

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Navigating the Future

Management Plan Review



Sanctuary Advisory Councils

A sanctuary advisory council is a community-based advisory group consisting of representatives from tribes, government agencies, and other organizations interested in the management of a single sanctuary.

Individuals from all walks of life serve their communities and sanctuaries as members of advisory councils. Council members include fishers, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, activists, protected area managers, scientists, tribal representatives, and elected officials.



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

What is the role of sanctuary advisory councils?

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) regards the involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to protecting sanctuary resources.

Advisory councils provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on the management and protection of individual sanctuaries and assist in the designation of new sanctuaries. Advisory councils deliberate and

provide recommendations on sanctuary operations, education and outreach programs, research and science programs, regulations and enforcement efforts, and marine policy and management plans.

How do sanctuary advisory councils operate?

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act grants NOAA the authority to establish advisory councils and provides guidelines for their conduct. Each advisory council has a charter that specifically outlines council responsibilities, operating principles, member selection, and meeting procedures.

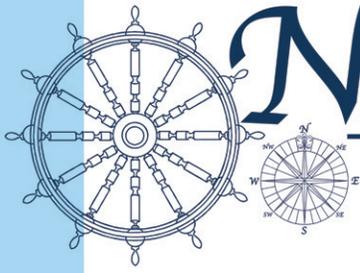
Advisory councils meet on a regular basis. Meetings are open to the public and typically have a public comment period. Council discussions and resolutions are documented in publically available meeting notes. Advisory councils often create working groups and subcommittees to accomplish specific tasks.

How are advisory council members selected?

Agency and tribal governments appoint their representatives. Non-governmental seats are selected through a public, competitive process. Members serve two- to three-year terms. A chair, vice-chair, and secretary are elected by council members.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Since its establishment in January 1996, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council has played a vital role in decisions affecting the Olympic Coast. The



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advisory council's twenty-one members represent four coastal tribes, nine state and federal agencies, local governments, and a variety of local user and interest groups.

To date the advisory council has focused on issues such as oil spill preparedness and prevention, vessel traffic measures, reviewing policies and permitting issues associated with fiber optic cables, alternative energy and military activities within the sanctuary, and defining research and educational programmatic priorities.

The OCNMS advisory council will be actively engaged throughout the Navigating the Future process. The OCNMS advisory council has provided the sanctuary with recommendations on how to reach out to the public during the scoping period, including identifying constituent groups that should be notified of scoping.

The advisory council will review comments received from the public, and assist the sanctuary in identifying those of the highest priority. Council members will then work with the sanctuary to create working groups that will explore priority topics and make recommendations on specific actions that will be included in a new management plan.



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Sanctuary Advisory Council Web site

<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/welcome.html>