

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



Chip Boothe, Chair
Brady Scott, Vice-Chair
Ellen Matheny, Secretary

September 20, 2013

Representation

Citizen-At-Large
Commercial Fishing
Conservation
Education
Marine Business
Outer Coast Marine Resource
Committees
Research
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Hoh Tribe
Makah Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation
Local Government:
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Jefferson County
Grays Harbor County
Washington State:
Dept. of Ecology
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dept. of Natural Resources
NOAA Fisheries
Olympic National Park
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Navy

Artwork: David Sones

Dear Superintendent Bernthal:

In 2011 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Director Dan Basta recommended that each sanctuary advisory council consider the addition of a youth seat on each council. The presence of a youth seat would provide opportunities to engage future generations of ocean stewards, users and leaders in sanctuary communities and to empower them to witness firsthand the challenges associated with the need for resource protection and ocean management. It was envisioned that the Youth Seat would be a non-governmental, non-voting member representing the youth segment of ages 14-17. Based on this recommendation, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC or SAC), working with OCNMS staff, formed a Youth Seat Subcommittee.

OCNMS staff were concerned about the success and sustainability of having a Youth Seat on the SAC because of the age restriction and the implications of that age range, including the logistics entailed for attending and participating in SAC meetings. OCNMS staff and its AC members still wanted youth engagement on the SAC and decided to brainstorm potential avenues for youth participation. During initial Youth Seat Subcommittee discussions, several options to engage younger adults, including a Youth Seat, were considered.

The Subcommittee identified four different youth engagement options:

- 1) **Youth Seat** – The Youth Seat would be a high school student age 14-17 to act as a non-voting member of Advisory Committee for a one-year term, with the option for a second year appointment. He / She would attend bi-monthly meetings (six per year at various locations throughout Olympic Peninsula) to provide the council with a youth perspective on key topics.
- 2) **Student Seat** – The Student Seat would be available to any age student of an undergraduate or graduate program to act as a non-voting member of the Advisory Committee for a one-year term, with the option for a second year

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appointment. He / She would also attend bi-monthly meetings (six per year at various locations throughout Olympic Peninsula) to provide a student's perspective on key topics, enriching the overall community reach.

- 3) **Mentor Seat** – The Mentor Seat would be a non-voting member of the Advisory Committee for a two-year term who would recruit student groups to attend and participate in Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, as appropriate.
- 4) **Student Participation Program** – The Student Participation Program would allow opportunities for science classes and/or clubs (biology, marine, environmental, etc.) to observe and/or participate in Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings taking place in their communities.

At this time, it is our recommendation to initiate the SAC Student Participation Program. In creating a Student Participation Program instead of a Youth Seat, more youth would be exposed to the SAC and the issues surrounding OCNMS in the region, with the intent to encourage them to become more aware of and engaged in coastal and marine issues, therefore leading to better future stewards and decision makers. In addition, the SAC would gain youth perspectives from the larger youth groups, a demographic of which it has not yet directly had engagement and dialogue with. The success of this program would call for any interested SAC members and/or alternates to be engaged in recruiting and interfacing with groups of youth. SAC members interested in participating in this role could alter over time, based on meeting location and links to communities and/or schools in a given meeting location.

We recommend implementing the Student Participation Program at every SAC meeting possible for one year, starting at the November 2013 SAC meeting, then reviewing the success of the program at the January 2015 SAC meeting.

As the OCNMS AC, we represent a diverse group of constituencies that have a strong interest in sanctuary and marine resource management in the Olympic Coast region. Our role is to advise the OCNMS Superintendent on sanctuary management topics and concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary.

The council is an advisory board to the Sanctuary Superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,



Myles (Chip) Boothe
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

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