

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Lee Whitford, Chair
Heather Reed, Vice-Chair
George Hart, Secretary

January 28, 2015

Dear Superintendent Bernthal:

Representation

Citizen-At-Large
Commercial 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. Geological Survey
U.S. Navy

In 2011, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director Dan Basta recommended that each sanctuary advisory council consider the addition of a youth seat on each council. The presence of a youth seat would provide opportunities to engage future generations of ocean stewards, users and leaders in sanctuary communities and to empower them to witness firsthand the challenges associated with the need for resource protection and ocean management. Based on this recommendation, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, working with OCNMS staff, formed a Youth Seat Subcommittee in June 2013, and after evaluating various options for engaging youth, agreed to test the concept of a Student Participation Program, with an evaluation after one year and a recommendation at that time as to the future of a youth seat on our advisory council. The Student Participation Program allowed opportunities for science classes and/or clubs (biology, marine, environmental, etc.) to observe and/or participate in Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings taking place in their communities.

The Youth Seat Subcommittee met in December 2014 and evaluated the program and provided their recommendation to the full Advisory Council at a January 23rd Advisory Council meeting. Based on the one year trial period results and feedback from teachers who participated in the Student Participation Program, the Youth Seat Subcommittee recommended placing more emphasis on sanctuary-led field based educational experiences and less focus on implementing the Sanctuary Advisory Council Student Participation Program in order to achieve the stated objectives for youth engagement.

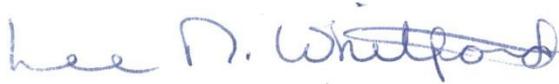
Artwork: David Sones

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, by consensus, does not recommend creating a Youth Seat on the Advisory Council at this time. If opportunities arise that may benefit students and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, efforts will be made to involve youth.

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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 opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee N. Whitford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle of the letters.

Lee Whitford
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council