

## Save Earth Day 2015 for the Oceans

This year, celebrate Earth Day – April 22 – by attending “Climate Change and the Health of Our Ocean,” an educational forum sponsored by the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition. The event will feature a panel of three prominent experts in this field. They will discuss how Oregon’s marine environment and coastal communities are being affected by increasing ocean acidification and how we can best address the impacts. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Ford Room of the Douglas County Library, located at 1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd. in Roseburg.

Our oceans absorb one quarter of man-made carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. More atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> means increased ocean acidity, which currently is up by 30 percent since the start of the industrial age. This is affecting the health of coral reefs and shellfish, including oysters grown in Oregon, and is leading to areas of hypoxia in nearshore waters where levels of oxygen – and marine life – are greatly reduced.



All three of our panelists serve on the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel, formed in 2013, along with others representing California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia who are helping inform resource managers and decision-makers across the region.

We are privileged to host the following speakers:

- Dr. George Waldbusser is Assistant Professor of Ocean Ecology and Biogeochemistry at Oregon State University. He is the lead author of a study published in the journal *Nature* on climate change outlining the factors contributing to the killing of oysters, mussels and other shellfish along the Pacific Coast.
- Dr. Jack Barth is Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University’s College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. He received his PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His talk will focus on the intersection of climate change and ocean circulation.
- Dr. Burke Hales is a Professor at Oregon State University’s College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. He received his PhD in Chemical Oceanography and has been involved in over 25 research projects in his field of expertise. This includes improving the ocean acidification system in support of Pacific Coast shellfish growers. His talk will focus on climate change and ocean chemistry.

The Douglas Global Warming Coalition is an all-volunteer, grassroots organization dedicated to promoting positive solutions to climate change. Our Ocean Health Working Group consists of members who also are part of diverse community organizations including the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, the League of Women Voters, the Steamboaters and Umpqua Watersheds.

For more information contact Stuart Liebowitz at 541-672-9819. We look forward to seeing you at this important community event to help protect the ocean and the waterways we all enjoy.