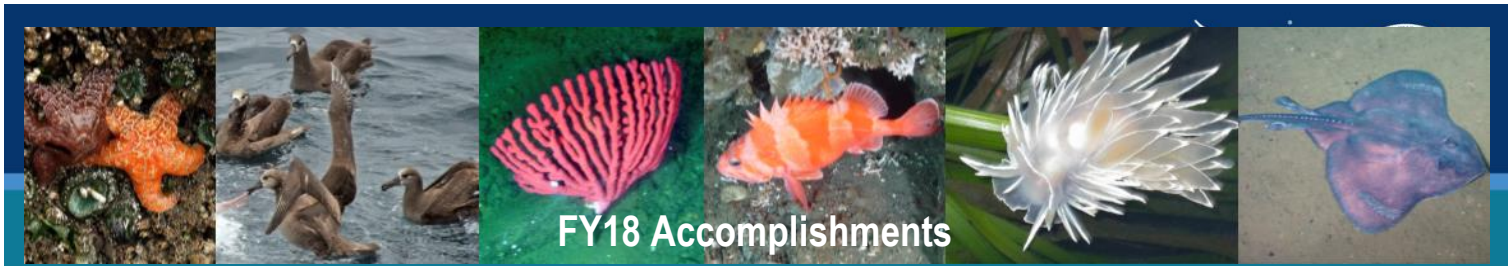

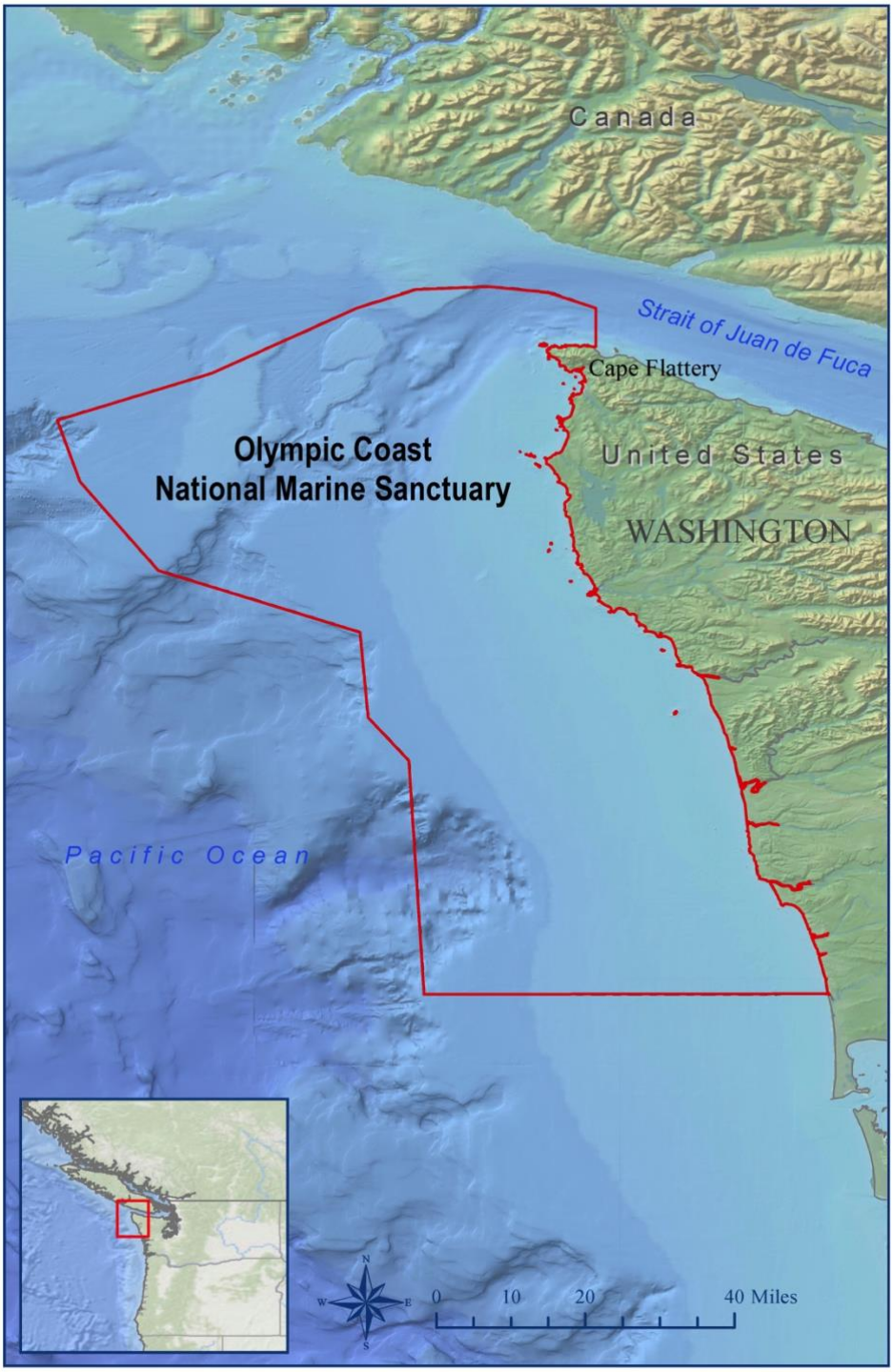

BACKGROUND

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1994 to protect and preserve a productive upwelling zone - home to marine mammals and seabirds. Along its shores are thriving kelp and intertidal communities, teeming with fishes 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.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks 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. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Photo: NOAA

Teachers collect plankton in the sanctuary as part of the Ocean Acidification pHyter-Plankton Monitoring Program.

Photo: Susan Poulton/OET

NASA scientist Dr. Marc Fries examines early sample returns attached to a magnetic board.

Photo: NOAA

The plastics collected during the cleanup will be used to develop prosthetic limbs through Million Waves Project.

Teachers pilot cutting edge technology to address ocean acidification
The Ocean Acidification pHyter-Plankton Teacher Workshop introduced "pHyter," a newly developed inexpensive hand-held field-based pH measuring instrument and complementary ocean acidification curriculum that uses plankton science as a catalyst to explore our changing ocean. This pilot project is a NOAA partnership with national marine sanctuaries along the West Coast and NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Funded by an Ocean Acidification Program mini-grant, the program supports expansion and testing of the pHyter instrument capabilities and increases accessibility of pH data worldwide, while increasing availability of affordable, easy-to-use, and broadly accessible pH monitoring tools.

The search is on and it's from out of this world!
The largest meteorite to strike the U.S. in decades fell into Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary this spring. Researchers recovered what may be pieces of it in July. It broke into pieces before entering the water west of Taholah, Washington. Scientists from NOAA, NASA, and Ocean Exploration Trust aboard the E/V *Nautilus* mapped debris on the seafloor and recovered rock fragments. Millions of people were reached by media coverage and thousands watched live to witness what may be the first known recovery of a meteorite from the ocean!

Ocean plastic to ocean hero
Plastic debris is one of the most widespread pollution problems facing the world's ocean and waterways. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Washington CoastSavers teamed up with Million Waves Project during the International Coastal Cleanup to reclaim ocean plastics and turn debris into 3-D printed prosthetic limbs. The International Coastal Cleanup attracted more than 500 volunteers, who removed over 7,500 pounds of debris on Washington's outer coast beaches. Abbey McPherren, a Million Waves Project prosthetic hand recipient, and her family participated in the cleanup as a way to protect ocean life and help others. Each prosthetic is made from 15 used plastic bottles and costs $45 to source, print, and deliver.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY19

- The sanctuary will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a series of special events to highlight the sanctuary's history, accomplishments, and partnerships. Stay tuned!
- A conceptual design for a new marine discovery center on the Port Angeles waterfront will be developed with project partners Feiro Marine Life Center, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.
- As part of a NOAA-wide effort to better understand how underwater noise affects ocean life, sound monitoring devices will be placed in diverse marine locations to characterize Olympic Coast and other national marine sanctuaries.

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/