

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Notes

**OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
March 18, 2011
Homeport Restaurant
Ocean Shores, 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



George Galasso, Acting Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair



Chip Boothe

Advisory Council (AC) Members in Attendance: Bob Boekelheide, Chip Boothe, Diane Butorac, John Calambokidis, Frank Holmes, David Hudson, Jody Kennedy, Ellen Matheny, Rebecca Post, Jeff Ramos, Dana Sarff, Joe Schumacker, John Veentjer, Lee Whitford

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Dayna Matthews (NOAA/NMFS)

Members of the Public in Attendance: Kathy Greer

ACTION ITEMS:

- Liam will distribute the national SAC Summit agenda to the AC.
- OCNMS will report back to Joe S. on plans for data access from the USGS/BRD sea otter study to be conducted off Washington in August.
- Liam will send Dana S. links to the draft Department of Commerce and NOAA aquaculture policies.
- David Hudson asked Jody Kennedy to email the coastal coordinating entity models to tribal contacts.
- Liam will identify in the AC 2011 Work Plan what is an AC action and what is information sharing.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Chip introduced Ed Johnstone from the Quinault Indian Nation who welcomed the Council. Ed provided a brief history of his grandparents, the Quinault use of the Ocean Shores area and development by more recent settlers. The Quinault usual and accustomed area extends from Point Chehalis near Westport to Destruction Island.

Internal Affairs

The agenda was adopted by the Council. The January 21, 2011 meeting notes were accepted with one correction (Joe S. moved; Bob B. seconded; unanimous approval provided, no abstentions).

National Sanctuary Advisory Council's Summit – because Chip cannot attend in early May, Brady Scott will represent the OCNMS AC. Chip asked that members with suggestions for OCNMS issues for Brady to raise should raise them now or contact Brady directly. Goals of the summit are: 1) to galvanize the councils to a greater effect at the regional and national level to engage on the critical issues of our time (sustainable economies, coastal and marine spatial planning, etc). Engage regionally and nationally, act locally; 2) to educate councils about major Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) initiatives to project the priorities of the program; and 3) to further integrate council coordinators into program-level issues. Discussions are planned for a (new sanctuaries) site evaluation list, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, ONMS maritime heritage program, sanctuaries as sentinel sites, role of scientific information in AC decisions, and supporting local communities. George G. noted that the sentinel site concept is important to OCNMS. Ed J. said he cannot attend as IPC Chair but is encouraging Hoh or Quileute representation. He mentioned that OCNMS is unique in national sanctuary system as only site with treaty tribes with rights within the sanctuary; the sentinel site concept may be of concern to treaty tribes; the Summit is an opportunity to explain the relationship between the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and OCNMS. Joe S. mentioned the different governance that exists in Washington state that will influence marine spatial planning (MSP) efforts. George G. noted that

Jennifer Lukens, who served as acting OCNMS Superintendent for a few months in 2006 and is familiar with the Olympic Coast, is heading the national MSP effort.

Data Management Work Group – Nancy Wright is the OCNMS staff lead; Joe S. and Terrie Klinger are willing to serve as co-chairs. Jan Newton, Executive Director of NANOOS, was recommended for the work group. John C. offered to help the working group with marine mammal data.

2011 AC Annual Work Plan

Chip introduced the two work plan documents distributed via email with the AC meeting packet. George G. noted that the work plan covers the 2011 calendar year and remains ambitious, with more than can be achieved. Priorities for the 2011 should be: a) data management and OCNMS web revisions that should be “live” by the fall of 2011, b) regular AC business, and c) implementation priorities for the new OCNMS management plan. The initial data management efforts will focus on data OCNMS collects. OCNMS has no plans to expand server capacity to serve other’s data.

Jody asked for clarification about the data management workshop and was told the AC work group will address OCNMS-collected data but the workshop proposed by the ONMS Director, Dan Basta, would cover all sanctuaries. John C. mentioned a West Coast data management workshop, perhaps 15 years ago, the final report from which might be useful to current efforts.

Chip asked George G. to identify his key priorities for 2011; George identified data management, priorities for implementation in the new management plan for OCNMS, reporting on regular basis to AC and IPC on OCNMS issues and management plan implementation. Related to the linkage between the AC Work Plan and OCNMS priorities, George G. explained the sanctuary’s Annual Operating Plan timeline: work on this typically starts in the summer, should be finalized by October but is subject to revisions based on the federal budget approval and funding. Jody made a motion to adopt the 2011 AC Annual Work Plan, recognizing that it is subject to modification throughout the year. Diane B. seconded the motion. During discussion, Jody encouraged improved outreach by AC members to constituents and local communities, perhaps with outreach materials from OCNMS. Diane B. recommended identification in work plan of what is an AC action and what is information sharing. Motion adopted unanimously; no abstentions.

Superintendent’s Report

George G. reported that the AC Charter was extended for one year, through January 2012. Related to the “sentinel site” concept under consideration by ONMS, George noted this concept is early in development, and he provided this working definition used by ONMS scientists *“sentinel sites are discrete locations in coastal and marine environments that have the operational capacity for intensive study and sustained observations to protect and understand changes in the ecosystem they represent.”* This is primarily an effort to focus research toward sanctuaries, with an early emphasis on climate change.

Related to AC members communicating with Congressional representatives, the AC Handbook (p. 37) has guidance – *“Individual council members are not prohibited from contacting members of Congress as private citizens on their concerns as private citizens. The council may also respond if a congressional member makes an inquiry to the council, after coordinating with the sanctuary superintendent. Subject to the sanctuary superintendent’s approval, a council may make a recommendation to NOAA concerning NOAA legislation, which the agency can then take into account during its own decision-making processes. The agency may also inform Congress of the position taken by one or more councils. Subject to*

the sanctuary superintendent's approval, councils may also comment on state legislation." In a letter, an AC member may mention their position on the AC but must be clear that they are stating a personal opinion.

Quick notes: 1) The Senate budget for CY2011 for National Ocean Service that includes ONMS is about 3% less than 2010 appropriations but final numbers are uncertain. 2) Regarding the Area-to-be-Avoided provision in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (expand applicability of ATBA to all vessels required to prepare a spill response plan), George has been working with NOAA General Council and the U.S. Coast Guard to develop a proposal to the International Maritime Organization on that will be considered in June 2011. 3) The Department of Commerce and NOAA aquaculture policies are open for comment through April 11. Information was distributed via email but the AC Executive Committee did not add this to this meeting agenda. 4) Additional Federal Register announced comment periods currently open are related to reducing regulatory burden and a Department of Commerce 5-year strategic plan. 5) George briefed the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) on March 5 on management plan review. The Habitat Subcommittee, with Joel Kawahara's assistance, prepared draft comments for PFMC consideration that included support for cruise ship discharge prohibition and change of regulations language from "traditional" to "lawful" fishing. 6) Comments submitted on the draft management plan and proposed rule (regulations) are available for viewing on www.regulations.gov. The comment period extends through March 25. 7) Micah McCarty, Makah Tribal Council and IPC representative, has been selected as one of three tribal representatives to the Governance Coordinating Committee of the National Ocean Council (NOC). 8) Joe S. mentioned the first national coastal marine spatial planning workshop (CMSP) of tribal, local, and state managers and leaders meeting on May 3-5, a core group to carry information to their regions. This meeting will be the first glimpse into the NOC perspective on and plans for CMSP.

George G. introduced Dayna Matthews, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (dayna.matthews@noaa.gov), which is responsible for enforcing NOAA's statutes, including the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Dayna serves as a liaison to the OCNMS Advisory Council. He mentioned a technical advisory committee he coordinates that includes OCNMS, WDFW and U.S. Coast Guard that meets 2 times per year to review enforcement issues. Dayna reviewed the trawl rationalization (catch shares) program starting January 11, 2011, for limited entry trawl fishery on the West Coast (California to Washington); this is the most significant change in trawl fishery management since 1981 when trip limits were implemented. Individuals have specific allocation based on catch (not landings); includes 100% observer program (increase from recent 20% observer coverage), which has been expanded to include catch accounting (including discards). The West Coast trawl fishery is for groundfish, with target stocks of whiting (highest dollar fish by volume on West Coast), sablefish, flatfish, petrale, Dover, English, sanddabs, rockfish. Biggest bycatch concerns are halibut and rockfish species (yelloweye, canary, darkblotched, bocaccio, cow cod) that are overfished. This will result in much higher retention levels (historically 50% or less, now about 98%); more of catch becoming a marketable product; near real-time recording (in past there was a lag of 3-6 months between catch and data tracking), and full accountability for catch by industry. He sees economic and conservation benefits. The observers are private contractors supplied by a third party contractor with a comprehensive, mandatory training program. Funding is uncertain for the observer program that has increasing percent of costs shifting from federal government to fishers over a few years (cost is \$350/day). Vessels must have observers on board. Goal to have 175 observers, formerly there were 40. The coastwide limited entry trawl fishery includes 157 permits, 110 active platforms, 5 catcher processors at sea; 5 mother ships, and 37 vessels with mother ship-catcher endorsements. This is probably the largest (dollar value) and most highly capitalized fishery on the West Coast.

Management Plan Review

Chip introduced a discussion on a draft letter from the AC supporting the draft OCNMS management plan. The letter recipient should be the Sanctuary Superintendent, and because it will go to the www.regulations.gov docket, standard language re: the AC being an advisory body should remain. Jody made a motion to accept the letter as written (with completion of the address block); Diane (and others) seconded; and unanimous approval was provided, with no abstentions.

Lunch Break

Surfrider Foundation Work on the Outer Coast

Jody Kennedy introduced Surfrider Foundation, a coastal, non-profit organization dedicated to protection and the enjoyment of coastal resources. Jody noted that surfers spend lots of time in the water and are passionate about clean water and public access to the shore. Surfrider has about 90 chapters and 70,000 members, including international affiliations. Important issues for Surfrider's Washington chapters are water quality, beach cleanups, stewardship in coastal communities (they host kids surf camps, provide sani-cans, conduct outreach), plus interest in oil spill prevention, plastics in the marine environment, and closing the Warmhouse (Makah) dump.

Surfrider is also active in some of the newly formed coastal marine resources committees (MRCs) in Grays Harbor, Jefferson/Clallam, Wahkiakum, Pacific counties. These MRCs are developing work plans, sponsoring projects along the coast, and are a good link with the Advisory Council.

Jody mentioned marine spatial planning (MSP) efforts in Washington (for a January 2011 report to the WA legislature, see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/msp/index.html>) and emphasized that MSP is a management tool to coordinate decisions for coastal and ocean activities and environments in a comprehensive plan. Funding for MSP work in Washington is uncertain. In the 2011 report, Washington is divided into 3 regions, 2 of which have established coordinating entities – Puget Sound Partnership (which covers the Strait of Juan de Fuca) and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership. Because there is no established entity to facilitate MSP in the third region, the outer coast, the outer coast MRCs have been meeting with others, with support from Surfrider and other non-profit organizations, to consider establishment of a "Coastal Coordinating Entity." Two models under consideration for structuring this entity differ primarily in how directly stakeholders are involved. A hybrid model may be developed and presented to the State Ocean Caucus in the near future, with hope for creation of the entity in 2011. OCNMS would very likely one of the federal agencies involved. At the national level, there are North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and West Coast (CA-OR-WA) regions defined, each of which will have some sort of regional entity.

Jody's presentation is available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/sac_meetschedule.html

Recent Findings with Marine Mammals off Washington

John Calambokidis provided a summary of recent marine mammal research. The eastern North Pacific population of gray whales migrates along the North American coast between Baja and Alaska, and an endangered western or Korean gray whale population occurs in the western North Pacific. These were thought to be separate populations. Recently, a western gray whale was tracked swimming from Russian waters to the Washington coast. Several western gray whales have been photographed off our coast in spring months past, which raises several questions at a time when the International Whaling Commission is conducting a status review of this species. Also, studies of the summer feeding

aggregation off Vancouver Island indicate a genetic connection (in mitochondrial DNA) between these 200-250 individuals that is distinct from the large population that migrates to the Bering Sea in summer.

Gray whale stranding frequencies for Washington state peaked in 1999-2000, and most were starving. Numbers of strandings are now lower, near normal for the 1970 to present period. One recent necropsy revealed lots of plastic and garbage in its stomach.

John noted other unusual marine mammal observations. Two bottlenose dolphins were sighted and died in Puget Sound in last year. There are only two previous documented sightings north of southern California for this species. Also, two Bryde's whales were sighted and died in Puget Sound in 2010; the second had been injuries from a ship strike. This species also typically has a tropical distribution. For reasons unknown, harbor porpoise, perhaps thousands of them, have returned to Puget Sound (south of Admiralty Inlet) in the past 2-3 years after many years absence.

John mentioned briefly findings of sperm whales interacting with (depredation, or eating the fish) long-line fishing gear, typically black cod and halibut fisheries. See the video at http://www.alfafish.org/research.shtml?gpm=1_2 Tagging studies have shown sperm whales moving between SE Alaska and Washington waters, so this learned behavior may occur off Washington.

Finally, 2010 was the first year of a five- year, West Coast study funded by the Navy on behavioral responses and impacts to whales of mid-frequency sonar. His team is tagging a variety of whale species but strongest concern is for beaked whales, which have a history of stranding incidents associated with Navy sonar use. The studies occur primarily in the southern California Bight. Initially, they will simulate Navy sonar and observe tagged whales; later, Navy ships and real sonar will be used. The Navy is developing a monitoring program for marine mammal impacts during their training exercises, and off Washington monitoring will likely include acoustic monitoring (buoys), small boat surveys, and satellite tagging. In comparison to other regions, Navy activities off Washington are of relatively low concern because they do not include large fleet exercises and sonar use is less off Washington. The Navy currently is a major funding source for marine mammal research.

AC Charter Review Subcommittee

A working draft document had been distributed with the meeting packet. Liam handed out copies of the outline of key issues for consideration that was originally distributed at the January 2011 AC meeting. The subcommittee is making good progress, with about half of the key issues addressed. Liam highlighted issues that will likely be unresolved by the subcommittee and will come back to AC for consideration. These are integrating relationship between IPC and AC; incorporating a seat for the outer coast marine resources committees (MRCs; either or both Clallam/Jefferson and Grays Harbor counties); continuation of NW Strait Commission seat; addition of a non-voting youth seat; how to determine end dates for members' positions; should the Superintendent be identified as a non-voting AC member? Discussion included: the OCNMS AC is limited by the NMSA to 15 voting seats; are other youth representatives voting or non-voting?; could the NW Strait seat and outer coast MRC be shared and held on rotating basis?; new mandatory term limit requirements will limit a non-government voting member to 3 consecutive terms in a given seat (as primary and/or alternate) with the first term beginning when the Charter is adopted, but that person, if qualified; can be selected for a different seat; the new goals identified are from the draft OCNMS management plan; clarification of the rotating role of the local government seat (consult with county commissioners); procedures, if any, for transfer of vote from primary to alternate.

Public Comment

No public comments were provided.

Member Announcements

Jody K. announced release of a Surfrider/ECOTRUST/NaturalEquity study of non-consumptive recreational users of the Oregon coast (available at http://surfrider.org/images/uploads/publications/OregonNonconsumptiveStudy_comp-1.pdf). Methods included on-line surveys and personal interviews with a spatial component (i.e., where do people go to do what?). Key outcomes associated with this non-consumptive recreational use - \$2.5B/year in expenditures; 80% of Oregonians visited the coast last year; 27 million trips to coast of which 88% had recreation as a primary purpose. Surfrider is interested in doing a similar study of Washington coastal use.

Rebecca P. mentioned a recent tanker truck roll over that threatened the Hoh River. Ecology spill trailer equipment from Hoh and Quileute tribes were used in initial response, before equipment from Aberdeen arrived. This and HAZWOPER trainings sponsored in outer coast communities strengthens capacity for rapid response.

George G. announced that Doug Fricke has resigned as the Commercial Fishing seat alternate, and recruitment will occur soon. Doug had recommended we actively recruit from a fishing sector other than salmon trollers because both Doug and Joel Kawahara work this fishery.

Brief comments on upcoming field work were shared.

- The OCNMS mooring deployments planned for late April mark the beginning of the sanctuary's field season.
- USCS (Guy Cochrane) is scheduled to start ground truthing video work to cover areas surveyed by multibeam in 2010 off Washington in a couple weeks. A USGS Biological Research Division will conduct a sea otter-ecosystem productivity study of otter population size and growth rates covering AK to CA. The RV *Tatoosh* will be the platform off Washington in August. Joe S. expressed interest in access to data that results.
- No reports of harmful algal blooms occurred this winter. COASST submitted a proposal to Sea Grant for funding to collect some bird carcasses for necropsy to establish a baseline for "normal" condition in dead seabirds found along the coast.
- April 23rd is the big beach cleanup on the outer coast of Washington supported by the Washington Clean Coast Alliance.

Future agenda topics were identified:

- SAC Summit report from Brady Scott
- Jennifer Hagen offered to provide a NPC MRC update
- A presentation on aquaculture. Dana S. mentioned a USDA pilot project growing geoduck (shellfish) in Neah Bay.
- A review of the NMSA and possible changes through reauthorization.
- AC briefing on summary of public comments received on draft management plan/draft environmental assessment and proposed rule.
- Report out on beach cleanup.
- A field trip at Neah Bay was suggested, possibly to the geoduck aquaculture bed or the museum.

Next meeting is May 20 in Neah Bay.