Impact Summary

To create a healthy future for our ocean and the planet through transdisciplinary research and teaching that emphasizes collaboration, experiential learning, engagement with society and problem solving.
In 2016, OSU launched a bold initiative to advance marine studies across the university, from Corvallis to Newport, and along the coast. This was in response to OSU’s internationally recognized excellence in marine natural sciences, the demand from students with all backgrounds and interests to get involved in ensuring a healthy future for our ocean, and OSU’s goal to engage along the coast. The Marine Studies Initiative (MSI), with the word “studies” chosen to include the natural and social sciences as well as engineering, business, and the arts and humanities, was planned for a nominal 10-year period.

The initiative’s goals were accomplished by a partnership between the Corvallis-based MSI Office campus, led by Jack Barth with associate leadership by Kristen Milligan, and the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, led by Bob Cowen. The MSI Office focused on expanding marine academic opportunities among other key research and engagement developments. Hatfield expanded infrastructure and personnel for supporting the delivery of programs at the coast. Together, Bob and Jack led the design, fundraising, and completion of the Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building on the Hatfield campus in Newport.

With this summary, we reflect on MSI’s successes and impacts as it transitions in 2024 to a permanent Marine and Coastal Opportunities program under the OSU Provost’s Office of Academic Affairs. We hope this summary proves useful for upcoming initiatives as OSU embarks on its next strategic plan, Prosperity Widely Shared.

Key statistics:

- Marine-related work in every college
- One-third of research activity at OSU is marine-related
- Creation and growth of a new Marine Studies undergraduate degree in the College of Liberal Arts, with 90 majors currently in the program and 11 graduates since 2022
- Number of students spending time at Hatfield in Newport has increased from 100 to over 450, and the number of courses per year has increased from eight to 45
- Ocean11 student marine club has over 1,600 students signed up with a core of over 200 students participating in up to 10 activities per term
- Eleven new faculty hires are excelling at research, teaching, and mentoring
- Three marine facilities spanning 275 miles along the Oregon coast from Astoria to Port Orford

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Dr. Jack Barth, Executive Director, Marine Studies Initiative (#2)

Dr. Robert (Bob) Cowen
Associate Vice President for Research and Operations,
Hatfield Marine Science Center (#3)
Vision and Goals

The Marine Studies Initiative’s vision was that Oregon State University be recognized as a global leader in 21st-century transdisciplinary education and research and lead the development of inclusive strategies for successful stewardship of our ocean and planet for today and tomorrow.

Through extensive strategic planning in 2014-2015, we developed a plan to achieve this vision through three main goals, paralleling the mission of OSU:

**GOAL 1**
Provide a transformational educational experience centered on marine studies.

**GOAL 2**
Advance leadership in transdisciplinary marine research and scholarship.

**GOAL 3**
Increase societal impact from marine studies in Oregon and beyond.

It was realized that physical facilities at the coast would bring faculty, staff, students, and the public together to collaborate on solving challenges facing our ocean and coasts. Thus, the new, state-of-the-art Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building was designed and constructed at OSU’s Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport. The MSI Office also assumed leadership of the Port Orford Field Station on Oregon’s picturesque southern coast.

The university-wide strategic planning was carried out by over 125 faculty, staff and community and state partners, especially from the Newport area. During the MSI’s operational years, the number of participants was tenfold that – MSI leadership is grateful for all the positive energy and contributions. MSI especially appreciates the guidance and help of the Honorable Jane Lubchenco, OSU Distinguished University Professor and Advisor in the marine studies.

**Lessons Learned:**

→ New faculty are key to growth and success; partnered approaches can unlock and amplify hiring.
→ Coastal-based experiential learning supports student success across multiple degree programs.
→ Private giving supports innovative, sometimes risky yet high payoff.
→ Incentive funds and supporting staff catalyze change and growth.

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<tr>
<td>Forage Fish Workshop held</td>
<td>Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building completed (GVMSB)</td>
<td>Marine Studies (MAST) undergrad degree finalized</td>
<td>First MAST student graduates, Blue Heart gyotaku art exhibit opens at GVMSB</td>
<td>MAST major enrolls 90 students</td>
<td>Eleven MAST graduates, MSI concludes, transitions to MACO</td>
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New MAST Degree

The College of Liberal Arts’ Marine Studies degree launched in January 2021, after a multi-year development process. This new interdisciplinary, liberal arts program complements the exceptional marine-related earth and life science degree programs at OSU. Marine Studies, known as “MAST,” explores the dynamic relationship between humans and the marine environment. MAST majors take coursework in social sciences, arts, and humanities, as well as a selection of marine science classes. While MAST recognizes the essential role that the natural sciences play in understanding the seas, this degree trains students to examine, filter, and express their knowledge and learning through humanistic and cultural lenses. This program prepares students for careers in public and private sectors, including in the expanding blue economies requiring ocean literacy, interdisciplinary collaborative skills, and strengths in liberal arts fields. The degree development began in 2018, through a core writing team of 10 individuals and extensive liaising across campus. Hallmarks of the Winter 2021 program launch included: Nine new classes, including two required courses Humans and the Ocean (MAST 201) and Society, Culture, and the Marine Environment (MAST 300) and core electives such as Maritime Histories of the Pacific (HST 314), Literatures of the Coast (ENG 340), and Indigenous Ocean and Coast (ES 360). Students also take coastal experience courses, internships, and capstone projects. As of Fall 2023, there were 90 students enrolled in MAST and, as of Spring 2024, 11 students have graduated with a MAST degree.

Classes and Experiential Learning

Another core MSI objective was to expand marine-related experiential learning opportunities. There is a complex patchwork of challenges related to developing and delivering new opportunities and access to the coast, without a single solution. The MSI approach was to gather information and experiences from faculty and students, through roundtable discussions, surveys, and interviews. A team was convened to research existing OSU courses to find courses with strong potential for coastal-based adaptation and meeting requirements of undergraduate degree programs. Beginning in 2018, MSI started to directly address some challenges by providing course development awards, partnering with academic units to pilot new courses, and supporting faculty to teach at the coast. Student access to coastal-based courses has improved because of crucial academic unit commitments, communications about opportunities, awards and scholarships for travel to and studies at the coast, the piloting of different course schedules, and engagement with academic advisors who are key to students finding successful experiences.
Central Student Hub

Since 2018, a Marine Studies Initiative advisor has helped students navigate among the various marine-related undergraduate degree programs at OSU. An overarching goal was to increase awareness of and access to marine-related classes, programs, and training opportunities such as internships. Relationships were developed with academic advisors across campus, academic units, and OSU Admissions. Two booklets were developed in partnership with OSU Admissions for students interested in ocean-focused degrees. These booklets, originally in hard copy but now digital, list different marine majors and describe opportunities for internships and research experiences.

The MSI Office has helped transfer processes for marine-interested community college students by fostering relationships with community colleges and working with the degree partnership program to guide students to degree-specific academic advisors. The MSI Academic Advisor also raised the visibility of OSU’s marine-related programs in elementary, middle, and high schools across the state of Oregon. MSI joined the various recruitment events held by OSU, including the START orientation program for enrolled students, Orange and Black Days for admitted students, and Spring Preview for high school juniors and seniors as well as transfer students. Through contact with degree programs, advisors, and affiliated Colleges, the MSI Academic Advisor can counsel students on the marine-related program opportunities across campus.

MSI advising grew from the concept of a central marine hub to an active navigation aid to help students “Put the Ocean in their Major.”

Internships

MSI began a summer internship program for OSU students in 2018, with six internships offered with three partner organizations. By the conclusion of MSI and Summer 2024, the MSI will have sponsored a total of 50 interns and worked with 19 different partner organizations along the Oregon Coast. The program has offered a wide variety of applied science and liberal arts topics, including science communication and outreach, seafood industry marketing, scientific technology testing, animal husbandry, film festival directing, marine reserve interpretation, engineering, whale research, tourism, filmmaking, aquatic microbiology, and water quality monitoring. The MSI interns come from a wide array of backgrounds, majors, and locations.
One of the keys to MSI’s success was hiring new faculty who bring ideas and energy to OSU. They teach new and existing classes in Corvallis, at the coast, and by Ecampus. Their impact is multiplied by their research activities with undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, and faculty research assistants. Through high-profile research, for example on marine mammals and plastics in the sea (see photo), they contribute strong outreach and engagement roles.

The original four MSI hires from the Provost’s Hiring Initiative in Signature Areas of Distinction included those in the College of Science, College of Agricultural Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, and College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences. Each were hired as an assistant professor, and all have achieved tenure and promotion to associate professor during MSI’s existence.

MSI partnered with units across campus and with a federal agency to hire seven additional faculty. These hires again spanned across the university, including three hired in partnership with OSU’s Marine Mammal Institute and two hired jointly by OSU and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. MSI incentivized the hiring by providing a quarter of their salaries per year, for five years, to support their contributions to the unit and MSI’s academic mission. The five-year period allows each faculty member to become established in research and teaching, including mentoring of student research experiences and developing new courses with potential for recurring coastal offerings.

MSI-affiliated faculty led and contributed to authorship of books like Oceans and Society, An Introduction to Marine Studies and Coastal Heritage and Cultural Resilience.
OSU excels in marine research and scholarship across many units, both in Corvallis and at the coast. OSU researchers tackle key problems facing the ocean, coastal communities, and people who depend on a healthy marine environment. These efforts have strengthened over the last half century, distinguishing individual units while simultaneously fostering OSU’s reputation for interdisciplinary cooperation. MSI amplified existing interdisciplinary projects and sought to advance specific areas through workshops and funding such as:

- Food from the sea
- Ocean acidification and hypoxia
- Marine conservation, science, and policy
- Coastal resilience
- Marine bio-imaging and underwater vehicles
- Renewable energy from the sea
- Marine genomics

MSI co-sponsored a major workshop in Spring 2018 on Food from the Sea, gathering experts from academia, industry, and local communities. They addressed opportunities, challenges, and solutions in this critical area that can provide sustainable, low carbon footprint protein for a growing population. One aspect of the Food from the Sea effort was focused on aquaculture needs, challenges, and opportunities. Participants recognized the need for a central hub to represent all aquaculture activities at OSU; MSI embraced this need and has collaboratively created and hosted a website for this purpose.

MSI also co-sponsored a workshop on Forage Fish: Connecting the Land and Sea. These nearshore fish support seabirds and iconic species like the Marbled Murrelet. This workshop resulted in a peer-reviewed paper detailing critical research needs in this area (see cover of Fisheries). In another special project, by working with the MSI partner faculty hire Susanne Brander, MSI promoted research on marine macro and nano plastics, which are ever-increasing challenges to our ocean, coasts, and planet.

**Advancement Awards**

Thanks to generous donors, MSI helped diversify marine research at OSU, supporting such projects as Tribal Impacts from Outdoor Recreation in Marine Ecosystems to trace pathogenic and ecological impacts of outdoor recreation activities taking place in marine areas used by a coastal tribe in Washington for subsistence purposes. Another project, Biogeographic Variation in Life History Traits of Black Rockfish from Central California to the Gulf of Alaska, involves collaboration among scientific agencies, fishery stakeholders, private anglers, and academia to foster trust, effective communication, and a shared understanding of an important resource.

In May 2022, the “Fisheries” journal featured an article by OSU faculty Jim Rivers and colleagues, which summarized findings from an MSI co-sponsored workshop about Forage Fish. (#12)

Students take a blood sample from a shark during a project led by Jessica Schulte: “Incorporating Indigenous Youth into Knowledge of Apex Predator Ecology.” Schulte was a 2022 MSI Advancement Awardee. (#13)
The Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building (GVMSB), the first significant new OSU building since Hatfield’s founding in 1964, was envisioned as a place for students, faculty, staff and the public to collaborate on finding innovative solutions to the pressing challenges facing the ocean and coasts and the people that depend on them.

The design and fundraising for the state-of-the-art GVMSB began in late 2014. A generous, initial $20 million gift by the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation helped secure over $7 million in additional gifts, a $25 million dollar match from the state of Oregon, and a final $9 million contribution by OSU to secure the full $61 million investment in the building.

Through a series of public meetings and engagement of an expert engineering panel including experts on seismic risk, tsunami inundation, and oceanography, the building design incorporated the very best safety and engineering practices. This building is designed to withstand a 9+ earthquake, XXL tsunami event, and it offers a vertical evacuation structure with supplies on the rooftop to support over 920 people for up to two days following a Cascadia event. The GVMSB improves the safety of the people who work and study at Hatfield and to the surrounding Newport South Beach community.

The GVMSB expands Hatfield’s footprint by 72,000 square feet, providing space for research, meetings, classes, and conferences. This new space contains:

- 6,000 square feet of office space
- 2,563 square-foot Innovation Lab with state-of-the-art design, fabrication and testing equipment funded by a generous grant from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- Three classrooms with seating for 20-60 students each
- 250-seat Carmen Ford Phillips Auditorium
- Expanded chemical, computational, and specialty labs
- A café, the first ever on OSU’s Hatfield campus, located in the sunlit atrium.
As growth occurred in the number of students, classes, and internships, Hatfield expanded its support capacity to ensure everyone could focus on their learning experience. Staffing was expanded to accommodate increased classroom and field activities, need for housing, and student life on the Hatfield campus. With an eye on the current and future growth, Hatfield also developed a plan for new, expanded housing with expected completion in Fall 2025.

The continual draw to classes and internship programs at Hatfield is driven by the available facilities, access to coastal and marine habitats, and the science that is pursued here. OSU continues to invest in Hatfield’s facilities that enable world-class research addressing some of the most critical environmental issues affecting the ocean such as hypoxia, ocean acidification, and climate change. Several projects highlight this investment. Notably, a $6 million investment in Hatfield’s seawater system which provides up to one million gallons of seawater per day to 12 of Hatfield’s research and education buildings, enabling research ranging from aquaculture to carbon dioxide removal to early life history studies of key fisheries species. OSU also invested in a major, $15 million upgrade and expansion of its Ship Operations facility in anticipation of the arrival of the Regional Class Research Vessel — R/V Taani. Support of programs such as OSU’s small boat program, which provides access to the sea for research and education by managing a fleet of safe and reliable small boats, included a newly paved and fenced storage facility. Finally, working closely with the University Information and Technology’s Academic Technology group, state-of-the-art videography was brought into the teaching lab and out into the field, to enable virtual field and lab courses — significantly extending the experiential programming impact.

Beyond traditional science and marine education experiences, the GVMSB hosts a variety of artwork through the state of Oregon’s Percent for Art program including a set of unique glass cases — vitrines — featuring coastal visual art with accompanying audio. The GVMSB also hosts rotating art installations beginning with the Blue Heart exhibition (see below) through to the present installation by artist Betty LaDuke. Hatfield runs an Artist-in-Residency program to bring artists into close connection with scientists and students, which leads to novel and enlightening discussions and inspired projects through both the science and art process. Hatfield hosted, in collaboration with MSI and OSU Productions, its 2nd annual Big Blue Film Fest, highlighting the films of 40+ filmmakers over a two-day festival. Over 400 people attended both days and were treated to spectacular marine-focused videography.
In addition to publishing a newsletter three times per year, MSI partnered to use video and art to communicate the importance of the ocean to our planet’s future. Through a vibrant partnership with OSU Productions, MSI led or co-led the production of videos of different lengths including *Heceta Bank: Oregon’s Hidden Wonder*, portraying with vivid imagery the importance of this underwater feature off the central Oregon Coast. (Continued on the next page.)

The Marine Studies Initiative built partnerships across the OSU Corvallis campus with many, if not all, colleges — and especially with the College of Liberal Arts in establishing the Marine Studies undergraduate degree program. MSI and campus partners co-sponsored cross-campus seminars and webinars on a broad range of topics including environmental ocean ethics, the future of food from the sea, the increasing challenges from climate change to coral reefs, offshore wind energy, and the potential for drugs from the sea. MSI increased the visibility of the ocean through establishing an annual celebration of World Ocean Day, as well as supporting and promoting campus-wide marine events like Hatfield’s Marine Science Day, which attracts thousands of visitors to OSU’s marine campus in Newport each year, the CEOAS-led Salmon Bowl ocean science competition for high schoolers, and the Oregon Sea Grant-led State of the Coast conference.

In 2018, MSI brought national attention to OSU’s marine studies by celebrating OSU’s 150th anniversary at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland during the national Ocean Sciences Meeting.

To build capacity for more marine research, education, and outreach and engagement efforts, the MSI Office sponsored regular updates for faculty, students, advisors, department heads, and college deans. MSI led field trips for faculty to Hatfield in Newport, so they could learn about the advantages of delivering experiential learning at the coast. New coastal field trips in courses and clubs have brought hundreds of students to the coast, including those in the Marine Studies undergraduate major. The MSI Office led faculty networking lunches and opened its doors each year to share marine accomplishments and plans with the OSU campus.

The strengthened collaboration between marine efforts on OSU’s Corvallis campus and the Hatfield Marine Science Center allowed MSI to establish additional partnerships along the Oregon coast, augmenting the already existing coastal efforts led by OSU’s Division of Extension and Engagement and Oregon Sea Grant. OSU’s Port Orford Field Station co-leads the Oregon Kelp Alliance, a consortium taking on the challenge to Oregon’s kelp forests from increased grazing by over abundant sea urchins. MSI co-founded the Coastal Climate Change and Community Art, Science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (4CAST) that takes advantage of the United Nations-designated Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve to study the natural and human elements of increasing temperature on coastal habitats and communities.

In addition to publishing a newsletter three times per year, MSI partnered to use video and art to communicate the importance of the ocean to our planet’s future. Through a vibrant partnership with OSU Productions, MSI led or co-led the production of videos of different lengths including *Heceta Bank: Oregon’s Hidden Wonder*, portraying with vivid imagery the importance of this underwater feature off the central Oregon Coast. (Continued on the next page.)
Outreach and Engagement Highlights

MSI sponsored viewings of *Heceta Bank* by hundreds of Oregonians from Portland to Bend to Coos Bay, as well as by extensive virtual audiences during COVID. A lyrical video *On the Wing* described the connection of forest and sea by the Marbled Murrelet through a poem written and narrated by an OSU writing undergrad. A recent video *Understanding Hypoxia: Dead Zones on the Pacific Coast* described the impacts of low-oxygen events on fisheries and communities including Indigenous coastal peoples. MSI and OSU Productions launched the *Ocean Stewards* series, a set of short, lightly produced videos sharing the voices of students and faculty about their passion for ensuring a sustainable and healthy ocean and coasts.

To exploit the power of art to connect people with the ocean and coasts, MSI partnered with gyotaku artists Dwight Hwang and Duncan Berry, to produce and host the *Blue Heart: Beauty and Change along America’s Western Shoreline* exhibit in the Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building on the Hatfield campus in Newport. The artists used gyotaku, the ancient Japanese art of fish printing, to, in their words, “bear emotive witness to the power and beauty of the Pacific Ocean, as well as the deep and lasting climate-driven changes that are occurring with increasing speed along our western shoreline.”

“In our modern lives we are awash in science and facts, which are useful to understanding our world, but art takes us deeper in our bodies, into our hearts and our guts to really ‘feel’ what we are experiencing.” -Duncan Berry and Dwight Hwang

**Increased Access**

The Ocean11 marine club is OSU’s first university-wide marine club. It was conceived in 2018 to provide opportunities for OSU students to grow academically, professionally, and socially with the ocean and coasts. The “11” refers to OSU’s 11 colleges and communicates the intentional university-wide membership. The club’s first meeting had 70 attendees and membership has grown to over 200 active members and 1,600+ on the email listserv in Spring 2024. Ocean11 provided a welcome opportunity to stay connected through COVID. The Student Leadership Team, through five Committee Teams — Community Outreach, Field Trips, Research and Learning Opportunities, Social, and Next Gen Outreach — organizes and facilitates over 40 activities each year. These include beach clean-ups, day and overnight field trips to the Oregon coast, guest speakers, paint nights, marine life identification workshops, ocean activities at local schools, float-in movie nights, and leadership retreats. Ocean11 impacts local communities, links students with ocean professionals, and connects students with faculty from other departments and disciplines.
South of Cape Blanco on the windswept southern coast of Oregon is an OSU research and education field station. The Port Orford Field Station is a hub supporting student learning, collaborative scientific research, community priorities, and economic opportunities. It fosters coastal stewardship and sustainability by supporting access to the region’s unique marine and terrestrial ecosystem. The Station is located just south of Cape Blanco, a biogeographic boundary that separates the Californian from the Oregonian bioregions of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. The Station provides rich opportunities to explore, study, and research the unique rocky reef and kelp forest habitats centered on the south coast. Facilities include a wet lab, dry lab, office, classroom, and a 10-person lodge. The Station supports SCUBA divers, including scientific divers engaged in subtidal research and monitoring at the nearby Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and ecological study of kelp forests, and certified sport, recreational, and commercial divers. Staff operate an air fill station and have filled 775 SCUBA tanks for various divers working on multiple projects.

History

The Port Orford Field Station was developed by the Port Orford commercial fishing community during the creation of the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve in 2012. A coalition of OSU units entered into an agreement with the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) to begin operations under Oregon Sea Grant in 2016. Operations transitioned to MSI in 2018; OSU accepted the gift of the Station property valued at $750,000 from POORT in 2021 and will operate under the Hatfield Marine Science Center starting in mid-2024.
Research

The Station supports research on marine reserve monitoring and research, coastal trophic ecology, Elk River salmon life history, forestry snag survey, river otter predation, rocky intertidal, aquaculture, ocean acidification, subtidal habitat research and many other projects carried out by OSU scientists and partners from the University of Oregon, Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (ODFW), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and community partners.

The Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and Marine Protected Area (MPA) was established in 2012 and was the basis for the creation of the Port Orford Field Station. Since then, the Station has supported research and monitoring at the Marine Reserve and MPA, in collaboration with ODFW and other institutions. Most recently, a team of scientists from OSU, NOAA, and the University of Washington used acoustic telemetry techniques to study behavioral responses of rockfish, lingcod, and Dungeness crabs to the air blasts used to study the Cascadia Subduction Zone.

For 10 years, the Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna (GEMM) Lab has worked at the Station to study the foraging behavior of gray whales that are part of the Pacific Coast Feeding Group of whales, which occupy the area around Port Orford each summer. This year, the Station will celebrate 10 years of accomplishment with the GEMM Lab.

Internships

The station has hosted over 60 interns from programs including Oregon Sea Grant Scholars, Research Experience for Undergraduates, the Marine Studies Initiative, and the College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Experience, with partners including the Redfish Rocks Community Team, the GEMM Lab, Port Orford Sustainable Seafood, and the Oregon Kelp Alliance.
The Marine Studies Initiative teamed with the OSU Foundation (OSUF) to establish a variety of scholarship and awards to advance the MSI mission. This private giving allowed students and faculty to pursue innovative approaches to marine education, research, and outreach and engagement. Since 2019, MSI awarded 28 students up to $500 each for a total of $10,058 to pursue their passion in marine research and education. Students used this support for needed field equipment and for travel and fees associated with internships and conferences. As one example, in 2021, Lily Rice was able to use her award to travel to Florida to be a Conservation Intern for the Loggerhead Marinelife Center. During her three months there, she learned how to educate and inform the public on marine conservation topics and learn more about plastic pollution, overfishing, shark fishing, and more. Students were also able to receive up to $400 each to support coastal field housing costs, an effort to lower barriers to equitable participation in coastal learning opportunities. MSI awarded $2,941 in coastal field housing scholarships to nine students in the last two years.

“As a former [MSI] Summer Intern and student awardee, these experiences are invaluable to my education. [MSI] has given me the resources to fund my scientific diving career and my internship introduced me to professionals in the coastal ecology and marine reserve field. I will continue to work with these organizations after I graduate and have been able to build a career from this. Without [MSI], this would not be possible for me!” -Faith Townsend, 2022 MSI Summer Intern and 2023 MSI Student Awardee

“These funds have allowed me to gain experience in the field of marine conservation and have ultimately helped me to take the first step towards my dream career.” -Lily Rice, Student Awarded 2021

The MSI Innovation Fund also supported regular faculty Advancement Awards as described in the Research highlights section. These Advancement Awards totaled about $94,000 over three years for 27 projects involving 80 key personnel. Two Marine Studies undergraduate degree program scholarships, distributing yearly awards totaling $4,000 per year from earnings on a $100,000 endowment, were established through the generous matching program sponsored by OSUF and OSU’s Enrollment Management. A generous $180,000 donation by the Roundhouse Foundation allowed support for three undergraduates per year for three years to participate in training and project design and construction in the Innovation Lab in the Gladys Valley Marine Studies Building. The Eder Family Fund for Dungeness Crab Research supported $50,000 in innovative research and scholarship directly related to Dungeness crab and/or its commercial fishery. Finally, a generous donation established the Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO) Endowed Program Fund, for use to further the goals of this permanent program in the Office of Academic Affairs.
The success of the Marine Studies Initiative is due to the efforts of many people, especially OSU leadership including Provosts Sabah Randhawa and Edward Feser, and Vice President for Research and Innovation Irem Tumer. We are thankful for the guidance and advice from the Honorable Jane Lubchenco, OSU Distinguished University Professor and Advisor in the Marine Studies. The MSI, and now MACO, have benefitted enormously from the energy of our OSU and Hatfield Marine Science Center colleagues as well as state and community leaders. We appreciate the support of the many private donors to the Marine Studies building and various student and faculty programs. A special thanks to Virginia Neylon for her long service as the original MSI Administrative Assistant to the Directors.

Thank you to our MSI Internship program partner organizations over the years: the College of Business, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Marine Mammal Institute, Oregon Sea Grant, Oregon State Productions, Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Port Orford Field Station, Siuslaw National Forest, Coastal Climate Change and Community Science Project, Access and Trails Collaboration, Local Oceans Seafood Dockside Grill and Fish Market, Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve, Coastal Bird Stewardship Outreach Project, Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve, Sea-Bird Scientific, Midcoast Watershed Council, and the Port of Newport.

We thank our colleagues in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) for their efforts in developing the Marine Studies (MAST) undergraduate degree program. Former CLA Associate Dean Marion Rossi led this effort from the start of MSI, and present leadership is provided by CLA Associate Dean Nicole von Germeten and MAST Assistant Director Lori Cramer. We thank the MAST degree development writing team and the many people involved in course development, market research, and curriculum liaising, Su Sponaugle and Itchung Cheung provided valuable research and development for expanded academic offerings at the coast.


Photo acknowledgements

1 (Cover photo), 2, 28, 29: Kate Larson
3, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19: Hatfield Marine Science Center
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6: OSU Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
7: OSU College of Liberal Arts
8: Drummond Wengrove, Hatfield Innovation Lab
9: Oceans Expo
10: Logan Kary
11: Oregon Stater magazine, OSU
12: Fisheries magazine
13: Jessica Schulte
20: Ocean11 marine club
21, 22, 23, 24, 25: Port Orford Field Station
26: Lily Rice
27: Faith Townsend
30: Tom McCambridge
31: Alec Youngblood

Coastal flowers overlook Cape Perpetua. (#28)
With the robust mix of accomplishments described in this Impact Summary, the Marine Studies Initiative (MSI) has grown from a catalyst initiative to a permanent academic support program called Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO). Housed in the Office of Academic Affairs alongside other university experiential learning programs, MACO continues the work started by MSI to foster coastal-based educational opportunities, such as internships and field courses, and connect students and faculty with these programs. Kristen Milligan, formerly MSI Associate Director, will lead as the Director of MACO. Learn more about and join MACO by following its social media, checking its developing website, joining listservs, and participating in future events.

**Kate Larson - ‘23/’24 Ocean11 Club President, MSI Student Worker, Marine Studies ‘25**

“I have been so thankful for my time here and all the experiences that I have been fortunate to have as a student worker and as a leader in the Ocean11 club. The Ocean11 marine club has been a highlight of my time at OSU! Not only have I met fantastic, like-minded people, but I have been able to have experiences and networking opportunities that wouldn’t have been possible otherwise. I feel like I have found a community here at OSU, and I am forever grateful for Ocean11!”

**Tom McCambridge - ‘20/’21 Ocean11 Club President, 2020 MSI Summer Intern (Marine Reserve Communication), Marine Biology and Ecology option ‘22**

“I am very excited to get a better understanding of the effects that conservation efforts can have on communities that depend on natural resources. Hopefully, this will allow me to find a balance between benefiting the environment and ensuring the well being of people as marine conservation becomes more urgent.”

**Alec Youngblood, 2019 MSI Summer Intern (Coastal Tourism), Fisheries and Wildlife ‘20**

“As I see it, this internship exists at the intersection of my two greatest passions: marine sciences and the humanities, and I’m eager to make the absolute most out of the opportunity.”

“The future relies on action today.” -Ocean11 marine club member