

**Draft Vessel Support Resolution**

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) Advisory Council (AC) is concerned with both the reduced level of NOAA Ship support and the material condition of the sanctuary's research vessel Tatoosh. OCNMS has not received NOAA Ship support in three years and the RV Tatoosh is five years past its estimated replacement date (Small Boat Requirement Study-2006). This combination has the potential to severely reduce the sanctuary's ability to fulfill its responsibility and to implement the 2011 management plan, which we helped draft and support.

We request that the Sanctuary Superintendent pass on this concern on to the Office of National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA Office of Marine and Aircraft Operations, along with our support for the acquisition of a replacement vessel for the RV Tatoosh and future consideration for NOAA Ship support. Specifically we request that when funding becomes available that OCNMS be prioritized for a new vessel as called for in ONMS's own planning documents. We also request that if the needed funding is not forthcoming that the requisite resources be made available to keep the RV Tatoosh safe and operational.