



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



## State of Oregon's Ocean Acidification Action Plan

**Region:** Pacific Northwest, North America

**Kilometers of Coastline:** 584

**Regionally Significant Marine Resources:** Dungeness crab, Rockfish,  
Pink Shrimp, Salmon, Clams

**Status of Action Plan:** Adopted in 2019 (as a 6-year plan)

**Key statistics on ocean economy:** Oregon Marine economy (as of  
2015) includes 34,873 jobs and a GDP of \$2,625,733,000. This makes up 1.21% of the US GDP.

### What Is at Stake in Your Region?

- Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery, located in Netarts Bay, Oregon, was among the first places in the world to observe direct impacts from acidification starting in 2007.
- Along the U.S. West Coast and Oregon, natural seasonal process of upwelling transports corrosive low oxygen waters into the nearshore and estuaries, causing our marine waters to be especially vulnerable to Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH).
- OAH events are projected to intensify and threaten Oregon's wild rich ocean ecosystem and impact fisheries and aquaculture species, which remain key to coastal economics today and are enjoyed by Oregonians across the state year-round.

### Policy Vehicle, Enabling or Authorizing Conditions for Creating an OA Action Plan

- In response, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 1039 in 2017, creating the Oregon Coordinating Council on OAH, which is mandated to provide recommendations and guidance to the State on building understanding of OAH impacts and charting a course for State management decisions going forward.
- The Oregon OAH Council has been meeting since January 2018 and is comprised of 13 individuals representing State agencies, fishermen, shellfish aquaculture industry, Tribes, academics, conservation, and the Governor.
- The Oregon Legislature directed the OAH Council to create biennial reports (on even years), that address research needs, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures for the State to consider.
- Concurrently, the Governor requested that the OAH Council build Oregon's OAH Action Plan as part of Oregon's commitment to the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification.
- Oregon's first OAH Report (submitted in September 2018) provided the foundation for the the State's 2019 OAH Action Plan that will guide Oregon's actions from 2019-2025.



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“The cost of inaction to me is about how it is going to become a lot harder to address Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia the longer we wait. Over time I think that we are going to start to erode what were good options as the ecosystems change.

Then it becomes a situation of “coulda, woulda, shoulda”

*Dr. Francis Chan - Oregon State University, Department of Integrative Biology*

### Priority Areas or Actions in Your Plan

- The Oregon OAH Action Plan identifies ways that our government and individual Oregonians can make a difference to slow these impacts and adapt to the changes we are already seeing because of OAH.
- Oregon’s OAH Action Plan articulates needs in the following 5 priority areas:
  1. Invest in Oregon’s monitoring network to document oceanographic and biologic conditions, and socio-economic vulnerabilities relating to OAH
  2. Develop and integrate strategies to reduce causes of excess carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and OAH
  3. Support activities and initiatives that promote adaptation and resilience to OAH, for Oregon’s human communities and ecosystems
  4. Communicate OAH science, impacts, and solutions to raise awareness and support decision-making
  5. Mobilize agencies to address OAH priorities each of these actions are key to addressing OAH impacts at all levels, from science to policy, from education to adaptation.
- Nested within the 5 themes, there are 12 general recommendations and 38 specific actions; in total, this inspirational list of potential actions provides a vision of all that could be done for Oregon, given the resources and time to do so.
- The 2018 OAH Report and 2019 OAH Action Plan are only a starting point, from which strategic shovel-ready projects should be selected, refined and funded in Oregon.

### Measures of Success, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

- The Oregon OAH Action Plan was developed in recognition of the impacts that we see today, in hopes of minimizing the impacts for tomorrow, and to alter the trajectory of ocean changes for future generations.
- To build the brightest future for the ocean and its species and the communities that depend on them. Despite uncertainty, we can and must act now in a pro-active way that will improve ecosystem outcomes for resilience, as a “no-regrets” strategy.



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- The OAH Council itself will continue to serve as a public convening entity to provide opportunity for discourse, provide information and to facilitate alignment and collaboration in Oregon on OAH and climate issues, for all who are ready to take action to address OAH impacts.

### How Does OA Action Support Your Existing International and Domestic Climate Commitments?

- The Oregon OAH Action Plan, along with OAH Action Plans from other jurisdictions, will help demonstrate that local actions are meaningful in fighting the global challenges of climate and ocean changes.
- Oregon's commitment to understand, actively adapt to, and mitigate OAH motivates investments to build a more predictable future.



**Oregon Coordinating  
Council on Ocean  
Acidification & Hypoxia**

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**<https://www.oregonocean.info/index.php/ocean-acidification>**