI Filmmaking Intern

This past summer, Amir Ahmad was a Marine Studies Initiative (MSI) Science Filmmaking intern. He collaborated with the ODFW Marine Reserves Program to produce a short film titled, “[Sense of Place](#)” highlighting some of the volunteers assisting in the scientific monitoring of Oregon’s marine reserves. This 5 minute film explores some of the different ways that these volunteers

conducted by these dedicated volunteers. ODFW will be sharing stories from volunteer divers in the near future.



Photo: ODFW Marine Reserves Program

## Volunteer Stories

In the coming months ODFW will be sharing stories from volunteers who are actively engaging in research and outreach activities at Oregon's marine reserve sites. From stalwart fisherfolk to intrepid SCUBA divers, from retirees to graduate students, these individuals offer diverse insights from their different forms of volunteer service. Follow along as they share their reasons for volunteering, recount some of their most memorable moments, and share what they've learned about Oregon's marine reserves in the process.

identify with and are connected to the ocean and why they volunteer. We invite you to hear their stories and watch the video.



Photo: Adam Stunkel

## Black Oystercatchers, Volunteers, and a New Publication

While the Black Oystercatcher has a conspicuous presence on our coast, little demographic information has been collected on this seabird in recent years. Starting in 2015, Portland Audubon and partners coordinated a statewide survey to obtain an updated population estimate and learn more about their distribution at Oregon's marine reserve sites and along the Oregon coast. This study relied on community scientists, members of the public that have been instrumental in monitoring these birds in the summertime.

[Read More](#)

## Interactive Tools, Videos, and Podcasts

### [Sense of Place - Video](#)

#### **Marine Studies Initiative / Oregon State University**

From Malaysia in Southeast Asia to Oregon in the United States, we are facing similar changes. MSI's 2019 Science Filmmaking intern, Amir Ahmad, collaborated with Oregon Fish & Wildlife to produce this short film –Sense of Place- highlighting the Oregon Marine Reserves volunteering program where coastal community members can contribute to finding solutions to the grave changes experienced along the coast.



## **Oregon Whale Watch Week 2020 Encore**

### **Oregon Parks & Recreation Department**

Gray whales are traveling north on their way to the summer feeding grounds in Alaska. [Watch](#) OPRD's live stream as we watch for the tell-tale blow, the spray of ocean water that says a whale is here! If we're lucky, we may see a whale breach as it launches as much as 3/4 of its body out of the water in a spectacular show of power and grace.



## **Missing the Coast while staying home? Coastal cams have you covered!**

### **Surfrider Foundation Oregon Chapters**

Surfrider provides excellent links to coastal cameras to see current coastal conditions and get your ocean fix while staying at home.

## **Organizing Resources for Coronavirus Response**

### **Rural Organizing Project**

Coronavirus is deeply impacting our communities. Using the link you will find a list of ideas and resources compiled from across the state of how rural Oregonians are meeting each others' needs and calling for structural change at this moment. The Rural Organizing Project is also hosting webinars and digital conversations on how our communities can respond to the Coronavirus.

## **Updates & Digital Coast Events**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic. All events, activities and most volunteer opportunities are cancelled on the coast in the near term. See Lincoln County's stay home updates below.



# STAY HOME UPDATES



## State closures by Governor effective March 24, 2020

.....

- Malls and retail complexes
- Fitness, yoga and dance centers
- Barbershops, hair and nail salons, spas, cosmetic stores, tattoo parlors
- Theaters, amusement parks, arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, museums
- Concerts, sporting events, festivals
- Campgrounds, pools, skate parks, playgrounds

## County and City closures effective noon March 25, 2020

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- No new short-term rentals as of 8:00am Tues. March 24, 2020
- County and City parks closed to camping
- Hotels, motels, RV parks, private campgrounds and similar lodgings or housing with stays under 30 days
- Pools, spas and other public bathing facilities, including those at lodging properties

### Oregon Parks & Recreation Department - [Park Closure Announcement](#)

"All state parks will close March 23. The last night anyone can stay is March 22. We're sorry to interrupt your plans. The previously scheduled April 3 campground closure has been moved up to March 23 and now includes all state parks, including all trails, viewpoints, and picnic areas and all other facilities. This is part of the statewide effort to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Day-use state parks will close at the dusk on March 23 and will not reopen until further notice. At this time, campers may spend the night March 22 and must vacate by 1 p.m. on March 23."



**Closed  
starting  
March 23**

### Portland Audubon



### Virtual Snowy Plover Patrol Training

- Online webinars for Snowy Plover Patrol training.
  - Friday/Saturday April 17th and 18th
  - Saturday/Sunday April 25th and 26th

### Surfrider Foundation Oregon Chapters

"Surfrider continues to be a staunch defender of public beach access rights; however, in these extraordinary times, extraordinary measures are needed to protect our health and livelihoods so we can, in due course, protect and enjoy our ocean, waves and beaches in the future. While these best practices can help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission while beach-going, leaving your house will include a level of risk for spreading or contracting COVID-19. Please stay home as much as possible, recreate with caution, and learn more about potential transmission risks of COVID-19 and beach water quality."

## GUIDELINES FOR BEACHGOERS DURING THE COVID-19 THREAT



**Respect closures.**  
Follow all local, state and federal laws and guidelines, including restrictions on beach access and ocean recreation. These are designed to protect your health, as well as the health of others.



**Stay close to home.**  
Traveling to other towns, particularly in less populated areas, can put those communities at unnecessary risk and contribute to crowded beaches.



**Be safe.**  
Recreate with caution. Now is not a good time to get hurt. Healthcare systems are overwhelmed, or soon will be. Please do not add to the burden.



**Avoid popular beaches.**  
Avoid popular beaches and parks where social distancing may be challenging - either in the water, on the sand, in the parking lot, or the access between.



**Check water quality.**  
Recognize that recreational waters may carry additional risks during this public health crisis. For more information, see Surfrider's blog on COVID-19 and Beach Water Quality.



**If sick, get medical attention.**  
If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or think you may have been exposed to someone with the virus, stay home and call your doctor.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you for taking the time to read CRA's monthly newsletter ***Ocean News***. We appreciate all of our marine and coastal partners who work hard conserving Oregon's coastal beauty and resources. This newsletter's goal is to amplify their voices and great work.

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