2020-21 Annual Report Highlights

Oregon Sea Grant generated

$1.14 MILLION

in direct and indirect economic benefits

3.15 MILLION ACRES

of ocean and coastal habitat protected as a result of OSG activities

OSG supported the creation of

122

products, technologies, educational materials and models

OSG staff and trainees reached

10,300

preschool through 12th grade students

Volunteers at the OSG-run public wing of the Hatfield Marine Science Center and citizen scientists contributed

1,300 HOURS

OSG engaged

13,100 PEOPLE

in informal educational opportunities

18 OSG-funded students who graduated between February 2018 and January 2021 pursued advanced degrees or got positions related to their degrees

22 students who were funded by OSG earned bachelor's or graduate degrees

(data are from February 2020-January 2021)

seagrant.oregonstate.edu

Supporting thriving coastal communities and ecosystems in Oregon

First-aid course for fishermen goes partly online

Oregon Sea Grant (OSG) converted part of its first-aid training for fishermen into a live, online format in response to COVID-19. The course includes hands-on simulations, CPR and an exam. The in-person portion took place on boats in the Oregon towns of Newport and Warrenton and in Westport, Washington. Thirty-seven people completed the course between October 2020 and March 2021.

Campaign encourages consumers to #EatOregonSeafood

OSG contributed to a social media campaign to encourage people to buy Oregon seafood. OSG also created a website that includes a map of where to buy seafood from over 100 businesses in Oregon and Washington. The website also features recipes as well as facts and videos about Oregon seafood and how it's caught and processed.

Scientists help teachers create lesson plans

Since 2019, OSG has been running and funding a program in which scientists help teachers create lesson plans on marine issues. Aimed at grades 6-12, lessons have addressed questions such as why has seagrass declined in some Oregon estuaries, and what caused oyster larvae to die at a hatchery? Fifteen researchers and 30 teachers had participated as of September 2021. The curricula and teachers' 2021 presentations are online.

Researchers determine blood reference levels for sablefish

OSG-funded researchers established blood reference levels for captive sablefish, creating a baseline for assessing their health and feeding regimens. The team characterized blood cells and established ranges for parameters that included albumin, cholesterol, potassium and plasma protein. The results may help advance efforts to farm the lucrative groundfish.

Educators learn to use nature journaling, stewardship activities

In 2019 and 2020, OSG coordinated a workshop at a beach and three online discussions in which the authors of the children's book "Ellie's Strand" taught 28 educators how to introduce their classes to nature journaling and environmental stewardship activities. Several teachers have since implemented activities. A participant from OSU Extension led two workshops for educators modeled on this project. Additionally, 120 copies of the book are available for teachers to borrow.

Beach grasses hybridize

OSG-funded researchers confirmed that two nonnative species of beach grass that were planted in the Pacific Northwest to stabilize sand have created a hybrid. The finding raises questions about how it might affect the shape and size of dunes. First found in 2012, the offspring is taller than its parents, meaning it might build taller dunes. To help locate the hybrid, scientists invited beachgoers to photograph beach grass and submit the images to a website.

Forecasts aim to help state manage shoreline armoring

As part of a three-year project, OSG-funded researchers estimated how protecting oceanfront land from erosion might affect property values on the Oregon coast. They also forecast how sea level rise and a removal of restrictions on shoreline armoring could impact the overall amount of armoring. The work informed the state's review of policies on coastal armoring.