



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES  
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
115 East Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

June 3, 2013

Mr. Keith Phillips  
Senior Energy and Environmental Policy Advisor  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Phillips:

Ocean acidification has the potential to seriously threaten the future health of Washington's oceans and the significant economic benefits they provide. I am writing to forward recommendations from an Ocean Acidification Working Group established, in part, to review recommendations of the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification Report and identify recommendations most relevant to the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula. Our hope is by providing you with these prioritized recommendations, it will influence implementation priorities and support the need for Washington state funds to implement key priorities as soon as possible.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) is located off the outer coast of Washington state, covering about 2,400 square nautical miles along 135 miles of shoreline between Cape Flattery and the Copalis River and extending from the intertidal to between 25 and 40 nautical miles offshore. Approximately 17% of OCNMS is located within State of Washington waters. This federally designated marine protected area recognizes Washington's outer coast as a unique area, rich in natural resources relatively uncompromised by human activities. The biological productivity of the area supports recreational and commercial fisheries as well as other recreational activities, which contribute significantly to the regional economy.

The Coastal Treaty Tribes have treaty-protected fishing rights and share co-management responsibilities for fishing activities within the sanctuary with the State of Washington and federal government. These common interests and joint authorities led the Coastal Treaty Tribes, the State of Washington and NOAA to create the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) in 2007. The first of its kind in the nation, the IPC provides a regional forum for resource managers to exchange information, coordinate policies, and develop recommendations for resource management within the sanctuary.

Sanctuary management also relies on community and stakeholder involvement. In addition to working with the IPC, OCNMS works closely with the OCNMS 21-seat Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC, established in 1996, consists of representatives from four Coastal Treaty Tribes, nine state and federal agencies, local governments, and a variety of local user and interest groups who provide advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent.



Ocean acidification has been a topic of ongoing concern and discussion for both the IPC and SAC. In 2009 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council passed a resolution that read "The Advisory council of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary recognizes ocean acidification and associated stressors as substantial threats to the long-term persistence of sanctuary resources and qualities..."

In 2013 the SAC and the IPC formed a joint Ocean Acidification Working Group to review recommendations of the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel Report on Ocean Acidification, identify those recommendations most relevant to the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula and provide advice on potential responses and actions for consideration by OCNMS, the SAC, IPC and other authorities on the outer Olympic Coast.

The joint IPC - SAC working group identified eight actions from the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, and prioritized them for immediate implementation along the outer coast of Washington. At the 17 May, 2013 meeting, the SAC voted unanimously to support the recommendations from the IPC-SAC working group. Attached is the SAC letter outlining their resolution and rationale.

In light of these joint IPC-SAC working group recommendations and the common interests and joint authorities of the Coastal Treaty Tribes, in recognition of the State of Washington's Executive Order 12-07 regarding Washington's response to ocean acidification, I'd like to strongly support Section 4 of the Executive Order which states, "In implementing this Executive Order, the state and its agencies shall invite consultation, on a government-to-government basis, with affected and interested Indian Tribes and Nations in Washington State."

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification has played a crucial role in acknowledging this important issue and has identified potential actions that may help to avoid significant and possibly irreversible losses to our marine environment and all it supports. Thank you for your continued support in addressing ocean acidification along the outer coast and all of Washington's waters. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide further clarification on our interest and I look forward to ongoing dialogue.

Sincerely,



Carol Bernthal  
Sanctuary Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Kevin Ranker, Washington State Senator

Jay Manning, Former Co-Chair of the WA Blue Ribbon Panel

Bill Ruckleshaus, Former Co-Chair of the WA Blue Ribbon Panel

Lisa J. Graumlich, Dean, UW College of the Environment

Maia Bellon, Director, WA State Department of Ecology

Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands, WA State Department of Natural Resources