



Oregon Coast

OCEAN NEWS

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

All of us at the Coast Range Association wish you health and happiness as we move through the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic. We are healthy and hope you are, too.

We continue to share updates about the Oregon coast, Oregon marine reserves, and climate change science. We continue to bring you the stories that provide the tools and inspiration as we plan and prepare for a better world.

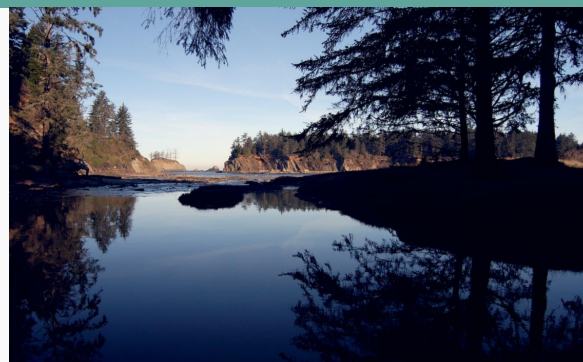


Photo: Ben Nieves

We need your help to get this important newsletter to more people on the coast. Please share this newsletter with your networks on social media. You can also spread the word by forwarding this email to your friends and family. With your help we can share this important information to help build more informed communities in the face of the many impacts of climate change on Oregon.

Something you would like to see in these newsletters? Send me an email at 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.

Ocean Issues News

Ocean warming, sea level rise, acidification, and other
Oregon Coast news.



[Dozens Of Oil Tankers Wait Off California's Coast As The Pandemic Dents Demand](#)

KNKX, 4.27.20

The scale of oil market turbulence is on stark display along the California coast. About three dozen massive oil tankers are anchored from Los Angeles and Long Beach up to San Francisco Bay, turning into floating storage for crude oil that is in short demand because of the coronavirus.

About 20 million barrels of crude are on board the tankers, according to Reid I'Anson, global commodity economist at Kpler, a data company. "That is definitely far outside what is normal for the region," he says, referring to California's coastline. "Typically, we'll not see more than, you know, maybe 5 million barrels tops kind of floating."

[Three years of monitoring of Oregon's gray whales shows changes in health](#)

Oregon State University, 4.27.20

NEWPORT, Ore. – Three years of "health check-ups" on Oregon's summer resident gray whales shows a compelling relationship between whales' overall body condition and changing ocean conditions that likely limited availability of prey for the mammals, a new study from Oregon State University indicates.

[Surface feeding could provide more than just snacks for New Zealand blue whales](#)

Oregon State University, 4.22.20

NEWPORT, Ore. – Feeding at the ocean's surface appears to play an important role in New Zealand blue whales' foraging strategy, allowing them to optimize their energy use, Oregon State University researchers suggest in a new study.

[Greenland Lost 600 Billion Tons of Ice In 2 Months, Enough to Raise Global Sea Levels 2.2mm](#)

SciTechDaily, 4.20.20

During the exceptionally warm Arctic summer of 2019, Greenland lost 600 billion tons of ice, enough to raise global sea levels by 2.2 millimeters in two months. On the opposite pole, Antarctica continued to lose mass in the Amundsen Sea Embayment and Antarctic Peninsula but saw some relief in the form of increased snowfall in Queen Maud Land, in the eastern part of the continent.



Photo: Conrad Gowell, Native Fish Society

[Oregon Coast Spring Chinook Salmon One Step Closer to Endangered Species Protections](#)

Native Fish Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Umpqua Watersheds, 4.10.20

PORTLAND, *Ore.*— The National Marine Fisheries Service today [announced](#) it will consider Endangered Species Act protections for spring-run chinook salmon on the Oregon coast. Today's positive finding responds to a 2019 petition by the Native Fish Society, Center for Biological Diversity and Umpqua Watersheds seeking safeguards for spring-run chinook salmon returning to rivers south of the Columbia River and north of Cape Blanco.

[The Other Insane Oregon Coast Storm: One Year Before the Great Gale](#)

Oregon Coast Beach Connection, 4.8.20

(Oregon Coast) – The Great Gale of '07 has been the benchmark by which all Oregon coast storms are judged and compared, ever since it tore up chunks of the coastline, flattened acres of forest along Highway 26 and knocked out power for a week to some areas. The stories from the [Great Coastal Gale of '07 are varied and wild](#), like one woman seeing her dog getting lifted up in the air by hurricane force winds.

[Rising Tides, Troubled Waters: The Future of Our Ocean](#)

Rolling Stone, 4.2.20

The blob went unnoticed at first. In the summer of 2013, a high-pressure ridge settled over a Texas-size area in the northern Pacific, pushing the sky down over the ocean like an invisible lid. The winds died down, and the water became weirdly calm. Without waves and wind to break up the surface and dissipate heat, warmth from the sun accumulated in the water, eventually raising the temperature by 5 degrees Fahrenheit — a huge spike for the ocean.

[Whatever happened to the sensational seaweed that supposedly tastes like bacon?](#)

NW News Network, 7.25.19

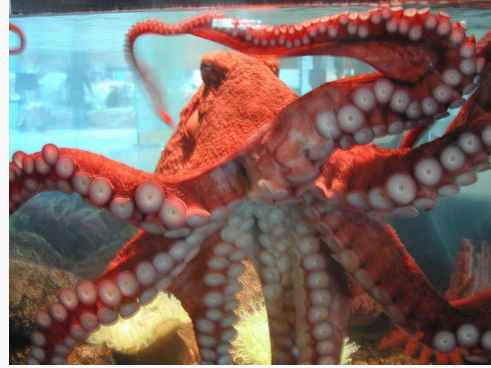
Oregon State University created something of a sensation back in 2015 when researchers announced they discovered and patented "seaweed that tastes like bacon." Four years later, the hard work of commercialization continues, but guilt-free bacon from the sea remains elusive.

Interactive Tools, Videos, and Podcasts

[Hatfield Marine Science Center - OctoCam](#)

The giant Pacific octopus is one of the Hatfield Marine Science Center's most popular animal

residents. Many people plan their visits to coincide with octopus feeding times, and they love to watch and learn more about these intelligent, curious animals.
(Photo from Hatfield Marine Science Center.)



[Northwest Nature Matters](#)

#28 The Kelp Ecosystem of the PNW Part I

A fascinating window into new discoveries in kelp ecology and conservation with Sara Hamilton - a leading researcher studying trends in kelp forests. Sara is a PhD student at Oregon State University. Part one of a series produced in partnership with the Elakha Alliance.

[Oregon Whale Watch 2020](#)

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

OPRD continue their live whale watching YouTube broadcast!

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.

[Rising Tide the Ocean Podcast](#)

While sheltered in place (or doing essential work), please check out and enjoy Blue Frontier's 2nd episode of Rising Tide the Ocean Podcast with the Blue Frontier Campaign's commentary on COVID-19, "her deepness" Dr. Sylvia Earle and an interview with a maritime academy cadet.

[Ocean Acidification - Part 2, Solutions](#)

Oregon State University

A follow up to the initial film on the issue of Ocean Acidification, Part 2 revisits the issue of acidification on the Oregon Coast and explores solutions. Discussions with scientists, business operators and students tells the story of how our coast is managing a changing ocean.

This project was produced in partnership with NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, Oregon Sea Grant, PISCO, OSU College of Science Lubchenco Innovation Fund and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Oregon Marine Reserve News

These stories are from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Marine Reserve Program. To learn more about the reserves and to sign up for their newsletter visit their [website](#).



Photo: Oregon Marine Reserves



Photo: Oregon Marine Reserves

A Natural Laboratory for Social Science Research, 4.29.20

Over the past several years, researchers studying people's reactions to Oregon's marine reserves have begun to understand the complex values and experiences that

Don Sarver is Serving Science with His Fishing Skills, 4.29.20

From beach cleanups to family fishing events to ecological monitoring surveys, it's almost impossible to attend a volunteer event on the central Oregon coast without

underpin how different communities interact with the ocean in different ways. Many insights from our ongoing human dimensions research centers on the importance of recognizing how and why different stakeholders interact with and value the ocean in different ways.

[Read More](#)

crossing paths with Don Sarver. Join ODFW as they talk with this stalwart fisherman and avid volunteer as he shares fish stories, his reasons for volunteering, some of his most memorable moments and what he's learned about Oregon's marine reserves in the process.

[Read More](#)

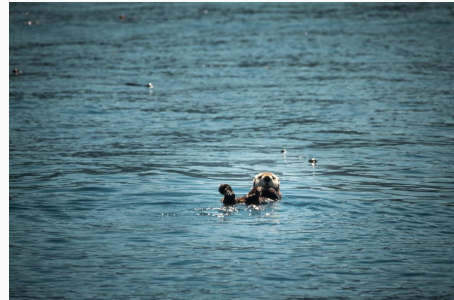
Partner Updates & Digital Coast Events

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic all events, activities and most volunteer opportunities are cancelled on the Oregon Coast in the near term. However, there are many great digital events and opportunities to stay involved! See below for many of these opportunities.

Elakha Alliance

May 19 | [An Introduction to Sea Otter Science & Conservation](#)

- The Elakha Alliance and the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society are pleased to announce an introductory webinar that tells the unfinished story of sea otters in Oregon. Learn about their history, conservation, and the impact of sea otters on coastal ecology. They will explore the potential for restoring a key piece of Oregon's natural legacy.



Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

May 4, 11 | [CoastWatch Citizen Science Hour](#)

- 11 AM
- The CoastWatch community—current mile adopters, prospective volunteers, and those who are cheering them on—gathers online on Monday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to noon. Hosted by Jesse Jones, the CoastWatch volunteer coordinator, the “CoastWatch Citizen Science Hour” will give CoastWatchers and other guests an opportunity to share their experiences with citizen science on the shore. Questions are invited. For more information, contact Jesse at (504) 989-7244, jesse@oregonshores.org.

May 6, | [Marine Debris Survey Webinar](#)

- 6 PM
- On Wednesday, May 6, the subject of our CoastWatch webinar will be marine debris. CoastWatch Volunteer Coordinator Jesse Jones will be joined by Andrew Mason, Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Program (MDMAP). Andrew will discuss marine debris surveys, why they are important and how the information collected is used by NOAA. A number of CoastWatch volunteers participate in this citizen science initiative that engages volunteers across the nation in completing shoreline marine debris surveys. More volunteers are needed.

Portland Audubon

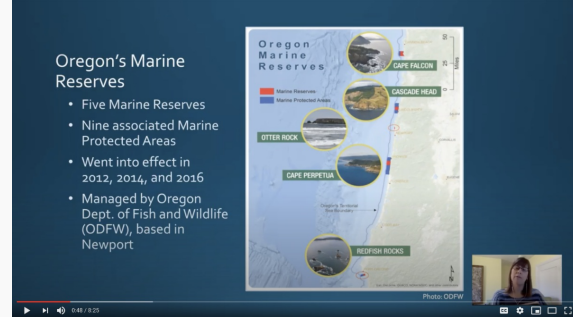
May – August | [Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project](#)

- Portland Audubon is offering two virtual trainings for this project: May 9 (10 a.m.-noon) and May 20 (6-8 p.m.). Please contact Frances Buchanan at asopcoastalbirds@gmail.com to RSVP to the training you'd like to attend.

Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve

Oregon's Amazing Ocean

- YouTube video and presentation on the wildlife of Oregon's ocean with Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.



Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology's Spring 2020 Seminar Series has moved online. The seminars in this series are free, but are password protected. For information, or to request the password, contact organizer Aaron Galloway, agallow3@uoregon.edu. Be sure to allow 24 hours' notice.

May 1 | [Lecture on Seagrass Meadows](#)

- 1 PM
- A talk in the series of interest in terms of both marine ecology and climate comes from Aurora Ricart, a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California at Davis' Bodega Marine Lab, speaking on "The influence of seagrass meadows on the seawater carbonate system and its ecological implications." Her research points toward the role of eelgrass in reducing the acidity caused by increasing carbon in seawater due to climate change.

May 8 | [Lecture on Rocky Shores](#)

- 1 PM
- On Friday, May 8, the series features a talk from Robin Elahi, a lecturer from Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, on "Trends in biodiversity and body size on rocky shores over the past century." Elahi teaches courses in kelp forest ecology, statistics, and scientific computing. H studies drivers of spatial and temporal change in marine ecosystems. One of his current research focuses is biodiversity and body size change, particularly in the context of recent human impacts.

May 15 | [Seminar on Nurturing Seafood](#)

- 1 PM
- On Friday, May 15, the speaker will be fishery biologist Lynn Lee, speaking on "Chiixuu TII iinasdIIl nurturing seafood to grow in Gwaii Haanas: from kelp restoration to zombie urchins." Lee is an artist as well as an ecologist, working on Haida Gwaii in Canada. She is a marine ecologist with the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and is working closely with divers and the local community in order to restore the dwindling kelp forests. (Haida Gwaii consists of the islands formerly known as the Queen Charlottes.)

May 29 | [Lecture on Climate and Fisheries](#)

- 9 AM
- The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology's Spring 2020 Seminar Series has moved online. On Friday, May 29, the series features a 9 a.m. talk from Ralf Doering, who divides his time between the Thuenen-Institute of Sea Fisheries in Germany and the Oregon State University Department of Economics, speaking on "How climate change impacts fishing fleets economically – experiences, uncertainties, and the tricky world of scenario analysis." Dr. Doering is head of the economics unit at the Institute of Sea Fisheries of the Johann Heinrich v. Thuenen-Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries in Hamburg, Germany. He advises the German government and the European Commission in all fisheries related issues and issues of the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach in marine ecosystems. He is also lecturing in marine economics at OSU.

Hatfield Marine Science Center

May 19 | [Who is JAWS? Separating Fact from Fiction](#)

- 6 PM
- Dr Taylor Chapple is professor at Hatfield Marine Science Center of Oregon

State University. New to Newport, Taylor has been working with sharks around the world for nearly 20 years. Using cutting edge technology, rigorous science and engaging media platforms Taylor has been working to use science to change how we think about sharks. Drawing from his research on white sharks in California, Cape Cod and South Africa, Taylor will be discussing how we perceive sharks and the reality behind the hype.

Ocean Policy Advisory Council

May 6 | [OPAC Meeting](#)

- 9 AM
- Remote meeting. For information on the upcoming amendment to the Territorial Sea Plan Part Three: Rocky Habitat Management Strategy, visit the TSP Rocky Habitat Strategy Amendment page. To view past meeting agendas, summaries, etc., visit the Rocky Habitat Working Group page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you for taking the time to read CRA's monthly newsletter *Ocean News*. Consider a donation to help us get this important information far and wide. 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.

[DONATE](#)

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