

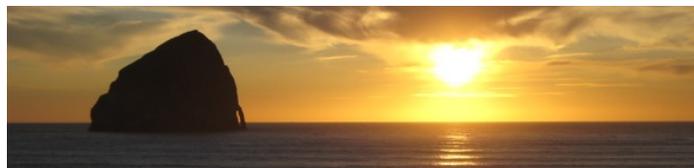
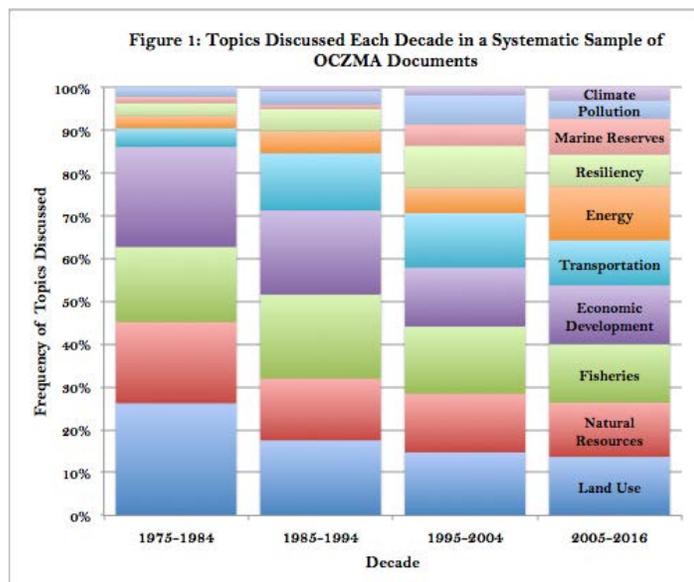


# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OREGON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Since 1975, the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) has provided a unique platform for local governments to find information, communicate, and collaborate on coastal issues. As a non-profit organized under ORS 190, the OCZMA is one of the only local government organizations in the United States to represent a diverse body of governments on coastal issues. Its membership jurisdictions include coastal counties, cities, ports, soil and water conservation districts, and an associate member federally recognized tribal government. The OCZMA has worked with the Oregon coast's Congressional delegation, the Oregon State Legislature's Coastal Caucus, and many state-level departments and organizations, such as: Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development; Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW); Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); Association of Oregon Counties; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

## Key Issues for the OCZMA

Since its inception, four key issues have consistently been a focus of the OCZMA (see Figure 1): **Land Use, Natural Resources, Fisheries, and Economic Development.**



## **Land Use and Natural Resource Management:**

In its early years, the OCZMA focused on assisting with the development of Oregon's land use planning program and its four coastal goals. It provided input to the Oregon State Legislature and assisted with local jurisdictions' planning efforts regarding wetland conservation and management, estuarine restoration, and beach and dune planning. More recently, the OCZMA has been involved in marine spatial planning and the development of the Oregon Territorial Sea Plan.

## **Fisheries:**

As critical fisheries began to collapse in the 1970s and 1980s, the OCZMA became more involved in fisheries issues. The association played a central role in developing state policies and created numerous publications related to the topic, such as:

**1980s:** Facilitated a long-lived salmon allocation process for commercial and recreational ocean fisheries. Developed the concept and policies to allow for selective salmon harvest through fin-clipping.

**1990s:** Led efforts for allocation of Pacific Whiting for coastal harvesters and processors (see Box 1). Played a significant role in state's salmon and watershed restoration plan.

**2000s:** Assisted in responding to the collapse of the groundfish fishery and helped ensure traditional ocean uses were represented in ocean spatial planning.

### Box 1: The OCZMA's work on the Pacific Whiting Fishery

The OCZMA's *The Coastal Notes, Windows on Pacific Whiting* and other publications kept members updated on policy developments for the Pacific Whiting fishery. Its work led to the Pacific Whiting Harvest Allocation by the National Marine Fisheries Service that protected the fishery for Oregon fishermen and processors in 1993.

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## **Economic Development:**

The work of the OCZMA has contributed to economic development on the coast in the following ways:

**Its economic and demographic reports**, including the *Economic Landscape of the Oregon Coast*, published in 1987, and *A Demographic and Economic Description of the Oregon Coast*, published in 1994, have helped guide economic development, community development, and strategic planning efforts along the Oregon coast.

Additionally, the OCZMA has maintained an important presence in state policy and planning discussions about rural economic development and served as a collaborative platform for its diverse member jurisdictions working on economic development along the coast.

**Ports and harbors studies** have also played a role in securing millions of dollars in federal subsidies for maintenance dredging of coastal harbors and waterways. The OCZMA and partners produce an annual report relied on by Congress and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The OCZMA's 1974 report *Estuarine Resources of the Oregon Coast* was another important document that discussed the need to balance the economic and environmental dimensions of the coast's estuaries.



**Box 3:** "The OCZMA did a nice job in getting cities and counties and port districts involved letting legislators and other policymakers know why we're not like other parts of the world. Our fisheries are managed much differently."

-David Allen, City Councilor for City of Newport

## **Emergent Issues for the OCZMA**

**In the 1990's, several issues emerged as new foci for the OCZMA:**

**Coastal Transportation Policy:** The OCZMA has served as a voice for coastal communities in discussions with ODOT about coastal transportation policies, primarily regarding Highway 101. Additionally, in its role on the Coastal Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, the OCZMA helped get Highway 101 designated as a Scenic Byway and an All-American Road.

**Resiliency:** The OCZMA has served as a forum to discuss options and provide information regarding coastal resiliency in the face of natural hazards. Additionally, the OCZMA and the Oregon State Legislature, collaborating with Oregon Sea Grant Legislative Fellows (see Box 2), have worked to build awareness of the Cascadia subduction zone earthquake threat since 1993.

**Box 2:** The Oregon Sea Grant Legislative Fellowship

One of the key links the OCZMA has had with the Oregon State Legislature has been the Oregon Sea Grant Legislative Fellowship. Since 1987, these fellows have served the eight-member Coastal Caucus of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. The fellows also attend and report regularly to the OCZMA.

**Water pollution:** The OCZMA has informed member jurisdictions about the DEQ's water quality pollution control measures, the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and related legislation.

**In the early 2000's the OCZMA began to focus on:**

**Wave and Wind Energy Development:** The OCZMA has striven to provide information to coastal communities regarding wave and wind energy development, as well as to participate in state and local planning processes for these sources. For instance, the OCZMA was involved in getting a chapter in Oregon's Territorial Sea Plan regarding the development of wind and wave energy facilities.

**Marine Reserves:** OCZMA staff and board members serve on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council and have participated in critical state and federal conversations about marine reserves and advocated for coastal concerns such as the impact of reserve siting on fisheries (See Box 3).

*\*Special thanks to Onno Husing and Georgia York for the photographs*

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