



The mission of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is *"To protect the Olympic Coast's natural and cultural resources through responsible stewardship, to conduct and apply research to preserve the area's ecological integrity and maritime heritage, and to promote understanding through public outreach and education."*

Here are quotes about the value of the Sanctuary from NOAA's own web pages.

"The diverse and abundant fish fauna in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary are significant commercial and recreational resources ... Although Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary does not host breeding colonies or high numbers of sea turtles, they tend to roam widely ..."

"Seabirds and marine mammals are among the most charismatic and iconic animals that attract sanctuary visitors and supporters - the spouts and flukes of gray whales in migration, the colorful feathers and bills on tufted puffins in breeding plumage. For marine wildlife, the Olympic Coast is a complex and thriving region with highly productive waters that supports and attracts this nationally significant wildlife breeding and foraging area. For scientists, marine wildlife are megafauna (or large animals) that can serve as indicators of ecosystem health and productivity."

See olympiccoast.noaa.gov for more info.

The Marbled Murrelet, Western Snowy Plover, and Short-tailed Albatross are birds that are threatened or endangered and have been found in the Sanctuary.

In the 1,800-page EIS the Navy quotes studies on noise and its effect on marine mammals. It further heightens OPA's concern.

"Noise is of particular concern to marine mammals because many species use sound as a primary sense for navigating, finding prey, avoiding predators, and communicating with other individuals. Noise may cause marine mammals to leave a habitat, impair their ability to communicate, or cause physiological stress (Cholewiak et al., 2018; Courbis & Timmel, 2008; Erbe, 2002; Erbe et al., 2016; Hildebrand, 2009; Holt et al., 2017; Putland et al., 2018; Rolland et al., 2012; Southall et al., 2018; Tyack et al., 2011; Tyne et al., 2017; Williams et al., 2014b). Noise can cause behavioral disturbances, mask other sounds including their own vocalizations, may result in injury, and in some cases may result in behaviors that ultimately lead to death (Erbe et al., 2014; Erbe et al., 2016; National Research Council, 2003, 2005; Nowacek et al., 2007; Southall et al., 2009; Tsujii et al., 2018; Tyack, 2009; Würsig & Richardson, 2009)." [p. 3.4-21 V-1 Northwest Training and Testing Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS March 2019]