



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

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New maps offer a modern look at the geology of Oregon's southern coast

COOS COUNTY, Ore. – New mapping of Oregon's coast increases understanding of geologic resources and hazards in an area that hasn't been mapped in decades.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) today published geologic maps of the Coos County coast between Bandon, Coquille, and Sunset Bay. The last geologic mapping of coastal Coos County occurred in the 1970s. The new maps were made with the latest technology, as well as modern knowledge of the geologic hazards—such as a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, tsunami, and landslides—facing coastal communities.

“For Oregon's south coast, knowing more about what terrain may be susceptible to landslides, as well as the nature of the seismic hazard, is especially important,” says Tom Wiley, DOGAMI geologist. “This mapping and data are essential for studying these and other hazards.”

The new mapping is part of a multi-year project, started in 2012, to map the Oregon coast from the California border north to Coos Bay. The effort is supported in part by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) STATEMAP component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program.

Beaches are the best places to get a glimpse of the area's geology, Wiley says. Check out state parks, including Short Acres State Park, where erosion has shaped a shore with sharp points of land, reefs, islands, and secluded coves that are dramatically different than any other area of the coast. The predominant rock unit, the Coaledo Formation, contains many marine fossils.

Open File Report O-15-04, Geologic Map of the Southern Oregon Coast between Bandon, Coquille, and Sunset Bay, Coos County, Oregon, by Thomas J. Wiley, Jason D. McClaughry, Clark A. Niewendorp, Lina Ma, Heather H. Herinckx, and Katherine A. Mickelson contains map plates, a report, a geodatabase, GIS files and spreadsheets.

The publication is available for free download here: bit.ly/1kqCsCl