

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
September 26, 2014

Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority  
Aberdeen, WA

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

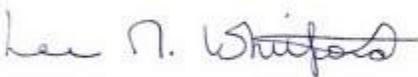
Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



---

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



---

Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Education), Heather Reed (WDFW), George Hart (US Navy), Frank Gordon (Grays Harbor Co. Commissioner), Casey Dennehy (Marine Resources Committee), Les Bolton (Tourism/Economic Development), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing), Melissa Williams (Education), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Frank Holmes (Marine Industry), Eric Delvin (Conservation), Joe Petersen (Makah Tribe), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Tom Mumford (Research), John Stadler (NMFS), Corey Niles (WDFW)

**Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance:** Jodie Toft (The Nature Conservancy), Rob Whitlam (DAHP), Katie Wrubel (The Nature Conservancy), Jessi Doerpinghaus (WDFW), Garrett Dalan (Grays Harbor MRC ), Jerry Walther (Taholah High School) and three of his natural resource students

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Jacqueline Laverdure, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS); Dayna Matthews (NOAA-Enforcement); Rebecca Holyoke (ONMS National Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator)

Chair Lee Whitford called the meeting to order and reviewed the purpose and scope of the Advisory Council per its Charter. Grays Harbor County Commissioner Frank Gordon welcomed attendees and thanked everyone for coming to Aberdeen. He thanked Les for hosting the meeting at Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority and thanked him for his efforts to develop a marine educational center for the coast.

**Adopt Agenda** – The draft agenda was updated with one noted change due to Scott Ferguson’s inability to deliver his presentation, “Washington Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study”. It will be rescheduled for a later meeting and has been replaced by a presentation on OCNMS Vessel Traffic Management by George Galasso. ***Rebecca Post motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented and Heather Reed seconded. The modified meeting agenda was adopted with full AC consensus.***

#### **Internal Affairs:**

**Approval of July 2014 Meeting Minutes** – There were no comments or discussion. ***Rebecca Post motioned to approve the July meeting minutes and John Stadler seconded. There was full AC member consensus to approve the July meeting minutes.***

**Education Alternate and Marine Resources Committee Alternate Seats** – Carol announced and welcomed the new the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) alternate, Casey Dennehy, and Education alternate, Melissa Williams. They have been successfully vetted and are seated at this meeting. Casey of Westport, WA is the Pacific Coast Program Manager for Surfrider Foundation and is Chair of Grays Harbor MRC. He also serves as a Recreation representative on

the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council (WCMAC) and is very active with the state's Marine Spatial Planning efforts. Melissa of Port Angeles is Executive Director of Feiro Marine Life Center and is a lifelong informal science education professional, most recently as Vice President of Learning at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

**Conservation, Tourism/Economic Development and Marine Industry Seats Term-Ends** – Carol reminded the council that terms for three seats expire at the end of this year (12/31/2014): Conservation, Tourism/Economic Development and Marine Industry. The announcement for recruitment will be published in Federal Register Notice on November 14 with an application deadline of December 31, 2014. Current members in each of those positions are eligible to reapply for another term. Carol announced that current Tourism/ Economic Development member Linda Rotmark has had to resign from her duties, effective immediately.

**Updates on US Navy NWTT EIS** – George Hart of US Navy gave answers to SAC member questions following the May meeting presentation on the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environment Impact Statement (EIS) by John Mosher:

- 1) George defined HARP as High-frequency Acoustic Recording Packet and circulated a map with the locations of two HARPs in OCNMS. They appear to be located very closely together, but one is placed on the continental shelf (120m depth) while the other is located in a valley at a depth of 900m. The size of a HARP is approximately 4ft by 4ft.
- 2) At the low frequency range, HARPs have a range of up to 50+ nautical miles; at a high-frequency range they can cover a distance up to 20nm.
- 3) The U.S. Navy completely avoids discharging in the sanctuary beyond current regulation requirements. They will only discharge gray water if absolutely necessary.

He stated that U.S. Navy hopes to complete this project by October 2015, but a delay is anticipated.

**Science Working Group Update** – Science Working Group (SWG) Co-Chair Rebecca Post referred members and public to the SWG final report and stated that their work has been completed, implying they disband per the SAC Charter. She reviewed the five recommendations made by the SWG:

1. Tom Mumford and Liam Antrim, with the assistance of Greg Williams and Katrina Lassiter, will track the progress of ecosystem indicators development for the Pacific Coast under the state's Marine Spatial Process (MSP), and to the extent feasible, provide input during this process to optimize applicability to sanctuary waters. Periodic updates should be provided to the OCNMS Advisory Council.
2. When the state's report on ecosystem indicators is finalized, OCNMS will evaluate their relevance for the sanctuary, identify other habitat types or concerns relevant to the

sanctuary that are not addressed by the state's effort, and consider additional indicators, as necessary.

3. Because condition reports are the tool used by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to evaluate and report on ecosystem health, the Science Working Group decided to focus its efforts on defining indicators, metrics, and information or data types and data sources relevant for each of the condition report topic areas. A matrix linking indicators with specific condition report topics was generated. This matrix can be considered a working document that can be updated at any time new information and insight is available.
4. The Science Working Group recommended that they disband at this time, primarily because no tasks have been identified for the near future.
5. Individuals with relevant expertise will be contacted to assist with the updating of OCNMS' science needs documents.

Rebecca noted that a SWG could reform in the future after similar state efforts on a larger scale have been completed, or as needed.

**Update on AC 2014 Work Plan** – Karlyn shared an updated version of the Draft 2014 AC Work Plan and sought input from council members. She mentioned that the youth participation program is still ongoing through November and that a Youth Seat Subcommittee will reconvene in January 2015 to review its effectiveness and make recommendations for the future. One topic that has not been addressed this year, due to AC Executive Committee turnover, is AC member effectiveness. It will likely be postponed until 2015 after the new Executive members have time to discuss and plan it and could include ideas such as helping AC members understand and identify key messages about the sanctuary. The idea is to address ways for AC members to improve their outreach to their constituents and to feel supported in doing so. The July 2014 Jeopardy game was an example of an approach to refreshing us all on sanctuary and council information. The AC Work Plan also helps to determine meeting topics and presentations.

#### **Information Items:**

**ONMS Long Range Interpretive Plan** – Jacqueline Laverdure, OCNMS Acting Education and Outreach Coordinator, reported on the OCNMS's Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP). The LRIP addresses visitor centers, exhibits and signage and messages that would be relevant to other programs such as K-12 education. She iterated that the LRIP is a dynamic document that is subject to change and can be adapted over the years and that partnership is a reoccurring theme. Jacqueline explained interpretation as turning facts into stories that connect to visitors (definition used by National Park Service). Interpretation goals include: collaborate with partners to develop interpretive facilities, create an ocean literate public, provide opportunities

for community stewardship, involvement and citizen science. Interpretive objectives also consist of strategic partnerships for interpretive facilities and development of collaborative exhibits/signs along the Olympic Coast. There are six overall interpretive themes described in the LRIP: sanctuary awareness, physical and biological, wildlife disturbance, climate change impact, water quality and sanctuary programmatic. The audience for sanctuary interpretation activities is broad, spanning local communities, resource managers and education/interpretation partners, scientists, sanctuary visitors and social media participants. The document is a tool for planning ahead and identifying funding resources. For example, the sanctuary recently received funding to develop and place an educational kiosk in Seattle's Pacific Science Center in the winter or spring. Two additional kiosks are planned with one to be installed in Olympic Coast Discovery Center and another in a not yet identified location, preferably in the southern region of Olympic Peninsula. Input for the location of the second kiosk will be sought from AC members through a subcommittee. The LRIP does not address OCNMS website or social media, but that could be incorporated in the future. Carol noted that OCNMS submitted a proposal for signage which could identify 4-5 potential sites, so letters of support to State Parks could be beneficial. Jacqueline hopes that the final version will be ready to distribute before the next AC meeting and welcomes feedback from AC members. Jacqueline then summarized 2014 OCNMS Education Program updates, starting with K-12 audiences. Approximately 1,300 students from Clallam, Grays Harbor and Jefferson Counties were reached by Ocean Science and North Olympic Watershed (NOW) Science programs. Teacher professional development workshops reached 55 teachers in 2014 with partners from Pacific Education Institute, Seattle Aquarium, or Feiro Marine Life Center (FMLC) with ocean acidification as a training theme. OCNMS supported several summer camps in Port Angeles with FMLC including Junior Oceanographer and ROV Explorer and participated for the first time in summer camps with Makah and Quileute Tribes. Three summer interns worked with OCNMS, two through NOAA's Hollings Scholars Program and one from Peninsula College. Other outreach opportunities in 2014 consisted of OCNMS's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Port Angeles City Pier Concert on the Pier, a social media "Get Into Your Sanctuary" day, voluntourism for CoastSavers international coastal cleanup and more. For the first year OCNMS also has an AmeriCorps volunteer to assist supporting education and stewardship activities.

**OCNMS Vessel Traffic Management** – George Galasso of OCNMS presented an overview of sanctuary vessel traffic management. He described maritime safety as a system overseen nationally by US Coast Guard and internationally by International Maritime Organization (IMO). George used the location of national marine sanctuaries and U.S. containership ports to illustrate the high volume of shipping that goes through sanctuaries, for instance 50% of all containers entering the U.S. in 2004 went through or immediately adjacent to the 5 West Coast sanctuaries. ONMS should ensure that commodity transportation through sanctuaries is done

in a way compatible with resource protection. As OCNMS was going through sanctuary designation process several oil spills occurred and raised a significant amount of concern, leading to the establishment of an Area To Be Avoided (ATBA). OCNMS depends on Automatic Identification System (AIS) data from Marine Exchange of Puget Sound's AIS receiving station from exactEarth for monthly Satellite Automatic Identification System (AIS) data. George explained that traffic is managed by a Cooperative Vessel Traffic System (CVTS ) management (which is managed joint with Canadian Coast Guard). For instance, in the Strait of Juan de Fuca outbound vessels travel through Canadian waters whereas inbound vessels pass through U.S. waters. Vessel traffic in the northern part of OCNMS is managed the Canadian Coast Guard. There are only 12 VTS locations nationwide including the Puget Sound/Seattle area, so we are fortunate to have access to these operators. The ATBA is a voluntary traffic routing measure which covers approximately 70% of the sanctuary primarily created to avoid drift groundings (when vessels lose power). There are also benefits to responding to oil spills or other hazardous accidents. Uses of vessel traffic data include compliance with regulations/advisories, sanctuary management issues (e.g. wildlife mitigation and ocean noise), marine spatial planning, incident monitoring and response and maritime safety and accident investigation. Data for estimated ATBA compliance from satellite AIS data were depicted, with an overall 97% rate of compliance (estimated). The ATBA applies to ships that are 400 tons, as that is the size of vessels required to have an oil spill response plan. In 2013 George and OCNMS geographer Nancy Wright worked to find a standard way to represent vessel traffic patterns. Some of the emerging issues surrounding vessel traffic include vessel traffic risk assessments (VTRA), new products (Bakken crude oil and Alberta tar sands), new delivery systems, air pollution, acoustic impacts and ship strikes (more of an issue in California sanctuaries). The new proposed railway facilities in our region that plan to transport Bakken crude oil and Alberta tar sands led WA Department of Ecology to conduct the Washington marine and rail oil transportation study. The Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) is responsible for oil spill planning and developed an Emerging Risks Task Force in 2013, which also looked at the crude by rail issue. George displayed a conceptual map of oil movement in and out of WA State from 2003 to 2013, with changes taking place in how oil is transported (decrease in volume by vessel with increase in volume transported by pipeline and rail). The VTRA was a joint effort of Puget Sound Partnership and Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee with George Washington University. It created a model to evaluate potential changes in risk concentrating on three proposed projects, one in Washington and two in British Columbia using 2010 traffic vessel data, based on vessel exposure (time) and type. The WDOE 2014 Marine and Rail Oil Transportation study will look at the overall oil transportation picture and safety, anticipated changes in transportation and safety. They will conduct a gap analysis, make recommendations and devise a risk communications strategy.

There may be an increase in articulated tank barges, a type of tug (single units) that would be used to move crude oil in and out to refineries from rail terminals.

WDOE anticipates having a draft interim report to the Governor on October 1 and final report to Legislature in March 2015.

George noted that the IMO is working to reduce noise from ships. Vessel acoustics were discussed and identified as a possible future presentation topic, as noise greatly affects not only marine mammals but also fishes. John Stadler noted that a white paper produced by NOAA Ocean Noise Strategy Working Group would be released in the next six months and that he will share with the AC. Frank Holmes added that marine air emission has been another issue and that a major marine emission inventory of Puget Sound (originally conducted six years ago) was updated last year. Ships entering Puget Sound are now required to burn cleaner fuel within 200 miles of entering the North America Emission Control Area, which should also help reduce air pollution.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments at this time.

### **Lunch Break**

**The Nature Conservancy's Work on WA Coast and Marine Environment** – Eric Delvin highlighted The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) priority work on the outer coast. Terrestrial project work focuses on the habitats of four rivers (Quillayute, Hoh, Queets and Quinault) and TNC-owned land at Ellsworth Creek. Land ownership from the Quillayute to Quinault Rivers varies, with a lack of connection between protected land to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. TNC modeled within these watersheds to find out what would be most effective for salmon productivity in terms of land acquisition and restoration, starting with Clearwater River. TNC ownership and management entails an intensive forest restoration program, including converting commercial tree farms into diverse forests that can support species requiring old growth ecosystem characteristics. They are now increasingly focused on the high productivity of the forests as a means for sustainable harvest in the form of a community forest trust, in which local communities own and manage responsibly their forest resources. Their Emerald Edge project links their work in WA with British Columbia and SE Alaska, by transforming forestry management and strengthening indigenous and local leadership through capacity building. Entrepreneurship is encouraged through a "Paths to Prosperity" award for business seed funding to launch a business that will have a positive social, environmental and economic impact in their communities. Washington coast will launch this award in 2015 after successful experiences in SE Alaska. Eric then described the Quinault derelict gear removal project, also part of the Emerald Edge project, which was identified as a high priority by Quinault Indian Nation. Last week they began identifying and removing fisheries-related gear and developing a

future recovery plan from the mouth of Grays Harbor to Destruction Island. In their initial four days of work they removed 144 pots and/or lines!

Jodie Toft, Senior Marine Ecologist for TNC-Washington, discussed several of TNC's marine projects including the lingcod gear innovation project in Ilwaco, to avoid bycatch of overfished species in their traps. TNC is rigorously testing designs of fish traps or pots with fishermen to target lingcod that could be viable economically and ecologically. They conducted outreach with Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) along the coast to gather input from stakeholders that could be useful for the state's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) efforts. The product is entitled *Actions and Desired Results for Marine Spatial Planning: Washington Coast Marine Resources Input and Recommendations*. TNC looks to fill gaps to support MSP work, including benthic habitat layering and communicating with the Science Panel. Finally, their *Climate-Ready Shoreline Master Plans for Southwest Washington* is a new project in development with the aim of assisting habitat framework efforts, vulnerability assessments, and more.

Eric summarized TNC's global position and strategy in all 50 states and 40 countries which focuses on four themes: conserving critical lands, restoring oceans, reducing the impacts of climate change and securing freshwater.

**Washington Maritime National Heritage Area** – State Archeologist Rob Whitlam of Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) presented on the history, archeology and culture of the outer coast to provide context on the proposed Washington National Maritime Heritage Area. Rob highlighted that the human presence on the outer coast has been influenced by the change in shoreline over the last 13,000 years, in that the coastline extended much further in the past. The near shore area of OCNMS would have been land at that time and there is evidence that the outer coast was used as a coastal migration route. As the shoreline changed, so did the occupancy. Artifacts dating back to 12,000 include tools employed to hunt now-extinct large mammals such as mastodons and bison, implying the presence of open grassland habitats. There are diverse archaeological sites along the coast including shell middens, salmon fishing weirs, giant constructed fish traps formed out of rocks, beach canoe runs, underwater sites, and more. Rob discussed how artifacts can be used for biogeography, depicting the presence and abundance of certain species or in other forms. The presence of Native communities is widespread and can be seen in petroglyphs, culturally modified trees, and various types of artifacts. He explained how the WA coast differed greatly from the East Coast. Russian, Spanish, English and Japanese all strongly influenced the maritime heritage.

Les Bolton of Grays Harbor Historic Seaport Authority followed up with more background and information about the proposed Washington Maritime National Heritage Area, which he has been involved with over the past several years. There are nearly 50 National Heritage Areas

(NHA) in the United States, but none in the Pacific Northwest or focused on maritime heritage. The National Heritage Area Program is administered under, but not managed by, National Parks Service. They are meant to recognize the best example of our nation's cultural and historic heritage and are locally initiated and managed. Les clarified that NHAs are not regulatory nor use eminent domain and that the management group has no role on private land or are involved in property acquisition. Typically NHAs are operated by local groups/partnerships and managed by non-profit organizations, state or local agencies or an appointed commission. In this case it would likely be the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, which would have an advisory council. There is no funding for the NHA program, so its advisory council would likely seek grant funding. Purposes of the Washington Maritime National Heritage Area include: encouraging and strengthening partnerships and collaboration among maritime interests for economic development and heritage tourism; recognizing significant landscapes; interpreting and conserving maritime resources and promoting an understanding of the value of these areas. Currently the state passed a bill and is requesting federal congressional delegation to introduce it to legislation. There is a need to show local support for the designation to help it move through Congress.

Council members discussed the draft resolution letter proposed by Les and gave suggested edits and recommendations to improve the letter. A few members stated their need to abstain from voting at this point without consulting their constituents. Carol reminded the council that this resolution letter could only be forwarded to NOAA and ONMS leadership, because the AC cannot comment on pending legislation. ***Les Bolton suggested that we polish the draft letter and present again at the November meeting to vote on to allow more time for members to vet with their constituents. Rebecca Post seconded the motion and there was full AC member consensus.***

**Quinalt Marine Resources Projects** – Marine resource scientist Joe Schumacker of Quinalt Division of Natural Resources (QDNR) presented an overview of current projects undertaken by QDNR. This year they began studying seasonal hypoxia after several years of documented fish kills (since 2006) on Point Grenville Beach, with SeaGrant funding. Conditions characteristic of hypoxic events include a calm waters with minimum swells late in the summer, northwest winds either halt or reverse in direction and the presence of reclusive marine fish appearing in river mouths or shore. Hypoxia will be studied through impacts to razor clam recruitment at several beaches: Pt. Grenville Beach (tribe), Mocrocks and Copalis Beaches (co-managed with the state), and a beach with Hoh Tribe (co-managed). Observations at Pt. Grenville have shown poor survival of juvenile clams compared to Copalis, in spite of large settling rates. A team consisting of high school students began monitoring and recording dissolved oxygen, salinity and temperature in the nearshore, onshore and in-river areas adjacent to Pt. Grenville with continued assessments of juvenile razor clam density throughout the summer. They will then analyze data for potential relationships between ocean conditions and clam density over time

and space. Part of the study also entails dropping crab pot platform instruments off-shore. SeaGrant funding ends in 2015 but the Quinault Indian Nation will continue the study afterwards.

The next project Joe described is a pilot project electronically monitoring crab pots. The Quinault wanted a system in place to understand who is fishing what and where. They contracted with EcoTrust Canada to conduct a feasibility study of this system to help identify where crab pots are being placed and who is lifting them. Three computer systems have been installed on Quinault vessels that record GPS position and extract hydraulic pressure data. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags and tag readers go in crab pot buoys and are detected when the crab pot is recovered. Testing began this past summer and will continue through January 2015 when evaluations will be made. Goals include limiting illegal activity at sea, effectively track where pots were deployed, more accurately track the number of pots used, and to improve understanding of biological information on crab population and movement.

The system has already been in place in Canada under EcoTrust and has been extremely successfully at eliminating piracy. At first the crabbers were reluctant due to the high initial cost, but they stated it paid for itself soon after and would not go back. Depending on results of this feasibility study, the aim is for the entire fleet to have this system on their crab pots. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is the other major project undertaken by Quinault and they have been involved since 2009 when the national NOAA initiatives emerged, but they were not funded until summer of 2014 for one year. They hired a contractor to compile the most recent marine data to create a GIS catalog of treaty ocean areas of interest. Data on bathymetry, biogenic structure, species distributions, human uses and fisheries, oceanographic data and cultural resources will be delivered to Quinault in the spring of 2015. This work will help them better participate with the ongoing state and federal MSP work, help them protect their treaty rights, and help avoid conflicting ocean uses. The Quinault will not only gathering information for planning efforts, but also use the process and results to help them begin eco-system based management (EBM) in Quinault Indian Nation.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments made.

**Superintendent's Report** – Carol shared highlights of sanctuary activities in the past two months, noting that OCNMS is wrapping up the field season and peak outreach and education season.

1. The Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) met in July in Neah Bay with continued discussions about a collaborative project with State of Washington, all four coastal treaty tribes, OCNMS to look at developing an assessment for critical habitats and their associated values and species within the sanctuary. A general scope of work emerged

and the IPC has been invited for a joint meeting with the sanctuary advisory council for the November meeting.

2. The research and monitoring vessel for OCNMS, *RV Tatoosh*, underwent several upgrades to meet habitat mapping standards so that other areas of NOAA could use it as a back-up. The research crew employed it to attempt locating recent shipwrecks and determine their material condition. They encountered an equipment issue and are working to solve it so that data can be accurately read and utilized.
3. Liam completed the annual intertidal surveys with the assistance of a Hollings Scholar.
4. OCNMS made progress working with NOAA to test different deployment systems and looked at processing data sets to make them available on larger data portals.
5. OCNMS is wrapping up its season for its visitor center, Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) with over 5,200 visitors so far. Currently it is only open on weekends until mid-October in conjunction with the Dungeness Crab and Seafood Festival and will become available by appointment only through the winter. Docents contributed 1,130 hours of time staffing OCDC since its opening over Memorial Day weekend.
6. The second annual Washington international coastal cleanup took place on Sept 20. OCNMS worked with coastal businesses to offer discounts and weekend packages to promote voluntourism and worked harder to promote the event. This year nearly 500 people participated, an increase from 150 in the 2013 event.
7. George met with ONMS Director of Maritime Heritage program, Jim Delgado, along with Les Bolton, DAHP and the Makah Tribe. They discussed cultural resource issues and identified areas to work on for the coming year.
8. A low hypoxia event occurred in the late fall. When thresholds of low dissolved oxygen occur OCNMS sends out notifications and asks coastal partners if they are witnessing any biological indications or die-offs.
9. Brad Hanson from Northwest Fisheries Science Center is in the process of deploying 7 acoustic devices in OCNMS and off the coast to better identify patterns of use by Southwestern Resident orcas.
10. Carol participated in the Leadership Team meeting at Thunder Bay NMS where they were celebrating the expansion of their sanctuary, which is focused on Great Lakes shipwrecks.
11. With the process opening Sanctuary Nomination Process, the first sanctuary nomination was submitted from an area off Florida.

Carol wanted to follow up with discussions on where to place the funded educational kiosk in the southern region of sanctuary area. She hopes AC members could help weigh in with recommended sites to parent it (requires internet) through a conference call. If interested please let Karlyn know at [Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov](mailto:Karlyn.Langjahr@noaa.gov).

The Office Report for September 2014 can be found at:

[olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport\\_september\\_2014.pdf](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_september_2014.pdf)

### **Member Reports & Future Agenda Topics**

- Heather Reed reported on NOAA's national salt-water recreational fisheries policy. She was unable to join the webinar but did participate in a town hall webinar in late July and received briefing from Russ Dunn. NOAA acknowledges the importance of recreational fishing and an integral part of the socioeconomic of coastal communities. The aim is to institutionalize NOAA's commitment to the recreational anglers, as the fishing community/ stakeholders have not always felt welcome at the table. The comment deadline was September 12, so the policy drafting process has now begun. They expect to hold another external review of the draft in late fall, with an anticipated final document in winter 2015. All of the information is available online.
- Jennifer Hennessey gave updates on the state's MSP process: the sector analysis reports have been completed and are available online, with the exception of the aquaculture study which should be ready in October. At the recent WCMAC meeting they discussed budget recommendations for the biennial budget starting July 1, 2015. She recognized that they will need more time to complete the planning process, with the goal of finishing the process in December 2016. They have also selected the consultant to complete the coast-wide economic analysis. On October 7 they will be holding a scoping workshop with the consultant in Aberdeen. The next quarterly WCMAC meeting will take place on October 22 at Grays Harbor College and is open to the public. In October they will also be kicking off the seafloor mapping prioritization process with a workshop with resource managers, tribal members, state representatives, etc.
- Casey Dennehy reminded the council that the end of October is the opt-in survey deadline for the Ocean and Coastal Recreational Users study. He will share the link and asks members to disperse to their networks. The upcoming MRC Summit will take place on October 23-25 in Pacific Beach.
- Tom Mumford announced the Northwest Straits Commission MRC Summit on December 5-6 to take place in Port Townsend. A paper just came out on kelp and ocean acidification predicting that OA will be beneficial for kelp, but harmful to the organisms that feed on kelp. He will keep everyone informed on interesting projects taking place in the Elwha regarding the effects of sedimentation on kelp and eelgrass.
- Les Bolton offered a tour of Grays Harbor Historic Seaport following the meeting. The Greater Grays Harbor Inc.'s Economic Development Council has a new Executive Director, Andre "Dru" Garson (the former State of Alaska Tourism Director).
- Eric Delvin noted that TNC is coordinating the WA Coast Restoration Initiative to obtain \$15 million from state legislature for restoration projects and have refined their list. On the

Thursday afternoon before the MRC Summit TNC and Resource Media will give a training about communicating with legislatures and legislative strategy which is open to interested parties. If so, contact Eric to learn more.

- Frank Holmes shared that the Neah Bay tug only made one call last year. This year so far the U.S. Coast Guard has responded to two calls, one on July 4 and one in August.
- John Stadler will distribute the information again regarding deep sea coral webinars, including an additional webinar scheduled for Oct 29. Regarding the Salmon EFH, the revisions received no public comments so NOAA is moving forward with the rule making which is published in Federal Register and includes a 30-day comment period. On the Groundfish EFH front, a collaborative group involving fishing community and NGOs are working out an agreement on changes to Groundfish EFH, primarily in areas closed to certain types of fishing (bottom trawls). They hope to reach an agreement by the April 2015 PMFC meeting. NOAA-NMFS's Science Centers submitted a report to PMFC responding to questions they received in March 2014 and should be finalized in November.
- Rebecca Post shared that WDOE Spills Program is conducting geographic response planning for inland waters in response to the increase crude oil by rail. A public meeting for the Chehalis River GRP will be held on October 7 in the Centralia College for WDOE staff to receive feedback from locals on access, equipment, interest, etc. The Green River GRP meeting will take place on September 30. Both meetings run from 7-8pm. Rebecca also announced that the November meeting will be her last AC meeting as she is leaving state employment effective Nov 14.
- George Hart shared that U.S. Navy is funding Brad Hanson's acoustic study on Southwestern resident killer whales. He noted that the camper vans around the Olympic Peninsula on Forest Service roads are conducting electronic warfare (EW) tests. A public information meeting on EW will take place in Forks on Oct 14.
- Joe Schumacker stated that the permit OCNMS issued to Evan Solomon of UW's School of Oceanography will be characterizing gas hydrate on the upper continental slope near the Quinault Canyon aboard the *Thomas Thompson*. Taholah High School students and a mentor will be on board and out to sea for a total of 11 days. One of the Quinault biologists on the beach with the state reported a Japanese vessel near the mouth of the Queets River, the third vessel coming ashore in the past three months. Jarrod Davis, Director of Shellfish Safety Program from the Department of Health just updated their information on Fukushima radiation, which can be found on their website. Samplings of shellfish and finfish have not indicated levels of radiation that would be of health risk. Most of the isotopes found are from the 1950s and 1960s. Joe has been directed by Quinault Council to develop a potential Quinault-sponsored EFH proposal, centered around the Quinault Canyon. Finally, he stated that this year has been a good year for razor clams, especially on the southern beaches.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place jointly with the Intergovernmental Policy Council on **Friday, November 7** in La Push, WA. The meeting was adjourned.