

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
September 21, 2012

Hoquiam City Council
Hoquiam, 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), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Rebecca Post (WDOE Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Capt. Mike Gardiner (USCG), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG Alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), George Hart (Navy), Sandra Brooke (Conservation), Jody Kennedy (Tourism and Recreation), Kevin Ryan (USFWS), Les Bolton (Tourism Alternate), Christopher Clark (MRC Primary), Frank Holmes (Marine Business/Industry)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Rich Osborne (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), Casey Dennehy (WA Pacific Coast Coordinator, Surfrider), Lorena Maurer (Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Lauren Bennett, Dana Matthews (NMFS), Bill Douros (ONMS)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Lauren Bennett is going to track down contact information for tourism representatives on other Advisory Councils
- Carol Bernthal and the AC Executive Committee are going to talk more with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council about planning a joint meeting in November
- OCNMS will send to the AC the letters that other ACs have sent regarding the Site Evaluation List
- OCNMS staff will get in touch with WA Sea Grant staff who are planning the Working Waterfronts Conference in 2013 in order to get more information about the conference.
- AC members should send Lauren Bennett the names of any people they know who would be interested in being on the OCNMS AC e-mail list
- A marine spatial planning report was submitted to the state legislature in September, and Katrina will forward the report, along with the complete marine spatial planning project list, to the AC
- OCNMS staff, with the help of Ian Miller, will get more information on the Working Waterfronts Conference

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Chip welcomed the Advisory Council (AC) and reviewed the purpose and role of the AC. Chip stated that he was going to review the purpose and role of the AC at the start of each meeting. Chip then introduced Bill Douros, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Regional Director. Chip asked everyone present to introduce themselves and then asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were requested so the agenda was approved by consensus.

Internal Affairs

The next agenda item was to approve the July meeting notes, but there was not a quorum, so the AC could not vote to approve the meeting notes. Chip requested that any comments on the

July meeting notes be sent to Lauren Bennett, and noted that approval of the July meeting notes would be on the November meeting agenda.

Chip introduced Christopher Clark, the new primary Marine Resource Committee member on the AC.

Two seat terms (for the Commercial Fishing and Education seats) are coming to end in December 2012. OCNMS, as required, will publish a Federal Register notice announcing the vacancies. Once the applications have been received, the AC Executive Committee (per the AC Charter) will review the applications and make a recommendation on candidate selection to Superintendent Bernthal. The AC Charter states that an additional AC member will be invited to review applications with the executive committee. Jody Kennedy stated that she is happy to continue serving with the executive committee in this capacity.

Chip also noted that the executive committee officer terms are expiring at the end of the calendar year, so the AC needs to consider recommendations for chair, vice-chair and secretary. Chip said that he, Brady Scott (Vice Chair) and Ellen Matheny (Secretary) are all interested in continuing to serve on the executive committee for another term, but that the floor was open to additional nominations. No other nominations were heard. The AC will officially vote on the executive committee officer positions at the November meeting.

Chip provided an update on the West Coast Region's (WCR) AC Chairs two-day meeting that he attended, and which took place in Santa Cruz at the end of August. The meeting agenda included a webinar with Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta about the Campaign for Engagement. Director Basta focused heavily on President Obama's Executive Order related to federal agencies and tourism. Dan would like sanctuaries to embrace this executive order and use it as an opportunity to raise awareness about sanctuaries and ocean conservation. AC members discussed tourism on the Olympic Coast and the public's lack of awareness about OCNMS. Several members noted that tourism is more easily promoted by sanctuaries with more snorkeling, whale watching and other visitor opportunities. Members agreed that promoting tourism and awareness about OCNMS is a big challenge.

Les Bolton suggested that OCNMS work to get an article about the sanctuary in Sunset Magazine (which does frequent stories about destinations on highway 101), and noted that attention in Sunset Magazine tends to trigger other media attention. Bill Douros noted that Sunset just did a story on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's new Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, so there is an opportunity to approach Sunset again to continue covering sanctuaries on the West Coast. Sandra Brooke suggested contacting local tourism websites and asking them to add links to OCNMS.

Chip asked if the AC would like to form a tourism working group or leave it to the tourism seat to assist OCNMS staff with this type of work. The AC discussed this and tentatively agreed that the AC's *planned* education working group (which is going to be formed to assist with development of the OCNMS Long Range Interpretive Plan) could be expanded to include

tourism and visitor use – especially once work on the Long Range Interpretive Plan is concluded.

AC members went on to discuss the tourism issue and generated several ideas, such as partnering with groups such as the Makah Tribe's tourism office, pursuing marketing funds through President Obama's Executive Order; investigating what other sanctuaries have done to market themselves; talking to Prof. Mark Miller at UW who works on tourism issues to see if there is a way to get OCNMS some graduate student assistance; and working with Olympic National Park to improve signage in the park about the sanctuary. Carol noted that these were all great ideas and stated that Olympic National Park, Whale Trail staff and OCNMS are in the final stages of designing a sign about the as part of the larger Whale Trail signage network, to be placed at Kalaloch Beach and other coastal locations.

Lauren Bennett is going to help get AC members – particularly Les Bolton (AC tourism representative) in touch with other tourism representatives on other ACs (particularly the west coast sanctuary ACs). Les Bolton is going to can get OCNMS AC members in touch with tourism representatives in other advisory councils. Carol asked that AC members think about things they could do themselves to help with the tourism issue.

Chip finished his review of the WCR AC chairs meeting. The chairs developed a list of common priorities for all west coast sanctuaries, which included oil spill preparedness, ocean acidification, deep sea coral and sponges, socioeconomic issues, Essential Fish Habitat, maritime heritage, long-range interpretive planning and overflight regulations.

Carol noted that there will still be a national AC chairs meeting in December (also in Santa Cruz). The ONMS is trying to create more frequent opportunities for ACs to connect nationwide. To do this they are using a combination of webinars, regional meetings and the national face-to-face meetings.

Chip stated that the next item on the agenda was to discuss the 2012 AC Work Plan, as well as development of the 2013 AC Work Plan. AC members were all sent an electronic version of the 2012 Work Plan. A column was added titled "AC advice/recommendations", in order to highlight what advice the AC had provided the OCNMS Superintendent over the past year. Chip said that he is going to reference the work plan at each meeting. The AC Executive Committee plans to meet over the next month in order to develop a draft of the 2013 work plan (based largely upon the 2012 work plan & the OCNMS operating plan) to present and discuss with the AC at its November meeting.

Presentation on West Coast Regional (WCR) Priorities and the Site Evaluation List

West Coast Regional Director Bill Douros gave a presentation to the AC about the WCR's priorities and the national issue of the Site Evaluation List (SEL) (available for download at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2012.html). The WCR has developed a list of 14 priorities. At the top of the list are whale strikes. He noted that this issue is relevant on the Olympic Coast, even though there haven't been many whale strikes up here. He stated

that the WCR is working with partners, including the shipping industry and marine researchers, to adjust shipping lanes and find other ways to reduce the number of ship strikes. Bill highlighted some of the other priority topics that Chip mentioned earlier. He discussed ways in which the WC sanctuaries could work together to coordinate messaging, programing etc.

Sandra Brooke asked if this issue of enforcement made the priority list. Bill stated that this issue didn't make the chairs priority list, but that it is a WCR priority. Bill stated that there are not many resources to support additional enforcement activities and that NOAA's small counsel office can't handle all of the cases. So the WCR is looking for opportunities to partner with other enforcement entities, such as the Coast Guard.

Frank Holmes asked how the sanctuaries were involved with the whale strike issue (he has been on some calls and noticed that there wasn't a sanctuary representative on the calls). Bill said that ONMS has the lead on working with the environmental groups and the National Marine Fisheries Service is the lead on working with the industry.

Bill shifted to discussion of the Site Evaluation List (SEL). He first explained what the SEL is. The SEL is codified in the ONMS regulations. It is a "comprehensive list of marine sites with high natural resource values . . . that are highly qualified for further evaluation for possible for designation as national marine sanctuaries." The SEL was officially decommissioned over a decade ago to give the ONMS the opportunity to focus on managing the sites it had. The ONMS regulations require the "ONMS director to issue criteria for inclusion of marine sites on a revised SEL, with public notice and opportunity to comment, when he determines that the SEL should be reactivated." Only sites on the SEL may be considered as candidates for designation as marine sanctuaries (Congress can vote to establish a marine sanctuary, but the ONMS can only work off of the SEL).

The ONMS regulations also put a limitation (not a prohibition) on new sanctuaries. The limitation is that the Secretary of Commerce must issue a finding prior to establishing a new sanctuary. The Secretary of Commerce must find that,

- The new sanctuary will not have a negative effect on the sanctuary system
- There are sufficient resources were available in the fiscal year to implement the management plans for each sanctuary in the system and that all the sites are adequately characterized

Reactivating the SEL will allow NOAA to begin making that finding. Bill stated that it is difficult to know how big a budget the ONMS needs to designate a new sanctuary until you have some specific sites to discuss. And ONMS cannot really discuss any new sites until NOAA reactivates the SEL. Bill showed the AC a copy of the old SEL (45 sites) – many of the sites on it are now marine sanctuaries (established before the SEL was deactivated). Bill stated that currently there are proponents for sites on the SEL and also communities and proponents advocating for marine sanctuaries that were never added to the list.

Bill noted that it has now been 12 years since a new sanctuary has been designated. The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been designating new terrestrial sites, while NOAA has not been designating new marine sites under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act . He noted that, even if the SEL were reactivated immediately, it would still be years before any new sites could be designated.

Bill discussed the Department of Interior's (DOI) efforts to identify new terrestrial areas that deserve protection. Both the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior have the same mandate to identify and designate new protected areas, but the Secretary of Commerce has not been active on this issue the way that the Secretary of the Interior has. In the past, President Obama has proposed moving NOAA into the DOI but it is not clear how that would work and nothing new has happened with this proposal recently.

While a hiatus from the SEL and from designating new sanctuaries may have been needed and valuable in the 90s, Bill stated that the ONMS feels it is now time to reengage on the issue of establishing new marine sanctuaries and expanding efforts to protect marine resources. Currently, national marine sanctuaries are the only real tool that the federal government has to protect marine resources comprehensively. Sixteen groups have written to NOAA and the Secretary of Commerce requesting (and providing proposals for) marine sanctuaries. An AC member asked if the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) needs to be reauthorized in order to reactivate the SEL. Bill said, no, NMSA reauthorization is not required. Director Dan Basta needs permission from higher ups in the Department of Commerce and then he would publish a notice in the Federal Register announcing the reactivation.

Bill stated that the ONMS has started investigating how the cost of operating a new sanctuary would affect the other sanctuaries financially. Historically, as the number of sanctuaries has increased, so has the budget for the sanctuary program. Thus it stands to reason that, as new sanctuaries are added to the system, there would be some accompanying budget increase. He stated that, back when OCNMS was designated, the ONMS budget was only \$11 million (it is now \$46 million), but nationwide other sanctuaries did not object to OCNMS being designated. Additionally, he stated that one can always make an argument that there isn't enough money to do more. An AC member expressed concern that it may be presumptuous to assume that future budget trends will follow the trajectory of the past. Bill responded that concerns about the budget in future years should not be a reason to avoid SEL reactivation now, as no one can tell what the future will hold.

Chip asked if adding a site to the SEL somehow mandated that it become a national marine sanctuary and Bill said it did not (the SEL is just a list). Brady asked "why not have a list", if the existence of the list doesn't in and of itself lead to the designation of new sites? Bill said that SEL reactivation opens up the *possibility* of new marine sanctuaries and some people do not want to see even the possibility of a new marine sanctuary arise. Bill said that he came to OCNMS to give this presentation so that the AC is aware of this issue (other ACs have been approached by groups advocating for new sanctuaries). Bill noted that it will take several years before any new sanctuary could be designated, even once/if the SEL is reactivated. He asked

AC members to consider whether there are truly only 14 important marine areas to be protected in the entire United States (the marine sanctuary system currently has 14 sanctuaries). Bill noted that six sanctuary ACs have written letters to Director Basta in support of reactivating the SEL.

Chip asked Bill how much it matters for ACs to support reactivation of the SEL. Bill said that the ACs are very influential. Brady asked if it would be appropriate to add discussion of the SEL as an “emerging issue” on the AC work plan and there was general support for this. The AC members agreed that they would like to see the letters that other ACs have sent to Director Basta regarding the SEL and then have further discussion on the topic (***staff will send these letters out to the AC***).

George Hart made an announcement about current Navy research on biodegradable parachutes (to respond to concerns about parachutes smothering benthic communities). Even the rope will be biodegradable. The parachutes have been developed and are now being tested. The parachutes start biodegrading in salt water in 20 minutes.

Superintendent’s Report

Carol noted that Diane Butorac (DOE Alternate) is leaving the AC. She is now the SW Regional Planner for Department of Ecology, and her new position will not afford her the opportunity to participate on the AC.

Carol provided highlights from the Office Report, which was passed out to all AC members and will be posted on the OCNMS AC website. She noted that Micah McCarty will not be in attendance and, therefore, cannot present on the First Stewards Symposium (as indicated on the agenda). Carol gave a brief overview of the conference. About 300 people attended and it was a very, very rich experience. At the end of the conference, participants passed a resolution, a copy of which was sent to the AC in the September meeting packet. Carol stated that she hopes, locally, that there will be more opportunity for the AC, OCNMS staff and the four Coastal Treaty Tribes to discuss how to address the issue of climate change on the Olympic Coast and how to move forward from the First Stewards Symposium. She noted that the annual IPC meeting with ONMS Director Dan Basta is occurring at the end of October, and that Chip will be invited as chair of the AC.

Carol stated that OCNMS have been working on the OCNMS facility plan and that they are working with partners to investigate a marine campus in Port Angeles. A facilitator has been hired and at the end of December the partners will need to decide whether they want to move forward with the campus.

The OCNMS R/V *Tatoosh* is currently working off of La Push on habitat characterization. They just documented a previously unknown 60-foot pinnacle off the coast of La Push.

At the end of August, a hypoxic event started in the southern part of the coast. A NOAA ship was starting an ocean acidification cruise on the west coast at the same time as this hypoxic event was occurring.

OCNMS hosted three separate summer camps for kids in 2012. OCNMS educators also hosted a teacher workshop with Seattle Aquarium out in Neah Bay, the focus of which was teaching teachers how to do debris monitoring.

Carol stated that marine debris continues to be the hot resource protection issue. WA state emergency management division hosted a meeting out at La Push with federal, state and tribal representatives. The state presented its draft contingency plan for how it will respond to tsunami marine debris. The draft will soon go out to the public and there will be three public hearings for it. The NPS, OCNMS and FWS will be sitting down to come up with a more detailed plan to address the more remote beaches. There will be a cleanup near Ozette at the end of September. Liam Antrim (OCNMS) will send an announcement to the AC.

Carol went over the natural history portion of the office report. Most mentionable, the R/V *Tatoosh* crew saw a killer whale transient pod and witnessed one of the females giving birth.

Carol also reminded the AC that October 2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the sanctuary program.

Climate Change Site Scenario

Dr. Ian Miller (UW Sea Grant), who has been leading the AC's climate change site scenario working group, gave a presentation on the current working draft of the site scenario (available for download at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2012.html). A year ago Ian presented the proposed outline of the site scenario to the AC. He stated that the outline as it exists now is much larger in scope than the initially proposed outline. The scope of the document has broadened with the input of working group members. There are now 28 members in the site scenario working group and Ian estimates that they have contributed 1200 volunteer hours to develop the currently 200-page document.

The goal of the working group was to develop a report (the site scenario) that would “provide relevant scientifically-based information on climate trends for management” in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The site scenario investigates a variety of parameters, including ocean temperature; ocean acidification; mean sea level; storminess; waves; upwelling; coastal hypoxia and hydrology. The report also discusses the implications of potential changes in these parameters due to a changing climate. Examples of these implications include, increased wave impact in shallow intertidal areas; shoreline erosion; redistribution of sediment; intertidal community restructuring; reduced suitability for deepwater coral; pelagic fish declines; pelagic invertebrate increases; increased hypoxic events in deepwater; increased acidification; increased sediment supply from streams; and increased scouring on stream and riverbanks.

Implications of these climate change effects on fish could include, northward range shifts (1-6 km per year) that will alter the species composition of WA coast; reduced abundance of small northern pelagic species; and both positive and negative effects on invertebrates.

Ian said that any comments AC members had time to provide on the draft site scenario would be greatly appreciated. The working group is going to continue developing the draft. They still need to consolidate the drafts provided by the biology authors. The working group is also going to expand the section on ecological implications. Ian expects the group will be conducting the final review and editing of the document in November/December 2012. They plan to finalize introduction and recommendations in December and hope to have the final site scenario to the AC and OCNMS by the end of 2012 or beginning of 2013.

Carol thanked Ian and all the working group members for their hard work and suggested that, once the final site scenario is done, that the AC have a discussion about how to move forward from this report. George Hart mentioned that he sits on a regional tribal climate change working group (organized by Oregon State University) and could provide Carol with the information for this group's regular conference calls.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Executive Committee Recommendations on the U of M Study

The AC Executive Committee plus Lee Whitford looked at the U of M study and its specific recommendations related to the AC. The group developed a suite of recommendations for the AC to consider (provided in the AC meeting packet), which Brady Scott reviewed.

Several recommendations related to a participant comment in the study requesting that the AC be more empowered to make decisions. The Executive Committee recommended,

- Reviewing the AC Charter at the start of each meeting to clarify the role and purpose of the AC;
- Reframing the AC work plan and bi-monthly agendas to highlight how each agenda topic relates to the work plan and how these topics relate to the advice the AC is asked to provide by the OCNMS Superintendent;
- Discussing how proposed future agenda topics relate to the work plan and ensuring that topics are presented in a way that prepares the AC to provide specific advice to OCNMS;
- Asking OCNMS staff to state more clearly how AC advice has been used and to identify areas in which the AC could provide further advice and recommendations

Another participant comment in the U of M study suggested improved collaboration and coordination with the AC and the Marine Resource Committees. In response to this comment the Executive Committee recommended referencing and implementing the OCNMS 2011 Management Plan's action plans related to collaborative and coordinated management.

Another participant comment in the U of M study suggested that OCNMS do more to address the geographic challenges presented by AC meetings. In response to this comment, the Executive Committee suggested incorporating teleconference technology into one AC meeting in 2013.

AC members discussed the recommendations provided by the Executive Committee. There was general support for the Executive Committee recommendations, with the exception of the teleconferencing recommendations. Most members felt that one should only participate in the AC if s/he is able to attend meetings in relatively remote and varied locations over the course of the year. Members also commented on how difficult it is to make teleconferencing into a large, long meeting work well.

During the discussion the issue of notifying interested parties about AC meetings arose, and it was agreed that ***AC members should send Lauren Bennett the names of any people they know who would be interested in being on the OCNMS AC e-mail list*** (and receiving notifications about AC activities).

Carol asked AC members if, in general, they feel empowered. Sandra Brooke said that she feels that staff listen to AC recommendations. Les Bolton asked if AC members should copy Chip and Carol if they do in fact reach out to AC members at other sanctuaries. Carol said that it would be good just to let her know if you were going to be contacting other AC members, but that she did not need to be intimately involved in these conversations.

Member Reports:

Several members provided reports on work that they are engaged in that might be of interest to the AC. Rebecca Post provided an update on the upcoming Department of Ecology public hearings and public comment period related to NRDA and other rule changes. The public comment period is now open, and it closes on October 4th. All information about the public hearings and comment period can be found on the Department of Ecology website

Mike Gardiner (USCG) noted that the Coast Guard is in the process of reviewing the Memorandum of Agreement it has with NOAA related to operations in OCNMS. The Coast Guard has concluded its internal review and Mike believes that the MOA will be signed within a month or so.

Lee Whitford (Education alternate) stated that she and Ellen Matheny (Education primary) were invited by OCNMS staff to attend a staff meeting to discuss development of OCNMS's Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP). She really enjoyed getting to work with – and getting to know – staff in this way.

Les Bolton (Tourism) stated that the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport has two ships in port in Aberdeen; and they are preparing to go on long voyages up and down the West Coast to provide educational programs to school children. They plan to work with 12,000 school

children. Les also stated that the Historical Seaport is planning to purchase the old Weyerhaeuser property in Aberdeen (28 acres) and turn it into their new campus.

Katrina Lassiter (DNR) gave a detailed update on the state's marine spatial planning efforts. The state has \$2.1 million to spend by June 2013 on marine spatial planning projects (very short timeline). The State Ocean Caucus has been working with partners to allocate this money. As of now, there is one project contracted for near shore bathymetry studies. They are near completion on a few contracts for additional projects (one contract with the University of Washington for a preliminary economic analysis of the coastal communities; one contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a project to compile spatial data on commercial and recreational fishing and for a project to work with American Indian tribes on a forage fish project; and contracts with tribes for a fishing project and a cultural resources project). The state is talking with NOAA's biogeography branch about a project to compile all of its coastal data for WA. The state is also working with another branch of NOAA to do human use mapping of the entire WA coast (will involve doing workshops all along the coast). The state is also working with WA Sea Grant on a few contracts for outreach projects related to marine spatial planning. It has been decided that the state itself will build the on-line marine spatial planning mapping interface system (to save \$400K). This will involve data gathering/mining, creating a GIS tool, and creating a web portal. And the state is working with The Nature Conservancy, which will help develop an outreach program for the mapping tool (i.e., they will train people how to use the on-line mapping interface system that the state creates). The state is also working with the UW Olympic Natural Resources Center to plan a couple of different projects related to shellfish and invasive species – mostly in Pacific County. ***A marine spatial planning report was submitted to the state legislature in September, and Katrina will forward the report, along with the complete marine spatial planning project list, to the AC.*** Jody asked about the status of the marine spatial planning project proposals submitted by OCNMS. Katrina said that those proposals were related to seafloor mapping and the State Ocean Caucus decided that that this proposed work was too much too soon. The Caucus would first like to bring together a wide array of seafloor mapping folks to discuss the issue in a workshop (WA Sea Grant is going to take the lead in planning that workshop).

Steve Joner (Makah Tribe) stated that the Makah are researching new technologies in order to develop trawl gear that will minimize impacts to resources. He also noted that Petrale sole is now off the overfished list. As a result, the Makah expect to triple their catch of Petrale sole next year. Steve also noted that a recent study by Dr. Gao (Makah Tribal Fisheries) has identified two distinct populations of pacific halibut (a Puget Sound and an Outer Coast population). The Makah will be using these findings to promote more regional – as opposed to coast-wide – management of these fish stocks.

Brady Scott (DNR) stated that DNR is continuing to work on the tsunami debris response planning process.

Sandra Brooke (Conservation) mentioned that the Marine Conservation Institute put on a very successful event with Holland America that showcased west coast deep sea corals

Jody Kennedy highlighted two upcoming events: the WA Coastal Marine Advisory Council will be meeting on Oct. 10, and the coastal marine resource committees have their annual summit planned for Dec. 6, 7 and 8 in Long Beach, WA.

John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry) stated that the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee's website has been updated. The group will be revisiting the Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (last revised 2005). He noted that vessel traffic is less than it was three years ago (due to economic conditions). He also noted that deep draft vessel traffic patterns are likely to change in the near future because of recent changes to fuel requirements. He said it is likely that deep draft vessels may stay even further offshore (and away from the ATBA) to avoid the stricter requirements for low sulfur fuel that have been put in place (the lower sulfur fuel is more expensive). The result of this is likely to be fewer vessels hugging the ATBA line the way they currently do. He expects to see lots of changes to vessel traffic and the fuel being used. Some ships are now converting to use LNG or employ more/better scrubbers. He and Frank Holmes noted that they expect to see a big shift in the origin of oil traffic into WA. More and more of the oil into the Pacific Northwest is going to be coming from Montana and the Dakotas (shale fracking) by rail and less will be coming by ship from foreign countries.

Chip Boothe (DOE) noted that the date of one of the state's Ocean Acidification meetings has been changed to October 12 (you can find all the details, and listen to the meetings, at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water/marine/oceanacidification.html#meetings>). Chip also noted that there are in fact two Vessel Traffic Risk Assessments and both are in the process of being reviewed.

Future agenda topics:

- The November AC meeting is tentatively going to be a joint meeting with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council. OCNMS staff and the AC Executive Committee will be working with the IPC to plan the meeting. Carol asked AC members to provide agenda ideas. Lee Whitford suggested that there be some interactive activities with the IPC members. Lauren noted that the meeting location for November is listed as Forks on the AC website, but that this location could change as the meeting plans develop.
- The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List
- A presentation by John Veentjer on the ATBA and vessel traffic
- Working Waterfronts Conference (planned for spring 2013). Ian Miller is going to help OCNMS staff and the AC get more information on the conference (being planned by WA Sea Grant).