Headquartered at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, the Oregon Coast STEM Hub (OCSH) serves coastal educators, youth, and rural communities along the entire Oregon coastline, from Brookings to Astoria. Our Hub’s geographic region provides unique opportunities for place-based learning focused on coastal ecosystems, marine science and technologies, and career-connected learning for the maritime sector and other coastal industries. The OCSH supports a wide array of STEM teacher professional development and student experiences in a variety of STEM fields, collaborating with more than 60 partners throughout the region. Our partners include 20 school districts and five post-secondary education institutions, as well as a broad coalition of industry, community organizations, and government agencies committed to our vision to foster a culture of STEM innovation.

VISION: Fostering a culture of STEM innovation by engaging people of all ages to create a vibrant and prosperous region.

MISSION: The Oregon Coast STEM Hub engages learners with STEM by leveraging local and regional resources and collaborating with diverse partners.
One Story of Our Impact: Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) is a non-profit organization that serves children and families in South Lincoln County. Like many small organizations, YYFAP has limited resources and depends on our STEM Hub to help them meet their goals. This year, YYFAP staff participated in OCSH Early Learning Workshops and used the activities to integrate STEM into their preschool programs. YYFAP staff also checked out materials from the STEM Hub Resource Trailer to engage youth in hands-on activities during their summer camp programs. They distributed OCSH-created STEM Backpacks to young children through their Families Together program, and hosted an iNVENT Camp for middle school students that the OCSH facilitated through our partnership with OSU PreCollege Programs.

One Story of Our Impact:

“Together our ORSEA partnership created meaningful, collaborative, and ongoing relationships that interconnect current research, meet education standards, and provide opportunities our students wouldn’t have otherwise.”

– 2021 ORSEA team

Learning in Places

This STEM workshop series held in spring 2021 provided 22 of our rural elementary educators with engaging field-based lessons and activities intended to foster equitable and culturally-relevant science exploration, engage families in student learning, and align with Next Generation Science Standards. Participating K-6 teachers implemented lessons with 425 students and shared their experiences with one another in an online learning community.

Thriving Coastal Communities

In June, 33 Oregon Coast leaders attended a virtual summit on economic and Blue Sector workforce development on the Oregon Coast. Cross-sector participants learned about the OCSH, Oregon Ocean Innovation Hub (O2IH), and efforts to expand broadband access in rural coastal communities, and participated in discussions to develop coast-wide strategies to address rural challenges.