

# RISING TIDES

## Oregon King Tides Project turns citizens into scientists

BY MALLORY GRUBEN

The scientists with the Oregon King Tides Project don't have to imagine what the coastline will look like when sea levels rise. They have a photo gallery of real-life examples. This weekend they hope to add to that gallery with the help of citizen scientists.

For the last 12 years, the coastal project has encouraged local photographers and citizen scientists to capture images of the annual king tides, extremely high tide events that occur in the winter when the sun, moon and Earth align closest to each other. It's during this time that seasonal storms often cause larger waves and rapid winds. The images show real examples of how rising sea levels could affect roads, bridges, homes and other infrastructure in the future.

### How king tides predict the future

"On the Oregon Coast, we have high tides anywhere from 6 to 8 feet every day, twice a day. King tides can be anywhere from 10 to 12 feet, especially if there is a storm surge," said Jesse Jones, volunteer coordinator for CoastWatch, a citizen coastline monitoring program that partners with Oregon Coast Management to host the Oregon King Tides Project each year.

The publicly collected photos serve as a basis for cities and other planning agencies to determine how to safely build near the coastline, especially in preparation for future years when sea levels are higher.

"The way Oregon Coast Management and CoastWatch look at it, the king tides are

an indicator of sea level rise. ... The king tides of today are the regular high tides of tomorrow," Jones said.

The king tides are predicted to hit North Coast beaches this weekend, from Friday to Saturday. They're expected to return again the first weekend of the new year on Jan. 1.

### Photographers could win a prize

Jones said this year they are asking photographers to focus on gathering comparison photos. Photographers are encouraged to take and submit images of the same location during king tides and the regular high tides. Submitted images will appear on the Oregon King Tides Project Flickr page and can be viewed by the public year-round.



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

See Page 9

Visitors watch a large log get carried up the beach in Cannon Beach.



Carolyn Hoard

Waves crash over rocks in Cannon Beach.

### Upcoming King Tides

Friday through Saturday

Jan. 1 to Jan. 3

Submit citizen scientist photos to  
[oregonkingtides.net](http://oregonkingtides.net)

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