

Volunteer Newsletter

Mar / Apr 2015

Upcoming Events

Fri. April 3rd 8th Annual Welcome of the Whales Ceremony, La Push <http://www.quileutenation.org/>

Fri. April 10th at 12-1pm Brown bag lunch presentation by Megan Juran on her volunteer experience on Tern Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

April 10th-12th wknd Olympic Peninsula Bird Festival, Sequim <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>

TBD. April 15th at 12-1pm Brown bag lunch presentation on Earthquake and Tsunami Preparedness by Nicole Harris

April 18th-29th wknd Olympic National Park Free Admission Days

Sat. April 25th CoastSavers Washington Coast Cleanup www.coastsavers.org followed by River and Ocean Film Festival 7pm at Forks Rainforest Arts Center (read more below) <http://wsg.washington.edu/communications/river-ocean-film-festival.html>

Sat. April 25th Eagle Fest, Neah Bay <http://www.neahbaywa.com>

Thurs. April 30th at 6:30pm Feiro Lecture Series featuring Sperm Whales by Jan Straley, whale biologist from Sitka AK. RSVP to <mailto:racheleb@feiomarinelifecenter.org>

May 1st – 3rd wknd Grays Harbor Shorebird & Nature Festival www.shorebirdfestival.com

Tues. May 12th at 12-1pm Brown bag lunch slideshow presentation of NOAA's International Marine Protected Area Capacity Building Program by Mary Sue Brancato

Sat. May 23rd Olympic Coast Discovery Center Opens for 2015 season! We open 10:00am –5:00pm daily through Monday, September 7 (Labor Day).



OCDC Spring Training!

It's already almost time for the 2015 season! We are now seeking new, energetic volunteers for Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) to help inform our visitors about sanctuary and ocean resources. Please spread the word to your friends or community groups to help us recruit new ocean heroes!

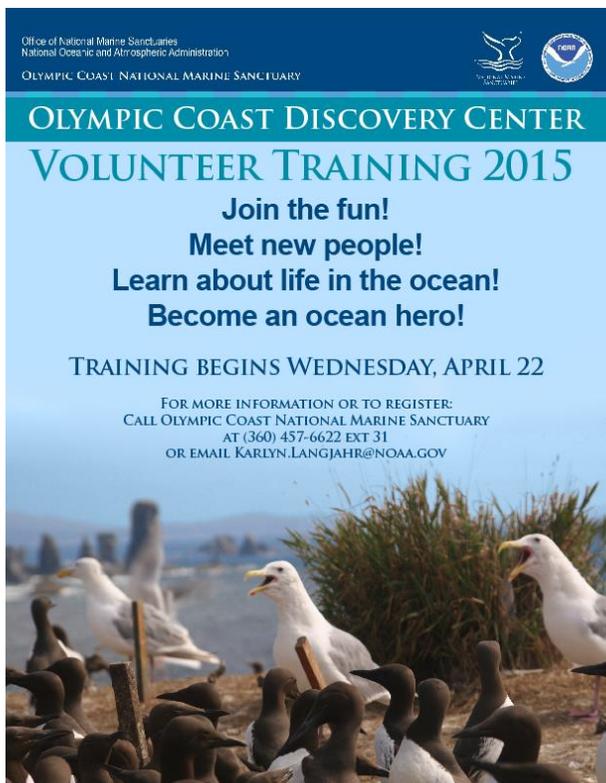
The 2015 OCDC training schedule is as follows:

1. Wed. April 22nd 8:30am-1:00pm classroom followed by **Pizza Social for all volunteers & OCNMS staff!**
2. Wed. April 29th 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
3. Wed. May 6th 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
4. Wed. May 13th 8:30am-1:00pm classroom
5. Wed. May 20th **tidepooling field trip (half day) to Salt Creek & potluck picnic (all welcome!)**
6. Wed. May 27th all day field trip to Neah Bay (Makah Museum & Cape Flattery)

Current volunteers are welcome to join any or all segments of our 2015 volunteer training us as a refresher! Contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov or (360) 457-6622 ext. 31 for registration or more information.

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Mar / Apr 2015



Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

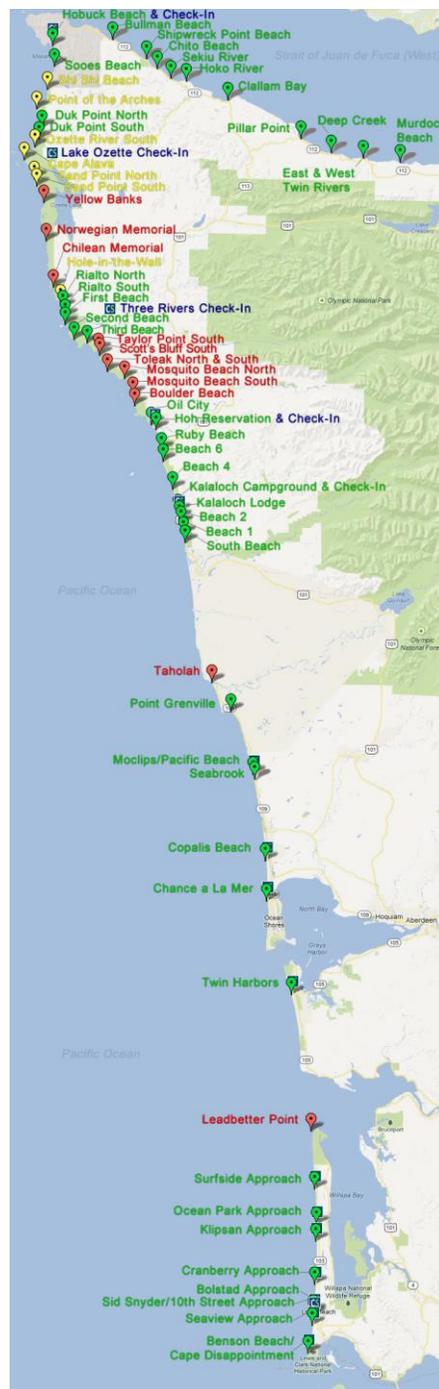
OLYMPIC COAST DISCOVERY CENTER VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2015

Join the fun!
Meet new people!
Learn about life in the ocean!
Become an ocean hero!

TRAINING BEGINS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER:
CALL OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
AT (360) 457-6622 EXT 31
OR EMAIL KARLYN.LANGJHR@NOAA.GOV

post-event barbecues at a few of the locations, so find a beach that matches your interests! This major beach cleanup is a celebration of Earth Day and has brought together 10,729 volunteers from 2000-2012, removing over 320 tons of marine trash in that period! Bring your friends and family to join in this year's efforts to make 2015 the most successful beach cleanup in Washington's history!



Washington Coast Cleanup



Join the state's largest annual cleanup efforts on **Saturday, April 25th** by registering for the Washington Coast Cleanup at www.coastsavers.org! Click on the tab for the "Washington Coast Cleanup" to see a list of over 50 beaches along the coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca where you can volunteer. Once you have selected a beach, click on the "Sign Up Now" button to be directed to a registration page. There are some extra perks, like free camping or



Cleanup Access:

- Easy
- Challenging
- Closed

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River & Ocean Film Festival

While you're out at the coast or strait doing your part to keep our beaches clean and healthy during WA Coast Cleanup, stick around for River & Ocean Film Festival in Forks! Enjoy film explorations of our rivers and oceans at the second annual River & Ocean Film Festival at the Rainforest Arts Center. Films start at 7pm and will celebrate the freshwater and marine environments of the west end of the Olympic Peninsula. These short films will highlight the beauty and opportunity of this region, as well as some of the issues faced by its marine and freshwater habitats and the human community. The event is free and open to all. To access the information visit: <http://wsg.washington.edu/communications/river-ocean-film-festival.html>



RIVER & OCEAN DAYS FILM FESTIVAL

April 25, 2015
Free admission.
Rainforest Arts Center
in Forks, Washington
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Films start at 7 p.m.

Enjoy film explorations of our rivers and oceans at the Second Annual River & Ocean Film Festival at Rainforest Arts Center in Forks, Washington on April 25. This event, held in conjunction with the RainFest River & Ocean Days and the Washington Coast Clean-up, celebrates the freshwater and marine environments of the west end of the Olympic Peninsula. Short films from the Olympic Peninsula and beyond will highlight the beauty and opportunity of this region, as well as some of the issues faced by its marine and freshwater habitats and the human community. The event is free and open to all. The selected films are primarily shot in a documentary style and are family-friendly.

Event details and film line-up at: wsg.washington.edu/communications/river-ocean-film-festival.html

Logos: Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition, WOLA, Sea Grant Washington, NPC MRC

This event brought to you by the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee, Washington Sea Grant, North Pacific Coast Lead Entity, Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition, West Olympic Council of the Arts, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Photo by Florian Grasse, Svalle Productions.

Beachcombers Fun Fair 2015

On March 7-8 Heidi and Danny represented OCNMS by hosting an educational booth to participants of the 27th annual Beachcomber's Fun Fair in Ocean Shores, WA. They demonstrated the global issue of marine debris and how it impacts marine life using the albatross bolus activity and provided information to the public about the national NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring efforts. OCNMS also sponsored a neighboring display about CoastSavers and helped sign up beach cleanup volunteers for the April 25th Washington Coastal Cleanup and the July 5th Ocean Shores cleanup. Heidi staff gave a presentation about the NOAA Marine Debris Program and opportunities to get



involved as. 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/>.

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Governor Declares 2015

Drought Year for Olympic Peninsula

Have you noticed that the snow cover atop Hurricane Ridge this year is particularly thin? 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 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. Be prepared this summer and start implementing your own water conservation methods!

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>.

NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) has been using citizen science to monitor marine debris since 2003. In 2012 the NOAA Marine Debris Program began a national effort to monitor marine debris and OCNMS adapted their methods. Heidi reported that they have been gathering data to bring awareness to this global marine issue, with the ultimate goal of decreasing marine debris at the source. Initial findings indicate

that the majority of debris found is plastic, which aligns many other observations across the world. Plastic is buoyant and thus carried easily through the water by winds and currents at or near the sea surface. Plastic also takes a long time to break down, never truly disappearing from the environment. Even when it does break down into smaller and smaller pieces, the tiny plastic filaments can be ingested by various organisms, from microbes to whales.

Here are a couple of photos of debris found along a 100-meter transect at different study sites, sized 1 inch - 12 inches.



We can all help eliminate marine debris by making simple changes in our daily lives:

- Use reusable containers (water bottles, coffee cups) and switch to canvas shopping bags
- Choose biodegradable container options when possible (e.g. wax paper bags instead of plastic bags or glass containers instead of plastic)
- Check that your basic toiletries such as toothpaste and face wash do not contain harmful plastic microbeads
- Pack a meal or cook more when possible to avoid fast-food and take-out containers
- Purchase in bulk to decrease the number of single-use items or packaging
- Dispose of trash properly and recycle as much as possible
- Join local cleanup efforts
- Spread the word to family and friends!



Creature Feature

Migratory whales, our gentle giants

In honor of Dolphin Awareness month (March), we'll feature a dolphin species found in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Pacific White-sided dolphin! Did you know that there are ~41 different dolphin species in the world?



Pacific White-sided dolphin

(Lagenorhynchus obliquidens)

Pacific White-sided dolphins are energetic and acrobatic cetaceans with robust bodies, short beaks and a sharply hooked dorsal fin. Recognized by their two-toned coloring, they are physically characterized by light gray sides (“suspender stripes”) and underbellies contrasted by dark gray backs, including the beak, flippers and dorsal fins. Pacific White-sided dolphins are usually found offshore along the continental slope in North Pacific temperate waters, ranging from Baja, Mexico to the Gulf of Alaska and south to Japan and the South China Sea. Adults can reach a length of 8 feet and weigh around 400 pounds, requiring 20 lbs of food each day. Often traveling in large groups, they opportunistically prey upon over 60 species of fish and 20 species of cephalopods, such as herring, anchovies, hake, squid, salmon and cod. They possess small, conical teeth enabling them to grasp their prey, and are capable of diving for more than six minutes to feed.

These sociable and acrobatic dolphins can be found in groups up to 50, sometimes gathering in

megapods of up to a few thousands of individuals. They can travel at speeds up to 18 miles/hour and commonly breach, porpoise in unison and/or bow-ride vessels and large whales. They are playful and interact with other species of dolphins and marine mammals, such as Northern Right Whale dolphins, Risso’s dolphins and seals and sea lions. Like all dolphins, they have an acute sense of touch and are able to detect another creature approaching from behind by the pressure wave displacement.



Females reach sexual maturity between 7-9 years of age, with males taking around 10 years. After a gestation period of approximately 12 months, calves are born in the summer months between July and September, weighing around 30 lbs. A female will nurse her calf for 8-18 months. Pacific White-sided dolphins have a life expectancy ranging from 37-46 years. Natural threats are predation by transient orcas; anthropogenic threats include live capture for dolphinarium, incidental catch by offshore fisheries and entanglement in derelict fishing gear and toxic contamination/marine pollution.

