

## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 9, 2012

### **ABOUT THE SANCTUARY**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons.

The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone - home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes, and Quinault Nation.

Treaty Tribes through the IPC to identify areas for collaboration and to promote early and frequent discussions on marine area management issues.

## **OFFICE REPORT**

### **OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES**

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas

### **TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Coastal Tribes Learn about Sanctuary Management Priorities and Office of National Marine Sanctuary Regulatory Review**

The Quinault Indian Nation hosted an Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) meeting on February 8th in Taholah, Washington. OCNMS staff presented an overview of proposed sanctuary activities for 2012. The IPC is keenly interested in making progress on several research issues including oceanographic monitoring and habitat characterization, which are initiatives outlined in OCNMS' new management plan. OCNMS has committed to working cooperatively with Washington Coastal

## **ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT**

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council sets 2012 Priorities**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council met on February 10 to discuss and finalize their 2012 Advisory Council work plan, focusing on supporting implementation of key sections of the revised OCNMS Management Plan. They will focus on improving and supporting Advisory Council operations and effectiveness, participating in the national Advisory Council summit, and communicating and coordinating with Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council. They also committed to reviewing and commenting on OCNMS Long Range Facility Plan, supporting key research components (oceanographic monitoring and data management), providing feedback on a Long Range Interpretive Plan, assisting in the development of a Climate Change Site Assessment, identifying opportunities for marine debris education and restoration, and supporting voluntary compliance outreach efforts for resource protection programs addressing overflights, marine shipping, and cruise ship discharges. Advisory Council members also received briefings on key issues such as the ongoing climate change assessment, Japanese tsunami derived marine debris, and a progress report from the data management working group. Six new members for conservation, research, tourism/recreation, and commercial fishing seats were also welcomed to the Council.

### **Berntal Represents ONMS West Coast Region at NOAA West Region Meeting**

Carol Berntal participated in the NOAA West Region annual meeting in Skamania, Washington, representing the West Coast Region for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The meeting focused on reviewing NOAA West accomplishments for 2011, the status of priority projects, and identifying priorities for 2012. This coming year Dave Lott will serve as the ONMS representative for NOAA West.

## **Looking to the Future for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Facilities**

On March 7, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary hosted a public workshop on the development of a long-term facility strategy for the sanctuary. The facilities planning workshop was facilitated by Facilities Programming and Consulting. The recommendations from the draft report were presented, and the public was invited to comment. Recommendations included new or improved facilities both in Port Angeles and on the outer coast adjacent to the sanctuary. One idea that has attracted local attention and support is the concept of developing a campus with partners on the Port Angeles water front. Both the City of Port Angeles and the Feiro Marine Life Center have expressed interest in the concept, and discussions are underway for further analysis of the concept. Judith Morris, Olympic Peninsula staff for Representative Norm Dicks, attended the workshop.

## **CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT**

### **NOAA Status and Trends Mussel Watch Sampling off Washington State**

Liam Antrim, OCNMS Resource Protection Specialist, joined representatives from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee to collect samples for NOAA's Status and Trends Mussel Watch Program. Shellfish from the Cape Flattery area have been analyzed for contaminant body burdens and histopathology for more than 20 years. Cape Flattery is adjacent to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and is remote from human development found at other Mussel Watch sampling sites. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has assumed responsibility for coordination of future sampling events. Mussel Watch sites are sampled every two years for this long term monitoring program, which uses invertebrates as integrators of water quality and contaminant concentrators.

## **IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY**

### **Over 40 Prominent Educators Participate in Meaningful Watershed Education Experience Roundtable**

Pacific Northwest Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) manager Robert Steelquist attended the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience Roundtable, organized cooperatively by two Pacific Northwest B-WET recipients. Over 40 prominent educators from Western Washington participated. The goal of the workshop was to identify best practices and develop strategies for integration of watershed and ocean literacy education into all environmental education programs in Washington. The term "meaningful watershed education experience" is based on concepts and criteria central to NOAA B-WET grants. Regional place-based education leaders are recognizing the standards and criteria used in B-WET as exemplars of excellence in environmental education. NOAA's investment in B-WET within the region is beginning to leverage resources well beyond the funding that NOAA provides as grants, thus magnifying the influence of NOAA and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries education efforts among state, tribal, federal and non-profit education organizations.

### **Beachcombers Fun Fair Draws More Than 2500 Participants**

Olympic Coast Discovery Center Manager Janet Lamont hosted a sanctuary information kiosk and activities table at the Beachcombers Fun Fair in Ocean Shores, Washington, on March 3 and 4. This festival, which is always popular with coastal residents, drew more than 2500 participants with this year's focus on marine debris from the Japanese tsunami of 2011. Janet also presented "Voyage of an Albatross", a program that focused on wildlife impacts of marine debris and local responses to this global issue.

### **Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon Education Program Funded**

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon Recovery Team received a \$10,000 grant from NOAA's Office of Education. The funding will be used to engage Washington's outer coast communities and students in place-based activities involving Lake Ozette Sockeye salmon. Students will go in the field to observe the Lake Ozette watershed ecosystem and learn from scientists about the limiting factors to the threatened Lake Ozette Sockeye salmon population. Students will

also interview elders in their community and gather oral histories to learn more about the cultural importance of sockeye and how the ecosystem has changed over time

## **CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY**

### **Washington Clean Coast Alliance Meet for Annual Meeting**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal, Resource Protection Specialist Liam Antrim, and Education and Outreach Specialist Jacqueline Laverdure, participated in the annual strategic planning meeting of the Washington Clean Coast Alliance. The Alliance which includes a broad spectrum of participating nonprofits, community groups, corporations, and public agencies coordinates Washington CoastSavers Program and beach cleanups on the outer coast of Washington. The meeting was attended by Nir Barnea, West Coast Regional Coordinator for NOAA Marine Debris Program, who gave a presentation addressing the elevated concerns about the volumes of debris from the Japanese tsunami that may reach the Washington coast, as well as radioactivity (lack of), hazardous materials, human health issues, and items of personal significance to Japanese citizens. The annual, coast-wide Washington Coast Cleanup will be on April 21, 2012. OCNMS has a significant role in the Alliance with beach cleanup planning and implementation, as well as education and outreach on impacts of marine debris. OCNMS Management plan includes action plans for Marine Debris and Community Outreach with strategies for OCNMS to participate as an active member in Washington Clean Coast Alliance and support Washington CoastSavers Program.

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Provides Briefing on New Sanctuary Regulation**

At the annual meeting of the North West and Canada Cruise Association, Washington Department of Ecology, and Port of Seattle to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding governing cruise ship discharges in Washington state waters, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary provided a briefing on new sanctuary regulations effective December 1, 2011. Revised sanctuary regulations prohibit all wastewater discharges from cruise ships into sanctuary waters. The environmental assessment completed by the sanctuary concluded these regulations impose no operational costs to the industry, while the benefits of the regulations include regulatory clarity, consistency in discharge regulations among national marine sanctuaries on the West Coast, and a more precautionary approach to water quality protection in a marine protected area of national significance. Significance: This meeting provides an opportunity for direct communication with industry representatives and lays the groundwork for future collaborations in outreach to optimize compliance with sanctuary regulations.

### **Collaboration on Outreach to Pilots**

Deputy Superintendent George Galasso worked with the Washington State Departments of Transportation, and Parks and Recreation, on the feasibility of providing information to general aviation pilots on the sanctuary's new overflight regulations. The possibility of providing signage co-located with Copalis (Beach) State Airport information is currently being considered. The Copalis State Airport is a unique airport, management by Washington State and located on the beach adjacent to the southern portion of the sanctuary. The collaboration of the airport manager in educating general aviation pilots on sanctuary overflight regulations offers creditability to this effort to protect marine wildlife from being harassed by low flying aircraft.

### **Regional Contingency Plan for Japan Tsunami Marine Debris Response**

Liam Antrim has joined an inter-agency planning team working on development of a Japan tsunami marine debris Contingency Plan to guide response planning and efforts in the Pacific Northwest. Other planning team participants represent NOAA's Marine Debris Program, U.S. Coast Guard and Washington State departments of Health, Ecology, and Emergency Management. A regional workshop to discuss and refine the Contingency Plan will be held April 25 in Ocean Shores, Washington.

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## **UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY’S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Sanctuary Advisory Council to Discuss Socioeconomic Studies of Washington’s Outer Coast**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s Advisory Council will meet on March 16 at the WA Department of Natural Resources conference room in Forks, Washington. The Council will hear a report on the Long Range Facilities Plan under development for the sanctuary. The afternoon’s agenda includes briefings and discussion on proposed socioeconomic studies for Washington’s outer coast. Member reports will include a Washington Department of Ecology’s ongoing work to revise the state’s Contingency Rule, which addresses oil spill response readiness.

## **NEWS COVERAGE**

### **Long-range NOAA plan urges marine sanctuary campus in Port Angeles**

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120309/news/303099983>

### **Groups sue over Navy sonar use off Northwest coast, including Olympic marine sanctuary**

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120128/news/301289999>

## **WEB SITE (<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>)**

### **Recent Updates**

None to report.

### **Follow the OCNMS on Facebook!**

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/usolympiccoastgov>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.  
Comments and suggestions can be sent to [Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov).*

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## **FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES**

### **National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

### **National Ocean Service**

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

### **Office of National Marine Sanctuaries**

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

### **NOAA Marine Debris Program**

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

### **NOAA Online Media Library**

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

### **Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries**

<http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>

## NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

## National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

## Washington's Ocean Resources

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>

### Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html)

### The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## OCNMS Staff

**Carol Bernthal** – Superintendent

**George Galasso** – Deputy Superintendent

**Patrick A'Hearn** – Oceanography Specialist (contractor)

**Liam Antrim** – Resource Protection Specialist, Acting Advisory Council Coordinator

**Thomas Baker** – Resource Protection Specialist (recalled to active USCG duty through March 2012)

**Ed Bowlby** – Research Coordinator

**Katie Brenkman** – Research Technician (contractor)

**Jennifer Bright** – Research Technician (contractor)

**Eric Evans** – IT Consultant (contractor)

**Rick Fletcher** – R/V Tatoosh Captain (contractor)

**Carey Floyd** – Graphic and Web Designer (contractor)

**Norma Klein** – Office Administrator

**Janet Lamont** – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

**Jacqueline Laverdure** – Education Specialist

**Heidi Pedersen** – Education Specialist (contractor)

**Robert Rountree** – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

**Robert Steelquist** – Education & Outreach Coordinator

**LT Nathan Witherly** – Operations Officer (NOAA Corps)

**Nancy Wright** – Geographer

## Get involved!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:  
<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/welcome.html>



## - Contact Information -

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