

# Lower Coquille Watershed Climate Change Vulnerability Project 2012-2013

This project aims to better prepare resource managers by assessing the vulnerabilities of the Coquille Estuary Ecosystem to climate change. Scientists anticipate that climate changes will impact species and habitats in coastal Oregon and throughout the region (*Oregon Climate Assessment Report, 2010*). A vulnerability assessment will help identify which species or systems are likely to be most strongly affected by projected change, and will help understand why these resources are likely to be vulnerable. Determining which resources are most vulnerable enables managers to better set priorities for conservation action, while understanding why they are vulnerable supports developing appropriate management and conservation responses.

## Goal

Provide scientific tools for natural resource managers to understand and better plan for potential change in the Coquille Estuary.

Objectives:

1. Create useful information and tools: Understand management priorities for the Coquille Estuary, concepts of climate change vulnerability, and adaptation solution frameworks.
2. Agree upon the scope and focus of the vulnerability assessment: Identify important estuary species, habitats and processes, lay the scientific groundwork, and address information gaps.
3. Determine the vulnerability of key Coquille Estuary species and processes: Work with regional and local experts to analyze available data to assess the sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity of identified species, habitats, and estuary processes.
4. Communicate findings through summary and comprehensive reports that address regional and local management priorities.

## Timeline and Process

April 18, 2012: Lower Coquille Watershed Climate Change Vulnerability Project Kick-off Workshop  
Bandon Public Library

Summer 2012: Draft Vulnerability Assessment

The project Expert Panel, EcoAdapt and other partners will work together to create a draft vulnerability assessment. Several teleconferences and web-based meetings will occur as needed for collaboration.

Fall/Winter 2013: Final Vulnerability Assessment

The assessment will be finalized and reviewed by the Expert Panel and regional partners

Winter 2013: Workshop in Bandon to share findings and discuss next steps

Details to be announced