



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
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FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

TO: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

SUBJECT: HB 3786 (Relating to Coastal Research) - SUPPORT

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

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 3786 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill.

ORTWS represents over 700 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon - including marine species. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of HB 3786 because it aligns with one of our organizations main goals to promote the stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the use of sound ecological information. This proposed bill would provide funding for research grants to evaluate the impacts of changing ocean conditions, ocean acidification/hypoxia, and coastal erosion on marine species and their habitats. Funding for this research is important given the threats these ecosystems are facing that are directly impacting the abundance, distribution, and biodiversity of many wildlife species. These species and the habitat being affected are extremely important both socially and economically to Oregonians, and these areas may be at risk if science-based action is not taken. The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society is in strong support of this bill to improve our understanding of how these changing conditions are affecting marine species and how applied science can inform future decisions. Research funded through this bill will help managers make better informed management decisions focused on improving our marine ecosystems and promoting a healthy blue Oregon economy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Conservation Affairs Committee