

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
May 18, 2018

Quileute Tribal Center
La Push, WA

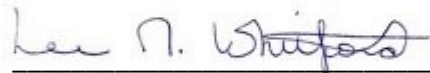
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

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), Jan Newton (Research), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe alternate), Kathleen Kler (Jefferson County Board of Commissioners), Dann May (Conservation alternate), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee [MRC] alternate), Katrina Lassiter (Washington Department of Natural Resources [WDNR] alternate), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe alternate), Dan Ayres (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]), Jennifer Hennessey (Washington Department of Ecology [WDOE]), John Stadler (NOAA/NMFS), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), LCDR John Fu (US Coast Guard), and Mike Barton (Education alternate).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Tommy Moore (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission [NWIFC]), Claire Bishop and Deborah Moriarity (Olympic Coast chapter of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation [OCNMSF])

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Kathy Broughton (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries [ONMS]), Chris Harvey (Northwest Fisheries Science Center [NWFSC]), George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jenny Waddell, Nicole Harris, and Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS).

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Council Chair; Doug Woodruff, Quileute Tribal Council Chairman; Tony Foster, Quileute Tribal Council Vice-Chairman; and Zachary Jones, Quileute Tribal Council Member at Large.

Internal Affairs

December meeting notes for the Joint IPC/SAC and February meeting notes were adopted as presented. March meeting notes were adopted with minor changes. The motion was made by Kathleen Kler and seconded by Katrina Lassiter.

The reappointment of three council members was announced: John Veentjeer - Marine/Industry primary seat; Steve Shively - Tourism and Economic Development primary seat, and Jodie Toft – Conservation primary seat. The newly appointed Conservation seat alternate, Dann May was introduced. He provided a brief autobiography as a University of Washington alumni, former Oklahoma Sustainability Board member, and a current professor of geology and philosophy of religion with Peninsula College and Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment. Recruitment for Marine/Industry and Tourism and Economic Development alternate seats will begin soon. SAC members were requested to assist in outreach through referral and information sharing.

Chris Butler-Minor described the upcoming national photo contest and local veteran focused activities for "Get Into Your Sanctuary" day on Saturday August 4th. The *Windsong*, a recreational fishing and wildlife viewing charter boat out of Neah Bay will take up to 20 Olympic Peninsula area veterans out onto OCNMS waters. An invitation has also been extended to veteran advocate and Washington State Representative, Derek Kilmer. Two guided hiking tours

to the Ozette archeological site will also be offered to the public. A short video tour to highlight one or more iconic sanctuary beaches is also planned. SAC members were encouraged to be involved and help promote public awareness and participation in these events.

Lee Whitford introduced Claire Bishop, OCNMSF Board member, OCNMS Volunteer of the Year, and nominee for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Volunteer of the Year award. Claire briefed the council on her extensive philanthropic interests and accepted a carved plaque as a token of OCNMS/NMSF gratitude for her efforts in helping to establish OCNMSF.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Update on Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASes) Working Group

Kevin Grant shared that the September 2016 OASes workshop final proceedings report has been submitted for clearance. Approval will allow report sharing through partner networks, such as Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON: <http://www.goa-on.org/>) and OA exchange (www.OAinfoexchange.org). OASes Working Group members have provided recommendations for Steering committee seats. The working group will address: 1) Using a big picture perspective, how will this Sentinel Site function? 2) What is OCNMS' role in an OA sentinel site?

OCNMS has applied for a temporary assignment of a mid-career ONMS employee through the National Rotational Assignment Program (NRAP). The NRAP assignee would staff the steering committee on a 3-6 month detail. OCNMS is also seeking placement of a Washington SeaGrant Fellow to assist with the OA sentinel site. Kevin also clarified the uniqueness of the OA Sentinel Site – the five other NOAA Sentinel Sites are focused on sea level rise.

OCNMS Management Plan Prioritization Process

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180518-ocnms-ac-management-plan-prioritization.pdf>

Despite minor variations in the approach, merging the management plan prioritization exercise outputs of OCNMS staff and SAC members resulted in agreement on 14 of the top 20 strategies selected by each group. From these 14 strategies, the following seven focus areas were identified as priorities for the next two to three years.

- 1) **Changing Ocean Conditions** encompasses conditions considered in the management plan and newer issues such ocean acidification. OCNMS staff spoke of 18 years of coastal mooring data, encouragement of chemical, biological, and socioeconomic research in the sanctuary, as well as the importance of education and outreach efforts. Although the effects of hypoxia are more readily evident, the council agreed that hypoxia and OA research are inextricably linked. In a related vein Jan Newton recommended inviting SMEA student, Julie Ann Koehlinger to present her marine heatwave research at the July AC meeting.
- 2) **Maintaining Operations and Infrastructure** Maintaining Operations and Infrastructure includes the local, ONMS, and NMSF priority to replace the *R/V Tatoosh* as well as

construction of the Marine Discovery Center in Port Angeles. Regarding staffing, OCNMS received the green light to recruit for a resource protection specialist.

- 3) **Nurturing Partnerships** emphasizes the needs and benefits of alliances with federal, tribal, and state agencies in addition to private organizations. A few examples include addressing marine safety, deep sea coral and other ecological studies, and protected resources. Joint efforts in monitoring the sanctuary's voluntary Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) and implementing recommendations from the Vessel Incident Working Group are a couple of examples. Increasing ocean literacy through community-based events and media, such as Stories from the Blue that highlight adjacent communities (<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk114-quinault.html>) is also important. OCNMS will also continue to work with partners toward the development of a new Marine Discovery Center. As one of OCNMS' partners, a July presentation on the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) activities within the sanctuary was suggested.
- 4) **Characterizing Seafloor Habitats** are achieved utilizing remote sensing technology such as systems carried on NOAA hydrographic survey vessels. Integration of data from recent surveys, collected from the continental shelf and several deep-water canyons, will be completed through partnerships, and used to update several products. Out of a recent spatial planning workshop, regional managers will work to align local priorities with national goals of consistency in mapping products and habitat classification to facilitate data distribution, quality control and management of those data, as well as broadening adaptive management capacities.
- 1) **Maintaining Community Presence and Outreach** is accomplished using a variety of programs at peninsula schools, exhibits at community events, and OCNMS' Ocean Literacy webpage [https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/ocean_literacy/]. A handout of OCNMS educational programs was made available to SAC members at the meeting.
- 2) **Protecting Resources in the Sanctuary** continues to be accomplished via Area To Be Avoided monitoring and other methods, such as investigating appropriate spill response tools. For example, creating a network of high-frequency (HF) radar surface current monitoring moorings could aid in providing real-time currents information for use in managing oil spills. A comparison of costs to benefits for the broad array of local species in relationship to the use of dispersants in OCNMS is also a topic of interest. Interest was shown for a dispersants presentation at a future SAC meeting. Addressing transport of crushed cars on open-deck barges through consultation with the Makah Tribe and the U. S. and Canadian Coast Guard is another ongoing resource protection issue. Marine debris and marine mammal acoustic disturbances are also topics to queue for a SAC presentation.
- 3) **Assessing Condition of the Sanctuary** necessitates identifying linkages between human and natural resources in addition to habitat quality appraisals. Securing funding and collaboration with subject matter experts are early first steps for preparation of an upcoming Sanctuary Condition Report.

Introduction to and overview of the Sanctuary Condition Reports.

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180518-national-marine-sanctuary-condition-report-overview.pdf>

The last OCNMS Condition Report (CR) was published in 2008. CRs, which can be likened to a report cards for a sanctuary, identify trends in marine, archeological, and ecosystem resources. Kathy Broughton walked the council through the differences the 2008 CR and the newer Condition Report format, including an assessment of ecosystem services. Another revision changes the focus from assessing species in favor of assessing habitat conditions. Emerging threats are documented and living resources are viewed in combinations of status, health, and role as keystone or foundational species. Standardization of ratings is facilitated through definitions, which support the five levels of scores ranging from good to poor. Confidence is quantified using a rubric with two components: evidence and experts' agreement. Inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge was emphasized by the council as an important source of information that supports evidence and expert agreement. Addressing the quantity and quality of other unique features of OCNMS, such as accelerated OA conditions and offshore geologic vulnerabilities, was also deemed important in order to facilitate improved knowledge of OCNMS. Ms. Broughton assured the group that CRs are not intended to be cookie cutter documents despite the efforts to standardize the reportable categories.

CRs are put through three levels of review: expert workshop attendees, by invitation examiners, and peer reviewers as is the standard for publication for scientific reports. This ensures the report is useful to scientists, economists, and educators. The proposed schedule for OCNMS CR begins with this briefing for SAC members and outreach to coastal tribes over the summer. In fall 2018, a SAC working group will be formed and staff will begin preparing for a spring workshop to formally kick off the process.

The California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) Program– collaboration opportunities with OCNMS.

https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/harvey_ocrms_sac_presentation.pdf

Chris Harvey, the project lead for NOAA's CCIEA, provided visual examples and described the goals as establishing assessments in habitat/ biodiversity, local social systems, and outside drivers such as economies, government, and climate to document persistent changes along the California current region. Although the process took place over time and was challenging, the CCIEA provides a consistent framework for developing indicators, conceptual models, and creating strategies that are useful to collaborators in addressing ecosystem issues and their related effects.

Ocean Acidification (OA) education pilot programs - Nicole Harris introduced a pilot program to engage educators and students in monitoring OA through a handheld pH sampling device "pHyter" and plankton sampling. Nickelodeon Get Dirty! Ambassadors Expedition grant recipients, the Quileute Tribal School high school students, gave a presentation that described their experiences in using the pHyter, identifying plankton, and other tools such as the database. They also demonstrated the use of the tools to the council.

Superintendent's Report George Galasso highlighted recent news articles found in the Office Report. <https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/201805-office-report.pdf>

SAC Member Updates

Katie Krueger shared information on a current paper edition of citizen science publication by former SAC member Roy Morris. She also invited attendees to the ROV competition the weekend of May 19th at the Forks Aquatic Center.

Jan Newton confirmed the Chá bã buoy has been deployed. They are still in process of working with mooring teams and tribes on siting the HF radar locations.

Joe Schumacker drew the council's attention to the June issue of National Geographic, which features a plastic bag as an iceberg on the cover. He suggested the topic of marine debris will continue to gain global focus due to the amount of marine debris and its effect on the ocean.

Jennifer Hagen recently participated in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) climate change workshop in the interest of addressing concerns for La Push and Westport areas, both fishing dependent communities

Kathleen Kler shared that Jefferson County Lodging and Motel Tax funds have been secured for the Forks Visitor Center, which helps to support OCNMS educational displays.

Rich Osborne shared that Gray Harbor County MRC is hosting a science conference in Long Beach for the four Washington MRCs over the weekend of May 19th. NPC MRC members will participate as judges in the ROV completion in Forks over the same weekend. The WA State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) website has information related to a \$15,000 RFP related to the State's \$12.5 million available funds for "Washington Coast Restoration & Resiliency Initiative."

Katrina Lassiter reported that DNR is partnering with rural communities to collect ideas that will promote economic enhancements. The program launched in Pacific County with suggestions for 1) vessel deconstruction at the Port of Ilwaco and 2) mud shrimp reduction and addressing oyster bed sinking in Willapa Bay by mechanical versus chemical means.

Carolyn Winters announced approval for use of the Pacific Beach facility for the July 20th SAC meeting. She is interested in providing a presentation on the naval mission history of the Pacific Beach site.

Katie Wrubel reported the completion of OA project interviews with Dr. Melissa Poe. She is working with former Hershman scholars to address marine debris and derelict vessels. She thanked OCNMS for their support of these efforts through a contribution of reusable water bottles.

Dan Ayres noted an increase in whale entanglements in fishing gear. Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and tribal partners are working with experts to reduce the potential for entanglements, such as new styles of gear. However, this may not be the only solution as the gear is expensive and has been known to fail. Jessie Hale's research of sea otters along the Olympic Coast documented that they are consuming razor clams. Razor clamming is also important to people. During the April 21st dig, 40,000 diggers participated. This could have implications for clam populations particularly as last year's larval settlement was not successful. The 2018 sea otter population survey will take place in mid-July.

Jennifer Hennessey provided a status update for the WA state marine spatial plan (MSP) covering Cape Disappointment to Cape Flattery. WDOE staff are working through public comments with the hope of adoption of the plan by State government and public release by July 2018 ([Washington's Final Marine Spatial Plan and Final Programmatic EIS - http://www.msp.wa.gov/learn/resources/](#)). She thanked OCNMS for their letter of support for a grant Washington's Coastal Program applied for and was successful in getting that will provide Ecology with additional capacity for MSP implementation – particularly around outreach/education and science and research needs. She announced the next quarterly meeting of the [Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council \(WCMAC https://www.ezview.wa.gov/?alias=1962&pageid=37058\)](#) on June 13th in Aberdeen. A primary focus of the council is now on coastal resilience. The June meeting will include a presentation on new tsunami models for the coast.

John Stadler shared that West Coast Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) areas were announced in April 2018 by the PFMC. The new designations resulted in approximately 10,000 square miles of bottom closures, including expansion of protection areas in Quinault and Grays Canyons. Coastal Treaty Tribes combined U&A's have potential to change recommended EFH boundaries. He will provide a presentation on EFH to the SAC in September. John recently attended a deep sea coral (DSC) workshop to set priorities for the upcoming west coast DSC research project.

Steve Shively relayed that Washington State Legislature has signed a bill, providing financial support for marketing tourism in WA State. SB 5251 - 2017-18 "Concerning tourism marketing" ([http://apps2.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5251&Year=2017&BillNumber=5251&Year=2017](#)) The Olympic Peninsula has received record numbers of visitors also providing an economic boost. Familiarization or "Fam" tours have become popular with international travel agents, especially for engaging Chinese visitors.

LCDR John Fu announced that CAPT Patrick McElligatt will be joining SAC as the US Coast Guard representative.