

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2011

Coming Events

Holiday Party!

Our holiday party is scheduled for Thursday, December 15 on the first floor of the Landing building. Set up begins at 4:00, with the party starting about 5:30. Food will be much the same as last year, with OCDC and Feiro staff bringing main dishes, and volunteers contributing appetizers, salads, desserts and beverages.



The Port Angeles High School choir has tentatively accepted our invitation to sing Christmas music at the beginning of the evening, and once again there is an optional gift exchange with the theme of “Something Fishy.”

In the next few days you will receive a phone call from someone on the Volunteer Advisory Committee – Elizabeth Clark, Jim Fedderly, or Carol Huard – to ask if you are planning to attend, and what you would like to bring. Please let them know if you have questions or need more information about this event.



New Revised OCNMS Web Site

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s new website is now live. You can check it out at <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov>. You will be impressed by the beautiful new format, which is easy to navigate, and full of information about the sanctuary, its research and education programs.

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

NOAA recently released the final management plan and environmental assessment for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The document 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 management plan is the result of a collaborative effort that involved input from the public, the Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the Intergovernmental Policy Council,” said George Galasso, Sanctuary Assistant Manager. “It includes detailed guidance for program priorities that we will use to manage this special undersea place for future generations to enjoy.”

The plans address five priority goals:

- manage the sanctuary in collaboration and coordination with the four coastal treaty tribes, the state, and stakeholders;
- conduct collaborative research, assessments and monitoring to support ecosystem-based management;
- improve ocean literacy;
- conserve natural resources; and
- understand the sanctuary's cultural, historical and socioeconomic significance.

The final management plan, regulations, and final environmental assessment can be read at

<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov>



Rule to Ban Cruise Ship Discharge in Washington Sanctuary

Cruise ships will be prohibited from discharging wastewater into a protected marine sanctuary off the outer coast of Washington state's Olympic Peninsula under new rules taking effect this week. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says the rule addresses its concerns about large volumes of sewage and wastewater potentially affecting marine resources in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary covers 2,408 square nautical miles of marine waters. It provides habitat to many valuable species of fish, seabirds and marine mammals. Environmental groups applauded the move but are pushing for a similar ban on cruise ship discharges into Puget Sound and other Washington waters. The new NOAA rules will take effect Dec. 1.