

INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON COASTAL RESILIENCY IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: ARE CURRENT LAWS AND POLICIES FLEXIBLE FOR A CHANGING WORLD?

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On April 7, 2017 many law and policy experts, scientists, practitioners, and managers met at the University of Oregon School of Law to discuss coastal resiliency in the face of environmental change. The symposium addressed an identified gap in the law and policy literature related to management of coastal resources in a changing world, addressing questions such as: *How does our existing legal framework accommodate issues such as climate change or coastal development? Can laws help balance between use of and benefit derived from coastal resources? What is needed to develop policies that encompass needs from various jurisdictions, and what are best practices to engage coastal practitioners and decision makers?* Ocean acidification, sea level rise and their impact on coastal development, and energy issues- both renewable and nonrenewable- were the main topics discussed.

The symposium opened with two keynote discussions. Lincoln County Commissioner Terry Thompson and Lincoln County Counsel Wayne Belmont started off the day with a keynote highlighting Lincoln County's ongoing projects to create coastal resilience. Janan Evans-Wilent, with Oregon State University,

¹ Shelby E. Walker (Ph.D. Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, B.A. Wesleyan University) co-organized the **Coastal Resiliency in the Face of Environmental Change: Are Current Laws and Policies Flexible for a Changing Worlds?** symposium and is the director of Oregon Sea Grant. The author thanks the organizations whose support, financial and other, made this conference, and therefore, this special issue of collected papers possible. Foremost is the National Sea Grant Law Center, which provided the core funding for this initiative. This was matched with support from Oregon Sea Grant and the University of Oregon Environment and Natural Resources Law Center. My thanks to the steering committee that helped assemble this symposium, including: Heather Brinton, Director, University of Oregon Environment and Natural Resources Law Center; Richard Hildreth, Director, Ocean and Coastal Program at the University of Oregon School of Law; Robert Bailey, former Coastal Program Manager, Department of Land Conservation and Development; Brent Steel, Director, Public Policy Graduate Program, Oregon State University; and Catherine Janasie, Senior Research Counsel, National Sea Grant Law Center. In particular, I would like to thank the two critical organizers: Megan Kleibacker, Oregon Sea Grant, and Apollonia Goeckner, Environment and Natural Resources Law Center, without whom the symposium would not have been a success. Finally, we thank the members of the discussion panels, our student facilitators, and the authors of the papers who contributed to this special issue of the SEA GRANT LAW & POLICY JOURNAL along with the supportive journal editor Catherine Janasie.

highlighted many climate impacts to the state of Oregon, and what Oregonians can expect looking forward into the future. The remainder of the symposium focused on three panel presentations. First, Dr. George Waldbusser (Oregon State University), Dr. Ryan Kelly (University of Washington School of Marine Affairs), and Dr. Steve Rumrill (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) presented on ocean acidification, a complex ocean condition challenging the pace of our understanding and ability to adapt.

The second panel examined sea level rise and threats to infrastructure. Steve Shipsey (Oregon Assistant Attorney General) provided the context of Oregon's land use planning goals, while Matt Spangler (Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development) highlighted existing policies relative to sea level rise flooding scenarios. Meg Reed (Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development) examined the complexities surrounding public versus private infrastructure and the differences in options to address sea level rise. Dr. Jessica Whitehead (North Carolina Sea Grant) provided examples of how communities can be engaged in planning for and adapting to sea level rise.

The third panel focused on resiliency relating to energy and power issues, particularly in light of potential major hazard events. Rebecca O'Neil (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) highlighted issues related to affordability, reliability, security, and resiliency for coastal communities, while Adam Schultz (Oregon Department of Energy) discussed the state's work in assisting agencies and utilities in best practices to promote resiliency. Jason Busch (Oregon Wave Energy Trust) introduced marine renewable energy and its potential for the coast, while Courtney Johnson (Crag Law Center) highlighted the need to engage local communities in discussions regarding non-renewable energy siting. Students at the University of Oregon Law School, who have contributed their work in some of the papers in this special issue, facilitated these panels.

Key takeaways from these panel discussions included the challenge of translating complex science into policy tools that are clear and effective, and having these policies reflect the scope and scale of the issue that they are striving to address. The symposium revealed that the pace of change in our environment requires continued engagement and discussion amongst scientists, managers, decision-makers, and community members to ensure our laws and policies can adapt effectively.