

# OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Meeting Notes

**OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
May 20, 2011  
Makah Marina  
Neah Bay, 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



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George Galasso, Acting Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair



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Chip Boothe

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Chip Boothe, Steve Fradkin, Jennifer Hagen, George Hart, Jody Kennedy, Fayette Krause, Roy Morris, Meredith Parker, Rebecca Post, Dana Sarff, Diane Butorac, Brady Scott, John Veentjer

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Patrick A'Hearn, Tom Baker, Ed Bowlby, Dayna Matthews (NOAA/NMFS)

**Members of the Public in Attendance:** Chad Bowechop, Colby Brady, Yongwen Gao, Sophie McCoy, Eric Wilkins, Tim Wootton, and others not identified

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Distribute briefings of the agenda items planned for the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting that could not be fit in due to time constraints (namely, the Management Plan Review and the AC Charter Review Subcommittee report) to all AC members.
- Interest was expressed by board members in learning more about contingency planning, possibly a presentation on pollution response/preparedness at the state level.
- Distribute URL's/links to the DOE Listserv (<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WA-CLIMATE-CHANGE>) and Hershman Fellowship (<http://www.wsg.washington.edu/education/fellowships/hershman.html>) mentioned by Mike D.

**DISCUSSION SUMMARY:**

**Internal Affairs**

The agenda was adopted by the Council with one amendment (Jennifer H. moved; Rebecca P. seconded; passed with unanimous approval). Amendment changes included the deletion of the NPC MRC briefing; addition of Dr. Wootton's presentation; and the addition of the Makah fleet tour at lunch provided by Colby Brady. The March 2011 meeting notes were accepted with one correction (Rebecca P. moved; George G. seconded; nine members approved, one abstention).

Chip announced that Meredith Parker has accepted a new position as the general manager for the Makah Nation and will be resigning from her position on the OCNMS AC effective immediately. Meredith, who was present, read her resignation letter to the Council; Meredith will still serve in her role with the Chamber of Commerce of Neah Bay and has completed her full three year term as a Sanctuary Advisory Council member. Liam presented Meredith flowers on behalf of OCNMS and thanked her for her volunteerism and service to the Advisory Council.

**2011 National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Report**

National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit –Brady attended as the OCNMS AC representative and distributed a summary of the main points of the summit.

The National SAC Summit convened from 2 May – 4 May, 2011. Brady mentioned that an overarching theme and frequent emphasis was on the projection of sanctuaries, and specifically, the maritime heritage, political, and social culture aspects of sanctuaries. There was a presentation on sentinel sites

and their role in the framework of monitoring changes and impacts over time to the marine sanctuary environment. There was discussion about the need/justification for a National Advisory Council, and it was agreed that the feasibility for such an entity would be investigated further in the future by ONMS, which will also review national policy on AC member term limits and succession. New meeting formats and styles for future SAC Summits were considered by representatives and forwarded to ONMS for consideration.

Brady explained that information sharing was explored, with interest expressed in the creation of a national-level database/site for collecting and storing AC information that could be accessed by members of any AC to ostensibly facilitate communication and information exchange between different AC's and ONMS. Roy M. commented that data management and data dissemination are very important roles for marine sanctuaries to develop and that it might be a role for OCNMS to champion as an opportunity for future acknowledgment by ONMS. Roy asked if Dan Basta mentioned the Carmel/Monterey Film Festival at the AC Summit; Brady confirmed this was mentioned. Roy suggested that it might be a good idea for the OCNMS community to consider a similar film festival.

Representatives also suggested that the ONMS re-open the Site Evaluation List (SEL) and use new technologies, along with current and potential relationships with partners/communities, to examine potential new sanctuaries. ONMS will provide metrics on the socioeconomic impact of sanctuaries on local communities and quantitative information on this relationship. Summit representatives recommended that sanctuary superintendents and AC members collaborate with local academic institutions to collect and analyze additional socioeconomic information in order to further refine the relationship between local economies and marine sanctuaries.

Other Summit highlights and suggestions included potential participation by AC members in international training programs to develop partnerships and perspective; the potential for increasing sanctuary partnerships and involvement with community colleges, and the inclusion/creation of youth seats on Sanctuary Advisory Councils. Jennifer H. asked if Brady could elaborate on the Summit discussion of ONMS's image within fishing communities. Chip mentioned that there is a perceived conflict between the goals of the ONMS and commercial/recreational fishing communities. Brady explained that the discussion at the Summit addressed this perception and the reality that the goals of ONMS and the fishing community more often coincide, and this should be emphasized.

### **Strengthening Spill Prevention and Response Capacity in Neah Bay**

Chad Bowechop, Makah Office of Marine Affairs. Chad's introduction explained that the Makah Office of Marine Affairs was created by the Makah Tribal Council several years ago to initially address oil pollution. What the Office has taken from lessons learned over the years is that an increased understanding of policy and administrative capability has better enabled it to participate in oil spill response efforts. Chad explained that the resource management relationship the Makah Tribe has with the State of Washington is as co-manager, while this role comes in the form of being a resource trustee with the federal government.

Chad mentioned that the Makah Tribal Council was an early advocate/supporter of the OCNMS designation. The Tribe and OCNMS share a common science mission. The Tribe's cultural and treaty perspectives, in conjunction with the partnership it shares with OCNMS, allow it to build a better understanding of how to manage natural resources within the treaty area. Managing natural resources in this case includes developing, maintaining and strengthening oil spill prevention and response

capabilities within the treaty area. Real estate, timber and intertidal marine resources are the three main trust resources on Makah land; given how many agencies are involved in managing marine resources, Chad emphasized the importance of the relationship between the Office of Marine Affairs and OCNMS, and on a larger scale, with NOAA and the Department of Commerce. The strong working relationships and communications the Makah Tribe and Office of Marine Affairs have built over the years with OCNMS, the Coast Guard, and other marine resource partners is indicative of the importance these relationships have in oil spill prevention and response capabilities in Neah Bay, currently and in the future.

### **Superintendent's Report**

George G. explained that as of last week, OCNMS has its budget and received 95% of last year's budget; additionally, OCNMS has received national program priority funds to assist with completing the Management Plan review and operations. OCNMS is currently devising strategies based on this budget. The Sanctuary is receiving support from the west coast region office for our ocean observing system at the same levels as 2010. George mentioned that OCNMS has been working with an architect to design a replacement vessel for the RV *Tatoosh* in conjunction with Stellwagen Bank NMS, and a design has been completed. Moving into the bidding phase for the replacement vessel will depend heavily on future budget considerations. A South Coast Interpretive Plan has been in the works as well, and George said he believes this will be wrapped up at the end of the summer. Funding was received for several other projects, including upgrading equipment in the Olympic Coast Discovery Center, signage related to the Whale Trail Program (<http://thewhaletrail.org/>), and planning for future administrative and operational facilities.

George also mentioned there is a multi-beam system recently installed on the RV *Tatoosh* for seafloor mapping, and additional equipment to operate the system will be leased. The *Tatoosh* will be getting underway to test the system. The Sanctuary's nearshore oceanographic moorings have been deployed on time. Also, there is now a more robust NANOOS mooring off of La Push. April 23<sup>rd</sup> was the WA Coast Cleanup, and over 23 tons of trash was removed. The Data Working Group has held their first meeting, and has agreed to create a data inventory and develop a timeline for public data availability. Dawn Hayes of Monterey Bay NMS will be arriving in June for a three month detail as Acting Assistant Superintendent of OCNMS.

### **Lunch Break**

Tour of Makah fleet by Colby Brady, Makah Fisheries Management.

### **West Coast Region Ocean Acidification Action Plan**

Ed Bowlby of OCNMS gave a presentation on ocean acidification and the West Coast Region Ocean Acidification Action Plan. Ed explained the comprehensive strategy on ocean acidification, which includes understanding and protecting biological communities within the west coast sanctuaries; developing adaptations, and communicating these impacts and solutions to the public. Ed described the seven strategies of the West Coast Region Ocean Acidification Plan, which include:

- 1.) Monitoring for ocean acidification;
- 2.) Research on ocean acidification;
- 3.) Education and outreach;
- 4.) Mitigating damages to sanctuary resources;

- 5.) Influencing national policy;
- 6.) Demonstrating leadership by reducing carbon emissions; and
- 7.) Internal coordination on ocean acidification issues.

Ed compared and contrasted the related strategies of the Action Plan and the OCNMS Draft Management Plan, and noted that they are by in large the same strategies. At the end of the presentation, Ed briefly discussed OCNMS as a sentinel site, which several other sanctuaries have addressed in their action plans. Liam read an email from Terrie Klinger that noted, as far as monitoring is concerned, that there are strategies in place in the draft management plan for equipment inventory and developing a sampling plan; however, Terrie noted a weakness with the plan is that it does not explicitly direct any implementation.

#### **Ocean Acidification Research on Tatoosh Island**

Dr. Tim Wootton (University of Chicago) presented some of his ocean acidification research on Tatoosh Island. Dr. Wootton began his introduction by explaining that oceans play a large and important role in the global carbon cycle. The pH/acidity of the ocean affects many biological processes, including calcification of skeletons. Research indicates that increasing carbon dioxide levels may be reducing the pH and thus increasing the acidity of the ocean, independent of temperature. Dr. Wootton explained that since 2000, researchers have been tracking the pH, temperature, oxygen and salinity conditions around Tatoosh Island. Compared with data from previous studies going back as far as 1967, recent research indicates that ocean pH is declining ten times faster than model predictions. These data correspond with data from the Washington Department of Ecology that shows rapid pH declines in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Dr. Wootton indicated a future goal was to expand measurements in order to clarify the influences/causes of the pH decline. Fayette K. asked about the potential lifespan of the mussels Dr. Wootton is studying and Wootton answered that they were approximately twenty years.

#### **Geoduck aquaculture and shell geochemistry: a case study of hypoxia**

Dr. Yongwen Gao of Makah Fisheries Management introduced himself and presented on geoduck aquaculture. Dr. Gao mentioned that advantages of geoduck aquaculture include good success rates when cultivated on privately owned intertidal lands with large size at maturity; rapid growth in relation to other shellfish; and currently a strong market demand and potential for increased demand. Dr. Gao emphasized that as many fisheries have been depleted, geoduck aquaculture can be a viable alternative with very strong economic potential for the community. Rebecca P. asked if tubes are ever removed around the geoducks as they get bigger. Dr. Gao responded that after one year, the tubes can be removed.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comments were provided.

#### **Member Announcements**

Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty expressed interest in presenting research findings at the two local community colleges that emphasize the link between science and impacts on the economy and local businesses. He mentioned that the DOE runs a listserv for people interested in climate change (go to: <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WA-CLIMATE-CHANGE>). Mike announced that Ian Miller is

Washington Sea Grant's new coastal hazards specialist for the Olympic Peninsula and will be based partly at UW facilities in Forks and partly at Peninsula College in Port Angeles; he will be available to make presentations on this subject area. He will initially concentrate on the Elwha dam removal but he is also available to present in other areas. The Hershman Marine Policy Fellowship has been expanded to five fellowships (go to: <http://www.wsg.washington.edu/education/fellowships/hershman.html>) and Mike noted there is now an increased emphasis in working with Native American students; those interested should contact Penny Dalton ([pdalton@u.washington.edu](mailto:pdalton@u.washington.edu)). Mike noted that several nationally prominent scientists and dignitaries will be in the Port Angeles area from Sept 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> to speak in reference to the Elwha dam removal.