

SCR 20 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure recognizes and honors the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology for 100 years of marine research and service to the state of Oregon, the United States, and all maritime nations.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 28; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon (OIMB) celebrated its centennial anniversary in August 2024 and, 100 years after its establishment as a humble tent encampment on the Pacific Coast, OIMB is now at the forefront of marine research and restoration, with more than 20 cutting-edge buildings and facilities on its campus.

Based on a report from the University's science faculty praising the seashore south of Coos Bay for its remarkable opportunities for marine studies, University President Prince Lucien Campbell, in 1907, recommended to the State Board of Regents that they establish a marine laboratory near Coos Bay that would ultimately go on to become a world-class research and teaching destination for scientists and students from across the United States. In 1924, the University began regular summer field courses at Sunset Bay, south of Charleston, Oregon, in collaboration with professors and students at Oregon Agricultural College. In 1931, University President Arnold Bennett Hall established OIMB as a permanent marine laboratory, located on 100 acres of the Coos Head Military Reserve in Charleston with the aid of the Coos County Commissioners, Judge James T. Brand, and United States President Herbert Hoover. Classes at the laboratory in Charleston were taught exclusively in the summer until 1966 when the campus began functioning as a year-round research facility and courses were developed for fall, spring, and summer terms soon after.

OIMB has developed a worldwide reputation for state-of-the-art studies in marine zoology, botany, physiology, and conservation biology. It operates a small fleet of research vessels that supports teaching, diving operations, and ocean monitoring for state and federal programs. It also provides first-rate facilities and resources for visiting researchers from throughout the United States and abroad, and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, which is the first federally protected estuary in the United States, was founded in Charleston to aid in the important ecological studies being conducted at OIMB.

The University of Oregon's first professor of biology, Fredrick Washburn, successfully transplanted east coast oysters to Coos Bay and Newport Bay and published landmark papers on the biology of oysters in 1902. OIMB researchers use sophisticated methods to study the diets of marine animals, applying these studies to critical and timely environmental issues. They have been commended for excellence in the study of embryology and the biology and ecology of microscopic larval forms. OIMB researchers have aided greatly in our understanding of the

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

diversity of lesser-known invertebrate animals using genetic methods and careful anatomical studies. They continue to increase our knowledge of the faunal diversity off the Oregon Coast and beyond.

OIMB's discovery that invasive species are transported in the ballast water of cargo ships is recognized worldwide and led to the establishment of crucial regulations and agencies in virtually all maritime nations. Dozens of books and thousands of scientific papers have been published by scientists affiliated with OIMB, and research conducted by OIMB students and faculty now extends to regions all across the world.

In 2005, OIMB established a rigorous marine biology major, the first in the Pacific Northwest, that has now grown to nearly 400 students and attracts students from Oregon and all over the globe. In 2016, OIMB established a public museum and aquarium, the Charleston Marine Life Center, that has become a top draw for locals and tourists alike, and that offers hands-on instruction to pre-kindergarten and school-aged children throughout southern Oregon.

For over 100 years, dedicated researchers, faculty, and staff have continued to honor the University of Oregon's commitment to putting students first by building a community of learners who positively impact the lives of those around them with a focus on serving the greater good.