

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
March 16, 2012

Washington Department of Natural Resources Conference Center
411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Myles (Chip) Boothe, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Jan Newton (Research), Katie Krueger (Quileute Tribe Alternate), Frank Holmes (Marine Business/Ports/Industry Alternate), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Brian Santman (Commercial Fishing Alternate), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Heather Reed (WDFW), Kevin Ryan (USFWS), Jody Kennedy (Tourism/Recreation), Les Bolton (Tourism/Recreation Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large Alternate), Carolyn Winters (U.S. Navy Alternate), Herb Welch (Local Government), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation Alternate), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim

Members of the Public in Attendance: Doug Lowe (Facility Programming and Consulting), Rich Osborne (North Olympic Lead Entity and North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee), Chad Bowechop (Makah Office of Marine Affairs), Tom Sanford (Feiro Marine Life Center), Bill Peach (Forks Chamber of Commerce), Rebekah Gentry (Olympic Natural Resources Center)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Liam will distribute information to local partners on the Japan tsunami marine debris items being tracked in shoreline debris.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Chip opened the meeting, welcomed participants, and initiated a round robin of self-introductions. ***Joel made a motion to adopt the agenda; Joe S. seconded; unanimous support was voiced.***

Internal Affairs

During review of February meeting notes, Katie K. asked that correct affiliation be added to Jennifer Hagen. ***Rebecca made a motion to adopt the February meeting minutes; Les seconded; unanimous support was voiced.***

Chip referenced the 2012 Advisory Council Work Plan which was adopted at the last meeting as an outline for future priorities. Katie asked about the Sanctuary's interest in the Lake Ozette sockeye recovery planning. Roy reviewed sanctuary involvement with the recovery plan, and recent efforts project to engage Washington's outer coast communities and students in place-based activities involving Lake Ozette sockeye salmon. Carol acknowledged she does not have staff to cover the recovery planning meetings regularly but has consulted with NMFS on marine data the sanctuary currently collects and will be an active participant in the Lake Ozette sockeye oral history project.

Youth Seat Subcommittee – Carol summarized that a Youth seat on the Council would be limited to individuals 18 years or younger, whereas a Young Adult seat could engage local college students. She recommended the Council Charter subcommittee, which had discussed this topic, be reactivated to consider this issue. Brady Scott has offered to remain as subcommittee chair. A few challenges and options were mentioned, including a west-end youth committee from which delegate could come, or a youth committee from each community, or connection with the Washington Conservation Corps. Les, and Rich Osborne volunteered to join the subcommittee, which previously included Brady, Rebecca, Lee, Jennifer Hagen, and George Hart, with Liam as staff support. Carol said sanctuary education staff would be represented. ***Rebecca moved change this to a working group to accommodate members not on the Council; Joe S. seconded, and unanimous support was voiced.***

National Advisory Council Chairs Summit – a 2-hour webinar is planned for April 9. Chip, Carol and sanctuary staff will participate. An agenda has not been set but Chip welcomed comments/issues from the Council to raise on the webinar. A follow up meeting may occur in fall 2012. Carol mentioned a West Coast Region Council Chairs meeting may also occur.

Coastal Marine Resources Committee Seat Recruitment – a new seat was incorporated in the revised Council Charter. Recruitment will be open soon, pending approval of associated documents, and a new member could possibly be seated by the May 18 Council meeting. Any member of the Grays Harbor or North Pacific Coast marine resources committees can apply, but the committees could nominate and promote a candidate. Rich Osborne suggested this should be a government seat, but it is not defined this way in the Charter.

Superintendent's Report

Carol referenced the March Office Report (distributed at this meeting). She highlighted the Lake Ozette sockeye education project; the CoastSavers beach cleanup on April 21; the sanctuary's 2012 budget (OCNMS was allocated \$1.6M); funding to tribes for the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council; a Council working group being established to evaluate and improve the sanctuary's nearshore moorings program; planned outreach associated with the overflight and cruise ship discharge regulations. The fiscal year 2013 budget is expected to be slimmer and labor savings that helped in 2012 are not likely to recur in 2013. Tom Baker's Coast Guard Auxiliary deployment has been extended through September 2012, and Lauren Bennett has been contracted to coordinate the Council in the interim. Rebecca voiced support for the Makah Cooperative Interpretive Program and intertidal monitoring programs.

OCNMS Long Range Facility Plan

Doug Lowe, Facility Programming and Consulting, reviewed efforts to prepare a Facility Strategy report for OCNMS and as well as preliminary recommendations. (Note: the presentation has been posted on the Council website.) The report will identify sanctuary needs and limitations, potential partners, funding sources, and the role of sanctuary in working with partners.

The central recommendation is to create a marine-centric campus with partners with a focus on ocean education, science and research, conservation and outreach. NOAA does not anticipate

having the necessary resources to pursue a stand-alone facility. Each partner in the proposed campus would retain its identity while fulfilling a unique role.

The logic in a campus approach is that overlapping space needs can be shared in a cost effective manner. It also promotes collaboration and reduces duplication of efforts amongst the partners. The value is that the visitor or user experiences are enhanced through the delivery of multiple services, and that a partnership provides greater opportunities than what could be achieved individually for each organization.

Administrative offices in Port Angeles have the greater potential for partnership and development of a joint campus in the near term. The study also identifies sanctuary facility needs and opportunities in Neah Bay, La Push, Kalaloch, Grays Harbor/Aberdeen, and Westport. The study will define programmatic needs for the sanctuary based on the new management plan and translate this into space requirements.

Next steps are to build a planning partnership team with interested parties in a joint marine campus and to identify the needs of the sanctuary and key partners, identify responsible sanctuary staff for support and decision-making. The next phase (phase 2) includes a memorandum of agreement with partners, evaluating environmental/permitting issues of various potential locations, and outlining a budget and programming. An aggressive timeline was presented is phase 2, beginning with the development of partnership agreements in summer 2012 and partnership agreements and campus design starting in fall 2012.

Council discussion followed. Roy encouraged having a stronger sanctuary presence in west end peninsula communities. Locations have not been identified, as this should be done in collaboration with partners. Doug noted if OCNMS had funding, they could pursue phase 2 alone and involve partners later, but without designated sanctuary program funding, partnerships are being solicited now. Katie recommended a stronger evaluation of west-end locations and partners. Doug explained that initial discussions were open to this but a multi-partner facility on the Port Angeles waterfront gained most support at planning meetings. Les recommended a strategic planning approach, identified that 6 million visitors travel through Aberdeen annually to visit the coast, noted the proximity of Grays Harbor to sanctuary waters, and suggested an initial investment in the Grays Harbor area might gain more support from the regional population than large expenditures on a facility in Port Angeles. Bob B. recommended widespread and varied sanctuary outreach to people who visit sanctuary shores. Ellen noted University of Washington's Olympic Natural Resources Center should be considered as a potential partner. It is an existing and excellent facility in need of a new focus. Carol affirmed that NOAA is not considering relocating administrative offices from Port Angeles but is very interested in strengthening programming in west end communities.

Public Comment

Tom Sanford (Feiro Marine Life Center, FMLC) has been working on an evaluation of their facility needs, which is reaching similar conclusions to the sanctuary's facility planning. FMLC is currently planning for growth and is looking for partners in this process. Tom reviewed regional

schools programming the FMLC does in collaboration with the sanctuary, including work with coastal school districts.

Bill Peach (Forks Chamber of Commerce) offered the resources of the Forks Chamber of Commerce. He also noted the Chamber is in a unique position to engage the Forks community with the sanctuary.

A group photo was taken at during the lunch break.

Socioeconomic Studies of Washington's Outer Coast

Note: these presentations have been posted on the Council website.

Ellen Matheny substituted for Miranda Wecker, Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC), who is developing a proposal and seeking outer coast marine resources committee support for a study called "Assessing Washington's Working Coast." The study's purpose is to develop a detailed understanding of marine resource-based jobs and seek ways to sustain and expand them, and to support a sustainable coastal economy. Deliverables include a report (developed by ONRC and UW Program on the Environment class) and economic summit in mid to late 2013. Discussion covered sources of funding; complexity of analysis of a marina's economic impact; need for tribal involvement; value of previous studies by Dean Runyan; connection with Sea Grant; value of socioeconomic impacts analyses and community profiles completed by National Marine Fisheries Service.

Jody Kennedy reviewed a non-consumptive recreational ocean use study completed for Oregon in 2011 (available for download at http://surfrider.org/images/uploads/publications/OR_rec_study.pdf). Geospatial information was collected for various uses, and numbers of users and economic impacts were estimated. An online survey instrument was used, which required significant outreach and engagement. About 30 activity categories were identified and mapped. Expenditures were estimated. Values of a similar study for Washington's coast include providing critical information for marine spatial planning, complementing the Washington's Working Coast study, and providing information on recreational use of sanctuary waters. Discussion covered the value of this study for coastal marine spatial planning, lack of related data for Washington's recreational fishing, and possibilities for funding a similar study of WA (estimated \$300K needed; Packard Foundation was instrumental in funding the OR study). Heather Reed noted for recreational fishing numbers of fishers and catch, ports of origin, and private vs. charter boats is tracked, but the locations fished is not well characterized. Aerial surveys could be used, or a self-reporting system.

Bob Leeworthy, Chief Economist for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, joined by phone. Bob explained and provided examples for the phrase "ecosystem services" (an attribute of the natural system that people care about), and he described how social scientists measure the values (value to economy, value to consumer and producer, non-economic preference rankings). Bob described what is needed to make the non-consumptive uses study most useful

for OCNMS. Questions include 1) are sample sizes suitable for reliable estimates of use within OCNMS and for use of the Random Utility Model (RUM; which relates to ecosystem services), and 2) are available attributes data spatially specific to analyze the sanctuary area? Bob suspects data would not be suitable for RUM and recommended the Stated Preferences Choice Model, currently gaining favor with the National Marine Fisheries Services. Choice of a model would precede conduct of the survey.

Turning to the Washington's Working Coast proposal, Bob recommended ways to make this study most useful for characterization of OCNMS. For fisheries, catch location data needs to allow analysis for the sanctuary area; landing and home port data is important; cost and earning studies are valuable; market value increase information is important. For recreational fisheries, distinction between residents and visitors is important. Bob stressed that National Ocean Economics Projects data is not valuable as it does not establish the relationship between ocean resource use and the economy. Bob expressed interest in partnering in these studies and assisting with survey design. Sanctuaries has recently purchased WA State data for IMPLAN input-output model (see <http://implan.com/V4/Index.php>) and can calculate the multiplier value to the economy with this model. Discussion centered on the REMI input-output model (which is useful for time series data) and use of on-line survey vs. internet panel (approaches that complement each other).

Public Comment

Rich Osborne suggested a means of gaining youth involvement by having Council members adopt and mentor a youth, introduce the youth to aspects of their work, then have them join a Council meeting as a "mock" substitute for the seat.

Chad Bowechop, Makah Office of Marine Affairs, referenced Washington Department of Ecology's ongoing contingency plan advisory committee process, mentioned the vessel of opportunity (VOO) program being outlined with two regions that cover the sanctuary. The VOO program identifies vessels in the region, including fishing vessels, with capacity to assist with spill response. Chad reminded the Council of the importance of a strong preparedness and response program to the Makah Tribe and the sanctuary, and he emphasized the importance of sanctuary involvement in the contingency plan advisory committee process. Chip noted some Council members are involved in the advisory committee.

Member Reports

Roy Morris mentioned initiatives to provide natural resource information in local libraries and to provide information about marine debris to local communities. Jody Kennedy summarized a newly formed Coastal Advisory Body for the outer coast, which will meet with the Governor's Office and have an initial focus on coastal marine spatial planning. Lee Whitford wanted to encourage refunding of the B-WET program, and she is looking forward to helping revise OCNMS' interpretive plan. Carolyn Winters announced the Navy has just initiated a public process to develop environmental analyses for their training and testing operations; the Council will be briefed at the May meeting. Jan Newton said data from the Cha Ba buoy is being analyzed, with revealing evidence of "internal tides" as a pumping mechanism for nutrients and

deeper waters toward the coast. Funding in the President's 2013 budget indicates severe cuts to the region's programs. Improvements in oceanographic data on the outer coast could include CODAR coverage, which measures sea surface currents and is lacking for the outer coast of Washington. The Governor has appointed Jan and Micah McCarty to a "blue ribbon" panel on ocean acidification. Heather Reed reviewed a project on derelict crab pot assessment and removal (a report will soon be released) and a program that allows fishers to remove gear during season closures, together resulting in about 2,000 derelict pots and 100 metric tons of debris being removed from coastal waters. Joe Schumacker announced a Collins grant received from The Nature Conservancy with which the Quinault will target derelict crab gear along the 10 fathom line, employing sonar and divers to locate and remove gear. Quinault beaches will be open to the public for the April 21 cleanup. Dana Sarff mentioned the Makah are concerned about Japan tsunami debris, and some items have been identified on Makah reservation shorelines. Katie Krueger noted differences in predictions about the timing of marine debris arrival on our shores. Les Bolton said the Seaport's property acquisition is expected soon. Frank Holmes reviewed progress at the contingency plan advisory committee meetings, and noted the industry-supported emergency rescue tug stationed at Neah Bay has been in place about 18 months. Joel Kawahara mentioned an upcoming Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting, mostly focused on salmon management, and noted the groundfish essential fish habitat process is delayed, with proposals accepted in September. Kevin Ryan anticipates a reduced budget but will have funding for seabird colony surveys this year. USFWS and OCNMS are collaborating on a pilot project to test an unmanned aerial vehicle for seabird colony surveys.

Chip provided a briefing on Ecology's contingency plan advisory committee and rulemaking process. (Note: the presentation has been posted on the Council website.) The advisory committee's work will be completed in May and formal rulemaking initiated in June 2012.

The next Advisory Council meeting is May 18, 2012 in Neah Bay.