

Oregon Coast

OCEAN NEWS

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



Photo: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Reserve Program



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It's spring and there are many exciting educational events, trainings and action items for folks to support on the coast! CRA's Ocean News is your curated source for all things conservation and climate on the Oregon Coast.

In March, the Coast Range Association partnered up with the Audubon Society of Lincoln City (ASLC) to produce two [videos](#) for their proposed Marine

Conservation Area (MCA) designations for Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout. Watch and learn more about these two beautiful sites ASLC submitted for addition to the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy inventory of rocky habitats.

If you haven't already, please sign their [petition](#) and email your comments in support of the proposal to: TSP.Comments@state.or.us. The MCA designation is designed to conserve “relatively intact ecosystems with high ecological value.” The designation does not change commercial and recreational fish harvest regulations, boat access, or anchorage. There are many other sites being proposed through the Rocky Habitat Management Strategy and you can learn about them all [here](#).

This was a fun and exciting project, and the CRA team looks forward to creating more of these media pieces for ocean conservation issues this year. You can [contact](#) us to learn more and [donate](#) to support this work. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Oregon Coast and the CRA!

Ocean News

Ocean warming, sea level rise, acidification & other
Oregon Coast news

[Can Oregon stem the loss of complex kelp ecosystems?](#)

Oregon Public Broadcasting, 02.25.21

Lisa Hildebrand studies gray whales. And the Oregon State University grad student is a huge fan. “They’re super acrobatic,” she says. “We see them twist around, they do headstands, they swim on their sides. But the whales that come down to the southern Oregon Coast are part of an elaborate ecosystem, one reliant on a critical component: kelp.



[Region's first people play a key role in saving Oregon's rocky coast](#)

Oregon Public Broadcasting, 02.27.21

In his younger days, tribal elder Tom Younker would make his way through the forest brush here at Yoakam Point on the southern Oregon Coast and look for a hidden spot. “Out that way, there’s a rope that goes down,” he told me. “You can look down on the mussel bed, there’s a mussel bed out there.”

[Forest pesticides found downstream in coastal Oregon waters](#)

Oregon Public Broadcasting, 03.17.21

Pesticides used on forests and in other applications have been found by researchers in watersheds along the Oregon Coast, raising concerns that aquatic species may be exposed to a toxic mixture of chemicals in the region.



Photo: Matt Brandt

[Activists, lawmakers look to revive plastic-pollution legislation in Oregon](#)

Oregon Public Broadcasting, 04.04.2

Nick Mallos, a senior director at the organization, said the waste of all plastic disposables is up, and now is a critical time for legislation. Two proposed bills in Oregon would have phased out single-use plastic and polystyrene foam for food use statewide. “So these two bills did not make it out of committee,” Mallos told KLCC, “but we are optimistic that in the next legislature, once hopefully COVID has subsided a little bit, that we can resurface these types of policies.”

[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues OSU license for wave energy testing facility](#)

Oregon State University, 03.04.21

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued Oregon State University a license to build and operate the nation’s first pre-permitted wave energy testing facility, culminating an unprecedented regulatory process that spanned nearly 10 years. PacWave South is the first commercial-scale, utility grid-connected test site in the United States to obtain a FERC license and will be the first marine renewable energy research facility in federal waters off the Pacific Coast.

[Trawling for Fish May Unleash as Much Carbon as Air Travel, Study Says](#)

The New York Times, 03.17.21

The report also found that strategically conserving some marine areas would not only safeguard imperiled species but sequester vast amounts planet-warming carbon dioxide, too.

[New Protections Under Consideration for Oregon’s Iconic Rocky Coast](#)

Portland Audubon, 03.05.21

Oregon’s iconic rocky habitats are both biologically and culturally important, making up 41% of the state’s 362-mile coastline. From famous Haystack Rock on the north coast to the numerous majestic sea stacks off Oregon’s beautiful south coast, rocky habitats support a wealth of marine life such as colonial nesting seabirds, kelp beds, and thousands of fish and invertebrate species. These breathtaking rocky features and headlands attract millions of visitors and recreationists each year.

Oregon Marine Reserve News

From the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Marine Reserve Program. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



Image: Oregon Marine Reserves

Upcoming Seminar: Public Perceptions of Oregon Coastal Resources and Marine Reserves

Join Portland State University (PSU) Associate Professor, Dr. Max Nielsen-Pincus, and PSU doctoral student, Kaegan Scully-Engelmeyer, in a virtual seminar on public perceptions of Oregon coastal resources and marine reserves. The seminar will include results from a survey exploring the relationships between awareness, attitudes and beliefs towards coastal and marine resource issues and uses. In addition, the presentation will cover the results of a related public participation geographic information system (PPGIS) mapping survey to identify perceived values of specific coastal spaces and marine areas. You can also read the [study](#).

**Attend the [HMSC Virtual Seminar](#) on Thursday, April 15, 2021
from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM**



Image: Oregon Marine Reserves

Updates on Spring Fieldwork

Oceanographic Monitoring – Longer days and sunshine returning to the coast brings limited fieldwork this spring that can be done safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on the success of the 2020 fieldwork efforts, ODFW will be setting out oceanographic moorings with sensors at four marine reserve sites this year – at Redfish Rocks, Cape Perpetua, Cascade Head and Cape Falcon. Oceanographic moorings will go into the water sometime between April-May for collecting data on temperature, salinity and oxygen.

Data Analysis and Writing – ODFW Marine Reserves Program staff are presently submerged in data analysis and writing. These efforts are to develop the ODFW Marine Reserves Program Synthesis Report, which will report on the program's activities and monitoring over the last 10 years. The Synthesis Report will be completed and released in December.

Interactive Resources

Videos: The Oregon Coast Rocks! [Cape Lookout & The Cape Foulweather Complex](#)

The Audubon Society of Lincoln City released two new videos in support of the rocky habitat proposals for Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather. These

proposals need your help! Visit their [website](#) and sign their [petition](#) today to ensure these iconic sites are included in the inventory of special Rocky Habitats in Oregon.

The videos were produced by Andrew Collins-Anderson of the Coast Range Association for Audubon Society of Lincoln City. Drone videography by Matt Brandt.



ASLC is seeking Marine Conservation Area (MCA) designations for the two proposed areas. The MCA designation is designed to conserve “relatively intact ecosystems with high ecological value.” The designation does not change commercial and recreational fish harvest regulations, boat access, or anchorage.

The door is open for these proposals now because Oregon’s Rocky Habitat Management Strategy is being updated for the first time since 1994. The public was invited to propose areas to add to the inventory of sites being managed as part of the Strategy. (The update is in response to climate change and growing population stressors.)

Podcast: [Protecting Oregon’s Rocky Habitat – Dawn Villaescusa](#)

Coast Range Radio interviewed Dawn Villaescusa to discuss and answer questions about the Cape Foulweather and Cape Lookout proposals. Take some time to listen and share with your friends!

Fast Facts: [Natural Infrastructure](#)

Nature provides effective solutions for minimizing coastal flooding, erosion, and runoff, as do man-made systems that mimic natural processes—known as natural infrastructure. Examples include mangroves and wetlands, oyster reefs, and sand dunes; permeable pavement and driveways; green roofs; and natural areas incorporated into city designs. A natural infrastructure approach represents a successful and cost efficient way to protect coastal communities.



Coastal Conservation Trainings and Events

Cape Falcon Marine Reserve

April 8 | [Preparing for Sea Level Rise in Oregon](#)

- 7 pm
 - Learn about the expected impacts of sea level rise along the Oregon coast and how the Oregon Coastal Management Program is planning to help communities and partners address these impacts over time in this online talk by Meg Reed, Coastal Shores Specialist. This event is part of Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's winter speaker series, and is co-hosted by Friends of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve.
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Portland Audubon

Spring Bird Monitoring Training Sessions

- Get more information and sign up for specific bird monitoring projects through the below links. All the trainings will be online and the volunteering will be safely conducted on the north coast.
 - [Snowy Plover Patrol Training](#): April 2 & 3, or April 10 & 11
 - [Brown Pelican Survey Training](#): April 29
 - [Black Oystercatcher Monitor Training](#): May 5 or May 8
 - [Seabird Colony Monitor Training](#): June 5
-

Elakha Alliance

April 20 | [The Return of Oregon's Sea Otters: Considering the Cultural Dimensions of Restoration](#)

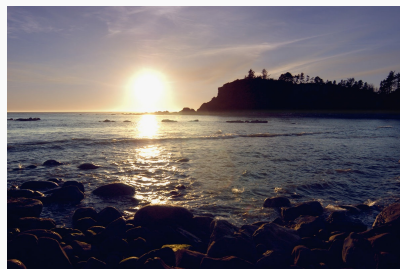
- 6:30 pm
 - It is hard to appreciate the cultural importance of a species that disappeared from Oregon's coastal waters over a century ago. What has the loss of sea otters meant to Oregon's indigenous peoples? Join Peter Hatch, Elakha Board Member, and member of the Confederate Tribe of Siletz Indians, as he discusses the cultural dimensions of Oregon's lost sea otters, and the hope for their return.
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Cape Perpetua Collaborative

April 13 | [Understanding Adaptive Capacity: An Analysis of Community Perceptions and Policy Responses to Ocean Acidification and other marine stressors on the West Coast](#)

- 5:30pm
 - Ocean acidification disrupts the carbonate chemistry of coastal ecosystems, which indirectly and directly affects communities that depend on critical marine organisms. Ocean acidification research typically seeks to understand natural system responses; yet, there is insufficient research that examines community and institutional responses or, more generally, their vulnerability to ocean acidification.
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Support the Coast Range Association's Coastal Program



Communities and the Living Ocean

From Astoria to Gold Beach, coastal communities are connected with the ocean through history and livelihood. We have studied this connection and use the knowledge gained to help make the coast a better place to live.

[Read more](#)
coastrange.org

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