



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

Washington, D.C. 20230

NOV 22 2010

Mr. Myles Boothe, Chair
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
c/o The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
115 East Railroad Avenue
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Dear Mr. Boothe:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council in support of reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). Your input on this issue is valuable, especially given the key role that sanctuary advisory councils have in the management and stewardship of our national marine sanctuaries.

The NMSA is NOAA's most comprehensive authority for protecting special areas of the marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Therefore, an updated NMSA is important for the continued success and relevance of the National Marine Sanctuary System, and also for meeting NOAA's mission "to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs." Further, with initiatives such as the President's National Ocean Policy and framework for coastal and marine spatial planning, the restoration and recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, and the increasing use of the Arctic Ocean, there is an even more important role that national marines sanctuaries can have to help fulfill the President's vision of ensuring "the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources" (as outlined in Executive Order 13547).

As NOAA engages in efforts to reauthorize NMSA, the agency will work with stakeholders like you to ensure the best possible outcome. Thank you for your continued support of our national marine sanctuaries. On behalf of NOAA, I look forward to working with you and others on reauthorization of NMSA.

Sincerely,

Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere



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THE ADMINISTRATOR

