Olympic Coast Discovery Center

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center, located in the Landing building on the Port Angeles waterfront, introduces visitors from across the nation and around the world to the National Marine Sanctuary System and especially to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Maps, interactive kiosks, a video theater and hands-on displays present the major themes of conservation, science and exploration, and maritime heritage.

Conservation

With nearly 50 miles of wilderness beaches, 29 species of marine mammals, and hundreds of species of seabirds, fish and marine invertebrates, the rugged Washington coast is a unique, fragile environment well worth protecting from possible oil spills, toxic contamination, and habitat degradation.

Science and Exploration

The submersible Deep Worker is one of many tools scientists use to explore the sanctuary seafloor. In the center's Deep Worker theater, visitors can see what's beneath the surface while listening to radio communications between the scientist and surface support ship.

Maritime Heritage

There have been over 150 documented shipwrecks in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary since the first Russian brig ran aground off the Quillayute River in 1808. Visitors can hear stories of how and why these ships sank, and see a "dead eye" once used to guide rigging lines aboard the sailing vessel *Austria*, which wrecked off of Cape Alava in a winter storm in 1887.

Native American culture is also represented through artifacts and photographs.

Volunteers

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center is staffed by a crew of dedicated volunteer docents, ages 17 to 79, who typically spend four to six hours a week talking to visitors about the exciting things to see and do in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Volunteer training is held every year in May, although new volunteers can receive "on the job" training at other times.

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