

Safeguard fisheries & coastal communities

Support the Eelgrass Action Bill (HB 3580)

What?

What does the Eelgrass Action Bill do?

- Funds the Department of Land Conservation and Development and Department of State Lands to convene an Eelgrass Task Force of agencies, scientists, Tribes, and stakeholders (\$540K)

What will the Task Force do?

- Assess the status of eelgrass in Oregon's estuaries and recommend conservation and restoration targets for the state to meet by 2040
- Evaluate policy barriers and environmental challenges to effective eelgrass management and conservation
- Assess state monitoring and mapping programs and recommend improvements
- Identify research needs and information gaps
- Identify funding needs and sources to improve eelgrass management
- Make recommendations to the legislature

Why?

Why does eelgrass matter?

- **It supports fisheries**, worth over \$178 million per year, by providing nursery habitat for juvenile fish
- **It increases resilience**, by sequestering carbon (35x the rate of rainforests), dampening storm surges, and buffering ocean acidification
- **It improves ecosystem health**, by supporting biodiversity and improving water quality

Why this bill?

- **Eelgrass is disappearing** globally and there are signs that its declining in Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay
- **We don't know the status** of eelgrass meadows in Oregon due to infrequent monitoring
- **Threats to eelgrass are increasing**, including pollution, development, warming waters, and invasive species
- **We need coordinated action**, targets, and a plan to protect this resource **before it's too late!**

The Eelgrass Action Bill is the first step for Oregon to develop a meaningful strategy for eelgrass conservation

Pew Charitable Trusts



Want to learn more?

Contact: Annie Merrill, Co-Chair, annie@oregonshores.org

Visit: www.oregonoceanalliance.org



Who Endorses the Eelgrass Action Bill?

Organizations:

Oregon Ocean Alliance:

- Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
- Surfrider Foundation
- Elakha Alliance
- Seven Capes Bird Alliance
- Bird Alliance of Oregon
- Environment Oregon
- The Nature Conservancy
- Oceana
- Coast Range Association

Northwest Environmental Defense Center

Oregon Zoo

Oregon Coast Alliance

Shoreline Education for Awareness

Friends of South Slough Reserve

Sierra Club Oregon

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Wild Salmon Center

Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Coastal Conservation Association

League of Women Voters of Oregon

Rogue Climate

Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Cascadia Visualizations

North Coast Land Conservancy

The Wetlands Conservancy

Salem Audubon Society

Center for Food Safety

Lane County Audubon Society

Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance

Orca Network

Oregon Kelp Alliance

1000 Friends of Oregon

Defenders of Wildlife

Cape Perpetua Collaborative

Oregon Coast Visitors Association

Tribal Nations:

- Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Coquille Indian Tribe

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