

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
November 15, 2013

Clallam Co. Courthouse- Commissioners Meeting Room #160
Port Angeles, 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:



Brady Scott, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Brady Scott (WDNR), Ellen Matheny (Education), Heather Reed (WDFW), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Jan Newton (Research), Linda Rotmark (Tourism/ Economic Development), Les Bolton (Tourism/ Economic Development), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing), Alan Rammer (MRC), Phil Johnson (Jefferson Co Commissioner), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG), Lee Whitford (Education), George Hart (US Navy), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), Roy Morris (Citizen-at-Large), John Stadler (NMFS), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Joel Carben (Surfrider), Dan Lieberman (North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center), Karsten Turrey (North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center), Brenda Turrey (citizen), Rob Jones (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Erika Bergman (Submarine pilot), Otis Bush (Evergreen State University), Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribe), Brian Svec (Makah Tribe), Camiel Dhooge (citizen),

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Ed Bowlby, Bob Steelquist, Nancy Wright, Jennifer Bright, and Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS) and Dayna Matthews (NOAA-OLE)

Acting Chair Brady Scott called meeting to order and reviewed the goals/purpose of the Advisory Council. Phil Johnson, Jefferson County Commissioner, welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commissioner).

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes.

Internal Affairs:

Approval of September 2013 Meeting Minutes – Alan Rammer requested an amendment to the September minutes to include Rosemary Furfey’s mention of high levels of mercury and PCBs present in Lake Ozette, in spite of its relative pristine and isolated location. There were no additional comments or changes. ***Alan Rammer made a motion to approve the September 2013 meeting minutes after incorporating this addition; Roy Morris seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

Follow-up on September 2013 AC Resolutions – There were three resolutions approved by the Advisory Council at the September meeting. Superintendent Carol Bernthal provided the following updates for each resolution letter:

1) The Ocean Acidification Working Group produced a final report and final recommendation letter that were both approved by the council. The letter recommended prioritized implementation actions for the outer coast and was forwarded to the two Co-Directors of the

new Washington Ocean Acidification Center (Terrie Klinger and Jan Newton). Terrie Klinger replied that some modelling on the outer coast has already begun and that the outer coast is the focus for the first year's efforts. Jan Newton explained that the intent is for predictive forecasting the risk of corrosive water events. The resolution letter was also sent to J.T. Austin of the Governor's Office and Jennifer Hennessey of WA Department of Ecology. OCNMS is working on an internal communication letter within NOAA to ensure the recommendations are recognized by the different NOAA offices, particularly the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL). OCNMS is also looking into the possibility of sending the letter to state representatives. Carol also had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Kathy Sullivan, NOAA'S Acting Administrator, during her tour of the West Coast, and highlighted the need for ocean acidification work on the outer coast.

2) The Youth Seat Subcommittee final report and recommendation letter were forwarded to West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros and ONMS Director Dan Basta. Dan has acknowledged receipt of the documents but has not yet been able to send feedback. The OCNMS Advisory Council will move forward with implementation of the youth participation program.

3) Carol was able to personally deliver the resolution letter recommending replacement of *RV Tatoosh* to Director Dan Basta during his visit to OCNMS in late September. They discussed the status of *RV Tatoosh* and the outlook for monitoring and research programs. Dan is fully committed to keeping the *RV Tatoosh* operational until a replacement can be acquired. In the next six months there will be an internal assessment ONMS-wide looking at all sanctuary vessels, though it is unlikely that a replacement vessel will be possible in the near future. The current strategy is to continue to make investments on the *RV Tatoosh* for the next few years.

Update on Recruitment for Conservation and Tourism/Economic Development Seats – Carol announced the two new appointees for the Tourism/Economic Development primary seat and Conservation primary seat. Carol introduced Linda Rotmark, the new Tourism/Economic Development primary, who comes to the Advisory Council with a background in business and education. She has been an Economic Developer for both Pacific and Clallam Counties and will be stepping down from her position as Executive Director for the Clallam Co. Economic Development Council at the end of this year to serve on four different councils. Eric Delvin of The Nature Conservancy was selected as the new Conservation primary. Eric holds a Ph.D. in Restoration Ecology and has worked as TNC's Community Conservation Coordinator for the past 6 years. Eric worked with Surfrider Foundation to fund and facilitate the first Marine Resources Committee Summit in 2010, which led to the formation of Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) which he also participates on. He will attend his first meeting in January. The newly appointed replacements will serve through Dec. 31, 2014 to complete the

end of the term for each of these seats, but will be eligible to reapply for a full 3-year term thereon.

Recruitment for Research, Citizen-at-Large and MRC Seats – Brady reminded the council that recruitment is underway Research (primary and alternate), Citizen-at-Large (primary and alternate) and Marine Resources Committee (MRC) (primary only) seats. Application materials will be posted online at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html and hard copies will be available at the OCNMS office in Port Angeles, with a submission deadline of Dec. 31, 2013. Any AC members with ideas for individual/ organization candidates for this seat should send names to Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov.

Science Working Group – Rebecca Post, Co-Chair of the Science Working Group (SWG), updated the council on the SCW's progress since their first meeting in late October. The SWG first meeting centered around how SWG' should focus its energy and time. Members reviewed the Draft SWG Charter and requested edits to the Charter so that ecosystem indicators would not be limited to species, but inclusive of environmental parameters as well. The SWG discussed the Condition Report, including a desire for a new format to be developed for the next Condition Report. The group also looked at overlap between Marine Spatial Planning Process and Integrative Ecological Assessment processes and felt that the timeline should align with WDOE's MSP effort which are currently underway through June 2015.

Tourism Working Group – Les Bolton, Chair of the Tourism Working Group (TWG), provided an update on their first meeting held in early November which included a presentation by Bob Steelquist, OCNMS, on Nature-based tourism market driving forces in a regional context. TWG members discussed encouraging economic development with the challenge of not actually owning access to the water. TWG members will be investigating activities that regional waterfront property owners want to see as appropriate uses. The group will be looking to identify and reach out to potential partners and will inventory their contacts on the Olympic Peninsula and report back at their next meeting. Overall the TWG hopes to learn more about what potential partners hope to accomplish and how the sanctuary can assist.

AC Executive Committee Officer Elections –After discussion, the AC elected Brady Scott as Chair, Ellen Matheny as Vice-Chair and Heather Reed as Secretary.

Approval of Proposed 2014 AC Meeting Dates/Locations – The proposed 2014 Advisory Council meeting schedule was presented to council members. Carol noted that the budget may not allow for 6 annual meetings in 2014, in which case the July 2014 meeting scheduled in Port Angeles would be cancelled. The proposed meeting agenda for 2014 is as follows:

- January 24th in Forks; March 21st in Olympia; May 16th in Neah Bay; July 25th in Port Angeles (pending budget allocation); September 26th in Aberdeen or Hoquiam/Taholah; November 14th in La Push/To Be Determined).

Hearing no discussion, ***Rebecca Post made a motion to adopt the proposed AC 2014 schedule; Alan Rammer seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

AC 2014 Work Plan Process – Brady gave a reminder that the Advisory Council is required by Charter to develop an annual AC Work Plan. A Draft AC 2014 Work Plan will be presented at the January 2014 meeting for council’s approval. In January, progress on the 2013 AC Work Plan will be reported, Afternoon presentations will highlight sanctuary accomplishments in 2013 as well 2014 preliminary priorities, with the caveat of a continuing resolution and uncertain 2014 budget.

Information Items:

Report on Essential Fish Habitat for Groundfish Proposals – John Stadler, Essential Fish Habitat Coordinator of NOAA-NMFS, presented an overview on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) with updates on the ongoing review of EFH proposals for Pacific Coast Groundfishes. Essential Fish Habitat comes from the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) of 1976 which recognized that the loss of habitat can lead to a decline in many important fisheries. The MSA was amended in 1996 and included EFH provisions requiring that Fishery Management Councils designate EFH for all managed species in their management plans, while minimizing adverse effects on EFH from fishing to the extent possible. EFH is defined as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.” *Waters* “include aquatic areas as well as their associated physical, chemical and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish” and *Substrate* “includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities.” Species managed with EFH include Pacific Coast Groundfish (83 species), coastal pelagic species (including krill), Pacific Coast salmon (3 species), and highly migratory species (e.g. tunas). Regulations require periodic review of EFH designations and revisions or amendments based on the best available information. In 2006 Amendment 19 to Groundfish Fishery Management Plan designated all marine waters out to a depth of 3,500 meters as EFH for 82 combined species of Pacific Coast Groundfish. It also established EFH Conservation Areas which limit certain types of bottom contact gear, specific to the location and groundfish managed in each Conservation Area.

The Pacific Marine Fishery Council has defined a three-phase approach to reviewing EFH, with a Request For Proposals (RFP) issued in April 2013 after the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) presented to the Council with a synthesis of new information collected since 2006. Eight proposals were received, including one from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Most of the proposals received deal with expanding or contracting EFH closed areas for the protection of deep-sea corals. In November

2013 the Council was to determine whether or not to proceed with revising EFH designation, but the October federal government furlough prevented federal employees from reviewing the Phase 2 report.

The Council will decide if they should move to Phase 3 after finalizing the Phase 2 report in March 2014. There is not yet a schedule for when the EFH evaluation will be completed and whether or not an amendment process will take place in the Groundfish Management Plan. OCNMS and WDFW submitted a proposal to amend Conservation Area Olympic 2 in the northern region of the sanctuary after finding areas outside of Olympic 2 that supported biogenic habitats. The OCNMS/WDFW proposal includes three alternatives: 1) keep existing area but incorporate restrictions on bottom contact fishing; 2) expand the area to the south of Olympic 2 with an overall increase in area; 3) expand the area to the west of Olympic 2 with an overall increase in area. There was no listed preference within the identified alternatives and the proposal would only apply to non-tribal fisheries. The established EFH Review Committee includes representatives from OCNMS, non-government organizations, Oceana, EcoTrust, fishermen's groups, National Marine Fishery Service, Tribes and expert scientists and was established by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The presentation can be found at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_groundfish_efh_johnstadler.pdf

Overview of North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center (NOPSC) Natural Resources Program – Science and environment educator Dan Lieberman presented on the Natural Resources Program offered by the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center (NOPSC). The Skills Center is K-12 public education (state funded based on enrollment), serving students without a high school diploma up to 21 years old. NOPSC serves a large area but is based in Port Angeles. The mission of the Natural Resource Program (NRP) is to provide hands-on, relevant natural resources skills and experiences that help meet the needs of students as well as the communities of the area. Service learning has been the guiding pedagogy of the NRP, consisting of students performing projects, schools connecting the students and community partners that students can support or assist. The three NRP courses offer high school credit in various subjects and have potential to offer college credit. Cultural & Natural Resources 1 is a more traditional block course, co-taught by a culture and language educator, Jamie Valdez. The course covers a broad overview of the ecosystems on the peninsula in addition to the human elements, including human history and the cultural significance of the area and its resources. Natural Resources Options is a very flexible program whereby students elect the project or particular area of focus they wish to undertake. In this case the students also choose where their credits will apply.

In Port Angeles the Natural Resources Option is now in its seventh semester working with project sponsors including Feiro Marine Life Center, OCNMS, Olympic National Park Visitor Center and Streamkeepers. Other crews are based out of Forks (working with Pacific Coast

Salmon Coalition or Olympic National Park), La Push (working with Quileute Natural Resources), Sequim (working with Dungeness River Audubon Center, North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge).

The third course is Natural Resources 2, an internship designed for students who have been successful with either or both of the previous two courses. This option tries to align student interests with needs and opportunities available with community partners, in both small and large scale opportunities. In the past Liam Antrim of OCNMS has served in an advisory capacity on their program planning. NRP students have also been involved with COASST and marine debris surveys as well as assisting in reviewing the intertidal survey program and select OCNMS curriculum. Potential future collaborations with OCNMS include continuing present work with internship hosts, engagement in the Advisory Council, or other ideas that OCNMS or the AC might have.

Karsten Turrey of the Lower Elwha Klallam community shared his personal experiences as both a student and intern in the Natural Resource Program. Karsten is home-schooled and was interested in becoming more active in the community while learning more about the local environment and preparing for a future career in the natural resources field. As a NRP student, Karsten learned how to use survey methodologies, technical equipment, and how to write reports. He has developed professional skills such as GIS and has been exposed to environmental issues while learning about job opportunities. Some of the issues he became aware of as a result of this program include climate change, ocean acidification, water quality, salmon and the Elwha dam removal and more. He has especially enjoyed the hands-on aspects of the courses and the ability to be outdoors. Karsten has been able to share his studies and projects with his community and aspires to becoming a wildlife ranger for his tribe.

Lunch Break

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

OCNMS Implementation Report for 2013 and Draft FY 2014 OCNMS Management Plan

Implementation Priorities – George Galasso of OCNMS began with an overview of the sanctuary's 2011 Management Plan priorities and structure. The Advisory Council was instrumental in providing feedback to OCNMS during the Management Plan Review process in 2008-2011. The FY 2013 Implementation Report covered highlights, performance measures (8) and reports on strategies on OCNMS accomplishments between Oct. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2013. The Implementation Report can be accessed at

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_mgmtplan_implement_fy13.pdf. The Draft FY

2014 Implementation Priorities is a planning document for OCNMS and can be found at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/priorities_mgmtplan_fy14.pdf. The OCNMS Management Plan is based around six priority topics (1. Treaty Trust Responsibility, 2. Collaborative and Coordinated Management, 3. Research, Assessments and Monitoring, 4. Ocean Literacy, 5. Conserve Natural Resources and 6. Understand Sanctuary's Cultural, Historical and Socioeconomic Significance) consisting of 20 Action Plans and 84 strategies. The 2011 Management Plan is also structured to consider different funding scenarios. In order for OCNMS to fully implement its Management Plan, it was estimated that a budget of \$4.2 to \$5.4 million was needed with a staff of 40 people, which is unrealistic and therefore requires prioritization of activities to implement under a continued resolution budget.

OCNMS staff leads gave an overview of OCNMS project implementation in 2013 and projected 2014 activities. The presentation found at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_mgmtplan_implement_fy13_fy14.pdf.

Discussions and questions arose around the criteria OCNMS uses to prioritize implementation activities. Carol explained how OCNMS must balance strategic opportunities with partners when available, which are not necessarily foreseen when writing or revising a Management Plan. Another criterion for OCNMS decision making includes continuity of programs, particularly with projects that have been running for a long time. Carol recognizes the need to keep *RV Tatoosh* operational, which looks feasible for the next couple of years with some investments.

As a priority area of investment, Jan Newton suggested that the AC should bring council concerns to NOS or NOAA's attention and highlight the need to keep the oceanographic monitoring program running. Brady suggested further discussion in terms of ONMS partnerships marketed to increase the partnerships to eventually yield more state funding. From Jan's experience, the private sector tends to be interested more in one-time commitment rather than a sustained financial support. Jan suggested some language to support OCNMS management plan goals and objectives with overall ecosystem-based argument rather than picking a few specific priorities. An economic and/or job-supporting argument could help strengthen the overall argument when targeting leadership. Jan, Lee and Rebecca offered to work on a draft support letter to present at the next Science Working Group meeting and to the full advisory council in January.

Superintendent's Report – Carol stated that highlights have already been covered at this meeting and referred members to the Office Report for more information and details. The

Office Report for November can be found at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_november_2013.pdf

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Member Reports

- Jennifer Hennessey is the state lead for the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) efforts at WA State Department of Ecology. She mentioned that the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council formed by the Office of the Governor met for the first time on Oct. 23 and will be meeting quarterly to provide advice on MSP projects and funding.
- Ellen Matheny announced that the next presentation for ONRC's Evening Talk series will take place tonight, Nov. 15 at 6:30pm in Forks. Rod Fleck will give a presentation "*When Shipwrecks Change History- the Nikolai and the Condor*".
- Katrina Lassiter highlighted some of the MSP projects funded by Washington State. WA State Fish and Wildlife's study on forage fish along the entire coast which will be publicly available after completion. Additionally, WDFW will compile all of their data on seabirds and marine mammals to create a Geo-database, as most of this data is not yet currently available in a GIS. Another project is to conduct aerial surveys of marine mammals (except whales). WDNR will also be working with NOAA's Biogeography team on seafloor mapping along with ecosystem indicators with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.
- Joel Kawahara mentioned that a team is assembling a real-time monitor for carbon dioxide and/or ocean acidification that is small and accurate enough to obtain research-quality data from a fishing boat. They are hoping to scale this project up after seeking funding through small grants to place monitors on fishing boats.
- Roy Morris requested including Lake Ozette Sockeye in the OCNMS 2014 Management Plan Implementation Priorities and encouraged collaboration with NOAA and NMFS. He will try to identify data gaps at the next LOSC meeting on Dec. 4th and communicate afterwards. Roy is also drafting a letter to ONMS Director Dan Basta about incorporating tourists into sanctuary volunteer work.
- Heather Reed shared that coastal MRCs had their annual summit and heard it was a great success. Over the last year she has been working on devices for rockfishes to improve their survival rates in recreational fishing. They found that outreach efforts have helped in ports with important recreational fisheries such as Neah Bay and La Push, and that fishermen are supportive.
- Les Bolton stated that progress is going well with Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority, They held their first education program on site measuring water quality and will be setting up a permanent monitoring site at the Chehalis River. Lady Washington is currently sailing in the

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and will sail with disabled veterans in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, along with the Hawaiian Chieftain, for 3-day programs Dec. 20 – Jan 4. Les also made available a notice of the Pacific Northwest Maritime Heritage Council's support for the National Heritage Act of 2013 in order to create a National Heritage Area (NHA) of Maritime Washington NHA. Congress must first pass legislation to formally establish standards for existing NHA and outline the process of creating new ones.

- Rebecca Post announced that there was a crude oil train wreck in Alabama, but that the oil involved was different from the oil sands from Canada that were discussed at the Jan. 2013 AC meeting. The bakken crude oil is, however, extremely flammable and does route through our region and our coasts.
- Alan Rammer attended the coastal MRCs summit and found it very productive. He also followed up with Dan and Karsten after their presentation today in order to obtain similar contacts in Forks for the Jan. 24 meeting.

Future Agenda Topic Ideas

- Jennifer Hennessey and Katrina Lassiter suggested that WDOE and/or WDNR could provide updates on any of the variety of projects mentioned today. Jennifer noted that the next Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council is scheduled for late January.
- Heather Reed stated that she is willing to give a presentation at a future meeting on improving survivability of released rockfish in West Coast recreational fisheries.
- Ellen suggested a presentation by Rich Osborne of ONRC to provide updates on their marine program activities and research.
- Presentation of a draft letter from SWG to NOAA to support OCNMS Moorings Program

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, January 24** in Forks, WA. Meeting was adjourned.