

Submitter: Aaron Galloway
On Behalf Of: Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3486

Testimony in Support of House Bill 3486
Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
March 3, 2025
Aaron Galloway, Interim Director, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Co-Chair Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Aaron Galloway, and I serve as the Interim Director of the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB), the coastal research station of the University of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3486.

For over a century, OIMB has been a leader in marine science, providing critical research, education, and outreach along the Oregon Coast. Located in Charleston, OIMB is home to world-class faculty, dedicated students, and state-of-the-art research vessels that enable scientists to study our coastal and ocean ecosystems. Our work supports fisheries management, climate resilience, and sustainable marine industries—issues that are fundamental to Oregon’s economy and environmental health.

House Bill 3486 will strengthen Oregon’s ability to conduct vital marine research by supporting external scientists and institutions that rely on OIMB’s vessels for their work. Research conducted aboard our vessels—ranging from studies of ocean acidification and assessments of our kelp forests and fisheries—contributes directly to our understanding of coastal ecosystems and informs policy decisions that impact Oregonians. By ensuring that outside researchers have access to our vessels, we expand collaboration, bring in additional funding, and amplify the impact of Oregon-based science.

This bill would also expand the existing Oceangoing Research Vessel Program established at Oregon State University to include research vessels operated by OIMB. Oregon State University’s fleet has long been a critical asset for offshore research, and adding OIMB vessels to this program will create greater access to nearshore and estuarine environments, complementing the deep-sea research OSU specializes in. This expansion will enhance the ability of Oregon’s research institutions—public and private—to collaborate, share resources, and build a more

comprehensive understanding of our coastal and marine ecosystems.

The importance of this research cannot be overstated. Oregon's coastal communities depend on healthy marine resources for their livelihoods, and science conducted at sea provides the foundation for sustainable management. Whether it's tracking harmful algal blooms, assessing habitat changes, or monitoring the effects of climate change, OIMB and its partners are working to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our state. House Bill 3486 will ensure that the infrastructure necessary to carry out this work remains accessible to those who need it most.

By passing this bill, Oregon can strengthen its leadership in marine research and ensure that the scientific knowledge needed to protect our coastal resources is developed right here in our state. I urge your support for House Bill 3486. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to answer any questions.