



## Oregon's Territorial Sea

Oregon's territorial sea is defined as the waters and seabed extending three geographical miles seaward from the Pacific coastline. The State Land Board, and the Department of State Lands as its administrative arm, have jurisdiction over the submerged and submersible land of the territorial sea. DSL has both proprietary (ownership) and regulatory responsibilities within the territorial sea.

**Proprietary responsibilities:** authorizing all uses of the seafloor, including placement of fiber optic cables; installation of wave and wind energy devices and research equipment; kelp removal; and exploration for minerals.

**Regulatory responsibilities:** administering Oregon's removal-fill law which governs the removal, fill and alteration of sediments, rock and other materials comprising the submerged and submersible land underlying the territorial sea.

Both a proprietary authorization and a removal-fill permit are required if a project takes place on state-owned land within the territorial sea and will involve removal and/or fill of more than 50 cubic yards (0 cubic yards for ocean renewable energy projects) of material in the sea bed.

## State Partners

In managing the territorial sea, DSL works closely with other state agencies, specifically the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. It also is a member of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, which is charged with developing recommendations for and updating the Territorial Sea Plan, and providing advice to the Governor, Land Board and other agencies on ocean resource issues.

Within the area of the shoreline between the line of mean high tide and mean low tide (the "wet sand area"), DSL shares management authority with OPRD, though OPRD has responsibility for implementing the "beach bill" which protects the public's access to Oregon's beaches.

## Oregon Ocean Science Trust

The Oregon Ocean Science Trust and Fund were established by the 2013 legislature to:

- Promote peer-reviewed, competitive research and monitoring that leads to increased knowledge and understanding of Oregon's ocean and coastal resources.
- Promote innovative, collaborative, community-oriented, multi-institutional approaches to research and monitoring related to Oregon's ocean and coastal resources.
- Enhance the state's capacity for peer-reviewed scientific ocean and coastal research.
- Subject to available funding, establish and execute a competitive grant program to conduct research and monitoring related to Oregon's ocean and coastal resources.

DSL provides administrative support, meeting coordination and IT support to the Ocean Science Trust. The Ocean Science Fund is established at the State Treasury.

## **Territorial Sea Plan**

Legislation in 1991 gave primary responsibility to the Department of Land Conservation and Development for ocean planning and for providing assistance to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) in preparing the first Territorial Sea Plan, completed in 1994.

The Territorial Sea Plan has been amended several times since its adoption, but most noticeably for the inclusion of Telecommunications Cables (Part IV) and Marine Renewable Energy (Part V). The Ocean Policy Advisory Council is working on another amendment of the plan to update Part III, the Rocky Shores Management Strategy, which was identified through a survey of the Council as a high priority issue in December of 2015. The Territorial Sea Plan Working Group is leading that effort.

DSL participates in working groups to update the Territorial Sea Plan, along with representatives from other state agencies, tribes, ocean-related organizations and the private sector.

## **Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas**

The State of Oregon has implemented a system of marine reserves, as required by the Oregon Legislature. DSL has adopted a rule division (OAR 141-142) that governs marine reserves and marine protected areas. DSL's rules specify that the agency will issue authorizations in marine reserves and marine protected areas only for activities focusing on monitoring, evaluating, protecting or otherwise furthering the study of these two areas. DSL works in partnership with ODFW on the management of marine reserves and protected areas.