

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
December 8, 2017

Department of National Resources Olympic Region Center
Forks, WA

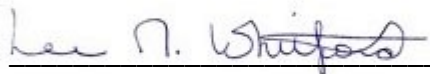
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by Council Chair:



Lee Whitford, AC Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Dan Ayres (WDFW), John Stadler (NOAA-NMFS), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Wendy Largent (Hoh Tribe), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), CDR Brian Gilda (US Coast Guard), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Dr. Jan Newton (Science), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), John Veentjer (Marine/Industry, Secretary), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Josh Peters (WDNR alternate), Tom Mumford (Research alternate), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy alternate), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Steve Fradkin (ONP).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Meg Chadsey (Washington SeaGrant), Melissa Watkinson (UW), Melissa Poe (Washington SeaGrant and NOAA NWFSC liaison).

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Superintendent Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jenny Waddell, Jaqueline Laverdure, and Chris Butler-Minor (NMSF/OCNMS)

The Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Committee Chair

Internal Affairs

The agenda was adopted by consensus, with a motion by Katie Krueger and seconded by John Veentjer. The September 22, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted with minor edits with a motion by Katie Krueger and a second by Jennifer Hennessey.

Chris Butler-Minor provided update on Advisory Council recruitment. At present, we are not able to post recruitment announcements and recruit for open Sanctuary Advisory seats in the Federal Register. However, the National Sanctuary Advisory Council Handbook allows for the extension of seats when recruitment is not possible. OCNMS SAC members occupying expiring seats have agreed to extend their service terms until the issue is resolved.

Lee Whitford announced the upcoming 2018 SAC Chairs Summit in mid-January. She noted that she will be focusing on ocean acidification as a critical issue for Olympic Coast SAC, but also solicited additional topics to discuss with other Chairs from members.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

The Olympic Coast as a Sentinel: An Integrated Social-Ecological Regional Vulnerability Assessment to Ocean Acidification

By invitation, Drs. Jan Newton and Melissa Poe provided a brief introduction to “The Olympic Coast as a Sentinel: An Integrated Social-Ecological Regional Vulnerability Assessment to Ocean Acidification” proposal

(<http://oceanacidification.noaa.gov/CurrentProjects/GulfofAlaska/TabId/2907/PID/14222/evl/0/TagID/536/TagName/vulnerability-assessment/Default.aspx>). The project seeks to combine social and natural science research related to the effects of ocean acidification (OA) on Washington coastal communities. This collaborative ecosystem based approach can provide insight into local challenges and also create a framework for investigation that is exportable to other regions.

Internal Management Plan Review update

(https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20171208-OCNMS_AC_MP_Review.pdf).

George Galasso presented preliminary findings from an internal staff review of the 2011 OCNMS management plan as well as the drivers for this review. The assessment was facilitated by the annual reviews of progress reports completed for each year from 2011-2017, and identified progress at the strategy level defined within the 2011 OCNMS management plan. The majority of strategies that were evaluated showed progress that was completed at the predicted effort level, based on the defined priorities for each year via our Annual Operating Plan. Staff are currently working to complete a summary report, with a target date of January 2018. The assessment will be useful in the 2018 prioritization process we are proposing to conduct with the IPC and SAC in March 2018. Lee Whitford requested that Council members review the management plan prior to the next SAC meeting.

Draft 2018 Advisory Council Work Plan – Approach, process, and solicitation of ideas

Lee Whitford described that the SAC executive committee will develop a draft plan for discussion and adoption at the February 2018 meeting. She referred members to the 2017 plan on the structure and components of the work plan. In addition to topics of selected focus, there are also sections for new areas of interest and for follow up items from previous years.

Lee Whitford requested feedback from members on the tools they need to effectively engage constituents in supporting the OCNMS as SAC representative. Superintendent Bernthal encouraged members to invite OCNMS staff to speak to groups on relevant topics of interest to them and/or to develop partnerships using consistent messaging. The conversation also included ideas for future presentations to the SAC on methods of effective outreach and updates on the new Olympic Coast chapter of National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Proposed 2018 Meeting Dates and Locations

([https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20171208-2018 SAC Meeting Dates - Final.pdf](https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20171208-2018_SAC_Meeting_Dates_-_Final.pdf))

Lee Whitford presented the recommended 2018 SAC meetings schedule for approval. Jennifer Hagen motioned for approval by consensus and John Veentjer seconded the motion. Agreed upon dates and location are shown below:

- Friday, February 2 – Seiku
- Friday, March 23 – Port Angeles
- Friday, May 18 – La Push
- Friday, July 20 – TBD, tentatively Bremerton (meeting contingent upon finalization of budget)
- Friday, September 21 – Neah Bay
- Friday, November 16 – Taholah / Pacific Beach

Superintendent's Report

Carol Bernthal introduced this year's two Americorp Service members, Kathleen McKeegan and Christine VanDeen, who are supporting education, outreach, and stewardship projects, including SPLASH, an educational program that engages grade school children on topics such as humpback whale ecology, acoustics and human behaviors that affect whales. There was also discussion related to raising awareness in the Puget Sound region through a proposal to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation from Surfrider Foundation in partnership with OCNMS that would utilize Americorp staffing.

In the realm of permits, Pacific Survey Group was issued a permit to test a new automated underwater vessel (AUV) with a synthetic aperture sonar system to target seafloor mapping in the Juan de Fuca canyon.

Superintendent Bernthal described efforts underway by Jenny Waddell to develop partnerships to assist with processing and analyzing the vast amount of information collected during the 2017 Nautilus research cruise.

SAC Member Updates

Katie Wrubel shared that an outcome from the West Coast Regional Planning Body meeting is sub-regional planning by the WA team. She also shared that the Makah Tribe has received a Department of Energy grant via the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs for outreach and community engagement surveys (<https://energy.gov/indianenergy/makah-tribe-2017-project>). Makah Cultural Resources will be working in conjunction with the Washington SeaGrant team to develop interview guides to conduct a Makah Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Cultural Assessment.

Jodie Toft announced the winners of the 2017 Washington Coast Works Small Business Competition. Twisted Strait Fibers, a Port Angeles cooperative, received the grand prize to build online marketing. Sol Duc Farms received funding to open a new u-pick blueberry and flower farm near Forks. An award for expansion of Wild Salish Seafood, a Quinalt Nation member company, was also awarded.

Josh Peters updated the SAC on onsite dive inspections and legislative hearings related to net pen farming in WA. Various bills are being filed by representatives. More information is available on the host DNR website: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/atlanticsalmon>

John Veentjer invited members to attend Harbor Safety Committee meetings, the next one being in February. He suggested a presentation by OCNMS staff at a future Harbor Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Veentjeer also announced planning for an international meeting of parties, including Canadian and US Coast Guards interested in vessel traffic in the May – June timeframe.

Jennifer Hennessey reminded the Council that the comment period for the WA MSP would be open until December 12th. She announced that WA Coastal Marine Advisory Council has a new focus on recommendations and activities that support coastal resilience. In addition, Department of Ecology is holding a series of workshops on the Grays Harbor Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment program to help inform that analysis. Ms. Hennessey advised members that a Senate hearing would be taking place in the upcoming week related to the Regional Planning Body and National Ocean Policy.

Jan Newton shared the discussions with coastal tribes related to high frequency radar data collection starting soon and efforts to locate appropriate sites along the coast. She also highlighted that a University of Washington School of Marine and Environmental Affairs (SMEA) graduate student is working to analyze temperature data from the sanctuary mooring buoys. Lastly she spoke of her participation in panel discussions at the United Nations COP23 in Bonn, Germany, focused on integration of local and global scale knowledge in addressing ocean acidification.

Stephanie Sleeman relayed that no new information is available related to Northwest Training and Testing EIS, and provided an online fact sheet for the project (<https://nwtteis.com/default.aspx>).

Jennifer Hagen announced a Quileute Tribe marine debris project which includes whale disentanglement training, which should be useful due to an increase in whales along the coast. She shared that, thanks to available ship time, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center in cooperation with the Coastal Treaty Tribes, University of Washington was able to gain three distinct data sets [CB1] [CB2] in support of harmful algal bloom research in 2017. *Pseudo-nitzschia australis* was present off the coast of Washington and Oregon, the results should be published in the near future. She also expressed that presence of HAB species combined with the hypoxia event occurring off the coastline is new data and should supplement information related to the NPDES seafood processing discharge permit under consideration by EPA.

Commander Brian Gilda described the US Coast Guard plans for increased monitoring of vessel traffic in the Area to Be Avoided (ATBA) in response to decreased efforts by the Canadian Coast Guard in the Puget Sound and Salish Sea.

Joel Kawahara spoke of his fleet's assistance in educating other vessel traffic when said ships approach the ATBA. He also described the observed surfacing of a diesel/electric submarine in the ATBA during August. None of the members was familiar with the vessel, but if it was a government vessel the ATBA doesn't apply. He also discussed a kelp growing pilot proposal by NW Labs of Sequim related to Department of Energy interest in large-scale production of kelp in their quest for a rapidly growing biofuel.

Katie Krueger spoke of her interests in ocean acidification education for the general public as well as her involvement in the Coastal Salmon partnership. They are updating the climate strategy to address salmon lifecycles in the nearshore.

Joe Schumacker advised the group that gray whales love razor clams. This year has provided a phenomenal amount of razor clams and whales willing to come close into shore to eat them.

John Stadler announced the Essential Fish Habitat meeting will be held in April rather than March as planned. He also described the work of the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (<http://www.fishhabitat.org/the-partnerships/pacific-marine-and-estuarine-fish-habitat-partnership>) including fish studies, data gaps, and upcoming look at West Coast wetlands losses.

Dan Ayers shared that the 2016-2017 Dungeness crab fishery was in the top 10% of all years in terms of pounds and price per share, making it the most valuable fishery in the state. He also advised that the Tri-State Committee (WA, OR, & CA) has received permanent authority for Dungeness crab fishery management out to 200 miles offshore.