

Shoreline protection is topic of webinars

October 14, 2024



The organizations partnering on the recently launched Oregon Beaches Forever campaign have announced a series of webinars describing threats to the Oregon coast and opportunities for shoreline protection. The webinars are free and open to the public.

The first of these, featuring internationally known expert on coastal erosion Gary Griggs, takes place on Thursday, Oct. 17.

The Surfrider Foundation and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition joined forces in the Oregon Beaches Forever campaign to address the long-term future of Oregon's beaches and explore policies for protecting them. The shoreline is caught in what is known as the "coastal squeeze," as higher tides and stronger storms due to climate change come up against human infrastructure, such as shoreline armoring (riprap and seawalls).

The webinars are co-sponsored by the Oregon King Tides Project, a partnership between the Oregon Coastal Management Program and Oregon Shores' CoastWatch volunteer program. This project organizes volunteer

photographers to document the reach of the year's highest tides, revealing current vulnerabilities and the future effects of climate change.

"We could lose our beaches if we don't take steps to preserve them," said Phillip Johnson, shoreline and land use manager for Oregon Shores. "These webinars are designed to provide us with the information we need to understand the threat and explore solutions."

The webinar at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 17, is titled "Coastal Erosion: A Global and West Coast Perspective." Griggs, a world-renowned coastal geomorphologist, will describe erosion due to sea level rise and extreme storms as a worldwide challenge, and then bring the focus down to the Oregon coast. To register for this webinar, visit bit.ly/erosion-worldwide

On Nov. 21, "Oregon's Changing Shoreline: Sea Level Rise and Tsunamis," will be presented by Jonathan Allan, a geologist with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. To register, go to bit.ly/sealevel_tsunamis.

And on Dec. 4, "Building Climate Resilience for the Oregon Shore" will feature with Peter Ruggiero, a professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University.

The recording of a previous webinar in this series, "Managing the Coastal Squeeze," is now available online at oregonshores.org/news-events-and-resources

To learn more about the webinars, visit oregon.surfrider.org/obf-events or oregonshores.org/coastal-events

To learn more about the Oregon Beaches Forever campaign and future activities, go to oregonshores.org or oregon.surfrider.org

To learn more about the Oregon King Tides Project and a chance to be involved in participatory science, go to www.oregonkingtides.net