



OCOIN and Oregon Sea Grant Announce Formal Partnership

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Oregon Sea Grant has joined other leading research institutions including Portland State University, Oregon State University, Oregon's Coastal and Marine Data Network, Oregon Coastal Management Program and others in partnering with OCOIN to bring researchers, policymakers, and the public closer together. The partnership encourages newly and previously funded research to be added to the Coastal Research Explorer tool, increasing access for interested parties and exposure for researchers involved.

The Oregon Coastal and Ocean Information Network (OCOIN) reached an official agreement with Oregon Sea Grant this month to form an official, ongoing partnership. This partnership signifies a step towards greater public access to information about current and past research projects focused on Oregon's ocean and coastal resources. Greater access to information promotes working relationships between scientists and policy-makers, marking a crucial step towards implementing successful, efficient environmental policy. This step aligns with OCOIN's goal of "facilitating long-term collaboration among policymakers, managers, and researchers" and Sea Grant's vision of "thriving coastal communities and ecosystems in Oregon."

The main component of the partnership will encourage researchers currently or previously funded by Oregon Sea Grant to add their research to OCOIN's Coastal Research Explorer tool. The Coastal Research Explorer tool was launched by OCOIN in 2017 and creates an online platform for researchers to share their completed or ongoing projects, explore other projects occurring on the coast, and establish working relationships with other coastal users. By connecting the tool to the research being conducted within the Oregon Sea Grant community, this partnership will ensure that the tool remains useful, up to date, and robust for years to come. In addition to new research information being added to the Coastal Research Explorer tool, the new projects will provide contacts and networking opportunities for policymakers, students, and academics.

This new partnership will take effect in the Fall of 2019, as the next Oregon Sea Grant Funding Round begins. Both newly and previously funded researchers will be made aware of OCOIN's Coastal Research Explorer tool in their award package. The language included in the package will encourage Sea Grant researchers to add to the tool by explaining the process and outlining the networking and collaboration benefits related to the increased exposure. This increased exposure is likely to both increase the number of entries in the tool as well as its overall usage, as more and more members of the research community become aware of it.

OREGON SEA GRANT: A CATALYST FOR DISCOVERY

Established in 1971 as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant College Program, Oregon Sea Grant works to "address regionally and nationally strategic issues through an integrated program of competitive, rigorously reviewed research, public outreach and engagement, and ocean and coastal education." In addition to hosting comprehensive education, outreach, and fellowship programs for those working or interested in coastal or ocean issues, Oregon Sea Grant also supports research in Oregon by providing competitive and noncompetitive grant opportunities. The projects supported by Oregon Sea Grant are often collaborations between university-based scientists, public and private agencies, and great minds from around the world, further demonstrating their commitment to increased data access, collaboration, and research literacy.



This partnership represents a large step forward for OCOIN, which ultimately hopes to partner with all large research institutions and state and federal agencies in Oregon. By earning a partnership with one of the largest supporters of ocean and coastal research in the Western United States, OCOIN continues to grow both in size and reputation.

If you are a researcher or student working on Oregon coastal or marine topics add your research to the map [here!](#)

