Dear Ms. Bernthal:

During the September 24, 2004 meeting of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council), the Advisory Council received a briefing on the results of research on the deepwater corals and sponges carried out by the Sanctuary and the NOAA ship McArthur II in June. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Advisory Council passed a resolution, with two abstentions, supporting continuing this important work and specifically supporting the request for funding that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is making to the NOAA Ocean Exploration Office for ROV/submersible time. The Advisory Council passes the resolution on to you and requests that you include it in the grant application package to the NOAA. Specifically, the resolution reads:

“The Advisory Council strongly supports inventory of deepwater resources, including corals and sponges, to collect baseline information to help direct future research, management, and protection of sanctuary resources. The Advisory Council supports the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary proposal for funding from the NOAA Ocean Exploration Office for ROV/submersible equipment necessary for research to be carried out on the already committed research schedule and plan for NOAA research vessel McArthur II.”


The Advisory Council is committed to active support of the National Marine Sanctuary System in their mission to preserve and protect the unique resources found within the established national marine sanctuaries. The OCNMS Advisory Council is supportive of education, resource protection and research activities and commercial endeavors that are compatible with the primary objectives as stated above. The Advisory also acknowledges that policy actions must consider the impact on and uphold the treaty-protected rights of Indian Tribes.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Terrie Klinger, Chair
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

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