

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 15, 2011
Community Center
Taholah, 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



George Galasso, Acting Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair



Chip Boothe

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (Chair, WDOE), George Hart (US Navy), Ed Johnstone (Quinault Indian Nation), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Dana Sarff (Makah Tribe Alternate), Diane Butorac (WDOE Alternate), Brady Scott (Vice-Chair, WDNR), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Dawn Hayes, Tom Baker

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve May & July 2011 meetings at the next meeting (tabled due to lack of quorum).
- Examine potential 2012 SAC meeting dates and locations.
- Vote on revised SAC Charter.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Internal Affairs

Chip pointed out that there was no quorum for this meeting, and the action item on the agenda (approving May meeting notes) would have to be tabled until September. Chip thanked the Quinault Nation for hosting the meeting. Ed Johnstone said it was his pleasure to welcome the SAC to Taholah. Ed talked about the cultural/historical connection that the Quinault Nation has had with the ocean for thousands of years, and how important this resource is to them.

A quorum is the presence of at least 8 voting members; out of 15 voting members on the OCNMS AC, a minimum of 8 are required in order to form a "quorum" necessary for making motions and approving items.

Dawn Hayes attended the meeting on detail from MBNMS as the acting Assistant Superintendent at OCNMS. Carol Bernthal was also in attendance and mentioned she would be resuming her duties as OCNMS Superintendent in October.

There were no comments related to the agenda or the May 2011 meeting notes from AC members.

Report on 27 June National Ocean Council listening session at Ocean Shores, WA

Joe Schumacker and Tom Baker briefed the council on the National Ocean Council (NOC) listening session held on June 27th at the Quinault Beach Resort & Casino in Ocean Shores, WA. Joe mentioned that there were approximately 125 people in attendance, which was the best attended listening session in the U.S. at the time. Joe and Tom both praised the session for both its record setting attendance and the number of public officials who were involved, including Congressman Norm Dicks. Joe emphasized that the listening session was held to discuss national ocean policy and specifically the nine strategic action plans that have come out of that.

The nine strategic action plans:

1. Ecosystem-Based Management: Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.
3. Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding: Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
4. Coordinate and Support: Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community.
5. Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification: Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
6. Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration: Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional levels.
7. Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land: Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
8. Changing Conditions in the Arctic: Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.
9. Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure: Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/sap>

Superintendent's Report

George handed out a trial AC Newsletter to each member in attendance and explained that it was created by Dawn and based on a template she used from MBNMS; OCNMS is considering introducing the newsletter as a regular part of future SAC meetings. George stated that the information contained in the newsletter is in large part taken from weekly OCNMS and national/NOAA situational reports. George mentioned that the newsletters could also potentially be combined into an annual report that could be given at joint AC/IPC meetings.

George mentioned that OCNMS staff are very actively engaged in field projects right now, including a new multibeam system for surveying that is currently being set up and tested on the Tatoosh. Nancy

Wright is currently underway on the OSU research vessel Pacific Storm participating in multibeam surveying. On the education front, there is a regional conference for marine educators on Lake Crescent this week so OCNMS education staff are busy with helping to organize and participate in that meeting.

George noted that OCNMS staff recently had a very positive government to government meeting with the Makah Tribe. The meeting addressed some comments and concerns the Makah had about the draft regulations that OCNMS put out in January. George also noted that a group of graduate students from the University of Michigan will be visiting OCNMS staff in August and attending the SAC meeting in September to observe as part of their graduate thesis project on collaborative and coordinated management at OCNMS. Carol mentioned that OCNMS worked with the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources in the past and wrote an excellent report on the Advisory Council several years ago.

OCNMS staff member Ed Bowlby recently participated in the sea otter census in partnership with the WDFW and others. Ed also recently attended the second International Marine Conservation Congress in Victoria, BC. Liam A. is currently working on annual sea bird surveys on board the Tatoosh.

George mentioned that OCNMS has received limited support from NOAA's Climate Program Office. OCNMS has issued a grant to Washington Sea Grant and has also secured funds for the four Coastal Treaty Tribes to assist in developing a site scenario for the sanctuary. Ian Miller will be the lead from WA Sea Grant for working with OCNMS on this, and previously worked for the sanctuary as a research assistant from 2000-2001.

The US delegation to the IMO recently proposed a modification to the Area To Be Avoided (ATBA), which was based on language in the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 that requires NOAA to work with the USCG on modifying the ATBA to include vessels 400 GT and above. The US proposal was accepted by the IMO Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation; it next goes to the Maritime Safety Committee in May 2012 and if it is approved it becomes effective in November 2012.

For the last 5 years OCNMS has received an Environmental Literacy Grant secured by the Seattle Aquarium; the grant has been used to fund educational services to school districts on the western side of the peninsula. This grant is expiring next year and OCNMS applied for a new grant, which was not awarded. Sanctuary staff are currently examining opportunities for finding the funding to continue the educational services once the grant ends.

The Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) is up and running, although funding also had to be cut and hours were reduced for paid staff; this is being managed with the help of volunteers. A number of these volunteers recently funded themselves on a trip to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) in Michigan as part of the volunteer exchange program. Volunteers from TBNMS came to OCNMS last summer to help with Makah Days, so this summer our volunteers reciprocated. This was at no cost to the sanctuary program since volunteers pay their own way.

Chip asked Carol if there were any West Coast Region (WCR) activities that might apply to the OCNMS AC. Carol mentioned that the WCR office will be revising the acidification action plan in the next few

months after they receive comments/input from the five WCR sanctuary advisory councils. After revisions are made, the WCR office will send out the final copy of the plan. On a separate subject, there was enough funding to have a summit with the WCR education coordinators. The summit was designed to discuss how to improve the incorporation of west coast ocean acidification issues into educational outreach, and this discussion is ongoing.

Joe S. noted that the Quinault Nation's Dept. of Fisheries sea glider project is currently operational and the data is available and accessible nearly in real time. The project is in coordination with the National Science Foundation's Center for Coastal Margin Observation & Prediction (CMOP), who contracts a ship operated by the Quinault Nation for use as an off shore launch point by the sea glider. Fisheries staff from the Quinault Nation also work with CMOP on planning the research missions, including how and where the sea glider will conduct its research. The glider, named Phoebe, can be viewed at http://www.stccmop.org/datamart/observation_network/glider.

Management Plan Review Update

OCNMS staff are in the process of reviewing the public comments for the DMP and determining how they will shape the Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (MP/EA). Public comments ranged from vessel discharge concerns to acoustics in the environment related to military activities. OCNMS is responding to public comments and the Sanctuary's response will be included in the MP/EA as an Appendix, as well as in the final rule. Liam explained that the target date for completing this is September 2012, and OCNMS is on track to achieve that. Liam also mentioned that quite a few general comments were received. Many of the general comments were requesting edits to the text or clarification on certain issues and were fairly straight forward to address. Liam thanked the Advisory Council for all of the work and time that members have contributed to these efforts.

AC Charter Review Subcommittee Report

Brady explained that after the January meeting, the Subcommittee came up with a list of potential goals and issues that needed to be revised, and then proceeded to go through them line by line. An interim draft of the revised charter was completed and the Subcommittee then reviewed the revisions and made comments. The draft of the revised charter is now to the point where it is almost ready for review and comments by SAC members. After review by the SAC, there are several possible directions this could go. One direction is a vote and adoption of the revised charter by the SAC, possibly at the September SAC meeting. Another direction is to request further examination and revisions by the Subcommittee, which might take several additional meetings.

Brady reminded the Council that after a revised charter is approved by the SAC, it still needs to be approved by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). After approval by ONMS, the revised charter would be finalized.

Brady mentioned that one of the discussions within the Subcommittee was the feasibility of including a youth seat. The Subcommittee has been deliberating on how to add a youth seat, whether it is appropriate, and the logistics of sustaining a youth seat long term. The current revised charter does

have a youth seat (with no alternate) and this is a significant change in the SAC's membership so it is notable. Liam mentioned that the inception of the youth seat began several years ago at an AC National Summit and several sites already have active youth seats, including Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS (<http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/news/press/1109sacmembers.html>), Fagatele Bay NMS (<http://www.samoanews.com/viewstory.php?storyid=14294>) and Monitor NMS (<http://monitor.noaa.gov/news/pr2009/pr032009.html>).

Concerns regarding the potential implementation of a youth seat include:

- Finding a chaperone (after a background check) and ensuring reliable/consistent transportation to SAC meetings spread out across the peninsula for the youth seat member;
- Soliciting enough interest in the position among local eligible youth to find candidates truly interested in the mission/goals of the Sanctuary and SAC;
- Sustaining the logistics of a youth seat on a long term basis given that the position has a mandatory yearly turnover.

An alternative to a youth seat voiced by several Council members and OCNMS staff might be a Youth Summit, in which high school students from across the constituent area could join SAC members and OCNMS staff for a roundtable discussion and educational opportunity. Carol asked Liam if there has been any feedback from other Sanctuaries that have implemented youth seats. Liam responded that Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS successfully recruited a very proactive student into their youth seat and has so far had a positive experience working with the student on their SAC.

Carol reiterated Brady's conclusion that the SAC's primary options regarding the youth seat are:

- Include a provision for a youth seat in the revised Charter and fully implement it;
- Include a provision for a youth seat in the revised Charter but annually evaluate the feasibility of implementation, leaving the option open for a youth seat at the discretion of the SAC;
- Do not include a youth seat provision, but explore other options (such as a youth summit).

Brady noted that another Subcommittee discussion on the revised charter is the inclusion of an Outer Coast Marine Resource Committee (MRC) non-voting seat. Brady said that a potential MRC seat could possibly replace the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) seat, and this is an issue that the Subcommittee will continue to discuss. A similar Subcommittee discussion was on adding the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a non-voting seat, and outreach to the USGS regarding this is continuing.

Public Comment

No public comments were provided.

Member Announcements

No member announcements were made.