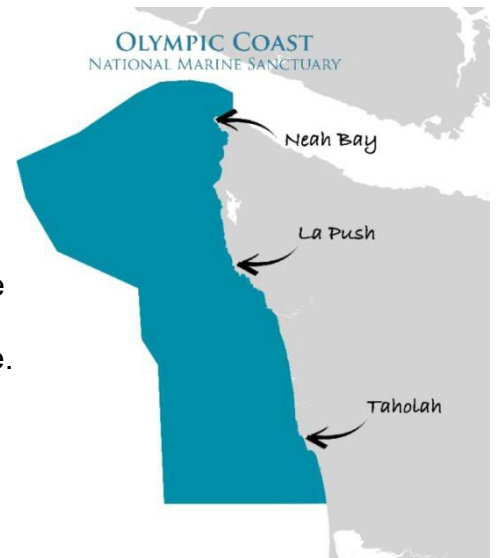


Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

Established in 1994, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary includes 3,188 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 45 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons. The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone, home to marine mammals and seabirds. Along its shores are thriving kelp and intertidal communities, teeming with fish and other sea life. In the darkness of the seafloor, scattered communities of deep-sea coral and sponges form habitats for fish and other important marine wildlife.

Visit olympiccoast.noaa.gov for more information.



Makah Tribe and National Marine Sanctuaries Host Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, working together with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Pacific Islands Region, collaborated with the Makah Tribe to host a Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange. The intent of this exchange was to build Indigenous relationships across the Pacific and facilitate ideas on appropriate and meaningful mechanisms for engagement between sanctuaries and Indigenous communities. Representatives met in Neah Bay, Washington to share information on their cultures, experiences, and working relationships with sanctuaries, and to identify ways to sustain this partnership into the future.



Attendees of the Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange on the back of the charter boat *Windsong* with Tatoosh Island and the Cape Flattery Lighthouse in the distance. Photo: NOAA

Olympic Coast Is In Good Condition But Climate Change Is A Growing Concern

The sanctuary released a comprehensive condition report that assesses the status and trends of the sanctuary's ecosystems, as well as the natural, maritime, and cultural heritage resources within the sanctuary that support many lives and livelihoods. NOAA uses sanctuary condition reports as a standardized tool to assess the status and trends of resources within national marine sanctuaries. This condition report for Olympic Coast is an update from the 2008 edition and concludes that overall, most habitats within the sanctuary are in good condition, but there are growing concerns about the effects of climate change.



Oceanographic moorings are used to monitor changing ocean conditions. Photo: NOAA.

Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Symposium Combines Science, Service, and Stewardship

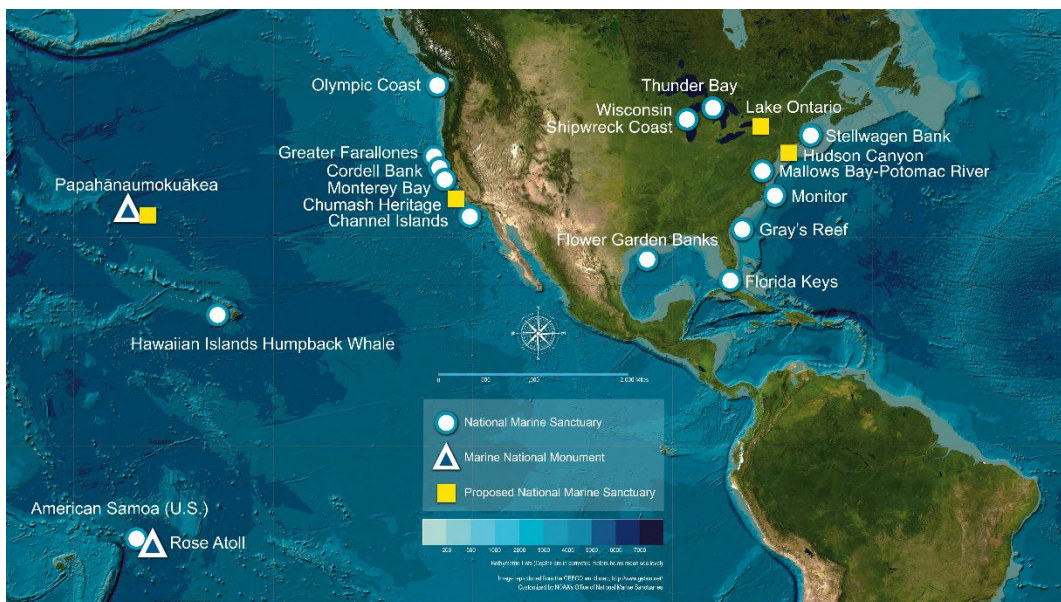
The first biennial Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) Symposium was successfully convened, bringing together nearly 100 people, in person and remotely, including OASeS steering committee members, resource managers, tribal members, researchers, educators, and members of the public. The symposium provided a gathering station for a diversity of voices to share information and emergent research, generate solutions, and address OASeS work plan actions related to policy, management, science, education, and outreach needs of the region regarding the changing ocean conditions.



Several former Sea Grant Fellows with Washington Sea Grant Director, Russell Callender, at the OASeS Symposium evening reception. Photo: NOAA

Looking Ahead

- Sanctuary staff will consult with the Coastal Treaty Tribes, stakeholders, partners, and members of the public in a process to develop a new management plan that addresses all aspects of sanctuary management including objectives, policies, and activities.
- Visitors to the Olympic Coast Discovery Center and students around the Olympic Peninsula will be able to explore ocean sound using exciting new interactive tools focused on recent data collected from passive acoustic monitoring stations in the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary will complete its efforts to better characterize how climate change is affecting sanctuary habitats, species, services, and maritime heritage resources and what can be done to improve resiliency in the face of such changes.



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater areas encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.