

Data obtained from the US Coast Guard under Freedom of Information Act by Surfrider

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then this graphic, developed by the Surfrider Foundation, is truly worth a couple million. It clearly shows the crushing volume of Coast Guard helo responses to calls for help by fishermen, surfers, rock climbers and beach visitors along the Oregon Coast in 2013. During 2013, 11 lives were saved, 529 lives were 'assisted,' and 6 lives were lost off the Central Coast.

Looking at Surfrider's research spanning the years 2007 through 2013 (www.SaveTheHelo.org), a total of 159 lives were saved off Newport, 3,780 lives were 'assisted,' and 36 lives were lost. It's roughly a full third of the total number of calls for helo assistance up and down the entire Oregon Coast.