24 September 2004

Ms. Carol Bernthal, Superintendent
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Ms. Bernthal:

Review of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan is overdue. The Advisory Council considers review of the existing management plan to be very important to achieving the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary over the next 5 or more years. Therefore, we enthusiastically support initiating the review process in this fiscal year. However, the AC is equally concerned that sufficient funds be allocated to this activity, to ensure that the process proceed in a timely fashion and result in the best possible outcome. Therefore, at our regular meeting of 24 September 2004, the Advisory Council adopted the following resolution:

“The Advisory Council is very concerned that if adequate resources are not available, then the anticipated outcome of the new Management Plan will not meet the needs of the Sanctuary, the four treaty tribes, or the public. Therefore, the Advisory Council strongly supports the full funding request ($390,000) of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in order to provide necessary resources as an essential prerequisite for conducting the Management Plan Review process for FY 2005. The Council believes that full funding is required because of the unique and complex socio-cultural and biological aspects of this site. The Council further supports adequate funding for all subsequent years needed to complete the Management Plan Review process.”

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terrie Klinger
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary