

INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012



Intergovernmental Policy Council

Annual Report

2012



Debbie Preston

On the cover, dancers from the Hoh, Makah and Quileute tribes and Quinault Indian Nation share dances and songs with the attendees of the First Stewards symposium on climate change held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. Above, coastal tribes are also trying to keep their beaches and waters free of debris from the Japanese tsunami. Winter storms may bring much more debris.

Introduction

Now in its sixth year, the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) continues to focus on ensuring healthy oceans and healthy communities for citizens of both the coastal treaty tribes and the state of Washington in cooperation with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. This last year saw some important developments and milestones. This was the first year the Olympic Coast Sanctuary operated under their revised Management Plan. It also was a period of renewal for the IPC—the memorandum of understanding was reauthorized this year and will be signed at the Annual Meeting. This year also saw the culmination of the symposium that has been under development for the past couple years, First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change.

Management Plan Revised

IPC representatives and other state and tribal staffs

played a significant role in development of the revised OCNMS Management Plan. This is the first year of implementation of the new Management Plan which was finalized in September of 2011. In 2012 the IPC has focused attention on implementing strategies to achieve its many goals under the new Management Plan.

In addition to a section dedicated to the treaty trust responsibility and tribal consultation that is of utmost importance to the coastal tribes and their representatives, the Plan also contains a section on collaborative research and monitoring. The IPC has convened a Science Panel to help ensure that annual research planning and activities in the Sanctuary align with the policy goals of the Council. They are working to leverage partnerships through the Advisory Council (SAC), academia, and other agencies to ensure that science to support ecosystem-based management continues despite the severe budget climate.

Effective collaborative and coordinated management is another focus of the Plan. This is the primary purpose of the IPC and the heart of the relationship between the tribes, the state of Washington, and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Likewise the IPC and SAC will continue to hold an annual joint meeting to coordinated goals and re-



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Micah McCarty, Makah chairman and IPC vice-president, addresses attendees of the First Stewards climate change symposium at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

search and management priorities.

Memorandum of Agreement Renewed

To ensure that proper coordination of management would continue, the IPC and ONMS reviewed and renewed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) this year according to schedule. The MOA was updated with minor formatting changes and a new review period. It now has review every three years with the intent to renew every six years. The core purpose of the Agreement remains the same:

... provide an effective and efficient forum for communication and exchange of information and policy recommendations regarding the management of the marine resources and activities within the boundaries of the OCNMS. Its role is to bring together state, federal and tribal governments for timely policy discussions, planning management initiatives, and to provide management direction to the OCNMS. The parties intend that the Agreement will allow them to better manage the marine resources within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary through

integrated management activities and collaborative relationships.

The parties plan to sign the renewed agreement at this year's Annual Meeting hosted by the Hoh Tribe.

First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change

The IPC achieved one of its highest priority goals this year – convening a first-of-its-kind symposium on climate change and indigenous communities. First Stewards: Coastal Peoples Address Climate Change was held this summer at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. A lot of great partners came together to make the original vision of the IPC and ONMS a reality.

The symposium featured indigenous cultural and community leaders, preeminent climate scientists, and policy makers from around the country. Four regional panels from the Pacific Islands; West Coast; East Coast, Great Lakes and Gulf of Mexico; and Alaska as well as a Looking Forward Panel highlighted the impacts of climate change in indigenous communities as well as adaptation strategies necessary for the survival of peoples and their cultures. More



Bruce Wagner, Quinault Indian Nation fisheries technician, and Scott Mazzone, shellfish and marine biologist for QIN, record the numbers of sea stars as part of their intertidal surveys. By recording the numbers of a variety of intertidal life, QIN is getting a baseline for their populations and can note changes. The data is also entered in a national database.



Debbie Preston (2)

Ed Johnstone, IPC chairman, talks with a student journalist about the First Stewards symposium during a break. National and international media converged to report on the week's messages.

information can be found at www.firststewards.org.

The success of First Stewards' inaugural symposium was evident in the national media coverage that surrounded the event as well as a Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing on the effects of climate change

held the same week as the Symposium. Building on this success, First Stewards passed a resolution calling on President Obama and Congress to, "consult with our tribal governments and indigenous communities for guidance in all policies that affect our way of life and to support our management efforts, which will strengthen America's resiliency and ability to adapt to climate change." They have also incorporated into a 501 (c) (3) non-profit to carry this important work forward.

Summary

First Stewards was an important milestone for IPC. It put the coastal tribes' and their priorities, as well as the unique inter-jurisdictional co-management relationship among the federal, state, and tribal governments that is central to IPC, in the national spotlight. Here at home IPC has renewed their commitment to work together through the MOA and laid the groundwork with the Sanctuary in the new Management Plan, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Successful implementation of the Plan will require ongoing collaboration and adaptive management to achieve the priorities of the IPC, Sanctuary, and their partners to ensure healthy oceans and the health of the communities that depend on them.



Sharon Pullen, Quileute tribal member, sings and drums with Quileute tribal members Chris Morganroth III, Jonah Black and John Rush during First Stewards symposium at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



The IPC annual meeting of 2011 was held in LaPush and the group assembled in front of the marina for this photo.



Nelson Kanuk, a witness from the Alaskan village of Kipnuk, addresses the attendees of the First Stewards symposium.

Busy Year for IPC



Judy Cathers, Hoh tribal member and a teacher at Mission Public School, assists Lillian Rivas, 10, of Arlington, Texas with her cedar bracelet as part of kids activities at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.



Debbie Preston (5)

Dancers from the Northern Mariana Islands demonstrate the stick dance during the First Stewards symposium.