

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NOAA Fisheries
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Navy
Northwest Straits Commission

November 10, 2006

Ms. Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
115 East Railroad Ave.
Port Angeles, WA 98368

Dear Ms. Bernthal,

On behalf of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (council), I am forwarding to you a resolution that the council acted upon at its November 3, 2006 meeting. The subject of this resolution concerns the council's support of the funding and stationing of a year-around, enhanced rescue tug at Neah Bay. I also direct your attention to the last sentence in the resolution that requests you to forward copies of the resolution to Governor Christine Gregoire of the state of Washington and Under Secretary Conrad Lautenbacher, Jr. of the Department of Commerce. The resolution passed unanimously, with two abstentions, including member Bob Bohlman representing marine industry. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

“WHEREAS, the jurisdictional areas of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary encompasses areas of pristine and invaluable marine resources designated to be of national significance; and,

Artwork: David Sones

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WHEREAS, a primary purpose of said designation within the U.S. National Marine Sanctuary Program is to provide reasonable and practical protection of such areas; and

WHEREAS, three of the largest spills in the state of Washington have occurred in the four coastal tribes' marine treaty areas and the sanctuary, totaling more than 3 million gallons of oil; and

WHEREAS, the value of standby-response and rescue tugs has been increasingly accepted as a reasonable business practice on congested and resource-intensive coastlines and waterways of the world; and

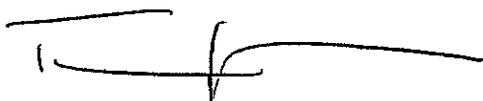
WHEREAS, the record of the part-time rescue and response tug stationed in Neah Bay since 1999 documents that twenty-nine prevention and rescue responses have been activated; and

WHEREAS, such standby-response and rescue tugs are generally capable of connection to disabled vessels, towing, light salvage, fire-fighting, pollution response and rescue; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, meeting this day in regular session, does hereby support the placement through state or federal funding or federal regulation of a year-round, permanent, multipurpose rescue and response tug at the port of Neah Bay, Washington. Furthermore, the advisory council requests that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary superintendent formally advance this resolution to the Washington State Governor and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator.”

The advisory council is an advisory body only. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,



Terrie Klinger, Chair
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

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