

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
January 24, 2014

Olympic Natural Resources Center
Forks, WA

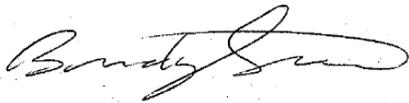
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

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), Roy Morris (Citizen-at-Large), George Hart (US Navy), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Jennifer Brown-Scott (USFWS), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen-at-Large), Jan Newton (Research), Tom Mumford (Research), Lee Whitford (Education), Eric Delvin (Conservation), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Alan Rammer (MRC), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Linda Rotmark (Tourism/ Economic Development), Dave Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG), Steve Fradkin (ONP), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Katie Wrubel (The Nature Conservancy), Rich Osborne (ONRC), Nancy Messmer (COASST, CoastSavers), Dan Lieberman (North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center), Miguel Rodriguez (NOPSC/ Forks High School), Romario Bello (NOPSC/ Forks High School)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Nancy Wright, Jacqueline Laverdure, and Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Chair Brady Scott called meeting to order and reviewed the goals/purpose of the Advisory Council per its Charter. Ellen Matheny welcomed everyone to Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC), a research facility of the University of Washington focusing on forest and coastal marine area management. ONRC offers monthly Evening Talks to the community to learn more about research that takes place in the area.

Eric Delvin was introduced to the Advisory Council as the new Conservation representative. He is The Nature Conservancy's Community Conservation Coordinator.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***Rebecca Post made a motion to approve the agenda; Joel Kawahara seconded; no one opposed or abstained.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of November 2013 Meeting Minutes – Alan Rammer pointed out a minor grammatical correction in the first sentence of Superintendent's Report (p. 8). ***Alan Rammer made a motion to approve the November 2013 meeting minutes after incorporating this addition; Rebecca Post; and unanimous support was voiced, with full AC member consensus.***

Final 2014 AC Meeting Dates/Locations – The final 2014 Advisory Council meeting schedule was presented to council members, with the new November 2014 meeting date set for November 7th to avoid conflict with the Pacific Marine Fishery Council Meetings. The final meeting schedule is now posted at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/schedule_meetings_2014.pdf

Follow-up on September 2013 AC Resolutions – At the November meeting Superintendent Carol Bernthal updated the council on the resolutions approved in September. Additional follow up that occurred since November included the following:

1) The ocean acidification resolution letter recommending prioritized implementation actions for the outer coast have been sent out to all targeted groups and individuals at this time. OCNMS has scheduled follow up meetings with J.T. Austin of the Governor’s Office which will include discussions on ocean acidification. OCNMS has also internally distributed the letter to several counterparts in NOAA.

2) ONMS Director Dan Basta responded to the Advisory Council’s resolution letter recommending replacement of *RV Tatoosh* as a priority and identifying repairs if vessel replacement was not yet feasible in the short term. In his response letter, Dan acknowledged the importance of an operational vessel for OCNMS and recognized that the planned replacement of the vessel has not yet occurred due to financial constraints. In the interim OCNMS has been able to secure additional funds from ONMS for repairs and maintenance in order for *RV Tatoosh* to operate successfully in 2014. The response letter can be found at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/respond_signed_vesselacquisition2014.pdf

Final 2013 AC Work Plan Group – Chair Brady reported on the final status of the 2014 Advisory Council Work Plan. He stated that 2013 was a productive year for the council and highlighted some of the major accomplishments:

- the formation of the joint IPC-AC Ocean Acidification Working Group, with a final report and recommendation letter presented at the September meeting;
- the formation of a Youth Seat Subcommittee to consider a young adult seat on the council, with final recommendation to invite youth participation and representation at each meeting for a trial year with initial implementation at the November meeting;
- a resolution letter to ONMS to reopen the Site Evaluation List (SEL), along with most of the other national marine sanctuaries, which has helped ONMS move forward on re-establishing a Sanctuary Nomination Process;
- a resolution letter to continue supporting OCNMS’s coastal moorings program;
- a final report by the Data Management Working Group resulting in an annual OCNMS staff report;
- the formation of Science Working Group and Tourism Working Group;
- numerous presentations, reports, networking and information-sharing

Brady thanked all council members for their participation in 2013 that contributed to these accomplishments.

Update on Recruitment for Research, Citizen-at-Large and MRC Seats – Carol announced that the application period for open seats on the council closed on December 31. The Executive Committee met to review applications for new Research and Citizen-at-Large terms and the

vacancy of Marine Resources Committee (MRC) primary, and forwarded a recommendation letter for those positions to ONMS Director Dan Basta. Positions are currently in the review process at ONMS and selected members will be announced and seated at the March AC meeting.

Science Working Group – Rebecca Post, Co-Chair of the Science Working Group (SWG), updated the council on the SCW’s recent conference call meeting held on January 22. They discussed the numerous efforts involving indicator species and environmental indicators at the state level and decided it would be best for the SWG to focus on what would most directly affect the sanctuary. They are currently looking at the questions asked in OCNMS’s 2008 Condition Report (see http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/library/docs/conditionreport_ocnms.pdf) and the Science Needs Documents on the national marine sanctuary website (see <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment/ocnms.html>). Fellow Co-Chair Lee Whitford added that the SWG will be contributing to the efforts of the future Condition Report that will come out in a few years and helping update the sanctuary’s Science Needs Documents, which were last update in 2010. WDOE-WDNR and NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center are spearheading the designation of indicators (species or environmental) as part of the Marine Spatial Planning process, which legally requires them to determine ecosystem indicators for the coast to conduct an ecosystem assessment. They are currently in the process of finalizing those ecosystem indicators. George informed the council that NWFSC has recently designated Gregory Williams, to work directly with OCNMS, similar to past work with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Once the SWG addresses ecosystem indicators the group will tackle the topic of sanctuary as a sentinel site.

Information Items:

OCNMS Oceanographic Monitoring Support Letter – Jan Newton presented a draft letter to the council following up on a discussion at the November meeting regarding the viability of the sanctuary’s oceanographic monitoring program beyond 2014. The AC agreed to take action by writing a resolution letter. Jan received feedback from NOAA’s head of Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program Office and the Director of NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program that a letter could be an effective way to communicate this need. Jan recommended adding a paragraph to the letter underlining how the oceanographic monitoring program fulfills and strengthens the overall sanctuary science needs, not just ocean acidification, hypoxia and climate change. Tom Mumford suggested that the letter emphasize the state, regional and international value that the program brings. Council members agreed that the letter should be addressed to Carol, recommending that she forward it to ONMS and other NOAA programs, with a recommendation to seek other funding sources, as appropriate.

Jan Newton motioned to approve the letter after incorporating the additions discussed; Joel Kawahara seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with full AC member consensus.

The final resolution letter supporting oceanographic monitoring program can be found at: olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/letter_support_oceanographicmonitoring_2014.pdf

OCNMS Criteria for Management Plan Implementation Priorities – George Galasso followed up on the OCNMS staff presentation at the November meeting on Draft 2014 Management Plan Implementation Priorities. At that meeting, the Advisory Council requested a briefing on the criteria OCNMS uses to make decisions on what projects to implement from the Management Plan.

As background, in 2008 OCNMS and the IPC jointly conducted a number of facilitated workshops to determine a preliminary set of priority issues for the sanctuary, which resulted in the following topics: improved partnerships; oil spill prevention, contingency planning and response; climate change; ocean literacy; and marine debris. After public scoping OCNMS conducted seven public meetings around the Olympic Peninsula and produced a summary of all comments received, followed by an analysis of topics. In 2009 during the Management Plan Review process the Advisory Council facilitated a two-day Issue Prioritization Workshop which OCNMS then used to develop its Priority Issue Work Plan. The final Management Plan resulted in the identification of six priority issues, twenty Action Plans and eighty-four strategies. The six priority issues include: treaty trust responsibilities; collaborative and coordinated management; research, assessments and monitoring; ocean literacy; conserve natural resources; and understand sanctuary's cultural, historical and socioeconomic significance.

George outlined the budget planning process within the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Budget planning in recent years has been complicated by extended continuing resolutions during which the federal government is given a portion of the previous year's to maintain minimal operations. Currently OCNMS is working on the 2014 Annual Operating Plan (AOP), reviewing staff performance plans and contracts. Annually, sanctuary staff provide a report to the AC-IPC on fiscal year accomplishment with projections on Management Plan implementation activities for the upcoming fiscal year. Action Plans from the Management Plan help to guide OCNMS program leads in developing annual activities and projects. OCNMS is also guided in decision making with priorities to continue established programs (i.e. moorings program) based on priorities established from IPC-AC and the Management Plan, supporting activities that leveraged funds and staff expertise, and covering key functions and infrastructure (such as permitting, vessel maintenance, operation of Olympic Coast Discovery Center).

Draft 2014 Advisory Council Work Plan – Brady Scott reviewed draft 2014 AC Work Plan and reminded council members that the development of an annual AC Work Plan is required by AC Charter. The Executive Committee drafted the Work Plan for adoption at this meeting, and it is

meant to be a living and adaptive document. It is based on past efforts meant to carry forward with current needs of the sanctuary and OCNMS's Management Plan, with a place holder for emerging issues. Brady highlighted major items for the coming calendar year such as: AC Member Effectiveness to increase public awareness of OCNMS and improve member and constituent participation. The youth participation program initiated last November will continue to be implemented throughout the year, with students and/or student groups from various locations of the Olympic Peninsula in the communities of AC meetings. The Tourism Working Group will develop an outreach campaign focusing on constituency engagement and tourism for the sanctuary. The Science Working Group will continue their efforts to establish the sanctuary as a sentinel site after identifying environmental indicators/ species in a way that will most directly benefit OCNMS. Annual activities to continue include coordination with the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC), and AC Chair's participation in the National AC Chairs Summit. An example of an emerging issue is the development of social science and socioeconomics information for the sanctuary. Topics of interest are tracked and might include informational presentations, but are not necessarily work products; past topics are also tracked in case they resurface.

Rebecca Post motioned to approve the draft 2014 Advisory Council Work Plan with minor edits to be incorporated by Karlyn; Alan Rammer seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with full AC member consensus. The draft 2014 AC Work Plan can be found at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/workplan_2014_draft_1_24_14.pdf

OCNMS Annual Report on Data Management – As part of the OCNMS's commitment to process and report on its annual data, Nancy Wright presented results from the 2013 field season. Nancy highlighted the national webpage for Sanctuary Needs Assessment (see <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment>). In 2013 OCNMS worked on four seafloor mapping projects at sites off Mosquito Creek, The Prairie, Cape Alava and Quillayute Needles. Ten research moorings were deployed as part of sanctuary's oceanography efforts, with thermistors added at the 42m moorings by UW's Applied Physics Laboratory in addition to 49 hypoxia profiles in southern locations of OCNMS. Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) surveyed seabird colonies and marine mammals for wildlife research, and could also tested the feasibility for surveying large marine debris in coastal habitats. Other coastal habitat work included rocky and sandy intertidal monitoring of two sites on the Makah reservation and two sites on the Quinault reservation. OCNMS recently added monitoring for sea star wasting syndrome at two sites, but did not find evidence of the disease in those locations in spite of prevalence in other coastal sites along the sanctuary. OCNMS has been monitoring monthly for shoreline marine debris for three years, and implemented NOAA's 2012 National Shoreline Survey Field Guide methodology at more than 20 sites since 2012. The OCNMS 2013 Research and Monitoring

Report summary can be accessed at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_researchmonitoring_1_24_14.pdf.

Lunch Break

ONRC Marine Program Projects and Research – Rich Osborne, Resource Forum Facilitator/ Research Consultant for Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) highlighted ONRC’s marine projects and program. ONRC was founded in 1991 under the University of Washington’s Schools of Forestry and Fishery & Ocean Sciences and opened at the end of 1995. In 2012 it was moved under UW’s College of the Environment. Its mission is “to foster and support the research and education necessary to provide sound scientific information on which to base ecologically sustainable forest and marine industries,” through integrating environmental and economic interests of forest and ocean resources in a pragmatic way. ONRC expertise includes serving as a “middle man” role by administering and managing scientific programs that fill gaps in the local or regional region and facilitating neutral forums surrounding natural resource issues, GIS mapping, modeling and analysis, and web-based data archiving.

ONRC’s Marine Program consists of five main areas:

- 1) Willapa Bay Spartina Control, to support ecological restoration for shellfish aquaculture since 1997, which has helped result in near eradication of this aggressive, invasive cord-grass;
- 2) Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) monitoring for notification and longterm archiving of these blooms for shellfish harvesters and governments, done in partnership and in cooperation with the coastal tribes since 1999;
- 3) Coastal Salmon Habitat Assessment and Restoration, which includes many diverse projects such as committee facilitation, salmon and habitat modeling, monitoring workshops, and project coordination with partners and tribes;
- 4) Watershed Planning and Assessment work, including providing spatial monitoring and assessment tools for the city of Forks, the county, and tribal governments through characterization reports; and
- 5) Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) work to provide quick and inexpensive access to existing WA Coastal resource data and archived spatial information through reports such as the Washington Working Coast and Coastal MSP Priorities as well as the Marine Data Portal.

More information about ONRC’s marine program can be found at:

<http://www.onrc.washington.edu/MarinePrograms>

Sea Star Wasting Disease Outbreak – Steve Fradkin, Olympic National Park (ONP), gave a briefing on West Coast sea star wasting syndrome and its current status. Signs of this emerging issue were first observed in June 2013 by ONP staff while conducting intertidal monitoring at

Starfish Point, with 26% of sea stars infected. Signs of the disease were first found in *Pisaster* sea stars, keystone organisms in ecological structuring of rocky intertidal communities. Larger sized *Pisaster* individuals seem to be infected more, with characteristics of the disease include white lesions, broken or detached sea star arms and can lead to the animal's disintegration and death. ONP conducts surveys at four coastal sites bordering sanctuary waters and OCNMS monitors at two additional sites. To date, seven different sea star species have been documented with the disease, including sub-tidal sea star species, ranging from southern California to Alaska. UC Santa Cruz houses the Pacific Rocky Intertidal Monitoring, which serves as a clearing house for information and updates, as well as a Field Guide of the four categories of infection: www.eeb.ucsc.edu/pacificrockyintertidal/data-products/sea-star-wasting. ONP is working with researchers from Cornell University and Western Washington University to determine the source of pathogen causing sea star wasting disease, but results are not yet conclusive.

Youth Participation Program Presentations – Two of Dan Lieberman's Natural Resources Option students from the North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center and Forks High School gave brief presentations on their work from their Natural Resources internships, focused on salmon habitat restoration work in the Forks area. Miguel Rodriguez described his efforts to study the impacts of nutrient enhancement on rivers and Romario Bello presented on his project on seasonal turbidity at various locations along Elk Creek.

OCNMS Social Science – George Galasso provided an update on sanctuary social science from his Socioeconomic Study Profile presentation at the July 2013 meeting, and recent developments to conduct additional work among potential partners. Understanding the sanctuary's socioeconomic values will help OCNMS meet its goal of facilitating wise and sustainable use in the sanctuary to the extent that such uses are compatible with resource protection. OCNMS completed a Study Area Profile, the first step in basic characterization to understand how humans interact with and depend upon natural and cultural resources, and will continue working on demographic profiles of users and activity profiles of users. Further steps will include evaluating management strategies, which involve spatial uses; knowledge, attitude and perceptions; economic impacts on local communities; non-market economic values of users and non-users. There are resources and potential partnerships/ collaborations for OCNMS, including with Washington State Ocean Policy and Marine Spatial Planning. Some areas of interest include the need for sector analyses, ecosystem assessments and a coastal economic analysis. The Northwest Fisheries Science Center has conducted or is planning to conduct work that could help support sanctuary efforts, including fishing community profiles, CA Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), Indicator Selection Process for WA-MSP and Social Well-being Indicators for Marine Management (SWIMM). Surfrider and Ecotrust

have submitted a proposal to study non-consumptive recreational uses, based on a similar study they conducted in Oregon. National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Hollings Marine Laboratory is another potential collaborator on a project to map and measure social valuation of ecosystem services (SOLVES model) with a two part survey. OCNMS is moving forward by identifying areas for collaboration, particularly for recreational use surveys and Hollings Marine Laboratory social values work. Staff and AC may want to consider rewriting or modifying the OCNMS Socioeconomics Action Plan to take into account new information and/or partnerships. AC members could help provide input to principal investigators on these projects. OCNMS wants to ensure that any social science studies it takes part in be helpful for the sanctuary management.

OCNMS now has a page on the ONMS Socioeconomics website, which will continue to be updated at: sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/olympiccoast

Superintendent's Report – Carol highlighted sanctuary updates from the past two months and referred council members to the Office Report for further information and details:

1. Congress has passed a budget and it is now in process of review within NOAA, so OCNMS will fortunately no longer be on a continuing resolution. Total operating funds for ONMS is \$48 million and \$2 million for purchase acquisition and construction funds, which is better than expected. Carol will be able to give more details at the next AC meeting.
2. NOAA has completed a Tribal Consultation Policy, which will be used for all NOAA offices. This will involve new reporting requirements for OCNMS and staff training on implementation.
3. OCNMS participated in a meeting with Olympic National Park on their Wilderness Stewardship Plan as well as COASST's recent Advisory Board meeting which included discussions on how to implement new National Science Foundation funding for marine debris monitoring.
4. OCNMS has been working with the Washington Conservation Corps Veterans Crew to identify ways and dates for removal of marine debris from remote beaches in 2014.
5. OCNMS staff has been working with the Makah Tribe on their Tribal Cultural Landscape project as well as supporting the Yurok's and Grand Ronde's efforts in similar efforts.

The Office Report for January 2014 can be found at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_january_2014.pdf

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Member Reports

- Ellen Matheny announced that the next ONCR Evening Talk will take place on Fri., Feb. 7 at 6:30pm. A graduate student will present, *“Living in Twilight: How Plants Survive in the Darkest Forest.”*. On March 14 a Forks resident will present, *“Chasing Ice Worms in Tibet”* on his research last year studying ice worms as an indicator species of climate change. On April 4 a graduate student will present on her research in the Olympics followed by a May 16 presentation by another graduate student researching the timber tax benefits of Olympic Experimental Forest.
- Roy Morris brought in 180 strips of yellow ropes used in the crab fishery that washed ashore and were collected by Nancy Messmer and Sally Parker on a 300 yard stretch of Hobuck Beach. ONCMS will look for ways to use them in their education and outreach efforts.
- George Hart announced the release today of the U.S. Navy’s draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northwest Training and Testing area. Visit www.nwtteis.com to learn more, including dates/locations of future meetings. The sixty-day public comment period ends on March 25, 2014.
- Linda Rotmark met with Carol for her new AC member orientation and discussions with OCNMS Education Coordinator Bob Steelquist. They discussed the possibility of creating a competitive marine biology curriculum in the area as a means for economic development resulting in strong education and health care services.
- Jennifer Hennessey announced that WDOE will hold stakeholder meeting of the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) at the Port of Grays Harbor in Aberdeen on Jan. 29 about next steps in the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process. They will review funding decisions and recommendations and have begun working on a few of the initial ones. WDOE aims to have a draft EIS ready in spring 2015. Other future WCMAC meetings are April 23 and July 9. To learn more or to find minutes from those meetings visit www.msp.wa.gov or www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/advisorycouncil.html
- Steve Fradkin shared that his team is currently involved in work on sea star wasting disease and is not doing much work on the razor clam this winter due to the harvest closure at Kalaloch.
- Alan Rammer participated in the Grass Roots Garbage Gang beach cleanup on Long Beach Peninsula. There was not much marine debris, however ~90% of the debris collected was from the recently opened commercial crab industry as well as the oyster industry. Alan was able to raise this topic to fishers at the Grays Harbor MRC meeting held on Jan. 21. He announced that the Washington State Orca Bowl will take place on March 1st at the University of Washington, but noted that there have never been participants from coastal high schools. Washington State will host the National Ocean Science Bowl final eliminations for the first time this year on May 1-4, also at UW in Seattle. Event organizers are always looking for moderators, room runners and other assistance for these events. Visit nosb.org or wsg.washington.edu/education/events/orca.html if interested in contacting event coordinators to volunteer.

- John Veentjer announced that Professor Rene van Dorp of George Washington University has submitted the draft report on Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment 2010, which can be accessed at www.seas.gwu.edu/~dorpjr/tab4/publications_VTRA_Update_Reports.html or linking from Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee webpage www.pshsc.org. The final report is expected to be completed at the end of February.
- Joel Kawahara shared that the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review process is continuing. The Pacific Marine Fishery Council (PMFC) expects to be in phase 3 of the process at their March meeting, so updates will be shared at the next AC meeting.
- Eric Delvin shared that TNC is working on a project with Quinault Nation on derelict gear removal for crab pots near the Copalis River and will know more about funding before summer. They will also begin an experimental fishing project with a non-tribal fishing cooperative in Ilwaco experimenting with traps targeting ling cod instead of trawling to reduce habitat impacts. The Washington Coast Restoration Initiative is a state legislative effort that TNC and partners applied for funding of marine, freshwater, estuary, terrestrial habitat restoration (\$10 million).
- Jan Newton's provided an update on NOAA's IOOS and Ocean Acidification Programs. IOOS funding increased slightly and will be used for marine sensor innovation, so a RFP has been submitted to work with industry, scientists and stakeholders to convert sensors into an application mode. The OA Program's funding stayed the same, but this means the sanctuary's NANOOS buoy will be maintained. Other potential projects include HABs, improved sensors for OA, self-propelled wave gliders with acoustics and more. Both the ICOOS (Integrative Coastal Ocean Observing System) Act of 2009 and FOARAM (Federal Ocean Acidification and Research Monitoring) Act of 2009 are up for renewal this year, so she encouraged everyone to contact Congressmen in support of reauthorization. Jan and Terrie Klinger are the Co-Directors of the State of Washington's Ocean Acidification Center and have been working on implementing some of the recommendations from the WA State Blue Ribbon Panel report.
- Tom Mumford is involved in several initiatives to inventory and restore kelp resources in Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, which are doing poorly for undetermined reasons. He believes the kelp resources in the sanctuary are doing well.
- Bob Boekelheide shared that Olympic BirdFest has taken place during the first week of April for the past 10 years and this year will include a West End pelagic component in cooperation with the Makah Tribe, bringing tourists to the sanctuary. Clallam County set the all-time record for the number of species tracked over the course of the year, marking the first year a county in Washington State has reached over 300 identified species. He attributes this to a new interest in places such as Neah Bay on the West End as well as the inclusion of dead birds from COASST surveys.

- Jennifer Brown-Scott will be giving a presentation at Sequim High School's Career Day in March which will highlight environmental careers. If any members have volunteer opportunities or internships for youth please contact her so that she can share with students.
- Rebecca Post thanked Jennifer Hennessey for joining the AC as the WDOE Alternate. She shared that a new tug owned by Brusco Tug & Barge Inc., has recently been placed in Grays Harbor.
- Steve Joner and Joel Kawahara were among a delegation from Washington, Oregon and California attending a Halibut Commission meeting last week in Seattle. Coast-wide assessments to determine halibut population size from California to the Bering Sea have been partitioned geographically. The Halibut Commission has urged the US and Canada to become more open in their process. He was involved in discussions regarding recommendations of a 27% reduction in harvest in Region 2A, which would have severe economic consequences for these 3 states and 13 tribes. They presented the case that surveys are not telling a complete story of halibut populations and proposed a 3% reduction.

Future Agenda Topic Ideas

- George Hart requested time at the May AC meeting for the U.S. Navy to present on the results on Northwest Training and Testing EIS.
- Alan Rammer offered to present on his personal experience and work with multi-cultural communities and environmental educational projects along the West Coast, which was successful and might be used as a model for other groups working with diverse communities.
- Jan Newton offered to report on implementation activity of the State of Washington's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, including biological experimental work targeted at key species including Dungeness Crab, geoduck, razor clams and zooplankton.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, March 21** in Lacey, WA. Meeting was adjourned.