

# SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



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*U.S. Navy*  
*Northwest Straits Commission*

September 30, 2009

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent  
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
115 E. Railroad Ave.  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Dear Ms. Bernthal

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council would like to express our appreciation to NOAA leadership for the recent stationing of a Twin Otter aircraft in Monterey to better serve West Coast sanctuaries. The West Coast Twin Otter affords the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and other West Coast sanctuaries an effective way to track and survey living marine resources and visitor/vessel use. This information is critical for adequate management of sanctuary resources, and can provide much-needed data on the effectiveness of sanctuary management.

The Twin Otter aircraft provides a tool for assessment of emergency situations, such as an oil spill, and it is also an essential, cost-effective tool for conducting sanctuary surveillance. Surveillance flights can be helpful for enforcing sanctuary regulations, allowing enforcement officials to safely and efficiently get offshore.

*Artwork: David Sones*

The Twin Otter aircraft can help to enhance and build new sanctuary partnerships. This includes partnerships within NOAA, such as NOAA Fisheries and the Office for Law Enforcement, and with other agencies, tribal governments and research entities. By improving regional collaboration and coordinated monitoring and emergency response, these partnerships can greatly increase the value of NOAA aircraft services.

**OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**  
115 East Railroad Ave., Suite 301 Port Angeles, WA 98362  
360/457-6622· 360/457-8496 fax  
<http://ocnms.nos.noaa.gov/>

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries provides NOAA with a unique opportunity to create a new model for regional aircraft utilization. The OCNMS Advisory Council requests that NOAA provide base funding for Aircraft Services to fully support the West Coast Twin Otter in protecting the resources of OCNMS and other West Coast sanctuaries. In addition, we request that this letter is forwarded to NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco and NOAA RADM Jonathan Bailey.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', is positioned to the left of a vertical blue line that extends from the top of the signature area down towards the text below.

Terrie Klinger, Chair  
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Cc: Dan Basta  
Cc: Bill Douros