

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
May 15, 2015

Makah Marina
Neah Bay, WA

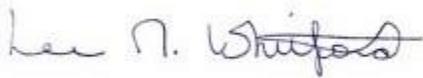
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

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), Bill Peach (Clallam County Commissioner), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Melissa Williams (Education Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Jan Newton (Research), Lora Leschner (Conservation Alternate), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee), Jessi Doerpinghaus (WDFW Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Josh Peters (WDNR Alternate), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill (USCG Alternate), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Yongwen Gao (Makah Fisheries), Jon Schmidt (WA CoastSavers), Brad Speidel (WDFW), Dotti Chamblin (Makah elder), Ray Colby (Makah Fisheries), Seraphina Peters (Makah Environmental Division), Ted Noel (Makah), Paul Parker (Makah elder), Sally Parker (COASST Volunteer and Neah Bay community member), and Bill Parkin (Makah)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim, Nancy Wright, Nicole Harris, Heidi Pedersen, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Russell Svec of Makah Fisheries welcomed all council members on behalf of the Makah Tribal Council Chairman, who was unable to attend. He highlighted the shared interests and active stance of Makah Tribe on issues like climate change and ocean acidification. Chair Lee Whitford called meeting to order and reviewed the goals and purpose of the Advisory Council per its Charter.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***Lora Leschner motioned to approve the agenda and Rich Osborne seconded. It was passed by full AC member consensus.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of March 2015 AC Meeting Minutes – The only edit was to change the location of meeting to Forks on the cover page. ***Bob Boekelheide motioned to approve the meeting minutes with these changes and George Hart seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

OCNMS Volunteers of the Year 2014 Nominees– Carol recognized Sally and Paul Parker as OCNMS “Volunteer(s) of the Year” nominee to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF). Usually only one nominee is chosen per sanctuary, but OCNMS acknowledged this couple for all of the joint contributions they have made over many years. Sally and Paul have been active volunteers since 2007 and contribute Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) and NOAA marine debris monitoring, including regular beach cleanup efforts. Paul also serves on the COASST Advisory Board and both are active members and stewards of their community in Neah Bay. Together they contributed over 700 volunteer hours. Sally thanked the COASST program and OCNMS for having opportunities to support citizen science projects, and Paul stated that he is proud to be part of these organizations and efforts in their community.

Announcement on Tourism/Economic Development Alternate Seat– Lee announced that Steven Shively has been selected and accepted the position as Tourism/Economic Development alternate. Steve is the marketing coordinator for the Jefferson County Tourism Coordinating Council and is very involved with the Olympic Culinary Loop. Steve will attend and present at the July SAC meeting. We welcome Steve and look forward to his participation on the council.

Update on Commercial Fishing Seat– Richard Carroll, Commercial Fishing alternate, has resigned from the council since he accepted a job abroad that will no longer allow his participation or retain his sanctuary-related networks and activities. Carol noted that the Commercial Fishing terms will expire on December 31, 2015 and proposed that SAC hold off recruitment until the last quarter of the year. She also put forth the idea of broadening the seat to “Fishing” so that participation could open to recreational fishing representatives. Historically it has been difficult to recruit active Commercial Fishing members and we do not have the capacity to have both Commercial Fishing and Recreational Fishing seats, like some advisory councils have. The process would involve a simple amendment to the SAC Charter. Once approved and adopted, the recruitment for the Fishing primary and alternate positions would take place simultaneously.

Discussion involved clarification of recreational interests such as in the Tourism/Economic Development seat, as well as what was reflected in the description for Commercial Fishing seat, which currently includes Charter fishing. There was concern as to whether recreational fishers would have a wide constituent base and the fact that commercial fishers bring a vast amount of experience and direct long-term knowledge of the resources. It was noted that fishing interests and types have changed over time and that it could benefit the SAC to have a different perspective on the council, especially since it is difficult for commercial fishers to attend SAC meetings during the summer. There was also interest in engaging recreational fishers and expanding participation and perspectives from that user group. Council members agreed that it would be valuable to have a member in this seat who is active with Pacific Fishery Management Council as well. Carol stated that the sanctuary will follow up by asking Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing primary) for his input and that Executive Committee would meet in the near future to make a recommendation. We will table this until the July meeting. Lee invited any members to contact her directly with any other ideas or input.

Follow up on Oceanographic Monitoring Group Resolution– Carol noted that the Oceanographic Monitoring Group resolution letter passed at the March SAC meeting was forwarded to Bill Douros and Dan Basta. Both acknowledged the letter and encouraged OCNMS and the council to continue seeking creative ways to fund oceanographic monitoring efforts.

Update on OCNMS Education Kiosks and Exhibits– Carol shared that OCNMS decided to allocate both kiosks to coastal locations, per AC recommendations, instead of placing one at the sanctuary’s visitor center in Port Angeles. Kalaloch Lodge management is very enthusiastic and supportive, but needs to address IT issues. Since they are concessioners within Olympic National Park, all content will need to be approved by Olympic National Park as well. The Forks

Visitor Center is very excited and the location has been set aside. OCNMS would like to develop the content simultaneously and is hoping to have that process completed by the end of summer. Jan Newton offered to link live feed from the Cha'ba buoy if the sanctuary is interested.

Additionally, Clallam Bay Visitor Center is displaying the 3-D relief map of OCNMS along with an interpretive panel with sanctuary information and a marine debris art sculpture. Carol also announced that OCNMS did not receive FY15 funds to complete signage in the southern end of the sanctuary, but will resubmit the proposal again.

Information Items:

Climate Change Action Plan Working Group Charter – George Hart, Chair for the Climate Change Action Plan Working Group (CCWG), referred council members to a draft Charter, which can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/charter_climatechange_draft.pdf. The CCWG held their first conference call on April 24 and discussed the draft Charter. The purpose of CCWG is to review the sanctuary's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) (found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/actionplan_climate_change_final.pdf) and make any changes or revisions as deemed necessary and to ensure that OCNMS would be able to move forward with that plan. They will also review the four strategies listed in the CCAP, considering the latest finding of Climate Change Site Scenario (found online at:

http://www.marine-conservation.org/media/filer_public/2013/04/29/miller_etal_2013_ocnms_brooke.pdf), and to make recommendations or provide more specific ideas to OCNMS.

George projected that final CCWG recommendations would be presented at the September 2015 AC meeting. Kevin Grant, OCNMS, reiterated that this is an issue taken very seriously and opened the group up to more participants, to bring more expertise and representation to the table. Dana Sarff added that he will help identify a Makah representative to participate on the group if possible. ***Rich Osborne motioned to approve and adopt the Draft Charter for Climate Change Working Group with no changes and Jan Newton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

OCNMS Special Outreach Events for Summer 2015– Nicole Harris, OCNMS, presented on Get Into Your Sanctuary Day for 2015. The initiative began last year as a social media campaign within West Coast Region sanctuaries. The idea was to encourage users of the sanctuary to post photos of their recreational activities in the sanctuary and post to social media sites with the hashtag #VisitSanctuaries. In 2014 OCNMS used Facebook and showcased visitors to sanctuary beaches, asking them what the sanctuary means to them with a word board. It was a success for the West Coast sanctuaries and ONMS decided to expand to all 14 sites for 2015. It will still feature the social media aspect, with added activities inviting people to physically get into their sanctuary. ONMS is seeking congressional participation to raise more awareness of national marine sanctuaries, and sites are working to build relationships with the travel and

tourism outlets. Olympic Coast Sanctuary is planning an event on Sat. June 27 at Kalaloch Beach themed, “Healthy Ocean, Healthy You.” Activities will include morning yoga on the beach lead by Karlyn, a beach ecology walk lead by Nicole, and an afternoon presentation on Southern Resident Killer Whales by Lynne Barre of NOAA Fisheries. Olympic Culinary Loop is involved in helping promotion sustainable seafood meals across the peninsula, so participating restaurants (including Kalaloch Lodge) will be showcased. This year OCNMS will also be active on the Twitter platform. Nicole encouraged all SAC members to “Like” and join sanctuary Facebook (www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov) and Twitter (twitter.com/olympiccoast), and to help promote among their networks. She also noted that June is Great Outdoors Month, with many participating activities and partners (see <http://www.greatoutdoorsmonth.org/> for more information).

Nicole’s presentation can be accessed online at:

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

CoastSavers Update on WA Coast Cleanup and Recent Activities– Jon Schmidt, Washington CoastSavers, gave an overview of the history of state coastal cleanups leading to the formation of WA CoastSavers, an alliance of partners and volunteers dedicated to keeping the coast clean of marine debris through coordinated cleanups, education and prevention. Efforts date back to 1971 when Operations Shore Patrol was founded on the south coast, making it one of the oldest organized coastal cleanups in the country. WA CoastSavers evolved from the Clean Coast Alliance formed in 2007, and is still comprised of the same seven active partners (Discover Your Northwest, Surfrider Foundation, National Park Service, OCNMS, Washington State Parks, Lions Club and Grassroots Garbage Gang). Their goals are to remove or identify things that cause harm, protect wildlife and habitat, protect and maintain aesthetics and encourage stewardship and conduct outreach programs. Since 2008 they have organized the annual Washington Coast Cleanup, which takes place every April around Earth Day. Their website (www.coastsavers.org/) serves as the portal for beach cleanup registration, showing a map of the approximately 40 beaches from Cape Flattery to Cape Disappointment where the public can participate. Since 2013, additional funds allowed for a second event in September in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup which grew from 100+ volunteers in its first year to nearly 500 volunteers in the second year. In 2014 beaches from the Strait of Juan de Fuca were added to both annual events. This year a cleanup was added for July 5th at Ocean Shores to supplement other efforts on the south coast post 4th of July celebrations and fireworks. Some of the more remote stretches of beaches are too challenging for the public to conduct during a day-long event, so funds from NOAA’s Marine Debris Program have supported remote cleanup efforts by Washington Conservation Crops and Veteran Crews. Jon estimates that a total 375 tons of debris have been removed since 2000.

Last October CoastSavers was invited to a conference at Vancouver Aquarium and was joined by organizers from Hawaii to Alaska and Japan to discuss Japanese tsunami debris. Jon was also able to visit Japan in November 2014 to see communities impacted by the tsunami and meet with Japanese working on the challenges they face in its aftermath. Currently CoastSavers are working on developing a new strategic plan and building on relationships to form a larger Pacific Rim Cleanup effort.

Jon's presentation can be found online at:

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

Public Comment – None at this time

Marine Education Partnerships – Melissa Williams, Feiro Marine Life Center (FMLC), spoke about the education partnerships with OCNMS. Feiro Marine Life Center was built in 1981 and is named after Art Feiro, a high school educator and founder of Peninsula College who was intensely involved in the community. FMLC is the only aquarium on Olympic Peninsula open 7 days a week. All of their live animals are collected from within 20 miles and the water that feeds their systems comes from the Port Angeles harbor. Their core mission is to contribute to a strong community by providing local marine and watershed learning experiences, inspiring us all to act on behalf of our environment (feiromarinelifecenter.org/). Together with the sanctuary, they have been running Junior Oceanographer summer camp programs each year since 2007, reaching over 100 kids each summer. Feiro and OCNMS also work collaboratively with 4th and 5th grade school programs from the Sequim/Port Angeles/Crescent school districts, teaching about the impact of marine debris on watersheds. They also help support Ocean Science programs with OCNMS in which students conduct field investigations along the outer coast and formed an after-school underwater robotics STEM program with students building ROVs.

FMLC also partners with Olympic National Park to study water quality at various sites in Peabody Creek and has its own citizen science projects conducted monthly at Freshwater Bay to monitor sea star wasting disease, and works with COASST and NOAA Marine Debris for micro-debris. FMLC works with Salmon Coalition to conduct smolt monitoring to repopulate local salmon and honor an annual “marine student of the year”. FMLC is branching out into art and literature areas and expanding their public lecture series, often run in partnership with OCNMS. In 2014 alone FMLC and OCNMS together engaged a total of 3,200 school children from the peninsula in experiential science education and reached 32,000 visitors in their facilities. Finally, some of Feiro's volunteers also serve as docents to Olympic Coast Discovery Center, the public visitor center to OCNMS. Melissa's presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/education_partnerships_feiro_ocnms.pdf.

Detecting Ocean Acidification in Neah Bay– Dr. Yongwen Gao, Senior Research Scientist of Makah Fisheries Management, presented on his current research on ocean acidification in Neah Bay, Washington. He described stable isotope ratio analysis which uses carbonate powder samples to study ocean acidification and shared the two-phase research plan of Makah: 1) three targeted species (geoduck, California mussel, and sea scallop) are used for shell carbonate research which represent the marine environments from the beach, the island, to the seawater depth of about 10m; and 2) finfish otoliths (mainly rockfish and bottom fish) will be used to investigate the effects of ocean acidification in the deep ocean (>300 m). Makah is trying to identify whether climate and oceanic changes in its usual and accustomed areas are related to ocean acidification. Yongwen has collected 100 samples each from three different

locations in Neah Bay and analyzed 301 carbonate samples from sea scallop shells collected from the Island Scallop company in the Vancouver Island of British Columbia, Canada. The abstract of the study, which will be presented in the 145th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Portland and co-authored by Dr. John Morgan (Vancouver Island University) and Dr. Jennifer McKay (Oregon State University), is as follows:

The use of stable carbon and oxygen isotope ratio analyses ($^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$ or $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, and $^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$ or $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) in marine bivalve shells, particularly for carbon isotopes in detecting the effects of ocean acidification, has recently received growing attention in fisheries science and management. Bivalve shells are composed of calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), and exist in polymorphism as aragonite and calcite. Although polymorphs have identical chemical composition, they have differences such as in bioavailability, stability, and physical structure. When the anthropogenic CO_2 sinks into ocean, it will produce HCO_3^- and CO_3^{2-} and this affects the carbonate saturation state (Ω). The process can be detected from carbon sources and the isotopic fractionation of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ between blood DIC (dissolved inorganic carbon) and the shell. In this study, we review the theory and practice of using stable isotopic tools in detecting ocean acidification, and report research examples from Pacific geoduck and sea scallop shells. Overall these results suggest that shell carbonate are good proxies for reconstructing the life history and the environmental changes that the animal experienced (mainly from $\delta^{18}\text{O}$); and the isotopic data of clam shells have the potential to examine the effects of ocean acidification (mainly from $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) in the past.

WDFW's Nearshore Rockfish Tagging Project— Brad Speidel, WDFW, spoke about the fishery independent hook-and-line rockfish surveys. The agency's overall mission is "to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial activities." Their nearshore surveys target Black rockfish and other species within territorial waters using rod and reel with sport fishing lures. Nearshore surveys target locations that have key habitat for rockfish along the central coast as well as index sites spanning the entire coast. Surveys utilize volunteer anglers aboard a chartered day-trip excursions in the spring and fall depending on the weather and fishery conditions. Tagging helps provide information about life history, abundance and other information. In the future they hope to broaden the species focus beyond Black rockfish, evaluate habitat, include a CPUE index and experiment with other types of gears.

Offshore surveys sample for Yelloweye rockfish and other species in habitat that is not trawled, conducted via hook-and-line surveys with the same commercial fixed longline gear used by the International Pacific Halibut Commission for their annual surveys. Offshore surveys are conducted by multi-day trips during the spring and fall, with a grid system. Information gathered includes CPUE, species composition and other biological information from rockfish or other catch. Off-shore surveys take place at 12 sites approximately 30 miles west of Cape Alava within OCNMS. They are aiming to refine their research stations and gear as well as collect more habitat information and obtain CPUE index.

Heather Reed presented on management aspects, including the process of how stock assessments are determined and the reviews used to determine overfishing limits and

(Acceptable Biological Catch) ABC/(Acceptable Catch Limit) ACL. West Coast states then work together to develop measures to keep the commercial catch under the ACL or a harvest guideline for certain species by establishing Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) or other closures, including gear types. Recreational fisheries management has included non-retention, depth restrictions and other closed areas. Washington's Yelloweye rockfish harvesting guideline has hovered between 2.5 and 3 metric tons over the past several years, with a spike in 2012 where actual catch exceeded the limit, leading to an emergency closure. Washington Black rockfish ABC has been set around 400 metric tons in recent years, with actual catch significantly below that level.

WDFW is now looking to find more spatial data with a new pilot project partnering with recreational charter boats. Information from their logbooks collected on a voluntary basis will help their rockfish surveys. They are also continuing their education and outreach about barotrauma and fish identification and broadening their connections to the recreational fishing groups in the area. For those interested in becoming a volunteer angler for WDFW's nearshore surveys, contact RockfishTagging@dfw.wa.gov. Brad and Heather's presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/project_wdfw_rockfishtagging.pdf.

Public Comment – Makah elder Dotti Chamblin shared her position against NOAA and her stance for Makah Nation to have their Treaty Rights upheld and respected, including their right to whaling. She described the importance of subsistence harvest of local food sources for their families. She noted that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was not authorized by Makah General Tribal Council and expressed her belief in the difficulty of finding common ground when the cultural differences are so strong between the Tribe and members of OCNMS Advisory Council. Dotti is also concerned that education programs are focused on the Port Angeles area and not reaching the coastal tribes.

Superintendent's Report – Carol shared highlights of sanctuary activities in the past two months, referring council members to the May 2015 Office Report for further details and activities, which can be online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_may_2015.pdf.

1. George updated members about recent vessel capsizes in the last month: one vessel sank in the LaPush harbor, another sank 3.5 miles south of the sanctuary and a third capsized in the sanctuary ~15-20 miles west of La Push, resulting in the loss of one life. OCNMS worked with the tribes to coordinate with the appropriate responding agencies.
2. OCNMS followed up with the Makah Tribe to discuss the permit consultation protocols and held meetings to review the NOAA process and how OCNMS issues permits. A final permit consultation document has been drafted.
3. NOAA Fisheries held two public meetings for the Makah Whaling Draft Environmental Impact Study, one in Seattle and one in Port Angeles. The 90-day public comment period is open through June 11.
4. Carol attended an ocean acidification event held at Seattle Aquarium. She noted the \$2 million Ocean Health XPrize global competition to create an innovative and affordable ocean acidification monitoring equipment.

5. ORHAB detected a *Pseudo-nitzchia* diatom outbreak on the coast, resulting in the closure of the razor clam harvest. The large, warm body of waters offshore referred to as “The Blob” continues to maintain temperatures well above historical averages (5.4 degrees F), with predictions for anomalies in food web interactions and observations of species that are not normally found in this region. There was also a significant beaching event of *Veleva veleva*, or by-the-wind sailors, a colonial hydrozoan.
6. OCNMS is entering its busy season, with significant activity in education and outreach and research and monitoring. The oceanographic moorings buoys will be deployed starting May 26.

Member Reports & Future Agenda Topics

- Jennifer Hagen shared that the sunken vessel in La Push harbor was removed. She noted that not only is domoic acid detected, but paralytic shellfish poison (PSP) as well.
- Melissa Williams reminded everyone to vote for Port Angeles in Outdoor Magazine’s Best Town 2015 contest. Port Angeles has advanced through five bracket rounds, advancing to the finals. The marketing potential is of huge significance and value, with the potential to drive more tourism to the peninsula.
- Bob Boekelheide announced that Olympic Bird Fest took place in April, which included a cruise into the sanctuary and observed that birds were generally thin offshore, which is typical in warm-water years.
- Rich Osborne stated that the Ocean and River Film Festival in Forks was a success. This year’s annual Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Summit will take place in La Push. The 3-day Summit includes one day with open public presentations on ocean/coastal related topics (October 17).
- John Veentjer recently attended a 3-day workshop in Haida Gwaii, British Columbia to discuss the Russian cargo ship *Simushir* that broke down along the coastline and drifted toward the beach. The workshop discussed lessons learned and outlined recommendations for offshore traffic routes for cargo ships traveling along the coast.
- Dana Sarff mentioned all of the activity going on with Makah’s Environmental Division, including programs for air quality, water quality, earth, and environmental health. They have a grant from EPA and continue developing a Marine Spatial Plan, along with a focus on climate change and related impacts.
- Jennifer Hennessey attended Oregon’s Ocean Policy Advisory Council forum on sanctuaries, where she gave her perspective on working collaboratively with OCNMS. The next WCMA meeting will take place on June 24 at the Montesano High School library. The Marine Spatial Planning final report for the Washington Recreational Use Study is now out. They recently held a seafloor mapping prioritization workshop in Lacey comprised of various representatives from agencies and tribes. The nearshore strip and a few offshore areas following the shelf break were selected as the highest priority and the report will come out in June. WDOE is also currently gearing up to complete a spatial analysis of human uses. Scott Ferguson plans to present at the July AC meeting on the Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study related to the sanctuary.

- Lee Whitford has been invited to a summit on “The Big Eddy” in conjunction with the sanctuaries national education coordinators meeting at NatureBridge.
- George Hart recently moved to a new building and will have a new phone number and address very soon, but his email will remain the same. He will share the new contact information with AC members. Heather Reed mentioned that she and Carol have been talking about the Sanctuary Classic, a free summer long recreational fishing and photo contest featuring all of the national marine sanctuaries. This annual event promotes good fishing practices and stewardship and involves weekly prizes and overall thematic winners. Heather will help OCNMS spread the word to her contacts once more event details are launched. Visit <http://sanctuaryclassic.org> to find the categories, prizes and partners involved.
- Jan Newton announced that the Cha’ba buoy will soon be re-deployed, so expect to find data online again (www.nanoos.org) after Memorial Day weekend. Jennifer Hagen and other Quileute members including teachers will be on the cruise. The Washington Ocean Acidification Center will be hosting its first science symposium on June 26 at UW in Seattle. If you would like to join their list-serve, let Jan know. She attended a workshop at Scripps Institute about “The Blob” phenomenon and UW-Seattle will follow up by hosting with a workshop in the fall to understand the mechanism of this event. Feel free to send any biological observations from the field related to “The Blob” to her.
- Bill Peach shared that WDOE has announced grants related to climate change. He participated in the North Olympic Development Council’s series of meetings for members of the public.
- Lora Leschner and Pacific Bird Habitat Joint Venture sponsored a “Birds without Borders” workshop in early May, with international participants. She noted the concerted efforts to utilize citizen science to monitor the coasts and count birds and the use of tags on shorebird legs to track movement and migration.
- Katrina Lassiter noted that the final product for the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment will be ready at the end of June and that a presentation on those results could be given at the July Advisory Council meeting.
- Josh Peters took over for Brady Scott with WDNR Aquatic Resources. He is the manager of the Strait Unit of the Orca-Straits District, which manages the use authorizations on state-owned aquatic lands in Clallam and Jefferson counties, northern Kitsap County, Whidbey Island and aquaculture leases.
- Aaron Meadows-Hills shared that Captain Nathan Knapp’s replacement, Brian Gilda, will arrive in July. The recent sunken fishing vessel incidents have led USCG to improve their notification process to ensure it works correctly. October 15 is the implementation date for examinations of commercial fishing vessels, not charter or recreational fishing vessels. They are working on national level risk-based examination and requirements to look at things like stability and loading in order to reduce capsizes. USCG has also been busy with the issue of *Polar Pioneer* as it plans to head to the arctic for exploratory drilling.
- Steve Joner will be at Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) and will be serving up at the NOAA Fish Fry on June 10.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, July 17th** in Port Angeles, WA.