

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 23, 2015 – MARCH 19, 2015

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.

climate change.

OFFICE REPORT

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized based on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas.

TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

Hands Across the Pacific: Cultural Exchange With Suquamish Tribe and Pacific Islands

Allen Tom, Pacific Island Regional Director, Randy Koski, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Research Coordinator, Carol Bernthal Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Superintendent and Jacqueline Laverdure, OCNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator, participated in a cultural exchange between Suquamish Tribe, Seattle Aquarium, Waikiki Aquarium and Pacific Islands Region. Sanctuary staff met with representatives from the Suquamish Tribe and tribal school superintendent to discuss opportunities for collaboration on ocean education, including support for updating science curriculum to include traditional ecological knowledge as well as current issues such as ocean acidification and

ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Federal Managers Meet to Discuss Critical Issues

Leadership from Olympic National Park, United States Fish and Wildlife Service/Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary held a quarterly meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest including programs and initiatives on climate change, upcoming special events such as the 100th anniversary of USFWS, and other major projects for the area. The intent of these meetings is to allow for early collaboration and problem solving.

Charting the Future of Citizen Science

An advisory board composed of representatives from tribal, state, federal agencies, universities, conservation organizations and local communities, met for two days to discuss the future direction for two citizen science programs active in the Pacific Northwest, including University of Washington programs developed in partnership with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Rigorous scientific design, including quality assurance and control, has been foundational for Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) and marine debris citizen science programs. The advisory board discussed how to further research and conduct evaluation of the two programs as well as further develop citizen science as an educational and research focus at the University of Washington.

OCNMS Meets with Cruise Ship Industry

Sanctuary staff attended the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) sponsored annual meeting with the Cruise Ship Industry. Ecology, the Cruise Lines International Association North West & Canada (CLIA-NWC) and the Port of Seattle have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addressing cruise ship discharges. Even though it is largely outside state waters, the MOU addresses discharges in the sanctuary. Through the reporting requirements of the MOU, Ecology notified the sanctuary of a self-reported violation of a no-discharge sanctuary regulation, which is being investigated. The sanctuary violation was one of two non-compliant 2014 events discussed at the public meeting. This is one of many examples of how NOAA and Washington State's mutual interests result in coordination.

IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Underwater Dreams Community Screening at Peninsula College

Feiro Marine Life Center, Peninsula College and Washington Sea Grant, in partnership with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), provided a free community screening of Underwater Dreams Friday, January 9. Underwater Dreams is an inspiring film telling the story of four high school students from Arizona competing at a college level national competition for Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), their successes, and their legacy to their community. OCNMS staff and Feiro Marine Life Center provided hands-on activities and video exhibits of ROVs and ROV underwater research conducted in sanctuary waters. Following the screening, a panel of middle and high school students were asked questions from a moderator and the audience about their experience and interest with remotely operated vehicles, engineering, teamwork, and ocean conservation.

OCNMS Represented at Celebrate STEM! Career Fair at Port Angeles Public Library

Education and Stewardship Specialist and Washington Service Corps-AmeriCorps member Danny Palmer represented Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) at the annual Celebrate STEM! Career Fair for local fifth graders at the Port Angeles Public Library. With the help of natural resources students from the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center, over one hundred fifth grade students were able to participate in activities on seabird identification and marine debris, while also learning about the role of citizen scientists in local communities.



OCNMS Educates on Ocean Acidification at OSU Teacher Professional Development Workshop

Oregon State University (OSU) hosted Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education staff to provide curriculum and activities for elementary teachers focusing on ocean acidification content. The teacher professional development workshop was provided through OSU's Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE) program. Fifteen elementary teachers from Oregon and Idaho participated in the workshop. OCNMS education staff offered an overview of Olympic Coast, inspiring a love for the marine environment, followed by *Our Oceans Recipe for Success* presentation discussing the current ocean acidification science, research and talking points. Teachers had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with fun and engaging activities on pH, and how carbon dioxide is affecting ocean chemistry, and ultimately the marine food web. Many of the attending teachers are serving inland schools along the Oregon and Idaho borders, with little access to the marine environment.



Sanctuary Presents on Olympic Coast Research and Careers to Visiting High School Seniors

Education staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary offered a presentation to 33 high school seniors and 4 teachers from Miramonte CA, providing an overview of OCNMS, and a look at research conducted by OCNMS. The students then participated in the "Careers in OCNMS" research game. Teams of students were given the task of organizing and implementing a hypothetical research mission in Olympic Coast, based on research conducted by OCNMS. The missions were impacted by budget, weather, scenarios at sea, and conflicting goals with participating partners. Conversations looking at the game outcome, and how it might relate to a real world scenario offered the students a chance to consider the skills necessary to be successful in a marine natural resource career, and the many positions needed to make research missions successful.

Seattle's Pacific Science Center Features Olympic Coast NOAA Kiosk

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is now featured at Seattle's Pacific Science Center with a newly installed NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Interactive Touch Screen Kiosk. The kiosk offers a high-impact visual and auditory showcase of all the treasures the sanctuary has to offer. With the click of a button, users learn about the various activities of the sanctuary; educational and outreach programs, research projects and resource protection programs as well as extensive information about species, habitats, history and culture. Visitors can also use the kiosk for up-to-the-minute reports on weather and ocean conditions. Pacific Science Center ranked as one of the Top Ten Science Centers worldwide with visitation at 1.6 million people.



Marine Debris Connects Communities Across the Pacific

Washington CoastSavers coordinator, Jon Schmidt, presented on his recent trip to Japan to attend an international symposium hosted by the Japan Environmental Action Network (JEAN). Jon was invited to Japan to speak on tsunami debris in Washington State and local, volunteer efforts to clean shoreline debris. He returned with personal stories of the enormous

impact of the tsunami on local residents and a better understanding of the scale of the marine debris issue in the western Pacific. Jon's talk was sponsored by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Feiro Marine Life Center.

OCNMS Participates in University of Washington's Environmental Career Fair

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff participated as one of twenty-two regional organizations invited to attend University of Washington's Environmental Career Fair. Organized by the University of Washington's College of the Environment, students ranging from all levels of higher education came through the Mary Gates Hall interested in making connections that could lead to volunteer experiences, internships, and career level positions. OCNMS staff interacted with more than 300 students looking for information about sanctuary careers, possible internships, and skills that benefit a career in ocean conservation. Danny Palmer, OCNMS Education and Stewardship Specialist, was on hand to help advertise for the next Washington Service Corps, AmeriCorps position available at OCNMS starting in fall of 2015.

Washington Educators Learn How to Use Field Studies to Implement New Standards

Pacific Education Institute (PEI) faculty members and coastal coordinators conducted "Bringing STEM to the Outdoor Classroom" teacher professional development workshop at NatureBridge Olympic. The workshop targeting K-12 teachers from school districts adjacent to the Pacific Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca focused on integrating Common Core English, Language and Arts (ELA) with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff attended the workshop to network with coastal community teachers, allowing them to share NOAA resources, while exploring the implementation of NGSS science and engineering practices through field studies, and building a broader understanding of ELA performance tasks.

Olympic Coast Docents Visit to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary on Volunteer Exchange



Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) docents and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff participated in a volunteer exchange to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) from February 21-27. The educational exchange facilitated a better understanding and connectedness to the national marine sanctuary system as a whole, while providing experience-based learning about our Californian sister sanctuary. The itinerary spanned Santa Cruz to Cambria and focused on the diverse natural resources, programs and partners of MBNMS. Educational experiences included the following highlights: visits to interpretive centers (Santa Cruz Sanctuary Exploration Center, Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon and UCSC's Seymour Marine Discovery Center and Long Marine Laboratory) and Monterey Bay Aquarium; sea kayaking with otters

and other wildlife in Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve; tidepooling in Monterey; observing the elephant seal rookery during pupping season at San Simeon; observing Condors along Big Sur's coast; and guided walks in the Coastal Redwoods, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Piedras Blanca Light Station. This opportunity reciprocated hosting MBNMS volunteers' visit to OCNMS in July 2014 during the week of its 20th Anniversary Celebration. During their week in California OCDC docents met, socialized with, and were hosted by MBNMS volunteers to gain a deeper knowledge of the West Coast Region and connection to the California Current Ecosystem, along with ONMS's overall mission and objectives. Overall MBNMS and OCNMS volunteers gained a deeper appreciation for ONMS mission and objectives and become more effective docents following the exchange.

Beachcombers Fun Fair Marine Debris Booth and NOAA Marine Debris Presentation

On March 7-8 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary hosted an educational booth to participants at the 27th annual Beachcomber's Fun Fair in Ocean Shores, WA. An albatross bolus activity demonstrated the global issue of marine debris and how it impacts marine life. OCNMS staff also provided information to the public about the national NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring efforts, sponsored a neighboring display about CoastSavers and helped to sign up beach cleanup volunteers for the April 25th Washington Coastal Cleanup and the July 5th Ocean Shores cleanup. OCNMS also staff gave a one hour presentation about the NOAA Marine Debris Program and opportunities to get involved as a volunteer with the Washington Coastal Cleanup or monitoring marine debris monthly. The event was held at the Ocean Shores Convention Center and featured competitive beachcombing exhibits, seminars, informational booths, and vendors. Children's activities and a beach walk attracted many families. Approximately 1,000 people attended the event. To learn more about the Beachcombers Fun Fair visit <http://beachcombersfunfair.com/>.



OCNMS Represents Washington CoastSavers at Chamber of Commerce Meetings

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Education and Stewardship Specialist Danny Palmer presented on partner Washington CoastSavers to an audience of over 40 at Forks Chamber of Commerce and Revitalize Port Angeles meetings. Danny spoke about the Washington CoastSavers program, the issue of marine debris using albatross boluses, voluntourism possibilities, and the April 23 Washington Coast Cleanup. Many of the attendees were business owners or otherwise dependent on the local economy, specifically tourism, and showed interest in the mutually beneficial goal of cleaning up Washington beaches and attracting visitors. After the Chamber of Commerce meeting, Danny was interviewed for AM Radio Station 1490 KFKB.

CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

OCNMS Represented at Martin Luther King Jr. Day Beach Cleanup

The Washington Service Corps-AmeriCorps member, Danny Palmer, who serves as the Education and Stewardship Specialist at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary represented the sanctuary at a beach cleanup on the West Elwha River Beach. This cleanup was organized by local natural resources students as a community service project in recognition of Dr. King. Over 20 people from the Port Angeles and surrounding communities came to help remove marine debris from this beach on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



OCNMS Submits Comments on Navy Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The U.S. Navy recently closed a public comment period for a supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to modify activities covered in a DEIS covering training and testing activities in the Northwest range area, which covers coastal areas of Washington, Oregon and northern California. For Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, relevant changes addressed in the DEIS were eliminating use of over 100 exploding sonobuoys with an increase of about 700 mid-frequency sound emitting sonobuoys per year. In total, the Navy has proposed release of up to 8,900 sonobuoys per year in the Northwest Training Range. Sanctuary comments focused primarily on the high number of military expendable materials proposed, including parachutes used to deploy many of the sonobuoys from aircraft. All the sonobuoys, parachutes and associated line and fixtures become marine debris, with potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on habitats and natural resources.

UNDERSTANDING THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Non-consumptive Recreation Use and Ecosystem Service Valuation in the OCNMS

Bob Leeworthy, ONMS Economist, and Theresa Godeke and Sarah Ball of the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) reviewed the Internet Panel survey questions developed by the contractor, Point97, on non-consumptive recreation use and economic valuation for the Outer Coast of Washington and OCNMS. The survey uses an Internet Panel of 3,000 Washington households to estimate the amount of use and spatial distribution of use by activity type, the spending in the local area associated with the use, importance-satisfaction ratings for 25 natural resource attributes, facilities and services, demographic profiles of users, and the economic value of the uses and how those values change with user characteristics and natural resource conditions. The survey has been completed and analysis has begun.

SANCTUARY PERMITTING

Permitting Regulations Corrected

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries published a correction to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) regulations that pertain to the issuance of permits. NOAA inadvertently excluded the paragraphs in the publication of a November 2011 final rule revising OCNMS permitting regulations. The reinstatement of these paragraphs will ensure continued coordination with the treaty Indian tribes whose cultural and treaty resources may be affected by activities of regulated entities. In addition, these provisions provide notice to the regulated community of NOAA's responsibilities to treaty Indian tribes whose cultural and treaty resources may be affected by a permittee's proposed activities. For more information see <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-03-02/pdf/2015-04237.pdf>.

Issued Permits

OCNMS-2015-001 – Mike Kelly, Consortium for Ocean Leadership – OOI

Project Title: Ocean Observatories Initiative - Endurance Array 25m Inshore Mooring and Glider Operations

Permitted Activity: Installation of one surface buoy and one vertical profiling mooring, each with scientific instrumentation and multi-function node/anchors on the seafloor; Servicing of the mooring installations on approximately 6-month intervals, including complete retrieval of all equipment and redeployment at the same approximate location; Discharge of minor amounts (<10mL daily) of non-toxic indicator dyes associated with CO₂ instrumentation; Deployment, operation and retrieval of two autonomous underwater vehicle gliders

Project Location: 1) Endurance 25m mooring: 47.133 degrees N, 124.2716 degrees W. The site radius of 185 m (0.1 nm), as measured from the site center, is the area within which the platforms will always be located; the exact location varies from deployment to deployment.

2) Water column profiles with glider along two east-west lines running along 48.0°N and 47.0°N from as close to shore as the 20-m isobath out beyond the western offshore boundary of OCNMS.

Permit Duration: through June 13, 2018

Comment: This permit was issued to correct the permittee (previous permittees are no longer associated with this OOI work) and combine two OOI permits (OCNMS-2012-001 and OCNMS-2013-002) into one.

Pending Permit Requests

None

LEARN ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY / NATURAL HISTORY

Low Snowpack Impacts Olympic Peninsula Streams

An unusually warm winter in western Washington has caused much of the precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow, leaving snowpack conditions across the Olympic Mountains as low as 7% of normal levels. Typically a frozen snowpack reservoir provides water supply for streams and rivers throughout the ensuing summer; however, a winter with minimal snowpack results in severe summer drought. On March 13, 2015 Governor Inslee declared the Olympic Peninsula one of three Washington regions that face a drought, specifically forecasting drought conditions in the Quilcene-Snow, Elwha-Dungeness, Lyre-Hoko, Sol Duc-Hoh, and Queets-Quinault watersheds.

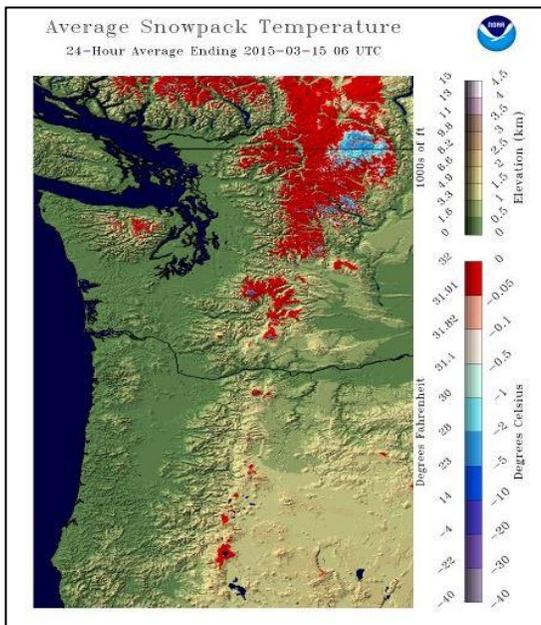


Figure 2: Average snowpack temperature on March 15, 2015 from NOAA National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center

Unlike most states, Washington has a legal definition for drought. When an area is experiencing a water supply that is below 75% of normal, and water users within the area will likely incur undue hardship as a result of the shortage, Department of Ecology

can declare a drought under the direction of the Governor. Using this definition, Gov. Inslee requested \$9 million in drought relief from the legislature to pay for water-right transfers for emergency agricultural and fisheries projects. “We can’t wait any longer, we have to prepare now for drought conditions that are in store for much of the state,” said Inslee. “Snowpack is at record lows and we have farms, vital agricultural regions, communities and fish that are going to need our support.”

Drought response information, current and monthly water supply information for Washington, and additional water information from federal, state, and academic sources can be found at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/drought/index.html>.

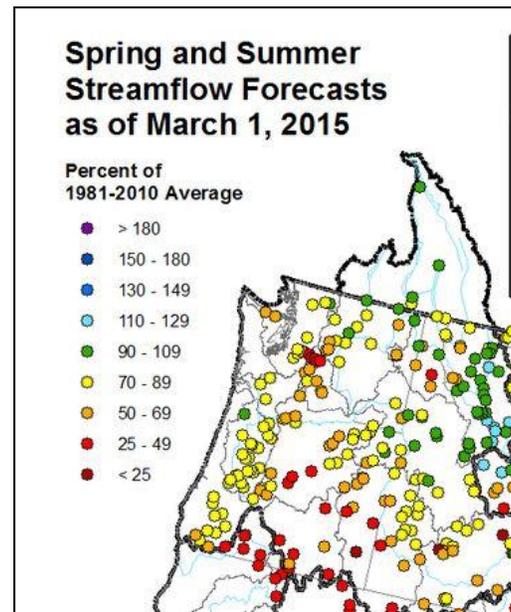


Figure 1: Forecasts from NRCS National Water and Climate Center

Warm Ocean Temperatures Could Mean Trouble for Marine Life

It's a double-whammy kind of year for the Pacific. An unusually warm winter in Alaska failed to chill ocean waters. Then this winter's El Nino is keeping tropical ocean temperatures high. Combine these and scientists are recording ocean temperatures up to 7 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than average off the coasts of Oregon and Washington.

<http://kuow.org/post/warm-ocean-temperatures-could-mean-trouble-marine-life>

Pacific Ocean May Become Warmer, Less productive, NOAA Warns

Starving sea lion pups and seabirds up and down the West Coast this year may be part of a large-scale shift of the Pacific Ocean to warmer and less productive conditions, according to a new federal fisheries report.

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2015/mar/18/pacific-ocean-may-become-warmer-less-productive/>

REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM ONMS NEWS

Expansion of Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries

The final rule for expansion of Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS) and regulatory changes published in the *Federal Register* on March 12, 2015. With this rule, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is expanding the GFNMS and CBNMS boundaries north and west. The expanded GFNMS boundary will include approximately 3,295 square miles, and the expanded CBNMS boundary will include approximately 1,286 square miles. Within the expansion area are nationally-significant resources and habitats, including the nutrient-rich ocean upwelling zone originating off Point Arena, one of the most intense and productive upwellings in North America, important habitats and subsea features; and numerous submerged historical resources. The area supports a rich, productive marine food web. To view the final rule for expansion of GFNMS and CBNMS, and the final environmental impact statement and final management plans, please visit http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/expansion_cbgf.html.

NOAA Considers Expansion of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

On February 3, the Federal Register published an official notice of intent to develop a draft environmental impact statement to pursue boundary expansion at NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Expansion of the sanctuary to include additional areas of the northern Gulf of Mexico emerged as one of the top priority issues during a comprehensive public process to review the sanctuary's management plan, resulting in a specific sanctuary expansion action plan in the final document (April 2012). Public comments will be accepted through April 6, 2015, through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket Number NOAA-NOS-2014-0154. Additional opportunities to comment will be available at a series of public scoping meetings in New Orleans, Houston, and Galveston. More information about advisory council recommendations and upcoming meetings are available online at <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>.

DOC Gold Medal Recognizes NOAA Teamwork to Protect Whales in California

The Department of Commerce recently recognized years of teamwork and coordination by staff from NOAA's Channel Islands, Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries, and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region with a Gold Medal award. The collaborative effort of the sanctuaries staff, in addition to partners in other NOAA line and staff offices, the U.S. Coast Guard, external scientists and collaborators, was instrumental in the International Maritime Organization changing the placement of shipping lanes within and around four California national marine sanctuaries to improve protection to endangered whales while supporting maritime trade and commerce. The award is accepted on behalf of all those who have contributed to whale conservation in and around California's marine sanctuaries.

Thunder Bay NMS Hosts 2015 Thunder Bay International Film Festival

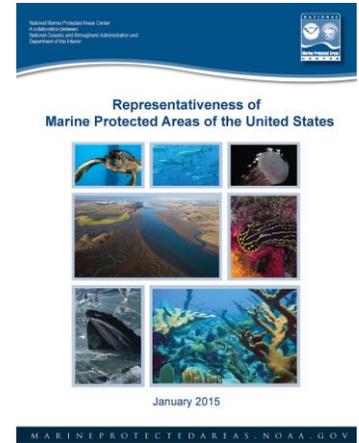


From January 21-25 Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) brought the world of cinema to Alpena, Michigan to over 700 residents and travelers to Northeast Michigan. Attendees enjoyed some of the most impressive ocean and Great Lakes-inspired films from around the world. Film topics included climate changes, Great Lakes issues, marine wildlife, and plastic pollution. In honor of the recently expanded sanctuary boundaries, the Thunder Bay International Film Festival (TBIFF) kicked off with an opening reception at the Rogers Theater in Rogers City, MI. The rest of the week's events took place at TBNMS' visitor center, the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center and several Alpena businesses that helped to sponsor the festival. Throughout the week

TBNMS hosted eight film screenings, complimentary social events, a film workshop for kids and adults, and opportunities to meet filmmakers. Over 30 sanctuary volunteers assisted with the TBIFF.

MPA Center Publishes Report on Representativeness of U.S. Marine Protected Areas

The MPA Center published *Representativeness of Marine Protected Areas of the United States*, the first comprehensive analysis of the degree to which MPAs generally, and MPAs in the National System of MPAs represent the nation's diverse habitats, ecological features and ecologically important areas. In 2000, President Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 13158, directing the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies to collaborate with states, territories and tribes to “develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems.” The report concludes that every major marine ecoregion in the U.S., and all of the key natural resource groups described in the MPA Inventory, are represented (i.e. present) in an MPA site that is a member of the National System. The report also highlights key data gaps necessary for understanding the full representativeness and effectiveness of the nation's MPAs, such as spatial coverage of the ecosystem features and detailed information on levels of protection within MPAs.



MARINE-RELATED NEWS COVERAGE

NOAA Expands Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries Off California

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries off northern California will both more than double in size following the final rule released by NOAA, helping to protect the region's marine and coastal habitats, biological resources and special ecological features.

<http://phys.org/news/2015-03-noaa-cordell-bank-gulf-farallones.html>

Close Encounter: Seal Draws Attention on Port Angeles' Hollywood Beach

Warning tape was placed around a beached, molting female Elephant seal on Hollywood Beach by Feiro Marine Life Center to help protect the marine mammal from curious crowds at a distance.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150126/NEWS/301269865/close-encounter-seal-draws-attention-on-port-angeles-hollywood-beach>

Dead Whale Found at Seattle Dock Struck by Ship Propeller

A 32-foot gray whale that turned up dead under the Washington state ferry terminal in downtown Seattle died earlier this week because it was struck by the propeller of a large vessel, according to the initial necropsy results.

<http://news.yahoo.com/dead-whale-found-seattle-dock-struck-ship-propeller-012154518.html>

Will Sonobuoys In The Pacific Help The Navy But Harm Whales?

The Navy conducts training and testing in a stretch of the Pacific roughly the size of Montana and wants to continue to expand its activities in these waters from Washington to Northern California. But first it must renew its permit under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

<http://kuow.org/post/will-sonobuoys-pacific-help-navy-harm-whales>

Navy Unveils Plans for Pier, Facilities on Port Angeles' Ediz Hook

The U.S. Navy has disclosed formal plans for constructing a pier and support facilities for berthing seven submarine-escort vessels on Ediz Hook. An environmental assessment is underway for the three potential sites.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150130/NEWS/301309974/navy-unveils-plans-for-pier-facilities-on-port-angeles-ediz-hook>

Navy Holds Open House on Ediz Hook Submarine-Escort Plans; Concerns Voiced by Scuba Divers, Tribes, Others

Navy officials recently unveiled preliminary plans for constructing a pier and support facilities for berthing submarine-escort vessels on Ediz Hook. One of the proposed sites is right on top of a popular recreational diving and fishing spot.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150209/news/302099974/navy-holds-open-house-on-ediz-hook-submarine-escort-plans-concerns>

Feiro Marine Life Center's Fish on Fence Sculptures are Memorial to Declining Sea Stars

The newest creations on the Fish on the Fence display are a memorial, made out of ceramic and metal, dedicated to the loss of millions of sea stars in the Pacific Ocean and Strait of Juan de Fuca.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150206/news/302069974/feiro-marine-life-center-8217-s-fish-on-fence-sculptures-are>

Billy Frank Jr.'s Courage and Tenacity Honored With Salmon Totem Pole

A pole honoring the late Billy Frank Jr. (1931-2014) now stands at Wa He Lut Indian School at Frank's Landing on the Nisqually reservation in Washington State.

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/02/11/billy-frank-jrs-courage-and-tenacity-honored-salmon-totem-pole-159120>

National Ocean Acidification Study Finds Northwest Among Hardest-Hit Regions

The Natural Resources Defense Council released a report that ocean acidification caused by carbon dioxide emissions is hitting the Northwest harder than other parts of the country, which won't come as a surprise to Northwest shellfish growers.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/02/national_ocean_acidification_s.html#incart_2box

Where in the Water are J and K Pods?

An update from NOAA Fisheries scientists aboard the *Bell M. Shimada* research ship following Southern Resident Killer Whales shared that L and K pods movements have been confined to the coastal waters and northern Oregon.

<http://www.sanjuanislander.com/news-articles/environment-science-whales/whales/18231/where-in-the-water-are-j-and-kpods>

Federal Court Upholds Protection for Threatened Marbled Murrelets by Rejecting Timber Industry Lawsuit

A federal appeals court has rejected a lawsuit by the timber industry seeking to strip Endangered Species Act protection from a threatened seabird that nests in old-growth forests.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150304/NEWS/303049985/federal-court-upholds-protection-for-threatened-marbled-murrelets-by>

New Baby Orca, Other Discoveries for Team Tracking Whales

A new baby orca was one of several interesting discoveries made by NOAA Fisheries researchers while tracking endangered killer whales at sea on a 21-day scientific cruise.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/New-baby-orca-other-discoveries-for-team-6116392.php>

NOAA Cruise Offers Clues to Puget Sound Killer Whales' Winter Lives at Sea

New information gleaned from a 21-day cruise with endangered killer whales off the Oregon and Washington coast could provide crucial information as federal officials consider expanding critical habitat for the marine mammals.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/03/noaa_cruise_offers_clues_to_pu.html#incart_river

Four Students Win NOAA Scholarships

Four Western students were awarded \$22,500 from both academic aid and paid internships at top scientific research facilities for 2015. NOAA awards the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program annually to approximately 100 students from all over the country.

http://www.westernfrontonline.net/news/news_photo/article_87742bd8-c171-11e4-a662-6332ae6db55d.html

NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Input on Environmental Analysis of Proposed Makah Whale Hunt

NOAA Fisheries is inviting public comments on a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that evaluates the Makah Tribe's request to resume treaty-based hunting of eastern North Pacific gray whales for ceremonial and subsistence purposes. The Makah seek to hunt gray whales from the eastern North Pacific stock, which is fully recovered from historic whaling and was removed from the list of threatened and endangered species in 1994.

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/marine_mammals/cetaceans/gray_whales/makah_whale_release.pdf

NOAA Study Could Set Stage for Makah Whaling to Resume

NOAA Fisheries released a draft environmental study that could set the stage for the resumption of whaling off the Washington coast by the Makah Indian tribe.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/environment/noaa-study-could-set-stage-for-resumption-of-tribal-whaling/>

Governor Inslee declares WA Drought for Parts of Eastern Washington and Olympic Peninsula

With snowpack at near record lows, Governor Inslee declared a drought on the Olympic Peninsula, on the east side of the central Cascade Mountains including Yakima and Wenatchee, and the Walla Walla region.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/governor-inslee-declares-drought-three-washington-regions>

It's Official: Olympic Mountains — Source of Our Water Supply — in a State of Drought

A stubbornly warm winter is still providing the Olympic Mountains with little snowpack, and the mountain range has been declared to officially be in a state of drought.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150311/NEWS/303119983/its-official-olympic-mountains-8212-source-of-our-water-supply>

Great White Shark Thought to Swim Near Washington Coast, Feed on Seals

A great white shark about 18 feet long is believed to be swimming off the coast near Ocean Shores and feeding on harbor seals close to shore, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150226/NEWS/302269981/great-white-shark-thought-to-swim-near-washington-coast-feed-on-seals>

OCNMS ONLINE

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

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

<https://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.

FUN, OCEAN-RELATED WEBSITES

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

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

NOAA Ocean Explorer

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

National Ocean Service

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

National Data Buoy Center

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

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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

Washington's Ocean Resources

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

NOAA Marine Debris Program

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

CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node

<http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Online Media Library

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

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

<http://www.nanoos.org/>

Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

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

NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

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

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://www.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 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 176,000 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 website at:
<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get Involved!

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

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