

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
September 25, 2015

Quinault Community Center
Taholah, WA

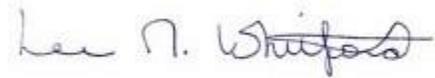
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), George Hart (US Navy, Secretary), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation Alternate), Phil Johnson (Jefferson County Commissioner), Frank Gordon (Grays Harbor Co. Commissioner), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee), Casey Dennehy (MRC Alternate), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Josh Peters (WDNR Alternate), John Stadler (NOAA-NMSF), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill (USCG Alternate), Jan Newton (Research)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Bob Leeworthy (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries), Laurie Bauer (National Center for Coastal Ocean Science), Sarah Gonyo (NCCOS), Jessie Hale (University of Washington), Al Smith (Grays Harbor MRC), Gus Gates (Surfrider Foundation), Dan Hannafious (Salish Sea Expeditions), Larry Gilbertson (Senior Scientist, Quinault Department of Fishiers), Francis Rosander (Quinault Elder), Abby van Hemmen (University of Washington)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Liam Antrim, Jacqueline Laverdure, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS); Dayna Matthews (NOAA-OLE)

Ed Johnstone, Quinault Indian Nation (QIN), welcomed all council members to Taholah. Ed also serves as Fisheries Policy Spokesperson/ Commissioner of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Chair. He shared some of the Quinault place-based history of the reservation, and noted that the village has a Master Plan to be moved off the flood plain in the future. The Quinault Indian Nation includes 26 miles of coastline and 212,000 acres of land and they value coalition building such as the IPC. Ed noted some of the common interests the tribe has with OCNMS and the advisory council, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification, tsunamis, domoic acid, and the impacts of “the blob.” He opined the tribe’s position on the proposed development of oil and rail transportation outlets in Grays Harbor.

Chair Lee Whitford called the meeting to order and reviewed the goals and purpose of the Advisory Council per its Charter.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***It was passed by full AC member consensus.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of July 17, 2015 AC Meeting Minutes – The only edit was to correct George Hart’s update to read USN instead of UNS in member updates. ***Rich Osborne motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the change and Frank Gordon seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

Update on Seat Recruitments and Tourism/Economic Development Seat– Carol shared that Les Bolton resigned from his Tourism/Economic Development seat after the July meeting as he is no longer working for Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority. By the Charter the Sanctuary

Superintendent can appoint the alternate to serve in the primary position, so Carol asked Steve Shively and he agreed to serve as the primary. The alternate position for Tourism/Economic Development will be sought in the next recruitment round. Three seats have a term end of December 31, 2015 including Education, Marine Resources Committee and Fishing. All current members in those positions are welcome and encouraged to reapply to serve another term. Recruitment for those seats will be published on November 1, with an application deadline of November 30.

Update on Charter Amendment for Fishing Seat—The Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter Amendment was approved by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in August. The amendment passed at the July 2015 meeting and Commercial Fishing seat was renamed to Fishing seat. Section VI. B. 3. a) v. of OCNMS Charter (p. 8) is revised to read:

v. Fishing (representing commercial fishing, charter fishing and/or recreational fishing)

The amendment allows recreational fishing interests to apply for the seat, which had been limited by definition to those engaged in commercial fisheries or charter operators. Historically it has been difficult to recruit active Commercial Fishing members, and the Olympic Peninsula does not have a significant enough recreational fishery at this time to justify creating a separate Recreational Fishing seat. The council hoped that by changing the seat to “Fishing” there would be an increase of the potential applicant pool, as well as more active engagement from recreational fishers on the council.

Update on Education Kiosks—Jacqueline shared that one of the three NOAA kiosks had already been installed early in 2015 at Pacific Science Center in Seattle. The interactive NOAA kiosks consist of a large screen with a larger display monitor above; they provide information, videos, games, weather, real-time data and showcase various partners. Two more kiosks will be installed at the Forks Visitor Center and at Kalaloch Lodge. OCNMS is currently working with Olympic National Park (ONP) to develop more content specifically about ONP. The anticipated development timeframe is to finalize content over the fall/winter 2015 and install kiosks in March 2016.

Annual National Advisory Council Chairs Summit—The National Advisory Council Chairs Summit planned to take place in October at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Massachusetts, is being rescheduled for December 2015 or later in Maryland or Washington, D.C. area.

2016 Council Meeting Schedule—Karlyn listed proposed dates for 2016 council meetings as follows:

- Fri., January 22
- Fri. March 25
- Friday May 20
- Fri. July 15 or 22 (depending on dates of Tribal Canoe Journey)
- Fri. September 23

- Fri. November 4 or December 2

Typically meetings are scheduled on the third Friday of odd-numbered months (six per year), and then shifted to avoid long holiday weekends or other important regional meetings such as Pacific Fishery Management Council. Locations rotate around Olympic Peninsula to cover the geographic range of council members. A draft of proposed 2016 AC meeting dates and locations will be distributed before the November AC meeting. If you know of existing conflicts for any of the proposed dates, please contact Karlyn. Jan Newton offered to host a meeting with scientists at University of Washington, if scheduled in advance.

Information Items:

Climate Change Working Group Report and Recommendations – Chair George Hart referred to the draft final report and draft letter documents which highlighted Climate Change Working Group’s (CCWG) overall recommendation that OCNMS be established as a sentinel site for ocean acidification and sea level rise. Justification included the below arguments:

- Geographic gateway to the Salish Sea
- Rugged and undeveloped nature of outer coast
- Presence of supporting organizations, agencies, institutes, tribes, etc.
- Opportunities for long-term monitoring data availability
- Susceptibility of natural resources such as organisms impacted by ocean acidification
- Unique position for variability in regional sea level rise and
- Opportunity to serve as a pilot site and provide framework for other sites

CCWG also identified seven priority recommendations for implementing climate-related activities, which include (in no priority order):

1. Engage in Office of National Marine Sanctuary revisions to the Climate Smart Certification process. Continue to pursue Climate Smart Certification as the revised standards become finalized. Ensure information compiled for Climate Smart Sanctuary certification is widely distributed to OCNMS partners and the public;
2. Work with partners to propose to NOAA leadership that OCNMS be designated as a NOAA Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification and Sea Level Rise;
3. Determine what climate-related work (e.g., vulnerability studies, adaptation strategy development, coastal resilience, etc.) has been done, is currently on-going, or is planned for coastal and marine areas in or near the sanctuary. Conduct gap analysis to determine areas where the sanctuary can play an active role, then work with the Advisory Council to prioritize and maximize efficiency of sanctuary efforts;
4. Support, and actively participate in, a regional conference that includes a theme of climate change vulnerability and adaptation;
5. Host workshops and provide training for OCNMS staff and local communities on the outer coast on planning, mitigating for, and managing climate change impacts;
6. Utilize Tribal and smaller, local newspapers to share information about the sanctuary and/or climate change-related outreach efforts; and

7. Promote education and outreach elements in climate change research projects that occur within OCNMS.

The council voted requested that the Sentinel Site nomination letter be sent to NOAA leadership and that sanctuary staff actively seek letters of support for this initiative from partner organizations and Tribes. ***Jan Newton motioned to approve and adopt the Climate Change Working Group's final report and resolution language with no changes and Jennifer Hennessey seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

The Climate Change Working Group final resolution letter and report can be accessed online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_recommend_ccwg_2015.pdf. An updated document of OCNMS Climate Change Implementation Priorities was also developed as a result of this working group, and can be found at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ocnms_climate_change_implement_priorities.pdf.

Olympic Coast Non-Market Valuation and Socio-economic Reports— Bob Leeworthy, Chief Economist, ONMS, presented on socioeconomic profiles and economic value of recreational uses on the outer coast with Laurie Bauer and Sarah Gonyo, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). The purpose of the study is to provide information about the social and economic value of natural resources for recreational uses by Washington State residents, with a possibility of extending reporting to cover Olympic National Park and the four Coastal Treaty Tribes. The study was part of WA state's marine spatial planning efforts and surveyed over 6,100 households. The demographic profiles measured aspects such as age, gender, education level, race, marital status, residence, household income and size, and more. Data comparisons were made of the outer coast of WA with OCNMS, the outer coast with Olympic National Park coastal strip and separate inland area, and the outer coast with three of the Coastal Treaty Tribes (Makah, Quileute and Quinault Nation). Activity profiles and maps show participation over the last twelve months as well as the last trip, and number of person days, which better reflect the intensity of use. Person-trips (number of visits to destination by household times the number of people per trip) and person-days (person trips times the length of stay) were also measured by activity type, with maps available of person-days by activity. There were over 13 million person-days over one year on the outer coast, with OCNMS representing 5% of that number.

For OCNMS 51% of respondents participated in shore-based activities, followed by sightseeing activities (26%), wildlife viewing activities (10%) but more limited surface water and fishing/diving activities. Recreational use mapping used six activity groups (grouping 31 total individual activities) to summarize person days with a hexagon layer based on the Washington MSP area. Patterns observed included higher use in the southern portion of the coast, near Willapa Bays and Grays Harbor, along with pockets of higher use near Pacific Beach, Kalaloch, La Push and Neah Bay.

To gather expenditures and economic impact, they measured the average expenditure per person-trip and person-day by category and total annual expenditures by category. Total annual expenditures amounted to an estimated \$551 million, with 5.6% of that value from OCNMS. The impact on local economies was split into the primary counties, where activities take place, and secondary counties, where employees live who work in primary counties. Preferences and values were extracted with importance-satisfaction ratings, perceptions of what people view as important and how satisfied they are. This information can help determine where and where not to concentrate efforts per recreational activity. Examples on areas to concentrate on included public restrooms, abundance of fish and sea life, and control of invasive species. Examples of satisfaction in higher valued activities include clean water, beach cleanliness and uncrowded conditions. Areas where more effort than perceived importance and value by visitors included parking, presence of sea stars in tidepools and water clarity. Low priority activities included tidepool organisms, visitor information and access point signage. Economic activities are often driven by people's perceptions and show opportunities for targeting education and outreach efforts.

The study looked at marine animal preferences and found that the most popular organisms were dolphins/porpoises, whales, sea otters and orcas, although most animals in general were liked. Marine birds did not elicit as strong of a positive reaction, with more diverse responses including some dislikes, unknowns and neither. They found a balance in the number of respondents with a strong ecological worldview (pro-environment) and dominant social worldview (pro-human development); however, the majority represented a moderate view blending values of protection as well as importance of human development. Crowding preferences were measured by expected numbers, preferred numbers, maximum acceptable numbers and number that would turn recreational users away from coming back. Results indicated that most people preferred and expected ~5 people on their beach, and 10-20 was regarded as representing "crowding".

Non-market valuation was determined using choice sets of 10 natural resource attributes with options of low, medium and high resource conditions with different assigned prices. Clean water and marine mammals were the two most valued natural resources. Seabirds had the lowest attributed value, possibly due to a general lack of information about them or perceived nuisance birds like seagulls. Ecological worldview and past experience had the largest effects on value. Overall, the average willingness to pay for a resident is ~\$1,000/year, which is about half of what they currently spend. Data for spatial distribution of natural resource attributes were sourced from state, federal and academic partners and highlighted five key attributes: water quality, intertidal organisms, marine debris, sea birds and tourism points of interest. Information from the study can be used for the state's MSP efforts; OCNMS Management Plan and Future Condition Report to evaluate ecosystem services; damage assessments; evaluation of investments in environmental protection and restoration; marketing and business plans. Products to come out of this study include six topical reports (most of which will be published by October) as well as fact sheets, tabular data/ documentation, maps, geodatabase, and webpages.

For a background document of their study, visit:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ocnms_outercoast_factsheet_9-10-15.pdf. The handouts they referred to can be found at the following link:
http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ocnms_outercoast_handouts_9-10-15.pdf. Their presentation can be accessed online at:
http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ocnms_outercoast_valuation_9-10-15.pdf.

Public Comment – None at this time

Update on IPC Habitat Framework Initiative– Joe Schumacker provided an update on Intergovernmental Policy Council’s Habitat Framework initiative, using information presented by Rob Jones of Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission at the recent Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting. The initiative is a collective effort among the four Coastal Treaty Tribes, State of Washington, and OCNMS and others to better characterize outer coastal habitats, in a way that can be useful for future decision making. They are utilizing the current standards used by NOAA for ecological classification to develop a common catalog of all data in the same format to identify data gaps, improve understanding of habitat for management decisions, and more effective cooperative management. The Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) is a method to describe habitats using four components (geoform, substrate, water column and biotic), which form a Biotope. The substrate component is comprised of a foundation established with the Washington Seafloor Atlas, produced by Oregon State University (OSU) under contract with WDNR and OCNMS. Based on work to date, the northern coast has the most information but they still need to process samples from the southern WA coast. The overall study area is consistent with the State of Washington’s Marine Spatial Planning process.

IPC is still in the data compilation phase, identifying data sources to characterize water column and biological habitats. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires protection of essential fish habitat for species that have management plans, e.g. groundfish. PFMC is in an ongoing review process for Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), however the IPC Habitat Framework efforts are independent of that process and unrelated to potential EFH proposals. They will be conducting one-day focus groups for both water column and biotic components to gather experts’ knowledge on how to best use existing information in CMECS.

Next steps include converting compiled data into CMECS with a GIS technician and combination of substrate and geoform descriptions to describe biotopes. IPC and NOAA will work to identify other data gaps for development of future priorities. In the longer term, their aim is to improve habitat descriptions by collecting needed data; add data on fish, mammal, bird, occurrence and abundance to correlate habitat use; and refine their understanding of habitat use, interaction, and ecological functions.

The presentation can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ipc_habitatframeworkinitiative_update_2015.pdf.

NOAA 2015 Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Projects– Jacqueline Laverdure, OCNMS, described the Bay Watershed Education and training (B-WET) program. B-WET falls under NOAA’s Office of Education and promotes K-12 experiential learning in an outdoors

environment that is locally relevant to a community through a grant process. The Pacific Northwest priority areas for 2015 grants included Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) for students and teachers, Ocean Literacy, Ocean Acidification and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM). Nine awards totaling more than \$450,000 were selected from 21 applicants in Washington and Oregon, supporting teachers and students in over 20 counties. Activities are investigative and multi-stage, complimenting classroom work and act as professional development for educators, so that they can carry activities on in the future. The projects facilitate student enjoyment of learning science in their environment, inspiring them to become stewards of their communities, while teachers build confidence in developing new skill sets. Programs are funded for one year, and awardees are able to seek funding for their project for up to three years, with preference given for a second year. The aim is for awardees to eventually find sustainable funding to carry out their projects over the long term.

The nine awardees of PNW 2015 B-WET grants are as follows:

- Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (\$30,000) for a “Students for Salmon” program, for hands-on watershed education for students and teachers in all seven Whatcom County school districts
- Pacific Education Institute (\$60,000) for a “Coastal Ecosystem Education Leadership Development and Expansion” to improve teacher understanding and skills in field science and engineering practices through a leadership workshop, collaborative group coaching, webinars and summer institute for teachers and administrators
- The Suquamish Tribe’s Port Madison Reservation (\$58,725) for “Ecosystem Pen Pals” program, a cultural and natural history exchange program that brings together high school students from different regions in the Pacific Rim to share ideas, values and traditional ways of knowing
- Feiro Marine Life Center (\$54,375) working with NatureBridge, for the North Olympic Watershed (NOW) Science programs, improving understanding through experiential learning with elementary and middle school students in four school districts on the North Olympic Peninsula
- Port Townsend Marine Science Center (\$38,342) for a “Ocean Acidification Study through Systems and Inquiry Science (OASSIS)” field project for high school students to explore and study ocean acidification
- Seattle Aquarium (\$30,000) to support a ten-year Citizen Science monitoring program for underserved high school students and teachers in the Puget Sound
- Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (\$58,795) for a “Watershed Connections—Hands-on Salmon, Climate and Ocean Science” project serving eight school districts in eastern Washington
- Oregon State University (\$60,000) for a “StreamWebs Student Stewardship Network” which supports students, teachers and project partners with hands-on field and classroom trainings with access to field sampling equipment, curriculum materials and open-source, web-based tools for watershed data analysis

- Oregon Department of State Lands (\$60,000) for “The Oregon Coast Education Program: Strengthening Connections”, to support coastal education and professional development workshops, with a focus on the Oregon Coast, Portland metro area, Bend area, lower Willamette Valley and southern Oregon.

An awards celebration event was held in September hosted by the Suquamish Tribe for awardees to accept their grants.

Ocean Guardians, a new program in the PNW region, helps support K-12 teachers for a year-long project that help the watershed, coast or ocean. Recipients of ocean Guardian awards include 1) Crescent School District (Joyce, WA) for their community garden, composting and native planting; 2) Robert Gray Elementary School (Aberdeen, WA) for their cafeteria audit to focus on Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rot; 3) Miller Junior High School (Aberdeen, WA) for restoration efforts with Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority; 4) Blue Heron School (Port Townsend, WA) for stream restoration and water quality. To learn more about Ocean Guardian School program visit http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/ocean_guardian/welcome.html.

The list of project awardees can also be found online at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/ocean_literacy/bwet.html and Jacqueline’s presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/bwet_awards_pnw_2015.pdf.

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Update– Dayna Matthews, NOAA-Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) West Coast Enforcement Coordinator, and liaison for all West Coast sanctuaries gave an overview of OLE. As part of his role, Dayna is also works with Pacific Fishery Management Council on enforcement issues. He described changes to OLE programs over the past five years, including a merger, staff changes, enforcement priorities, joint enforcement agreements, the Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee and working with NOAA’s General Counsel.

The Northwest and Southwest Divisions merger effective 15 months ago, responsible primarily for NOAA enforcement in California, Oregon, Washington but also nine other Western states including 1,293miles of coast line and 7,863 miles of tidal shorelines, two international borders, 36 airports, 21 seaports, and five national marine sanctuaries. As a result, there are consistent enforcement policies in place now, which were especially important for Endangered Species Act listings when fisheries are quite similar along the west coastline and pelagic zone. The core statutes enforced by NOAA-OLE deals with civil cases, not criminal investigations. There are currently 10 agents on the entire West Coast, not including supervisors.

Enforcement priorities for 2012-2017 defined high, medium and low priority issues, with any issue listed considered important. Per the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, high priorities include discharges and vessel groundings/sinkings and medium priorities include the prohibited taking or possession of historic artifacts or protected marine resources. Dayna distinguished the difference between high and medium priorities, in that high priority issues threaten the species itself as a whole, or its habitat.

The Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) is a budget agreement allowing federal funds to be allocated to states (e.g. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife) to conduct federal law enforcement. Dayna sits on each of the West Coast sanctuaries Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee (LETAC), which is unique in that it is comprised of state, federal, and U.S. Coast Guard representatives. They meet twice a year to discuss operations such as program review and planning for enforcement activities. Finally, the General Counsel Enforcement Section posts online every action taken during that quarter across the entire country, as well as all cases that have been completed: www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office.html.

Dayna's presentation can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/presentation_noaa_office_law_enforcement.pdf.

Ecosystem Indicators Review for OCNMS– Jessie Hale, Nancy Foster Scholar and graduate student at University of Washington, summarized her work reviewing ecosystem indicators for the sanctuary. Liam provided background to the presentation, which included work from the AC's Science Working Group to identify metrics and indicators relevant to a future OCNMS Condition Report. The group deferred further action until the state's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) report on ecological indicators was completed in June 2015. Jessie's role was to take indicators developed for the state and align them with metrics and indicators identified by Science Working Group for specific Condition Report questions.

Jessie referenced the definition of ecosystem indicators from the MSP report as, "quantitative biological chemical, physical, social or economic measurements that serve as proxies for the conditions of attributes of natural and socioeconomic systems." The MSP report included all of OCNMS waters and addressed all five of its major habitats (rocky shores, sandy beaches, kelp forests, seafloor and pelagic zone). One major habitat addressed in the MSP report, large coastal estuaries, does not exist in OCNMS. The MSP report included conceptual models for each major habitat type to depict the ecological and human interactions and identified associated ecological indicators. Potential ecological indicators were evaluated based on established criteria, and a total of 110 indicators were selected, and the status and trends of each indicator was assessed.

Jessie reviewed the alignment between metrics developed by OCNMS AC Science Working Group and the MSP report's indicators, then Liam described potential next steps for the Science Working Group, including make recommendations for keystone, foundation and focal species; revise and augment indicators/metrics to support the next Condition Report; and prioritize indicators based on the evaluation criteria used in the MSP report. This information will also assist OCNMS in its updates to its Science Needs documents.

Liam described next steps and recommended that the Science Working Group continue to prepare for the next Condition Report. They could make recommendations for keystone, foundation and focal species; revise and augment indicators/metrics to support the next Condition Report; and prioritize indicators based on the evaluation criteria used in the State MSP report. The sanctuary will also evaluate and update its Science Needs section.

Their presentation can be found online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ecosystem_indicators_review_la_jh.pdf.

Public Comment – None at this time.

Superintendent's Report – Carol shared highlights of sanctuary activities in the past two months, referring council members to the September 2015 Office Report for further details and activities, which can be online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_september_2015.pdf.

1. OCNMS Education team worked with the Hoh Tribe to design a project to connect Hoh elders and youth about their traditional uses in their watershed. They conducted a four-day water rafting and camping adventure with 20 Hoh tribal members, stopping at important cultural sites and infusing traditional knowledge about natural resources along the way. The project was so successful that the Hoh are hoping to make it an annual event.
2. OCNMS has been working with U.S. Navy on 304(d) consultation on the Northwest Training and Testing Range Environmental Impact Study to discuss what information OCNMS needs to evaluate the navy's proposed activities specifically within the sanctuary as the NWTT includes a much larger area. OCNMS is currently reviewing the sanctuary specific data provided by US Navy and will make an independent evaluation on the impacts to sanctuary resources and will provide mitigation measures as required by 304(d) consultation procedures.
3. The Education program had another busy and successful season, with the arrival of a second AmeriCorps service member, Becca Lewis, who will continue in the role of Education and Stewardship Specialist.
4. The RV *Tatoosh* is operational again and was used by a team of divers from Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) to conduct subtidal surveys in the sanctuary to characterize nearshore environments. They are interested in continuing these surveys in the future. *Tatoosh* was also used by NWFSC/ Vera Trainer's team to sample harmful algal blooms (HABs). Jessie Hale continues her work on sea otters in the sanctuary for her graduate research.
5. NOAA Corps officer Justin Ellis was awarded the ONMS Biennial Award for Outstanding Staff Member in Operations for his work as OCNMS' Marine Operations Officer.
6. George participated in a six-day contracted survey to search for cars possibly deposited in the northern end of the sanctuary. The investigation was triggered by Makah fishermen pulling up three crushed cars in their nets; the survey involved a sidescan sonar and ROV in 1,000 ft deep water. Target items, include a license plate, were retrieved and will be used to trace back to previous owners.
7. Jan Newton gave an update on "the blob" and referred members to the NANOOS website. El Niño is coming into play and scientists are now debating whether "the blob" or El Niño will win out (resulting in a shrinking of "the blob", with coastal Calvin waves traveling up the west coast as the dominant temperature signal). The El Niño index indicates upwelling, but temperatures in May-June were colder than normal, while July-August temperatures were warmer than normal (in spite of the upwelling).

A common murre wreck has been reported by COASST volunteers, particularly in the southern end of the sanctuary. A common murre wreck typically occurs in the fall, so it remains to be determined if this is an earlier phenomenon or what is causing the higher number of mortality.

8. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary co-hosted Blue Blue LIVE, a live televised program on marine wildlife. It was a particularly dramatic year with humpback whale feedings occurring much closer to shore and the television show is well worth watching! www.pbs.org/big-blue-live/home/
9. There is an open application for a Hollings Grant (sent out by Karlyn) for non-federal agencies to conduct ocean awareness and education. If anyone is interested, there is a RFP for the pre-proposal ranging from \$10-30K. Carol encouraged applicants from this area and partnering with OCNMS for proposed work.

Member Reports & Future Agenda Topics

- Casey Dennehy announced that this weekend is the Clean Water Classic in Westport, WA (www.cleanwaterclassic.com), a large event that helps support Surfrider Foundation's Pacific Northwest Chapter. The Marine Resource Committee Summit will take place in La Push on October 15-17. He thanked AC members Jan Newton in advance for presenting on ocean acidification and Jodie Toft on sea level rise and encouraged anyone to attend. He will have Karlyn forward the link to all AC members for more information.
- Joe Schumacker noted the incredible recruitment of razor clams under 3 inches in size at Kalaloch. The abundance at that location is higher than all other combined razor clam sites right now. Domoic acid levels have decreased to below the 20 parts per million at Kalaloch. He shared a photo demonstrating the density of clams (200-400 clams per half square meter).
- Jan Newton expressed her interest in applying for the Hollings Grant for ocean acidification awareness. The Cha'ba buoy will be pulled out and they are hoping to deploy a winter buoy this year to monitor the interesting phenomenon taking place in the water now (they do have funds for a winter buoy next year). The Washington Ocean Acidification Center will be hosting a Pacific Anomalies workshop focusing on "the blob" and associated effects on January 20-21, 2016. The Marine Resources Advisory Council is holding their next meeting in Port Townsend on October 13, and will include the forecasting model which has been implemented for the coast by Parker MacCready, University of Washington oceanographer.
- John Stadler updated the council on last week's Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. The Council made decisions to accept the purpose and need to propose, with changes to Essential Fish Habitat for groundfish. One of the main changes was inclusion of Essential Fish Habitat research areas to study the effects of trawling on habitat and recovery rates. The Council also expanded the number of alternatives to 13 to analyze under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Jennifer Hennessey shared that the Marine Advisory Council met on Wednesday, so presentations will be online soon, including NCCOS's work on predictive distribution mapping for seabirds and marine mammals. Many new projects and reports are posted on the MSP website at msp.wa.gov/msp-projects. The draft EIS for the oil terminals in Grays Harbor have been released with public hearings scheduled to be conducted starting next week. Comments

are due October 29. An executive summary and public hearing dates/locations have been posted online.

- Katrina Lassiter added that one of their new projects is a visual resource assessment with ONRC. She shared a Frequently Asked Questions document on MSP, provided copies for distribution, and will also provide a link.
- Steve Shively noted that 2015 has been a busy tourism season, with Jefferson County up over 40% to date in revenue. He'll soon receive the August figures from other counties but attributed increased visitation to the drought, as well as fires and heat in Eastern Washington. One of the campaigns soon to be launched for National Park Service is "Every Kid in a Park" to celebrate the NPS centennial in 2016. This weekend Port Townsend hosts its film festival focused on documentaries with marine and related themes. The 14th annual Crab and Seafood Festival will take place in Port Angeles October 9-11.
- Commander Aaron Meadows-Hills mentioned that Captain Gilda was dealing with the tour bus and Duck boat accident on Aurora Bridge in Seattle. For the U.S. Coast Guard, today marks the memorial for Douglas Monroe, the sole Washington State Medal of Honor winner. He was mortally wounded while helping evacuate a large group of Marines ambushed on an island from the Japanese.
- Rich Osborne announced that the Prescott Grant Foundation funds marine mammal stranding networks. Feiro Marine Life Center (FMLC) has applied for seven consecutive years to cover the Strait of Juan de Fuca and was finally funded; FLMC will seek additional funding from the Hollings Grant.
- John Veentjer noted that the State has funding to conduct Vessel Traffic Risk Assessments, primarily on the Columbia River and in Grays Harbor associated with the potential increase in vessel traffic to come to those areas. There are some funds allocated for the Puget Sound region, so he will look to that. Currently vessel traffic is steady or on a slight decline, perhaps due to slight increase in Canadian traffic.
- Jodie Toft mentioned that The Nature Conservancy is in the final stages of submitting a permit to PFMC to gain access to the non-trawl rockfish conservation area. The process will take around 1.5 years before they can test lingcod gear in the waters. TNC continues working with Quinault Indian Nation on derelict gear and have found it to be extremely successfully in removing derelict crab pots. They have additional funding to expand to the project to work with Quileute Tribe for a two year term. Reporting on behalf of Lora Leschner, she noted that The Audubon Society held a Pacific Birds of Audubon WA conference last week focused on challenges for bird habitat conservation and coastal wetlands.
- Frank Gordon was thankful for the B-WET and Ocean Guardian programs. He noted that the area has seen the economic impacts from razor clam and Dungeness crab closures.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, November 6th** in Lacey, WA.