

# OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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

## OCNMS Advisory Council Virtual meeting

Friday, July 21, 2023  
Meeting Notes



SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent and AC Chair:



**Kevin Grant, Superintendent**



**Linda Sturgis, Chair**

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates:**

Joe Schumacker and Chet Tweed (Quinault Indian Nation); Lorna Wargo and Jessica Stocking (WA Fish and Wildlife); John Shaw (Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee); Mike Doherty (Citizen at Large); Mike French (Clallam County Commissioner); Rich Osborne and Liz Schotman (Conservation); Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy); John Hunter (Education); Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development); Parker MacCready (Research); Jennifer Brown-Scott (US Fish and Wildlife Service ); Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee); Patrick Gallagher (Maritime Industry); LCDR Travis McNeely (US Coast Guard); Brittney Poirson (WA Dept of Natural Resources); Micah Horwith (WA Dept of Ecology); Steve Joner and Haley Kennard (Makah); and Larry Phillips (Fishing)

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:**

Madeline Roth (Guest Speaker); Charlie Sheldon; and Erik Bolton

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:**

Dwayne Hawes, Greg Busch, and Andrew Torres (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement); Kevin Grant; Chris Butler-Minor; Stephanie Haynes; Christine VanDeen; Katie Wrubel; Jenny Waddell; Savannah Clax; and Brendon Rager

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**Call to Order and Welcome**

Chris Butler-Minor called the meeting to order and announced that she and Kevin Grant would be running the meeting as neither Linda Sturgis nor Steve Shively were able to attend.

**Internal Affairs**

- Agenda: Chris introduced the agenda for the day. No edits were requested.
- Approval of Meeting Notes: Chris relayed that the March meeting notes could not be adopted because the motion was made by a non-voting attendee. Mike Doherty made a motion to adopt the meeting notes and Lorna Wargo seconded the motion. The March notes were adopted. The May meeting notes were adopted after a motion to adopt was made by Rich Osborne and seconded by Mike Doherty.
- Officer Nominations for Vice-Chair: After many years on the Executive Committee; Casey Dennehy has stepped down from the Vice-Chair role. Members were invited to make nominations to fill this position. Chris clarified that the Vice-Chair can be any seat of the council; voting or non-voting. No nominations were made therefore nominations will be an action item at the next advisory council meeting.

**Superintendent Report:**

Kevin thanked the Quinault Indian Nation for hosting the council on their traditional

lands and wished Tribal Journeys travelers safe travels as they headed up the coast.

- Kevin invited members to review the July newsletter and highlighted the 'Get Into Your Sanctuary' events which includes a public guided tide pooling trip on August 5.
- July 22 is the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary for OCNMS.
- The science team is busy this field season working with Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) to maintain National Data *Buoy* Center buoys ([NDBC](#)).
- The vessel crew and Education staff provided guided tours for Olympic National Park Interpretive Rangers this Spring.
- New partners from Oregon State University will be working with the OCNMS team on the National Science Foundation's Washington [Coastal Endurance Array](#) Moorings.
- The R/*Storm Petrel* will be going to Bellingham for installation of a universal sonar mount which will enable the use of equipment like side-scan sonar.
- OCNMS is working with the Intergovernmental Policy Council and tribal partners to develop a full proposal to build on the community resilience work led by Jan Newton and Melissa Poe during the recent Olympic Coast Ocean Acidification Regional Vulnerability assessment.
- The sanctuary is very close to hiring a new deputy superintendent. Then the next approved federal hire is a marine scientist.
- Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) is drawing to a close and staff are planning FY24 budgets. Kevin was asked about Capitol Hill Ocean Week ([CHOW](#)) in Congress and whether the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation lobbies. Kevin said yes and that lobbying efforts have proven extremely successful. The new CEO expressed interest in having all superintendents to go to D.C. for CHOW in June 2024.

### Information Items:

Early Encounters on a Western Frontier: The Search for the Sv. Nikolai  
Madeline Roth, Marine archaeologist with [NOAA's ONMS Maritime Heritage Program](#) (MHP) is partnering with OCNMS and East Carolina University to conduct a remote sensing survey in the waters off La Push, WA utilizing the R/V *Storm Petrel*. The goal is to survey the area and identify potential archaeological resources as mandated in the [National Marine Sanctuary Act](#) and [National Historic Preservation Act](#). She noted maritime heritage can be culturally significant landscapes and understanding of places; physical remains of human made or human-modified objects; or natural resources important to communities. Sv. Nikolai (1807-1808) is the target; although there are other known shipwrecks in the location of study.

The Sv. Nikolai was conducting a mapping expedition of the west coast, leaving from Sitka, AK to identify a new location for a colony in "New Albion" as it was known to Russians. The crew survived the shipwreck and encountered three of the four Coastal Treaty Tribes and eventually made it back to Sitka. During this time period, Alaska was

a Russian Imperial Colony with interest in making a claim to the “new world” to establish trading posts for fur trading. Written accounts of the shipwreck from crew members allow archaeologists to have an idea of where to look for the wreckage. Survey equipment that will be used include a magnetometer; multi-beam sonar; and side-scan sonar allowing for metal detections and seafloor mapping. NOAA Dive program investigations will be conducted to investigate objects of interest more closely. Maddy recommended the books “The Wreck of the Sv. Nikolai” and “Anna; Like Thunder” for more information on the Sv Nikolai.

Another goal of this MHP investigation is broadening relationships. Alumni from MATE-ROV will be invited onto the R/V *Storm Petrel*; a public Maritime Heritage Symposium scheduled for October 13 at the Rainforest Arts Center in Forks, WA; along with a community meal with the Hoh Tribe. A web page is in development as well. Madeline or Katie will be available for people to reach out for more information.

#### Management Plan Review next steps

Stephanie Haynes is the management plan review specialist on detail with OCNMS. She thanked Aleria for her detail at OCNMS assisting with the MPR process. Stephanie’s quick updates included:

- Current Actions
  - Beginning in July through September SAC and IPC Meetings; OCNMS staff are workshoping and reviewing the 2011 plan. To reach a more “goldilocks version” staff are reformatting a draft management plan using the Headquarters template.
  - The roadmap (timeline) of the MPR shows items that either still need to be done or are on-going in white text; black text on the timeline slide has been completed.
- Future Actions
  - Working groups of advisory council members and subject matter experts will provide feedback and recommendations based on public comments and prioritizations. Rich Osborne asked when the working groups would begin. Stephanie Haynes answered that hopefully in the fall the groups will be set up.
  - IPC members will be invited to review drafts and provide input throughout the process

#### Climate Vulnerability Assessment Working Group (CVA-WG)

Katie Wrubel thanked members and others who have provided feedback. She announced that the CVA Final report is being drafted after incorporating working group edits. The report will be sent out for a tribal review for about a 6-week time frame due to the size of the report. The intent is to have the report finalized and brought to the November SAC meeting for approval to recommend publication along with adoption of adaptation and mitigation strategies in the new management plan to the superintendent.

#### Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Working Group (OASeS) updates

The OASeS website will be launching soon. Recruitment for two community-at-large seats on the Steering Committee is being planned. The Washington Coast was included in the state budget appropriation for Washington Ocean Acidification Center (WOAC). Members who are affiliated with both WOAC and OASeS are working on a utilization plan, including funding the next OASeS Symposium and reducing barriers to communication in coastal communities.

Work on the 2023 Plan is focused on completing medium/high priorities and integrating symposium takeaways:

- Creating OA Climate change solutions/science summaries.
- Better understand management work with industries; explore end of season information debriefs with resource managers; explore tools / use of dashboard.
- Understand the vulnerability of species important to coastal communities; sustain and enhance monitoring; turn data into information
- Engage in direct engagement with coastal communities; symposium engagement; target presentations ant Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC)

## **Member Reports**

Each seat's primary or alternate member is invited to share constituency-based current events or news of interest.

Lorna Wargo noted that there have been three recent incidents of crab and fishing gear entanglement of humpback whales, which coincides with annual humpback migration along the coast. National Marine Fisheries Service is working on a database that records location and configuration of lost gear and results in a catalog of entanglement instances. They are taking a regulatory package to WA Fish & Wildlife Commission this fall that will implement electronic pot-level location monitoring in the Coastal Dungeness Crab Fishery using hydraulic pressure sensors to replace paper log books with an aim to have live or near-live location of fishing vessels. This may be paired with whale location information. She also announced the regulatory package that will tighten gear-marking rules. The new rules require gear marking be specific to the applicable fishery. Vessel monitoring services for crabbing vessels is a separate requirement for the tracking equipment from the National Marine Fisheries vessel monitoring system ([VMS](#)).

Britney Poirson shared that the WA Dept of Natural Resources [Removal of Aquatic Derelict Structures](#) bill passed the legislature and goes into effect on July 23. Among the projects, the former High Tide Seafood pier in Neah Bay is slated to be removed by June 30, 2025.

Jennifer Brown-Scott announced that USFWS annual seabird surveys are being conducted. She noted the remote surveys of burrowing seabirds continue using cameras and acoustics in the birds' nests.

Kevin Decker reminded members that Washington Sea Grant is recruiting for a [program](#).

[director](#). WA Sea Grant is partnering with [NOAA's Climate Regional Resilience Challenge](#) to build climate-ready coasts. The grant recommends partnering with your state's Coastal Zone Management ([CZM](#)) program, which through the Dept of Ecology (WA DOE) for Washington. WA DOE is looking for projects to collate so if you have any that might fit, reach out to himself. He noted that NOAA's [Climate Ready Workforce Grant](#), which obligates hiring of 50 positions as part of the process, is also open.

[Parker MacCready](#) commented on forthcoming funding that will allow at least one OCNMS mooring to begin live broadcasting of data. He also announced [LiveOcean Model Enhancements](#), which evolves LiveOcean from its current status as a research tool to an operational asset managed by NANOOS. Via the regional nested sub model of Washington waters, they have recently started making high resolution models of the Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay area. High Resolution models could be made for sections of OCNMS.

[Andrew Torres](#) noted outcomes from the annual Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee (LETAC) meeting, which considered priorities for the next five years, included continued commitment to the sanctuary. Enforcement commitments for OCNMS will continue for special closures, illegal discharges, vessel sinkings/groundings, as well as anchoring and mooring violations. A West Coast Region Enforcement Summit is being planned and an agenda is being drafted where aligning priorities for OLE and sanctuaries will be discussed.

[Steve Joner](#) – Harvest of chinook salmon and halibut have been successful for the tribes. However; there has been little catch of whiting overall in Washington and Canada; both tribal and non-tribal. BOEM discussions about offshore wind energy have been taking place and treaty tribe representatives met with the regional director in person. There is a high level of concern on the west coast over industrialization of the ocean. The governor of Oregon and several congressional representatives sent a letter of concern to BOEM highlighting the concern over potential cumulative impacts to the California current ecosystem.

[Pat Gallagher](#) noted that the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) strike and labor dispute caused a significant backup of vessels entering Puget Sound ports and the Canadian Port of Vancouver. This caused a large nest of drifting ships just north of area-to-be-avoided ([ATBA](#)) which is monitored by the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound for violations. There is a voluntary slowdown in effect for the ECHO program in Canada around Swiftsure Bank as well as Harro Strait and Boundary Pass. He's been involved with Quiet Sound, but their slowdown won't go into effect until October. He invited interested persons to attend the quarterly meeting of the [Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee](#).

[John Hunter](#) shared that "Muddy Boots in the Watershed" Teacher Workshop was successful. National Marine Educators Association meeting in Bellingham is slated for the week of July 24. [Pacific Education Institute](#) developing high school classes in aquaculture.

Rich Osborne reported that [Center for Whale Research](#) has announced two calves, one male and one female, have been born into the L-pod Southern Resident Killer Whale population. Rich suggested hybrid meetings may not be the best option and asked for consideration of online meetings as they might actually be better from a conservation and environmental impact standpoint. Kevin followed up on the comment asking for clarification of whether fully remote or only local meetings are better. Rich answered that fully remote could be better.

Liz Schotman reported that Surfriders is focusing on Coastal Resilience funding and its distribution. CoastSavers is working with coastal treaty tribes to identify how to facilitate removal of large debris items using recently received funding.

Joe Schumacker noted that a large cell pseudo nitzschia algal bloom is currently happening along the Quinault Indian Nation Coast line, but it doesn't contain domoic acid. It's believed to have originated on the Oregon coast. Levels are going down and domoic acid content has been low. He noted that the Anthropocene was declared as an official epoch. An example of human impacts is that 40% of the world's ocean is experiencing a marine heatwave. Tribes are working to figure out how to adapt. The Quinault Indian Nation is working with OSU and the Columbia River Tribal Fish Commission using gliders to capture ocean data, including hypoxic indicators. The glider is visible on NANOOS' website. Dungeness Crab had record harvest at 4.4 million pounds from the U&A of the Quinault Indian Nation and for Washington state. Razor clams have also been at an all-time high of population levels. However, clam assessments showing levels are coming down some.

Mike Doherty made a suggestion of longer times before and after meetings for council members to get to know communities around the sanctuary better. With the Maritime Heritage funds, he is hoping there will be federal leadership for priorities. He noted tourism can negatively impact local environments and habitats. Mike voiced concern related to oil coming out of Vancouver, British Columbia ports and questioned will there be an emergency response tug in the San Juans? He suggested one way to alleviate this concern is having Canada pay for a new tug for outbound traffic.

Jessica Stocking relayed that an emerging avian influenza event is occurring in Caspian Terns. WDFW is waiting for results to see if the influenza is high level or low level. A press release drafting underway for the week of July 24.

John Shaw shared that in a recent public engagement effort on sea-level rise, there was a noted disconnect in understanding in its connections to the Cascadia subduction zone and coastal erosion. Westport is seeking funding through the Grays Harbor MRC and have requested the County Commissioners apply for [FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners](#) grant and WA DOE planning grant. European green crab continues to be an issue of concern; especially in the estuaries where daily trapping is capturing 300-400 gravid females on a daily basis.

Tami Pokorny shared that the North Pacific Coast MRC has an RFP out for projects and is reviewing early applications.

**Public Comment**

No comment provided

**Standing Items:**Upcoming recruitment

Recommendations have been submitted to Headquarters for approval of the Citizen at Large primary and alternate seat as well as the Fishing seat alternate. Recruitment for the alternate Research seat will begin soon.

Call for future agenda topics

- Increased oil traffic
- Offshore wind energy proposals

**Adjourn**

Chris thanked attendees and closed the meeting.