

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
January 20, 2017

Clallam County Courthouse  
Port Angeles, WA

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

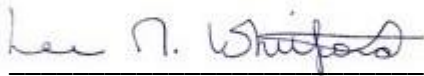
Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



---

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



---

Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), John Veentjer (Marine Industry, Secretary), Casey Dennehy (Marine Resources Committee), Wes Cormier (Grays Harbor County), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Dan Ayres (WDFW), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Captain Brian Gilda (USCG), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), John Stadler (NOAA-Fisheries), Katie Wruebel (Makah alternate), Allison Mahaney (Citizen at Large alternate), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Tom Mumford (Research alternate), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee alternate), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy alternate), Tom Burlingame (Fishing alternate),

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** John Mosher (U.S. Navy), Jackie Queen (U.S. Navy), Dawn Grebner (U.S. Navy), Jeff Hummel (Hummel and Associates), Ed Bowlby (Clallam Co. Marine Resources Committee), Patrick Noonan (Clallam Co. resident), Tom Harper (Save the Olympic Peninsula), Karen Sullivan (West Coast Action Alliance), Jim Jewell (OCNMS volunteer), Jennifer Nouri (Sequim resident), Deborah Moriarty (OCNMS volunteer), Lee Norton (Save the Olympic Peninsula), Paul Gottlieb (Peninsula Daily News), Rick Mazzotta (community member), Janet Marx (North Olympic Group Sierra Club), Roy Morris (Lions Club), Selinda Barkhuis (County Treasurer), Steve Gray (Clallam County planner), Eric Schouten (community member)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim, Jenny Waddell, Alisha Friel, Kathy Hough, Nancy Wright, Jacqueline Laverdure, Nicole Harris, Norma Klein, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Mark Ozias, Clallam County Commissioner, welcomed council members and public to the Clallam County Courthouse. He mentioned the historic courthouse which holds a court room kept historically accurate to the 1920's and invited meeting attendees to view it with him during the lunch break.

**Adopt Agenda**– The draft agenda was adopted with Karlyn noting that she will share a short video clip before lunch produced by Office of National marine Sanctuaries on Quinault Indian nation and their razor clam fishery. The three-minute video features Quinault representative, Joe Schumacker. ***There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

#### **Internal Affairs:**

**Approval of November 2016 SAC Meeting Minutes**– The U.S. Navy and Tom Mumford had contacted Karlyn to refine their member updates to clarify details, which she has noted. ***Tom Mumford motioned to approve the meeting minutes with those modifications incorporated, and John Veentjer seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Chairs Webinar**– Lee Whitford reported that chairs from all national marine sanctuary sites agreed to conduct more regularly meetings at the January 2016 Chairs Summit in Maryland. A webinar was held in September for all chairs to reconvene. Chairs received national updates on site expansions, two proposed sites in Malloys Bay, MD and Lake Michigan, WI and new sites on the sanctuary inventory list. Enforcement was the main topic of discussion, with a group of interested chair convening to discuss the topic in more detail. Dianne Black, Chair, identified the overall goal of writing a letter to the incoming NOAA Administrator highlighting enforcement needs and priorities from a community perspective. Finally, the chairs learned about progress on the ONMS Strategic Plan.

**Update on Citizen at large and Research Seats**– Carol announced the new members for the Research and Citizen at large seats. This year OCNMS received a record number of applications, so the process was very competitive. She thanked John Veentjer, Casey Dennehy and Jennifer Hagen for their involvement in the candidate review process, which included interview of top candidates. The new Citizen at large members are Katie Krueger, who is soon retiring from Quileute Tribe and will come aboard in the spring, and Allison Mahaney of Port Angeles. Allison introduced herself to the council- she served as a NOAA Corps officer for OCNMS in 2007-2010 and went on to earn a law degree. She currently practices civil law in town and is involved in various community groups and the schools. Both Research members were reappointed to serve, with Jan Newton as primary and Tom Mumford as the alternate. Their expertise is timely with OCNMS and council work on the Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site and upcoming ecosystem indicators work which will inform an update to the OCNMS Condition Report.

Other new members on the council include Kate Dean, Jefferson County Commissioner, who could not attend today’s meeting, and Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor County Commissioner. Wes stated that he is serving his second term as Commissioner and is happy to join the council. Both of those positions are appointments from their local government.

**Brief Overview of Final 2016 Advisory Council Work Plan**– Lee Whitford highlighted the advisory council’s work in 2016. A link to the final 2016 Advisory Council Work Plan can be found at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan\\_final\\_2016.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_final_2016.pdf).

**Approval of Proposed AC 2017 Council Meeting Schedule**– Karlyn proposed 2017 meeting dates as follows: Friday, January 20, Port Angeles

- Friday, March 17, La Push
- Friday, May 19, Neah Bay
- Friday, July 21, Forks
- Friday, September 22, Seattle
- Friday, December 1 in the southern end of the sanctuary (TBD)

Karlyn will keep communicating about the potential for conducting a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) in 2017. ***Jennifer Hagen motioned to approve the 2017***

***minutes schedule and John Veentjer seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

The final 2017 schedule is posted online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/2017\\_mtg-dates\\_final.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/2017_mtg-dates_final.pdf).

### **Information Items:**

**U.S. Navy Northwest Testing and Training Updates**– John Mosher, U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet, presented an update on the Northwest Testing and Training (NWTT) Environmental Planning Projects. Their ongoing efforts include the NWTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws which require reauthorization every five years (MMPA, ESA and NMSA). The USN is currently in its third iteration of the NWTT EIS, with phase 1 consisting of the NW Training Range Complex and NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension completed in 2010 /2011. Phase 2 was initiated in 2012 and combined the two EISs into one document, with a Record of Decision released in November 2016. The EISs address adjustments to USN activities in response to changing mission requirements. John summarized Phase 2 NWTT EIS, which consisted of an inland waters area, offshore area and the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility. There are not many USN activities taking place in OCNMS, but they include training with sonar systems, testing within Quinault Range Site, and aircraft overflights. Overall, less than 2% of training and 15% of testing is projected to occur in OCNMS. In the sanctuary, there is no use of explosives. Phase 2 documents are available at [nwtteis.com](http://nwtteis.com).

Phase 3 NWTT EIS is expected to use the same geographic area as Phase 2, analyzing similar activities; it might move forward as a Supplemental EIS. The notice of intent and scoping period will begin summer 2017, with a Draft EIS release and comment period in early 2019 and the final EIS coming out in 2020.

Jackie Queen, Naval Facilities Engineering Command NW, followed with an overview of Navy's Marine Species Monitoring Program. Navy-funded research has generated more than 800 open source publications that have contributed to our understanding of marine species and their habitat. The NWTT EIS Study Area consists of Inland Waters Area, Offshore Area and Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility. Navy's monitoring efforts in the NW Offshore Area includes: 1) passive acoustic monitoring from 2004-2017, and 2) short and long-term tracking of whales and sea lions using satellite telemetry tags from 2010-2017. Past and current efforts focus on understanding marine mammal occurrence through studies designed to address distribution, abundance, seasonality, and density. New efforts (2016-2017) will address Chinook salmon (offshore distribution, seasonality) and Marbled murrelets (offshore distribution, abundance, seasonality, density). As for projects in Inland Waters Area, USN focuses on distribution, abundance, seasonality, and density for several marine mammal species. Jackie described the Blue and Fin whale satellite tagging led by Oregon State University, Southern Resident Killer Whale research led by NOAA-NWFSC, Chinook salmon studies led by NOAA-NWFSC, sea lion satellite tagging led by NOAA-AFSC, and Marbled

murrelet survey efforts led by WDFW. Annual monitoring reports and associated technical reports posted on their public monitoring website: [www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us](http://www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us).

Their presentation can be accessed online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/nwtt\\_update-for-ocnms\\_advisory\\_council-20jan2017b.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/nwtt_update-for-ocnms_advisory_council-20jan2017b.pdf).

**Draft EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Wastewater Discharge General Permit**– Catherine Gockel, U.S. EPA, provided an update on the NPDES covering the offshore seafood processing sector in offshore federal waters of Washington and Oregon. She noted that this is a preliminary pre-draft status, as EPA is still in the deliberation and consultation period with many agencies, tribes and groups. Catherine explained that this is a new general permit under the Clean Water Act in waters 3-200 miles from shore for the offshore factories of Pacific whiting trawl fleet. The permit was originally released as public notice in August 2015 and received a significant number of comments. Permit conditions required that solid wastes be ground to 0.5 inch in size prior to discharge (not applied to shells or incidental bycatch), as well as using Best Management Practices (BMP) plan to prevent or minimize other wastes through byproduct recovery. EPA expects to release revised permit conditions in the next month or so.

Proposed updates to the general permit include a clarification on the jurisdiction and terminology used in the permit as well as the sea surface monitoring requirements; requirement that vessels be moving while discharging; updates to the standard NPDES language and conditions; and revisions to the Notice of Intent and Annual Report. During the public comment period, EPA will specifically solicit comments on monitoring and reporting requirements. EPA will consider requiring permittees to submit Annual Reports directly to OCNMS and/or tribes if discharging in those jurisdictions. Other considerations include a seasonal discharge prohibition, to minimize hypoxic conditions on the seafloor to help other species such as the Dungeness crab, lingcod and other benthic fisheries. EPA is also considering special provisions relative to rocky reefs, which provide physical structure and habitat for fish and other species. Initial feedback from NOAA-NMFS recommended no discharge within 250 feet of rocky reefs; ODFW recommended year-round exclusion zones around several rocky reefs.

EPA is conducting 304(d) consultation with OCNMS under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Recommendations from the sanctuary including provisions were to minimize conditions which might further contribute to hypoxic conditions and stimulation of harmful algal blooms, particularly around the Juan de Fuca Eddy, and to increase monitoring and reporting of discharges. Catherine noted that EPA is considering an exclusion zone around the Juan de Fuca Eddy. EPA is also considering additional seabird protection provisions based on coordination with USFWS regarding short-tailed Albatross and NMFS Essential Fish Habitat for Groundfish.

EPA is currently working on federal consistency determinations for WA and OR, and updating the Biological Evaluation to include more current information about seabirds. Early in 2017,

EPA anticipates releasing the second and final public notice with a 45 day comment period, with a goal of issuing the final permit in summer 2017. Links to the background documents can be accessed by visiting <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/NPDES+Permits/DraftPermitsORWA>, by scrolling down the page to the WA/OR discharge permit.

Catherine's presentation can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/epa\\_ocrms\\_jan20\\_presentation\\_gockel.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/epa_ocrms_jan20_presentation_gockel.pdf).

**Public Comment**– There were several public comments delivered:

1. Karen Sullivan, retired Biologist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and member of the West Coast Action Alliance, is concerned with US Navy's definition of "mission adjustment" and Case Law's "illegal segmentation beneath us." She is also noted that USN's NWTT EIS discharge of 40 million pounds over the next 20 years in PNW waters, and believes that USN has not used best available scientific data to back up their study. Karen calculated quantities of toxic output in coastal waters, such as Uranium and others, based on information provided in USN documents. She would like to see a better balance of military readiness and environmental stewardship.
2. Roy Morris, former Citizen-at-large alternate and active Sekiu community member, thanked OCNMS for the opportunity to learn about marine issues over the years. He is grateful for the sanctuary's participation in establishing the WA Coast Alliance to conduct annual beach clean-ups, including Liam Antrim's leadership which awarded him the title of "CoastSaver of the Year" for 2016. He thanked Carol for being a strong role model in actively participating in these efforts and asked to re-share her "Story from the Blue" video ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3443hCXSKg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3443hCXSKg)). Roy thanked OCNMS's Education and Outreach team for giving exposure to students of coastal communities. He and wife Nancy Messmer are working on developing a series of recycling symposiums with WA Recycling Association and many other local and national groups to culminate in Forks in 2020 for the 50th celebration of Earth Day.
3. Tom Harper, Save the Olympic Peninsula, expressed concerned for the number of growler jet flights and their potential impact to wildlife, including endangered Marbled murrelets and marine wildlife. He believes that USN estimates for actual jet noise are greatly underestimated and that an increase in jet flights will lead to an increase in fossil fuel consumption and exacerbate the effects of climate change.
4. Pat Noonan, retired USN airport pilot, raised questions about growler jet flights in the Olympic Peninsula due to needing a closer range, based on the argument that Mountain Home, Idaho (the next closes Navy range) is too far away. He believes they have overlooked the Yakima training center, only 8 minutes further (flying time) from Forks, WA. He shared that the noise data submitted was for retired aircrafts (VA6), which make half the noise as current jets. Pat stated that "operational necessity" for training and testing could result in a tenfold increase in flights. He was disappointed when he experienced USN dropped explosives into the ocean for entertainment, when no training or testing was occurring; he also witnessed active sonar testing at that time.

**Charter Renewal Subcommittee Report and Recommendations**– Lee Whitford, member of the Charter Renewal Subcommittee, briefly outlined the charter review process. A significant change is including an option for alternate members to participate as an officer on the Executive Subcommittee in either the Vice Chair or Secretary role. Lee also highlighted an interest in having the OCNMS advisory council continue to operate by consensus. Finally she outlined that several changes were related to ensuring consistency with the National Advisory Council Handbook’s Model Charter, and did not significantly alter the OCNMS SAC Charter.

Karlyn Langjahr, OCNMS, recapped the five recommendations accepted and approved at the November meeting, and forwarded to ONMS. A three-month extension request was approved by headquarters to allow for additional discussion at the January 2017 AC meeting. Jennifer Hagen requested that the record show that OCNMS will continue to operate by consensus. Currently, under VIII. Operation, A. Meetings, 4. *“In absence of consensus, decisions made by the council shall be made by majority vote of those present, provided there is a quorum. All votes shall be recorded by seat in the minutes.”* Lee reminded the council that we have been operating by consensus, and clarified that if there is an issue, the council returns to discussion to seek consensus. If there are still unresolved problems after that, a vote will be called. She hopes and expects that OCNMS advisory council will be able to reach consensus, as it has never been necessary to decide by vote. This language carries forward from the 2011 Charter, and headquarters does not object to our operation by consensus.

***Dan Ayres motioned to approve the revisions made in the updated OCNMS Advisory Council Charter, as presented in the January 9, 2016 strike-out version, and Steve Shively seconded the motion. The motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**Draft 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan** – Lee Whitford reviewed the proposed 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan. Highlights include the following topic areas:

- Ocean Literacy, including support for OCNMS’s “Get Into Your Sanctuary” Day and outreach products such as the updated OCNMS website and development of a new informational brochure.
- Travel and Tourism strategies, including continual promotion of annual beach clean-ups and Olympic Culinary Loop.
- Annual activities such as joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Policy Council, reporting on the National Chairs Summit, member recruitment, OCNMS Management Plan implementation, and outreach for SAC members to more effectively reach constituents and the public.
- Support for an OCNMS research/monitoring vessel replacement.
- Small Vessel Incident Response, a new topic for the AC Work Plan, with formation of a working group led by George Galasso to consider recommendations to the sanctuary on how to minimize and prevent lost vessels.
- Follow up from the 2016 Ocean Acidification (OA) Sentinel Site workshop and moving forward to eventually designate Olympic Coast OA Sentinel Site with many partners and

collaborators. The council's Working Group will review and finalize a workshop report, and identify next steps in the process.

- Several of the ongoing activities include the support state-led efforts, such as data management, Marine Spatial Planning, and Ecosystem Indicators.

Lee also listed the various topics of interest and ongoing subjects to continue tracking as needed or desired. She reminded everyone that the Work Plan is adaptive and a continuous work in progress, so we can update or make changes during the course of the year. A link to the draft 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan can be found at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan\\_draft\\_2017.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_draft_2017.pdf).

***John Veentjer motioned to approve the draft 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan, and Katrina Lassiter seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

**Sanctuaries Joint Call to Action on Enforcement in ONMS** – Lee Whitford introduced a joint letter on enforcement in sanctuaries proposed by an Enforcement Discussion Panel, which emerged from the National Advisory Council Chairs Summit in 2016. Advisory council chairs from Florida Keys NMS, Greater Farallones NMS, Stellwagen Bank NMS, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem held a series of conference call meetings to discuss enforcement in ONMS. From these meetings, the group wrote a draft letter to incoming NOAA Administrator, urging that enforcement be one of his/her priorities, with a request that each Advisory Council decide if they wanted to sign on to the letter.

The letter emphasizes the importance of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act as one of the statutes that NOAA has a responsibility to enforce, and highlights the need for Joint Enforcement Agreements with coastal states to include specific funding for enforcement operations at sanctuaries. Also highlighted is the hope that Enforcement Officers from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement can be appointed to specific sanctuary sites. The letter also proposes that advisory councils support and assist, such as helping to educate ocean users about sanctuary regulations, providing input on sanctuary enforcement priorities, and having NOAA enforcement staff member participate at advisory council meetings.

Lee noted that some of the issues put forth reflect the situation in the West Coast Region sanctuaries, including Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Dayna Matthews, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, addressed some of these challenges at our September 2014 AC meeting. To date, the letter has been approved by four advisory councils, with all sites requested to make a decision by March 2017. Enforcement was listed by council chairs across the sanctuary system as one of the priority topics, along with budget, research and cultural preservation.

OCNMS enforcement issues predominantly deal with lost vessels (sunk or grounded in sanctuary) and low overflights. George noted that there is only one enforcement agent



covering the entire coast of Washington, and part of Oregon as well. Members discussed the unique aspects of OCNMS not addressed in the letter, particularly in regards to the unique situation with tribal governments. OCNMS already coordinates with other enforcement entities although there is often a lack of staffing to execute the activities listed in collaborative agreements. Council members agreed that they could not go forward with signing the letter today without tribal concurrence, as tribes (e.g. Makah Tribe) still needs time to deliberate internally on the topic. One idea proposed, if the council later decides to sign the enforcement letter, is to add a cover letter with an explanation from Carol to ONMS about the unique agreements and considerations OCNMS has, while expressing our needs to work collaboratively with co-managers of the resources. Some members felt that there is power behind signing a letter with 14 other sites during a window of opportunity for a new, incoming NOAA Administrator.

***Steve Shively motioned to table the vote until the March 17 meeting, so further discussion and presentation could be made on the subject matter and to ensure time for tribes to deliberate on the letter; Casey Dennehy seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

The joint enforcement letter can be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/joint\\_calltoaction\\_enforcement\\_2017.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/joint_calltoaction_enforcement_2017.pdf).

**Public Comment**– None at this time

**Superintendent's Report** – Carol referred council members to the January 2017 Office Report for updates on sanctuary activity in the past two months, which can also be found online at:

[http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/office-report\\_jan\\_2017.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/office-report_jan_2017.pdf).

1. OCNMS staff are still working to finalize the draft Ocean Acidification (OA) Sentinel Site workshop report and expect to distribute a draft in the near future. It will be shared with working group members and workshop participants for their feedback. The next step will be to consider a governance structure for Olympic Coast Sentinel Site for OA. NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program released a call for proposals on vulnerability assessments, so partners and OCNMS submitted a proposal for a three year grant. OCNMS also anticipates including a website feature on OA Sentinel Site on OCNMS's website, as well as the national sanctuary system page. OAP also conducted a three-day meeting on OA research and education priorities and opportunities for leveraging, with staff from all west coast sanctuaries participating.
2. OCNMS attended a Washington Coastal Resilience Assessment Forum initiated by the Washington State Department of Ecology, the office of U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer, and coastal entities in Grays Harbor County. The forum explored issues related to long-term resilience in response to growing concerns related to existing and future natural hazards (erosion, floods, landslide, earthquakes and tsunamis). OCNMS provided input. The forum organizers also met with, and received input from the North Coast Marine Resource Committee.

3. The Education team has been working with Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) and the University of Washington to conduct Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) training program for coastal communities to develop ROV clubs. The curriculum has been extremely popular and will lead up to the first Olympic Peninsula ROV competition on May 20 in Forks.
4. OCNMS now also has a life-sized, inflatable walk-through humpback whale to use for community events. The whale is patterned off a real individual named “Big Mama”, who migrates through the sanctuary and Strait of Juan de Fuca from Hawai’i to Alaska. She will be launched in early March at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Beachcombers Fun Fair in Ocean Shores (<http://beachcombersfunfair.com/>).
5. OCNMS staff recently participated in a two-day workshop in Victoria hosted by Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), which brought together Canadian and Washington marine managers. They learned how to conduct a rapid assessment for vulnerability using habitat as an indicator. The process will be refined and revisited in the future for Olympic Coast.
6. The public comment period is open for two proposed national marine sanctuaries, Mallows Bay-Potomac River NMS and Wisconsin-Lake Michigan NMS, through March 31, 2017. Karlyn sent out the link to submit comments that you can forward, and you can learn more at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jan17/noaa-proposes-two-new-national-marine-sanctuaries.html>
7. On April 1, Dr. James Delgado, Director of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program for ONMS, will present at the Scuba & Water Adventure Show in Tacoma, WA ([www.scubah2oshow.com](http://www.scubah2oshow.com)). His presentation is entitled, “Solving the Mysteries of the Deep: Recent Shipwreck Discoveries”. OCNMS is hoping to have him deliver a presentation in Port Angeles around that time as well.

### **Member Reports and Future Agenda Topics**

- John Veentjer noted that the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting will take place on February 1.
- Jennifer Hennessey stated that the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council will meet on February 15 in Aberdeen at the Port of Grays Harbor. For the Marine Spatial Plan, the state is working to release a preliminary plan in the near future.
- Katrina Lassiter is interested in having the advisory council track the EPA’s General Permit on NPDES. She also announced that Hilary Franz is the new Commissioner of Public Lands for Washington and was sworn in last week, so WDNR anticipates some changes in the agency.
- Captain Brian Gilda, shared that the USCG conducted their biannual meeting last month (December 2016) with Canadian Coast Guard, and discussed ATBA incursions and monitoring. Sector Puget Sound now has some improved tools (including improved AIS coverage) that should help with proactive monitoring of the ATBA. The Canadian Coast Guard will continue with their monitoring of the ATBA from Prince Rupert until such time as the Cooperative Vessel traffic System procedures have been updated. The goal is to eventually relieve the Canadian Coast Guard from monitoring the ATBA as they currently do under the existing procedures.

- Jennifer Brown-Scott reported that National Wildlife Refuges and partners within the California Current Ecosystem convened to develop protocol frameworks for surveying seabirds so that it is easier for statistical analyses and sharing across sites. This could result in an additional aerial seabird survey in Washington by helicopter, possibly not every year. USFWS will also be working with WDFW on boat-based Tufted puffin surveys this year.
- Carolyn Winters thanked the AC for having US Navy deliver their presentation today and indicated that the Navy provides environmental project information on a public web site (<https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw.html>) and that Navy has developed a video to explain the Navy's environmental planning process (Navy NEPA video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vDYO5zoQAA>). She has been working with George Galasso and USN supervisor of Salvage on opportunities to conduct further work on the *USS Bugara*. The *USS Bugara* is a WWII era submarine, which sank off Cape Flattery in 1971. Stephanie Sleeman added that OCNMS Education program could contact John Calambokidis of Cascadia Research for additional information on “Big Mama” and individual recognition of humpback whales based on their unique fluke fin pattern.
- Joel Kawahara highlighted that the Dungeness crab fishery in the north coast in sanctuary waters kicked off in November and is showing tremendous abundance for tribal fisheries this year.
- Jennifer Hagen requested a presentation on OCNMS permits, including types or trends in permits; she is particularly concerned about the increased use of drones or unmanned aircraft systems. She also reported that a fisherman brought her a crab with a device glued to its back, which was released in August from Seaside, OR. Jennifer represented the tribes at a press conference meeting held by the Governors of WA, OR and CA regarding the formation of the International Alliance to Combat OA. One of their goals is to decrease carbon input. The sanctuary and other entities can join. Quileute Tribe received a grant to replace their oil spill response trailer, and will now be able to respond to highway incidents.
- Tom Mumford is happy to be serving another term as Research alternate, and looks forward to working on ecosystem indicators and the Sentinel Site for OA.
- Dan Ayres announced that Kalaloch Beach was open for razor clams digging for the first time in five years, however there were very few razor clams. In 650 digger trips in the two open days, few clams were harvested. WDFW is concerned and evaluating if the season will remain open. He also noted that there is an excellent low tide at 4:30pm on Friday, December 1 following the AC meeting and suggested a potential group activity if the meeting was held at a coastal location such as the Pacific Beach Navy conference center.
- Casey Dennehy stated that there will be a workshop next Thursday, January 26 in Aberdeen on Washington coastal resilience; if interested, let him know. He also shared that they will begin organizing for the 2017 MRC Summit, which should take place in Cathlamet, in Wahkiakum County. Surfrider Foundation wrapped up their Leadership

Academy in December, which was very successful and included Jennifer Hagen and Katie Wruebel. They expect to run another Leadership Academy in 2017.

- John Stadler shared Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) updates: the completion date has been pushed back, as Pacific Fishery Management Council has changed what they would like NMFS to do. For now, there are a few potential changes in EFH conservation areas (CAs) or Rockfish CAs, but nothing north of Point Chehalis will occur at this review (therefore nothing inside OCNMS or the tribal Usual and Accustomed Areas).
- Katie Wruebel shared that Makah Tribe just finalized their Ocean Policy, so they will now be working on the implementation plan. Last week they attended the Washington Sub-regional Planning Body meeting. The goal is to communicate and coordinate on many different efforts.
- Steve Shively thanked council members for helping promote tourism at Kalaloch's clam dig. They continue to promote other advertised clam digs, including Moclips. Tourism on Olympic Peninsula in 2016 finished at approximately 17% above average budget, which was nearly 40% above the four-year average as a whole. There is anticipated decline in tourism, at least foreign travel, for 2017. Washington state ranks 50 out of 50 for tourism spending and there are two bills (Senate 1123 and House 5251) currently under consideration, including re-establishing a statewide tourism office. Anyone is welcome to lobby on January 24 in Olympic for tourism legislation.
- Rich Osborne noted that the North Olympic Coast MRC put on the resiliency workshop with Washington SeaGrant at their last meeting next meeting will return to its usual format.
- Tom Burlingame thanked sanctuary staff for presenting on OCNMS to volunteer docents at the Clallam Bay Visitor Center. The information was positively received by the volunteers. For recreational fishing in 2017, they expect reduction in bag limits by one-third for Rockfish, particularly for Black rockfish. They don't expect it will discourage most anglers.
- Mark Ozias announced that Clallam County's Department of Community Development hired a consultant to update the Shoreline Management Plan in 2017. He hopes to share the details of what the public process will look like at the next council meeting.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** in La Push at the Quileute Tribal Administration Office. The meeting was adjourned.