

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Lee Whitford, Chair
John Veentjer, Secretary

January 26, 2017

Representation

Citizen-At-Large
Fishing
Conservation
Education
Marine Business
Outer Coast Marine Resource
Committees
Research
Tourism/Economic
Development
Hoh Tribe
Makah Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation
Local Government:
Clallam County
Jefferson County
Grays Harbor County
Washington State:
Dept. of Ecology
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dept. of Natural Resources
NOAA Fisheries
Olympic National Park
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Navy

Artwork: David Sones

Dear Superintendent Bernthal:

At the July 15, 2016 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) meeting council members formed a Charter Renewal Subcommittee (CRS) tasked with reviewing and renewing, as necessary, the OCNMS Advisory Council Charter, which expired December 2, 2016. At the September 23 AC meeting in Seattle, the CRS presented their report and recommendations to the full council. After discussion, council members decided to make amendments and bring it back for a vote at the November 4 AC meeting in Montesano. Overall the recommendations put forth at that meeting were as follows:

1. In the case of primary and alternate availability of members to serve as Executive Subcommittee officers, preference will be given to primary council members. The Advisory Council Chair must be a primary member, while alternate members could serve in the role of Vice chair or Secretary. The primary and alternative member of one seat not allowed to serve simultaneously on Executive Subcommittee.
2. Change the date of elections for AC Executive Subcommittee from January meeting to March meeting to ensure that any potential candidates reapplying to serve another term in his/her seat is reinstated before running.
3. Incorporate 2015 Charter amendment made to change name of Commercial Fishing seat to Fishing seat.
4. Update dates (years) in tables listing seat representation or term ends. Add a quorum chart to depict voting members (non-government and government).
5. Remove U.S. Geological Survey seat on AC, based on their inability to dedicate staff and resources to participate. USGS requested we consult with them again in 5 years during next Charter renewal process in the event they are in a better position to rejoin.
6. Update 2016 AC Charter to reflect changes in National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Handbook.

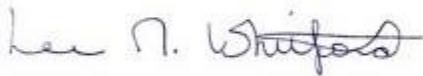
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At the November 4 meeting, council members approved the first five recommendations and to forward to Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for approval, but table recommendation #6 until a strike out version was provided in advance of the January 20, 2017 meeting. OCNMS successfully submitted a three month extension on its 2011 Advisory Council charter, and sent out the strike out version for vote at the January 20 AC meeting in Port Angeles.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, by consensus, agreed to approve and adopt CRS's recommendations.

As the OCNMS AC, we represent a diverse group of constituencies that have a strong interest in sanctuary and marine resource management in the Olympic Coast region. Our role is to advise the OCNMS Superintendent on sanctuary management topics and concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary. The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Department of Commerce.

Sincerely,



Lee Whitford
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council
Charter Renewal Subcommittee
Final Report
January 23, 2017

Subcommittee Members

Lee Whitford
Mike Barton, Chair
Steve Shively
John Veentjer
Roy Morris
Jennifer Hagen
Karlyn Langjahr – OCNMS Staff Lead and AC Coordinator

Purpose

The purpose of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council's Charter Renewal Subcommittee (CRS) is to review and provide recommendations for updating the 2011 Advisory Council (AC) Charter, signed on December 2, 2011. All national marine sanctuary sites operate with a Charter, which includes the following terms:

- The charter shall remain in effect for a period of five years from the date of signature.
- Six months prior to the expiration of this charter, the need for the Council will be evaluated by the ONMS, with input from Council members, to determine whether to renew or revise the charter.
- Revisions to the charter may be made as determined necessary by the ONMS with input from the Council.

Background

The OCNMS Advisory Council Charter underwent a significant revision in 2011 and was signed by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director on December 2, 2011. One of the major changes included the addition of a non-voting, non-government seat: Marine Resources Committee. Members of the review committee also held initial discussions on whether to include a Youth Seat. In 2016 the Executive Subcommittee met to discuss initial ideas for changes and updates to the 2011 Charter, which were presented to the Advisory Council at the July 15, 2016 SAC meeting. A Subcommittee was formed at that meeting to review the Charter and make recommendations for the 2016 Charter. At the September 23, 2016 SAC meeting, recommendations were presented to the council and discussed by council members. Edits were made to be revisited and voted on at the November 4 meeting.

Meetings

The CRS held a conference call meeting on August 12. Mike Barton, Education alternate, was elected Subcommittee Chair, and staff lead Karlyn summarized the SAC Charter renewal process. The CRS discussed ideas that were considered by the Executive Committee, which included the follows:

1. Allow alternate members to be on Executive Subcommittee serving as officer
2. Allow another SAC member on ACX who can serve as additional reviewer

3. Clarification of when ACX officers are elected (avoid January meeting due to term ends and time it takes HQ to conduct clearance & vet candidates)
4. Make criteria for member selection more specific
5. Delete U.S. Geological Survey seat due to their inability to participate?

Recommendations

The CRS made the following recommendations on ideas considered by the AC Executive Subcommittee and mentioned at the July 2016 SAC meeting, and discussed at the September meeting. Feedback from the discussions at the September SAC meeting were incorporated, resulting in the following revision:

1. It was recommended that the Charter allow alternate members to serve as an officer on the AC Executive Subcommittee in the positions of Vice-chair and Secretary only, with preference given to primary members. The Chair must be a primary member. The primary and alternative member of one seat not allowed to serve on Executive Subcommittee simultaneously. Given that many primary members are very busy, it has been difficult to nominate or recruit Executive Committee officers. Additionally, the OCNMS AC operates on by consensus, wherein the hierarchical distinction of primary vs. alternate positions is less pronounced. The stipulation to this change is that two members of the same seat (e.g. Education primary and Education alternate) cannot serve together on the Executive Subcommittee. A preference was expressed for having a fully populated Executive Subcommittee to help set meeting agendas, develop annual work plans, and fulfill other duties, with three members considered the minimum number of officers required to balance AC functions and processes.
2. It was recommended that language allowing one additional council member appointed by Chair to serve as “Candidate Review Subcommittee for Council member selection” (p. 17 in section E.1 of 2011 Charter) allow for opportunities beyond just the assistance of reviewing of and interviewing candidates for competitive seats. The proposed addition of text to the statement is: “*The Chair, with concurrence from the Sanctuary Superintendent, may also appoint one additional member from the Council to serve on the Executive Committee or provide input on discreet tasks or council activities, such as council member selection (see below paragraph).*”
3. It was recommended that language clarifying the timing of AC Executive Subcommittee officer elections so that elections take place during the March meeting instead of the January meeting. Given the December 31 term end for seats, it often takes longer to officially announce council members by the January meeting, whether they are new members to the council or council members reapplying to serve another term in the same seat. Therefore waiting to hold off on Executive Subcommittee office elections until the March meeting enables the council to vote for members who will be serving on the council.
4. It was not recommended to make criteria for member selection more specific where descriptions of competitive voting seats are listed (p. 8 under 3. a). CRS members prefer to keep language general in order to avoid limiting or excluding potential council

members. The CRS felt that the existing descriptions as stated were functional and that seat recruitment specifies that the potential candidate have experience in the area that he/she is applying for.

5. It was recommended to remove the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) seat based on [discussion and request from USGS leadership](#). The representative for this non-voting federal agency was unable to participate on the council since 2012. In 2014 they reached out to express their inability to continue on the council due to their limited budget and staff resources. At the time, it was decided to wait until the end of the Charter's term to determine the status of USGS's situation in order to avoid a Charter amendment. The USGS listed council member had retired in 2015 without OCNMS having been informed. In September, Karlyn was able to reach USGS leadership, who requested removal from the OCNMS advisory council based on their inability to dedicate staff and resources to participate. USGS asked that we consult with them again in five years during the next Charter renewal process, in the event they are in a better position at that point to rejoin.

Other recommendations for the 2016 OCNMS Charter included the following:

- a) Incorporate 2015 Charter amendment made to change name of Commercial Fishing seat to Fishing seat.
- b) Update dates (years) in tables listing seat representation or term ends, with statements indicating the cycle of rotation of term durations since the 2011 Charter. This includes a table depicting the recruitment schedule for Marine Resources Committee seat. Add a quorum chart to depict voting members (non-government and government).
- c) Update 2016 AC Charter to reflect changes in National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Handbook

Overall, the CRS advised keeping language in the Charter general since it currently allows us to be productive; more detailed language could potentially limit our ability to recruit new members or challenge our range of activities. It was also recommended to incorporate changes made in national guidelines, but members highlighted the strong desire to remain operating by consensus in AC operations.

At the November 4, 2016 AC meeting, council members voted to approve the recommendations put forth by the CRS and forward to Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for approval, with the exception of the last recommendation to "update 2016 AC Charter to reflect changes in National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Handbook." OCNMS successfully submitted a request for a three month extension on the 2011 Charter, and the council made the final vote at the January 20, 2017 meeting with the full strike out version of the charter provided. The next OCNMS AC Charter will be effective 2017-2022.