

COASTAL OREGON MARINE EXPERIMENT STATION (COMES)

Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) is Oregon's Marine Experiment Station, collaborating with the fishing and seafood industry, agencies, and the local maritime communities as the state's primary research engine supporting use and conservation of marine resources.

A Diverse Fishery

Oregon's Marine Commercial Fishing industry includes a diverse network of fishers that expand from the coast of California to Alaska. It includes vessels, captains, and crew that deliver catch to both onshore Oregon ports as well as at-sea motherships. It also includes onshore processors and buyers who purchase catch. Over 100 species of fish and shellfish are harvested off the Oregon coast.

Primary Commercial Fisheries in Oregon

Dungeness crab	Other groundfish	Pacific halibut
Pink shrimp	Albacore tuna	Oysters
Pacific whiting	Salmon	Shellfish

Oregon-based vessels also harvest groundfish, crab, salmon, and tuna in distant water fisheries.

Economic Impact

The economic output of Oregon's Commercial Fisheries is estimated to support \$697.9 M in state economic value, accounting for nearly 7,000 jobs in Oregon.



Key Research Areas

Aquaculture	Environmental Economics
Marine Fisheries Genomics, Conservation, and Behavior	Ecotoxicology and Environmental Stress
State Fisheries Genomics Lab	Big Fish Lab
Marine Fisheries Ecology	Seafood Safety, Quality, and Processing
Commercial Fisheries Dynamics	Nutritional Pharmacology
Fisheries Oceanography & Population Dynamics	Food Processing and Engineering
Resource Economics and Marketing	Food Chemistry and Analysis
	Food Microbiology



Ag Experiment Station History

Oregon is unmatched in the diversity of its agricultural and environmental landscape—from rugged coastlines through lush valleys across high deserts—and the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University is OUT THERE, connecting scientific discovery to communities and industries that rely on those insights. In addition to dozens of research labs and institutes on campus, the College has 14 agricultural experiment station locations across the state.

This statewide system of research stations has a rich history. It began in 1887, when President Grover Cleveland signed the Hatch Act, which provided annual funds for agricultural research stations at land-grant colleges in each state and territory. The first Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station was built in Union, Oregon in 1888. Since then, the system has grown with strategic locations around the state that support industry and communities while addressing environmental issues specific to each region. Together, a network of over 400 scientists in 28 academic disciplines strive to improve quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic development in rural and urban communities across Oregon and beyond. These stations are the engine of science working every day to make tomorrow better.

The Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) was official established in 1989 as the first interdisciplinary marine experiment station in the United States. Its formation was the result of efforts by Oregon fishermen and University leaders to conduct applied fishery and seafood research consistent with Oregon State University's land-grant mission. In order to best serve all aspects of the fishing and seafood industries, the OSU Seafood Lab in Astoria was integrated into COMES as the Seafood Research and Education Center, creating numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary research and innovation.

Other Programs and Services

Because the commercial seafood industry is as much about economic opportunity as it is community vitality, COMES and the Seafood Research and Education Center also work closely with fishing communities to support the quality of life in coastal Oregon.

The people who make their living in the commercial fishing industry take personal risk and uncertainty to ensure high-quality food products are available dockside, at local restaurants, throughout Oregon, and beyond.

COMES and the Seafood Research and Education Center work with the industry to enhance safety of fishing and processing, while also addressing new innovations in developing value-added products to further support economic opportunity for families who rely on the seafood industry.

Corresponding Partnerships

Oregon Seafood Commodity Commissions
Seafood Processing Partners
State, Federal, and Tribal Agency Partners
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States Geological Survey
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

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