



OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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 200 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary

OFFICE REPORT

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) management priorities

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TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Intergovernmental Policy Council Meets

Representatives from the Quinault Indian Nation, Hoh Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Makah Tribe, Washington State and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary met on January 8 in La Push, WA on the Quileute Reservation. The group discussed progress on key initiatives including the Ocean Acidification (OA) Sentinel Site, the upcoming workshop to develop an updated OCNMS Condition Report, work underway by the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Science Panel and refined an IPC annual work plan. The IPC is working on a resolution endorsing the OA Sentinel Site concept and will be key in helping to co-establish a steering committee. The group also discussed long term funding and agreed to develop an updated funding prospectus.

COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary contributes to strategic planning effort for NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's research coordinator joined approximately 50 other stakeholders invited to offer input and advice to the new director of Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) during strategic planning efforts currently underway at the Seattle lab. The one-day meeting focused on answering a series of eight questions designed to identify community priorities in terms of the information and data products, research themes, technical and engineering capabilities, and engagement opportunities in which PMEL should invest over the next decade. Complementary meetings with PMEL staff and leadership were held on adjacent days, allowing for a broad contribution of input to the process overall.

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

That’s a wrap! Olympic Coast research team completes the 2019 field season

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) field team wrapped up the 2019 field season during a spectacular fall weather window on October 30 - November 2. Unusually calm seas allowed field work to be conducted a month later than is typical for the R/V *Tatoosh*, allowing for a late season recovery and redeployment of four “SoundTrap” moorings that are helping characterize the underwater sound environment in OCNMS. At the end of September, the team also recovered OCNMS’ seasonal oceanographic moorings, which have been deployed since 2000 to provide long-term oceanographic data for coastal waters in the sanctuary. Following successful completion of the 2019 field season, the R/V *Tatoosh* returned to Port Angeles for winter moorage and maintenance.



Washington sea otter population expanding and shifting within Olympic Coast

A report revealing the results of the 2019 census of Washington’s sea otter population was released recently, noting that in the last two years, the number of sea otters increased by at least 727 animals--about a 35% increase over 2017--and interestingly, the population appeared to be concentrating in the southern part of the sanctuary, where kelp forests are less abundant than in the north. Census numbers are derived from aerial surveys and ground observer counts, which represent a conservative minimum estimate as determined by a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), The Seattle Aquarium, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Quinault Indian Nation and trained volunteers. Sea otters, which had been extirpated from the Washington coast by the early 1900s, were reintroduced from Alaska in the early 1970s and have reestablished a robust population that lives largely within the boundaries of OCNMS.

Deep sea coral “Quick Look” Report summarizes September 2019 expedition to Olympic Coast

With support from NOAA’s Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program and the West Coast Deep Sea Coral Initiative, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff and partners recently completed a deep sea coral research cruise to explore an area of Juan de Fuca Canyon that in 2006 was delineated by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council as the “Olympic 2” Essential Fish Habitat area. Thanks to the scientists operating the underwater robot ROV *Beagle*, which is owned and operated by Marine Applied Research and Exploration, the team was able to conduct 19 quantitative transects to characterize seafloor communities at five locations within the central canyon. Additional summary metrics describing accomplishments aboard the NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada* are available at https://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov/library/cruise_report_sh_19_07.



IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

“Bonds Across the Water” kicks off with teacher workshop, connections, and activities

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education staff supported Bonds Across the Water Teacher Institute in partnership with University of Washington’s Friday Harbor Labs and the Suquamish Tribe in an intensive two-day training on this school year project. “Bonds Across the Water” is a Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) funded project which engages teachers and students in Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences (MWEES) to help explore their local

environment, collect and analyze the data, and conduct student led action projects within their community. Fifteen teachers from around the Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound met in Forks, Washington for hands-on experience in stream monitoring, culvert monitoring, and ocean acidification activities as they explored the changing ocean due to climate change and ocean acidification.



Multi-stressors were a big topic as was looking at ways students participating in related MWEs can implement relevant stewardship actions within their accessible environment. Hoh Tribal member and elder, Viola Riebe, provided cultural context while speaking to the importance of implementing native studies in public schools. Quinault Indian Nation shellfish biologist, Scott Mazzone, provided information on Quinault Indian Nation’s efforts to monitor for climate change impacts in the intertidal zone.

Participating students will use the Student Carbon Footprint calculator website to share ideas and lessons learned through their local investigations. Additional participating classrooms in Hawaii and American Samoa will be engaged over the next month to increase the reach around the Pacific Ocean through exploration and communication.

Coastal education partnerships highlighted at Marine Resource Committee summit

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education team partnered with Pacific Education Institute and Forks High School to present on coast-wide education initiatives to the Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) of the coastal counties; including Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties. The presentation was a chance to highlight successful education programs along the coast, and the power of connecting relevant local phenomena and community partners to provide engaging, hands-on, inquiry-based education opportunities for students. MRCs support education programs along the coast through transportation funds for schools and funding for teacher professional development on the Olympic Peninsula.

Sanctuary offers fun and games at Sequim Library

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary AmeriCorps educator engaged the public at the Sequim Public Library in a presentation on marine mammals of the west coast. Ten participants, ranging in age from seven to eleven years old, and their parents joined in on an engaging presentation and fun games. The presentation introduced many common marine mammals found in the sanctuary and along the west coast. Marine mammals included harbor seals, sea lions, otters, and whales. Several interactive games were offered, including a game where they tested their newly learned knowledge to distinguish seals and sea lions and another on the relationship between marine mammals and sound pollution.



Pacific Northwest provides information on new funding opportunity

Pacific Northwest Bay Watershed Education and Training (PNW B-WET) provided an informational webinar for potential applicants to learn more about the 2020 PNW B-WET grant opportunity that provides funds to support meaningful watershed educational experiences for students and related professional development for teachers that demonstrate a connection to the ocean environment through the watershed system. This year’s priorities focus on the issues of ocean acidification and ecosystem resiliency, and serving underserved and underrepresented audiences. The full FY2020 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) can be found at https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/ocean_literacy/bwet.html.

Olympic Coast joins North Olympic Library System presentation on sea otters

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff introduced Nancy Foster Scholar Jessica Hale to attendees of the North Olympic Library System (NOLS) presentation “Sea Otters in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.” Hale conducted presentations at various NOLS branches, including Forks, Clallam Bay, Port Angeles, and Sequim.



Elementary School students celebrate healthy communities with Kids at Hope Week

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) supported the Kids at Hope Week at Greywolf Elementary, participating in both the Career and Education Fair, as well as the Community and Service Fair. Over the course of a week, students had the opportunity to engage with community members while exploring education, future jobs, healthy hobbies, volunteering, service to your community, and family health. OCNMS staff and AmeriCorps service members provided presentations to over 160 Greywolf students on ocean conservation careers, NOAA Corps, NOAA’s mission of Science Service and Stewardship, and the AmeriCorps program.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary attends West End Weekend



Staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary attended the eleventh annual West End Weekend events. Local historians shared tales from the Hoh tribal and early settlers to the Hoh river valley. Outdoor recreation advocates took participants on a hike to the Hoh River Oxbow – a renowned angler hot spot. The afternoon was wrapped up with a presentation at Kalaloch Lodge on the science, management, and benefits of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. For many participants it was a first glimpse into the undersea wonder of the sanctuary.

Olympic Coast ROV Competition receives program funding from Marine Resource Committee

The North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee (NPC MRC) awarded funding to support the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Olympic Coast Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition. Funding will support facility rental, underwater prop supplies, workshop implementation, and the development of a student internship over the course of the 2020 and 2021 competitions. NPC MRC has been a consistent supporter of the MATE Olympic Coast ROV Competition, providing judges and supporting previous years’ workshop facilities and pool rental. This school-year's competition will take place on May 16, 2020 in Forks, Washington. Volunteer judges are still needed for the competition. For information on supporting this event contact Nicole.Harris@noaa.gov.



Sanctuaries reach across the ocean to strengthen cultural connections

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) Superintendent Allen Tom and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) education team members, Jacqueline Laverdure and Nicole Harris, met with Suquamish Tribe staff including Karen Matusumoto, Jay Mills, and Paul Williams to discuss opportunities to promote cultural connections that explore ocean literacy and climate resiliency. HIHWNMS, OCNMS, and Suquamish Tribe, along with National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa and other indigenous communities, have been involved in cultural exchange activities through Ecosystem Penpal student program since 2009.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary participates in Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission and Olympic Culinary Loop collaborative symposium



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff joined members of the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission and Olympic Culinary Loop at the Jamestown S’Kallam Tribal community center for a collaborative symposium to discuss ways partners can nurture authentic growth. The event featured an inspirational and interactive session of looking back on the successes of the 2019 tourism season through a review of spring and

fall marketing campaigns, and a presentation on strides gained by Washington State Tourism groups. Discussions on planning ahead for genuine experiences as well as a sneak peek into the upcoming spring 2020 Olympic Peninsula Tourism Summit helped participants leave with actionable and inspirational takeaways aimed at identifying and building upon individual organizations authentic strengths. Attendees were treated to first tasting of the quintessential Olympic Peninsula seafood chowder and a tour of local totem poles with Jamestown S’Kallam Tribal hosts.



CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

Pacific States - British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force celebrates 30 years



Pacific States - British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force (task force) originated in the years following two oil spills, the tank barge *Nestucca*, off Washington Coast, and the tanker *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska. The public was outraged by the damage to the environment and West Coast states and British Columbia responded with the creation of the task force, which today includes Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Hawaii. The task force’s vision is “no spilled oil” and mission is “working together to

improve the Pacific Coast’s prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from oil spills”. At a 30th anniversary celebration, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary’s Deputy Superintendent presented on the task force and sanctuary’s efforts on offshore vessel risk management through the sanctuary’s Area to be Avoided outreach and education program and the recommendations from the task force’s West Coast Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project. These two different efforts resulted in the offshore routing of certain classes of vessels, to reduce the risk of groundings and collisions

Washington CoastSavers hosts annual Strategic Planning meeting.

The Washington Clean Coast Alliance met for the annual Washington CoastSavers Strategic Planning Meeting on December 10, 2019. The Washington Clean Coast Alliance oversees Washington CoastSavers program which organizes annual Earth Day (April) and International Coastal Cleanup (September) events that bring thousands of volunteers to the shores to remove marine debris. The group discussed additional steps in revising the strategic planning document, fundraising goals and objectives with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Chapter as the fiscal agent, and further clarification of Steering Committee member roles. The formation of Washington Clean Coast Alliance was coordinated by sanctuary staff with funding from NOAA’s Marine Debris Program in 2007 to align beach cleanup activities of coastal landowners (Olympic National Park, Washington State Parks, and Coastal Treaty Tribes) and civic and conservation groups (Lions Club International, Surfrider Foundation, Grassroots Garbage Gang, and Discover Your Northwest).



REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM NEWS

Designation ceremony for Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary

To commemorate the designation of [Mallows Bay-Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary](#) — the first national marine sanctuary designated since 2000 — NOAA, the state of Maryland, and Charles County hosted a community celebration on Saturday, November 9, at Mallows Bay Park. The celebration brought together more than 300 guests, including many of the community members and organizations who supported the designation process, and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, who offered a tribal blessing during the ceremony. The event highlighted stories from local community members and featured remarks from the CEQ Chairman, Maryland’s governor, and a Senator. Senior NOAA representatives dedicated a sanctuary flagpole. The program also offered short kayak tours, nature walks, and oral histories about the sanctuary.



National marine sanctuaries partner highlights underwater park system

The [National Marine Manufacturers Association \(NMMA\)](#)— in collaboration with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries released its first short documentary in a series exploring the National Marine Sanctuary System. In 2020, NMMA will release several videos highlighting our national marine sanctuaries as recreation destinations, while instilling the need for environmental protection. The film team has already travelled to Stellwagen Bank, Thunder Bay, and Florida Keys national marine sanctuaries to capture footage and interview sanctuary staff and community members. The joint documentary initiative was made possible through the [Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\)](#) (<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jan19/noaa-recreation-industry-promote-sustainable-fishing-boating.html>) signed by NOAA and the recreational boating and fishing community in February 2018. The MOA allows for developing a framework of cooperation for mutually beneficial projects and activities to promote sustainable recreational fishing and boating conducted within federal marine waters, including national marine sanctuaries. [This first segment features Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#) (<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/onms+week/FMfcgxwGCQZFKVbKdbRSbJhMgwFGZvKp?projector=1>).

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries presents the Sea to Shining Sea Award for Excellence in Interpretation and Education to Blue Star Fishing Guides

The creator of the Blue Star Fishing Guide program was recognized at the National Association for Interpretation conference. She was recognized for her demonstrated successes in her innovation and creative solutions for successfully enhancing the public's awareness and appreciation of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Created in 2018, the Blue Star Fishing Guides Program recognizes guides and operators that are committed to promoting responsible and sustainable fishing practices to reduce

the impact of these activities on the resources of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Blue Star which is a voluntary education, recognition, and endorsement program for charter fishing operators creates guides who take the extra step to educate their customers to be better environmental stewards and to interact responsibly with natural resources in the Keys.

National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series reaches a wide audience in 2019

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) aims to provide [teachers with resources and training to support ocean literacy](#) in America's classrooms. Through the [National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series](#), NOAA has connected with formal and informal educators from around the globe. The webinar series is a virtual opportunity that provides attendees with educational resources, scientific expertise, and training to support ocean and climate literacy in the classroom. In FY19, eight distance-learning opportunities attracted 3,158 total attendees, an increase of 240% from FY18. These distance-learning opportunities have provided a platform for ONMS to connect with educators, highlight partnerships and research, showcase resources found in national marine sanctuaries, and increase the accessibility of science-based learning.

Ocean conservation takes form in a fashion show



The NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program was developed to inspire the next generation of ocean conservationists. By working with schools to develop stewardship-based projects on school grounds, the NOAA Ocean Guardian School Program is providing the tools and knowledge for students to make decisions that will help protect the ocean and Great Lakes. Often this ocean awareness is conveyed through hands-on projects, but it is just as effective when it is instilled into youth through art. Recently, students at a nearby high school participated in a fashion show that had students strutting their stuff on the runway in outfits made completely out of

recycled material. The students created and executed the outfits entirely on their own: a dress made out of socks; other dresses made out of newspaper and recycled curtain; potato chip bags and Capri juice pouches; pillow stuffing, CDs and painted newspaper.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary whale fall

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk256-whale-fall.html>

Have you ever heard of a whale fall? When a whale dies at sea, its body sinks to the ocean floor, where it becomes a food source for years or even decades. Researchers came across a whale fall during an expedition in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary while seeking to deepen our understanding of sanctuaries through deep-water exploration and research in a drive toward protection of our oceans.

MPA Center briefs Chilean Visitors on MPA Management and International Collaboration

The MPA Center briefed five Chilean policy advisors and MPA managers on NOAA's management of marine and coastal protected areas. The visitors are participants in the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program. The MPA Center briefed on a variety of topics including monitoring, community outreach, indigenous engagement, and international capacity building, including the U.S.-Chile Interagency MOU and our forthcoming U.S.-Chile Indigenous Communities and MPA Management Workshop in collaboration with the National Park Service. Both parties agreed to explore further areas of cooperation.

Sea to Shining Sea - The National Marine Sanctuary System's newsletter

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/newsletter.html>

From the western Pacific waters of American Samoa, east to the Atlantic Ocean, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) manages a national network of special places, encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of U.S. ocean and Great Lakes waters. ONMS publishes a national newsletter in electronic format, distributed via email to keep our colleagues, collaborators and you! informed about the many activities and accomplishments that take place within our 14 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

National marine sanctuaries represented at dive industry trade show



During the week of Nov 12, 2019, NOAA attended the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association (DEMA) show, the largest trade-only event in the world for business in the scuba diving, water sports, and dive-travel industries. ONMS staffed an outreach booth engaging with more than 500 dive and tourism industry professionals, set meetings to discuss partnership opportunities, and led a panel discussion. The DEMA sponsored panel, “[DIVE INTO YOUR OCEAN PARKS, LEND YOUR VOICE](#)” highlighted the importance of

national marine sanctuaries to the dive industry, and how working with the dive industry is crucial to the mission of national marine sanctuaries. ONMS’ director facilitated the discussion among the panelists and audience of 70 attendees. Trade show attendee views Sanctuaries 360° videos through Oculus Go at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries exhibit at DEMA.

REGIONAL / NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION NEWS

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation applauds Wisconsin Governor Evers for Support of Lake Michigan Sanctuary

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/national-marine-sanctuary-foundation-applauds-wisconsin-gov-evers-for-support-of-lake-michigan-sanctuary/> The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation applauds Governor Tony Evers for working with Wisconsin communities to preserve their cultural heritage and support community engagement in conservation. Wisconsin’s maritime heritage represents a legacy of exploration, trade, and commerce that led to the prosperity and expansion of our nation. Wisconsin can be proud of sharing that legacy with the rest of the United States.

New Kauai ocean discovery facility due to open on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/new-kauai-ocean-discovery-facility-due-to-open-on-saturday-jan-11-2020/> A new Kauai facility to promote ocean discovery and community connections will open on Saturday, January 11, 2020, at Kukui Grove Center in Lihue. The new ocean discovery facility, managed by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, will be free admission and open to the public year-round. Attractions include exhibits, monthly lectures and a variety of activities for families, students and visitors.

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation statement on NOAA leadership

<https://marinesanctuary.org/news/national-marine-sanctuary-foundation-statement-on-noaa-leadership/> In 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) designated the first national marine sanctuary in nearly 20 years at Malloys Bay-Potomac River. We are grateful to NOAA’s leadership for this accomplishment as well as working to expand protections to historic shipwreck along Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan shoreline and for marine life in Flower Garden Banks and Florida Keys national marine sanctuaries. With their support, we are able to safeguard treasured places in our ocean and Great Lakes and invite Americans to discover the wonders that exist beneath the waves.

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 Data Buoy Center http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml	Washington’s Ocean Resources http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html
National Ocean Service http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/	NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/	Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems http://www.nanoos.org/
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/	CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/	NOAA Online Media Library http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos
NOAA Ocean Explorer http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/	NOAA Marine Debris Program http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/	Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/

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 14 national marine sanctuaries along with 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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