



Navigating the Future

Management Plan Review



Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council

Washington's coastal treaty Indian tribes and Washington's citizens have always relied on the ocean's resources. Tribes, along with state and federal agencies, share an interest in these resources and believe that holistic ecosystem management is essential in meeting both the needs of the resources and the people who depend on them.



In January 2007 tribal, state, and NOAA representatives signed an historic agreement in Olympia, Washington.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is entirely encompassed by the traditional harvest areas of the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute tribes, and the Quinault Indian Nation. As sovereign nations, the tribes have treaty fishing rights and co-management responsibilities with the State of Washington for fishery resources and fishing activities within the sanctuary.

These common interests and joint authorities led the Hoh, Makah, and Quileute tribes, the Quinault Indian Nation, the state of Washington and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 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.

The IPC's goals include:

- protecting the safety and health of coastal residents,
- enhancing the social and economic vitality of coastal communities, and
- improving the understanding and management of marine resources.

Since its inception, the IPC has laid the groundwork for successful government-to-government collaboration, focusing on the following activities:

- participating in the required review of the sanctuary's management plan
- identifying research priorities, including the development of a five-year Ocean Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Initiative,
- establishing initial priorities for a transition to ecosystem-based management, and
- seeking stable and long-term funding to support operation of the IPC.