

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 13, 2012

University of Washington Applied Physics Lab
Seattle, WA

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

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Jan Newton (Research), Frank Shipley (US Geological Survey), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Diane Butorac (WDOE Alternate), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Lora Leschner (Conservation Alternate), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Capt. Mike Gardiner (USCG), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG Alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), George Hart (Navy), Carolyn Winters (Navy Alternate), Tom Mumford (Research Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large Alternate), Sandra Brooke (Conservation), Jody Kennedy (Tourism and Recreation), Steve Fradkin (NPS), Heather Reed (WDFW)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: David Lindau (OCNMS Volunteer), Jamie Mooney (WA Sea Grant), Sarah Giddings (University of Washington), Ryan McCabe (UW), Ian Miller (WA Sea Grant), Norm Davis (WDOE), John Stadler (NOAA)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Nancy Wright, Lauren Bennett, Ed Bowlby, Katie Wrubel, Dayna Matthews (NOAA)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Add George Hart to the AC Moorings Working Group
- Executive Committee, plus Lee Whitford, will examine the University of Michigan study and provide recommendations
- OCNMS staff will consider ways in which AC could potentially be involved in developing next year's budget

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Dr. Jan Newton welcomed the Advisory Council (AC) to the Applied Physics Lab. Chip Boothe asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. Chip asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Bob Boekelheide made a motion to adopt the agenda as is; Rebecca Post seconded the motion and the agenda was adopted by consensus.

Internal Affairs

Chip asked if there were any comments on/changes to the May AC meeting notes. Brady Scott motioned to adopt the May meeting minutes as is; Diane Butorac seconded the motion and the May meeting notes were adopted by consensus.

Carol introduced David Lindau, who has been nominated by OCNMS to be the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Volunteer of the Year. David has been working with the WA CoastSavers and Clean Coast Alliance since 2007 and he plays a key role in the annual coastal clean-up each year. Carol took this opportunity to thank David publicly for his service and noted what a strong volunteer corps OCNMS has. Last year volunteers logged 1600 hours working with OCNMS (this includes all the hours that AC members volunteer serving on the council).

Chip thanked AC members for their volunteerism and provided a friendly reminder to members to not leave meetings early. He asked members that if they know they are going to have to leave early, to please see if their alternates can be present to maintain continuity.

Chip announced that the two Marine Resource Committee seats (primary and alternate) on the AC have been filled. The primary MRC seat member will be filled by Christopher Clark, who is a member of the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee. He works for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and is finishing his B.S. at Western Washington. He also serves as the student representative on the local American Fisheries Society chapter. The alternate MRC member is Alan Rammer, who serves on the Grays Harbor MRC. Prior to retiring in 2009, he worked for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and he was just named 2012 Marine Science Educator of the Year. Christopher Clark will be at the September AC meeting and Alan Rammer will be able to attend AC meetings starting in January.

Superintendent's Report

Carol reviewed the most recent OCNMS Office Report. Hardcopies were passed out to AC members and Carol noted that the report will be posted on-line at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2012.html. There is a new section of the Office Report called Learn about Your Sanctuary that has been added in response to a suggestion from Bob Boekelheide.

Carol highlighted some of the items in the Office Report. Jennifer Hagen chaired a meeting of the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) science panel (that included OCNMS staff) and the group talked about partnering with the tribes on a foundation proposal to fund a series of trainings for tribal staff that would lead to increased capacity to conduct projects involving Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) operations.

The First Stewards Conference (www.firststewards.org), spearheaded by the Coastal Treaty Tribes, will be occurring in Washington D.C. next week at the Museum of the American Indian. The conference will focus on how climate change has affected tribal people across the nation and several AC members – Joe Schumacker, Jan Newton, Steve Joner and Carol Bernthal – will be attending. There will be an update on the conference at the next AC meeting.

Carol noted that, while the OCNMS water quality monitoring moorings were deployed, there have been mechanical problems with the R/V Tatoosh and OCNMS appreciates the U.S. Coast Guard's assistance. .

The OCNMS education team has been hard at work. Eight hundred 4th and 5th graders came to OCNMS and Feiro Marine Life Center this summer to learn about marine debris and other topics. OCNMS also helped to host an ROV camp for Junior Oceanographers.

After 13 years of effort, the OCNMS overflight regulations are now on the FAA charts. George is working with aeronautical community to get an outreach/education program in place for pilots.

Collaborative marine debris efforts have been increased. The goal of these efforts is to establish 20 debris monitoring (monthly) sites up and down the Outer Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca. So far nine sites have been established.

OCNMS has issued five research permits since May.

Carol introduced Katie Wrubel, a Nancy Foster scholar and student at Washington State Vancouver, who has been working at OCNMS for the past six weeks doing coral and fish association work. Hannah McNabb just finished a year-long Americorps internship with OCNMS and OCNMS will have another college intern working on marine debris issues this fall. The OCNMS management plan included several activities related to improving the OCNMS intern program, and OCNMS has been working hard to accomplish these activities.

Steve Joner noted that, for the first time, the May-June Chinook quota was actually taken this year. This is exciting news because it means there would be good conditions in the ocean and healthy fish populations.

Research and Monitoring on the Olympic Coast

Ed Bowlby (OCNMS Research Coordinator) introduced himself and provided an overview of the OCNMS's current research program. The PowerPoint for Ed's presentation can be found online at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2012.html.

Ed discussed the variety of research programs in which OCNMS is involved, including:

- Nearshore water quality moorings
- Seafloor (habitat mapping) surveys
- Intertidal monitoring
- Japanese tsunami marine debris monitoring
- Sea otter surveys (and kelp surveys)
- Seabird surveys
- Characterization of deep sea corals and Essential Fish Habitat (and improving understanding of fish and habitat associations)
- Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- Climate Change Site Scenario development (the AC has formed a Climate Change Site Scenario working group, led by Dr. Ian Miller, WA Sea Grant)

Ed asked Dr. Jan Newton to provide an update on the AC moorings working group, which met yesterday. The group includes members of the IPC science panel. Working group members include Simone Alin (PMEL), Sandra Brooke, Jennifer Hagen, Joe Schumacker, Henry Chang (WDFW), Steve Joner, John Mickett (UW), Ryan McCabe (UW), Sarah Giddings (UW). The group has several priorities:

- Evaluate the spatial/temporal design of the moorings program
- Identify the overall needs for the moorings program (i.e., year-round, real-time buoys, and deeper water buoys)
- Evaluate the design of the physical moorings

- Evaluate data needs – how should data be shared; what should it look like (i.e., digital data, pictures/charts etc.)
- Identify what kinds of data analyses and what kind of management applications can come from the mooring program
- Identify ways to advocate for funding for this program.

The working group will be meeting again and will be passing along all their recommendations to the AC and OCNMS staff. George Hart is interested in joining the Moorings Working Group.

Ed also discussed the hopes for and challenges faced by the OCNMS research program in 2013.

- Even the low-budget water quality moorings are expensive. To maintain and expand the moorings, we need to find additional funding sources;
- OCNMS is unlikely to get NOAA ship time and is looking for alternative platforms.
- OCNMS put in a proposal to USFWS for drones to do seabird colony monitoring (they are quieter and less costly than manned planes). This could happen in 2013.
- OCNMS is working with WDFW to seek foundation money for year-round seabird aerial surveys.
- OCNMS is investigating the potential to have Hollings scholars come and work at the sanctuary. Four potential scholars have expressed interest in working with OCNMS.
- OCNMS is working with the Coastal Treaty Tribes to pursue private foundation funding for cross training tribal staff on post-processing ROV videos.
- OCNMS will continue to support the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Five Year Review of Essential Fish Habitat. Seafloor mapping and ground-truthing efforts will continue with the R/V Tatoosh
- OCNMS needs help with:
 - Identifying collaboration opportunities (e.g. piggy backing on ship time)
 - Sustaining/building nearshore oceanographic mooring efforts
 - Advancing the climate change "sentinel site" concept in the sanctuary. NOAA has started promoting the sentinel site concept, but in a limited way (focused almost solely on sea level rise).

Several AC members had questions for Ed after his presentation. Jennifer Hagen asked how the research prospects for 2013 relate to the management plan. Carol noted that OCNMS hasn't officially started the 2013 budget planning process, which will influence what aspects of the research action plans (from the management plan) can be implemented. Jennifer said that it would be useful to see how the list of research prospects relate to the activities outlined in the action plans. George noted that OCNMS staff will provide an update on management plan implementation toward the end of each year.

Chip asked if the AC Science Working Group would be useful in helping with budget and project planning. George said it is tough because the budgeting process schedule (once it actually begins) is so tight; the AC just doesn't meet frequently enough to provide timely input. Carol

said she would think about this more. There would need to be an AC group that could jump in quickly and respond quickly when deadlines come up.

Carol noted that she would like to see OCNMS better utilize long-term data sets for analysis. Brady Scott asked how the moorings group is thinking about their priorities. Are they thinking about the data and how the data needs drive the structure of the moorings? Or is it that they are looking at the existing structure of the moorings and wondering what data analyses can be developed from that structure? Jan and Carol responded that it is a little bit of both.

For the second hour of the OCNMS research and monitoring discussion, Dr. Jan Newton gave a presentation on several new and exciting research projects that are taking place in the sanctuary and the sanctuary region. She discussed:

- Chá bǎ, the new three-tiered ocean observing system that has been installed off the coast of La Push. Publications are already coming out based upon the data collected from the buoy system. Jan recommended including a description of these publications in the Office Report. Jan also showed AC members how to find the real-time Chá bǎ data on the NANOOS website.
- The data from the OCNMS moorings (2002 – 2009). The moorings working group is working on plotting and analyzing these data. She noted this is a rich data set and could be extensively analyzed. She said that the more oceanographers learn about these data sets, the more and more interest there will be in them and the more information can be extracted from them.
- The work of UW researchers, including Ryan McCabe and Sarah Gidding. Both are post-doctoral students. They introduced themselves and briefly discussed their research efforts and potential connections between their work and OCNMS's research efforts.
- Ocean acidification and Simone Alin's efforts to create a model equation to predict aragonite saturation state from basic temperature and oxygen data.

Rebecca Post asked if there has been any thought of putting biomass monitors (settling plates) on any of the buoys that had been discussed today. Jan said that there has been increasing discussion about biological monitoring as it relates to understanding ocean acidification and that several groups are likely to begin making recommendations on how to improve biological monitoring efforts. She said that there are opportunities to add monitoring instruments to existing moorings.

Carol asked what is the difference between what research/monitoring is currently happening in the sanctuary and what research would need to happen for the sanctuary to become a climate change sentinel site. Jan stated that she thinks OCNMS is currently doing "sentinel site" monitoring and feels that OCNMS just needs to think about how to market the monitoring work it is already doing. She noted that NOAA is building its climate change sentinel site program around the issue of sea level rise, but she thinks OCNMS should start referring to its buoy monitoring locations as "sentinel sites". AC members brainstormed several ideas for how to further develop the sentinel site concept.

Chip noted that the role of the AC is to advise OCNMS and asked Carol how the AC could best provide this advice. Carol said that the first thing is to get advice from the AC Moorings Working Group on the moorings program. Second, she would like to get advice from the AC on developing a sentinel site program at OCNMS. She would like to do this once the AC hears from its Climate Change Site Scenario Working Group. It was suggested that, after the Moorings Working Group makes its recommendations, the AC could consider sending a letter to NOAA leadership advocating for the moorings program and its importance.

NOAA Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Presentation

John Stadler (NOAA Essential Fish Habitat Coordinator for the Northwest region of the National Marine Fisheries Service) gave a presentation on the EFH program and the ongoing review of EFH for Pacific coast groundfishes. His presentation is available on-line at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2012.html. He reviewed the,

- history of the EFH program and its role within the Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA).
- definition of EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs)
- species that have EFH in the PNW
- triggers for the EFH adverse effect consultation process

John went on to discuss the periodic review of EFH designations. The MSA says that EFHs will be reviewed and revised/amended as warranted based on available information. The reviews are supposed to happen every five years, but this timeframe is not mandatory. The Pacific Fishery Management Council is currently in the process of reviewing the Pacific coast groundfishes EFH. He showed maps of the current EFH for groundfish and showed the fisheries closures that were implemented to protect EFH.

John went over the three-phase approach PFMC is taking to review the groundfish EFH. Phase 1 was the information and data gathering phase. A report summarizing all the information collected will be presented to the PFMC in September 2012. In Phase 2 (Sept 2012 – April 2013), the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) is going to synthesize and interpret data and information in the Phase 1 report. In April 2013, the NWFSC will present its synthesis to the PFMC and the PFMC will issue a 90-day Request for Proposals (this is the opportunity that anyone will have to submit proposals for changes to EFH, changes to closures – types, sizes etc.).

From July – November 2013, the EFH review committee will review proposals and submit a Phase II report to PFMC, which may make recommendations for changes to the EFH. Then the PFMC will determine whether or not to revise the EFH. If they decide not to make revisions, then that is the end of the process. If they decide to revise, then Phase 3 of the process is to amend the groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to reflect the EFH changes. This will be a very complicated process for the groundfish FMP because it includes ~90 species. John noted that the information available on corals has exploded in recent years and that is going to be the big issue in the EFH review process. Heather Reed noted that the discussion over the release of the RFP was confusing at the last PFMC meeting and that her understanding of the timeline was

slightly different. Carol said the main thing to know is that a request for proposals is coming in the relatively near future, though the timeline could continue to change.

John went over all the new information/data they have gathered in the Phase 1 info gathering process. Carol asked John to talk about the Olympic 2 EFH closure (bottom trawl closed area). OCNMS has done ROV dives in and around Olympic 2 to see what was around the area and to add information to EFH process. Carol noted that the EFH review process is on the AC's work plan because the issue of Olympic 2 may come before the PFMC during the EFH review process. Tom Mumford asked if the OCNMS staff are planning to submit a proposal to revise the Olympic 2 EFH closure? Carol said it hasn't been decided yet. Ed Bowlby sits on EFH review committee and his job is to represent the five West Coast sanctuaries. It is possible that OCNMS will simply participate on that committee. OCNMS could also put together a proposal for Olympic 2 based on new information collected; or another organization or agency could put forward a proposal about Olympic 2. OCNMS has started consulting with the tribes and the Intergovernmental Policy Council about Olympic 2 and the new information collected on corals in the area. If there is a proposal for Olympic 2, then the AC could also be involved.

Sandra Brooke asked whether OCNMS would be consulted if someone else proposes a boundary change for the Olympic 2 closure. Carol said no, other than Ed as part of the EFH Committee would review the proposal. The EFH process is conducted solely under the MSA and through the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Follow-Up on University of Michigan Evaluation of Institutional Relationships Study

Carol requested that the AC discuss briefly the U of MI study that was presented at the last AC meeting. Carol noted how important this study was for OCNMS as a baseline for the management plan. She noted that there is an entire action plan in the management plan devoted to collaboration and coordination, and asked the AC to focus on how best to implement that action plan. In terms of staff actions in response to the study, Carol said that OCNMS is committed to,

- Briefing West Coast Regional Director Bill Douros and ONMS Director Dan Basta on this study;
- Having a follow-up discussion on this study at the annual ONMS/IPC meeting;
- Having a follow-up conversation with NGO representatives to talk more about the recommendations they provided in the study related to the need for more frequent information from OCNMS;
- Using OCNMS's annual meeting with state and state agencies to follow-up on the study and its recommendations;
- Doing a lot more thinking about the repeatability of the survey.

Finally, Carol asked the AC how they would like to review and respond to the study's recommendations specific to the AC. Chip suggested that the executive committee could take a

first stab at looking at the AC-specific recommendations and come back to the entire AC with some recommendations at the September meeting. He stated that other interested members could help the executive committee with this effort. Lee Whitford said she would be interested in helping. The AC agreed by consensus to let the executive committee review the study and come back with recommendations.

Member Reports:

Jan Newton stated that she forgot to recognize the IPC and four Coastal Treaty Tribes that sent a written resolution to the Murdoch Foundation in support of the Chá bã buoy proposal. She also thanked the USCG for letting the data from Chá bã come through their La Push River Station, which is the only way that the data could be transmitted in real-time. She also thanked OCNMS.

Rebecca Post announced several public hearings being held by the Department of Ecology. There will be a public hearing on Sept. 25th in Everett for the state's NRDA rule and contingency rule. On Sept. 26th, there will be a public hearing on the NRDA rule in Pasco. On Sept. 27th there will be another public hearing on the contingency rule. There will be a written public comment period that will end on Oct. 3 for the NRDA rule and Oct. 4 for the contingency rule.

Katrina Lassiter announced that DNR, WDFW, DOE have been plugging away on marine spatial planning (MSP). DNR is holding MSP money (\$2.5 million) and is determining how it will be spent. They have a draft list of priority projects and they plan to meet with the MRCs and tribes to get feedback on the list. They hope to start allocating money at the beginning of August. There will be an RFP. The biggest project they expect to fund will be the development of an interface for all the MSP data. Carol said that OCNMS submitted a project idea to develop a seafloor habitat atlas.

Future agenda topics:

- Review of traffic patterns off the coast and review of ATBA activities. John Veentjer can do presentation at next meeting, if it can be worked in.
- Report on the First Stewards conference
- DNR's work on coastal trends and kelp monitoring (Brady could work to coordinate)
- Report from Climate Change Site Scenario working group