

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 – NOVEMBER 18, 2011

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.

OFFICE REPORT

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized by OCNMS management plan priority areas

TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Science Staff Briefs Intergovernmental Policy Council Science Panel
Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby was an invited speaker for the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council's (IPC) Science Panel meeting on October 7. He was asked to provide a summary of completed research projects in 2011 and those planned for 2012. Ed spent approximately 5 hours in discussions with the science panel, composed of science staff from the four coastal treaty tribes and Washington state (represented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), going over pertinent aspects of the sanctuary's research and collaborative investigations lead by other agencies. Constructive comments were received on the 2011 projects, as well as recommendations on collaborative potential with the tribes for 2012 planned projects.

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council meets in Taholah, Washington in the Quinault Indian Nation

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council met October 11, 2011 in Taholah, Washington as part of their regularly scheduled quarterly meetings. Carol Bernthal, Sanctuary Superintendent, and George Galasso, Deputy Superintendent, provided briefings on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary budget and accomplishments for 2011, as well as some of our preliminary priorities for 2012, the status of the management plan review and associated revisions to regulations. We also discussed how the IPC could be involved in 2012 Annual Operating Plan development and their thoughts on 2012 priorities for science and education. The Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the IPC will expire in 2012, and the group discussed what modifications might be needed and the process for accomplishing that.

Olympic Coast Sanctuary Advisory Council and Intergovernmental Policy Council Meeting Postponed

A joint meeting between the Olympic Coast Sanctuary Advisory Council and Intergovernmental Policy Council scheduled for November 18, 2011 was delayed due to a death in the tribal community. This would have been the second annual joint meeting between the two councils, which provide guidance and advice for OCNMS management and program activities. Plans had been for each council to review 2011 accomplishments and identify preliminary priorities for 2012, followed by discussion of areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration.

ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Sanctuary Superintendent Returns from Nine Month Detail

Carol Bernthal has returned from a nine month detail as the acting west coast regional director for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Carol resumed her duties as OCNMS Superintendent as of October 5th, but will continue to assist on several west coast regional issues for the next few months. Thanks to George Galasso who has served as both the Deputy Superintendent and Acting Superintendent for the past 9 months and to Dawn Hayes who served as Acting Deputy Superintendent over the summer.

Olympic Coast Deputy Superintendent Certified as Facilitator for the Strength Deployment Inventory Assessment Tool

Deputy Superintendent George Galasso completed training to be a certified facilitator for the Strength Deployment Inventory assessment tool. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary will be using the tool as part of a team building effort related to the implementation of the recently revised OCNMS Management Plan.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Trains on Managing Conflict and Improving Relationships

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary had a staff wide training on the use of the Strength Deployment Inventory (a personal assessment tool) meant to help manage conflict and improve relationships. Staff explored aspects of relationship awareness theory, increasing their understanding and ability to recognize motivation behind behavior, with the goal of preventing conflict and improving team effectiveness.

NOAA Releases Plan for Managing and Protecting Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

On November 11, 2011, NOAA released the final management plan, environmental assessment and final rule for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The final plan provides a framework for the sanctuary to refine its research, education and outreach programs, create and enhance partnerships, and manage potential threats to the sanctuary's marine resources. The plan includes a new regulation prohibiting wastewater discharge from cruise ships within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Updates to other regulatory language have been made to ensure clarity and consistency with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The management plan is the result of a three year collaborative effort that involved input from the public, the Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the Intergovernmental Policy Council. The plan emphasizes the nature and significance of the sanctuary's treaty trust responsibility to the Hoh, Quileute and Makah Tribes and Quinault Indian Nation. Treaty trust responsibility is an integral part of its mission; and fulfilling this responsibility is critical to the successful implementation of the management plan. The management plan contains 20 action plans that focus on the sanctuary's priority management goals. These outline strategies and activities for collaborative management, research, assessment and monitoring, public education and outreach, conservation of resources and study of the sanctuary's cultural, historical and economic significance.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Holds Public Workshop on Long-term Facility Planning

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has begun the process of developing a long range facility strategy, the first phase of which will be to translate the goals and objectives of the sanctuary into a preliminary set of facility needs. On October 27, OCNMS held a public workshop on the development of a long range facility plan for the sanctuary. The meeting was facilitated by Facility Programming and Consulting. The need to update the current OCNMS facilities plan was identified during their recently revised OCNMS management plan.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Meets with Enforcement Partners

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recently held their bi-annual meeting to discuss sanctuary enforcement issues. The group is organized by the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and includes the U.S. Coast Guard and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The TAC was briefed on the recently revised sanctuary management plan and revisions to the sanctuary regulations. Other issues discussed included enforcement priorities for 2012 and opportunities for training law enforcement personnel on sanctuary regulations and issues.

Senior Leadership Briefing

Carol Bernthal, Sanctuary Superintendent, participated in an informal brown bag lunch meeting with Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observations and Predictions and senior NOAA leadership in the Pacific Northwest region on October 20th. Dr. Sullivan was in Seattle October 19-21 for the Pacific Tsunami conference and met with senior NOAA leadership in the region.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Recruiting Five Seats

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is currently recruiting for five seats: Research, Commercial Fishing, Marine Business/Ports/Industry, Chamber of Commerce/Tourism/Recreation, and Conservation, with a goal of sitting new members by the next meeting on January 20, 2012.

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

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Research Coordinator Reports on Deep-Sea Coral Surveys

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby participated in NOAA's Deep Sea Coral's conference call and webinar. He reported out on the August 2011 deep-sea coral surveys in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary using a remotely operated vehicle, which completed surveys at two Essential Fish Habitat priority sites. He also noted the successful July multibeam acoustic surveys in the same area and the upcoming Pacific groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee meeting on October 6 in Portland, Oregon, under the auspices of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

NOAA Dive Center Assists Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Retrieving Oceanographic Equipment

The NOAA Dive Center assisted Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary with the recovery of two oceanographic moorings with equipment valued at over \$10K and containing 6 weeks of data. Early fall storms had buried mooring anchors in sediment, making them irretrievable from the surface. Between April and October since 2000, the sanctuary has deployed

12 ~~or more~~ moorings (**some years more**) each season to collect oceanographic data to document water circulation and upwelling, low oxygen, and algal bloom events. Because funding does not support a more robust mooring design, the sanctuary retrieves moorings before they are lost to the Pacific Ocean's winter storms. Under the current budget situation we would not have been able to replace the equipment. The assistance of CDR Joel Dulaigh PHS, LT Ryan Wattam NOAA, Jim Bostick, and Zachary Hileman prevented abandonment of the moorings and the loss of valuable data and equipment. The successful dive operation was conducted off the sanctuary's R/V *Tatoosh*.

Sharing Research Results

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby had a phone interview session with David Christie, Director of the West Coast & Polar Regions Undersea Research Center, concerning updating reports and accomplishments from the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) funded 2006 deep-sea coral community survey in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. He referred David to the Brancato et al. 2007 published report (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/bowlby.html>) as well as to other publications that used the information and photographic documentation, such as 'The State of Deep Coral Ecosystems of the United States' (Lumsden et al. 2007 http://coris.noaa.gov/activities/deepcoral_rpt/). He also noted that this information will be submitted to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in December for consideration in its groundfish Essential Fish Habitat review process

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Reports on Status of Deep Sea Corals

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby submitted a status report to the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program concerning a small grant to assess deep-sea corals in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary from remotely operated vehicles surveys in 2006 and 2008. This will be used as supplementary material appended to the 2012 Report to Congress on the Status of Deep Sea Corals in the U.S. It will also be linked to an interactive regional map that is currently hosted on the National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat website.

Report on 2010 Deep Sea Coral Surveys

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby submitted the following report on 2010 deep-sea coral surveys in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program as well as to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (composed of the four coastal treaty tribes and the state of Washington):

Bowlby, Ed, Jennifer Bright, Katie Brenkman, Peter Etnoyer, Sean Rooney, and Colby Brady. 2011. A Characterization of Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Communities on the Continental Shelf of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Northern Washington Using a Remotely Operated Vehicle. A Report to NOAA Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Makah Tribal Fisheries Sign Research Agreement

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby signed a research agreement with the Makah Tribal Fisheries on behalf of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary concerning research protocols and data sharing arrangements when the sanctuary conducts research projects on tribal lands in 2012.

IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Celebrate National Public Lands Day

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, Olympic National Park rangers and educators from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary presented "Ocean Stories" at Kalaloch Campground. Topics included whales, coastal geology, ocean debris and more. Visitors were encouraged to participate in a beach walk and cleanup at the park. For more information go to <http://www.nps.gov/olym/parknews/celebrate-national-public-lands-day-at-olympic-np.htm>.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Participates in Local Seafood Festival

The Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival on City Pier attracted large crowds from across the state, and as far away as California and Idaho. Over 500 visitors stopped by the sanctuary booth, which had the theme "Save Planet Ocean," to learn about marine debris, ocean acidification, and steps we can all take to help reduce these problems.

Olympic Coast Discovery Center Visitor Count Up for 2011

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center had 7,015 visitors in 2011, an increase of more than 450 from 2010. Guests come from across the United States and around the world to learn more about Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. They want to know how to access remote areas to photograph seabirds and marine mammals; they ask about tides, seabird identification, scenic viewpoints accessible by car, ships that have wrecked off our coast, and ongoing oceanographic research. For many tourists who do not have time to visit the coast, Olympic Coast Discovery Center is a window to the sanctuary and its wealth

of marine life and maritime heritage. In total, 66,951 guests have visited the Olympic Coast Discovery Center since it opened in 2004.

Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteers donate 1297 hours to OCNMS in 2011

Olympic Coast Discovery Center volunteers have donated 1,297 hours to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in 2011. In addition to staffing the Olympic Coast Discovery Center they attended training sessions, helped with our education program, assisted with clerical tasks and oceanographic moorings, completed a wide variety of special projects, and represented Olympic Coast NMS in Alpena, Michigan in July.

Collaborative Grant-making in the Pacific Northwest

Pacific Northwest B-WET manager Robert Steelquist participated in a review of grant proposals to the Gray Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. The Gray Family Fund supports environmental education, ocean literacy education and outdoor schools in Oregon. In some cases, the grantees also receive funding from NOAA B-WET and NOAA's Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund.

NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Northwest Fisheries Science Center Highlight Ocean Acidification Outreach Activities at Seattle Aquarium Family Science Weekend

NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center staff presented "Understanding Ocean Acidification" hands-on activities at Seattle Aquarium Family Science Weekend. During the three-day event, NOAA educators and scientists, local meteorologists, and Aquarium researchers offered families an opportunity to discover science together through exciting interactive experiments and presentations. This year had record visitation for the event with nearly 9,000 children and adults attending.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Staff Complete Designing Education Project Course

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Education and Outreach Specialist Jacqueline Laverdure completed the NOAA Department of Education Designing Education Projects course. Participants developed individual project objectives, outputs, and outcomes and conducted a needs assessment. The nine-week course culminated with a three-day in-person meeting where participants designed and implemented evaluation tools for their specific education projects. OCNMS programs play a critical role in increasing the public's environmental literacy. Skills learned during Designing Education Projects course will assist OCNMS education staff as they develop and implement projects that are aligned with NOAA Department of Education project design standards.

CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

Staff to Observe Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Project

On October 11, 2011, Liam Antrim, Resource Protection Specialist, joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and Olympic National Park representatives to visit the ongoing Quillayute River dredging. The group evaluated operations and discussed potential impacts of beach nourishment with dredged materials on beach profile and sediment character and impacts on intertidal forage fish spawning on adjacent Rialto Beach.

Meeting of the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Committee

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby participated in a Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Committee meeting in Portland, Oregon on October 6. Ed, as the primary representative for the west coast national marine sanctuaries, was joined by Karen Reyna (Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary), his alternate. The multi-stakeholder committee progressed with clarification of products needed from NOAA Fisheries' contractors and refining schedules to meet the Pacific Fishery Management Council's deadlines for the 5-year review process on groundfish EFH.

Sanctuary and Sea Grant Partner on Climate Scenario

Washington Sea Grant, University of Washington's Climate Impact Group, and OCNMS staff have begun work on a climate change site scenario for OCNMS using funds provided by NOAA's Climate Program Office. The report will describe the state of knowledge of a suite of climate-related physical parameters that may influence the management of marine resources and OCNMS over the next 50-100 years and summary sources of vulnerability and relevant adaptation strategies. This is the first step in implementing OCNMS' climate action plan and will eventually lead to certification as a Climate Smart Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Contributes to Ocean Energy Discussion

Carol Bernthal, Sanctuary Superintendent, was a presenter on a "Science and Policy for Ocean Planning" panel at an ocean energy conference, November 8-9 in Bremerton, Washington. The conference explored whether and how the public and private leadership could forge a bold initiative in building an ocean energy economy for Washington State. The conference

was sponsored by Cleantech West Sound, Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest and Idaho national laboratories. There was considerable interest expressed in the potential for offshore wind and wave energy from congressional members including Representatives Norm Dicks and Jay Inslee, alternative energy industry members, and economic development directors from a variety of local counties and governments. Numerous presenters emphasized the need for marine spatial planning to appropriate site such facilities.

Climate Collaboration

Marine Geographer Nancy Wright attended the Olympic Climate Change Case Study workshop sponsored by Olympic National Park, which featured speakers from the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group and ONP who are working on climate change adaptation scenarios for the Pacific Northwest. Speakers highlighted sensitivities and adaptive strategies for managing changes in vegetation, wildlife, hydrology and fish throughout Washington and the coastal watersheds.

Washington Sea Grant Symposium on Ocean Acidification

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff participated in a Washington Sea Grant (WSG) Symposium on Ocean Acidification. The November 9th event was held in Seattle and featured presentations and discussions with distinguished scientists, policy makers and stakeholders. Further information sharing beyond the symposium will be facilitated by WSG. <http://www.wsg.washington.edu/admin/pdfs/ocean-acidification-agenda.pdf>

Sanctuary Superintendent Interviewed About Marine Protected Area Management

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal was interviewed by Blue Earth Consultants on her experiences in marine protected management as part of an evaluation of models of successful ocean management. Blue Earth Consultants were hired by the Resource Legacy Fund to complete the assessment to inform options for implementation of a network of marine protected areas in California.

UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Maritime Cultural Landscapes

Education and Outreach Coordinator Robert Steelquist presented at and participated in the Maritime Heritage Program "Maritime Cultural Landscapes" Workshop in Warrenton, Virginia. The workshop explored ways to use a "landscape" approach to identifying and conserving historic and cultural resources located in and adjacent to sanctuaries. Olympic Coast's contribution to the workshop was to relate experiences working with Native American tribes.

National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation Training

OCNMS staff Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim and Robert Steelquist participated in training on the National Historic Preservation Act, specifically related to the Section 106 consultation requirements. The training was organized by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Preservation Program in partnership with the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. This training was very timely as OCNMS will soon begin work, in consultation with the coastal treaty tribes, the state of Washington Historic Preservation and Archeology Office, Olympic National Park, on a programmatic agreement describing the way in which OCNMS' routine activities will comply with Section 106.

NEWS COVERAGE

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20111103/news/311039991/olympic-coast-national-marine-sanctuary-gets-new-management-plan>

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=47280&ndb=1&df=0>

http://thedailyworld.com/local_news/marine_sanctuary_has_new_management_plan

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

Recent Updates

Visit our updated web site.

Follow the OCNMS on Facebook!

*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 WEB SITES

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

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

National Ocean Service

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

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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

NOAA Online Media Library

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

Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

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

NOAA Ocean Explorer

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

National Data Buoy Center

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

Washington's Ocean Resources

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

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

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

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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

Get involved!

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



OCNMS Staff

Carol Bernthal – Superintendent

George Galasso – Deputy Superintendent

Patrick A’Hearn – Oceanography Specialist (contractor)

Liam Antrim – Resource Protection Specialist, Acting Advisory Council Coordinator

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

Ed Bowlby – Research Coordinator

Katie Brenkman – Research Technician (contractor)

Jennifer Bright – Research Technician (contractor)

Eric Evans – IT Consultant (contractor)

Rick Fletcher – R/V Tatoosh Captain (contractor)

Carey Floyd – Graphic and Web Designer (contractor)

Norma Klein – Office Administrator

Janet Lamont – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

Jacqueline Laverdure – Education Specialist

Heidi Pedersen – Education Specialist (contractor)

Robert Rountree – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

Robert Steelquist – Education & Outreach Coordinator

LTJG Nathan Witherly – Operations Officer (NOAA Corps)

Nancy Wright - Geographer

- Contact Information -

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