

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20

Sponsored by Senators FREDERICK, ANDERSON; Senator SMITH DB, Representatives BOICE, WRIGHT

Whereas the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon (OIMB) celebrated its centennial anniversary in August 2024; and

Whereas 100 years after its 1924 establishment as a humble tent encampment on the Pacific Coast, OIMB now sits on the forefront of marine research and restoration, with more than 20 cutting-edge buildings and facilities on its campus; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas the University began regular summer field courses at Sunset Bay, south of Charleston, Oregon, in 1924, in collaboration with professors and students at Oregon Agricultural College; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas OIMB has developed a worldwide reputation for state-of-the-art studies in marine zoology, botany, physiology and conservation biology; and

Whereas OIMB operates a small fleet of research vessels that supports teaching, diving operations and ocean monitoring for state and federal programs; and

Whereas OIMB provides first-rate facilities and resources for visiting researchers from throughout the United States and abroad; and

Whereas the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, the first federally protected estuary in the United States, was founded in Charleston to aid in the important ecological studies being conducted at OIMB; and

Whereas 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; and

Whereas OIMB researchers use sophisticated methods to study the diets of marine animals, applying these studies to critical and timely environmental issues; and

Whereas OIMB researchers have been commended for excellence in the study of embryology and the biology and ecology of microscopic larval forms; and

Whereas OIMB researchers have aided greatly in our understanding of the diversity of lesser-known invertebrate animals using genetic methods and careful anatomical studies and continue to increase our knowledge of the faunal diversity off the Oregon Coast and beyond; and

Whereas OIMB's discovery that invasive species are transported in the ballast water of cargo ships has been recognized worldwide and has led to the establishment of crucial regulations and agencies in virtually all maritime nations; and

Whereas dozens of books and thousands of scientific papers in the most prestigious marine research journals have been published by scientists affiliated with OIMB; and

Whereas research conducted by OIMB students and faculty now extends to regions all across the world, including the Antarctic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the waters surrounding Central America and the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the North Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the North and South Pacific Ocean and Alaska, and to all regions of the deep sea, from continental shelves to hadal trenches; and

Whereas 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 not only from Oregon, but from all across the world; and

Whereas 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 prekindergarten and school-aged children throughout southern Oregon; and

Whereas 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; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology and congratulate the University of Oregon and its alumni on a century of leadership in marine research and service to the State of Oregon, the United States and all maritime nations.

Adopted by Senate April 2, 2025

Obadiah Rutledge, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House May 12, 2025

Julie Fahey, Speaker of House