Olympic Coast

(Washington)



Description:

Spans 3,310 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary averages approximately 38 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and protecting habitat for one of the most diverse marine mammal faunas in North America and a critical link in the Pacific flyway. The sanctuary boasts a rich mix of cultures, preserved in the contemporary lives of members of the Quinault, Hoh, Quileute, and Makah tribes.

Habitats and Key Species

Habitats

Rocky and sandy seashores Kelp forests Seastacks and islands Pelagic, open ocean

Key Species

Tufted Puffin Bald Eagle Northern sea otter Gray Whale Pacific Salmon Dolphin

Specifications

Location: From Cape Flattery to the mouth of the Copalis River, on Washington's outer coast.

Protected Area: 3,310 square miles

Designation: July, 1994

Education Activities

Cultural programs operated with the Makah, Quileute, Hoh, and Quinault Indian Nations

Ecotourism programs coordinated with state agencies and regional tourism organizations

Publications, quarterly newsletter

Research Activities

Marine archaeological and biological studies

Marine research coordinated with other federal and state agencies and Universities

Administration and Support

Full-time professional staff includes a manager, assistant manager, research coordinator, education coordinator, and administrative assistant, 15-member sanctuary advisory council, Project interns and volunteers

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