

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
January 18, 2013

Commissioners Meeting Room #160
Clallam County Courthouse
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:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), Frank Holmes (Marine Business/Industry Alternate), Capt. Mike Gardiner (USCG), George Hart (Navy), Les Bolton (Tourism and Recreation Alternate), Kevin Ryan (USFWS), Christopher Clark (Marine Resource Committees), Alan Rammer (MRC Alternate), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate), Katie Krueger (Quileute Tribe Alternate), David Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large Alternate), Frank Shipley (USGS), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing Alternate), Sandra Brooke (Conservation), Jan Newton (Research – by telephone), Steve Fradkin (Olympic National Park Alternate – afternoon), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe – afternoon)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Chelsey Olson (USCG), Bob McFarland (USCG/RRT), Phillippe Holmstrom (Prescott College), Libby Whiting (WDNR), Karlyn Langjahr, Ed Bowen

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal and Liam Antrim, (OCNMS), Kevin Grant, and Jacqueline Laverdure (OCNMS – afternoon), Dayna Matthews (NMFS)

Adopt Agenda – the draft agenda was adopted without changes.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes – A correction was noted in meeting minutes from the November joint IPC/AC meeting. The Hoh Tribe should be identified as a party to the Treaty of Olympia; no additional corrections were recommended. No corrections to the November AC meeting minutes were recommended. With no further comments, both meeting minutes were adopted as written and corrected.

National AC Chairs Summit – Chip shared his impressions of this December 2012 meeting, a portion of which was held in conjunction with NOAA’s Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee (see <http://www.mpa.gov/fac/>) to discuss how MPAs can become better engaged with the recreation and tourism sectors to strengthen public support for MPAs, support local economies, and provide unique and rich experiences to visitors. ONMS Director Dan Basta’s Campaign of Engagement (i.e., gaining public support for our MPAs) and President Obama’s initiative to advance tourism (see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/rural-council/policy-initiatives>) are linked. In December, Council Coordinators developed seven key recommendations for Councils to consider and potentially adopt, including collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce and trade associations to highlight the value of sanctuaries to communities; engaging youth and seniors to define sanctuaries as “cool” places; collaborate with groups that have good connections with the public (e.g., national parks); diversify the constituent base by targeting specific demographic groups; increase positive interactions with

fishing community or other groups with a dominant role in area; assess challenges to determine how these may be turned into assets; consider adding tourism seats. Additional AC Summit information is available at http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/sac_summit12.html. Dan asked each Chair to commit to some action appropriate for the site. Chip committed to working to strengthen partnerships with Seattle Aquarium, Feiro Marine Life Center, and ONP. Carol referenced the AC's 2013 work plan, where under Ocean Literacy/Visitor Experience we plan to form a tourism working group. Les noted that one of highest profile events in 2013 is the Tribal Journeys paddle to Taholah. He is working to connect the event with anniversary of arrival of first American vessel on WA coast, and feels an AC working group could help support these efforts.

AC Membership - Carol introduced Richard Carroll, the AC's newly appointed Commercial Fishing alternate. Richard is vice-president of intergovernmental affairs for Ocean Gold, which works with crab, whiting, non-whiting groundfish, and sardine fisheries. Westport is the number one fish port in the USA in value and number five in volume of the whiting fishery. Richard serves on the coastal pelagic species advisory subpanel through the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Joel Kawahara, Ellen Matheny and Lee Whitford were reappointed to their seats.

FY2013 OCNMS Management Plan Implementation Priorities - Carol reviewed information in the distributed document, which highlights anticipate priorities for FY2013. She noted OCNMS does not yet have a budget for FY2013, and still operates under a continuing resolution which limits our ability to plan. In any case, the OCNMS budget is very lean, with very little discretionary funding. Priorities may need to be adjusted when a final budget is provided. Frank Holmes referenced OCNMS' water quality protection action plan and mentioned the EPA will implement new small vessel discharge regulations that apply to non-recreational vessels less than 79 feet at the end of 2013 (see <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/vessels/vgpermit.cfm>).

2013 AC Work Plan - Chip reviewed and focused on items members may not have noted in earlier drafts of the work plan. Jan offered to serve on the IPC-AC Collaboration work group. She noted related developments, including a Governor's Executive Order that identifies budget allocations for monitoring, a University of Washington Center for ocean acidification research and impacts assessment. For the Tourism working group, Les noted Tribal Journeys is a high visibility event and could be identified as specific item, possibly as an action output. It is anticipated the Science working group will cover both the sentinel site and indicator species concepts. Carol noted this is an ambitious plan with 4 working groups and Executive Committee work. Moorings and Data Management working groups may be ending soon. Some items may carry over until next year if not completed. For the Climate Change Site Scenario report, the AC can focus on adaptations strategies identified and outreach. Alan expressed

interest in assisting in this outreach. ***George Hart made a motion to adopt the 2013 AC work plan; Les seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with none opposed or abstaining.***

ONMS Site Evaluation List (SEL) – Carol provided a briefing. Discussion covered these points. Are there downsides to SEL opening? There are concerns about impacts on existing site budgets if additional sites are added, but the history is that the ONMS budget has increased with new designations, so this may not be a valid argument. Why was the SEL deactivated? The selection criteria were considered outdated and existing list needed updating, so the SEL was closed, new criteria for nomination will be created, then ONMS hoped to reopen the effort. Some 16 communities across the country have expressed interest in creating new national marine sanctuaries but have no avenue for consideration. It was noted the current fiscal climate may not lead to more ONMS funding. Carol noted that ONMS must determine there are sufficient financial resources before designation of a new site can take place. Reactivation of the SEL is identified in National Ocean Policy. Significant public process would be involved in designation considerations. ***Rebecca made motion to approve the SEL letter as written; Sandra seconded the motion.*** Further discussion focused on the appropriate addressee for the letter and final approval of the letter by the Executive Committee. ***In a vote on the motion, unanimous support was voiced, with none opposed. Frank Shipley abstained, stating he could represent USGS for recommendations on science but not necessarily on policy.***

Public Comment - Ed Bowen stated he was appalled the Misawa dock was allowed to come ashore on a remote shoreline and felt it should have been intercepted at sea. He is concerned that public access to shoreline in the area was closed without explanation.. Ed also recommended supporting dumpsters of opportunity for marine debris as a way to empower coastal users to help with beach cleanups, particularly at Duk Point and Oil City.

Mooring Working Group Report - Jan Newton joined by phone to summarize the working group report (available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html). Scientists identified several applications of OCNMS data and priority science needs associated with moorings data. General conclusions are the current mooring program provides a rich data set; current sensor placements are good; and no changes to the current program design were recommended other than additions to program. Garnering more support for the mooring program is critical. An ideal mooring program was outlined, including potential sensor additions, year round deployment, and real time data access.

For an ideal program, real time data delivery is a priority as it is most effective for supporting management decisions. Data months or years old has more limited utility than real-time data. Real time data delivery would be very expensive. Realistically 1 or 2 moorings could have real time data transmission. Emerging technologies to supplement the existing program were not discussed by the working group. Wave gliders only measure surface conditions and are not

valuable for hypoxia. More traditional gliders are not a good substitute for moorings because they don't work well in shallow waters (e.g., 0 - 40m), and they do not provide simultaneous spatial coverage, but they could be used to supplement mooring data. A cabled network would be ideal. Also, OCNMS moorings could be used to test new technologies (i.e., pH suitable for aragonite measurements). John Mickett at UW has offered to do a mooring design for year-round deployment. If investment is to be made, quick data accessibility and analysis are needed and possibly could be accomplished inexpensively with funding for graduate students. Moorings can serve to promote OCNMS as a sentinel site, particularly because of ocean acidification and hypoxia concerns and conditions unique to the West Coast. Environmental context for biological observations is really important. The concept behind sentinel sites is coupled measurements of physical, chemical and biological parameters.

Carol recommended an AC action for acceptance of the mooring working group report, which will be valuable to support expenditures and requests for funding. Jan agreed to provide a draft for the Executive Committee to consider and consideration at the March Advisory Council meeting. ***Chip made motion asking the moorings working group to develop a letter for the Superintendent's consideration; George Hart seconded; unanimous support was voiced with none opposed or abstaining.***

Vessel Traffic Update – John Veentjer presented on vessel traffic management and statistics based on Marine Exchange data (see http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html). There have been about 3,000 vessel arrivals through the Strait into Puget Sound per year for the past 20 years. Trends are for a slight decline in overall and cargo vessel (of all types) traffic during this period; relatively unchanged numbers of tank vessels; a slight increase in large passenger vessels. Alaska crude volumes have declined but foreign crude imports have increased. Roughly there are 8 or 9 arrivals of large vessels per day to Puget Sound ports.

Katie Krueger said the Quileute may be interested in seeing analysis of vessel traffic specific to the outer Washington coast. Changes in traffic patterns offshore will likely result from new EPA regulations requiring low sulfur fuel use near land.

New developments include:

- Expansion of Vancouver, BC, Kinder Morgan (tar sand) oil export tanker traffic (currently 5 vessels/month; anticipated 25-35 vessels/month). Unique properties of this oil, including highly volatile diluents that quickly evaporate and a heavy bitumen that will sink, create unique environmental risk and consideration for spill response planning and technologies. Frank Holmes suggested a presentation to the AC by Kinder Morgan might be beneficial.

- New bulk facility at Cherry Point for coal export. A vessel traffic analysis will be completed, and an environmental impact assessment will be required to address various aspects of the project. Scoping is ongoing. At full capacity, this could add about 480 bulk carrier transits per year.
- Updated vessel traffic risk assessment (current one based on 2005 data; a new assessment will be conducted using 2010 data and looking at projected growth)
- USCG Authorization Act of 2012 requires a study of oil export from Vancouver (USCG headquarters working on this)
- Potential change in U.S. oil operations, specifically delivery of crude to refineries). A symposium on US-Canada transboundary oil spill issues is planned for the last week of March
- Impact of the EPA regulation covering emissions control (may change traffic routing used in offshore areas)
- Projects have been proposed for oil export through Grays Harbor and the Columbia River

Mosquito Creek Dock Update – Steve Fradkin presented on non-native species mitigation on the Misawa dock ashore near Mosquito Creek (see http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html). Carol addressed salvage. Safe removal is the preferred option either towing it by sea to a port or cut up and removal by air. Funding is being sought. The request for proposals for salvage option bids was released January 17, 2013. There is hope for salvage to be implemented in February during favorable tides. OCNMS is currently surveying the nearshore area to get more accurate charting data and identify an optimal towing route. For salvage, OCNMS will manage funding; Washington state and ONP are supporting, as is the USCG. Removal of the foamed plastic alone would be difficult because thick concrete and rebar surrounds the foam. The dock is damaged and is not suitable for re-use.

Superintendent's Report – As time was short, Carol referenced the December 2012-January 2013 Office Report provided in the meeting packet (see http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2013.html).

Member Reports – Ellen said Olympic Natural Resources Center would like to host a community forum on tsunami debris and asked for recommendations for presenters, topics and timing. A March 19 date is set.

Katrina noted that Libby Whiting is helping do outreach around coastal marine spatial planning, working with Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy. Three workshops in the area are planned: 1) objectives setting in April-May, 3 workshops in Aberdeen; 2) human use mapping,

NOAA will cohost workshops in April in Aberdeen and Port Angeles; 3) ecosystem indicators workshop, a continuation of NOAA NW Fisheries Science Center's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment work to assess status of our ecosystem including human uses. This will be in mid to late May.

Frank Holmes noted the Washington state contingency rule went into effect on January 14.

Roy gave thanks to OCNMS for involvement in the Lake Ozette sockeye outreach. He noted a new CoastSavers beach cleanup coordinator was just hired – Jon Schmidt.

Future Agenda Topics

- A Kinder Morgan tar sands oil shipping presentation
- Additional presentations on outer coast vessel traffic patterns (Katie Krueger to check with Jennifer Hagen)
Emissions control regulations and resulting shifts in vessel traffic patterns impacting OCNMS.

The next OCNMS AC meeting is March 15 in Hoquiam.