

Volunteer Newsletter

May / June 2015

Get Into Your Sanctuary Day!

Celebrate a Healthy Ocean, Healthy You

Come celebrate America's most iconic natural and cultural marine resources at Kalaloch Lodge on June 27, 2015

9:30am Yoga on Kalaloch Beach with Poser Yoga

11:30am Beach ecology walk and cleanup with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and SurfRiders

3:00pm Learn about our southern resident killer whales with Lynne Barre from NOAA Fisheries

Enjoy a sustainable seafood dinner around the Olympic Peninsula with Olympic Culinary Loop Restaurants



Sponsored by National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Kalaloch Lodge

For more information or to pre-register for events please contact Nicole Harris at nicole.harris@noaa.gov or 360-457-6622 x19

Upcoming Events

Sat. June 27 Get Into Your Sanctuary Day at Kalaloch Lodge!

Sun. July 5 The Sunday after Independence Day, clean up Fourth of July firework debris on the southern shores, from Cape Disappointment to Moclips, Register at www.coastsavers.org.

July 14-15 Volunteer Appreciation Cruise aboard the RV *Tatoosh*! For active volunteers only. Please contact karlyn.langjahr@noaa.gov to reserve your space!

Fri. July 17 Sanctuary advisory council meeting at The Landing in Port Angeles from 10:00am-3:30pm. Open to the public.

July 17-19 Quileute Days, La Push. Traditional dancing and songs, salmon bake, canoe races, stick games, horseshoe tournament and fireworks. Visit: forkswa.com/event/3256/.

Aug. 28-30 Makah Days, Neah Bay. Festivities include traditional dancing, canoe races, slahal tournament, salmon bakes, parade and street fairs, fireworks, coronation of Makah Royal Court and the 3 mile Bahokus Peak run. Visit: makah.com/activities/makah-days/.

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2015 Docent Training



During April and May, we conducted another successful docent training with an updated roster that included new presentation topics. George Galasso spoke about the sanctuary's work with our four Coastal Treaty Tribes, including regional tribal historical background, and Heidi Pedersen introduced volunteers to NOAA's Marine Debris monitoring program. Trainees even got to practice sorting, classifying and recording data from a debris collection using NOAA protocol. Three new volunteers, Tamara Galvan, Jenny Schaper and Carmen Tait, completed their docent training this year. Please welcome Tamara, Jenny and Carmen!

Largest Turnout for Washington Coast Cleanup Event!



On Saturday April 25, volunteers gathered to collect marine debris along the Washington shores from the Columbia River to Cape Flattery into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. With over 1,500 volunteers, it was the largest turnout in the history of this annual cleanup! Participants hauled hundreds of bags of garbage, boat parts, floats, nets, rope and plastic bottles, removing an estimated 17 tons (34,000 pounds) of

marine debris from over 60 beaches. Volunteers at select sites sorted through some marine debris to support recycling efforts. At the end of the day, volunteers gathered at various barbecues, hosted by Surfrider Foundation, Grass Roots Garbage Gang, Delaware North Companies Parks & Resorts and The Lost Resort, to share stories, socialize and refuel. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff organized volunteers at Neah Bay registration station and coordinated a remote beach cleanup at Cape B on Makah Reservation, along with staff from Makah Tribe and Surfrider Foundation.



The Washington Coast Cleanup is the largest public cleanup event on the outer coast of Washington. CoastSavers serves to engage local and regional community members in marine conservation efforts. If you couldn't make it on April 25 or want to do more, join the July 5th Beach Cleanup to gather Independence Day fireworks on the southern shores: www.coastsavers.org

OCNMS Nominees for 2014 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Sally and Paul Parker of Neah Bay, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's nominees for the system-wide National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year for 2014. Sally and Paul were nominated for their involvement together and separately in several activities since becoming steadfast volunteers in 2007, collectively contributing more than 725 hours towards

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monitoring coastal health. The couple actively contributes to citizen science teams, collecting data for the NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring Program and for the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST). Both programs are vital to gather information to inform sanctuary management and engage private citizens to improve awareness of ocean health and inspire stewardship of marine resources. Sally and Paul go above and beyond data collection, collecting as much marine debris as they can haul off of their surveyed beaches each month.



They are both also instrumental as local stewards in their community at Neah Bay, participating in the fall and spring Washington Coastal Cleanups sponsored by CoastSavers each year. Paul Parker has been a COASST Advisory Board member for two years, helping to shape the future direction and purpose of citizen science in Washington State, and providing important input from a community member's perspective. The Parkers were honored in June, along with one volunteer nominee from each of the thirteen national marine sanctuaries and the one national marine monument, at the Ocean Awards Gala during Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington, D.C. organized by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Thanks to Sally and Paul for all of their hard work and to each and every one of YOU making a difference in the sanctuary system!

Salt Creek Tidepooling Field Trip and BBQ Picnic



All Discovery Center docents were invited to the annual Salt Creek tidepooling trip on Saturday, May 20. As we walked out to the tide pools from Crescent Beach, a pair of eagles swooped over our heads, greeting us to a beautiful start for the day.

Expert tide pooler, Jim Jewell, led the group around Tongue Point, pointing out diverse organisms and noting the continued lack of ochre sea stars with its population decimated from sea star wasting disease. Nonetheless, we did encounter many blood stars, a mottled sea star, a painted sea star and a tiny six-rayed sea star. My favorites of the day were the massive gumboot chitons! The lovely excursion wrapped up with a social cook out overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Thank you to Jim and everyone who joined us this year!



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Welcome 2015 Hollings Scholars!

This summer, Olympic Coast is excited to host three Hollings Scholars from NOAA's Office of Education. Please welcome Billie Case, Kathryn Hobart and Courtney Knox!

Hello OCNMS! This summer is my first time out on the West Coast and I have been blown away by the friendliness and natural beauty of the peninsula. I am a rising senior from Washington, D.C at American University majoring in Environmental Studies with Finance and Philosophy minors. Working with OCNMS as one of the Junior Oceanographer summer camp coordinators gives me a great opportunity to learn more about the ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest and work with enthusiastic educators from both the sanctuary and the Feiro Marine Life Center. With less than ten weeks to explore the peninsula, I am doing my best to reach the best places each week so suggestions for things to do or see are always appreciated!

—Billie

Hey OCNMS! I'm from California's Bay Area, but attending Oberlin College in Ohio as a rising senior majoring in Geology and minoring in Chemistry. Ohio is pretty flat, so I'm loving the fact that I can be at the beach in the morning and the mountains in the afternoon! I'm working with Liam Antrim and Heidi Pedersen this summer on analyzing the NOAA marine debris data, so stay tuned for updates on what I find. Feel free to let me know if you have any particular questions about marine debris at OCNMS that I could answer with the data!

—Kathryn

My name is Courtney Knox and I am the third Hollings Scholar to arrive and begin work here at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary this summer! I will be entering my senior year at Western Washington University in the fall, with the intent of graduating next spring with a Bachelor of Science in



Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. While most Hollings Scholars from the West Coast choose internship sites out East, I chose to stick around and enjoy the beauty of Washington summers. Hence, I seem to have acquired the nickname "the local". In my opinion, Washington is most beautiful in the summertime, so there was little incentive for me to leave. I will be working with the Feiro Marine Life Center this summer to coordinate our joint Marine Tech camps hosted at Feiro Marine Life Center at the end of July. While I don't really have much of a background in marine science technology, I am excited to acquire some teaching experience that will hopefully prepare me for a teaching career in math. I've really enjoyed meeting everyone I have met thus far, and if I haven't met you yet, I hope to meet you soon!

—Courtney

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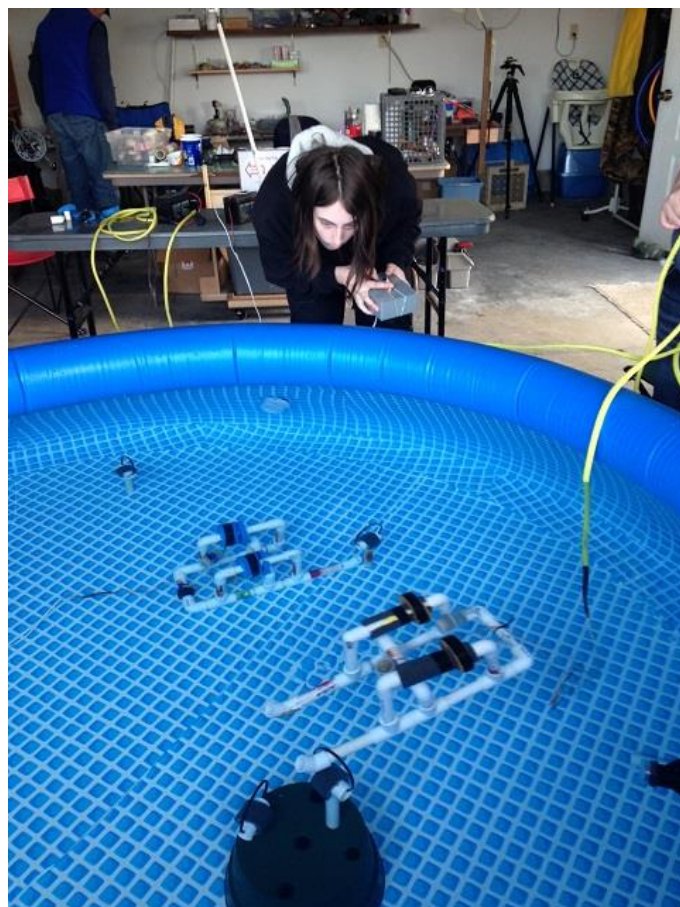
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Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Fair 2015

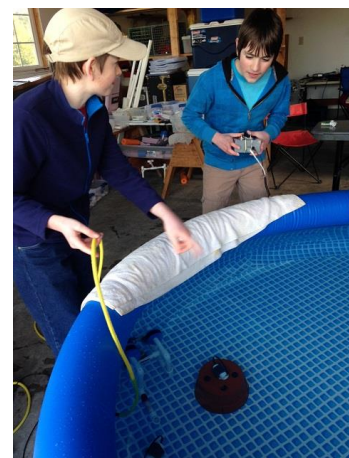


On May 2-3, Danny Palmer, Education and Stewardship Specialist, represented OCNMS by hosting an educational booth at the Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival in Hoquiam. This annual event is timed to match the annual migration of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds as they stop at to feed and rest at the Grays Harbor estuary before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species. Danny led adults and children through a dissection of albatross boluses as they discussed the problem of marine debris in our ocean and on our shorelines. Kids drew a picture of Wisdom the Laysan Albatross as they brainstormed personal actions we can all take to help albatross and other animals live long and healthy lives. The festival offered a series of speakers, guided tours through national wildlife refuges and local viewing areas and an exhibitors' hall. Hosted by Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and the City of Hoquiam, over 1,000 visitors attended the festival.

Afterschool Robotics Club with Feiro



Nine students and four mentors, including OCNMS Education Specialist Nicole Harris, are part of the after school Robotics Club run through our partners at Feiro Marine Life Center. Since October 2014, students and mentors meet weekly to learn about underwater robotics, and to build their own Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) for the Kitsap Underwater Robotics competition. Students have built their own thrusters and frames,



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and wired the thrusters to the control boxes, and incorporated personal design and manipulators into their vehicles for competition challenges, all the while striving for neutral vehicle buoyancy in the water. Three teams (two middle school teams and one all-girl high school team) represented Feiro Marine Life Center and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary at the Kitsap Competition May 30 in Bremerton. The high school team won an honorable mention. Wayne Roberts, Feiro volunteer and club mentor, received the special teacher award for his outstanding mentorship of the young ROV enthusiasts. The club will take a summer break, and resume in the fall of 2015.

Brown Bag Enrichment Events



During the spring, we offered several learning opportunities with “brown bag lunch” presentations in the classroom. On April 10, Megan Juran, Olympic National Park Ranger, spoke about her seven months of volunteer work in the Hawaiian Northwestern Islands, home to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Megan shared gorgeous images and funny stories about many marine bird species, as well as other notable wildlife, while based on Tern Island.

On April 15, Nicole Harris of OCNMS gave an informative presentation about tsunami and earthquake preparedness. Nicole made “Go Bags,” portable emergency kits for survival, including one for our Discovery Center, along with a resource binder and information about the Cascadia Mega-Quake.

Then, on May 12, Mary Sue Brancato delivered a thoughtful presentation on her work with the small, but productive, NOAA International Marine Protected Area Capacity Building Program. The presentation, “Finding Home Sweet Home in a Changing Ocean Environment,” discussed the role of marine protected areas in helping to effectively manage networks of marine and coastal protected areas in the world. Mary Sue shared examples of her work across the globe, from the Philippines to Africa. Stay tuned for the return of enrichment activities in the fall!

Kids Day for Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge Anniversary

On June 20, Danny Palmer, Education and Stewardship Specialist for OCNMS, and Hollings Scholar Billie Case spent Kids Day at Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, a free community event to celebrate 100 years of the refuge’s protection. More than 200 kids attended the event with their families, touring exhibits with a “passport” to guide them through an educational journey of regional wildlife and habitats. The sanctuary booth provided information about sea otters, including how to distinguish between sea and river otters. Kids crafted sea otter puppets and took home an educational coloring book. Other activity presenters included Friends of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, New Dungeness Light Station Association, Olympic National Park, Quilcene National Fish Hatchery and others.

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Creature Feature

Common Jellyfish

Many marine animals rely on jellyfish for food, including birds, fish and sea turtles.

Moon Jelly (*Aurelia aurita*)



Photo credit Christopher Krembs, WDOE

Moon jellies are globally distributed and characterized by their white or translucent saucer-shaped body. Short tentacles drape the edges of its dome and four-leaf-clover-shaped organs are found at its center. Ranging in size between 2-16 inches, *Aurelia* are typically found near the surface of the water pulsing horizontally to maximize their predatory reach. They feed on zooplankton and planktonic forms of crustaceans, mollusks and fish when prey are trapped in the mucus of the jelly's surface, and then passed to canals which branch into the stomach. This species is only mildly toxic, potentially causing a mild sting or itchy rash if it comes into contact with a human.

Lion's Mane Jelly (*Cyanea capillata*)



Photo credit Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Named after their mass of thin, entangling tentacles, which resemble a lion's mane, this is the world's largest jellyfish. The bell of a lion's mane jellyfish can reach a size of 8 feet wide, with tentacle length varying from 30 feet up to a recorded 120 feet! This species favors cooler waters and the coastal Pacific Ocean off OCNMS, but they are also found in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Salish Sea. Their color darkens as they grow, beginning with a pinkish-yellow bell color at a small size, to a reddish or yellow-brown color from 5-18 inches, and then darkening to reddish-brown as they grow past 18 inches. Eight groups of tentacles capture prey of plankton, fish, small crustaceans and other jellyfish as they travel across the water column like a massive net. Although not lethal, the stings from their tentacles can be quite painful and irritating. A lion's mane jellyfish can sting even after it dies, so avoid them on the beach and be careful when pulling in fishing nets!

Fried Egg Jellyfish

(*Phacellophora camtschatica*)



The fried egg jellyfish is a cool-water species found worldwide in the temperate oceans, ranging from Alaska to California in the U.S. When seen from above, these jellyfish resemble a broken egg-yolk, giving them their common name. The bell can measure up to two feet in diameter, with 16 clusters of tentacles measuring 6 to 20 feet long, which ensnare smaller jellyfish and other gelatinous zooplankton. It is said that the sting from this species is so weak that small crustaceans, like larval crabs, will ride the bell to steal food from its tentacles or arms. There is both a benthic and planktonic phase in the *Phacellophora* life cycle, alternating from asexual reproduction while attached to rocks or piers to sexual reproduction in open waters.