

## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

### A Report for Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Reporting Period: SEP 15 – OCT 15, 2020

#### ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,188 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 numerous marine mammal and seabird species, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 200 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of the Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes and the Quinault Nation.

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

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) management priorities

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### TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

**Native, indigenous, and tribal collaboration survey for National Marine Sanctuary System** Collaboration with tribal or indigenous cultures is an integral part of the management of our sanctuaries and monuments. To accomplish this, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Program is seeking to comprehensively identify our level of engagement with tribal and indigenous partners where we share the responsibility for preserving cultural heritage in our sites. The goal of this internal ONMS survey is to expand and enhance our recognition of the full spectrum of tangible and intangible underwater cultural heritage within our stewardship responsibility and implement effective management strategies to preserve them. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s experiences working with the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute Tribes, and the Quinault Nation will be an important contribution to this effort.

### COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

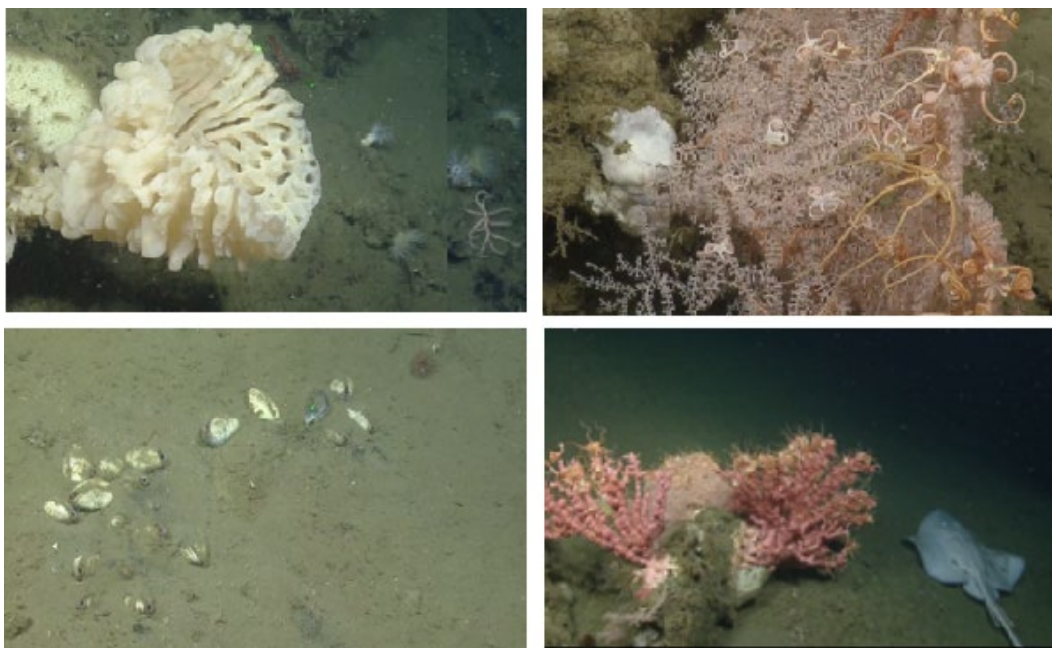
#### Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff joins colleagues in a meeting of resource protection and permitting coordinators

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) staff held a virtual meeting with resource protection and permit coordinators. With the primary objective of the National Marine Sanctuary Act being the protection of sanctuary natural and heritage resources, the work of resource protection professionals is at the heart of ONMS’s mission, vision, and strategic goal to “ensure thriving sanctuaries.” An in-person crosscut meeting of staff involved in these issues has long been planned and was funded for this year; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, other plans were made. The goals of the meeting were to use a team approach to address resource protection threats and issues more efficiently and effectively across the system, and to build a solid foundation of knowledge on ONMS resource protection topics and staff expertise. Topics included a review of staffing, issues and areas of expertise; supporting resource protection through consistent use of permit terms and conditions; and, improving internal communication.

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

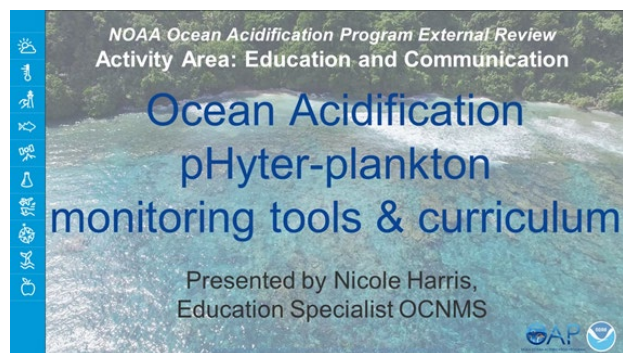
### Deep sea research expedition at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, in partnership with Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) and Oregon State University, conducted a 12-day research expedition aboard the E/V *Nautilus* into Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and adjacent Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) areas. The goals of the mission were to map and explore deep sea coral and sponge habitats along with methane seep communities. The E/V *Nautilus* is equipped with telepresence technology, allowing viewers across the world to watch the expedition live and directly engage with mission staff. Learn more at: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/live/2020/oet.html>



## IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

### Ocean Acidification Program external review looks at pHyter plankton project



NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program (OAP) initiated an external review process to help assess its quality, relevance, and performance over the last five years. OAP reached out to several of their funded primary investigators to provide pre-recorded presentations that reflect progress towards the 2010 NOAA Ocean and Great Lakes Acidification Research Plan. Representing the Education and Communication activity area, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education staff provided a short

presentation highlighting the OAP funded Ocean Acidification pHyter-plankton Monitoring Tools and Curriculum project. A watch party was provided for the external review panelists, with an opportunity to ask questions to the presenter following the presentation. The pHyter project

piloted new technology with plankton monitoring to engage students and volunteers in long-term ocean monitoring to understand ocean acidification and the potential impacts on ocean resources.

### **Next on Nautilus: Dive in at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) staff joined Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) for a live event on Tuesday September 22, focused on the Nautilus mission exploring deep sea habitats off the coast of Washington. With over 2200 audience members joining in from around the world, the live event highlighted the need to understand Essential Fish Habitat of deep sea coral and sponge communities in these highly productive and little known canyon ecosystems. OET staff hosted the live event narrowing down on the importance of these opportunities to explore Quinault Canyon and other deep sea habitats of the OCNMS, as well as speaking to the importance of education opportunities for the next generation of ocean explorers along our coast. The highlight of the event may have been the example of razor clams as a fishery and a food, with QIN showing a ready to cook razor clam and a fried, ready to eat razor clam, teasing the audience with the meaty mollusk delicacy well known to Olympic Coast communities. Exploration Vessel Nautilus will be in OCNMS through September 30 before making its way down the west coast to California sanctuaries for its next mission.



### **Olympic Coast welcomes new AmeriCorps members**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) welcomes two Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps members, Cheyenne Palmo and Holly Keedy. Cheyenne and Holly will be with OCNMS until July 30, 2021, serving as Environmental Education and Stewardship Specialists.



Cheyenne relocated to Washington from Richmond, Virginia to serve as an AmeriCorps service member with the education team at OCNMS. She received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Mary Washington. Through her collegiate career, she discovered her passion for climate justice and environmental communication. Cheyenne hopes to continue outreach work with vulnerable coastal communities after her service term. In her free time, Cheyenne can be found hiking through Olympic National Park or playing ultimate Frisbee. Fitting to OCNMS, her favorite animal is an orca!



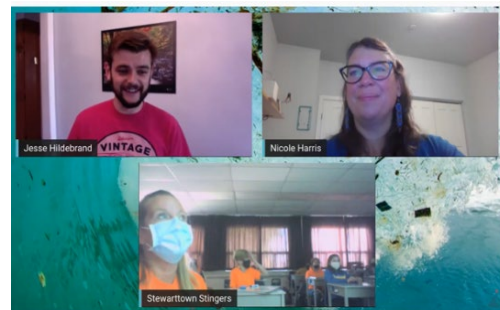
Holly earned her Master of Science in Environmental Science, Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, and Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science from California State University Dominguez Hills. Before serving in AmeriCorps, Holly created and taught curriculum for non-profits, interned as a chemist at a water recycling facility, and served in the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. She hopes to pursue a career that focuses on water quality when her term is over. In her free time, Holly enjoys being outdoors, fishing, hiking, and spending time with her

dog Nebula.



## Breaking down plastics in the ocean

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Education Specialist Nicole Harris provided Your Pants. The presentation was part of the month long Ocean Plastics event, kicking off the 2020-2021 school year. Over 150 students from around the nation joined the presentation, diving in and breaking down plastics in the ocean. Creative ways communities are working together to better understand and combat this global issue, from community stewardship and student monitoring, to innovative thinking and technologies were explored., a lively discussion on the impacts of plastics and some of the ways we can take personal and community based actions to mitigate marine debris followed the presentation.



## Don't pet waste water

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Community Engagement Specialist presented information on the importance of scooping up pet waste to conserve beneficial qualities of water to 20 members of Surfrider's Port Angeles Chapter. Impacts of leaving waste on the landscape such as facilitating algal blooms and exacerbating hypoxia were highlighted. Tips for proper disposal were also offered followed by a lively discussion on sharing what was learned.

## CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

### Washington CoastSavers organize local International Coastal Cleanup efforts

Washington volunteers showed their appreciation for the coastline of their state by coming out to pick up marine debris this past weekend. Nearly 500+ dedicated volunteers from around the Pacific Northwest followed COVID-safety guidelines while celebrating [Ocean Conservancy's 35th annual International Coastal Cleanup](#) (ICC) on September 19, 2020. Volunteers hauled away an estimated 8,000 lbs. of plastic water bottles, household trash, lost fishing gear, and other types of washed up debris that kill or poison our coastal wildlife and spoil the natural beauty of our shorelines. The approximate value of the volunteer effort totaled nearly \$50,000! These results are especially impressive taking into consideration that twenty Olympic National Park, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Makah, Quinault, Quileute, and Hoh tribal beaches were closed for this cleanup in respect of preventing a COVID outbreak in our coastal communities.



## SANCTUARY PERMITTING

### Pending Permits and Amendments

*OCNMS-2020-001 Dr. Sean Higgins, Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory*

Project Title: Illuminating the Cascadia plate boundary zone and accretionary wedge with a regional-scale ultra-long offset multi-channel seismic study

Proposed Permitted Activity: Deployment of three Ocean Bottom Seismometers (OBS) on the seafloor and the abandonment of 1m<sup>2</sup> iron grate anchors.

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of May 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021.

Comment: This seismic survey will utilize an air gun array as a sound source, which is known to cause impacts to marine resources such as marine mammals. The National Science Foundation, as the federal funding source, is in consultation with NMFS Office of Protected Resources and seeking an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) under the MMPA and a Biological Opinion (BO) under the ESA. In addition to the sanctuary permit, there will also be a consultation between OCNMS, NMFS, and NSF on the IHA and BO. Permit processing is on hold during consultations.

*OCNMS-2005-013-A4 Kurt Johnson, PC Landing Corp*

Project Title: Operation, Maintenance, Reinstallation and Removal of PC-1 Fiber Optic Cables in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Proposed Permitted Activity: Continued authorization for the ongoing placement, operation and maintenance of two submarine cables.

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of November 4, 2020 through November 4, 2025.

Comment: The current permit for PCL expires in 2025. A burial compliance survey is currently underway and seabed recovery survey is being planned for 2021.

*OCNMS-2020-008 Daniel Stabbert, Pacific Survey Group LLC*

Project Title: AUV and ROV Operational Tests within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Proposed Permitted Activity: ROV and AUV surveys focused on the Juan de Fuca Canyon, potential crush car locations, and the meteorite fall site.

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of November 1, 2020 through November 1, 2021.

Comment: The primary purpose of this season's mission is to test bathymetry and bottom imagery technology through HISAS Sonar, LIDAR, Magentometer, and high-resolution video and photography.

## REGIONAL/NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM NEWS

### Changing Sanctuaries: How National Marine Sanctuaries are meeting the challenges of climate change

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/sep20/changing-sanctuaries.html>

Changes in climate are impacting the health of your national marine sanctuaries and the communities who depend on them. Warming temperatures, rising seas, and waters that are becoming more acidic are just some of the changes faced by corals, whales, birds, fish, shipwrecks, and thousands of other cultural and living resources that make our sanctuaries a national and global treasure. These are not theoretical future changes. Scientists have been observing these changes for several years and have documented them in the literature.

## National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) Report

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has hired the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to conduct both internal and external interviews to assess the success and challenges for ONMS and to take a critical look at how we designate and manage national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments. The goal of this report is to provide information for Congressional constituents and ONMS staff to ensure we are carrying out our Congressional mandates as effectively as possible.

## NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries featured in *BoatUS* magazine

<https://www.boatus.com/expert-advice/expert-advice-archive/2020/september/following-the-whales>

Scientists at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary collaborated with Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS) magazine to highlight the role recreational boaters can play in whale protection. *BoatUS* is the nation's largest organization of recreational boaters with more than 700,000 members. The story focuses on the migration paths of whales on the east and west coast of the US and what recreational boaters need to know to be careful around whales.

## Cephalopod Awareness Days - *Searching for nautilus in National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, "Shellebrating" common ancestry*

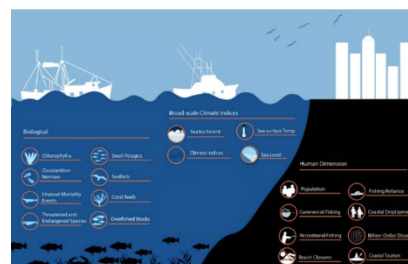
<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/oct20/cephalopod-days.html>

In the depths of the Pacific Ocean, a small, ancient creature slowly bobs up and down along the ocean floor in search of food. Its bright and unique shell sets it apart from the other, darker sea creatures in its habitat. Meet the nautilus!

## Assessing our marine ecosystems

<https://ecowatch.noaa.gov/home>

This website provides data on major marine ecosystem indicators, capturing the status and trends of seven U.S. ecosystem regions, as well as an overall national status. It also directs users to more detailed sources of NOAA data and information



Explore by indicator

## “Into National Marine Sanctuaries”

<http://intotheoutdoors.org>

In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the “Into the Outdoors” (ITO) organization repackaged and presented four “*Stories from the Blue*” in a 24 minute video. “Into the Outdoors” is an Emmy-winning youth television series broadcast on 22 PBS affiliated through the National Educational Television Association stations in seven states. At the same time, it is a collection of science videos and standards-aligned lesson activities that get distributed nationally and that live on their website

## REGIONAL/NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION NEWS

### Join the conversation on the ocean and Great Lakes

<https://marinesanctuary.org/bluebeacon/>

The Blue Beacon Series aims to bring to light the ocean and Great Lakes' biggest challenges through panels, lectures, and film screenings hosted around the country in order to build

communities of support for marine protected areas. This series builds on the momentum of Capitol Hill Ocean Week, the nation’s premier conference on ocean and Great Lakes policy issues by bringing these important conversations into locally relevant contexts.

**“Recreate Responsibly” blog - explore locally with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation**

<https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/blog/explore-locally-with-the-national-marine-sanctuary-foundation>  
<https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/blog/explore-locally-with-the-national-marine-sanctuary-foundation>

The Recreate Responsibly Coalition is a coalition of more than 750 nonprofits, outdoor businesses, and land managers developing and sharing best practices to protect each other and our natural landscapes. As a member of the Recreate Responsibly coalition we have been offered the opportunity to share stories with the outdoor enthusiast audience

**OCNMS Online**

Visit our website at: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

 <https://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov> |  <https://twitter.com/olympiccoast>

*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).*

**Ocean-Related Websites**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <a href="http://www.noaa.gov/">http://www.noaa.gov/</a>	National Data Buoy Center <a href="http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtm">http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtm</a> 1	Washington’s Ocean Resources <a href="http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html">http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html</a>
National Ocean Service <a href="http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/">http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/</a>	NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory <a href="http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/">http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/</a>	Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems <a href="http://www.nanoos.org/">http://www.nanoos.org/</a>
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries <a href="http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/">http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/</a>	CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node <a href="http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/">http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/</a>	NOAA Online Media Library <a href="http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos">http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos</a>
NOAA Ocean Explorer <a href="http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/">http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/</a>	NOAA Marine Debris Program <a href="http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/">http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/</a>	Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries <a href="http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/">http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/</a>



## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

### LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with sanctuary advisory council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary, please visit our website at: <http://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)

### OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS)

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of the marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 600,000 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 14 national marine sanctuaries along with Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Visit the ONMS website at:  
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

### Get Involved!

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

### OCNMS STAFF

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