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Contact: Nicole.Harris@noaa.gov, 360-457-6622 ext. 19
Vernon Smith, vernon.smith@noaa.gov, 240-533-0662

Public invited to “Get into Your Sanctuary” activities June 17-26

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is inviting the public to “Get into Your Sanctuary,” as part of a national celebration of America’s underwater treasures.

The [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from the Hawaiian Islands to the Florida Keys and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

On June 25-26, national marine sanctuary sites across the system will host public events to raise awareness about national marine sanctuaries and educate visitors about how they can responsibly enjoy these special places.

“Few places on the planet can compete with the diversity of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which protects America’s most iconic natural and cultural marine resources,” said John Armor, acting director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. “We invite those who already know about national marine sanctuaries and the next generation of sanctuary visitors, supporters and advocates to join us for what promises to be a very fun and informative weekend for all.”

Get into Your Sanctuary activities will include guided tours, gear demonstrations, scavenger hunts, a youth fishing tournament, beach surveys, island hikes and whale watch tours. Visitors are invited to share their experiences on social media with #ILoveMySanctuary and submit their best shots in the Get into Your Sanctuary photo contest. For more information, photo contest rules, and a calendar of events, go to <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/giys.html>.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is offering the following activities during June 17 - 26:

Get into Your Sanctuary kick-off film screening and presentation by Florian Graner, on Friday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m.: Olympic National Park will be showcasing the film, *Discover the Olympic Coast*, at their Port Angeles-based Olympic National Park Visitor Center. *Discover the Olympic Coast* was filmed and produced by acclaimed videographer Florian Graner and highlights Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary habitats and the animals that depend on it, through the eyes of a young harbor seal. Florian Graner will accompany this screening to discuss his diving and inspiration for the film. The film will also be shown daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. during June 18-26. The film and presentation are offered free of charge and open to the public.

Discover the Olympic Coast film and fun youth activities at Port Angeles Library on Saturday June 25, at 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Join Olympic Coast National Marine

Sanctuary staff at Port Angeles Library, Carver Room South, for *Discover the Olympic Coast* film and fun! Filmed and produced by award-winning Florian Graner, the movie highlights the habitats and marine wildlife of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary through the eyes of a young harbor seal. Following the movie, there will be games and activities for elementary school kids and their families to better understand our connection to the marine environment and marine wildlife. This is a free event, open to the public. To register, contact Karlyn Langjahr at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (karlyn.langjahr@noaa.gov; 360-457-6622 ext. 31).

Ruby Beach Nature photography workshop, Saturday, June 25, 9:30 a.m.: Join Olympic National Park interpretive rangers and sanctuary staff for a nature photography-focused beach walk at Ruby Beach. Get photography tips while exploring the area's world class tidepools, and take in the scenic beaches and views for inspiration. This is a free family-friendly event, open to the public. Participants should bring their own cameras and meet at the top of Ruby Beach trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to wear appropriate shoes and clothing.

Olympic Culinary Loop: Enjoy culinary highlights around the Olympic Peninsula, with a focus on healthy and sustainable foods, such as the variety of sustainable seafood choices available on local restaurants' menus.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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