



421 Aviation Way
Frederick, Maryland 21701

T. 301-695-2000
F. 301-695-2375

www.aopa.org

March 22, 2011

Mr. George Galasso
Olympic Coast National marine Sanctuary
115 East Railroad Avenue
Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Re: RIN 0648-BA20, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Regulations Revisions

Mr. Galasso,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing more than 400,000 members nationwide, submits the following comments in response to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) proposed revisions to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Regulations.

On page 92 of the Draft Management Plan, NOAA states under Activity A that it will "improve compliance with the OCNMS wildlife disturbance mitigation (overflight restriction) zone through collaboration with Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and Washington Pilots Association (WPA) to improve outreach products for and communication with local pilots." AOPA is willing to support outreach efforts on the current Advisory Circular (AC) 91-36D, Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Flight Near Noise Sensitive Areas including Marine Sanctuaries.

AOPA has agreed to collaborate with NOAA on pilot outreach and education to "fly friendly" in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) AC 91-36D. The AC requests that pilots voluntarily avoid overflight of noise sensitive areas at less than 2,000 feet above ground level. This guidance is recommended and not regulatory or compulsory. It is AOPA's belief that any mandate or requirement beyond these terms must be enacted by the FAA following the standard rulemaking process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed rules regarding the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Regulations Revisions.

Sincerely,

Tom Kramer
Manager
Air Traffic Services