



HB 3786: Blue Economy

March 17, 2025

**Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House
Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water:**

Our ocean is the Number 1 value proposition that brings millions of visitors to the Oregon Coast every year and, as a result, our environment is critical to the recreational portion of the Blue Economy. Additionally, our ability to catch and land Oregon seafood for residents and visitors alike relies on healthy kelp forests, rocky intertidal systems and pristine estuary systems. That's why we are writing today to support HB 3786.

This bill will help us better understand how the ocean and our coastal environments are changing as a result of warming water and acidification. This also will help us understand how those changes are affecting our coastal wildlife and other species. Altogether, this data can inform all of our industries on adaptive planning and management, as well as resiliency strategies.

Oregon's ocean and public beaches, rivers and estuaries are beloved parts of our state's identity and are key economic drivers. If we don't understand the science of what's happening in those ecosystems, we risk losing them altogether. We don't have a lot else to fall back on right now.

Drastic federal funding reductions make the states' role in studying these issues even more important than ever before. We must step up and protect our tourism and fishing industries by arming ourselves with the scientific knowledge we need to adapt and mitigate issues. We can't do those things without funding the proper research. We urge you to pass HB 3786.

Sincerely,

Marcus Hinz, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Visitors Association