

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
January 23, 2015

Clallam County Courthouse
Port Angeles, WA

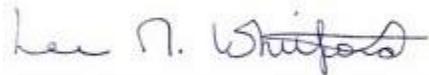
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Heather Reed (WDFW, Vice-Chair), George Hart (US Navy, Secretary), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large Alternate), Melissa Williams (Education Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Jan Newton (Research), Eric Delvin (Conservation), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee), Bill Peach (Clallam County Commissioner), Phil Johnson (Jefferson County Commissioner), Jessi Doerpinghaus (WDFW Alternate), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hills (USCG), Steve Fradkin (ONP), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), John Stadler (NOAA-NMFS)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Nancy Messmer (Washington Clean Coast Alliance), Billy E. Noel Jr. (Makah Tribe)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim, Jacqueline Laverdure, Nancy Wright, Justin Ellis, Kathy Hough, Danny Palmer, Norma Klein (OCNMS)

Chair Lee Whitford welcomed everyone to the first SAC meeting of 2015 and introduced host Bill Peach, the new Clallam County Commissioner and local government representative. Bill thanked everyone for their attendance and gave a brief introduction and background of his experience working within the region with natural resources and the Quileute Tribe. Lee then called the meeting to order.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***Bill Peach motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented and Joel Kawahara seconded with full AC consensus.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of November 2014 IPC-SAC Joint Meeting Minutes – There were no proposed edits or changes to the Joint Intergovernmental Policy Council and Advisory Council meeting minutes. ***Rich Osborne motioned to approve the meeting minutes without changes and George Hart seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

Approval of November 2014 SAC Meeting Minutes – There were no proposed edits or changes to the Sanctuary Advisory Council business meeting minutes. ***Rich Osborne motioned to approve the meeting minutes without changes and Bob Boekelheide seconded. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

Conservation, Tourism/Economic Development and Marine Industry Seat Recruitments– Carol noted that applications for primary and alternate positions for the seats of Conservation, Tourism/Economic Development and Marine Industry closed on Dec. 31, 2014. The AC Executive Committee met to review the applications and forwarded their recommendations to her. Carol forwarded the selections to headquarters where they are still in the vetting process.

Members chosen will likely be notified in February but not seated until the March 2015 meeting. OCNMS recruit again for the alternate position of Tourism/Economic Development.

Final 2014 AC Work Plan – Lee highlighted notable Advisory Council activities and actions from 2014: a joint IPC and AC meeting took place in November, the first since 2012; Heather attended the National AC Chairs Summit in June and reported back to AC on national initiatives which included adopting the Joint Call to Action between national SACs and MPA Federal Advisory Council; the AC worked diligently to implement the youth participation program with some successes; input was given to OCNMS’s Long-Range Interpretive Plan; the Science Working Group dealt with environmental indicators and is awaiting WA State’s ecosystem indicators report; an Educational Kiosk Subcommittee was formed with recommendations to be given and voted on at this meeting. The final 2014 AC Work Plan can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_2014.pdf.

Follow up on SAC-FAC Joint Call to Action– Lee reminded the council about the document between the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) and National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils that OCNMS AC adopted in July 2014. The call to action was entitled, *“Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America’s Most Treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship.”* The following topics were addressed in the document: 1. Invite people to play (responsibly) in MPAs; 2. Embrace the human dimension of ocean places; 3. Sustain MPA ecosystems and values; and 4. Engage recreational users as ocean stewards. Since then, all ONMS site ACs have signed off on the document, which can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/joint_mpa_fac_sac_calltoaction_destination2014.pdf). Additionally, a short statement about it and a link to the document highlighted on the sanctuaries website can be found at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/feb15/mpa-advisory-group.html>. Carol added that the ONMS Leadership Team began discussions about developing actions for each of the four individual topics addressed in the document. One of the actions with significant interest was a national “Get Into Your Sanctuary” day.

Follow up on Washington Maritime National Heritage Area– Carol provided updates on findings from discussion on the pending legislation for Washington Maritime National Heritage Area (NHA), which was presented at the past two AC meetings. There was a question raised regarding tribal consultation and involvement during the November 2014 Advisory Council meeting, specifically how tribal outreach was conducted to include those respective areas along the proposed boundaries/ coast of the WA Maritime NHA. The resolution was put on hold until Les and OCNMS staff could learn more about that process from State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). George found out that consultation with individual tribes did not take place; rather that tribal representation took place at a state level. Based on those findings, Carol proposed that the AC drop the resolution. She reminded the council that the state concept for the proposed legislation is an “opt-in”, so if passed the individual tribes could make the appropriate decision to be included or not. Jennifer Hagen pointed out that consultation should refer to direct individual consultation with a tribe, and that the “opt-in” notion defeats

the consultation process, which needs to take place during the pre-planning processes. There was consensus that the AC should not move forward with the resolution.

Update on Representation from WDOE, WDFW and USCG– Lee announced and welcomed the newest appointed SAC members and their respective agencies: Jessi Doerpinghaus, WDFW, Commander Aaron Meadows-Hills, USCG and Dr. Christopher Krembs, WDOE.

Information Items:

Draft 2015 AC Work Plan – Lee referred to the draft 2015 Advisory Council Work Plan developed by the AC Executive Committee based on AC feedback and past interests. She highlighted proposed topics for the council to address in the coming calendar year: Sanctuary Outreach for SAC members to help better inform members and their constituents, including feedback from SAC members as to how OCNMS can better support their needs and interests; OCNMS Management Plan Implementation, including the strategic selection of an Action Plan from the Management Plan to review with a Working Group; Ecosystem Indicators for OCNMS, which is on hold until at least June when the state completes its reports from Marine Spatial Planning efforts; Coastal Moorings Program, to develop prioritization of OCNMS oceanographic moorings under different funding scenarios; Visitor Experience involving the Educational Kiosk Subcommittee and its recommendations at this meeting; Youth Participation Program based on Youth Seat Subcommittee’s recommendations at this meeting; Travel and Tourism Strategy to receive updates on OCNMS follow up from Tourism Working Group’s recommendations, including the national level’s strategy; and Topics of Interest to help plan for upcoming meetings as well as Past Topics of Interest to follow-up with and track. George noted that OCNMS does anticipate involvement in Socioeconomic Issues and Studies over the coming year, but still needs to refine discussions with partners before addressing with AC. The draft 2015 AC Work Plan can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_2015_draft.pdf.

There was a question as to whether the Work Plan was feasible compared to previous years, given budget constraints, or whether it allowed for room to incorporate other issues that could emerge. AC members felt that that the Work Plan was reasonable, considering that some topics may carry over into next year.

Roy Morris motioned to approve and adopt the draft 2015 AC Work Plan with minor changes reflecting that a Working Group be formed immediately for the Oceanographic Monitoring Program and that it be staffed by Kevin Grant instead of Liam Antrim. Phil Johnson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.

Youth Seat Subcommittee Recommendations for Youth Seat – Katrina Lassiter, Chair of Youth Seat Subcommittee, briefed the SAC on the background on ONMS’s efforts to add a Youth Seat to each site’s AC. She highlighted the Subcommittee’s considerations and decision to try a youth participation program for a trial year. The three other options considered included forming a Youth Seat, creating a Student Seat or establishing a Mentor Seat of an existing SAC

member. Katrina summarized youth participation program efforts from the past year and the evaluations made on its success. The evaluation took into consideration feedback received from teachers and students involved in the youth participation program. Staff and SAC members spent significant time attempting to involve youth, without guaranteed success. While the Youth Seat Subcommittee recognized the importance of bringing youth perspectives to council meetings, they found significant obstacles including: the logistics of students and/or teachers missing school when work load and required education standards are already difficult enough to fulfill, lack of time to prepare students in advance for issues brought up during SAC meetings, feedback from teachers that students gain more knowledge and interest during field-based education programs, and the fact that student involvement did not meet intended goals of the Youth Seat initiative. Katrina proposed the draft resolution on behalf of the Subcommittee, which recommended not creating a Youth Seat on the AC at this time. They felt that it would be valuable to involve youth at AC meetings if/when the appropriate opportunities arise, but to instead emphasize and continue sanctuary field-based educational experiences.

Jan Newton motioned to approve and adopt the Youth Seat Subcommittee recommendations and report with minor changes in the resolution language and Jennifer Hagen seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.

Educational Kiosk Subcommittee Recommendations – Bob Boekelheide, Chair of Educational Kiosk Subcommittee, framed the purpose of the Subcommittee to make recommendations for one of the three funded educational kiosks to be installed in 2015. The first will be placed in Seattle’s Pacific Science Center, the second likely to be placed in Olympic Coast Discovery Center. OCNMS wanted to identify potential locations to place the third kiosk within the physical vicinity of sanctuary, to reach a different visitor group. Bob explained the different criteria involved in identifying preferred locations, including: potential number and types of visitors, relevance of location to OCNMS and desired audience, compatibility of space with kiosk theme, and ability and willingness to host the kiosk given its logistical requirements (covered space, electrical needs and internet connection). Locations identified as potential sites ranged along the coast from Clallam Bay to Grays Harbor, with Kalaloch Lodge emerging as the preferred location. Kalaloch was favored due to its ideal physical location giving immediate access to the sanctuary and visitor numbers, drawing visitors who are already looking for natural and educational experiences. They factored into account Kalaloch Lodge’s partnership with Olympic National Park and enthusiasm from current lodge staff. The second choice was Forks Visitor Center, which serves as a gateway to the surrounding environments including the coast. It also has the potential of significantly increasing OCNMS exposure and information to an audience that might not have existing access or awareness of the sanctuary. Subcommittee members recognized the need for further presence of educational signage and discussion included ideas for other locations and low-tech means to increase sanctuary exposure and information. Discussion also including ideas on technology appropriate for different generations.

Roy Morris motioned to approve and adopt the Educational Kiosk Subcommittee recommendations and Katrina Lassiter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.

Lunch Break

Resolution to Support IPC Habitat Framework – Eric Delvin proposed the draft support letter for Intergovernmental Policy Council’s (IPC) Habitat Framework efforts. At the November joint IPC-AC meeting, IPC staff presented on this topic along with an outline for how they planned to move forward. The presentation and concept received positive reception from AC members and Eric suggested that the AC draft a resolution letter supporting their efforts which Carol could forward to higher levels and different branches of NOAA. The idea is to encourage wider support and/or possible funding or staff assistance. Carol clarified that OCNMS has already been providing seafloor and other data to IPC as well as staff time to support the IPC habitat framework. Discussion clarified the role of sanctuaries in these efforts and suggested an amendment to the letter to specify that the resolution be forwarded to “other appropriate divisions of NOAA”.

Rich Osborne motioned to approve and adopt the resolution letter supporting IPC’s Habitat Framework with the proposed amended language to the resolution. Joel Kawahara seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.

2014 OCNMS R/V *Tatoosh* Field Operations and Data Management – Justin Ellis, Vessel Operations Coordinator, began by providing a brief background of Research Vessel (R/V) *Tatoosh* and the smaller platform, *OC-2*, and their history with the sanctuary. He described major work on *R/V Tatoosh* as well as challenges and limitations for its longevity until a replacement vessel can be acquired. Justin gave an overview of 2014 sanctuary field operations, which entailed 50 days at sea, the most OCNMS has experienced in recent years. OCNMS also hired a new survey technician, Kathy Hough, in 2014. The majority of field time was dedicated to the oceanographic moorings (~157 hrs), followed by multibeam tests (~164 hrs), partner project work (~44 hrs) and outreach (~22 hrs). The oceanographic mooring program deployed at 10 sites surveying at depths of 15m and 42m for dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, turbidity and currents, to provide information that can help with modeling climate change, larval dispersal, hypoxia, productivity and harmful algal blooms. Two moorings were kept in water over the winter to collect data during the off-season. The multibeam bathymetry survey system will be able to provide support and site independence to survey shipwrecks and maritime heritage, habitat mapping, navigation response and more. Education and outreach entails annual Olympic National Park training, Peninsula College’s Oceanography 101 course, volunteer appreciation cruises and other opportunities to promote awareness to partners through a boat based experience. OCNMS was also involved in the Ocean Observatories Initiative, sea kelp watch 2014, currents profiling, plankton monitoring, and testing of unmanned aerial vehicles.

As part of the OCNMS’s commitment to process and report on its annual data, OCNMS Geographer Nancy Wright highlighted data management results from the 2014 field season. Oceanographic mooring data is available from 2000 to present and intertidal monitoring on Quinault Indian Nation and Quileute Tribe from 2008-2014. OCNMS began intertidal monitoring in 2001 at Makah Reservation and Quinault Indian Nation, with a change in protocol

adopting MARINE standards since 2008. Marine debris monitoring data has been collected since 2003, OCNMS implemented NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment protocol since 2012 comprised of 17 volunteers and 2 student groups at 20 locations. OCNMS has been participating in an annual sea otter census since 2000 with partners to contribute to WDFW's Wildlife Science Program Annual Report. There was no new seafloor mapping data in 2014 due to changing over of multibeam mapping system, but an underwater camera was used to groundtruth the Pacific Storm Survey in 2011. OCNMS also found two recent sunken ships (from 2013 and 2014, respectively) using seafloor surveys; this helps determine if there is potential salvage of the recently sunken vessels and condition of the seafloor habitats in the vicinity of the vessel. Justin's presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_operations_fieldreport_2014.pdf and Nancy's can be accessed at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/present_datamanagement_2014.pdf.

Update on Washington Marine Spatial Planning Process – Jennifer Hennessey, WDOE provided an update on the state's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) projects and process. She reviewed the background and plan's major goals/objectives, highlighting the non-regulatory nature of the plan. The process aims to acquire a better baseline of information and ecosystem indicators, analyses to support decision-making, recommendations for new uses, and an implementation framework across agencies. Key players include the State Ocean Caucus, Tribes, federal and local governments, and WA Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC). Jennifer reviewed the draft timeline showing that they are currently in Stage 2: Understanding Impacts through mid-2015. WDOE is the lead agency for these efforts as they administer the state Coastal Zone Management program. The sector analysis reports have been completed and significant progress has been made on the ecosystem assessment and indicators and could have the preliminary report earlier than the anticipated June 2015. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conducted overflights to conduct marine mammal and seabird surveys providing data/maps and NCCOS is developing ecological models for a series of marine mammal and seabird species. Marine mammal maps should be released this summer and the seabird maps by September. OCNMS is the major entity conducting extensive seafloor mapping and providing data. One of the MSP projects involves Oregon State University working to stitch together 30 of OCNMS' surveys to create a seafloor atlas; the other is a data prioritization process with managers that will take place during a workshop in May. Recreational data will be discussed at the March AC meeting during Surfrider's presentation on results from the recent Washington Ocean and Coastal Recreational User Study. WDFW is heading up the Important Ecological Areas Analysis to find out how to determine the most sensitive and important areas of the state. They hope to have a product out by December 2015. WDFW and the tribes also recently completed a report on two years of data on forage fish spawning locations along the coast to produce forage fish maps; those are now available online.

The Coastal Economic Assessment will consist of economic profiles of the entire Washington Coast, tribal communities, commercial and recreational fishing, shellfish aquaculture and recreation/ tourism. Other analyses will look at ecosystem services values, social and cultural

profiles and risk and vulnerability. From there they will model economic impacts of direct, indirect and induced effects and should be ready by June 2015.

Jennifer mentioned two new projects, including a Use Analysis Process, which will be a way to look at all of the existing GIS and trying to better evaluate and understand it for potential uses. The other new project is a proposed Visual Resource Inventory to establish a baseline of scenic quality along the coast. The MSP website includes planning documents, project reports, Request for Proposals and the mapping application: www.msp.wa.gov

Citizen Science in OCNMS – Heidi Pedersen, OCNMS, delivered an overview of the citizen science programs that the sanctuary is involved with including Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) and NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring Program. Marine managers recognize many major threats to the environment including introduced species, habitat loss/change, exploitation, pollution, disease, climate change impacts and more. Using volunteers to help collect data can enhance the amount of information as well as fill gaps given budget and other resource limitations to run programs. Citizen science can consist of volunteers primarily collecting data, while others might be involved in the scientific process. Some programs in WA are also focused on the educational component; citizen scientists often consist of retirees or students. COASST is a non-profit citizen science organization based at the University of Washington with a mission of empowering citizens to monitor and protect coastal environmental health. It consists of a partnership with state, tribal, and federal agencies, environmental organizations, and community groups and has been a partner with OCNMS since 1998. COASST volunteers survey beaches monthly in several states using beach-cast bird carcasses as environmental indicators. Volunteers also collect data on oil, dogs, humans and vehicles on beaches. Dead birds are used because they are found in high quantity, they can be identified with anyone after training, they can be examined and easily photographed for verification and they are excellent indicators of marine environmental health contain valuable information. Volunteers are recruited, trained and provided with rigorous materials for their field surveys. There are over 800 COASST volunteers ranging in age from 13-90 years old, who survey beaches from California to Alaska. Approximately 40 sites within OCNMS are monitored monthly. Data provides baseline information as to what is “normal” in the nearshore marine environment and can be used to monitor oil pollution, fisheries interactions, harmful algal blooms and more.

There is currently a wreck of Cassin’s Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), a small seabird that is easy to identify. Cassin’s Auklets have a population center in British Columbia off the NW tip of Vancouver Island and have recently been recommended for listing as a species of “special concern” in Canada. Typically COASST volunteers find about 50 of these birds each year; however this year in the fall of 2014 and winter of 2015 COASST and other organizations were identifying 10-30 times the normal number. The highest density in OCNMS was reported on Pacific Beach on December 22, with 229 beached birds per kilometer. Dead birds necropsied lacked disease, poisons or other contaminants but showed signs of emaciation and starvation. Because they are extremely sensitive to changes in the nearshore environment, it is possible that the decrease in upwelling event in spring/summer 2014 shifted their prey availability (crustaceans and fish) and/or location.

OCNMS began collecting marine debris data in 2003 using COASST volunteers but switched to NOAA Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Program (MD-MAP) protocols in 2012 following the national interest and concern over marine debris generated from the March 2011 Japanese tsunami. Using a standardized protocol enables the ~40 partners to compare data across ~150 sites. Along the WA outer coast there are 13 sites surveyed monthly (another 3 sites by Olympic National Park) and 7 sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Sites show that the predominant material identified is plastic (hard plastic and foam plastic), with far more debris washing up on the outer coast (67 items per 100m survey on average vs. 15 items/100m survey along the Strait of Juan de Fuca). A NOAA Hollings Scholar hosted by OCNMS, will be analyzing data this summer.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Superintendent's Report – Carol referred council members to the January 2015 Office Report for updates on sanctuary activity in the past two months, which can also be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/news/officereport_january_2015.pdf.

Deputy Superintendent Kevin Grant briefed the council on the oceanographic monitoring program, which had an established working group in 2012. Given the OCNMS budget, additional questions arose about council recommendations for the moorings program that could not be addressed from the 2013 report and recommendation letter. Kevin is now planning to lead a reconvened/new Oceanographic Monitoring Group (OMG) to meet 1-2 times via conference call to review how to scale the moorings program under different funding options. He would like to determine which key parameters should be monitored, and the types of instrumentation to use as well as prioritization of geographic location of the moorings in each of those scenarios. The goal is to report back to the council at the March AC meeting with an updated recommendation letter. The following AC members expressed interest in joining: Jan Newton, Lee Whitford, Steve Fradkin, Jennifer Hagen. The following people were recommended to be part of OMG, if available and interested: Christopher Krembs, John Mickett, Simone Alen.

Member Reports & Future Agenda Topics

- Melissa William announced that they are accepting nominations for their annual “Marine Science Student of the Year” award. They are also starting a Youth Council through the University of Washington to design a free five-week program for ages 10-14. Aaron Meadows-Hills shared that Captain Nathan Knapp will be leaving in the near future. His replacement will likely be appointed this summer and his/her term will last three years instead of two, allowing for better USCG continuity on the AC.
- Jennifer Hennessey mentioned that the next meeting of Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) will take place on February 25 in Aberdeen. WCMAC meetings take place regularly, so if interested in receiving notifications for those meetings let her know.
- Rich Osborne reported that the Marine Resources Committee for the North Pacific Coast Olympic met last week. As one of the lead entities for salmon restoration, they are very

interested in hands-on, field-based education programs to help enhance their programs. He also shared on behalf of his alternate, Casey Dennehy, that the results of the WA Coastal Recreational User Study will be shared at the March AC meeting.

- Steve Joner gave a briefing about their plan for the upcoming International Pacific Halibut meeting next week. Halibut are managed jointly by US and Canada Commissions and their challenge is to present an alternative to staff recommendations of decreased catch which would allow them to retain the current catch level for Area 2A due to the complex nature of their catch plan and the fact that the population has been slowly increasing.
- Joel Kawahara announced that on February 7 in Port Townsend there will be an Art Walk including an exhibit featuring photographs featuring commercial fishing of southeast Alaska.
- John Veentjer updated the council on vessel traffic and the impacts to the maritime industry in light of the recent labor and contractual issue. Currently there are 8-10 container ships anchored in Puget Sound, which is very uncommon. Vessel traffic in general is down due to increased oil transportation by rail and pipeline. Additionally, phase 2 of IMO regulations went into effect on January 1, requiring all vessels to burn 0.1% sulfur fuel anywhere within 200 miles from the coast, which will impact vessel routes. Bill Peach announced that Forks campus of Peninsula College has a career day on February 24 at 1pm. If interested in participating, contact Debbie Stinell at 360-374-3223. He will be there and is willing to distribute information on the sanctuary or other appropriate.
- Eric Delvin of The Nature Conservancy announced that this would be his last SAC meeting as the Conservation representative. His work projects are taking him more to British Columbia so a TNC colleague will be applying for the conservation seat. He will continue to work along the coast and shared that 1) TNC is hopeful about the Washington Restoration initiative proposed to state legislature; 2) A competition will kick off in February for a tourism-related small enterprise. The grant is funded by TNC and USDA and hopes to have a cohort of contestants in June/July with a prize of \$10,000-\$20,000.
- Heather Reed stated that WDFW will be at the International Pacific Halibut meeting advocating for a quota similar to what they've had in the past. Their recreational fisheries are getting ready to wrap up and the halibut fishery opening day will coincide with the AC's May meeting in Neah Bay. Her work with recreational rockfish descending devices to prevent barotrauma received funding from NOAA. Animal Planet recently featured their department of WDFW Enforcement Police on an 8-episode series called "Rugged Justice." It began on Sunday after the football game and will continue on Sunday nights at 7pm.
- George Hart informed the council that US Navy Northwest has grown substantially, from the eastern boundary of Alaska down to Eureka, California. Their current hot topics include electronic warfare training in Olympic National Forest and the increased aircraft from the Navy base on Whidbey Island. They will be accepting public comments on the supplemental EIS for Northwest Testing and Training Range Complex. George is now sitting on both US Navy's Climate Change and Ocean Acidification panels, based out of Washington, D.C.
- John Stadler shared that revisions to the Salmon EFH became effective on January 20. The Groundfish EFH is on the April PFMC's meeting agenda with 9 hours of discussion time allotted. The development of the EIS process is on hold until funding is available.

- Katrina Lassiter stated that their Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan is now out for public comment, with public meetings scheduled around the state.
- Jennifer Hagen was at the 2015 West Coast Ocean Summit, a high level gathering of tribal, federal and state officials. Their purpose was to address ocean health as well as communication, coordination and collaboration for ocean topics which tie into the Marine Spatial Planning process. She also mentioned that the stand-up of regional planning body took place last week, which was called for in the National Ocean Policy.
- Jennifer Brown-Scott noted that Region 1 and 7 will be sending biologists to the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in February and will then meet together to determine regional priorities in CA, OR, WA and AK. The meeting is open to the public. Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge is celebrating its 100th anniversary and held a “Shake Out” on January 20 (official birthday). They will be holding nearly monthly events to celebrate, including a Kids Event on June 20 with partners like OCNMS representing at an outreach booth. Learn more at the website Dungeness100.com.
- Jan Newton underscored the excellent collaboration with OCNMS and the oceanographic monitoring program/team. She appreciates the 2014 data for her work as well as other partners. She also noted that yesterday in Olympia several researchers and shellfish growers presented on WA state efforts on ocean acidification, featuring OCNMS as an example of where state and federal leveraging funding is coming together effectively. NANOOS received a grant to study HABS using the Chaba buoy and she’ll give an update on that in the future.
- Bob Boekelheide shared that the Olympic Bird Fest will be held again this year in April. It will include a two-day trip to Neah Bay to spend a day in OCNMS with birders.
- Steve Fradkin announced that Olympic National Park’s Deputy Superintendent Todd Seuss left to work at another park so they will be hiring for his replacement in the near future. He reported updates on the prevalence of sea star wasting disease, which has been relatively low on the WA outer coast with summer 2015 samplings yielding minimal sea star wasting disease. However field studies in the last three months have shown a significant increase in the last three months with 60-65% disease prevalence in sea stars on recent surveys. Overall they are observing a large decrease in *Pisaster* abundance along Olympic Coast as well.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, March 20th** in Forks, WA.