



Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Symposium Summary



Image Credit: Katie Wrubel, NOAA

The Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) on the Olympic Coast of Washington state focuses on ocean acidification status and trends. The sentinel site informs resource managers and coastal communities by providing a hub for research and information sharing. OASeS shares the story of how ocean acidification impacts Washington marine resources, coastal cultures, communities and economies.

OASeS works to ensure that the Olympic Coast is prepared for changing ocean conditions.

OASeS is managed by a 20-member steering committee representing tribal governments, federal and state agencies, academia, non-governmental organizations, and community-at-large representatives.

OASeS held the second symposium in May 2024 in Forks, WA. Over 60 attendees gathered to discuss changing ocean conditions on the Olympic Coast. This event was intentionally structured to center on the knowledge and experiences of the four Coastal Treaty Tribes and local communities. Opportunities for audience members to interact and share information wove throughout the meeting. In addition to the latest science, participants learned about climate policy, local adaptation strategies, and innovative education and outreach efforts on changing ocean conditions.

Major takeaways from this meeting include:

- Observations from tribal members on shell thinning and other ways climate and ocean change affect tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and resources;
- Dungeness crab research and management point to potential impacts from changing ocean conditions. A new monitoring method could improve predictability for crab fisheries in Washington, but requires support to implement.
- Climate-smart actions we take now that lower carbon emissions can still improve the near- and long-term outlook for the severity of ocean change.



Dungeness Crab Image Credit: Austin Triggs, ONMS NMFS

Next steps for OASes:

- Expand collaborations to understand climate change impacts on Dungeness crab and related management challenges;
- Expand outreach and education opportunities for Olympic Coast youth, such as internships, a career fair, and storytelling;
- Ongoing engagement with each of the Coastal Treaty Tribes and other coastal communities;
- Continue to collaborate and coordinate to address information gaps to support adaptation planning; and
- Host additional symposia and gatherings on the Olympic Coast every other year (even years).

For more information, visit our website: <https://www.olympiccoastsentinel.org/>

Our Stories by Meg Chadsey

In memory of Andrew Mail, Quinault Indian Nation

When we point at our graphs
And talk about what the data
are telling us,

What we're trying to say
Is that we remember...
Reaching into that hole and feeling the
firm handshake of a clam.

Or if we don't have that memory,
can still feel—as we listen to you talk—
the sobering snap of the shell
giving way in your hand.

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