

**OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2017  
NOAA Western Regional Center  
Seattle, WA**

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Committee Chair and Dr. Christopher Sabine, Director for the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Western Regional Center. With nearly 1,200 researchers and staff supporting line office personnel, it is the largest collective of NOAA employees outside of NOAA offices in Silver Springs, Maryland. Chris expressed support and interest in the designation of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) as a sentinel site for Ocean Acidification (OA).

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), Casey Dennehey (Marine Resources Committee, Vice Chair), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), John Stadler (NOAA- NMFS), Jennifer Hennessey (WDOE), Tom Mumford (Research alternate), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), CDR Brian Gilda (US Coast Guard), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Dan Ayres (WDFW), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Allison Maheny (Citizen At Large alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Josh Peters (WDNR alternate), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy alternate), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Steve Fradkin (ONP).

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Catherine Gockel and Amanda Miller (EPA), Meg Chadsey (Washington SeaGrant), Tami Pokorny (Jefferson County), John Fu Hsing-Yen (US Coast Guard), Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Amy Sprenger and Melissa Watkinson (UW)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Dr. Christopher Sabine and Dr. Richard Feely (NOAA PMEL), Dayna Matthews (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement), Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jenny Waddell, and Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS).

**Acknowledgment**

Carol Bernthal paid tribute to Mel Moon, Natural Resources Director for the Quileute Tribe for over 36 years, who passed away this summer. She related how important he was as a Pacific Northwest Tribal leader – he listened deeply, commented thoughtfully, and was able to aid in creating collective views of the larger issues to be addressed. Mel was a major initiator in the designation of the OCNMS and recent recipient of the first Billy Frank, Jr. award for tribal excellence. Katie Krueger added that he valued opportunities to work various governments, including representatives from OCNMS, and felt that respect, as evidenced by Mel’s memorial, was mutual. She challenged the group to continue his work to keep the ocean healthy for all of us. A moment of silence was also observed to allow group time for mediation and remembrance.

## Internal Affairs

The agenda was adopted by consensus with minor changes related to necessary revision to the timing of UW presentations and presenters. The May 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted with a change on page 8 to revise the reference to “the five Northwest Washington *Treaties* of 1854-55” (versus five Northwest Washington Treaty Tribes...). The adoption was motioned by Steve Shively and seconded by Katrina Lassiter.

Carol Bernthal advised the AC that in the future, meeting minutes will focus more on meeting highlights and outcomes, with links to presentations. Meetings will continue to be recorded for those who want more details.

Lee Whitford provided a brief update on the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site Working Group’s and their work to help finalize the Sept 2016 workshop report, with a goal to reach a draft by December.

Carol introduced Chris Butler-Minor as the new Community Engagement Specialist, replacing Karlyn Langjhar who has taken a conservation position in Zambia. Chris expressed her thanks and pleasure at the opportunity to be working with the Council.

## Information, Discussion, and Action Items

### *Debriefing on Nautilus Cruise and other OCNMS Summer Projects*

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-debriefing-on-nautilus-cruise-and-other-ocnms-summer-projects.pdf> (2.5MB) was presented by Jenny Waddell (OCNMS). Her discussion covered a variety of topics from the OCNMS Oceanographic Moorings program to seafloor mapping in the Sanctuary. She provided information on the 2017 Rocky Intertidal Monitoring program, which used a coast wide protocol in partnership with the Northwest Fisheries to track changes related to the reintroduction of sea otters. Jenny shared aspects of the 2017 E/V Nautilus Projects, included multibeam seafloor mapping of priority areas identified in May 2015, plus opportunities for outreach and communications. The upcoming months hold lots of opportunity for continued partnerships and data/sample analysis. In response to AC members’ positive feedback on the outreach and research opportunities provided by ship time, Superintendent Bernthal suggested a letter of support from the council could be helpful in garnering continued allocations for the sanctuary. Jennifer Hennessey suggested a similar letter from the State of Washington on joint work on seafloor mapping.

### *Vessel Incident Working Group (VIWG) recommendations for reducing Vessel Incident occurrences (action item)* [https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-viwg\\_recomltr\\_and\\_rpt.pdf](https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-viwg_recomltr_and_rpt.pdf)

(241kb). The discussion was led by Allison Mahaney, Co-Chair of the VIWG. The committee made nine recommendations considered achievable with limited resources and appropriate for sanctuary action. The Council approved the proposed recommendations, by consensus contingent upon an update to recommendation #5. The new recommendation will include working with Grays Harbor Safety Committee, in addition to the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee, related to small vessels operation in OCNMS. More discussion and additional work related to reducing vessel incidents could be added to the 2018 SAC work plan, if desired.

*Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS): Updates and Future Activities*

[https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-nanoos\\_presentation.pdf](https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-nanoos_presentation.pdf) (5.4MB) was provided by Amy Sprenger, NANOOS Education and Outreach Specialist, on behalf of Dr. Jan Newton. Amy provided an overview of the nine priority objectives currently being pursued, which, for the greater part are tied to maintaining currently provided services. Amy also briefed the AC on “Closing the Gaps” - a five-year campaign aimed at adding important capabilities to NANOOS via High Frequency Radar (HFR) and Gliders. Funding for three HFR in the PNW was successfully obtained. Two long-range and one standard range HFR will provide surface current and temperature data, thus increasing predictive power for events such as harmful algal bloom and oil spill trajectories. Response time to such incidents is expected to be greatly improved. NANOOS is also interested in expanding the use of gliders. Superintendent Bernthal highlighted the value of ocean gliders in augmenting the data provided by the OCNMS oceanographic mooring program.

*EPA General Permit Conditions to Offshore Seafood National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Outline of changes to draft permit due to consultations*

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-draft-general-npdes-permit-for-seafood-processing-waste-off-the-coast-of-washington-and-oregon.pdf> (944kb) was presented by Catherine Gockel and Amanda Miller, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After providing background regarding an NPDES permit for seafood process offshore of the Washington State coast, Catherine identified the parties who have participated in the two comment periods. She also described types of input the EPA received relative to establishing conditions of the requested permit and how those responses continue to assist them in their ongoing assessment of the general permit. Exacerbation of hypoxic conditions and concerns with fueling harmful algal blooms were frequently expressed concerns. Economic impact and the need for increased monitoring were additional common themes. As a result, some year-round and seasonal discharge prohibitions as well as additional monitoring conditions have been added to the draft permit conditions. Catherine shared several recommendations related to mitigation of identified concerns. She also identified next steps, such as jurisdictional and other clarifications that will occur in the process. This and supporting information is available on the EPA’s website page “Proposed NPDES General Permit for Offshore Seafood Processors in Federal Waters Off the Coast of Washington and Oregon” at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/proposed-npdes-general-permit-offshore-seafood-processors-federal-waters-coast>. Members of the AC provided comments on implementation of the permit. Catherine thanked the group for their involvement in the process.

*The Olympic Coast Regional Ocean Acidification Vulnerability Assessment Current and Future Research Efforts*

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-regional-vulnerability-assessment-to-ocean-acidification.pdf> (648kb) presentation was given by Meg Chadsey, Melissa Watkinson (Washington SeaGrant), and Amy Sprenger (NANOOS) on behalf of Drs. Jan Newton and Melissa Poe. The team discussed the two-year proposal as an outcome of the Olympic Coast as a Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification (OASes) workshop in September 2016. The overarching goal is to establish an assessment of the social and ecological vulnerability related to ocean acidification to inhabitants of the Olympic Coast. Understanding these factors could assist in efforts to enhance adaptive capacity. New social data will be collected through interviews with tribal and other coastal communities. These new data will be coupled with existing chemical and biological data to provide predictive models related to vulnerabilities. This information will be beneficial for managers, including informing models used in fisheries management. The kick off of the project will begin later this year. The team expressed interest

in including the Advisory Council and OCNMS staff as the scope is focused on areas within the sanctuary's boundaries and is hoped to support OASes efforts.

*Ocean Acidification Research in the Olympic Coast Region*

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-noaa-ocean-acidification-program-washington-coast.pdf> (144.1MB) was presented by Dr. Richard Feely of NOAA/ Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory. He provided an overview of OA field work occurring along the Washington outer coast, an explanation of the chemistry, and future research. Several recent cruises are augmenting sampling efforts and the subsequent research. For example, Dr. Feely explained that long-term chemical and biological research is critical in understanding the impacts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in terms of baseline (natural variability) and saturated (externally inflated) states in the ocean as well as coincident factors such as temperature. Such research helps inform models identifying the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities. The ability to provide information that can inform emission related choices is buttressed by the maintenance of research networks. He suggested that we have learned a great deal about the chemistry and therefore can offer solutions, however we do not have sufficient understanding of the biology to define a tipping point. This, illustrates the need for additional data collection, analysis, and synthesis. Hope remains high that investigative research will continue to expand, based on the positive reception at all levels of governance, particularly due to the economic impacts tied to the OA issue.

*Management Plan Review Process Strategy* <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-noaa-ocean-acidification-program-washington-coast.pdf> (1.1MB) George Galasso of OCNMS described the purpose for the review and the previous Management Plan Review (MPR) process, which culminated in the 2011 OCNMS Management Plan. Public comment was solicited through a variety of open houses and a formal public comment period to help determine the scope of the management plan. The Sanctuary's Advisory Council and Intergovernmental Policy Council helped to prioritize issues raised during public scoping sessions. The process took three years and significant staff time, which is not feasible under current budget and staffing levels. The management plan was designed to be implemented over a five to ten-year period, with an interim internal review, which is currently underway. The interim review will include reporting on performance measures and status of implementation. OCNMS will seek input from the Advisory Council in 2018 on priorities going forward. In 2018, the Advisory Council will also receive a briefing on the next generation Condition Report. AC members requested that the report include successes in addition to any other reporting.

*Food for Thought: Washington Sea Otter Diet and Population Status*

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-food-for-thought-washington-sea-otter-diet-and-population-status.pdf> (2.3MB) Jessica Hale, a UW Ph.D. candidate, provided a background on sea otters in OCNMS and her graduate research, which builds on research started back in 1977. Her research investigates what WA sea otters are eating and the kilocalories (kcal) they can obtain from different food sources. She described their diet in eight WA sites compared with other areas using standard protocols. In Washington, urchins- their preferential prey, have been replaced so that the largest component of sea otter diets are crabs, followed by clams and snails for an average 14.21 kcal per minute spent foraging. This places WA sea otters in a moderate rate growth category (3-8% per year) with a population estimated at 1806 animals. Future analysis includes prey items and habitat correlations.

**Superintendent's Report** Carol Bernthal provided an update on two executive orders (EO) issued earlier this year. The Executive Orders required an assessment of the expansion of national marine sanctuaries and monuments and consideration of implications for energy production within those areas. During the comment period, over 195,000 public responses were received. Ongoing categorization of those replies indicate that 99% of respondents support sanctuaries and national marine monuments. Superintendent Bernthal also reported on the discovery of European green crabs near the Wa'atch River, which flows into the northern portion of OCNMS. Makah Department of Natural Resources will be working with other governments to determine the extent of this invasive species' current range as both Wa'atch and nearby Tsoo-Yess Rivers could provide suitable habitat. Carol reported that infrastructure in sanctuaries affected by recent storms and hurricanes only suffered minor damage. She referred Council members to the current edition of the Office Report September 2017

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-office-report.pdf> (541kb) for more information on OCNMS activities.

**SAC Member Updates** Steve Shively reported on the upcoming Crab Fest on Oct 6-8<sup>th</sup>. He shared a view of a co-sponsored Dungeness Crab and OA placement 9-14-2017

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20170922-office-report.pdf> designed to promote awareness of the biological and economic impacts to the species. He also shared positive feedback from participants in the 2017 Culinary Loop, which visited Kalaloch during the Get Into Your Sanctuary event.

Casey Dennehy announced the launch of this year's Surfrider Leadership Academy. He also shared that planning for the 2017 Marine Resource Committee Summit (Nov 2-4<sup>th</sup>) has kicked off. He announced the weekend's Cleanwater Classic Surfing Contest and Surfrider Chapter fundraiser in Westport, WA.

Mark Ozias reported that the Clallam County Shoreline Management Plan will be presented to the commissioners in the upcoming weeks. He invited interested parties to use the various formats available to provide comments.

John Stadler shared that the Pacific Groundfish Management Plan and environmental analysis to evaluate potential changes to Essential Fish is delayed until March 2018 due to complexities of the related economic analysis.

Jennifer Hennessey announced that 2016 Shoreline Atlas photos are now available on the WADOE website. DOE spills program received funding for a Grays Harbor focused vessel risk assessment over the next two years; next week, the WA Coastal Advisory Council is holding their meeting in Gray Harbor County; and the draft Marine Spatial Planning Update is expected to be available in the very near future. A link will be shared with SAC members via an email.

Tom Mumford spoke of an upcoming publication on kelp data as related to changes in climate. He relayed that the NW Straits Foundation is involved in kelp bed recovery planning, focused mainly in Puget Sound, but likely to include OCNMS. He also shared an outcome from a recent conference: after a west coast wide decline of kelp beds in 2014, northern areas have rebounded. This is not the case in southern (California) regions where urchins are plentiful, but kelp remain in severe decline.

Katie Krueger is considering a variety of options to communicate with people on OA and suggest alternatives to help reduce impacts. She has spoken with Peninsula College and ONRC representatives about providing future evening presentations.

CDR Brian Gilda advised council members that many USCG personnel continue to be deployed to assist with hurricane related issues.

Jodie Toft announced that in partnership with the Quinalt Indian Nation and Quileute Tribe, overflights of outer coast waters will begin in October. This activity is part of their derelict fishing gear removal efforts. They have also designed coloring sheet related to derelict gear. Other announcements included WA Coast Works sponsorship of a \$10,000 prize to the winner of the Sustainable Small Business program competition in October; WA Coast Restoration Initiative's collection of nearly \$11 million towards jobs creation on the outer coast; and TNC work to gauge and encourage coalition building that advances carbon pricing in WA State.

Dan Ayres shared that at the closing of the coastal Dungeness crabbing season, landings were just over 20 million pounds, thus one of the largest years since 201. Their derelict gear program is in full swing for the next 45 days. It allows recovery and retention of derelict gear regardless of original ownership. On opening day, over 600 crab pots were tagged as part of the program.

Katrina Lassiter mentioned the upcoming Offshore Oil and Gas comment period. She discussed the June launch of rural communities' partnership program with DNR. The commissioner met with members of the public in Port Angeles and in Pacific County to look at ways DNR can partner with rural communities on recreation, solar energy, community forest, and other sustainability programs. DNR is seeking ideas in these categories, which can be submitted via their website.

Carolyn Winters brought updated Navy's project fact sheets and booklets describing current EIS and proposed activities. The information is also available online at <https://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw.html>.

Steve Joner relayed that the education workshops developed by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute along with support from the Pacific Council presentation have been highly successful. The science education workshop was held last year. This year, the management workshop included Dr. Jan Newton as their oceanographer and her presentation was stellar. He also discussed the improvements in yellow-eye rockfish and sable fish populations.

Lee Whitford shared her appreciation for PNW B-WET grants, which supply funding for school-aged children education programs related to marine issues. She recently participated in a teacher workshop focused on creating meaningful field experiences related to OA education. The Port Townsend Marine Science Center will continue with the theme by developing OA specific curriculum for 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Josh Peters explained how DNR is working with other state agencies to respond to the recent escape of Atlantic salmon. Contact and investigation information related to the event is available on their website.