

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
November 8, 2019

Quileute Tribal Council – West Wing
90 Main St. La Push, WA 98350

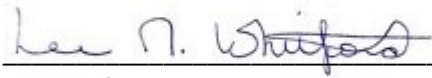
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Kevin Grant, Acting Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Chair and Education),

Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Scott Hecht (National Marine Fisheries Service), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development), Tom Mumford (Research), Casey Dennehy (Washington Department of Ecology), Hannah Blackstock (Washington Department of Natural Resources), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Dan Nutt (Marine Industry), Tami Pokorny (Marine Resource Committee), and Stephanie Sleeman (U.S. Navy).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Chris Moore (Washington Trust for Historic Preservation), Dwayne Pecosky (Habitat Biologist Quileute Natural Resources), Steve Jeffries (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Jeromy Jording (National Marine Fisheries Services), Maria T. Kavanaugh (Ocean Ecology and Biogeochemistry, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, Oregon State University), Bev London, Marti Penn, Mark L Williams, and Frank Hanson.

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Kevin Grant, George Galasso, Jacqueline Laverdure, and Chris Butler-Minor (NOAA/Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford. Attendees were welcomed by Jennifer Hagen, Marine Policy Advisor for Quileute Natural Resources

Internal Affairs

- The draft agenda was revised for a presentation title change, then adopted by consensus <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-sac-agenda.pdf>.
- Notes from the September meeting were approved. A motion by Dan Nutt and second by Mark Ozias led to the approval of the September meeting notes. <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190927-sac-notes.pdf>.
- Proposed Meeting Dates for 2020 <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/2020-sac-meeting-dates.pdf> dates and locations were discussed for Sanctuary advisory Council meeting sites in 2020. Members requested the table showing meeting locations in prior years be provided at the next meeting.
- SAC Seat Recruitment and Member Changes. Recruitment for the primary and alternate positions for Research and Citizen at large seats as well as the conservation alternate is in process. Applications are due by December 3, 2019. The SAC's Chair thanked Katie Krueger and Tom Mumford for their service on the Advisory Council.
- 2019 AC Work Plan Review <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191016-ac-work-plan.pdf>. Lee Whitford provided a summary of completed actions from the 2019 work plan.
- Kevin Grant announced receipt of formal approval of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as a sentinel site for ocean acidification.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

2020 Priorities for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS)

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/2020-ocnms-management-plan-priorities.pdf>

Sanctuary staff identified seven focus areas and the associated related Management Plan strategies along with upcoming activities within each of those focus areas. Several activities will emphasize ocean acidification research and education in support of the designation of the

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary as a sentinel site for ocean acidification. Sanctuary staff will also work with subject matter experts to assess and report on the status and trends of habitats, living resources, water quality, maritime heritage resources, and ecosystem services in OCNMS from 2008 through 2019.

Maritime Washington National Heritage Area

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-maritime-washington-national-heritage-area.pdf>

Chris Moore, executive director of the Washington Trust for historic preservation introduced the concept of national heritage areas program, which are designed to coordinate heritage programming and activities along with promoting local and regional economic development. He also introduced key elements of the new Maritime Washington National Heritage Area, including possible benefits from the March 2019 designation of 3,000 shoreline miles. He discussed the goals and the purpose behind a management plan for this area along with potential activities that it might cover and next steps already identified to promote its development.

Quillayute River Habitat Restoration: Revitalizing five and a half miles along the river's reach

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-quillayute-river-habitat-restoration.pdf>

Dwayne Pecosky, Habitat Biologist for the Quileute Tribe spoke to the council about the early stages of a Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative grant which is funding a coastal resilience project. Its intended to address both environmental and economic threats to Quileute Tribal infrastructure and other adjacent lands along the lower 5.5 miles of the Quillayute River. The course of the river has changed dramatically in the past several decades as evidenced in a time lapse video shown to the council

([https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/#v=47.91169,-](https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/#v=47.91169,-124.6038,11.487,latLng&t=3.43&ps=50&bt=19840101&et=20181231&startDwell=0&endDwell=0)

[124.6038,11.487,latLng&t=3.43&ps=50&bt=19840101&et=20181231&startDwell=0&endDwell=0](https://earthengine.google.com/timelapse/#v=47.91169,-124.6038,11.487,latLng&t=3.43&ps=50&bt=19840101&et=20181231&startDwell=0&endDwell=0)).

Project partners have achieved 30% design and are completing a variety of assessments to aid in prioritizing successful restoration that will reduce flooding, erosion, and mitigate climate change effects while maintaining access to the river.

2019 sea otters, sea lions, and seals- latest sea otter count, the new Steller sea lion rookery, California sea lions, and harbor seals in OCNMS

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-status-of-pinniped-populations-in-washington.pdf>

Steve Jeffries, marine mammal research scientist with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife provided a look at current pinniped populations in WA state. All pinnipeds are at their highest level since monitoring began several decades ago. Steller sea lions used to be the dominant species however larger populations of California sea lions are being seen in Washington, particularly in the Columbia River, with highest seasonal abundance in the fall. Periodic monitoring has identified a new Steller sea lion rookery on Carroll Island and year-round seasonal use of the state's coastline by this species. Another interesting find were two male ribbon seals. They are normally residents of the Arctic. Aerial surveys identified elephant seals and one with a pup which has not previously been documented in Washington state. He also discussed managing nuisance marine mammals using protocols provided in the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Steve also described the history of sea otters in Washington state. After extirpation in the early 1900s, there were 59 sea otters reintroduced at two locations on the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula between 1969 and 1970, with the second release in the La Push area being more successful. They are a top predator within their kelp forest ecosystems and radio tags show broad ranges and depths in their movements. Population surveys, which began in 1978 are generally conducted every other year. The 2019 survey results estimate the population to be 2,785 sea otters with the larger segment of the population in the mid to southern portion of the sanctuary in juxtaposition of the early surveys, perhaps due to the areas abundance of clams.

NOAA Fisheries: West Coast Recreation Fisheries Engagement Plan

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-recreational-fishing-engagement.pdf>

Jeromy Jording, Fishery Biologist at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) discussed that agency's 2019 priority to implement the National Policy for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/recreational-fishing/national-saltwater-recreational-fisheries-policy>) through engaging recreational fishing communities. Approaches include attending trade shows and summits, holding roundtable meetings with angler clubs, and utilizing social media to collaboratively identify recreational fishers' interests and needs that can be met by NMFS and partner organizations. Additional goals include distributing educational materials and encouraging stewardship activities participation. These efforts are intended to support the 2019 Memorandum of Agreement signed between NMFS, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and four recreational fishing organizations to promote sustainable recreational fishing and boating on a national scale and along the west coast (<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190227-rec-fishing-boating-moa.pdf>).

A Regional Node of the Marine Biodiversity Observing Network

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-mbon-synoptic-metrics-of-ecosystem-structure.pdf>

Maria Kavanaugh, visiting from the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences Oregon State University, introduced concepts from a five-year federal grant to provide a systematic framework for data synthesis and integration from multiple sites via the Marine Biodiversity Observing Network (MBON) initiative (<https://marinebon.org/>). A recent proposal extends the grant by three-years to add two additional programs, one focused on the Pacific Northwest. This effort utilizes existing data sources to develop a comprehensive view (synoptic metric) of marine species for better ecosystem assessment and modeling of ocean life within the northern stretch of California Current.

Project objectives contribute to a community of practices, creating common ground for data gathering and utilization. Methods incorporate MBON remote sensing practices, increase taxonomic resolution along with technological capacity for in situ sampling, aid in developing best practices for broad ecological data, build on existing indicators (<https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/oceanconditions>), inform management efforts (ex. California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA)), while allowing tests of hypotheses on environmental drivers of biodiversity, seascape habitat distributions, and ecosystem functioning. As the project progresses Maria would like to provide updates to the advisory council.

Superintendents Report

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/2019-office-report-vol7-no5.pdf>

Acting Superintendent Kevin Grant referred members to the office report for information on recent OCNMS activities. He also discussed the recent letter from John Armor to SAC Chair, Lee Whitford, approving the council's recommendation to designate OCNMS a sentinel site for ocean acidification after careful deliberation. This is the first of what could be many such sites thus a key consideration is the framework, which will require planning and funding to achieve the science education and partnership goals along with the formation of a steering committee. The Council toasted the success with Martinelli's sparkling apple cider.

Future Agenda Topics

- Update on outcomes from the Governor's Orca Task Force related to addressing prey availability, contaminants, vessel traffic, and habitat factors.
- Salmon Ocean Behavior and Distribution (SOBaD) project

Location of Next Meetings

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/meetings.html>

Friday, January 24, 2020

Montesano City Hall

112 North Main Street in Montesano

Member Reports

Hannah Blackstock shared that former WDNR representative, Katrina Lassiter will be serving as the agency's Interim Deputy Supervisor for Aquatic Resources.

Katie Wrubel described progress on the Tribe's Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI) grant for a shoreline coastal erosion monitoring program in partnership with the Department of Ecology (DOE) and Washington SeaGrant (WSG). DOE was able to complete seafloor surveys near Hobuck, Tsoo-Yess, and Makah Bay. WSG staff are training Makah staff to complete beach profiles at Hobuck, Tsoo-Yess, and Ozette beaches.

In October she participated in a tribal and First Nations exchange as part of West Coast Ocean Alliance annual meeting. The event provided opportunities to learn from the British Columbia based Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP) and they are interested in continuing transboundary dialog and idea exchange.

Mark Ozais described traction in Clallam County engagement around addressing climate change. Next steps include development of an action agenda with internally focused strategies and citizen access to dashboard type sites for tracking progress. Specific goals considered for the next year or so are using existing resources to reduce food waste to become a net zero food waste county and conceiving creative public utility department alternate energy projects. As chair of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation chapter Mark shared that schematics for the Marine Discovery Center of been received and they are working with

partners on a business model that will provide long-term support of the sanctuary as well as success for science, education, and operations at the new center.

Dan Nutt identified actions for the tugboat industry that pertain to the outer coast such as the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil spill Task Force annual meeting in November. Topics of discussion may include the semi-formal consideration of adopting similar measures to those in California where oil barges and tankers use offshore lanes of 25 miles and 50 miles respectively. Strait of Juan de Fuca has many navigation challenges and the industry would like to ensure vessel safety through formal measures such as International Maritime Organization (IMO) sanctions as in the case in California. Jennifer Hagen expressed interest in learning more about this approach.

Jennifer Hagan relayed details from a busy field season on board the Shimada in multi-weeklong efforts to collect harmful algal bloom samples from Newport to Cape Flattery. They found Alexandrium, a dinoflagellate, which produces the biotoxin responsible for paralytic shock syndrome, in both water and shellfish samples, resulting for the need to restrict shellfish harvest.

In addition to the attending West Coast Ocean Alliance annual meeting, she also recently attended the decadal Ocean Obs Research Coordination Network (<http://oceanobs-rcn.marine.usf.edu/>) conference which provided an opportunity to learn from five global observation networks. First Nations representatives from Hawai'i, New Zealand, Canada, and the U.S. were present. They took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of including first nations in these discussions and providing a venue to share what they have to offer ocean observations.

Tami Pokorny announced a successful North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee (NPC MRC) Summit. She reminded attendees that proposed requests for funding from the NPC MRC are due November 11, 2019.

Katie Krueger, who is retiring from the Council said her farewells. She was thanked for her participation and input to the council.

Rich Osborne spoke of the current review of Southern Resident killer whale and vessel interactions by the Port of Seattle. They are looking to the shipping industry, Canada, and the U.S. to develop transborder solutions that reduce noise impacts.

Rich also share that the University of Washington's Applied Physics Lab and their Olympic Natural Resource Center along with the Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom partnership, have been asked to submit a full proposal to obtain a permanent Ocean Aero Submaran™ automated ocean observation unit. Ocean Aero (<https://www.oceanaero.com/>) is developing new sensors which will be tested in Puget Sound and then used along the Washington and perhaps Oregon coasts.

Scott Hecht announced one of three openings for regional aquaculture staff has been filled. The hire will cover the Washington and Oregon area. He also publicized that new Endangered Species Act, Section 7 regulations were finalized October 28 and encouraged members to contact him with questions. Most changes are related to new definitions. The Northwest Area Contingency Spill Plan is now in draft. He will ask one of his biologists to give a presentation to the council when the plan is done.

Steve Shively shared that the 2019 Olympic Peninsula tourism season indicates an 8 to 12% year-to-date increase in occupancy rates, particularly related to vacation rentals. Port Angeles ranks fifth in the state for Airbnb volume. Olympic National Park achieved visitation records despite the partial government shutdown and snowmageddon. The Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission is partnering with Port Angeles and other North Olympic Peninsula cities to complete an RFP supporting consulting work to establish sustainable destination tourism management practices for the region. This will aid in identifying load carrying capacities as well as responsibilities of citizens and local government in maintaining area assets.

Steve revealed that in addition to celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Olympic Peninsula Culinary Loop, the quest for a quintessential Olympic Peninsula chowder has been met! He provided a handout of the winning seafood chowder recipe to attendees and chefs as far away as Chicago. Another local accomplishment is that local photographer John Gussman, is a finalist in the 2019 Boston Drone Film Festival for his five-minute video, filmed at La Push of US Coast Guard members training to protect assets of the Olympic Peninsula. He encouraged voting participation in this people's choice event.

Lastly, Steve has been impressed in conversations at seafood festivals with people's understanding and concerns regarding impacts from ocean acidification - the term seems to be becoming part of people's lexicon. Steve also shared that he will be giving a presentation on the value of the sanctuary at West End days.

Tom Mumford shared that the Puget Sound kelp conservation and recovery plan is being finalized. It will provide recommendations for monitoring, restoration, conservation, and a large component on regulation aspects. They are currently inviting reviewers for the document. Management issues are similar on the outer coast especially in terms of food webs and habitat values.

Casey Dennehy shared information on marine spatial planning (MSP) updates. Washington Department of Ecology has received its MSP enforceable policies draft is back from NOAA. Once posted as public notice it provides two enforceable policies: designation of unique and special places as well as fishery protection standards. MSP data and prioritization efforts will likely be a conducted via webinar and survey for ranking research foci.