

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
February 2, 2018

Sekiu Community Center
Sekiu, WA

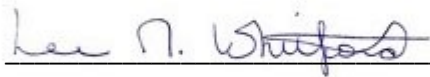
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

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), Casey Dennehey (Marine Resources Committee, Vice Chair), John Veentjer (Marine Industry, Secretary), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill (US Coast Guard), Dan Ayres (WDFW), Dave Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Joe Petersen (Makah Tribe), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Rich Osbourne (Marine Resources Committee alternate), Sarah Creachbaum (ONP), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy alternate), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), Tom Burlingame (Fishing alternate), Tom Mumford (Research alternate).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Dawn Grebner (NAVSEA Keyport), Natalie Test (NAVFAC NW), and Tommy Moore (NWIFC).

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Dayna Matthews (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement), Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jenny Waddell, Helene Scalliet, and Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS).

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Council Chair and Tom Burlingame, Excel Charters, Fishing seat alternate, and Sekiu resident. Tom shared some of the history of Sekiu or “Calm Waters” and the local schoolhouse until 1946, a registered historical building in which the meeting was held.

Tom Mumford was invited to share a poem entitled “The Real Work” by Wendell Barry (<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-real-work/>) Dan Ayres reminded the council of the five OCNMS Action Plans that drive SAC and OCNMS efforts. (p. xvii, OCNMS Final Management Plan)

Internal Affairs

December key outcomes for the SAC were adopted with minor changes. The adoption was motioned by Jan Newton and seconded by Jennifer Hagen. The council was queried as to whether to continue including the member reports. Most seats felt that keeping a written record of shared member activities was beneficial. Carol Bernthal advised council members that minutes from the joint session of the December 8, 2018 IPC and SAC meeting should be available at the March 2018 meeting.

Lee Whitford gave a brief overview of the Final 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan. Highlights included the SAC charter renewal, successful recruitment of open seats, SAC outreach efforts, completion of the Management Plan Implementation report, and two working groups: Vessel Incident and Ocean Acidification. Many items in the 2017 work plan were addressed through presentations to the council.

As of Jan 24, 2018 Sanctuaries were able to begin SAC seat recruitment. Chris Butler-Minor provided an update on Tourism, Conservation, and Marine Business seat recruitment activities. She is in the process of building out a SAC recruitment webpage. Social and traditional local media will also be used to inform the public of these vacancies. She requested council members reach out to their constituents and encourage them to apply.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Maritime industry update – it's an Ever Changing World

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180202-maritime-industry-update.pdf>. John Veentjer, Executive Director of Marine Exchange of Puget Sound presented on the marine industry trends and patterns. He described the purpose of this non-profit organization as aiding the 24/7 tracking of arrival times of deep draft (shipping) vessels in Puget Sound and U.S. ports using automatic identification system receivers which can be viewed via AISLive software (see marinetraffic.com and vesselfinder.com for examples). The data and analysis is used by clients for risk assessment and other purposes. He discussed the value of Harbor Safety Committee which allows timely, minor adjustments to harbor safety plans using a standard of care approach thereby accommodating current maritime conditions for safety and facilitating the multi-billion dollar economic benefits to the state of Washington from maritime industries. He identified multiple factors that make up a comprehensive marine safety system in Washington waters which include regulations, vessel inspections along with hull and fuel storage standards. He shared information on vessel traffic risk/safety assessments, locations of towing vessels, and ongoing concerns for the industry.

Draft 2018 Advisory Council Work Plan (action item)

https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180202-AC-2018_wp.pdf discussion was led Lee Whitford, SAC Chair. As of yet, OCNMS has not received a fiscal year 2018 budget and many of the SAC 2017 work plan elements are carrying over into 2018. A motion to approve the plan was offered by Joel Kawahara, which was seconded by Jennifer Hennessey and approved by consensus of the council. Adopted changes to the draft included the re-establishment of working group for replacement of the Tatoosh, Habitat Protection in relation to hypoxia, and additional efforts regarding to SAC Outreach.

Discussion and AC Comment letter on Draft Proposed Program for the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program [DPP] (action item)

https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180207-ocnms_sac_boem_comment_letter.pdf (473 kb) George Galasso provided historical background on oil and gas leasing off the Washington coast as well as the scope of Executive Order 13795 which called for a reassessment of oil and gas leasing schedules. Four wells off the Washington coast were drilled in 1967, but none of them proved economically viable. George also reviewed various related statutes and acts, which prohibit oil or gas leasing or preleasing activities within OCNMS as well as exploring for, developing or producing oil, gas or minerals within the Sanctuary.

Jennifer Hennessey made the motion to send the drafted letter to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), which was seconded by Joel Kawahara. SAC members began their discussion with the observation that concern with negative environmental impacts from oil spills played a large role in the designation of OCNMS, and sanctuary regulations preclude oil and gas exploration within sanctuary boundaries. Sanctuary council deliberations included the geographic scope for their comments as well as how to make the comment letter the most meaningful. The council chose to include the waters of Washington State as the geographic region referenced in the letter. Members also noted the need to be specific in the concerns voiced and in requests to analyze effects of probable harm, in order to establish grounds for appeal should it become necessary. Issues discussed included the potential for triggering earthquakes from hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and economic impacts associated with potential oil spills from production facilities should leasing be allowed, with associated impacts to biological productivity..

A consensus vote was sought, but not obtained. Therefore in keeping with the OCNMS SAC charter, the SAC Chair held a roll call vote by seat present at the meeting. The results of the vote were a majority of voting members supporting submitting a comment letter to BOEM as discussed at the meeting. Nay votes include an abstention based upon conflict of interest and a no vote based on desire to vote on a government to government level. Seat votes are recorded below.

Seat	Vote	Seat	Vote	Seat	Vote
Citizen-at-large	Yes	Hoh	Yes	Marine Industry	Abstain
Conservation	Yes	Quileute	No	Research	Yes
Education	Yes	Quinault	Absent	Tourism & Econ. Dev.	Yes
Fishing	Yes	Makah	Yes	Local Government	Yes
WDOE	Yes	WDFW	Yes	WDNR	Absent

OASes Workshop: Summary report of outcomes

<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180202-oases-workshop-a-summary-report-of-outcomes.pdf> (2.143 MB) was presented by Kevin Grant. Panel sessions and breakout groups were employed to identify areas of vulnerability to ocean acidification and indicators by species, habitat, and physical processes. Top research priorities, application of knowledge gained, raising awareness, and partnerships were also explored. Next steps include finalizing the proceedings report and formation of a steering committee to guide future efforts.

Review of Recommendations from Management Plan Internal Assessment and Introduction to Issue

Prioritization Process <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180202-ocnms-management-plan-review-update.pdf> (467kb) presentation was given George Galasso and Hélène Scalliet. Hélène described the process used to complete the internal assessment of implementation of the OCNMS Management Plan since its adoption in 2011. The review resulted in a recommendation to John Armor, ONMS Director, to continue operating the existing Management Plan. The internal review is intended to serve as an information source to help identify priorities for implementing the existing management plan, with an intention to start work on a new OCNMS condition report which will help inform the next version of the Management Plan.

OCNMS is seeking input from the SAC to score (rank) strategies within the Management Plan to focus OCNMS staff efforts for the next few years. SAC members will be asked to select strategies using consideration of the benefit(s), urgency, advancement of OCNMS goals, while accounting for limitations in staff levels and budget. Materials and a webinar presentation will be provided in early March to assist SAC members in the completing the pre-meeting exercise which will facilitate the March meeting prioritization process discussions and recommendations.

National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Chairs Debrief was presented by Lee Whitford. The January 2018 summit included joint sessions of SAC Chairs from all of the National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA-FAC) to discuss emerging issues and areas of future collaborations. SAC Chairs separately met to discuss topics related to recreation and tourism. Sessions with John Armor included a review of ONMS' Five-

year strategic plan <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/five-year-strategy-2017-2022.html> and NOAA's current administration goals known as the Blue Economy that works to demonstrate what sanctuaries can do for local economies <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/economy/>. Other presentations shared experiences with specific positive and negative aspects of visitor use, a new methods for engaging visitors with a web-based geo-application and a brief conversation on how SACs could respond to the BOEM proposal. The discussion related to ONMS' budget demonstrated the limited funds available to support exhibits, vessel, and land facilities. SAC chairs from the west coast sites plan to continue discussions on how to balance tourism and recreation with science and maintaining the wilderness qualities. Lee also complimented the dedication and collaborative spirit of the OCNMS AC.

Superintendent's Report <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-office-report.pdf> (541kb) Carol Bernthal asked George to speak about the Sunnfjord, a fishing vessel lost in the sanctuary, west of Cape Alava, on January 31st. The crew was rescued by U.S. Coast Guard before the fishing vessel, a 60 year old wooden boat engaged in the hag (slime eel) fishery, sunk due to water flooding the engine compartment. Carol referred Council members to the current edition of the Office Report December 2017, for more information on OCNMS activities while highlighting recent NSMF funded local projects.

SAC Member Updates

Mark Ozias described current efforts of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) to assist in fundraising for sanctuary operations via local chapters. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (chapter of NMSF) has an initial board and chapter coordinator, Deb Moriarty.

Steve Shively shared a shout out to OCNMS and the local NMSF chapter team from the Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission (OPTC) for OCNMSF's debut hosting of the 2017 OPTC Tourism Summit. He announced this year is the 200th year of ferry service under the Black Ball flag in the Salish Sea. 2017 was a record year for tourism, particularly in Olympic National Park. OPTC is working to relieve summer tourism pressures through expansion of visitation into the "shoulder" season by focusing on waterfalls and storm watching.

CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill reminded the SAC that both he and Captain Gilda will be retiring this year.

Jennifer Hennessey shared that this spring, analysis of public comment on the proposed marine spatial plan should be available. She and others are developing a workshop on March 6th, to refresh priorities in seafloor mapping off the coast. Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council meeting will be held March 28th in Aberdeen, WA.

Sarah Creachbaum spoke briefly of adjustments required for ONP operations due to the budget. She reminded members of planned road construction along highway 101 which will lead to affect travel, but ultimately will lead to much safer roads. ONP is also working on an exotic goat management plan.

Dan Ayres talked about a SeaGrant hosted meeting held twice each year involving WDFW, ODFW, crab fisheries associations, bar pilots, and tug/tow boat operators to discuss changes in areas of mutual use such as designated towing lanes or any other periodic closures that could affect safe operations.

Jan Newton reiterated the resources available via NANOOS. The Washington Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification met over the year to discuss local nutrients, science, and adaptations. An outcome was an addendum to the report issued in Dec 2017 viewable at OAinWA.org.

Jennifer Hagen announced the election of Doug Woodruff, Jr. as the new Quileute Tribal Chairman.

Casey Dennehy invited SAC to the BOEM public meeting in Tacoma on February 5th. An additional venue with speakers from state, county, and tribal governments, plus representative of Sierra Club, and local environmentally focused organizations will hold a meeting to help capture public input. More information is available on the Surfrider Facebook page.

Jennifer Brown-Scott described efforts at the Dungeness and San Juan Islands National Wildlife refuges in partnership with friends' organizations to put together a GPS mobile app for visitors. Where possible it will be able to cover all public lands. It is already being used extensively along the Oregon. She would like to pursue how this app could be used to support OCNMS.

Tom Mumford reported that a mid-February research priorities workshop in British Columbia will focused on the nearshore ecosystem. He is interested in linkages between the nearshore and uplands as well as gathering topically related information to share from the SAC, and will report back results to the SAC.

Rich Osborne explained the NPC MRC just completed their review of grant funding proposals and will report results at the next SAC meeting in March.

Jodie Toft is working on a strategy to develop "Washington Maritime Blue" as a template for sustainable maritime economies. [Washington Coastal Resilience Project](#) is focused on generating better information on sea level rise and weather hazards to bring that information into shoreline management planning for Washington State. She offered to provide an update to the SAC in the future. TNC continues to work to advance a bill around carbon pricing and reduction.

Joel Kawahara shared that the salmon season setting process is beginning at the end of February/ early March. The current forecast for fall chinook and coho is not expected to be high, and quotas have not yet been established. Lower quotas may affect the visitor experience through reduced availability of coastal seafood products.

Tom Burlingame attended a Montesano meeting on 2019-2020 recreational ground fish management. The good news is that yellow-eyed rock fish recovery is going faster than anticipated and is now expected in 2027 vs. 2060.