

NEWSLETTER



OSU President Jayathi Murthy (left) plays MACO's ocean trivia game facilitated by Ryleigh Johnson, MACO Experiential Learning Communications Technician (right), on OSU's Dam Proud Day 2025.

From the Admin. & Communications Coordinator's Desk

Welcome to the Spring & Summer 2025 edition of the MACO newsletter! From behind the scenes to the shoreline, it's an exciting time to coordinate and support the incredible work happening at Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO).

As the Administrative and Communications Coordinator, I have the unique pleasure of connecting with faculty, students, and partners across OSU who bring innovative ideas and energy to the coast. Whether it's coordinating logistics, growing our online platforms, or sharing stories of coastal research and learning, I get to see firsthand how much passion goes into every course, internship, and field experience.

One of the highlights of my role is mentoring our amazing group of student employees. They come from diverse backgrounds and represent the breadth of OSU's strengths—from Marine Biology and Ecology to Digital Communication Arts and Marine Studies. Their creativity, dedication, and curiosity are truly inspiring, and they remind me every day of why this work matters.

Our reach is growing, and so are the opportunities. With accessible updates to our website, plans for new searchable tools, and continued collaboration with programs like the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Center for Teaching and Learning, MACO is making it easier than ever for the OSU community to access meaningful experiential learning opportunities at the coast.

We're excited to keep building momentum—and to support you in navigating all that MACO has to offer.



Simone Burton, MACO Administrative and Communications Coordinator

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Courses at the Coast

Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center is gearing up for a full roster of intensive, place-based summer field courses. Open to students from all institutions, this summer features three new coastal offerings developed by faculty from the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences and the School of History, Philosophy, and Religion. These additions broaden the curriculum to include science communication, marine issues explored through alternative knowledge systems, and a new signature core "Seeking Solutions" course, introduced as part of the first phase of OSU's general education curriculum reform, focused on global crises and team-based solutions that balance ecological and human needs.

Summer Field Courses At Hatfield

June 16–20 | Summer Session 6

ART 360/460 – **Creative Field Work**, Andy Myers and Michael Boonstra

NEW! PHL 472x – **Thinking with Oceans**, Rebekah Sinclair

June 23–July 18 | Summer Session 2

BI 353 – **Pacific Northwest Coastal Ecosystems**, Sarah Henkel

BOT 417/517 – **Phycology**, Allen Milligan

NEW! FW 289 – **Communication Skills for Fisheries and Wildlife Professionals**, Vaughn Robison

OC 332 – **Coastal Oceanography**, Jack Barth

July 21–August 15 | Summer Session 4

FW 302 – **Biology and Conservation of Marine Mammals**, Renee Albertson

NEW! FW 325 – **Seeking Solutions to Global Crises in Resource Ecology**, Taylor Chapple

Z 461 – **Marine and Estuarine Invertebrate Zoology**, Nate Kirk

August 18–September 5 | Summer Session 5

FW 568 – **Human Dimensions of Marine Mammal Conservation**, Mauricio Cantor

Summer 2025 by the Numbers

95 undergraduate and graduate students are taking summer courses at Hatfield



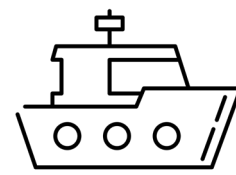
20 programs across **8 OSU colleges** contribute to the 2025 student cohort



10 faculty from 4 colleges will lead experiential courses spanning the sciences, arts, and humanities



25+ field trips will take learning beyond the classroom



3 MACO Advancement Awards will enhance Summer 2025 learning by supporting new course development, equipment upgrades, and field excursions



Faculty Resources

Supporting Coastal Teaching and Learning: New Resources for Faculty

In collaboration with faculty and units across OSU, MACO helps turn coastal course ideas into high-impact, place-based learning experiences. Through financial awards, course development assistance, logistical support, and other services, MACO is building a growing suite of resources designed to help faculty create and deliver meaningful coastal learning opportunities accessible to all majors.



Dr. Allen Milligan instructs students in his phycology course, BOT 417/517, at Seal Rock prior to intertidal exploration activities.

Now Live: New Tools to Support Coastal Teaching and Learning

MACO has recently published several online resources that make it easier to explore OSU's diverse coastal course offerings, help students find options that align with their goals, and support faculty interested in teaching at the coast.

Course Roster Page – Browse all OSU coastal courses offered each term, with details on housing, local travel, and scholarship opportunities: beav.es/N4n

Courses at the Coast Search Page – Filter courses by topic, term, modality, and more, making it easier for students to find options that fit their schedules, interests, and degree requirements: beav.es/Nyc

360° Virtual Tours of Coastal Field Sites – To better showcase coastal locations for teaching and exploration, MACO is developing virtual tours of frequently used sites, ranging from intertidal zones to coastal forests. Each tour includes a 360° walk-through and a downloadable fact sheet with details on amenities, use, and accessibility. beav.es/Nyf

Coastal Faculty Resource Page – MACO is expanding its faculty resource webpage to better support teaching at Hatfield and other coastal locations. This one-stop hub will provide tools for course planning, packing lists, meal logistics, animal care, student support services, and more—making it easier to deliver high-quality coastal courses. beav.es/Ny5

Have ideas for helpful resources? Reach out to maco@oregonstate.edu.

Connecting Students with the Coast

Welcoming Student Scholars to the Oregon Coast!

We're excited to welcome **51 students** to the Oregon Coast this summer for mentored research experiences and internships! These students will be based at locations up and down the coast, with most stationed at the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC) and others at sites like the OSU Port Orford Field Station.

We greatly appreciate everyone who dedicates their time and expertise to mentoring in these intensive educational programs. These opportunities are made possible through these mentor efforts and support of university programs, state and federal agencies, and non-profit partners, including:

- National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates: From Estuaries to the Deep Sea
- Marine and Coastal Opportunities
- Hatfield Marine Science Center Innovation Lab
- Oregon Sea Grant
- Copperative Institute for Marine Ecosystem and Resource Studies
- Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station
- College of Agricultural Sciences Branch Experiment Station
- Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Sciences Vanguarding an Inclusive Ecological Workforce Fellowship
- College of Science Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
- Friends of Otter Rock Marine Reserves
- MidCoast Watersheds Council



MidCoast Watersheds Council is generously supporting two internships this summer—hosted through Oregon Sea Grant Summer Scholars and MACO. (Photo: 2023 MACO intern Logan Kary during her internship with the MidCoast Watersheds Council.)

This summer, Hatfield's Student and Campus Services and MACO are collaborating to offer a robust and engaging program for all participants. Hearty congratulations and thanks to Sidney Noble, Manager for Campus and Student Services, for her leadership and collaboration. Highlights include:

- **A curated orientation** to Hatfield, safety protocols, and Newport resources
- **Weekly professional development workshops** on topics like citation management, resume building, and presentation skills, led by experts from the OSU Library and Career Development Center
- Thursday **research seminars** exploring interdisciplinary research and career pathways
- **Educational field excursions** to explore local ecosystems and communities
- Ongoing **student life activities** to foster connection and fun
- A culminating end-of-summer **poster symposium** on Thursday, August 21.

We're thrilled to support this next generation of scientists, communicators, and environmental leaders as they dive into meaningful coastal research and community engagement.

Connecting Students with the Coast

World Ocean Day 2025

This spring, MACO celebrated **World Ocean Day** with help from our incredible campus and community partners! The Memorial Union brick mall was filled with over **150 participants** playing ocean-themed games, engaging in lively conversations, and enjoying marine-themed cupcakes and blue lemonade. Students, faculty, and staff connected with organizations passionate about marine studies, sustainability, and research. Among the units present, the OSU Small Boat Program offered tours aboard one of their research vessels, the Zodiac *BBQ*, while the Barth lab from College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences showcased a deep-sea glider used to explore and monitor the ocean. The celebration was a fun and engaging way to highlight the ocean's vital connection to our planet and to introduce students to the many marine-related opportunities available to them at Oregon State.

Thank you to MACO student worker, Ryan Osha, who coordinated this event and to the volunteers from the Ocean11 Student Organization! And thank you to our collaborators who made this event possible: Small Boat Program, Marine Mammal Institute, Scientific Diving Program, OSU Global Opportunities, Fisheries and Wildlife Club, College of Pharmacy - Ishmael Lab, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences - Barth Lab, Hatfield Student Organization, and the Ocean11 Student Organization. We're grateful to everyone who celebrated with us and can't wait to see you next year!



Students interact with the Barth Lab (left), the Marine Mammal Institute (center), and OSU Global Opportunities (right) at MACO's World Ocean Day celebration.

World Ocean Day Photo Contest!

The winner of our **2nd Annual World Ocean Day photo contest**, chosen by popular vote from our Instagram followers, was **Charlie Pingree**, the returning 2024 photo contest winner! Read more from Charlie below.

"My name is Charlie Pingree and I am a Marine Studies student at Oregon State from Marblehead, MA. I grew up alongside the ocean in my coastal Massachusetts town and was constantly surrounded by marine wildlife, which has inspired me to start the photography and videography that I now do. I started getting into cetacean drone photography by filming the many humpback whales that inhabit the waters surrounding my home town. I now spend much of my time filming marine mammals and other animals off of the Massachusetts and Oregon coastlines. This particular image is of a Blue Shark off the Massachusetts coastline, taken while filming whales in the summer of 2024. My goal is to inspire people to explore the water world around them and show people things they might not get to see otherwise!"



The winning photo of MACO's 2025 World Ocean Day photo contest, taken by Charlie Pingree, shows a lone blue shark in the coastal waters of Massachusetts.

Connecting Students with the Coast

Dam Proud Day 2025

Dam Proud Day 2025 was a smashing success! We deeply appreciate our generous supporters who help sustain and grow financial awards for student experiential learning. Our focus areas this year were:

1. **Marine Mammal Field Studies Scholarship** – a new scholarship helping students in financial need attend a five-week, Hatfield-based course on marine mammal biology, ecology and conservation during the fall term.
2. **Coastal Field Housing Awards** - MACO's Coastal Field Housing Awards provide up to \$400 to help students cover field housing costs at Hatfield Marine Science Center, enabling them to fully immerse themselves in coastal learning.
3. **Support Ocean11** - Our university-wide student organization, Ocean11, provides student leadership opportunities and connects students with marine and coastal experiential learning through field excursions, service learning and other community-building events.

Thanks to our generous donors and challenge gift donors, we were able to raise **\$4,720** this Dam Proud Day!

Thank you to challenge gift donors Jack and Jane Barth supporting coastal field housing for students taking courses at Hatfield Marine Science Center and to our anonymous donor supporting the new Marine Mammal Field Studies Scholarship. Combined, \$2,000 in challenge gifts led the way for a successful Dam Proud Day!



MACO student employees (left to right) Thomas Bump, Stefania Daino, Ryleigh Johnson, and Ryan Osha show their spirit during the Dam Proud Day Street Fair.



OSU students test their ocean knowledge with MACO's ocean trivia game on Dam Proud Day.

This newsletter is a major collaboration. Simone Burton is managing editor, production manager, and content contributor. Other major content contributors, in alphabetical order by last name, are: Angela Cicia, Stefania Daino, Ryleigh Johnson, Cynthia Leonard, Kristen Milligan, and Ryan Osha.

Connecting Students with the Coast

Awards & Scholarships

MACO is proud to offer a variety of awards & scholarships to limit financial barriers to the coast for OSU students of all majors and Colleges. These awards and scholarships are only possible due to our generous donors. **THANK YOU!**

MACO Student Awards: This year, MACO was able to provide **eight undergraduate students** with awards of up to \$500 to further their marine-related academic pursuits. A few uses of these 2025 awards are buying field gear and textbooks for courses at the coast, field housing on San Juan Island during an internship with the Orca Behavior Institute, airfare to attend the International Conference on Biological Oceanography and Marine Biology in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and airfare to Australia for a marine-related veterinary medicine internship!

MACO Coastal Field Housing Awards: MACO also offers Coastal Field Housing Awards every term to undergraduate students in need of housing while attending courses at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. For the Spring and Summer 2025 terms, MACO was able to support undergraduate students with **\$6,900 in coastal field housing expenses.**

Marine Mammal Field Studies Scholarship: A new scholarship started by MACO and the Marine Mammal Institute, the Marine Mammal Field Studies Scholarship supports students in a five-week, intensive marine mammalogy course based at the Hatfield Marine Science Center during Fall term. The course focuses on marine mammal biology, ecology, and conservation while providing students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. Awards provide crucial financial assistance to students who need help with the extra costs of an intensive field, research-based course.

Ocean11 Student Organization

Ocean11 is a student organization composed of students from all 11 colleges -- working, playing, exploring, learning, and serving together to experience and make a difference with our ocean and coasts.

This term, the Ocean11 Research and Learning Opportunities (RLO) Committee team organized the **Ocean and Coasts Resource fair**, OSU's first ocean-focused fair which welcomed **over 180 attendees**. This event provided students with the opportunity to discover a variety of marine opportunities available at OSU and beyond, and network with industry professionals. From hands-on research programs to internships and volunteer programs, the fair showcased the many ways students can engage in ocean-related work.

We would like to recognize Ocean11 RLO leaders **Lexy Lambert and Sara Mielish** for their dedication and leadership in organizing the event! Thank you to all the volunteers and tablers whose support made this event possible and successful.



Cynthia Leonard (left), MACO Academic Advisor and faculty advisor to the Ocean11 Student Organization, and Emily Osborne (right), 2024-2025 President of Ocean11, interact with students at the Ocean and Coasts Resource Fair. Photo courtesy of Kaylyn Allvar.

Thank you for your support!

Real Stories, Real Futures

Meet two students that have recently benefitted from your generous support as donors of Marine and Coastal Opportunities. At Oregon State, every student can integrate the ocean into their major through field courses, research projects, internships and extracurricular activities, gaining practical skills and preparing for marine careers. With your continued support, we will continue providing transformative experiences to help our students thrive.

“I’m incredibly grateful to MACO for providing opportunities to meet amazing people, explore the coast, and gain hands-on learning experiences. Classes and organizations like FW 457x [Biology, Ecology, and Conservation of Marine Mammals], the Big Fish Lab, and Ocean11 are humbling and inspiring. FW 457x broke away from the traditional classroom setting supporting my own critical thinking. The Big Fish Lab has revealed the real-time value of research, while Ocean 11 continues to strengthen my communication skills. These groups, combined with MACO’s support, have shown me that learning doesn’t just happen in the lab or the field, it grows where curiosity meets community.” **-Sydney Johnson, Marine Studies ‘25 with a minor in Leadership, and Ocean11 Student Organization leader.**



Sydney Johnson



Elijah Foster

“MACO has opened doors to learning opportunities I never imagined, from collecting behavioral data on California sea lions to photographing gray whales for photo ID. At the Hatfield Marine Science Center, courses like FW 457X [Biology, Ecology, and Conservation of Marine Mammals] gave me hands-on experience in marine mammal research methods and connected me with passionate students and professionals dedicated to understanding our oceans and protecting the life within them. MACO has given me the skills, confidence, and support to pursue my dream career: studying killer whales in the Pacific Northwest. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunities MACO has provided and I’m excited to carry my experiences forward into a career out at sea.” **-Elijah Foster, Marine Studies ‘25 with a minor in Indigenous Studies.**

Donate online at beav.es/G83 or send a check payable to ‘OSU Foundation’ with a notation for “Marine and Coastal Opportunities Innovation Fund”. Address to Oregon State University Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97330.

If you need assistance or details on other gift opportunities, call 800-354-7281 or 541-737-4218. Or email: annual.giving@oregonstate.edu



Oregon State University
Marine and Coastal
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