

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
September 20, 2013

Quileute Tribal Administrative Office- West Wing
La Push, WA

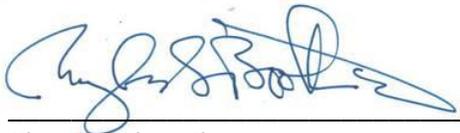
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Chip Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Myles (Chip) Boothe (WDOE), Brady Scott (WDNR), Ellen Matheny (Education), Mel Moon (Quileute Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), Tom Mumford (Research), Lora Leschner (Conservation), Les Bolton (Tourism/ Economic Development), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing), Alan Rammer (MRC), Mike Doherty (Clallam Co Commissioner), Heather Reed (WDFW), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), David Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Cpt Nathan Knapp (USCG), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG), Lee Whitford (Education), George Hart (US Navy), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large), John Stadler (NMFS), Steve Fradkin (ONP)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Rosemary Furfey (NOAA-NMFS), Harry Bell (Lake Ozette Steering Committee), Chris Morganroth III (Quileute NR Board member), Beverly Loudon (Quileute elder)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim and Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Chip Boothe called meeting to order and reviewed the goals/purpose of the Advisory Council. Mel Moon, Director of Quileute DNR, gave a warm welcoming to Advisory Council and was thankful for the opportunity for the Quileute Tribe to host the meeting. Mel introduced Chas Woodrick, Quileute Tribal Council member, and other tribal members who honored their ancestors, elders and traditions and then delivered the welcoming prayer and songs.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***Les Bolton motioned to approve the meeting agenda and Joe Schumacker seconded; unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of July 2013 Meeting Minutes – John Stadler shared that his member report should be revised to state that he gave a presentation on salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) to the PFMC and the EFH review committee submitted a written review to PFMC. There were no additional comments or changes. ***Tom Mumford made a motion to approve the July 2013 meeting minutes incorporating these edits; Bob Boekelheide seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

Conservation and Tourism/Economic Development Seats Recruitment – Applications for the open seats of Conservation and Tourism/Economic Development are due on Sept. 30th. At that point all applications will be forwarded to the Advisory Council Executive Committee for review and to make recommendations to Carol and Director Dan Basta. Lee Whitford volunteered to join the Executive Committee in the review process.

Officer Changes on AC Executive Committee – Chip announced that he is retiring from his position at WDOE and will no longer be able to serve on the Council and is therefore stepping down as Chair. By charter, Brady will assume the position of Acting Chair until a new Chair is appointed. At the November meeting we will seek nominations for the Executive Committee officers and vote on the candidates in order for new officers to be seated in January. Anyone interested in becoming part of the Executive Committee should contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov.

Science Working Group – The Science Working Group (SWG) is ready to be established and will have two primary purposes: 1) to develop ecosystem health indicators; and 2) further develop the sanctuary as a sentinel site for monitoring climate change and other research priority topics. Liam will be the OCNMS staff lead with assistance from Ed Bowlby. The SWG will prepare and present a work plan at the January 2014 Advisory Council meeting. The Charter was sent out in the meeting packet and includes a draft timeline. Members will include Rebecca Post, Jan Newton, Tom Mumford, Bob Boekelheide, Steve Fradkin, Roy Morris, Katrina Lassiter, Jennifer Hagen, Lee Whitford, Heather Reed, and Makah representative TBD. It was recommended that Joe Schumacker and the new Conservation Seat representative join the SWG as well. Anyone else interested in joining or nominating someone from outside the AC should contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov.

Tourism Working Group – The Advisory Council is now forming the Tourism Working Group (TWG), which is a topic of high priority for Director Dan Basta. The overall purpose of the Tourism Working Group is to identify opportunities for OCNMS to serve visitors to the Olympic Peninsula, using the Visitor Services Action Plan from OCNMS 2011 Final Management Plan and ONMS's "Campaign of Engagement" as the driving documents. Bob Steelquist will be the OCNMS staff lead with support from Karlyn. AC members who volunteered to participate in the TWG include Les Bolton, Alan Rammer, Lee Whitford, Richard Carroll, Roy Morris, and Lora Leschner. Other suggestions of TWG members outside of the AC include: Lissy Andros of the Forks Chamber of Commerce, Grays Harbor, WA Tourism Association, WA Film Works, tribal members, and conservation-related organizations. Anyone else interested in joining or nominating someone from outside the AC should contact Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov

Information Items:

Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery – Rosemary Furfey, Endangered Species Act Recovery Coordinator of NOAA-NMFS, presented on the Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Plan. Lake Ozette is the third largest natural lake in WA State located only 2 miles from the Pacific Ocean with a 6 mile Ozette River. Sockeye salmon use the watershed, primarily by beach spawning (currently at Allen's Beach and Olsen's Beach) but also tributary spawning in Umbrella Creek and Big River. She noted that this is a one population species, making them even more vulnerable. Some of the factors for the sockeye population decline, leading to its listing on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), include: commercial and recreational harvest in the 1900s, altered

hydrology, changes in land use practice, and predators (natural). The historical abundance for Lake Ozette sockeye is estimated at more than 50,000 fish before the 1940s with a decline to approximately 580 in the 1990s, leading to its threatened status under ESA in 1999.

The purpose of the Endangered Species Act emphasizes conservation of ecosystems upon which the endangered and threatened species depend, programs to conserve the species themselves, and measures to achieve treaties and conventions identified in the Act. The goals include reducing or eliminate threats to the listed organisms, restoring wild, self-sustaining populations and eventually removing the species from the list. The development and implementation of a Recovery Plan aims to meet these goals, and is a requirement of the ESA. While the Recovery Plans is a defined “road map” with specific goals, priorities, target actions, it also is broad in scope with aims to secure economic and cultural benefits of healthy watershed using best-available science. Recovery Plans are developed collaboratively considering the entire life cycle of the species and are supported by a broad base of stakeholders. Recent studies by Washington State Department of Ecology revealed heavy loading of both PCBs and mercury in Lake Ozette in spite of its pristine and isolated location. There is uncertainty as to why heavy metal concentrations are found in high levels, but have not currently been taken into consideration in terms of future fish consumption.

The Lake Ozette Sockeye Recovery Plan mentions the implementation of the OCNMS Management Plan, highlighting the cooperative work in identifying nearshore habitat data and research needs for sockeye recovery; research and funding partnerships and information-sharing and education. Current implementation actions include quarterly meetings with Lake Ozette Sockeye Steering Committee (LOSC), habitat restoration, improved fish counting technology, education and outreach, land acquisition, tributary hatchery program, beach spawning surveys and coordination of priority projects based on outcomes of LOSC meetings. Overall, Rosemary suggested ways to move forward with LOSC identifying recovery needs related to nearshore habitat, identifying researchers and seeking funding, coordinating with OCNMS on mutual needs, and building on current partnerships.

Ocean Acidification Working Group (OAWG) – Chair Lee Whitford shared the joint AC and IPC OAWG’s Final Report, which built on from the Interim Report and letter of initial recommendations of prioritized implementation for the outer coast (refer to olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_oa_wg_9_16_13.pdf). The OAWG focused on the “what we need to know” section of the *Scientific Summary of Ocean Acidification in Washington State Marine Waters*. For example, their highest implementation priority was to establish an expanded and sustained ocean acidification monitoring network, e.g. oceanographic mooring programs to develop an understanding of CO₂ patterns over time and space. Another area in which the OAWG provided specific recommendations involved increasing understanding of ocean acidification among key stakeholders, target audiences and

local communities. Lee stated that the OAWG has accomplished its charter mission and Kevin Grant thanked the OAWG members for their participation. They requested Carol forward their Letter of Recommendation (refer to olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/letter_oa_wg_9_16_13.pdf) and attached Final Report to important relevant individuals and/or groups. The Advisory Council discussed targeted audiences for the documents, including the WA Coast Marine Advisory Council, local representatives, and others.

Brady Scott made a motion for the AC to finalize the OAWG Letter of Recommendation, and to adopt the Final Report; Les Bolton seconded. Unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining. Brady Scott then motioned to disband the OAWG; Lora Leschner seconded. Unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.

Youth Seat Subcommittee (YSS) –Alan Rammer, Chair of the Subcommittee, emphasized the unique diversity of communities and First Nations relationships for OCNMS, something that other sanctuaries do not have. He reported that the Youth Seat Subcommittee recommended a youth participation program for the AC based on initial assessments by OCNMS education staff and research on other sanctuary Advisory Councils engaging youth (refer to olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_youthseat_subcommittee_2013.pdf). One of four options considered, the youth participation program was chosen because it will allow for more youth to be exposed to the AC and sanctuary issues. It was recommended to begin implementing this option at each possible meeting over the course of one year. From this approach, the Advisory Council will gain greater diversity and perspectives for sanctuary communities and adjoining areas. The YSS determined that the logistics and implications of adding a Youth Seat to the AC were not feasible at this point, but the YSS would reconvene after one year of trial implementation to reconsider and the recommend the next steps. Alan highlighted the need and opportunity to identify strong leadership in education partnership in each of the regions affected by OCNMS and that greater interest can build over time with more interaction and collaboration with local educators. Starting at the November meeting, a student groups or class from the community hosting the AC meeting will be invited to attend and engage in the meeting. Prior preparation with the teacher and students is a part of the process. To view the Letter of Recommendation (refer to olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/letter_youthseat_subcommittee_2013.pdf).

Jennifer Hagen made a motion for the AC to accept the Youth Seat Subcommittee's Letter of Recommendations and to adopt their Final Report as attachment to the Letter; Tom Mumford seconded. Unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.

Lunch Break – Members commemorated Chip Boothe’s years of service on the Advisory Council, including 3 years as Chair.

Quileute Department of Natural Resources – Jennifer Hagen, marine biologist for the Quileute Tribe, provided an overview of the diverse program areas within the Quileute Department of Natural Resources (QNR). Structurally, the Quileute Tribal Council consists of five elected officials. The QNR consists of a Natural Resources Committee with seven elected community members who provide recommendations to the Tribal Council on issues, and a total of 23 program staff. The overall purpose and goals of QNR is to ensure that resources are protected and conserved for future generations, through regulation and management of species that the Quileute harvest. Another main focus is the relationships that engage co-managers and partners at state and federal levels (e.g. National Marine Fisheries Service, WDFW, etc.) so that regulations are consistent with treaty rights. Program areas within QNR include fish management, timber, fish and wildlife management, shellfish management, tribal enrollment, fish and wildlife enforcement and legal support (Katie Krueger). Jennifer focused her presentation and discussion on the first three program areas.

- Under the Fish Management Program, key marine species are managed under management plans/agreements with harvest allocation and regulation including salmon, halibut, crab and sablefish. All salmon harvests recorded are shared with the other Tribes (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission) in compliance with the Boldt Decision. QNR is also involved in salmon restoration with hatchery production of Chinook and Steelhead, and monitoring salmon spawning and rearing.
- Under the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Program, QNR monitors timber practices with landowner cooperation and using “best management practices”. The health of wildlife (elk, deer, cougar, fisher and others) is monitored along with spring cedar bark gathering for cultural and traditional purposes. Other efforts include habitat restoration, hydrological assessments, water quality testing, and forage fish assessments.
- Shellfish Management Program handles the harvest and regulations of crabs and clams, both for commercial and ceremonial purposes. They monitor shellfish species populations as well as phytoplankton/biotoxins that can potentially negatively impact the shellfish health (e.g. harmful algae blooms, diarrhetic shellfish poisoning, paralytic shellfish poisoning, amnesic shellfish poisoning).

Remote Marine Debris Removal – Liam Antrim, OCNMS and Steve Fradkin, ONP co-presented on marine debris removal in wilderness areas. Liam discussed major efforts such as CoastSavers’ annual Washington coastal cleanup that takes place in April, involving a multitude of partners. The event is a well-established and attracts approximately 1,200 volunteers in an efficient and effective cleanup effort. This year marks the first time that CoastSavers

participated in the International Coastal Cleanup in Washington State in September, with coordinated efforts on a smaller scale. CoastSavers is able to cover more than half (56%) of Olympic National Park (ONP) shorelines, ~10 miles on the Makah Reservation and ~16 miles on Quinault Reservation with cleanup efforts currently.

The primary methods for removing remote area debris include hiking out with collected debris; transporting debris via boat from a vessel landing onshore; helicopter landing and hauling debris out. OCNMS received a small grant to test the first approach this year using Washington Conservation Corps 6-person teams. Steve pointed out the major challenges from the perspective of ONP's wilderness restrictions, threatened and endangered species restrictions and safety. Other limitations include staffing and cost. ONP, 95% of which is congressionally designated as wilderness, is currently undergoing a Wilderness Management Plan revision. All ONP management decisions affecting wilderness must be consistent with the National Park Services' Minimum Requirement policy. Restrictions in these areas include motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, aircraft landing or other form of mechanical transport within wilderness areas. To determine minimum requirements, ONP first considers any potential disruption of wilderness and its resources before economic efficiency and convenience. There is a rigorous Wilderness Minimum Requirements Process reviewed by a Wilderness Committee established for each national park, with that park's Superintendent making the final decision.

Liam summarized the WA Conservation Corps pilot project efforts in two locations, which determined average daily effort, cost, distance of route covered and other statistics. The shoreline between Scott's Creek and Strawberry Point was one of the two locations; the other location was on the Makah Reservation (Shi Shi Beach and Wa'atch area). Overall the project shows how much effort is required to access these remote locations and will be useful information for ONP for their management considerations.

History and Update on OCNMS *RV Tatoosh*– George Galasso, OCNMS, gave a historical overview of the sanctuary's marine operations.

- When OCNMS was established in 1994, approximately half of its start-up budget was used to acquire a sanctuary research vessel. OCNMS had an aluminum vessel (36' long with 12' beam) designed for the open ocean conditions found within the sanctuary.
- For the first 5 years of operation, *RV Tatoosh* averaged 48 days at sea/year, with additional time allocated on NOAA's ship *McArthur* for 4 out of those 5 years.
- In its fifth year OCNMS received ship time from the US Navy for the Sustainable Seas expedition. During this time *RV Tatoosh* experienced many engine and outdrive problems, but they were fortunately covered by warranty.
- In 2000 OCNMS submitted a request to the Pacific Marine Center's marine engineering department to evaluate *RV Tatoosh*. It was determined that the vessel was undersized for the application and outdrives were not well suited to commercial application. Three alternatives were outlined: 1) continue vessel use with current units and repair as

necessary; 2) repower with stronger horsepower engine/stern drive configuration; or 3) repower with larger engines and jet drives. The third option was chosen after considering cost estimates of the first option.

- In 2000 OCNMS began its oceanographic mooring program, with limited number of days at sea (due to *RV Tatoosh* being refitted). There was no NOAA ship time, but there was some contracted shiptime.
- From 2001-2005 the average number of days at sea/year increased as well as OCNMS having the opportunity for ship time on NOAA's *McArthur*.
- For the next eight years (2006-2013), the average number of days at sea per year on *RV Tatoosh* was reduced; there was only NOAA ship support time for 3 of those 8 years.
- 2010 was an anomalous year in that OCNMS was able to receive NOAA ship time on *Fairweather* and *McArthur II*.
- In 2006 Office of Nation Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) conducted a *Small Boats Requirement Study* (for 2006-2015) in which it was noted that the condition of *RV Tatoosh* was "fair", with an estimated vessel replacement date of 2008. In that study there were three Type 3 vessels (larger) specified for Monterey Bay NMS, Florida Keys NMS, and OCNMS. Five years later, OCNMS has not received a replacement vessel, the other two sites did receive replacement vessels.
- In 2009 OCNMS conducted internal planning by reaching out to ~100 different partners requesting feedback on vessel needs to support research, education and resource management needs OCNMS produced two documents: 1) *Small Boat Vision* and, 2) *Mission Requirements*
- In 2011 ONMS developed a conceptual design for a new research vessel that could meet the needs of either OCNMS or Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. OCNMS also used results from new 2011 Management Plan to best determine vessel requirements, results in a design for a 62' catamaran, but no funding to support building it. Estimated capital funds required for vessel replacement is ~\$3 million.

Today OCNMS is still using *RV Tatoosh*, but there are increasingly more and more days in which it functions in order to support the activities listed in the 2011 Management Plan. Currently the *RV Tatoosh* is utilized for the following programs: oceanographic mooring program, habitat mapping, ecosystem characterization, and wildlife observations (extremely limited). OCNMS has had to eliminate some activities due to a declining budget and likewise is unable to accomplish several activities that OCNMS should be doing, such ROV or drop camera operations, occasional multiple day operations, ecosystem studies, and more.

At the July Advisory Council meeting, Bob Boekelheide suggested that the AC draft a letter stating the dire need for ONMS to obtain a replacement vessel as soon as possible. Members then discussed key elements to include in a resolution, such as the consideration of crew safety in *RV Tatoosh's* current state. Concern was also expressed for the ability of OCNMS to effectively implement its 2011 Management Plan. The fact that OCNMS has had zero NOAA ship time in the past years exacerbates the challenges presented by *RV Tatoosh*. It was

suggested to have a finalized letter for Carol to give ONMS Director Dan Basta next week while he visits OCNMS.

Bob Boekelheide motioned for the AC to give the Executive Committee license to incorporate all point discussed into a vessel replacement resolution and to forward to Superintendent as soon as possible; Alan Rammer seconded. Unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Superintendent’s Report:

1. Carol congratulated OCNMS staffs including George Galasso, Liam Antrim and Nancy Wright who were part of the team recognized and awarded with NOAA’s Administrator’s Award for outstanding interagency collaboration to reduce the impact of the 2011 Japan tsunami marine debris. She acknowledged the many agencies and partners who collaborated with OCNMS on these efforts.
2. NOAA has been working to finalize an Executive Order, “Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments”. Each federal agency is required to develop an internal guidance for conducting government-to-government consultations with tribes. Currently NOAA is in the process of reviewing public comments and plans to release the final product in a few months.
3. OCNMS will be working with Olympic National Park on their Wilderness Stewardship Plan, which will include cultural issues.
4. Low oxygen conditions were reported during the summer in various locations off the coast. A crab wreck was observed on several beaches within OCNMS, possibly caused by hypoxic conditions in nearshore waters.
5. US Coast Guard notified OCNMS that Makah fisherman had pulled up automobiles from deep waters within the sanctuary, George is investigating the situation but no conclusion has been drawn.
6. Olympic Coast Discovery Center received more than 5,000 visitors this year, staffed predominantly by docents and Karlyn. In the fall OCNMS transitions from public visitors to classroom school visits for education programs.
7. OCNMS worked with WDFW to submit a proposal to make modifications to Olympic 2 Conservation Area as part of a Request for Proposals from the Pacific Fishery Management Council. This is part of PFMC’s five-year review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for Groundfish.
8. ONMS completed the socioeconomic Study Area Profile for OCNMS; profile will be available soon on the website at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/>.
9. The Makah Tribe will be hosting the workshop on the Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project in Neah Bay; work is underway and OCNMS staff will help support the effort.

10. ONMS received more than 18,000+ public comments regarding the Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP). ONMS is now reviewing the comments and hopes to issue a final rule in January with the revised criteria and the process for reopening nominations for new sanctuaries.

For more information, refer to the September issue of Office Report at

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_092013.pdf

Member Reports

John Stadler mentioned that the National Marine Fisheries Northwest and Southwest regions are merging on Oct. 1st. There is some uncertainty as to what roles may be shifting, so the NOAA-NMFS representative on the Advisory Council could change. The office locations will remain the same.

Katrina Lassiter noted that WDOE is looking for review on its public scoping document on draft goals and objectives for marine spatial planning for Washington's coast; public comments are due on Sept. 23rd. Additionally, there was a new law passed in the previous legislative session, Senate Bill 6603, resulting in the creation of two councils: 1) Ocean Acidification and 2) WA Coast Marine Advisory Council (which previously existed but is now under the Office of the Governor). Appointments have not yet been made, but representation will include the four coastal MRCs, and state agencies. Their first quarterly meeting will take place in Olympic on Oct. 23rd and is open to the public.

Chip Boothe noted that the replacement for his position will not necessarily be appointed as the WDOE representative to the OCNMS Advisory Council. Rebecca Post will remain on the Advisory Council.

John Veentjer shared that the Vessels Traffic Risk Assessment (VTRA) is ready and posted on the Marine Exchange website. There are a number of projects being considered for the Puget Sound area and Canada that would result in additional vessel traffic. The Puget Sound Partnership was proactive in creating the VTRA using a model by George Washington University through a grant.

Future Agenda Topic Ideas

Carol mentioned that the November Advisory Council meeting will not take place jointly with the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) because IPC is currently undergoing internal governance discussions and will not be ready by then. Therefore the November meeting will focus on Advisory Council items, including an end of year report for 2013. OCNMS proposed to present preliminary priorities for 2014 based on projected budget under the federal continuing resolution.

At the November meeting the AC will also nominate and vote for AC Executive Committee officers.

Brady suggested having youth involvement if feasible. Alan will follow up and discuss with Jacqueline Laverdure, OCNMS Education Specialist. Lee suggested that the student participation could be limited to a discreet presentation or period of time rather than an entire meeting, or that OCNMS could consider a topic of interest at each meeting appropriate for a student group.

Other agenda topics could include an update from the Science Working Group and the Tourism Working Group, UW oceanography research, and results of Pacific Fishery Management Council deliberations on Essential Fish Habitat. Please send any other ideas for November meeting agenda to Karlyn or Executive Committee members.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, November 15** in Port Angeles. Meeting was adjourned.