

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER

V O L U N T E E R N E W S L E T T E R - A U G 2 0 1 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 10th – COASST Training or Refresher Session, DNR in Forks

Aug. 15th - 18th – Clallam County Fair, Port Angeles

Aug. 23rd - 25th – Makah Days, Neah Bay

Aug. 31st - Sept. 2nd – Labor Day weekend

Sept. 6th - 8th – Wooden Boat Festival, Port Townsend

Oct. 5th - 6th – Last Chance Salmon Derby, LaPush

Oct. 12th - 13th – **Dungeness Crab & Seafood Fest, Port Angeles.** Olympic Coast Discovery Center will be open that weekend and will have a separate booth on the city pier.

The OCDC will remain open on weekends only (10am- 5pm) in September through Oct. 13th before closing for the fall/ winter.

Beachcombers or Birders Wanted!

Help make a difference for the environment by collecting data for the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)! Volunteers need NO experience with birds, just a commitment to survey a specific beach (about 3/4 mile) each month. If interested, join COASST for a free training on Sat., Aug. 10th from 10am- 4pm (or 1-4pm for refreshers) in Forks at Washington Department of Natural Resources. For more information or to sign up, contact coasst@uw.edu or 206-221-6893.

THANK YOU ALL!

During the month of July, the OCDC received 1,704 visitors with a total of 16 docents contributing 136 volunteer hours! We couldn't do it without you; thank you for being part of our sanctuary community.

Tribal Canoe Journeys

The Quinault Indian Nation hosted "Paddle to Quinault", an annual Canoe Journey revitalized in 1989 to bring together Northwest tribes and to celebrate their cultural traditions. Nearly 100 canoes—all carved out of native Cedar trees—representing the different tribes from the



Northwest region, arrived to Point Grenville in early August. Each year the canoe journeys bring the tribes together to exchange stories, ideas, dance and music. Bonds are formed and strengthened as the journeys enable them to share their traditional cultural practices. It is a beautiful experience as an outsider to witness the tribes' hospitality, support and kinship as they all undergo this physically and mentally arduous journey, a journey embodying the past, present and future.

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On Tuesday, July 22nd the canoes landed at Hollywood Beach in Port Angeles and were welcomed by the Lower Elwha tribe. I felt humbled by each of the canoes, living works of art that have their own individual personality and reflect the unique characteristics of their tribe. I recognized the pride and sense of identity of these traveling communities, a feeling I sometimes do not feel of my own “modern” generation. The canoe journeys humbled me as I reflected upon the thousands of years of cultural evolution they represented, and reaffirmed to me how we can all reach out to our neighboring communities, no matter how near or far.

For information visit www.paddletokinault.org



Jr. Oceanographer Summer Camps

This summer marked the sixth year of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s Junior Oceanographer summer camp program. This year’s program, held in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center and led by Hollings Scholar Katie O’Reilly, served over 80 children in five different camps.

The summer started off with “SEAfari,” a camp for children ages 5-8. It was an action-packed week full



of learning about local marine life (while having fun and getting messy, of course!). With everything from a plankton tow off City Pier, to a beach seine off Hollywood Beach, to numerous other games and activities, the students learned about the world around them in a hands-on way. For older students (ages 8-12), this year’s camp theme was “Biodiversity, the Sea, and Me!” with a focus on learning about all different types of marine life. The connections between organisms and their environments were emphasized, as well as how humans are part of the ocean. Both camps culminated with an art show in which students’ crafts were on display to their parents.

OCNMS and Feiro also supported two ROV Exploration camps this summer for children ages 12-14. In these camps, the students worked in teams to design and construct their own ROV (remotely operated vehicle). They learned the basics of engineering as well as how technology is being utilized in current research. During the week, they had the opportunity to explore the waters off City Pier using their ROVs and record video of the life

they found. Both ROV Explorers camps culminated in an end of the week competition at the city pool. The teams demonstrated their ROV skills by completing a “mission” in which they had to maneuver their ROV through an obstacle course and collect three rings.

The Junior Oceanographer summer camp program is important to OCNMS’s mission of education and outreach. By educating children about the wonders of the ocean, we inspire the next generation of scientists, environmental stewards, and citizens.

COASST News From the Field

A Greater White-fronted Goose found by Tom and Connie on the South Coast of Washington. This is a rare find for COASST (less than 40 documented)! You won’t find this species in the field guide. However, those three webbed front toes and bulbous forth toe will put this bird in the “Waterfowl: Tippers and Geese” category.



Heidi and team found these pieces of yellow polypropylene rope (~12” long) on the north coast. Rope like this is often used in recreational fisheries, perhaps from a larger length encountered at the surface, wound around, then cut from a propeller. This type of rope is also used in oyster culture and cut as the crop is harvested. Rope fragments and larger loops pose ingestion and entanglement hazards, respectively, to many marine species.



Squid eggs found Pacific Beach by COASST volunteers Helen and Peter. For a fun video of a squid laying eggs in the sand and transporting them and attaching to a hanging cluster, see: <http://vimeo.com/56932714>



Creature Feature

Sharks in our Sanctuary!

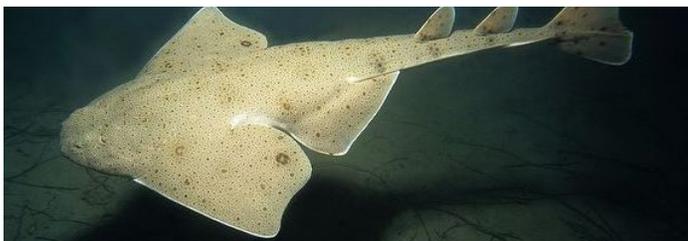
It's Shark Week! Everyone has a favorite shark- what's yours? I thought we could take a look at the species of sharks that can be found in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary waters.



The Bluntnose six-gill shark (*Hexanchus griseus*) is characterized by its six gill slits on each side of its head, setting it apart from the majority of sharks with five gill slits. They can be identified by their fluorescent green eyes and singular dorsal fin near the caudal fin (tail). They inhabit deep waters near continental shelves/ slopes and prey upon or scavenge for food. Six-gill sharks are thought to be solitary, but much has yet to be learned about their biology and ecology. The Seattle Aquarium conducts research on these sharks and has one of its stations below the aquarium in Elliot Bay!



True to its name, the Broadnose seven-gill shark (*Notorynchus cepedianus*) possesses seven gill slits on each side of its head and a caudal fin with a distinctively elongated upper lobe. Their preferred habitat is rocky seabed in coastal and nearshore zones. These powerful predators have a diverse diet, which even includes documented cannibalism. Seven-gills sometimes hunt together in groups and have also been meals to Great white sharks.



It could be easy to mistake a Pacific angel shark (*Squatina californica*) for a skate or ray, with its flat body and wing-like pectoral fins, enabling it to inhabit sandy bottom habitats. Pacific angel sharks blend in with

the sandy or silty bottom up to 200 meters deep, which they burrow under and wait to ambush prey. These fish were a popular commercial target species, but declined drastically due to heavy fishing pressure. Their slow reproductive rate and late sexual maturity make it more difficult to recover from overexploitation. Although the Pacific angel shark population is now better protected by gear and habitat restrictions, they are still caught as by-catch in other fisheries.



One of the more common sharks still living today is the Spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), a small and narrow-bodied fish with a pointy snout. Their dark grey body is marked with distinctive white spots and both dorsal fins have a venomous spine. Their name "dogfish" derives from their communal hunting behavior. Widely distributed along coastlines of the world, these migratory fish are somewhat slow and inactive swimmers, so feeding in packs of up to thousands of individuals is advantageous. Spiny dogfish are long-lived and females have the longest gestation period of any vertebrate: two years!



Pacific sleeper shark (*Somniosus pacificus*) can grow up to 25 feet long, with a short caudal fin that enables them to store energy for rapid bursts of energy when capturing prey. They move stealthily and quietly through the water, and inhale prey by suction with their large mouth. They then cut up their prey with their teeth into pieces that can be swallowed. Since food is hard to come by on the deep seafloor, they have adapted stomachs capable of storing food.



The deep-dwelling Brown catshark (*Apristurus brunneus*) is a small shark with a slender, soft body and broad snout. These small sharks are typically 1 to 2 feet in length and are thought to be solitary and nocturnal, living near continental shelves and feeding in the benthic zone. The egg cases of Brown catsharks possess long tendrils to attach to hard structures such as deep sea corals, as depicted in the Discovery Center.