



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A Report for Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Reporting Period: Jan 9, 2021 – Mar 5, 2021

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 Indian Nation.

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

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

Contents

Treaty Trust Responsibilities	1
Collaborative And Coordinated Management	1
Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments, And Monitoring To Inform Ecosystem-Based Management ...	2
Improve Ocean Literacy.....	3
Conserve Natural Resources In The Sanctuary	8
Sanctuary Permitting.....	8
Regional/National Marine Sanctuary System News.....	9
Regional/National Marine Sanctuary Foundation News	11
Contact Information.....	13

TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Sanctuary Resource Statement Sufficient for Consultation

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) has notified the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) that the sanctuary resource statement (SRS) provided, as required by section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuary Act, is sufficient for consulting on a proposed survey of the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The high-energy seismic survey will be conducted by Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to provide new information on earthquake and tsunami potential in the Pacific Northwest. Federal agencies must consult with sanctuaries when proposed actions are likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure a sanctuary resource. NSF is funding the research, and NMFS is working on a Marine Mammal Protection Act incidental harassment authorization. Under an agreement with the Makah Tribe, the sanctuary will discuss with the tribe technical/policy input on any potential recommended alternatives. Also, consistent with NOAA’s government-to-government consultation responsibilities, Hoh and Quileute Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation will be consulted and given the opportunity to provide input on the consultation.

COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Virtual Briefings for ONMS Leadership

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff presented to Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) leadership on key issues, challenges facing OCNMS, and how we intend to address these issues in 2021. OCNMS staff appreciated the opportunity to learn more about national and regional initiatives, and to ask questions and pass along concerns to ONMS leadership.

Connecting Across the Ocean

Carol Bernthal, sanctuary superintendent, and Janine Ledford, executive director for the Makah Cultural and Research Center, presented to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) Advisory Council on cultural issues and collaboration at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). Carol provided background on the cultural and natural resources of OCNMS, as well as some of our work with the four coastal treaty tribes. Janine spoke to the cultural significance of canoes, whaling, and marine resources for the Makah Tribe and their efforts to protect and restore language, whaling, and other traditional practices. HIHWNMS members discussed issues of common concern and expressed an interest in doing some collaborative work in the future.

Sanctuary Meets with 13th Coast Guard District

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff met with representatives of the 13th Coast Guard District (CG) to discuss a number of issues of common interest. These annual meetings, regular communication, and CG participation on the OCNMS Advisory Council help to maintain the strong local relationship that has existed since sanctuary designation in 1994. The CG interacts with sanctuary interests in vessel traffic management, maritime safety, oil spill planning and response, living marine resources, and enforcement. Some of the issues discussed included CG notification of sanctuary incidents, communication, oil spill planning, CG involvement in regional initiatives of interest to the sanctuary, vessel discharge issues, and the new sanctuary vessel.

Law Enforcement Partners Discuss Olympic Coast Issues

The Olympic Coast Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee (LETAC) held a biannual meeting to discuss sanctuary law enforcement priorities. The LETAC reviewed and affirmed the original intent and membership of the group, discussed priorities, and strategies for improving partnerships.

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

Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Steering Committee Meets

The Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) Steering Committee held its second meeting January 8, 2021. The steering committee is comprised of the coastal treaty tribes, federal and state agencies, academia, and non-governmental organizations. Since the first meeting OASeS has selected co-chairs (Russell Callender, director of Washington Sea Grant; Tommy Moore, oceanographer at Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; and Micah Horwith, senior OA scientist at Washington State Department of Ecology) and finalized their terms of reference.

The steering committee will work toward implementation of the goals of OASeS to:

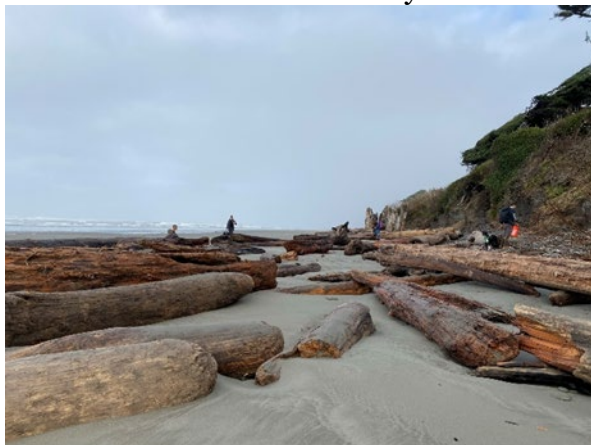
1. Facilitate identification and coordination of shared OA management priorities and seek to fill information needs;
2. Facilitate and promote strategic science collaborations in recognition of management needs; and
3. Promote ocean literacy, awareness, and stewardship, with an emphasis on OA, for a diverse range of audiences.

Current efforts to develop an annual workplan are underway with assistance with Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar Erin Arneson during a virtual site collaboration for the month of January.

IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

AmeriCorps Take to the Sanctuary for MLK Day of Service

For the past 25 years, AmeriCorps service members have been leading the effort in encouraging all Americans to volunteer on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, to improve their communities. Dr. King recognized the power of service. He famously said, "Everyone can be great because everybody can serve." Observing the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday through service is a way to begin each year with a commitment to making our community a better place. This year, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary AmeriCorps members Holly Keedy and Cheyenne Palmo led by example to clean up one of the sanctuary's many beaches – Kalaloch Beach. Additional sanctuary staff volunteered to join them in cleaning up plastic waste from the protected coast in a masked-up, socially distanced, COVID-19 safe fashion. The small group of volunteers collected plastic water bottles, yellow fishing rope, and plenty of other small plastic debris. The biggest issue observed at Kalaloch was the amount of microplastics and nurdles found on the beach. While concerning, the abundance of microplastics motivated Cheyenne and Holly to take to the beaches again soon, better equipped with sifters to filter the microplastics from the sand. Both AmeriCorps service members reflected on how great it felt to get into the sanctuary and play a part in the conservation of the sanctuary.



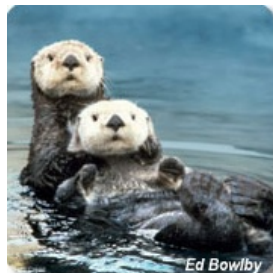
Pacific Northwest B-WET Grantees Meet to Share Solutions During Challenging Times

Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant recipients, NOAA staff, and partners met virtually at the annual Pacific Northwest B-WET grantee meeting. Grantees participated in three half-day meetings to learn more about B-WET grantee resources and share best practices. Smaller teams of grantees formed to meet separately in several additional meetings, allowing time for increased communications amongst grantees to discuss various approaches to implementing Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEEs), and sharing challenges and solutions to implementing MWEEs for students and teacher professional development for MWEEs.

Adventures of a Marine Mammal Biologist kicks off 2021 Speaker Series

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center, hosted the first of their 2021 virtual Speaker Series featuring Ed Bowlby in “Adventures of a Marine Mammal Biologist from Pole to Pole.” Bowlby, who served as the sanctuary’s first research coordinator from 1994-2014, shared stories and photos from nearly 50 years of marine mammal research in the Arctic, Antarctic, West Coast, and the tropics. Six hundred and sixty eight people registered for the event, including 359 who attended the live talk. The recorded webinar was emailed to all who registered and is available on the National Marine Sanctuary Webinar series archive at

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/teachers/webinar-series-archives.html>



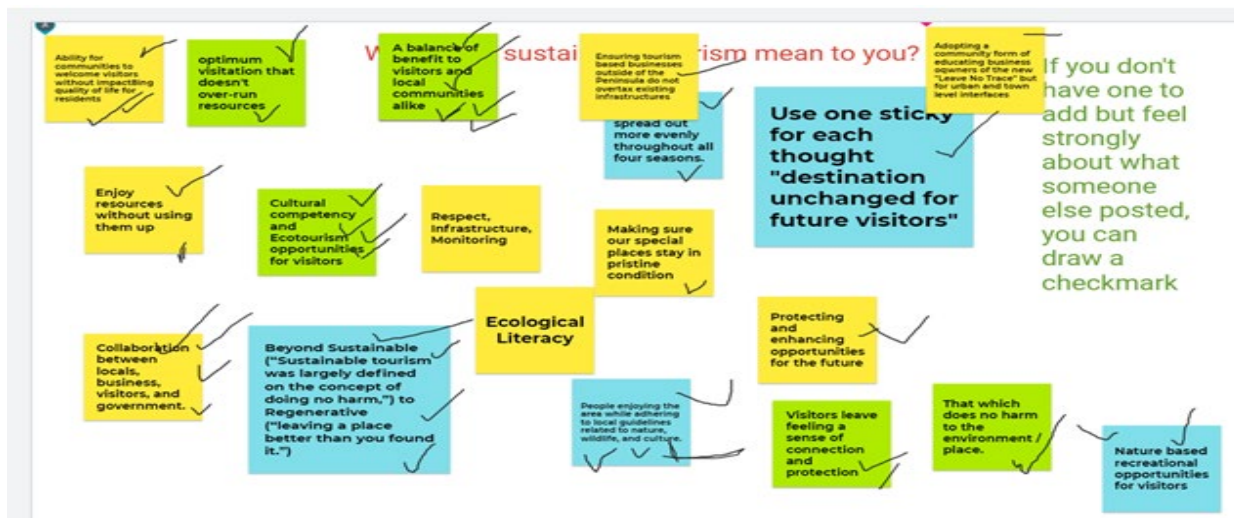
Ed Bowlby



NOAA/OCNMS

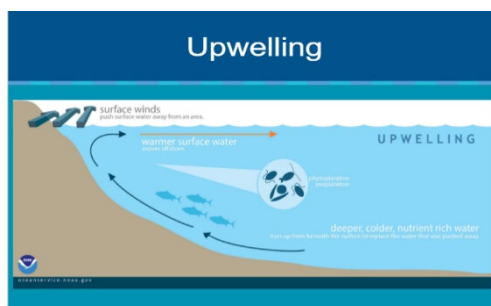
Olympic Peninsula Tourism Providers Come Together to Discuss Sustainable Tourism

NOAA’s Marine Protected Areas Capacity Building Program, working closely with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Olympic Peninsula Tourism Council, hosted a three-hour virtual workshop for Olympic Peninsula travel and tourism businesses and organizations. The interactive workshop provided presentations and exercises for participants to gain a clearer understanding of the meaning of sustainable tourism, and learn about opportunities to participate in sustainable tourism practices. Participants also used Google Jamboard in an exercise to define characteristics of their ideal visitors or “Value-Aligned Visitors.” Depending on funding and interest, additional workshops may be offered to address how travel and tourism providers may positively influence visitor behavior and impacts, information on developing product market match for different audiences, and strategies for effective storytelling.



Olympic Coast NMS AmeriCorps Debut Plankton: Drifters and Floaters Program!

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary AmeriCorps service members Holly Keedy and Cheyenne Palmo joined Neah Bay Elementary School's virtual fourth grade classroom the week of February 5. The energetic pair of AmeriCorps have been busy creating new virtual programming content as part of their service term, including their new series, *Plankton: Drifters and Floaters!* The series highlights elementary-level information on plankton for short 15-20 minute interval "chapter" presentations. This week's chapter introduced students to the two main types of plankton, phytoplankton and zooplankton, and the importance they have in an ecosystem. The presentation combined NOAA-sourced informational text and home-videos, including plankton collection techniques and live microscope camera footage of zooplankton. A dissecting scope and Moticam provided content that engaged and excited the fourth grade class, both during the presentation and follow-up question session. Cheyenne and Holly will continue to create more chapters for *Plankton: Drifters and Floaters*, and plan to virtually present to additional classrooms in April.



Slides from Episode 1 of the presentation "Plankton: Drifters and Floaters." The picture on the left is of the video of Holly Keedy collecting plankton in Clallam Bay. The picture on the right is the NOAA image used for explaining upwelling.

Olympic Coast AmeriCorps Make a Splash with New Humpback Whale Series

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary AmeriCorps service members, Holly Keedy and Cheyenne Palmo, presented the first two chapters of the four-part Sanctuary Splash! Meet the Humpback Whale webinar series. Chapter 1 introduced cetaceans and humpback whale anatomy. Chapter 2: Behavior of Humpback Whales (feeding, pooping, and more!) highlighted the behaviors of humpback whales, including migration patterns, feeding techniques, communication, and surface behaviors. Combined, there were 704 registrants with 368 participants. All registrants will receive the links to the webinars, as well as the associated educational resources. The series, geared towards 3rd-5th grade students, includes four easily digestible 20-40 minute chapters. The series highlights the anatomy, behavior, and acoustics of humpback whales, as well as introduces students to an important humpback whale, Big Mama, that frequents sanctuary waters from Hawai'i to Olympic Coast. One young viewer, age 11, commented on the program, "You guys just lifted my spirits to be a biologist/zoologist even more. Thanks, I can't wait for the next two chapters and for later in my life when I am a zoologist." In Chapters 3-4, viewers will meet Big Mama, a very important humpback to the Pacific Northwest and participate in a highly interactive "acoustics of cetaceans" presentation.

See Chapters 1-2 recorded webinars at:

Chapter 1: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/7567797110259002374>

Chapter 2: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/4776492229746339342>

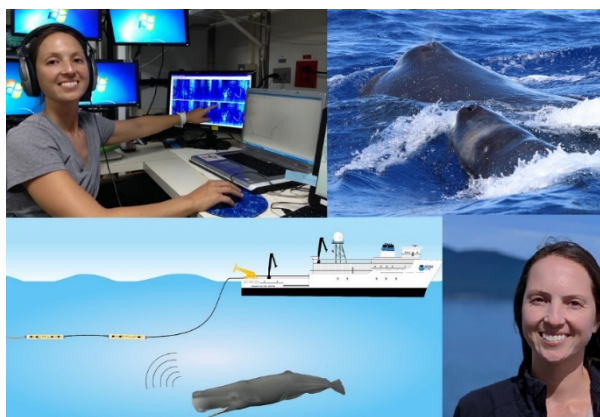
Freeing a humpback whale video: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk172-hihwnms-whale-breaching.html>

NOAA Teams up for University of Washington College of the Environmental Career Fair

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education team joined NOAA partners at the Sand Point facility in Seattle to virtually meet with students for the annual University of Washington College of the Environment Career Fair. Using the virtual career fair platform Handshake, organizations created “rooms” in 30-minute intervals that allowed students to interact with personnel from NOAA and learn about career paths, internships, where to apply for federal positions, and priorities for environmental and conservation jobs in the federal system. Nearly 90 undergrad and graduate students joined NOAA sessions to learn more about the organization and opportunities with NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Corps, and NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory.

Speaker Series on Sperm Whale Acoustics Draws Global Interest

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center, co-hosted the second of their 2021 Speaker Series webinars, featuring “New development for passive acoustic monitoring of sperm whales in Hawaiian waters” by post-doctoral researcher, Yvonne Barkley. Seven hundred and twenty seven people registered from the U.S., U.K., Brazil, and beyond. Of those registrants, 321 attended this well-received talk to join Dr. Barkley as she provided background on sperm whale monitoring both surface observations and using newly developed modeling techniques that can locate surface and diving foraging whales. The webinar will be added to the National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series archive at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/teachers/webinar-series-archives.html>.



Climate Messaging for Sanctuaries Learning Exchange Helps Keep Staff out of the Swamp

As part of the national Climate Messaging for Sanctuaries Learning Exchange three-part series, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education staff co-facilitated the second webinar by diving into values, metaphors, and explanatory chains of climate change communication. The series is focusing on the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI) tools used for strategically framed, solution-focused climate change communications. NNOCCI-trained sanctuary staff from around the National Marine Sanctuary System presented the three-part series as a crash course style offering of NNOCCI resources to sanctuary staff. Part I focused on the development of NNOCCI and introduced participants to the social science component of communication, including cultural models around common environmental domains, and the NNOCCI Swamp, a tool for cueing up solution-focused cultural models. Part II dove into the common values shared by many American citizens, *Protection and Responsible Management*, as well as shared explanatory metaphors and using explanatory chains to deliver succinct, science-based messaging that resonates with multiple audiences while explaining the mechanism at work so the audience continues to be a part of the story. Part III focused on solutions, putting all the tools together to widen the conversation around climate change and climate actions around the country.

Quileute Tribal School Student Selected in STEM-Focused Naval Apprenticeship

Quileute Tribal School Senior Kevin Ryan was one of 300 high school students accepted to the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) with the Kitsap Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Keyport. SEAP provides high school students with an opportunity to participate in an eight-week research project with a one-on-one mentor at a Department of Navy laboratory during the summer. Quileute Tribal School provided special recognition to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Education Specialist Nicole Harris for her role in leading Olympic Coast Marine Advanced Technology and Education (MATE) Robotics Program that Kevin was an active member and sparked his interest in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Olympic Coast AmeriCorps Cheyenne Palmo Reaches National Audience with African-American History Month Web Story

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/feb21/historical-trail-blazers.html>

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary AmeriCorps member Cheyenne Palmo collaborated with Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Writer Rachel Plunkett and the ONMS media team to publish “Historical Trail Blazers and Rising Stars in Marine Science” – an ONMS web story highlighting six historical and modern Black marine scientists. The web story was



published as the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries celebrates African-American History Month (February). The web story highlights three major early contributors to marine science and three modern scientists currently conducting research that improves our knowledge and ability to manage resources in marine sanctuaries. Representation, recognition, and celebration of the achievements people of color have made in marine science is crucial in promoting diversity within the field.

Sanctuary Staff Joins Climate Change Interpretation Training for Visitor Communications

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff joined a three-day Climate Change Interpretation Training offered by the National Park System (NPS) and the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI). The three-day virtual training, bringing together participants from around the west coast and beyond (including California, Colorado, Hawai'i, and Washington state) kicked off with NPS sharing the goals of interpretation and visitor interface, as well as classic NPS storytelling techniques and visitor interactions. Day two and day three focused on NNOCCI climate communication tools, diving down into the tested values and explanatory metaphors that lead to solution focused climate conversations. The facilitators incorporated Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion tools within the NNOCCI context, expanding the opportunity for more inclusive and equitable solutions, striving to make climate communications an inclusive environment.

CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

EPA Consults on Ocean Disposal

EPA has a general permit under the Ocean Dumping Act (Titles I and II of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act) for the disposal of vessels at sea. Authorization first requires consideration of land-based alternatives, and the cleaning of the vessel prior to ocean disposal. While this activity is prohibited in all national marine sanctuaries, a current proposal would require the vessel to transit through the sanctuary en route to a point approximately 60 nautical miles offshore of the boundaries of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and the Makah Usual and Accustomed Fishing Area (U&A). OCNMS has discussed the proposal with both the EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard, and put EPA staff in touch with the state of Washington and the Makah Tribe for further consultations. OCNMS will continue to track details on the proposed disposal, including the tow plan for the vessel through sanctuary waters.

SANCTUARY PERMITTING

Issued Permits and Authorizations

OCNMS-2021-001 Casey Clarke, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Project Title: Distribution and abundance of pinnipeds and sea otters in Washington state

Permitted Activity: Low altitude flights at no lower than 600 feet above ground/water level altitude in fixed wing aircraft in the overflight restricted zone within OCNMS to census and track pinniped and sea otter populations.

Permit Duration: March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2025

Comment: This is a continuation of long-term monitoring of these populations along the Washington coast.

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 1m² 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-2021-002 Greg Schorr, Marine Ecology and Telemetry Research

Project Title: Cetacean surveys in coastal waters for determining killer whale prey selection and deployment of tags

Proposed Permitted Activity: Collection of samples to assess killer whale prey selection, biopsy samples, deployment of suction tags (SRKW), and Low Impact Minimally Percutaneous External-electronics Transmitter (LIMPET) tags (non-SRKW whales), and overflights of an uncrewed aerial system (UAS or drone).

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Comment: This research is aimed at advancing our understanding of killer whale distribution and prey selection.

OCNMS-2021-003 Jennifer Hagen, Quileute Tribe

Project Title: Quileute Hypoxia Mooring

Proposed Permitted Activity: Deployment of two benthic lander moorings to monitoring real-time near-bottom dissolved oxygen and velocity measurements during the field season (6 months).

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of April 12, 2021 through April 11, 2026

Comment: These moorings would be placed near the Cha'ba mooring and are designed to limit seafloor disturbance.

OCNMS-2018-005-A2 Gregg Dietzman, White Point Systems, Inc.

Project Title: Mudprobe

Proposed Permitted Activity: To assess marine microbial diversity by collecting 333 marine sediment and detritus samples from 37 proposed sampling stations, which may be evaluated for use as industrial enzymes and pharmaceutical agents or diagnostics. Sample sizes are roughly 10 grams each and no more than nine samples per site is allowed.

Requested Permit Duration: Requested start date of June 30, 2021 through September 30, 2024

Comment: This is a permit amendment extending the duration of this permit. No other changes have been requested.

REGIONAL/NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM NEWS

NOAA' Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is Pleased to Announce the New Members of its Business Advisory Council.

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jan21/business-advisory-council.html>

With the expiration of the previous council's charter in 2018, NOAA has selected new members with a focus on advancing sustainable recreation and tourism in national marine sanctuaries. From restaurants and hotels to dive operators and fishing guides, national marine sanctuaries support thousands of jobs in the recreation and tourism economy. Among NOAA's goals for resuming the council's activities are improving visitor experience, enhancing public-private partnerships, and generating interest in conservation and sustainable use among new constituencies. The council will be composed of 15 voting members representing a wide variety of ocean and coastal interests including recreation, tourism, inclusive access, commercial and recreational fishing, natural and cultural resource management, marketing or related business/ organization, and conservation.

Expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Building on more than three decades of scientific exploration, public input, and coordination with the sanctuary advisory council, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is expanding from 56 square miles to 160 square miles to protect additional important habitat in the Gulf of Mexico. The expansion will add 14 reefs and banks that provide critical habitat for recreationally and commercially important fish and other marine life. Existing sanctuary protections will extend to the expansion areas, to limit the impact of bottom-disturbing activities that threaten sensitive biological resources. The new boundaries will take effect following 45 days of continuous congressional session.

Ocean Guardian Schools Report Program Results

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/dec20/ocean-guardian-schools-2020.html>

ONMS has announced the results of projects from last year's cohort of the Ocean Guardian Program, which supports classroom projects that protect our ocean and raise awareness of environmental issues. During the 2019-2020 school year, nearly 10,770 students from 44 schools across nine states were engaged in the program. Students removed more than 6,000 pounds of trash from their communities, planted 5,480 perennials and 200 native trees, replaced 2,200 plastic cafeteria utensils with reusable flatware, and distributed 1,700 reusable bottles and 1,250 reusable bags. The Ocean Guardian School program continues to develop new partnerships within NOAA to expand its reach across the country, including a new partnership with NOAA Fisheries. For the 2020-2021 school year, the Ocean Guardian Program has awarded \$137,920 to 60 schools in 12 states.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Health and Risk Assessment Program Uses New Tools and Technology

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary began health and risk assessment monitoring trips of the 2021 humpback whale season. These monitoring cruises help the sanctuary gain information to assess the health of and the risks to humpback whales and their habitat within the sanctuary and surrounding waters. The sanctuary's new Assessment and Recording Module (ARM) allows the monitoring team to photo-document and assess the animals underwater while underway on a sanctuary vessel. The documentation will not only assist in the assessment of risk factors and their impacts, but will also be used to support the sanctuary's outreach and education efforts. Hawai'i is the principal wintering grounds of the humpback whales in the North Pacific, with more than half the animals utilizing the waters around the Hawaiian Islands to breed, give birth, and nurse their young. Since 2002, the sanctuary has cataloged more than 2,400 different humpback whales.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Film Festival

In January, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosted its annual film festival, this year held virtually for the first time. The film festival, in partnership with the International Ocean Film Festival, highlights films centered on the ocean and Great Lakes and includes the Thunder Bay International Film Festival Student Film Competition, which encourages students to learn and apply their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) creative skills as they develop their own ocean and Great Lakes films. The competition theme changes each year and the 2021 theme was: #FreshWaterIs. The virtual setting allowed for people from around the world to connect through live film screenings, interviews, and Q&A panels featuring local film makers, scientists, and stewards. Nearly 100 films screened including more than 30 featuring national marine sanctuaries.

ONMS Hosts Roundtable Discussions with Key Constituents

Last week, ONMS hosted two virtual roundtables for national level constituents in order to provide an update on the priorities and upcoming policy actions across the National Marine Sanctuary System. Two sessions were offered, one for recreation, tourism, and inclusive access organizations, and the other for environmental and conservation advocacy organizations. More than 60 people representing 45 organizations attended. ONMS highlighted the role that national marine sanctuaries may play under key administrative

priorities, including climate change resilience, inclusive access opportunities, and efforts to protect 30% of public waters by 2030. The virtual meetings also offered opportunities for discussion and questions from the constituents, who had specific interest in sanctuary expansions and the designation of new national marine sanctuaries.

National MPA Center and Climate Program Office Host Climate Change Priorities Workshop

The National MPA Center supported the NOAA Climate Program Office's Marine Ecosystem Risk Team in hosting a virtual workshop to advance climate science and information needs in sanctuaries. The workshop brought together more than 130 participants including representatives from NOAA Research, NOS, NMFS, NESDIS, and partners from external organizations. Breakout groups discussed capacity, tools, and products as well as cross-NOAA partnerships to strengthen and advance sanctuary climate assessment, adaptation, and management. The results of the workshop are being compiled into a report that will match ONMS climate science needs with NOAA and partner programs that can meet those needs; identify priority areas where advancements can be made; and inform an ONMS-NOAA climate research agenda to advance the climate-smart assessment and management of national marine sanctuaries.

National Marine Sanctuaries and NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-celebrates-10-years-integrated-ecosystem-assessments>

NOAA is celebrating 10 years of implementing Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA) with the publication of a special issue of the Coastal Management Journal that highlights a strong collaboration with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. National marine sanctuaries are an ideal setting to apply NOAA's IEA processes and tools because sanctuaries encompass a wide range of marine environments with a high density of research and monitoring efforts, as well as nearby coastal communities that depend on the ocean for business and recreation. The articles describe ways that the IEA approach has been adapted to support and improve condition report and management plan development for sanctuaries, accomplished through collaborations of Stellwagen Bank, Florida Keys, Monterey Bay, and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries with the IEA teams from their respective regions, Northeast, Gulf of Mexico, and California Current. They also highlight steps IEA partners and practitioners are taking to improve public access to scientific data, methods, and products.

REGIONAL/NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION NEWS

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Triples in Size

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/flower-garden-banks-national-marine-sanctuary-triples-in-size/>

National conservation groups and aquarium partners celebrated the expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, announced today by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The expansion increases protections within the Gulf of Mexico's only national marine sanctuary from 56 square miles to 160 square miles and includes 14 critical reefs and banks.

Commercial Crab Fishermen Sought to Test Innovative Fishing Gear

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/commercial-crab-fishermen-sought-to-test-innovative-fishing-gear/>

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are collaborating to test fishing gear innovations in the California Dungeness crab fishery with local fishermen in real world simulations, in order to reduce the risk of entangling protected whales and sea turtles in the future. Greg Wells, Gear Innovations Project Manager for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, said, “This cooperative research project presents an opportunity for fishermen in California to experiment with multiple pop-up fishing systems as well as weak link rope systems to provide important feedback and ideas on what can work in the Dungeness crab fishery. These trials will be invaluable to scaling up testing and informing decision making in the future. We look forward to working with fishermen and our partners to help conserve iconic marine species.”

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.*

Ocean-Related Websites

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration http://www.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
National Ocean Service http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/	NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/	Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems http://www.nanoos.org/
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/	CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/	Office of National Marine Sanctuaries – Earth is Blue Sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue
NOAA Ocean Explorer http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/	NOAA Marine Debris Program http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/	National Marine Sanctuary Foundation https://marinesanctuary.org/

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

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

Carol Bernthal – Superintendent

Kevin Grant – Deputy Superintendent for Operations & Administration

George Galasso – Deputy Superintendent for Policy & Programs

Anna Hallingstad - NOAA Corps Officer, Vessel Operations Coordinator

Jenny Waddell – Research Coordinator

Katie Wrubel – Resource Specialist

Kathy Hough – Survey Technician

Chris Butler-Minor – Community Engagement Specialist

Jacqueline Laverdure – Education & Outreach Coordinator

Nicole Harris – Education Specialist

Robert Rountree – Visitor Services Specialist

Carey Floyd – Graphic & Web Designer

Cheyenne Palmo – Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps member Education and Stewardship Specialist

Holly Keedy – Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps member Education and Stewardship Specialist

CONTACT INFORMATION

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

115 East Railroad Ave., Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone (360) 406-2074
Fax (360) 457-8496

