



MARINE MAMMAL INSTITUTE

The Marine Mammal Institute (MMI) is inspired by the majesty of marine megafauna and the window they provide to the overall health of the ocean. The diversity of the institute's approach and its scientific expertise is informed by a commitment to enhance research, education, and outreach. Based in Newport, OSU's Marine Mammal Institute is home to global experts in diverse fields of study, all committed to collaborative approaches to learn about these awe-inspiring animals.

Degree Programs

Marine Mammal Institute faculty hold academic appointments in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences for graduate studies.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

MMI offers a number of experiential learning opportunities, including:

- Journey for Aspiring Students Pursuing Ecological Research
- Graduate assistantships with MMI faculty, involving field work, data analysis, and public engagement

Research

2022 Research Expenditures: \$1,902,500

Research Focus Areas:

- Animal Behavioral Interaction
- Cetacean Conservation and Genomics
- Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna
- Marine Mammal Bioacoustics and Ecology
- Marine Mammal Strandings
- Ocean Ecology
- Whale Habitat, Ecology, and Telemetry



Faces of AgSci

“I knew that the Marine Mammal Institute would not only educate me but also build the connections and open doors that I need to forge a path in cetacean bioacoustics.

Imogen Lucciano, Master's Student

Read more at agsci.oregonstate.edu

MARINE MAMMAL INSTITUTE AT A GLANCE

13  Faculty

9  Postdoctoral Scholars

21  Graduate Students

5  Research Assistants/Associates

\$240,000  MMI Fellowships Awarded since 2018

Outreach Highlights

MMI is committed to student mentorship, community engagement, and public outreach, with programs that include:

- Theodolite Overlooking Predators and Zooplankton (gray whale foraging ecology): community engagement in Port Orford
- Laguna Estuarine System and Adjacent Areas: studying cooperative fishing between humans and dolphins
- Overlap Predictions about Large Whales: working with fishing and management communities to mitigate whale entanglements
- Baja Gray Whale Expedition: direct engagement with adult lifelong learners and donors
- Interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research on MMI's R/V Pacific Storm, a state-of-the-art marine research vessel
- Oregon Gray Whale License Plate: provides funding support for MMI while putting marine mammals front and center in Oregonian's daily lives

The Future of MMI

Marine mammals are among the most beloved creatures in the ocean. They are deeply familiar and yet remain deeply unknown. Based in Newport, OSU's Marine Mammal Institute is home to global experts in diverse fields of study, all committed to collaborative approaches to learn about these awe-inspiring animals.

MMI trains the next generation of scientists, who will go on to work around the world to further our understanding of marine mammals, their habitats, and the impact we humans have on them. Researchers engage with local communities to inform the work we do and to ensure that MMI's collective efforts have the broadest possible impact.

Recently, the MMI was awarded funding from the US Department of Energy to conduct critical baseline research on marine mammals and seabirds along the US West Coast to inform the development of responsible offshore wind energy. This is a salient example of how the institute's expertise—in ecology, acoustics, genetics, and more—is being applied locally to provide critical information to help an emerging global industry mitigate its impacts on marine life.

We believe it is our inherent responsibility as scientists and as humans to discover and share our knowledge with others. We seek to inspire understanding that taps into our shared values to protect and preserve the vital oceans that we all depend upon for survival, inspiration, and joy. We do this because the only way to ensure a healthy future is if we are all stewards of it.

