

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Meeting Minutes

Joint Meeting of the
Washington Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council
and
OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting

November 16, 2012

Olympic Natural Resources Center
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

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Representatives in Attendance: Micah McCarty (Makah Tribe), Mel Moon (Quileute Tribe), David Hudson (Hoh Tribe), Rob Jones (NWIFC/IPC staff), Bob Nichols and Jennifer Hennessey (WA State)

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Chip Boothe (WDOE, Chair), Brady Scott (WDNR, Vice Chair), Ellen Matheny (Education, Secretary), Lee Whitford (Education Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Business/Industry), Capt. Mike Gardiner (USCG), CDR Scott Stewart (USCG Alternate), George Hart (Navy), Jody Kennedy (Tourism and Recreation), Les Bolton (Tourism and Recreation Alternate), Kevin Ryan (USFWS), Lorenz Sollmann (USFWS Alternate), Alan Rammer (MRC Alternate), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Natural Resources), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Frank Shipley (USGS), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Heather Reed (WDFW), Lora Leschner (Conservation Alternate), Garrett Dalan (representing Local Government/Grays Harbor County)

Joining via teleconference for IPC/AC joint meeting: Tom Mumford (Research Alternate), Jan Newton (Research), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Natural Resources)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Rich Osborne (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), Alex Fastle (Senator Murray staff), Sue Wolfe

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, and Liam Antrim (OCNMS), Dayna Matthews (NMFS)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Pursue creation of a joint IPC/AC working group to review recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification to identify a focus for AC and IPC efforts.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

Representing the Quileute Tribe, Mel Moon welcomed meeting participants; Ellen Matheny provided an introduction to the Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) facility.

Micah McCarty, Chairman of the Makah Tribe, provided opening remarks he called “Treaties 101”. Early arrivals of foreign powers challenged indigenous Native Americans, laid claims to land, extracted natural resources, and introduced diseases. A Presidential delegation was sent to negotiate with Indian nations, and some tribes signed treaties with the U.S. government (Treaty of Neah Bay in 1855 (Makah) and Treaty of Olympia in 1856 (Quinault, Hoh and Quileute)). These treaties guarantee natural resources would be shared, half to Native Americans, but over time more was taken away from Native Americans. The Boldt Decision in 1974 reaffirmed the right of treaty tribes as co-managers, alongside WA State, of salmon (which has been expanded to other natural resources in subsequent court rulings). The Indian Self Determination Act of 1975 allowed institution of self-governance by tribes. Now, we are

starting to learn how to better manage what we have. Today's Native Americans have broad interests and professional capacity, are intuitive and resourceful. Treaties with tribes only have integrity if natural resource populations are healthy. The federal government has treaty trust responsibility to ensure natural resources are available to tribes.

Chip Booth noted that many AC members work for government agencies with responsibility to tribes. AC can help promote goals and objectives of collective and individual Coastal Treaty Tribes. Tribal representatives on the AC can inform the AC business. The AC's primary purpose is to provide advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent over management and protection of resources, and presumably this can serve tribal interests. There is diverse representation on the AC, who's members share perspectives with the sanctuary and serve as liaisons to communities and constituencies.

Individuals introduced themselves. Carol Bernthal welcomed everyone.

IPC 2012 activities and 2013 priorities – Rob Jones started this discussion and introduced the IPC's annual report. The highlight of 2012 was the First Stewards Coastal Peoples Climate Change Symposium in Washington, D.C. in July, which highlighted the needs of all coastal people, not just natives, who rely on coastal resources. [The symposium is available for viewing at <http://firststewards.org/>].

Micah conveyed how tribal staffs are extremely busy, engaged with many meetings and processes. Taking on more responsibility is difficult, but work on climate change and ocean acidification is essential. It must be a major, collaborative response. Mel emphasized the need for better baseline information about what exists on outer coast, how natural resources are changing or being impacted. He encouraged expanded use of fishermen and their fleet to provide data. Collaboration and coordination are needed, particularly on response to climate change. David Hudson added that mapping the seafloor and other key habitats is an important initiative.

Micah noted several immediate issues – regional planning bodies for ocean policy, coastal marine spatial planning, National Ocean Council (on which there will be four tribal seats on the West Coast regional planning body for West Coast), Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on ocean acidification, a UW symposium on food sovereignty (lead by Dr. Charlotte Cote). On the West Coast there are only four tribes with property rights in the ocean. These Coastal Treaty Tribes have co-management responsibility and capacity that adds value to the government's treaty trust responsibility.

Ocean acidification, seafloor habitat mapping, and identification of ecosystem indicators were mentioned as priorities. Jan Newton and Joe Schumacker joined via conference call from Washington, D.C.

AC 2012 activities and 2013 priorities – Chip reviewed recent AC work, including renewal of the AC Charter, recruitments for multiple AC seats, development of a more detailed work plan to guide the AC and inform constituencies, a AC Chair Summit focused engaging people in ocean conservation, a WC Regional Chairs meeting on areas of mutual interest (topics included oil spill prevention, ocean acidification, overflight restrictions, long range interpretive plans, deep sea corals, Essential Fish Habitat, maritime heritage and socioeconomic values), a University of Michigan study on collaborative relationships with recommendations to AC, and socioeconomic studies on the outer coast. In 2012, AC working groups focused on 1) improved data management and sharing by OCNMS, and 2) OCNMS' coastal moorings program.

For 2013, Chip noted the work plan had not been approved, but he identified his priorities as AC Chair to include assisting with OCNMS management plan implementation; optimizing the value of the coastal moorings program; improved ability to monitor and understand ecosystem process, perhaps through promotion of OCNMS as a sentinel site or development of indicator species; completion of the OCNMS Climate Change Site Scenario report in early 2013; input on the long-range interpretive plan; engaging the public in ocean conservation and regional tourism; and socioeconomic characterization and valuation.

IPC/AC Collaboration in 2013 - Carol recommended focusing on one or two areas of mutual interest with a tangible outcome. These issues were discussed.

- Climate change adaptation strategies - Oregon Sea Grant is planning workshops; strong need to inform the populace about pending changes, what is at risk in near and long term
- Ecosystem assessment and indicator species identification – NW Fisheries Science Center has a spring workshop planned, but the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment work on the California Current is focused more on the area south of Cape Blanco, CA
- OCNMS as a sentinel site – focused on climate change; evaluate how a program would be designed, implemented, integrated into larger monitoring program. Community health should be included as an indicator of ocean health
- Coastal marine spatial planning – ongoing and future efforts will involve everyone
- 225th anniversary of first US vessel arriving in Pacific Northwest – could be linked with Canoe Journey Paddle 2013 heading for Taholah; could be an opportunity to use OCNMS as framework for 225 years of history – trading, marine debris (new and huge threat), evolution of fisheries, thing we do together.

Participants commented on the challenge of translating big topics into a specific, focused project for IPC/AC collaboration. Potential was noted on ocean acidification, particularly with the Blue Ribbon Panel report and recommendations due soon. Support was voiced for a joint IPC/AC working group to evaluate recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean

Acidification (see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water/marine/oceanacidification.html>) to identify a focus for AC and IPC efforts. These individuals volunteered to participate: Rob Jones (if the IPC approves), Lee Whitford, Jody Kennedy, Brady Scott, and Jennifer Hagen. Joe Schumacker and Jan Newton were recommended.

Jennifer Hennessey suggested addressing how the two councils can communicate better. In discussion, it was noted the two councils have membership overlap; the AC Chair's role as liaison to the IPC could be enhanced; a common web portal or discussion page could be developed; meeting minutes could be shared on regular basis. Current practices include sharing the AC agenda's and meeting notes with IPC members, and providing key highlights of IPC activities at AC meetings and in the OCNMS produced Office Report. IPC meeting notes are not publically available. If the IPC concurs, their meeting agenda could be shared with AC members, and selected briefings provided. The Sanctuary Superintendent can brief the AC on IPC initiatives and the IPC on AC activities if invited by IPC.

George Hart used the opportunity with AC and IPC together to provide an update on research into biodegradable parachutes for sonobuoy and other equipment deployments. Department of Defense is now 9 or more months into this study and has demonstrated some success – no toxicity and biodegradable sheeting within 4 minutes of contact with seawater. Current work is on materials strength.

The joint IPC/AC meeting was concluded approximately 1:00pm.