



HB 3486: STRENGTHENING OREGON'S COASTAL RESEARCH CAPACITY

For over 100 years, the **Oregon Institute for Marine Biology** (OIMB) at the University of Oregon has been a leader in marine science and education. OIMB conducts vital research on marine organisms and ecosystems, from the Oregon coast to the ocean depths, while offering students transformative educational experiences. Its marine biology major—the only one in Oregon—is ranked among the best in North America and is one of the fastest-growing programs at UO.

OIMB's work is crucial to addressing climate change, ocean health, and sustainable resource management, which are essential for Oregon's economy, environment, and communities. To continue supporting this critical work, the University of Oregon seeks state support for infrastructure improvements, ongoing research funding, and program inclusion to expand OIMB's impact.

HB 3486 will expand Oregon's capacity for marine research:

One-Time Funding for Infrastructure Enhancements

\$110,000 in one-time support for the following infrastructure improvements at OIMB:

- **Dive Platform:** \$15,000 for the research vessel *Megalopa*, to expand the types of research that can be performed from the vessel.
- **Dive Vessel:** \$20,000 to fully fund a \$220,000 dive vessel partially supported by a National Science Foundation grant.
- **Dock Construction:** \$75,000 to accommodate a new dive vessel.

Program Expansion and Ongoing Support

Statutory changes and ongoing funding will provide more opportunities for students and researchers from Oregon's public universities and natural resource agencies to conduct research on pressing coastal issues:

- **Expand the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program to include the University of Oregon and its research vessels.**
- **\$306,000 in ongoing funding to support OIMB's participation in the program**, enabling 30 days of research use annually on the *Megalopa* research vessel and new dive vessel.

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 <https://naturalsciences.uoregon.edu/OIMB>