

# OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2007

### Making a Difference

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."* -Margaret Mead

This quote hangs on the bulletin board in our office, surrounded by photos of OCDC volunteers, and reminds me of how important it is for us to educate the public about the ocean and the critical need for all of us to take better care of it.

I recently read a news article about a small group of fishermen in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Frustrated with all the marine debris that fouled their gear, they began collecting it and bringing it back to the dock to be recycled or properly disposed of. Now they have the support of NOAA, and a small grant to pay for garbage disposal and mapping locations of more debris; and their project is spreading.

"[This is] something that's been a problem for a long time but there hasn't been an effective way of dealing with this stuff. I give them an enormous amount of credit [for doing] this," says Harbormaster Mark Patterson.

Read more about this group of people who are making a difference at  
<http://ledger.southofboston.com/articles/2007/08/17/news/news03.txt>

### JEAN-MICHAEL COUSTEAU IN TOWN

Ocean explorer, environmentalist, and film producer Jean-Michel Cousteau will be in Port Angeles Thursday, October 4. He will speak at Peninsula College's noontime Studium Generale program, as well as at a special dinner that evening. For more information or to make reservations for the dinner, please call the Peninsula College Foundation at 360.417.6535.

### Volunteers Needed

Here's a chance to help salmon recovery in the Dungeness River by participating in a project to install a series of large logjams near the Dungeness River Center. Volunteers are needed to help out in netting fry (small salmon) in a section of the river's side channels where the stream flow will be temporarily rerouted while the logs are put in place. It's fun and not technically difficult but you need to be physically able to get around a river bed. The project will take place the week of September 10, probably late in the week. This will likely take half a day or more. You will be supplied with nets and other gear. You should have hip boots, or be OK with getting your shoes wet (boots with felted soles recommended for in-water work). If interested in volunteering, contact Byron Rot at 360-681-4615. The salmon of Dungeness River thank you.



### Seattle Aquarium

Eighteen staff and volunteers from the OCDC and Feiro Marine Life Center explored the Seattle Aquarium on Thursday, August 23. We enjoyed seeing the new display of coastal fish



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and habitat, as well as all the other displays. We also had an interesting conversation with their volunteer coordinators about recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers. Unfortunately we did not get the "inside" tour of the facility because our group was too large for the confined spaces, and their staff was busy with other events.



Inside the Seattle Aquarium

### Labor Day in the OCDC

Come join us Monday between 10:00 and 5:00 for an end of summer celebration in the OCDC. We'll have food and door prizes for volunteers who participate for an hour or more. We'll also be constructing a new display for the OCDC - a mural of marine debris from sanctuary beaches. After Labor Day we will be open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 to 5:00 until November.

### Makah Days

I enjoyed my first trip to Makah Days last weekend; the beautiful and very talented Makah dancers, the exciting canoe races, and the spectacular fireworks display. I also enjoyed sampling all the delicious food, especially the halibut fish and chips. Yummy! If you have

never been to Makah Days, make a note to put it on your '08 calendar for the last weekend in August.



Winning Canoe at Makah Days

Many thanks to Rob for taking responsibility for setting up the tent and display on Friday, then taking it all down and returning it to the warehouse on Sunday. Thanks also to Beth and Juanita for helping with setup on Friday, and to Roy and Nancy for helping staff the booth on Saturday. We talked to approximately 125 visitors who stopped by our OCNMS booth.



Makah Dancers at Makah Days