

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PARTNERSHIP WITH "WHALE TRAIL"

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), Olympic National Park and the Whale Trail established a series of Whale Trail signs along Washington's coast to attract visitors, while inspiring appreciation and stewardship of whales and our marine environment. The Whale Trail is a series of sites around the Pacific Northwest where the public may view marine mammals from shore. Through the current signs alone, including two on every Washington State ferry, the trail reaches more than 22 million people each year.



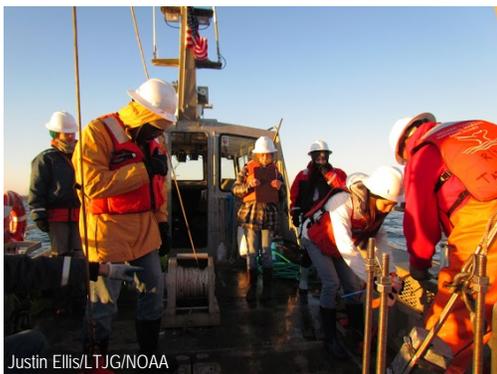
JAPANESE DOCK REMOVED FROM REMOTE SHORELINE

Interagency coordination was an essential ingredient for the rapid salvage of a large dock grounded on remote shores of the sanctuary in late December 2012. Torn from the harbor in Misawa, Japan by the March 2011 tsunami, the 65-foot long dock contained 200 cubic yards of foam encased in concrete. Workers immediately removed over 400 pounds of biofouling, including 63 living species of Japanese origin. Within three months, funding was secured, salvage contracts awarded, and the dock sawed into pieces and airlifted from the beach by helicopter.



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS TESTING IN OCNMS

In tests to evaluate human safety, costs and noise impacts to marine wildlife, NOAA deployed an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The UAS monitored seabird nesting colonies, sea otters and marine debris on remote beaches, offshore rocks and islets. Video and still photography were captured from the PUMA and Quadcopter systems. Project partners included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA UAS Program, NOAA Marine Debris Program, Quinault Indian Nation, Quileute Tribe and Olympic National Park.



OCEANOGRAPHY 101

OCNMS collaborated with Washington Sea Grant to host Peninsula College's Oceanography 101 class aboard R/V *Tatoosh* for an experiential education opportunity. Students gathered ocean chemistry data and conducted bottom grabs and plankton tows. These hands-on activities were integrated with classroom components as part of the student's introduction to oceanography. OCNMS also provided representatives for a career panel highlighting scientific, as well as technical, and other career opportunities within NOAA. The sanctuary regularly collaborates with higher education institutions through internships, career fairs and hands-on learning opportunities.



LOOKING AHEAD

- The sanctuary, Feiro Marine Life Center and the City of Port Angeles are studying the feasibility of a shared facility that will bring together marine conservation research and education, as well as promote economic growth on the city's historic waterfront.
- Washington state and the sanctuary share many conservation goals for the Olympic Coast. Sanctuary staff members provide data and expertise to support Washington's marine spatial planning process. The associated ecosystem assessment and analysis will improve management of the coast.
- The Sanctuary Advisory Council created a Tourism Working Group to recommend ways the sanctuary can foster sustainable tourism in the region. The initiative dovetails with President Obama's Executive Order on Tourism, and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries "Campaign of Engagement."

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula. The sanctuary is home to many marine mammals and seabirds, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with more than 180 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quinalt, Hoh and Quileute Nations. Established July 16, 1994.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast
Cordell Bank
Gulf of the Farallones
Papahānaumokuākea
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
Monterey Bay
Channel Islands
American Samoa (U.S.)



Thunder Bay
Stallwagen Bank
Monitor
Gray's Reef
Florida Keys
Flower Garden Banks

○ National Marine Sanctuary
△ Marine National Monument

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas 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. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

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