



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A Report for Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Reporting Period: MAY 4, 2018 – JUNE 29, 2018

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,188 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 numerous marine mammal and seabird species, 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 the Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes and the Quinault Nation.

OFFICE REPORT

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

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

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TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Sanctuary shares with Brazilian colleagues

While on a visit to the Pacific Northwest, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Economist Danielle Schwarzmann arranged to have George Galasso, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), brief a delegation from Brazil on our work with the Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Tribes and the Quinault Indian Nation (coastal treaty tribes). As representative for the Ministry of the Environment Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, one of their responsibilities is protecting Brazil's natural heritage, which involves working with several indigenous groups. OCNMS explained how we seek to fulfill our treaty trust responsibility to the coastal treaty tribes, through government to government consultations, our support of the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and work at the staff level.

IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Zero Waste Bainbridge hosts educational panel for plastic education

OCNMS staff presented information on plastic pollution, marine debris research, and related tutelage as part of an educational panel following the movie *Straws*, hosted by Zero Waste Bainbridge. This movie examined single use plastic straws impacts, particularly on our marine environment and the organisms living in it, while showcasing alternatives to our single-use plastic addiction. The panel discussed current efforts being implemented locally, regionally, and nationally to reduce plastic pollution from urban litter, which leads to marine debris. Thirty community members attended the film and panel

discussion, and left armed with facts, contacts, and inspiration to reduce their own waste stream and implement stewardship actions in their community.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary geeks out with Port Angeles environmental groups



OCNMS attended the Celebration of Science and Technology “Geek Out” event on the pier to celebrate local and regional science while engaging families from the Port Angeles area. The rainy Saturday event didn’t stop local organizations and scientists, in over 30 booths, from offering information and hands-on activities, as well as a wide array of scientific posters and presentations, to locals and visitors throughout the day. OCNMS hosted hands-on experiments to explore ocean acidification: the causes and consequences it has on our ocean and humans.

Airplanes, Earthquakes, and Energy focus of 2nd annual Olympic Coast MATE ROV competition



On Saturday May 19, 2018 OCNMS collaborated with Marine Advanced Technology and Education (MATE) to host the second annual Olympic Coast MATE Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition. Fourteen teams, comprised of 56 students from schools throughout Olympic Peninsula, participated in the underwater robot competition held at Forks Athletic and Aquatic Club in Forks, Washington. During the competition, students demonstrated their yearlong efforts in designing, developing, and piloting ROVs, AKA underwater robots. This year's competition theme was *Jet City: Airplanes, Earthquakes, and Energy*, wherein all missions replicate real-

life scenarios of the Pacific Northwest. Compulsory components required students to pass multiple technical and safety inspections, deliver an oral presentation on their engineering design, and provide a marketing display to entice potential partners or clients. The final challenge necessitated students complete missions in the pool, which emulated real world situations, using ROVs to complete the work. Awards were given to the top performers in both the Scout and Navigator competitor levels, as well as discretionary honors given by the judges for exceptional achievements.

Olympic Coast welcomes Hollings Scholar



OCNMS welcomes Hollings Scholar Julie Chase. Julie is a rising senior at University of South Florida where she is studying Marine Biology and pursuing a Masters of Arts in Teaching through an accelerated program. Julie grew up in League City, Texas and spent ample time exploring the Gulf Coast and Galveston Bay. She spent her summers working with kids through summer camps and educational programs. Julie will be planning and leading three four-day Junior Oceanographer camps for students aged 5-12 in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center. The camps will use place-based education and a variety of

hands on activities in order for students to gain ocean literacy skills and an increased awareness and appreciation for the ocean around them.

Peninsula College students visit Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Students from the marine biology class at Peninsula College in Port Angeles visited OCNMS' classroom to learn about marine mammals and tour Olympic Coast Discovery Center. Peninsula College's marine biology students visit the sanctuary classroom and Discovery Center in Port Angeles every year to learn about OCNMS, marine fauna, and national marine sanctuaries as part of their curriculum.

100 Olympic National Park staff learn about the sanctuary system during annual training

OCNMS and the National Marine Sanctuary System were highlighted during Olympic National Park's (ONP) annual staff training. Attended by approximately 100 new and seasoned staff members, the orientation included multiple breakout sessions to allow for more intimate discussions and presentations of the sanctuary's educational and outreach programs, research projects, and resource protection programs, as well as information about marine life, habitats, history, and culture.

Olympic Coast's Big Mama exhibit featured at NOAA Open House reaching 780+ people

"Big Mama" - an exciting traveling exhibit for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary - was one of many attractions and tours featured at NOAA Open House event at NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle. More than 780 attendees explored the life-sized walk-inside model of "Big Mama," the humpback whale, while learning about NOAA science and stewardship programs.



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education team teaches teens about albatross and marine debris

OCNMS' education team, including AmeriCorps service members and new Hollings Scholar, ran an evening program on the Nature Bridge Olympic campus about marine debris and the effects on our ocean. The 11 students from Newport High School learned details about the amazing albatross, ocean currents, and got to dissect albatross boluses collected from Laysan Island and Kure Atoll.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education team wraps up North Olympic Watershed Science program



Olympic Coast's AmeriCorps education team reached over 220 local fourth grade students from Port Angeles and Crescent schools in this year's North Olympic Watershed (NOW) Science program. Classes received lessons in watershed health and community impacts in addition to participating in an immersive water quality watershed walk along Peabody Creek which spans the uplands of Olympic National Park lands down through urban environments to the harbor of Port Angeles. Olympic Coast also provided "after walk" programming specific to ocean acidification with hands-on science experiments to show impacts and causes of more acidic ocean conditions.

Washington coast teachers explore plankton, ocean acidification, and oyster aquaculture

Grays Harbor Marine Resource Council (MRC) and Pacific County MRC partnered with Pacific Education Institute to provide a teacher professional development to elementary school classroom educators. The workshop introduced them to the aquaculture of Washington's southern coast while exploring the health of the marine environments the industry is dependent on. OCNMS education staff provided content and resources for becoming familiar with the sanctuary off our coast, the sanctuary as a

sentinel site for ocean acidification, and the efforts that take place within the sanctuary to monitor ocean chemistry, habitat health, and harmful algal blooms (HAB). Following an overview of the sanctuary, the teachers were introduced to a watershed teaching tool, an Enviroscape, designed to help increase the students understanding of the impacts of human infrastructure on ocean health and best management practices used in protecting our marine environment.

Ocean Guardian students partner with Olympic Coast Discovery Center during Maritime Festival

Olympic Coast Discovery Center was featured as a “must see” booth at the first annual Maritime Festival in Port Angeles, Washington. Local *Ocean Guardian* special award fourth grade recipients joined sanctuary staff in speaking to visitors about reducing single-use plastics, especially plastic bags. The girls provided an educational handout, which describes issues and solutions surrounding single-use plastics. Visitors to their booth also received reusable canvas shopping bags that were supported by NOAA Marine Debris and *Ocean Guardian* programs.



Junior Oceanographers discover Olympic Coast and Marine Life Center



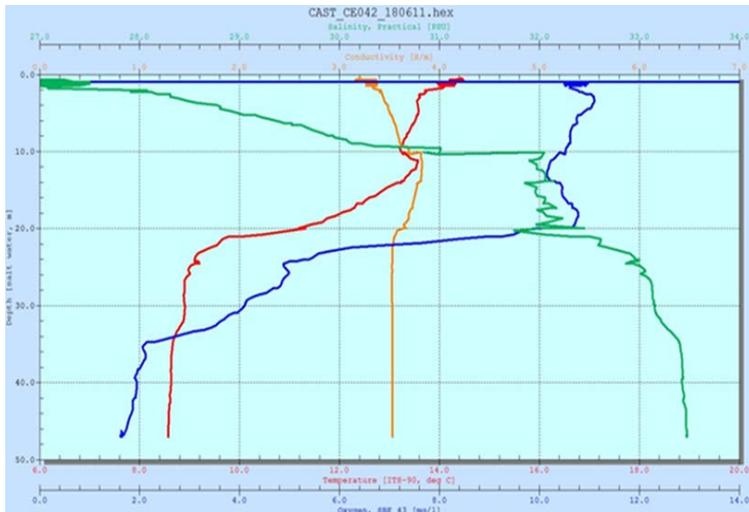
OCNMS Hollings Scholar, Julie Chase, developed and led a four-day summer camp titled “Oh the Places We’ll Go” for 12 children, ages 5-6, in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center in Port Angeles, Washington. Each day students learned of different habitats within OCNMS. The camp included many outdoor explorations such as a beach seine and plankton tow, as well as hands-on crafts - making a tide pool viewer and a Cheerios™ octopus. One of the kids’ favorite activities was visiting the life-size display of the southern resident killer whale named Mike (J-26) and getting to give him a high five! On the last day of camp,

the students made jellyfish costumes and were invited to wear them in a Fourth of July Parade in partnership with the Feiro Marine Life Center.

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

Olympic Coast R/V *Tatoosh* begins its 2018 field season by deploying oceanographic moorings

OCNMS successfully deployed 10 coastal, summer-time moorings between Makah Bay and Cape Elizabeth, June 7 – 10, 2018. These deployments opened the 18th year of OCNMS' oceanographic mooring program. Instruments on the deployed mooring arrays collect temperature, conductivity, salinity, and density data throughout the water column. Additionally, dissolved oxygen and pressure data



Cape Elizabeth (42 meter) CTD Cast

are collected one meter off the bottom; water velocity and direction, fluorescence, and turbidity data are captured at four meters below mean lower low water at several sites. CTD cast profiles of temperature, conductivity, pressure, dissolved oxygen, fluorescence, and light transmission were conducted at all mooring sites. The cast at the Cape Elizabeth (42 meter) site detected slight hypoxic conditions at the bottom. An over-winter mooring off La Push was also recovered, giving OCNMS its sixth set of winter-time, water-column temperature data.

Juvenile salmon and ocean ecosystem surveys in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Scientists with NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and OCNMS conducted cross-shelf transects within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, June 19-23 2018. Aboard two ships, the chartered fishing vessel *Frosti* and the NOAA research vessel *Bell M. Shimada*, surface trawls looked at the juvenile salmon population, while performing calibration of trawling methods off the *Shimada* in comparison to *Frosti* operations. Data collected from these trawls aid in understanding the abundance and distribution of pelagic fishes, including juvenile salmon, and relate those variables to properties of the ocean environment.

In addition to the daytime surface trawls, OCNMS science staff conducted night time bongo tows to physically sample the plankton community to characterize its composition. The bongo nets were deployed adjacent to the array of oceanographic moorings deployed every summer by OCNMS for the past 18 years. The night tows take advantage of the vertical migration of zooplankton providing the maximum surface density.

Quileute Tribe Natural Resources staff aboard the *Shimada* conducted HAB sampling during daytime operations. The cruise also hosted a reporter and photographer from Seattle Times to provide information regarding NOAA ocean research; the role the



sanctuary plays in protecting our ocean resources along Washington's coast; and the prey availability and ocean health in regards to the endangered and beloved southern resident killer whales.

CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary meets with U.S. Navy

OCNMS and the U.S. Navy (USN) meet annually by agreement to discuss USN testing and training, marine species monitoring, and OCNMS planned research activities. The USN briefed the sanctuary on 2017 training and testing activities that took place within and offshore of OCNMS. All reportable activities were below the levels allowed by a NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Protection Act Letter of Authorization. USN marine species monitoring included funding of acoustic studies; tagging and prey studies of resident killer whales; and marbled murrelet distribution and abundance. The USN also discussed plans for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), which they are calling Phase 3, as it is the third National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis and permitting process for Navy at-sea activities in the Pacific Northwest. The USN will consult with OCNMS on the SEIS before it becomes final.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary reports on 2017 Area to be Avoided Compliance

When OCNMS was designated in 1994, NOAA worked with the International Maritime Organization to designate a voluntary Area to be Avoided (ATBA) to protect the sanctuary from the risk of a major oil spill. The ATBA has been modified a number of times and currently applies to all vessels over 400 gross tons, directing them to transit 25 nautical miles offshore allowing time to respond to emergencies. The ATBA does not apply to vessels that are conducting operations in the sanctuary, such as fishing or research. Since 1998, OCNMS has used a number of data sources and methods to monitor estimated compliance to the voluntary ATBA provisions. A number of significant changes to ATBA monitoring have recently been implemented, and are documented in our 2017 reporting of estimated ATBA compliance rates. These changes were made with the assistance of NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources, who use similar techniques in support of a number of resource protection efforts. Evaluation of the 2017 vessel transits shows compliance rates lower than in 2016 (97.3% in 2016 and 95.9% in 2017). While lower in 2017, estimated compliance of the ATBA continues to reflect a high degree of cooperation by the maritime industry. We theorize that the lower compliance rate may potentially be explained by an increase in lawful fishing in 2017 by larger fishing vessels, but this was not confirmed and was beyond the scope of the report. If fishing vessels are excluded, the adjusted estimated compliance in 2016 (98.2%) is closer to the estimated compliance in 2017 (97.8%). Additional research into fishing activity within the ATBA is possible with the allocation of additional resources, but is not currently planned. In addition, estimated compliance rates from vessels 10,000 gross tons, are identical in both 2016 and 2017 (98.8%). The annual report is available at

https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/2017_atba.pdf.

UNDERSTANDING THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Ocean Acidification: An Emerging Threat on the Olympic Coast presented at local taproom

Kevin Grant, deputy superintendent at OCNMS presented “Ocean Acidification: An Emerging Threat on the Olympic Coast,” in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center, at the Peninsula Taproom in Sequim, Washington. The presentation took a look at how a sentinel site model provides a collaborative, holistic approach to resource management where sound science is integral to education, outreach, management, and public engagement campaigns to address ocean acidification.



Assessing partnership opportunities for greening the ONMS fleet

Sanctuary staff and Dana Wilkes met with Josh Berger, Washington State Sector Lead, Director of Maritime, state of Washington to discuss Washington State’s Blue Maritime Initiative. Governor Inslee launched the [Washington Maritime Blue 2050 initiative](#), the first proposal of its kind in the United States, to bolster innovations in the maritime sector that create living-wage jobs, protect the environment, and ensure sustainability for the industry. Sanctuary staff described efforts underway to recapitalize the ONMS small boat fleet, focusing on needs for OCNMS to replace the R/V *Tatoosh*. Governor Inslee will be visiting Port Angeles June 7 and has requested a meeting with sanctuary staff to learn more about our research infrastructure needs.

Olympic Coast hosts site visit by Sean Clayton, Workforce Management (WFM) Deputy Director

OCNMS staff welcomed Sean Clayton, WFM Deputy Director to the Pacific Northwest by providing a tour of sanctuary offices, visitor center, and an opportunity to learn more about ONMS and OCNMS in particular. Sean gained an appreciation of the breadth of sanctuary activities and associated workforce needs, as well as discussed changes underway with human resource services. Afterwards, he traveled to Neah Bay to learn more about the region and visit the sanctuary proper.

Governor Jay Inslee visits Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Governor Jay Inslee along with staff members Joshua Berger and Jennifer States visited the sanctuary office on June 7 to learn more about sanctuary priorities including work on ocean acidification, protection of critical habitat, and plans to develop a new marine discovery center in Port Angeles. Sanctuary staff also covered needs related to the replacement of R/V *Tatoosh* plus the interest within ONMS on designing vessels that minimize environmental impacts as well as reduce emissions and noise. Governor Inslee expressed support for all of these projects and is interested in how the state of Washington can assist.

Docent trainees visit Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

New 2018 docent trainees and several returning volunteers completed a five-week classroom instruction series in preparation for staffing the Olympic Coast Discovery Center in Port Angeles. Classes included guest speaker presentations from OCNMS and ONP staff on topics ranging from the National Marine Sanctuary System, ONMSC history and research, interacting with visitors, and collaborations with partners as part of their curriculum. The training culminated with two field trips. The first event included a visit to local tidepools at Salt Creek Recreation Area and a volunteer appreciation barbecue. On the

second occasion, docents visited the Makah Museum and Cape Flattery. The in-depth tour at the museum provided insight into and appreciation of the ancient and contemporary Makah culture followed by a firsthand look at the sanctuary. Our enthusiastic docents engaged other visitors at the various viewpoints of Cape Flattery to educate them on the OCNMS right in front of their eyes!

SANCTUARY PERMITTING

Issued Permits and Authorizations

OCNMS-2018-001 – Tamara Baumberger, Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (OSU/PMEL)

Project Title: Cascadia Margin: Interdisciplinary studies of methane vent sites

Permitted Activity: Collection of short (~15-30 cm) 2.5" diameter sediment cores for microbial and pore water studies (about 5 push cores per dive), and small samples of substrata (about 5 samples per dive).

Project Location: Just east of the heads of Quinault and Quileute canyons

Permit Duration: 6/12/2018 through 7/1/2018

Comment: The main objectives of this expedition are to explore for methane seeps and hydrate sites and to characterize their associated ecosystems along the U.S. Cascadia Margin.

OCNMS-2018-002 – Nicole Raineault, Ocean Exploration Trust

Project Title: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary mapping and meteorite fall investigation

Permitted Activity: Recovery of meteorite samples and deployment of expendable bathythermographs (XBTs)

Project Location: In the vicinity of the Point Grenville weather buoy

Permit Duration: From 6/11/2018 through 8/31/2018.

Comment: NASA has calculated the likely location of meteor fragments from radar images.

OCNMS-2018-003 – Steven Jeffries, WDFW and Deanna Lynch, USFWS

Project Title: Distribution and Abundance of Pinnipeds and Sea Otters in Washington State

Permitted Activity: Low altitude flights at no lower than 600 feet above ground/water level altitude in fixed wing aircraft in the overflight restricted zone within OCNMS to census and track pinniped and sea otter populations.

Project Location: Marine waters above OCNMS from Copalis River to Cape Flattery and Koitlah Point in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Permit Duration: June 15, 2018 through May 31, 2023

Comment: This is a continuation of work that has been done for many years.

OCNMS-2018-004 – Van Helker, NOAA Marine Mammal Laboratory

Project Title: Aerial surveys of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Steller sea lion sites with an unmanned aircraft

Permitted Activity: Low altitude overflights with an unmanned aerial system (APH-22), in the vicinity of Carroll Island and Sea Lion Rocks.

Project Location: Surface to 400 feet above ground level and within 0.5 nm of Carroll Island and Sea Lion Rock

Permit Duration: July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018.

Comment: This is a continuation of work that occurred in 2017, documenting new Steller sea lion sites.

MULTI-2018-004 – Sebastien de Halleaux, Saildrone

Project Title: Saildrone USV deployment

Permitted Activity: Deployment of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) in multiple national marine sanctuaries on the West Coast.

Project Location: 2018 planned missions include a full West Coast Survey beginning in July in which five saildrones will travel from Vancouver Island to San Diego.

Permit Duration: July 1, 2018 through July 1, 2023.

Comment: The plan is for the saildrones to compliment other NOAA assets in order to complete a full ecosystem survey of the West Coast to collect data for fisheries management, marine mammals, bathymetry, and weather.

Pending Permit Requests

OCNMS-2018-005 – Gregg Dietzman, White Point Systems

Project Title: Marine microbial diversity survey

Permitted Activity: Collection of up to 198-10 gram marine sediment samples, from 22 sites (9 samples per site).

Project Location: 22 specific locations throughout the sanctuary.

Permit Duration: Requested July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

Comment: The permit applicant is a private organization that seeks access to marine microbial diversity by collecting marine sediment samples on the outer coast of Washington state. Samples will be evaluated for use as industrial enzymes and pharmaceutical agents or diagnostics. There are additional sites outside OCNMS. Those that are within state waters are being evaluated by WDNR.

OCNMS-2018-006 – Bruce Mate, Oregon State University

Project Title: Humpback whale tagging in northern Washington

Permitted Activity: Tagging of up to 25 humpback whales.

Project Location: Throughout the sanctuary.

Permit Duration: Requested from August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2021

Comment: OSU's Marine Mammal Institute (MMI) is proposing to conduct a tagging and tracking study on Eastern North Pacific humpback whales to determine their movement patterns, occurrence, and residence times within U.S. Navy training and testing areas along the U.S. West Coast. This work is in support of the Navy's efforts to meet regulatory requirements for monitoring under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY / NATURAL HISTORY

E/V *Nautilus* to search for meteorite fall off Washington coast

Exploration vessel *Nautilus* will attempt to locate and recover fragments of a rare, large meteorite fall that was recently observed in NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Washington. With the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dive occurring from approximately 9am-4pm PT (weather dependent), the public will be able to watch this exploration live at

www.nautiluslive.org



REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM NEWS

Research raises possibility that Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is part of manta ray nursery

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jun18/fgbnms-identified-as-juvenile-manta-ray-nursery.html>

Oceanic manta rays are graceful, almost magical creatures: these relatives of sharks swim through the water as if in flight, circling in search of tiny zooplankton. They can grow to be enormous, with some reaching 22 feet from fin-tip to fin-tip. Relatively little is known about them – including where they spend their early years. But Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar Joshua Stewart has an answer to the question of where some young mantas go: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Kīlauea eruption brings NOAA and the National Park Service together

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jun18/kilauea-brings-noaa-national-park-service-together.html>

The recent Kīlauea eruption has damaged and destroyed homes on the Hawai‘i Island, and violent explosions have caused the closure of the summit area of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park to its nearly two million annual visitors. To lessen the impacts to park visitors and provide a venue to learn about the current eruption, NOAA’s Mokuāpapa Discovery Center has hosted a pop-up park center where rangers can communicate information to the public.

World War I on the homefront

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/may18/world-war-i-on-the-homefront.html>

One hundred years ago, German U-boats lurked beneath the waves off the coast of North Carolina, bringing World War I home to the United States. Few Americans believed that German *Unterseeboots* would be able to traverse the Atlantic to reach our shores – but they were wrong. This summer, North Carolina will remember the 100th anniversary of these historic attacks. Monitor National Marine Sanctuary has researched and documented many shipwreck sites and seeks to honor World War I’s history off the coast of North Carolina. The proposed boundary expansion could encompass shipwrecks of World War I and World War II.

Coral CSI: Foster Scholar Andrea Kealoha analyzes water chemistry for clues about invertebrate mortality events

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/may18/coral-csi-foster-scholar-andrea-kealoha.html>

Swimming through hazy, green waters in the Gulf of Mexico in 2016, divers knew something was off at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. That’s when they noticed the vast quantities of dead marine organisms around them, and curious white mats covering the corals. One area of this pristine sanctuary was no longer teeming with life. When marine organisms die suddenly and no one knows why, that’s when you need a dedicated group of scientists for a special episode of Coral CSI.

NOAA and Florida Keys fishing guides collaborate to support a sustainable national marine sanctuary

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/may18/blue-star-fishing-guides-florida-keys.html>

With thousands of people each year fishing in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary waters, charter captains and guides play a critical role in protecting and managing fisheries within the sanctuary. The new Blue Star Fishing Guides program recognizes charter boat captains who are committed to sustainable fishing and educating their customers about resource protection in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The voluntary training and compliance program seeks to increase fishing guides’ knowledge and, ultimately, that of their clients, to conserve the unique marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys.

Birds across the National Marine Sanctuary System

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/may18/birds-across-the-nmss.html>

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries works with diverse partners and stakeholders to promote responsible, sustainable ocean uses that ensure the health of our most valued ocean places. Bring your binoculars and discover the diversity of birds that national marine sanctuaries have to offer! The birds that visit and reside in the National Marine Sanctuary System connect our country's ocean, Great Lakes, and coasts. From sea to shining sea, join us on this interactive tour of birds in our nation's ocean parks.

REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION NEWS

Partners launch 2018 program to protect blue whales and blue skies

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/2018-blue-whales-blue-skies/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries request vessels 300 gross tons or larger to slow to 10 knots or less during the months of peak whale abundance to protect whales from lethal ship strikes. The partners, in an initiative to cut air pollution and protect whales today, announced the launch of the 2018 incentive program, which will start July 1 and end November 15, 2018, with voluntary vessel speed reduction (VSR) zones in the Santa Barbara Channel region and San Francisco Bay area. Financial incentives will be awarded to shipping companies based on the percent of distance traveled by their vessels through the VSR zones at 10 knots or less and with an average speed that does not exceed 12 knots.

Our response to Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's recommendation to expand Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/fgbnms-sac-expansion/>

“Expansion of Flower Garden Banks NMS will ensure more comprehensive and effective protection, research, management, and coordination of sustainable activities in sensitive and ecologically significant areas in the Gulf of Mexico,” said Kris Sarri, President and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

OCNMS Online

Visit our website at: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov>

<https://twitter.com/olympiccoast>

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.*

Ocean-Related Websites

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

National Ocean Service

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

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://sanctuaries.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>

CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node

<http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/>

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

<http://www.nanoos.org/>

NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

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

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Learn More about Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with sanctuary advisory council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary, please visit our website at:

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

To learn more about the sanctuary advisory council, please visit:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of the marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 600,000 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 Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. Visit the ONMS website at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

Get Involved!

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

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