

Coos Bay Harbor Safety Plan  
Appendix F

## Appendix F - Agencies with Maritime Jurisdiction

### United States Coast Guard

By law, the Coast Guard has 11 missions

- Ports, waterways, and coastal security.
- Drug interdiction.
- Aids to navigation.
- Search and rescue.
- Living marine resources.
- Marine safety.
- Defense readiness.
- Migrant interdiction.

The Coast Guard is the principal Federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in U.S. ports and waterways. In this capacity, the Coast Guard protects and defends more than 100,000 miles of U.S. coastline and inland waterways, and safeguards an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) encompassing 4.5 million square miles stretching from North of the Arctic Circle to South of the equator, from Puerto Rico to Guam, encompassing nine time zones – the largest EEZ in the world. As one of the five Armed Services of the United States, the Coast Guard is the only military branch within the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to its role as an Armed Service, the Coast Guard is a first responder and humanitarian service that provides aid to people in distress or impacted by natural and man-made disasters whether at sea or ashore. The Coast Guard is a member of the Intelligence Community and is a law enforcement and regulatory agency with broad legal authorities associated with maritime transportation, hazardous materials shipping, bridge administration, oil spill response, pilotage, and vessel construction and operation.

### US Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our Nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters.

Essential items the public uses today – from food to fuel – come through the Nation's waterways. Navigating ships within harbors and inland waterways is essential to commerce and American's quality of life. USACE maintains navigation channels, much like road crews maintain highways, and builds breakwaters or jetties to protect homes and businesses from crashing waves. Improvements include deepening and widening so commercial ships and other watercraft can move safely and easily. Dredge material often takes on a beneficial use, becoming habitat areas, including wetlands and protected offshore islands.

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When a storm hits, the USACE-built and maintained dams and reservoirs hold excess water upstream, releasing the water gradually to prevent or reduce downstream flooding. These structures provide fun as well as safety. Boating, swimming, fishing, and camping come courtesy of USACE reservoirs, which have more than 40 million visitors each year. Reservoirs also provide irrigation from farms, water supply storage for communities and protected ecosystems for fish and wildlife. In cities near waterways, floodwalls, levees and diversion channels all work to keep stormwater out of homes, schools, and businesses. USACE also helps reduce flood damage by preventing additional construction in areas most prone to floods. All told, USACE flood reduction projects save taxpayers about \$3 billion in damages each year.

As the Nation's leading public engineering agency, USACE works with other federal agencies to provide support to domestic and international emergencies including the Midwest flood fights, Gulf Coast oil spill, the earthquake in Haiti and the recent Tsunami in Japan. The Corps provides drinking water and ice, cleans up debris, provides auxiliary power, inspects and assesses damaged areas, and engineering expertise to state and federal officials.

### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is responsible for protecting marine water quality under several federal laws. The EPA and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality have entered into an agreement whereby the DEQ regulates all point-source (e.g. a pipe) discharges into rivers, estuaries, and marine waters through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). EPA is also charged with carrying out the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (also known as the Ocean Dumping Act), the Marine Plastics Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987, and the National Marine Pollution Program. The EPA also administers the Clean Air Act of 1977.

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The USFWS (within the U.S. Department of the Interior) administers three National Wildlife Refuges in Oregon's Territorial Sea: the Oregon Islands NWR, Cape Meares NWR, and Three Arch Rocks NWR. USFWS jurisdiction includes approximately 1,400 rocks and islands above state jurisdiction (Mean High Water), the so-called "dry" portion of the rocks and islands. In addition, USFWS co-administers the federal Endangered Species Act and administers several other federal laws related to marine wildlife and seabirds.

### Minerals Management Service (MMS)

The Minerals Management Service is housed in the Department of the Interior. It has two functions of potential interest in Oregon's territorial sea. One is locating and mapping the coastal baseline from which the state's three-mile seaward boundary is drawn for purposes of offshore oil and gas leasing. The other is preparing and carrying out a program of oil and gas lease sales in federal waters of the Outer Continental Shelf and offering leases for marine mineral exploration and development in federal waters.

### National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

The National Marine Fisheries Service, a branch of NOAA within the US Department of Commerce has three interests in Oregon's Territorial Sea. First, NMFS administers the Marine Mammal Protection Act which protects all seals, sea lions, whales, and other marine mammals that use Oregon's ocean area. Second, NMFS co-administers the federal Endangered Species Act

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under which the Stellar sea lion, which breeds on the Oregon coast, is protected. Third, NMFS regulates certain ocean fisheries under the Magnuson Marine Fisheries Conservation Act with consequent indirect effect on fishing activity in Oregon's territorial sea.

National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM)

OCRM, a relatively small agency in NOAA, is responsible for administering the National Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as subsequently amended. OCRM administers essential federal funds to state coastal management programs through both regular grants and special program enhancement grants. Oregon has made use of both grant programs to fund development of the Territorial Sea Management Plan. OCRM has responsibility within NOAA and the Department of Commerce for reviewing and approving state coastal management programs and subsequent amendments under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The National Marine Sanctuary Program and National Estuarine Research Reserve Program are administered by OCRM.

### Coos County Sheriff's Office

The Coos County Sheriff's Office serves as the principal law enforcement agency in accordance with Oregon State Law, and in conjunction with adjacent law enforcement agencies. The Sheriff is the chief executive officer and conservator of the peace of the county. The primary responsibility of the agency is to provide law enforcement services. The Sheriff assigns patrols to proactively deter criminal activity, investigate crimes, and respond to calls for service. The Coos County Sheriff's office is contracted through the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to provide marine safety and enforcement of applicable law to the recreational boating public on all bodies of water inside Coos County, and enforces defined state statutes.