

OASeS 2023 Accomplishments Report

The Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) focuses on coordinating and facilitating collaboration on ocean acidification (OA) related policy, science and education/outreach on the outer coast of Washington. The sentinel site works to inform resource managers and coastal communities by telling the story of OA and its impacts on Washington coastal marine resources, coastal cultures, communities, and economies. The sentinel site will seek to ensure that the Olympic Coast is well prepared for changing ocean conditions, with research and management actions in place. The OASeS Steering Committee first met in September of 2020. Since then, OASeS has met quarterly and achieved several successes in a largely virtual environment.



OASeS is led by two co-chairs: Micah Horwith, Senior Scientist for Washington Department of Ecology and Tommy Moore, Oceanographer for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Over the past year, OASeS has been focused on implementation of the prioritized work plan. This work plan outlines key tasks the steering committee will focus on, including website development, beginning planning for the second biennial symposium, filling key management and science gaps, and expanding our formal and informal education and outreach efforts. In addition to the three subcommittees focused on management, science, and education and outreach, we have had two additional subcommittees focused on the development of an OASeS website and hosting a Symposium.

The [Washington Ocean Acidification Center's](#) legislative funding request included funds focused on the outer coast to support OASeS activities. The goal of these funds is to support increased capacity to engage with Tribes, resource managers, and communities on the Washington coast, meeting them where they are and minimizing barriers to access information. These funds will be used to support the 2024 OASeS Symposium, improve website content, and reduce barriers for coastal communities to engage.

The [OASeS website](#) was launched in partnership with the [Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems \(NANOOS\)](#)! Financial support for this website was provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Washington Ocean Acidification Center. The website allows the steering committee to share information to broader audiences on what changes are being observed on the Olympic Coast, science and information needs, connections to formal and informal educational materials, and more!



Welcome to OASeS, the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site

The Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) on the Olympic Coast of Washington state will focus on ocean acidification (OA) related science and identify trends in carbonate chemistry and hypoxia. The sentinel site will be used to inform resource managers and coastal communities by telling the story of OA and its impacts on both Washington coastal marine resources, coastal cultures, communities, and economies. OASeS will seek to ensure that the Olympic Coast is well prepared for changing ocean conditions, with research and management actions in place.

OASeS Seeks Community-At-Large Representatives
The Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site is seeking two Community-At-Large representatives to serve in a two-year term on the OASeS Steering Committee. Apply by October 31, 2023.
Photo: Second Beach at sunset. Photo credit: Matt McIntosh/NOAA

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- [OASeS Symposium](#)
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OASeS recruited and selected two Community-at-large members to serve on the Steering Committee. Ann Penn-Charles, a Quileute Tribal member, and Lee Whitford, former Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair, will serve a two-year term.

Overall, OASeS has strengthened existing partnerships in the region. Fostering communication and collaboration among these partners will result in stronger science and more holistic management. Ultimately, an improved ability to understand, forecast, and communicate the environmental and societal impacts of ocean change on the Washington coast can serve as a model for the broader Pacific Northwest and coastal regions around the world.

Upcoming activities for 2024:

1. **Host second OASeS Symposium on the Washington Coast;**
2. **Conduct in person community outreach with Olympic Coast communities, especially the Coastal Treaty Tribes, as appropriate;**
3. **Explore the management and policy landscape for addressing ocean acidification impacts, including a possible workshop with relevant management entities on this topic; and**
4. **Continue to hold quarterly steering committee meetings, including an in-person meeting in the spring.**