

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



September 22, 2010

Chip Boothe, Chair
Bob Bohlman, Vice-Chair
Brady Scott, Secretary

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

Representation

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

Artwork: David Sones

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) would like to take this opportunity to encourage the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Department of Commerce (DOC) to prioritize the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). With this letter we are not offering a blanket endorsement for any specific reauthorization bill that may be introduced. The process of developing a reauthorization bill should include appropriate and timely dialogue on the specific language in the bill to address concerns of the OCNMS AC members.

Congress last reauthorized the NMSA in 2000. This delay in reauthorizing the NMSA greatly concerns our Council, as this legislation defines our role and serves as the foundation for the work we do. Moreover, for the past two years we have been working intensely to revise OCNMS's management plan and know that, to implement this plan effectively, we will require the framework and associated funding of a strong, reauthorized NMSA.

The OCNMS AC looks forward to the opportunity to evaluate, discuss and comment on any proposed reauthorization language. OCNMS is unique in its obligations to the Coastal Treaty Tribes on the Olympic Coast and this aspect should be addressed in the reauthorized act. We are providing this notice to you in hopes that the DOC and NOAA will provide us with the opportunity for adequate review time on any proposed language as well as seek out our input on this important topic.

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

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concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary.

The advisory council is an advisory body. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

We hope that you and Secretary Locke will work together to ensure that an open transparent process of communication is the foundation for the reauthorization of the NMSA. A timely and thorough reauthorization process is needed to reflect the importance of the sanctuary programs.

Sincerely,



Myles (Chip) Boothe
Chair, OCNMS Advisory Council