

Yaquina Bay Estuary Management Plan Update Fact Sheet

The Yaquina Bay Estuary Management Plan (YBEMP or Plan) determines how the Yaquina Bay area is managed, including what kinds of development can happen where and which areas are set aside for resource protection. The YBEMP is the local implementation of Goal 16: Estuarine Resources, one of Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals, which sets forth requirements for the planning and management of Oregon's estuaries. **An estuary management plan gives local jurisdictions the ability to manage their estuaries for the benefit of the public and natural resources in a way that meets the development needs of the community.** Lincoln County implements the estuary management plan for Yaquina Bay in coordination with the City of Newport and the City of Toledo.

The current estuary management plan for Yaquina Bay was adopted in 1982. Since then, we have improved information and understanding of how estuaries fit into communities.

Local officials from Lincoln County and the cities of Newport and Toledo are working together to update the estuary management plan to serve the communities around Yaquina Bay for generations to come. Over the past 2 years, dozens of local, state, federal, and tribal stakeholders and experts have provided input and feedback in order to develop a DRAFT updated Plan for public review. The process for updating the YBEMP to date included:

- Updating Yaquina Estuary map information and uses,
- Modernizing the Plan to reflect current social, cultural, environmental, and economic conditions,
- Gathering and incorporating community input, and
- Integrating predicted impacts of climate change.

A CLOSER LOOK AT OREGON'S GOAL 16

The objective of Goal 16 is to "recognize and protect the unique environmental, economic and social values of each estuary and associated wetlands; and to protect, maintain, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore the long term environmental, economic and social values, diversity and benefits of Oregon's estuaries."

Goal 16 requires that EMPs identify which areas (management units) within the estuary are classified as Development, Conservation, or Natural. Each classification has a list of prescribed allowable, conditional, and not allowed uses, guiding the local review process to ensure that proposed alterations are consistent with overall management objectives of the management units and that adverse impacts are minimized.

WHAT IS AN ESTUARY?

Estuaries are the mixing of saltwater and freshwater where rivers meet the tide. Estuaries are an amazing place for plants, animals, and people! They are critical habitat for native salmon, birds, and plants. Healthy estuaries are not only critical for biodiversity, but our enjoyment of the coastline, and the productivity of our fishing and tourism industries. Yaquina Bay and the surrounding area have been home to the people of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians since time immemorial, who still have a thriving, active cultural presence in the region today. The Bay today is home to approximately 15,000 people who live, work, and play in the area.



The Plan Update Process

In 2020, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCDC) formed an initial Steering Committee with Lincoln County, the Cities and Ports of Newport and Toledo, and later, the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians (See back page for list). A call for proposals was released for bids through DLCDC to manage the Plan update.. Willamette Partnership and the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy, Research, and Engagement (IPRE) submitted the successful proposal. Local estuary management plan expert Matt Spangler joined the project team as a consultant representing Lincoln County.

In 2021, based on recommendations of the Steering Committee and research of local stakeholder groups, the Project Team convened an Advisory Group representing a diversity of expertise and interests in the management of Yaquina Bay (See back page for list). A subset of Advisory Group members participated as a Technical Sub-Group that reviewed all spatial data and scientific information, including impacts from climate change. Dozens of data sources were identified to describe current, historic, and projected conditions in Yaquina Bay to update the map inventory using best available data.

In 2022, the Project Team conducted a Needs & Gaps Assessment (Assessment) to identify proposed updates to the Plan in order to ensure it reflects current conditions and meets the present and future needs of the communities that depend on the Bay. The Assessment prioritized the set of recommended updates and identified the ones to be included in this current update. The Project Team addressed all high priority recommendations from the Assessment in coordination with the Advisory Group and Steering Committee. Feedback and recommendations were addressed and documented in a "summary of consultation." The Project Team developed an outreach and engagement strategy to ensure residents and stakeholders can participate in this process. This has included:

- Attending a Northwest Steelheaders public event,
- Presenting at a Newport Chamber of Commerce meeting,
- Collaborating on a lecture by Dr. Laura Brophy of Hatfield Marine Science Center on Climate Change and Yaquina Bay,
- Convening a Public Information Session at the Newport Library;
- And hosting an informational website.

A series of three Town Halls are planned for DATES for residents and stakeholders to learn and ask questions about the Estuary Management Plan update and process. Lastly, presentations will be given during regularly scheduled meetings for County, Cities, and Ports' Boards, Councils, and Commissioners throughout Summer 2023.

After the Town Halls, the Draft Plan may be revised based on resident and stakeholder feedback and the final version will be submitted to Lincoln County and the Cities of Newport and Toledo to be reviewed and considered through a formal plan amendment process. This will entail public meetings with the Planning Commissions, City Councils and Board of County Commissioners for Lincoln County, Toledo, and Newport. These processes also include a formal public comment period where any member of the public is welcome to submit written comments or provide testimony at these meetings. The Estuary Management Plan and maps are not official until they are adopted by all three jurisdictions which is anticipated to occur in the fall or winter of 2023.

Summary of Proposed Revisions

The Needs & Gaps Assessment was developed to determine how the current Estuary Management Plan needs to be updated in order to better reflect the social, ecological and economic conditions of Yaquina Bay. The following changes have been proposed as a result of the collaboration of the Advisory Group, Technical Sub-Group, and Steering Committee:

Digital maps to replace hand-drawn maps: 24 estuary-wide maps and individual maps for each management unit.

Removal of outdated references: Language was modernized when feasible.

New Estuary Zoning Districts to replace Permitted Use Matrix: The previous Permitted Use Matrix describing which uses or alterations are permitted conditional, or not allowed was confusing for most users of the Plan. Text-based zoning descriptions based on Lincoln County and the Cities' zoning code is easier to understand and use. The uses have not changed.

Updates to certain Management Units: Management units were reviewed and some were split, shifted, or reclassified to better reflect areas for protection and development.

- Boundaries of five management units were altered to better align existing conditions (e.g.: protected shellfish reserve areas or marinas) and uses with the appropriate classification.
- Three new Management Units were created & two Management Units are reclassified. Similar to the boundary changes these proposed revisions reflect improved alignment of local conditions with the classification most appropriate for the natural resource or existing development uses (e.g.: a large algal bed in MU1 becomes MU1A and classified as Natural).

Consideration and incorporation of local climate vulnerabilities: Projects that affect the estuary, such as dredging, already require applicants to submit informational 'Impact Assessments' that describe anticipated impacts and proposals to minimize them. Proposed new revisions ask applicants to also consider area-specific climate vulnerabilities in addition to current conditions through the impact assessment (See Part III-Sub Areas).

Planning for future updates when conditions change: Plan Part XI has been developed to describe the process in which jurisdictions might update specific components of the Estuary Management Plan when changes occur or parts of the plan become outdated.

Any changes to the Estuary Management Plan must be adopted through Lincoln County and the cities of Newport and Toledo.

The planning process currently underway is designed to draft an updated Plan for the county and cities to then review and adopt. All proposed changes (above) through this planning process are subject to their review and finalization.





Project Participants

Steering Committee

Onno Husing	Lincoln County
Megan Hoff	Lincoln County
Derrick Tokos	City of Newport
Judy Richter	City of Toledo
Stan Van De Wetering	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Andrea Sumerau	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Paula Miranda	Port of Newport
Aaron Bretz	Port of Newport
Debbie Scacco	Port of Toledo
Lisa Phipps	Department of Land Conservation & Development
Meg Reed	Department of Land Conservation & Development
Brett Estes	Department of Land Conservation & Development

Advisory Group

Jerry Anderson	Manulife Investment Management	Chris Knutsen	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
*Cheryl Brown	US Environmental Protection Agency	Heather Mann	Midwater Trawlers
*Jevra Brown	Oregon Department of State Lands	*Jared Norton	US Army Corps of Engineers
*Bob Cowen	Hatfield Marine Science Center	*Jason Nuckols	The Nature Conservancy
*Tony D'Andrea	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	Ryan Parker	City of Newport Councilor
Kent Doughty	Audubon Society of Lincoln City	*Catherine de Rivera	Portland State University
*Paul Engelmeyer	Wetlands Conservancy/Audubon Society	*Liz Ruther	Pew Charitable Trusts
Jon Gonzalez	Pacific Seafood	*Natalie Schaefer	Yakona Preserve & Learning Center
*Bri Goodwin	Surfrider	Andrea Sumerau	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Claire Hall	Lincoln County Commissioner	Gil Sylvia	Port of Newport
*Evan Hayduk	MidCoast Watersheds Council	Stan Van De Wetering	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Megan Hoff	Lincoln County	*Ted DeWitt	US Environmental Protection Agency
*Cheryl Horton	Midcoast Watershed Council	*George Waldbusser	Oregon State University
Onno Husing	Lincoln County	Cora Warfield	City of Toledo Councilor
Cameron La Follette	Oregon Coast Alliance	Stephen Webster	Websters
Cheryl Horton	MidCoast Watersheds Council	Derek Wilson	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
*Phillip Johnson	Oregon Shores Conservation	Liu Xin	Local Oyster Farmer
Betty Kamikawa	City of Toledo Councilor	Michele Zwartjes	US Fish and Wildlife Service

*Technical Sub-Group

Project Team

Ethan Brown	Willamette Partnership
Nicole Maness	Willamette Partnership
Melissa Graciosa	University of Oregon - Institute for Policy, Research & Engagement
Michael Howard	University of Oregon - Institute for Policy, Research & Engagement
Matt Spangler	Lincoln County (Consultant)

Key Roles of Steering Committee

- Inform & review spatial data and maps
- Review & approve of types of changes needed
- Review & approve of Draft Plan & Inventories for public release

Key Roles of Advisory Group & Technical Sub-Group

- Inform & review spatial data and maps
- Inform & review climate change information & Climate Vulnerabilities
- Provide guidance on community outreach
- Review & provide feedback on Plan Drafts & Maps