

## OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: NOVEMBER 18, 2011 – FEBRUARY 3, 2012

### ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons.

The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone - home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes, and Quinault Nation.

## OFFICE REPORT

### OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas

### TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

#### NOAA Administer Responds to Intergovernmental Policy Council Request

NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco responded to a letter from the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC), which requested continued and increased support for oceanographic moorings and continued habitat characterization efforts within the sanctuary. The IPC noted that this support was essential to improving the scientific basis for caring for the Olympic Coast ecosystem and for helping NOAA fulfill its trust responsibility to American Indian tribes. Dr. Lubchenco thanked the IPC for their efforts to identify priorities to ensure a healthy ocean, while supporting the needs of tribal communities on the Olympic Coast, and recognized the positive example of the work of the IPC to other regions across the country that are working on implementing the National Ocean

Policy. Dr. Lubchenco noted that while these are challenging budget times, she appreciated the IPC identifying priority needs and would take them into consideration as NOAA looks at budget and programmatic priorities for 2012 and beyond.

## ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

### OCNMS Advisory Council Charter Revisions Recommended and Approved

Based on recommendations by the OCNMS Advisory Council, the sanctuary submitted revisions on the Advisory Council Charter to sanctuary headquarters for review, which were approved by the Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta. Changes to the Advisory Council Charter were made to be consistent with national standards, two additional seats (United States Geological Survey, Outer Coast Marine Resource Committees) were added, one inactive seat for the Northwest Straits Commission was eliminated, and Advisory Council procedures were clarified and streamlined. A decision was made to hold off on adding a youth seat until a scheduled Office of Management and Budget review is completed due to concerns about the ability to recruit qualified applicants given the age limitations of 18 years and the associated need for chaperones. The sanctuary is recommending that the seat qualifications be amended to include applicants up to age 21.

### OCNMS Advisory Council Executive Committee Reviews Applications for Open Seats

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Executive Committee met on December 7 and forwarded recommendations for five open seats on OCNMS Advisory Council to Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal. The recommendations were accepted and forwarded to the West Coast Regional Director and sanctuary headquarters for review and clearance. All recommendations were confirmed, and new or renewing Council members include Dr. Jan Newton (Research), Dr. Tom Mumford (Research Alternate), John Ventjeer (Marine Business/Ports/Industry), Frank Homes (Marine Business/Ports/Industry Alternate), Brian Santman (Commercial Fishing Alternate), Dr. Sandra Brooke (Conservation), Lora Leschner (Conservation Alternate), Jody Kennedy (Chamber of Commerce/Recreation/Tourism), and Captain Les Bolton (Chamber of Commerce/Recreation/Tourism Alternate).

### OCNMS Executive Committee Plans January Advisory Council Meeting

OCNMS Advisory Council Executive Committee met to plan for a January 20th Advisory Council meeting, which will focus on 2011 reporting of sanctuary activities and development of the 2012 work plan for the Advisory Council. The meeting was subsequently postponed due to winter weather conditions and re-scheduled for February 10 in Port Angeles, WA.

### **Regional Collaboration on Essential Fish Habitat**

West Coast Region Sanctuary staff discussed the possibility of submitting proposals to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council as part of a five year review of groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designations. The review process will include a compilation of new and available data, with a call for proposals to amend, modify, eliminate, or add areas to existing EFH designations in summer 2012. All five west coast sanctuaries have EFH designations within their boundaries. Three of the five west coast sanctuaries have expressed interest in potentially submitting proposals, and the West Coast Regional Office will be coordinating with the sites. Ed Bowlby, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Karen Reyna, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, sit as sanctuary representatives on the EFH Review Committee which will make recommendations to the full PFMC in fall 2012.

### **OCNMS and US Navy Northwest Region Hold Annual Meeting**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff met with representatives from US Navy Northwest Region on December 13 to discuss Navy and sanctuary activities of mutual concern for 2011 and identify areas of potential collaboration for 2012. Sanctuary staff provided a briefing on 2011 research activities of interest to US Navy. US Navy representatives discussed annual activities associated with the Quinault Test Range and Northwest Training Range. US Navy also announced they are starting to work on another five-year permit and required NEPA compliance for the Northwest Test Range. They do not anticipate an expansion in Navy activities within the sanctuary. In addition, based on comments provided by OCNMS, the Navy is pursuing funds to do research on biodegradable materials in the expendable equipment.

### **OCNMS Staff work on Professional Credentials**

Sanctuary Operations Coordinator LTJG Nathan Witherly completed testing with the US Coast Guard and has been issued a license for 3rd Mate Unlimited, Oceans. Captain Rick Fletcher received a certificate of training for his Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (OUPV) after a two week training course in Port Angeles, WA. He is also working on his Master 100 GT license and will be submitting paperwork to the US Coast Guard for his license.

### **OCNMS 2011 Management Plan Implementation Report**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary has completed the first annual report on the implementation of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's 2011 management plan. The report covers the 2011 fiscal year. In 2008 OCNMS began work to update the original 1994 management plan. While the OCNMS Final Management Plan and Environmental Assessment were not approved until September 2011, the sanctuary based its FY 2011 Annual Operating Plan on the action plans in the draft management plan, which was available in the summer of 2010. Thus, OCNMS strove to begin implementation on the non-regulatory parts of the management plan prior to its final approval. OCNMS refers to FY 2011 as "Year Zero" of the management plan implementation.

### **OCNMS Receives Award for Team Work**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review Team was recognized as a winner of the Biennial ONMS award for exemplary teamwork. OCNMS shared the award with Fagatele Bay NMS, with each team being recognized for different, distinct contributions to management plan review processes. The management plan review for OCNMS has been the first to achieve the OMB Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) performance measure of decreasing the average length of time to complete a final management plan. They anticipated the unique challenges of requirements related to treaty tribes, contributed to the formation of the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC), was the first MPR to be completed after the release of a Condition Report, and guided public review through their "Preliminary Priorities Topic" list prior to scoping, which helped to narrow and focus comments in the scoping period. The resulting management plan and environmental assessment were not only done in record time, but the team efforts also led to improvements in the MPR and NEPA process, which can and has been applied to other sites. Team members recognized for this award are: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, and Lauren Bennett, OCNMS; Lisa Wooninck, West Coast Regional Office; Helene Scalliet, Headquarters; and Molly Holt, GCOS.

## **CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT**

### **OCNMS provides technical support to Makah Tribe**

GIS Analyst Nancy Wright produced a series of maps representing seasonal and annual whale usage in OCNMS and the Strait of Juan de Fuca to support a long-term monitoring program conducted by Jonathan Scordino, the Makah Tribe's marine mammal biologist. Jonathan will use the data to inform a presentation and publication at the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals.

### **Deep Sea Coral Reporting**

OCNMS Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby reviewed and commented on the draft 2012 Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program Report to Congress. Ed also provided a status report to the Deep Sea Coral and Technology Program for the small grant OCNMS received in 2010 for processing deep-sea coral and sponge data.

### **Crucial Data for Essential Fish Habitat Decision-making**

Sanctuary staff submitted several new documents to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Review Committee for consideration in their five-year review process. Submissions included preliminary reports on remotely operated vehicle surveys recording the distribution and abundance of deep-sea coral and sponge communities, including fish, along hard bottom areas of the Sanctuary during survey years of 2006, 2008 and 2010. Video and data from a 2011 survey is still being processed.

### **Report Identifying Crucial Hard Substrate Seafloor Habitat**

Marine Geographer Nancy Wright produced the *Multibeam Mapping of Potential Deep-Sea Coral Habitats around Olympic 2 EFH*, a report for PFMC and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program documenting hard substrate areas located during a 2011 survey in the sanctuary. Supported by the technical expertise of Oregon State University's College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, the report identifies areas of potential coral and sponge habitat where future ROV research may be appropriate.

### **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Seafloor Mapping Synopsis 2000-2011**

Marine Geographer Nancy Wright produced the *Seafloor Mapping in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 2000-2011*, a report on all seafloor mapping that has been conducted during those dates. This brief report includes a table of all surveys and thumbnail maps identifying the geographic footprint of the mapped area.

### **New OCNMS Web Site Prompts Requests for Research Data**

OCNMS responded to a request for data related to the 2011 analysis of Seabird Density from Ship-based Surveys in the Sanctuary from 1995-2007. This request was a result of a visitor on the new OCNMS web page. The seabird data analysis project, conducted by a visiting NOAA Nancy Foster Scholar, is one of many data-rich projects now hosted on the OCNMS' web site. These data will be analyzed with krill abundance data to investigate possible correlations in patterns of seabird abundance in OCNMS.

### **Data Management Working Group Discusses OCNMS Data Sharing Efforts**

Marine Geographer Nancy Wright held a phone conference with the OCNMS Advisory Council's Data Management Working Group (DMWG) to discuss 2011 milestones for OCNMS data organization and web-based data sharing. The DMWG also discussed 2012 goals related to data sharing on other web sites, the future of OCNMS as a sentinel site, and the need for new members. The group will report its progress at the January Advisory Council meeting.

### **OCNMS Submits Proposal to Use Unmanned Aircraft System to Survey and Monitor Seabirds**

Research Coordinator Ed Bowlby submitted a pre-proposal to use an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) to survey and monitor seabird colonies along the Olympic Coast. If a NOAA grant is received, this proof-of-concept project would commence this summer. Ed would be the Principal Investigator, and co-PIs would be Kevin Ryan, Project Lead for the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Sue Thomas, Wildlife Biologist for WMNWRC, Todd Jacobs of CINMS, and Matt Pickett of ONMS. Other ancillary projects would further test the UAS for potential applications in OCNMS, such as surveying for nearshore seabirds, sea otters, and marine debris.

### **Pacific Northwest Waters: Gateway to our Future**

Several OCNMS staff and members of their Advisory Council participated in a workshop sponsored by Microsoft Research and the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS), one of the regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems. The workshop brought together users and providers of marine information to explore how monitoring and forecasting the ocean, coast and estuaries can best deliver safety, economic and environmental benefits to industries, governments and citizens of the Pacific Northwest. <http://www.iooc.us/stakeholder-outreach/pacific-northwest-workshop/>

## **IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY**

### **OlympicCoast.NOAA.GOV Version 3.0 Released**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary released its new website OlympicCoast.NOAA.Gov this week. The website is the sanctuary's third website developed since designation. The website incorporates design standards common to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, improved usability for browsers, new content that features a broader range of sanctuary

activities and improved access to data and reports and streamlined access to sanctuary photography, video and visual products. In structural terms, the website mirrors the new sanctuary management plan and incorporates recommendations made during management plan scoping. The website editor is Robert Steelquist, Education and Outreach Coordinator; design and coding is by Carey Floyd, Graphic Designer. The sanctuary acknowledges the invaluable support of Valarie Thorpe and Katalin Zakar, of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Lawrence Charters of the National Ocean Service IT Team.

### **Something Fishy at Olympic Coast Discovery Center and Feiro Marine Life Center Volunteer Holiday Party**

Olympic Coast Discovery Center and Feiro Marine Life Center hosted a joint holiday party for over sixty dedicated volunteers and family members. The theme for the party was “Something Fishy” which made for a very entertaining “White Elephant” gift exchange. Happy Holidays!

### **Ocean Science Program Selected to Receive 2011 Coastal America Partnership Award**

*Ocean Science*, a program in partnership with Seattle Aquarium and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, has been selected to receive a 2011 Coastal America Partnership Award for outstanding efforts to restore and protect the coastal environment. Since 2006, *Ocean Science* has reached out to western Washington urban, rural, and Tribal communities with great success bringing inquiry-based Ocean Literacy education to over 22,500 students and families.

[http://www.coastalamerica.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1052&Itemid=141](http://www.coastalamerica.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1052&Itemid=141)

### **Students Present Senior Culminating Project Presentations**

Five students from Lincoln High School in Port Angeles, WA, gave presentations on their Senior Culminating Projects which they conducted with support from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff. After learning about the scope of research projects in OCNMS, as well as COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team), each student developed an essential question and conducted extensive research on his or her chosen topic. The presentations showcased their learning for fellow students, staff, and the community. For more information about the program contact Dan Lieberman ([dlieberman@portangelesschools.org](mailto:dlieberman@portangelesschools.org)) or Janet Lamont ([Janet.Lamont@noaa.gov](mailto:Janet.Lamont@noaa.gov)). The Senior Culminating Project (SCP) program ties together graduation requirements with real world science to create meaningful research projects for high school students, and has the possibility to encourage students to pursue careers with marine sciences.

## **CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY**

### **OCNMS partners with University of Washington to Recruit and Train Citizen Scientists**


The University of Washington program COASST (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team) in partnership with Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary hosted training for twenty-four new and returning volunteers who will monitor beaches in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Each team of volunteers monitors an assigned beach monthly to tag and record dead seabirds and check for evidence of oil spills. Marine debris surveys are also conducted by some COASST volunteers.

### **West Coast Region Works with NOAA Marine Debris Program on Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris**

Staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, West Coast Region Office, NOAA Marine Debris Program and ONMS Media Team met by phone on January 13 to discuss opportunities to work together on Japanese tsunami marine debris. Oceanographic models predict that marine debris may hit the West Coast in 2013, and there is significant concern in the Pacific Northwest Region on this topic. We agreed to focus on developing shoreline monitoring protocols that could be implemented through west coast regional citizen science programs, briefing Advisory Councils as appropriate, developing specific messages that can be used by sanctuary staff, and collaborating if regional response plans are developed.

### **Review of the ATBA Outreach and Monitoring Program**

Deputy Superintendent George Galasso and Database Manager Katie Brenkman consulted with John Veentjer of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and Marc Ashely the USCG Sector Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service on the Area to be Avoided (ATBA) Outreach and Monitoring Program. The sanctuary works with the Marine Exchange, United States and Canadian Coast Guard on monitoring vessel traffic in the sanctuary and in the ATBA. The ATBA is an International Maritime Organization vessel routing measure, which directs certain vessels to maintain a safe distance off the coast, for the protection of sanctuary resources. As a result of the monitoring efforts joint correspondence by the USCG and sanctuary are sent to non-complying vessels. Recent changes to Canadian Coast Guard data management have resulted in some challenges to our monitoring efforts, including the loss of some data. As a result of the consultations a number of potential changes in monitoring are being evaluated. Compliance rates for 2011 are currently being evaluated. In 2010 the ATBA had an estimated compliance rate of 99%.



### **Captain Charles Moore presents "The Great Infection of the Sea"**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary along with the Coastal Watershed Institute and Olympic Peninsula Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation hosted a talk by Charles Moore, founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, on plastics in the marine environment. Captain Moore described his efforts to characterize plastics in the eastern Pacific Gyre (commonly called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch) and research into impacts to wildlife and humans of plastics in the marine environment and daily lives of humans. The talk was part of a book tour promoting Captain Moore's new book "Plastic Ocean".

### **Research on the 1972 General M. C. Meigs Oil Spill**

At the request of the US Navy, OCNMS staff reviewed an entry made in the 1991 Olympic Coast Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan (DEIS/MP). The entry documented the wreck of the USN unmanned troopship General M. C. Meigs, which grounded off the Olympic Coast in January 1972. There is a question on the volume of oil spilled as reported in the 1991 document. With the assistance of NOAA librarian Brian Voss a number of articles by NOAA's Dr. Robert C. Clarke, Jr. from the 1970's were reviewed and more detailed information was provided to the USN Advisory Council member George Hart.

## **UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Nothing to report.



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## NEWS COVERAGE

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120113/news/301139987/olympic-coast-national-marine-sanctuary-adds-members>

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20120110/news/301109994>

[http://www.sequimgazette.com/news/article.exm/2012-01-19 tsunami marine debris topic of monday presentation](http://www.sequimgazette.com/news/article.exm/2012-01-19_tsunami_marine_debris_topic_of_monday_presentation)

## WEB SITE (<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>)

### Recent Updates

### Follow the OCNMS on Facebook!

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.*

*Comments and suggestions can be sent to [Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov).*

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## FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

### National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

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

### National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

### NOAA Marine Debris Program

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

### NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

### Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>

### NOAA Ocean Explorer

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

### National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

### Washington's Ocean Resources

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>

## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_welcome.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html)

### The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System 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. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

## Get involved!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:  
<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/welcome.html>



## OCNMS Staff

**Carol Bernthal** – Superintendent

**George Galasso** – Deputy Superintendent

**Patrick A'Hearn** – Oceanography Specialist (contractor)

**Liam Antrim** – Resource Protection Specialist, Acting Advisory Council Coordinator

**Thomas Baker** – Resource Protection Specialist (recalled to active USCG duty through March 2012)

**Ed Bowlby** – Research Coordinator

**Katie Brenkman** – Research Technician (contractor)

**Jennifer Bright** – Research Technician (contractor)

**Eric Evans** – IT Consultant (contractor)

**Rick Fletcher** – R/V Tatoosh Captain (contractor)

**Carey Floyd** – Graphic and Web Designer (contractor)

**Norma Klein** – Office Administrator

**Janet Lamont** – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

**Jacqueline Laverdure** – Education Specialist

**Heidi Pedersen** – Education Specialist (contractor)

**Robert Rountree** – Visitor Services Specialist (contractor)

**Robert Steelquist** – Education & Outreach Coordinator

**LT Nathan Witherly** – Operations Officer (NOAA Corps)

**Nancy Wright** – Geographer

## - Contact Information -

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