



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

DEC - 6 2013

Mr. Myles (Chip) Boothe, *Former Chair*
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
c/o Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, Washington 98362

RE: Advisory Council Support for Acquisition of a Replacement Vessel for the *RV Tatoosh*

Dear Mr. Boothe:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council expressing concerns regarding the state of the sanctuary's research vessel *Tatoosh*. I understand your concerns regarding the vessel's material condition and potential effects on ongoing and future oceanographic research and monitoring.

Recent financial constraints, such as the loss of infrastructure-related appropriations, have hindered our ability to fully address the needs of our small boat program. I acknowledge that we have not had the resources to acquire a replacement vessel within the timeframe recommended in our small boat assessment. However, I assure you that we continue to seek creative solutions, where practical, to cover required costs associated with existing vessels and new acquisitions across the national marine sanctuary system.

As always, thank you for your support of the Olympic Coast sanctuary and for taking steps to assist us with addressing this and other impending challenges.

HA/1
You will be missed!

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Basta
Director

Cc: Mr. Brady Scott, Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Carol Bernthal, Superintendent, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

