



| Issue 5 |
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Summer 2022

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Keeping Up with

OCOIN

OCOIN is pleased to partner again with Oregon Sea Grant this summer, sponsoring two interns who will be combining their diverse skillsets to help further OCOIN's mission of facilitating the exchange of data and information between stakeholders and scientists. Louli and Jaime are excited about this opportunity to learn from all those involved in this network, so please reach out if you have questions, advice, or professional development opportunities for them through ocoin.partnership@gmail.com



Meet Sea Grant Scholar:
Jaime Gutierrez

Jaime is a senior at The University of Texas at El Paso pursuing a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with a recently added minor in Data Science. He is excited to help maintain the Coastal Research Explorer map tool, learn the world of science policy and outreach communication, and utilize his perspective to contribute to the central mission of OCOIN. After earning his undergraduate degree in 2023, his goals and aspirations involve a doctorate programs in bioinformatics, which he hopes to use for working with data in biological research and possibly becoming a professor one day.



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Meet Sea Grant Scholar:
Louli Ziels

Louli is a senior at the University of Portland, double-majoring in Environmental Ethics & Policy and Spanish. Motivated to learn all she can about the interaction between humans and our environment (academically and recreationally), she has built a comprehensive environmental science knowledge base while diving into international collaboration and data sharing. She also works as an outdoor trip leader, taking students to surf and hike the coast. Louli is excited to learn from the network of participants in OCOIN about pathways to collaboration between multiple Oregon Coast parties and the inclusive interchange of different types of information, contributing to the bridge between ocean science and policy.

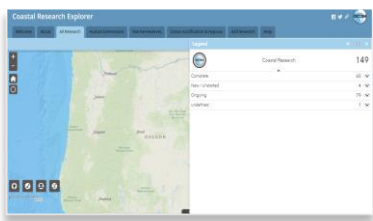


What's new in the network?



Oregon Explorer

The Coastal Research site on the Oregon Explorer provides access to a growing collection of coastal stories, archived research publications, webinars, and coastal research mapping tools. In 2021, there were close to 750 page views. Since the last OCOIN newsletter, new Oregon Explorer sites and tools relevant to the coast include Mid Coast Water; Oregon Water Planning; Aquaculture; and Renewable Energy. Each of these topics has had corresponding mapping and reporting tools developed, such as the Estuary Shellfish Mariculture Explorer planning tool. Go to the "Maps and Tools" tab of the Coastal Research site to explore these and more.



Coastal Research Explorer Tool

The Coastal Research Explorer Tool provides a platform for researchers and practitioners to share their completed or ongoing projects, explore other projects occurring on the Oregon coast, and establish relationships with other coastal users. The tool allows users to easily explore research related to Oregon coastal hot-topics, including human dimensions, marine reserves, and ocean acidification & hypoxia. To date, 149 research projects are available in the Coastal Research Explorer! *Help keep this tool active by updating your research or reporting/ adding new research.*

Oregon Coastal & Marine Data Network

OCOIN members have been added to the [Oregon Coastal & Marine Data Network](#) to facilitate connections between producers and users of coastal and marine data. Users can find and review their profile by searching the alphabetical listing. Please email tanya.haddad@dlcd.oregon.gov to activate your account. The OCMDN is also in the process of replacing the Coastal/Marine listserv for the Framework GIS community. Please also contact tanya.haddad@dlcd.oregon.gov to be added to this new list if you were not on the old list.



In preparation the Annual Webinar, we want to know your preferences! Click [this link](#) to fill out a short form

The State of the Coast Conference will be held on November 5th at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport.

[Interested in having an OCOIN meet-up?](#)



Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) is a program with a clear goal: to monitor and provide public water quality data to ensure the health of the beach and its users.

Before widespread awareness or monitoring of U.S. coastal water quality, the BWTF assembled in 1990 in response to public health concerns from users about recreational waters. They trained and equipped volunteers to test the water in suspected areas, identify local sources of contamination and spread public awareness about pollution and associated health risks.

The advocacy work by the BWTF helped pave the way for the federal [BEACH Act of 2000](#). Its federal enactment requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set national water quality monitoring and reporting standards and provide funding for state programs like the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) [Beach Monitoring program](#).

Currently, the BWTF acts nationally to keep the BEACH Act funded and locally to fill in gaps left by the state testing programs. ODEQ tests beaches that are considered recreational waters during summer months, so the BWTF supplements by monitoring beaches year-round and key ecological areas such as Oregon [marine reserves](#).



Student volunteers testing water samples for *Enterococcus* bacteria

Seven operating labs in Oregon, spanning from Port Orford to Astoria, measure the amount of *Enterococcus* bacteria in each water sample collected by volunteers, compare this to standards set by the EPA, and [post it publicly](#). Once finding samples showing contamination, they begin monitoring for the source, and work to implement solutions.



Water sampling collection

It is volunteers dedicated to maintain the health of the coastline, partnering with schools, watershed councils, and NGOs, who started BWTF and who work to advance it by training coastal communities to collect samples and advocate to keep their beaches clean.

Increasingly threatened coastlines mean more scientists, time, and resources are needed to monitor them; programs that engage local communities can help gather ongoing baseline data while increasing the self-agency and scientific literacy of non-scientists to carry on data collection. This type of monitoring enables a community to collaborate with various coastal stakeholders to align their actions to the most current water quality issues.

Currently, the Coos Bay BWTF Chapter is engaged in a campaign to source ongoing bacteria contamination at Sunset Bay. Since 2002, the BWTF has regularly identified samples with bacterial levels that exceed the EPA standards for safe recreation. The ODEQ and Health Authority issue regular health advisories in response to their own monitoring. Studies have identified nearby creeks as the source of contamination, but studies have not been conducted to find the origin of the problem. The Coos Bay Chapter is looking to collaborate with local stakeholders with the resources and expertise for a comprehensive source monitoring plan to put an end to unsafe water at Sunset Bay.

Read more about the [Sunset Bay Campaign](#) and stay tuned for updates from the BWTF at the Annual Webinar.

To find the most current [BWTF Water Quality Data](#), check out their website, also linked through the OCOIN Coastal Research Explorer.



Oregon State University hosts field stations in strategic locations on the Oregon Coast to promote proximity between researchers, students, academia, government agencies, and the coastal community. Internationally recognized for collaborative approaches to marine research, Port Orford Field Station, OSU Seafood Research & Education Center, and Hatfield Marine Science Center research projects can be found on OCOIN’s Coastal Research Explorer.

Port Orford Field Station, located on the southern coast just south of Cape Blanco, OR, sits at the biogeographic boundary that separates the California and Oregon ocean bioregions. Sitting in a small fishing town, this field station provides the opportunity for collaborative research with local fisherman, the seafood system, and the unique attributes of this region. Support the station by visiting portorfordfieldstation.oregonstate.edu



Port Orford Field Station



COMES Station

Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES), located in Astoria, is the only seafood experiment station in the contiguous United States and has been supporting the seafood industry since 1940. As part of Oregon’s Marine Experiment Station, researchers collaborate with the fishing industry, agencies, and local maritime communities to produce research in areas such as fishery biology, aquaculture, genomics, seafood science and technology, and environmental economics.

Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) serves as OSU’s main coastal campus. Situated on Yaquina Bay in Newport, HMSC hosts six state and federal agencies, including [NOAA](#), [EPA](#), [ODFW](#), and [USDA](#); and countless academic programs and opportunities for students in secondary and post-secondary education. It is at the forefront of multidisciplinary research and engagement in coastal and marine systems. Being a national model for government, industrial, and academic collaboration in research, outreach, and education, HMSC is the critical coastal link to achieve the goals of Oregon State University’s strategic plan.



Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building at HMSC

Join our Network Today!

Become a new member of OCOIN, or renew your involvement with OCOIN, by uploading your research projects to the map and joining the directory.