

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
May 17, 2013

Makah Marina
1321 Bayview Ave.
Neah Bay, WA

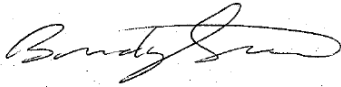
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Brady Scott, Vice Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Brady Scott (WDNR), Ellen Matheny (Education), Rebecca Post (WDOE), Lee Whitford (Education), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Les Bolton (Tourism and Recreation), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Heather Reed (WDFW), John Stadler (NMFS), Richard Carroll (Commercial Fishing), Jan Newton (Research), Steve Fradkin (ONP), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large), Lora Leschner (Conservation), David Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commission), George Hart (US Navy)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Chad Bowechop (Makah Office of Marine Affairs), Al Carter (Ocean Gold), Joe Peterson (Makah Fisheries), Russ Svec (Makah Fisheries Manager), Janine Ledford (Makah Cultural & Research Center), Rebekah Monette (MCRC), Adrienne Akmajain (Makah Fisheries), Lara Whitely-Binder (UW Climate Impacts Group), Ian Miller (Washington Sea Grant), Ronni Wolfe (US Navy), Shaari Unger (US Navy),

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Nancy Wright, Bob Steelquist, Liam Antrim and Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS); Dayna Matthews (NOAA OLE)

Brady Scott called meeting to order as Acting Chair in Chip Boothe's absence and Makah Tribal Chair Timothy (TJ) Greene welcomed the AC to Neah Bay. TJ thanked the Advisory Council and members of the public for being there and the opportunity to share the great work they are doing and to thank other tribal leaders from the area. He shared that it is always a pleasure to host the SAC meetings, as we all share a common interest in the ocean.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes.

Internal Affairs:

Introduction of new AC Coordinator – Carol Bernthal introduced the new Advisory Council Coordinator, Karlyn Langjahr, who will be relieving Liam Antrim as Acting AC Coordinator. Karlyn will also be the new Manager of Olympic Coast Discovery Center, the visitor's center for OCNMS. From this point forward all AC communication should be channeled to her at karlyn.langjahr@noaa.gov

Approval of March 2013 Meeting Minutes – There were no comments or discussions. ***Rebecca Post made a motion to approve the March 2013 meeting minutes; Jan Newton seconded; and unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

Data Management Working Group Letter – Carol received a report from the Data Management Working Group stating that they had completed their work and recommended to OCNMS

continued progress on processing and posting sanctuary research data. Carol noted that OCNMS staff has been working on 2012 research data and hope to wrap that up by the end of next month. OCNMS is trouble-shooting some software issues and with reduced budget and staffing are not progressing as quickly as we would like to. OCNMS has brought on a short-term database management consultant to assist staff, but no permanent database manager will be hired. She acknowledges this is an issue that we will need to continue to work on.

March 25 AC Chairs' Summit Conference Call – Brady participated on the March 25th AC Vice Chairs' Summit conference call with Carol. The focus was tourism and recreation/campaign of engagement, with presentations on: 1) understanding and facilitating recreational uses in marine protected areas; 2) facilitating greater visitation and business connections to help support MPAs; 3) highlights of Hawaii's work with the hospitality industry and tourism authorities. OCNMS Director, Dan Basta, asked all sanctuary program representatives to consider adopting tourism and recreation as a fundamental principle of supporting sanctuaries. Brady reported that OCNMS AC will create a Tourism and Recreation Working Group this fall. Carol added that part of the federal strategy called for increase in tourism and recreation on federal land. She believes there is an opportunity to better partner with Olympic National Park around this issue and will continue discussions with them.

Biographies for OCNMS website – There has been approximately a 50% return rate on members submitting a summary of their biography with a photo for the OCNMS AC webpage. The purpose is to highlight the SAC members and demonstrate the breadth and range of experience and expertise that members bring to the AC. Please send your short bios and photo to Karlyn.

Conservation Seat Recruitment – The Conservation seat has been vacant since Sandra Brooks resigned. OCNMS will be recruiting for the Conservation seat via Federal Register Notice in mid-August. Any AC members with ideas for candidates for this seat should send names to Karlyn.

Young Adult Seat Working Group Update – There is no update as members were unable to find a time to meet before this meeting; their first meeting will be on June 4th. Contact Karlyn if interested in joining the working group.

July Meeting Date Changed to July 18 – The July meeting scheduled for the 19th will now take place on Thursday, July 18th due to federal sequestration and pending furlough. The meeting will be held in Forks at Olympic Natural Resources Center.

Information Items:

Ocean Acidification Working Group (OAWG) – Brady Scott, OAWG Chair, and Kevin Grant, reported on progress for the OAWG, including the unusual combination of Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and OCNMS AC members. It was established to review the recommendations from the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, and to identify and prioritize the recommendations that were most relevant to the outer coast. The group efficiently identified and prioritized the action items to help influence implementation priorities for the \$3 million identified in the Washington State budget in 2013. The group’s next step is to determine the “who and how” on implementation. An Ocean Acidification Working Group Interim Report was distributed for review, which included eight actions split into two tiers of priority (refer to http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/oa_letter.pdf and http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/oa_report13.pdf), with tier 1 representing the “key early actions” and tier 2 representing “near term actions” by the WA State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification.

Action Item: The OAWG drafted a letter to the sanctuary superintendent which shares the group’s eight identified actions, in order of highest priority, for immediate implementation along the outer coast of WA. It requests that she share the recommendations to encourage support for outer coast implementation of the identified actions of the WA Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification.

Discussion was raised to ensure that overall natural resources would be adequately represented, beyond focus on shellfish and aquaculture. Additional recommendations included emphasizing the unique tribal government-to-government relationship, including language from Executive Order 12-07, Washington’s Response to Ocean Acidification. Brady reiterated that the working group represents a partnership with both Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPA) and the sanctuary AC. Carol highlighted the broad language of the first prioritized action, “To establish an expanded and sustained ocean acidification monitoring network to measure trends in local acidification conditions and related biological responses,” and suggested adding a statement in the letter from the Executive Order to reiterate the need for emphasis on the entire ecosystem. The intent and focus on the letter now is to help drive the discussion and action items to the outer coast.

Mike moved that the SAC authorize the sending of the recommendations in the OAWG letter to the Superintendent and that superintendent include some of the discussion today in her transmittal letter as it goes forward. Roy Morris seconded that motion. Discussion followed on tribal representation and tribal consultation linked to language in the Ocean Acidification Executive Order.

Mike amended the motion to include the comments from those discussions as well as periodic annual review; Roy seconded the motion.

After further discussion to clarify the language in the letter, ***Mike moved to revise the motion back to the original motion recommending that the superintendent include language citing the Executive Order; the motion was seconded by Roy. Unanimous support was voiced, with no one opposed or abstaining.***

OCNMS Long Range Interpretive Plan – OCNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator Bob Steelquist gave a brief background on OCNMS Management Plan and the Visitor Services Action Plan. The intent was established before the campaign of engagement which is currently focused on tourism across the sanctuary system. OCNMS views the role of tourism and tourism services as one way to measure the effectiveness of the sanctuary. OCNMS has made research and science available to the public, identified ways to advance infrastructure in the region, and provide technical assistance to tourism enterprises. In 1998, OCNMS brought together agencies, tribal representatives, businesses and others and developed a concise plan to identify interpretive facilities, enabling OCNMS to leverage funding to enhance OCNMS visitors' services, including opening Olympic Coast Discovery Center.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) went through an intensive process and drew from the experience of National Parks Service interpretive programs and experience. Bill Douros, West Coast Regional Director, is now starting the process to review all west coast regional interpretive plans to identify common themes and elements that OCNMS and sanctuaries in California share in order to produce a harmonized west coast regional interpretive plan.

Concern among AC members included the long-term financial security for education and outreach programs, which Bob recognized is always an issue. Bob also hopes that the Tourism and Recreation Working Group will be able to provide further technical recommendation. Bob welcomed SAC member input and comment on the OCNMS Long Range Interpretive Plan. Karlyn will email all AC members a digital copy of the draft plan. Members are asked to return their feedback and/or edits to her within the next few weeks.

Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project – Janine Ledford, Makah Tribal Preservation Office, spoke about the Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project. The Makah have a history of officially managing their cultural resources since the mid-1960s. On reservation, the Makah manage cultural sites (primarily archeological sites) and off-reservation they help protect and make decisions about cultural sites located on federal, state, or private lands. They have entered into an agreement with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in collaboration with NOAA and funding from BOEM (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) to characterize tribal cultural landscapes. The Makah Tribe, along with the Confederate Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Yurok Tribe of California have been identified for the pilot project. The project will develop protocols, or an “analysis guide”, that will be useful for all tribes and agencies to improve government-to-government consultation. The project is exciting and unique in the sense that it

is the “landscape” on the water, and will use intimate knowledge of place over time, with the understanding that humans are part of the landscape, both shaping and being shaped by it.

Janine noted that the 18 month project officially began on May 13 and that the deliverable will consist of a shared description of the process, or analysis guide. It will resemble a “best practices study” and will integrate science, archeology, historical and traditional knowledge with application beyond just the Makah Tribe. Some of the ways that the Makah Tribe will define its landscape include: transcription of existing interviews, taking trips on the water, and speaking with elders and fishermen. They believe this will enable them to better prepare for future energy development and meaningful consultation and decision-making within their tribes as well as with different agencies. Another goal of the overall project is to help facilitate communication among tribes in the region, to clarify and promote tribal interests in ocean planning, and to minimize conflicts and controversies over these resources. Further information can be found on their website: <http://www.makah.com/mcrchome.html>

Makah Office of Marine Affairs Initiatives Updates – Chad Bowechop of the Makah Office of Marine Affairs provided updates on their recent initiatives, starting with a recent celebration of the naming of United States Coast Guard conference room on the third and fifth floor in the Federal Building in downtown Seattle. They named it the “Tatoosh Room” in recognition of the work they had done with Senator Cantwell in 2010 and 2012-13 on the United States Coast Guard Reauthorization Act. The Makah Tribal Council signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Coast Guard District 13 which formally binds their working relationship between Makah fishermen and Coast Guard and establishes a framework within which they can develop work activities, and will include work such as oil spills, vessel traffic and more. They believe this will enhance their overall participation and involvement in broader and more regional issues. It is also a model that they hope to adopt region wide as a baseline model for environmental management.

They have also recently entered into discussions with several groups who are anxious to visit to learn more about tribal response program and have a relationship with Marine Spill Response Coalition (MSRC). The Makah Tribal Council recently convened with the Tribal Ocean Policy Working Group, whose mission is to coordinate departmental interests and priorities to build policies which reflect those discussions and decisions.

Marine Mammal Research at Makah Fisheries – Adrienne Akmajian of Makah Fisheries Department delivered a presentation to provide an overview of research efforts of the Makah Marine Mammal Program over the last few years. Most of their research efforts focus in the near shore habitat and targets gray whales and sea lions, but they also document any marine mammals encountered.

Makah Fisheries conducts research on Steller and California sea lion population dynamics and life history on a monthly basis throughout the year. Over the last couple years, they have been collecting sea lion scat for analysis of food habits. The main goals of this research are: to determine the food habitats and usual prey species of the sea lions; to determine whether there is seasonal change in what they are eating; to determine whether there is competition for prey between the two sea lion species; to determine if food habits can be an indicator of habitat health or ecosystem changes; and to determine whether their scat contains harmful algal bloom (HAB) toxins. This project is nearing completion and the Makah hope to publish the results in the near future.

The Makah Tribe also conducts year round research on gray whales. Winter and spring coastal surveys (1 to 8-10 miles offshore) are done to collect photo identification of individual whales, sighting location, and behavior of migrating whales. Summer and fall nearshore surveys also target photo ID data and also include genetic work via biopsy sampling. Their photo ID data is used for population estimates and patterns of habitat use. The Makah also study gray whale body condition, using photographs to determine a whale's condition and to look at how body condition differs within a feeding season or between years. The goals of the genetics research are to determine if the whale is male or female and to find out how closely related it is to other gray whales feeding on the West Coast or to those feeding in the Arctic. The results from these projects are summarized in several reports presented to the International Whaling Commission.

Other marine mammal research efforts by the Tribe include participating in the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, primarily responding to animals found on the reservation, by documenting the species and location of stranded animals and investigating possible causes of death through necropsies and tissue sampling.

Climate Change Impacts Report for OCNMS: Adaptation Planning – Lara Whitely-Binder, of University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, delivered a follow up to Ian Miller's presentation at the March 2013 SAC meeting and report (refer to http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/presentation_climatechange.pdf). The Climate Impacts Group (CIG) is an interdisciplinary research team and has been studying the impacts of climate variability and climate change on communities and ecosystems, predominantly in the Pacific Northwest. The goal of their research is to produce scientific information that is useful to and used by decision makers with a broader objective of helping the region become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Lara recapped some of the findings from Ian Miller *et al.*'s report and demonstrated how both mitigation and adaptation efforts are required for climate change adaptive planning, particularly given how humans' expectations of climate change govern our society (i.e.

infrastructure, agriculture, public health, restoration, etc.). The ever-increasing rate of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in our atmosphere has significant implications of these assumptions.

She highlighted that the overall goal of adaptive planning is to take steps to avoid or minimize the anticipated impacts of climate change, while increasing resilience. From a broad organizational level, adaptation will consist of two things. The first is to build adaptive capacity through addressing institutional, legal, cultural, agricultural, fiscal and other barriers to adaptation. Examples include developing a strategy or guide on adaptation policy, increase education and outreach with stakeholders, increasing partnerships with relevant authorities, increasing training for staff and more. The second is to deliver and implement adaptive actions, which can be more time-sensitive. Adaptive actions include increasing water conservation measures, strengthening levee systems, improving the early warning systems for extreme heat events and more. Some actions can actually address both simultaneously, such as green infrastructure, water and energy conservation, and smart growth. The key is that adaptation is a continuous set of activities, actions, decisions and attitudes undertaken by individuals, groups and governments. Lara noted that that efforts are more effective if the actions are embedded into existing work and monitoring instead of having to create something entirely new.

She then facilitated an interactive discussion about what the SAC should do or propose to do in light of the report.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Misawa Docks Salvage – George Galasso reviewed the steps leading to the successful removal of the Misawa dock. The March 11, 2011 Japan tsunami, with a wave height of 133 feet that traveled 6 miles inland, killed 15,883 people and left 2,681 missing. The tsunami was caused by an undersea mega thrust earthquake, Japan’s most powerful earthquake ever recorded and the world’s fifth most powerful earthquake registered.

The Misawa dock was one of four docks that broke loose during the Japan tsunami. The dock was used by the Misawa Fisheries Cooperative for off-loading small vessels. The fishing vessel *Lady Nancy* first sighted the dock on December 14, 2012 off the Washington coast and reported it as a barge. As soon as it was reported, many began to suspect that it from Japan in light of the similar dock that washed up on Oregon’s coast. Washington State activated their marine debris response plan. NOAA started making trajectories to predict where the dock might land. The USCG put out an emergency Notice to Mariners and started aerial surveys to locate it. Both the Quinalt Nation and Olympic National Park requested that the state respond using a “whole government approach”. Overall efforts were well coordinated amongst tribal, state and federal entities.

USCG flights located the dock which reached landfall at Mosquito Creek on December 18. A response team visited the time to place a tracking buoy in case the dock would shift and move

from that location, assess non-native and potential invasive species, assess the dock for radiation hazard, confirm the origin of the dock, and obtain an overall sense of the dock's condition.

OCNMS staff took the lead on surveying the offshore areas and thought the dock could be towed off the beach to sea, but it was ultimately deemed unsafe to do so, nor was the dock seaworthy. Great care was taken to remove invasive species before completing the salvage. OCNMS and ONP were in agreement to remove the dock from the remote beach location. NOAA took the lead on contracting removal efforts with funds provided to NOAA from the government of Japan to help with cleanup of marine debris from the tsunami.

The demotion began on March 17th, 2013 and was completed by March 26th. Overall the Misawa dock removal was an incredible learning process for OCNMS and its partners and involved significant collaboration, problem-solving and mutual respect.

2013 CoastSavers Clean-up – Liam Antrim, Resource Protection Specialist for OCNMS, summarized the 2013 efforts of the annual CoastSavers beach clean-up along the coast on April 20th. Annual beach clean-ups have taken place since 2000, with CoastSavers taking over as the organizers in 2008. OCNMS and Surfrider Foundation are two of the main partners, but included many other groups and volunteers. Overall, it was estimated that over 1,000 people partook in the 2013 CoastSavers beach clean-up, removing over 15 tons of debris from the Olympic Coast beaches. In the future, they are hoping to increase the frequency of events and expand the range of coverage throughout the year.

Liam highlighted the efforts that took place on Makah reservation, starting in Neah Bay with a registration station and educational booth at Hobuck Beach. This year Liam led a group with partners from U.S. Coast Guard targeting a challenging beach cove between Shi Shi and Sooes beaches. Joining them were the two founding members of The Ikkatsu Project (<http://ikkatsuproject.org>), which carries out expeditions by professional sea kayakers to reach remote, inaccessible beaches to document the effects of marine debris. Anyone interested in learning more about their efforts can watch the video, "The Roadless Coast" at <http://vimeo.com/52769782>.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Carol recognized Roy Morris and Dr. Nancy Messmer as the OCNMS "Volunteer(s) of the Year" nominee to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF). Usually only one nominee is chosen per sanctuary, but OCNMS acknowledged this couple for all of the joint contributions they have made over many years. NMSF will select one overall winner from the 14 individuals nominated. Roy expressed gratitude to Carol and her leadership and urged agencies to seek and support more volunteer efforts in response

to limited government resources, particularly from educated retirees who have time and energy to serve their community in diverse roles.

2. A dedication ceremony for a Whale Trail sign took place on April 11. OCNMS and Olympic National Park partnered with The Whale Trail (<http://thewhaletrail.org>). The overall mission of The Whale Trail is to inspire appreciation and stewardship of whales and our marine environment by establishing a network of viewing sites along the whales' trails through Puget Sound and the coastal waters of the Pacific Northwest.
3. OCNMS is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to test the use of an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) to monitor off-shore seabird populations and marine debris. Tests will be conducted from June 16-30 using a small human-launched plane with a camera to monitor nesting bird populations. Carol thanked both Quileute Tribe and Quinault Nation for allowing access via tribal reservation for land launches at La Push and Point Grenville.
4. George Galasso and Nancy Wright of OCNMS completed the 2012 Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) compliance and monitoring report. After having to switch to a new data source and develop new processing techniques, OCNMS reported a compliance rate of 96% for January to November 2012 and 98% compliance rate for December 2012. The 2012 ATBA compliance report is available at <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protect/incidentresponse/atba.html>.

Member Reports & Future Agenda Topic Ideas –

Jan Newton reported that they redeployed the La Push buoy recently and that live data can be acquired at www.nanoos.org. They conducted a successful cruise with UW graduate students with educators from Quinault and Bainbridge Island schools, sanctuary volunteers, HERO, and more. The buoy's name, Cha'ba, was named by the Quileute tribe which means "whale tail" in their language.

Bob Boekelheide announced that a North American migration count of birds was recently conducted. The group surveying at La Push saw ancient murrelets with chicks in sanctuary waters. This is of interest in that their range is usually north of Vancouver Island.

Roy Morris reminded everyone of the 5th Annual River and Ocean Resource Fair and Potluck tomorrow in Forks at Olympic Natural Resource Center on May 18. This citizen science event will take place starting at 4pm and includes exhibitor booths, presentations and a movie showing. Roy requested placing Lake Ozette sockeye recovery on a future AC agenda.

Lora Leschner brought copies of Birding magazine including an article about the National Joint Venture program and outlined projects in the Puget Sound and Willapa Bay area. Lora highlighted ongoing projects in the Puget Sound region. She suggested John Sakowski, the

leader of North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, give a presentation for the fall SAC meeting.

Steve Joner pointed out three of the five Makah boats at the first slip of Makah Marina. The Makah fleet focuses on harvesting hake, the single largest fishery in the California Current by biomass. He and Richard Carroll will be going to Canada next week to meet with their Canadian counterparts regarding the treaty signed in 2003 to share hake and continue negotiations on sharing agreements.

Mike Doherty encourages anyone to visit the Makah Museum. He also pointed out the Highway 101 bridge crossing the Elwha River is a good place to observe the changes in the river since removal of the Elwha dams. He also noted that there will be an increase in broad band internet for the west end, including the four coastal tribes.

Rebecca Post is working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and COASST to put on a free training for beached seabirds impacted by oil spills. If interested in participating, contact Rebecca.

Les Bolton announced that it is the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the first US vessel on the west coast, which departed from Boston. The sanctuary has a great opportunity to be in the public eye this summer. Grays Harbor Historical Seaport Authority has been invited by the Quinault Nation to escort the canoes from Neah Bay to Quinault River during Tribal Journeys this July. An award winning documentary film maker will be joining and Les is looking for funding to support her work.

Steve Fradkin announced that the annual Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) will be held on Aug 15-17 at ONRC in Forks. MARINE is a consortium of federal, state, academic and NGOs that conduct rocky intertidal monitoring. This will be the first time their annual meeting in the Northwest and other partners, including OCNMS, will be involved.

Brady Scott announced that Katrina Lassiter, the WA-DNR Alternate, hopes to present at the next SAC meeting in July on marine spatial planning efforts the state has been involved with over the past year. Her presentation might also include climate change and ocean acidification issues.

Ellen Matheny mentioned that ONRC hosted Native Pathways at Peninsula College last Friday. They invited youth and young adults from the six coastal tribes for the day with a native UW recruiter to explore the idea of options with education and careers beyond high school. One finding is that there is an interest in furthering their education, but they are reluctant to leave their reservations. This was the second year doing the event with plans to continue it annually based on the positive response.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting is **Thursday, July 18** in Forks at Olympic Natural Resources Center.