

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
March 23, 2018

Clallam County Courthouse Council Chambers
Port Angeles, WA

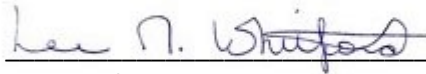
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), John Veentjer (Marine Industry, Secretary), Dan Ayres (WDFW), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Tom Burlingame (Fishing alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Joel Kawahara (Commercial Fishing), John Stadler (NOAA/NMFS), Mike Barton (Education alternate), Jennifer Hennessey (Washington Department of Ecology), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), Rich Osbourne (Marine Resources Committee alternate), Katie Krueger (Citizen-at-Large), Jan Newton (Research), Kathleen Kler (Jefferson County Board of Commissioners), Capt. Brian Gilda (US Coast Guard), Josh Peters (Washington Department of Natural Resources), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Sarah Creachbaum (Olympic National Park) and Allison Mahaney (Citizen-at-large alternate).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Dawn Grebner (NAVSEA Keyport), Natalie Test (NAVFAC NW), and Tommy Moore (NWIFC).

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:, Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jacqueline Laverdure, Jenny Waddell, Hélène Scalliet, and Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS).

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Council Chair and Mark Ozias, Clallam County Commissioners Office, Local government seat.

Internal Affairs

The agenda was adopted by consensus. Lee Whitford reminded members that meeting minutes are intentionally concise while capturing the main points of the meeting proceedings. Audio recordings of meetings are available upon request. She requested council members review minutes at their earliest convenience and provide feedback prior to the meeting as well. Future minutes will be provided in a word format to facilitate SAC member comments/edits within the report. February key outcomes for the SAC were tabled pending further review by SAC members. The deferral was motioned by Joel Kawahara and seconded by Jennifer Hagen.

Lee Whitford reviewed the SAC resolution process using the SAC Charter as a reference and guide (an electronically searchable version of the February 2017 Charter will be distributed). The Executive Committee helps develop meeting agendas; however all members are welcome to make suggestions by contacting the Chair.

Carol Bernthal reviewed the process for bringing a discussion/decision item before the council. The council member contacts the Chair, who consults with the Superintendent and Executive Committee regarding placement on an upcoming agenda. If the topic is approved for inclusion and is intended to be an action item, the proponent needs to draft a resolution letter for advance distribution to the council. The draft resolution is then discussed at the meeting to determine the outcome of the action(s) request.

Several SAC members requested to include more time on the agenda for member reports since this item is very useful.

In a recap of the 2018 Advisory Council Work Plan, Lee Whitford emphasized that during the year the document will evolve as it incorporates efforts and completions of tasks. Members will be provided updated versions as applicable.

All members were thanked for their efforts in 2017. Six Advisory Council members were recognized for their perfect record of meeting attendance in 2017: Dan Ayres, Mike Barton, Jennifer Hennessey, Katrina Lassiter, Stephanie Sleeman, and Lee Whitford.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Management Plan Prioritization process :

I. Present preliminary results of prioritization exercise, discussion on notes, and individual prioritization exercise

Hélène Scalliet advised council members that the 2011-2017 Management Plan Implementation Report is available at <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/management-plan-implementation-report-2011-2017.pdf>. The review determined that the 2011 Management Plan is still relevant and in play. She then presented a consolidated view of the preliminary results of the “homework” prioritization exercise.

Of the 84 strategies, 63 received prioritization points from SAC participants and were ranked using the assigned points. Staff members, responsible for oversight of the listed activities, provided additional information regarding those strategies. After a robust discussion period regarding the factors that influenced preliminary results she requested the council work as seats teams to further narrow and refine priorities, referring to the comments/note sections as well explanations provided by staff. This second, onsite exercise was constructed to ask members to identify their top 10 strategies within each of the five color-coded, priority topic groups and another top 10 by priority regardless of relevant grouping through rescoring and/or ranking. The outcome is intended to help to identify critical issues on the horizon of the upcoming three years rather than a prescribing a specified number of priorities.

II. Present preliminary results of prioritization exercise, discussion on notes, and individual prioritization exercise

The aggregate results from each of the morning exercises were presented to the SAC. Hélène pointed out that there were changes, as a result of the reassessment, that elevated some strategies from lower rankings into the top 20 items. The ensuing discussion included “dropped” items that are still deemed important, but seen more as partnership opportunities/ tasks, such as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) as well as items considered part of business as usual, where coordination with other entities allows OCNMS to rely on others to create a product/output. Drivers for ratings were discussed to clarify the basis for choices, especially those related to education and outreach. The results of this exercise will be provided to SAC members shortly after the meeting. A presentation that consolidates other input, such as OCNMS staff and IPC responses where received, will be provided at the May meeting.

Public Comment

Ian Miller of WA SeaGrant requested the assistance of the OCNMS Advisory Council, in the recruitment for a WA SeaGrant Executive Director. Details regarding the position and an anonymous rating form would be provided via a later email.

Ian is also the Board Chair for the Feiro Marine Life Center. They are seeking board members for that organization. Chris Butler-Minor spoke of the co-sponsored Feiro /OCNMS speaker series, mentioning the upcoming 4/17/2018 marine microplastics event. George Galasso announced the Naval Undersea Museum Presentation by Robert Schwemmer, West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator on April 9th.

Superintendent's Report

Carol Bernthal elected to forgo the Superintendent's Report to allow more time for member updates. She referred attendees to the Office Report for a recap of current events.

SAC Member Updates

Captain Brian Gilda announced his retirement in late April. CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill will also be retiring. LCDR John Fu will begin representing the USCG beginning with the May SAC meeting.

Josh Peters has relayed that Atlantic salmon pen aquaculture operations are proposed by WA legislative action, to be phased out. Permits will not be renewed at their expiration date. Port Angles and Cypress Island leases have been terminated although this action is under litigation.

Kathleen Kler introduced herself as the new Jefferson County representative.

Jan Newton reported that with the help of the Coastal Treaty Tribes, two of the IOOS HF radar sites have been selected. Hurricane damage to IOOS buoys will be covered via \$4.3 million in approved federal budget dollars although there is less certainty regarding NANOOS allotments. Funding for research into using kelp rafts for CO₂ mediation has been secured. A cooperative agreement with the U.S. Navy signed earlier in the week and secured funding will allow sampling at Hoods Head to compare the condition of pteropods there with those found in the sanctuary.

Katie Kruger has taken on the role of North Pacific Marine Resources Committee (NPC MRC) seat vacated by Rich Osborne. She also discussed an interest at the MRC in green crab monitoring. She wondered if there are studies on whether their larvae are eaten by native fish.

Rich Osborne shared that Vice Chair Casey Dennehy was out of state attending the annual national Surfrider conference. NPC MRC has finalized ranking of grant proposals, and decided to fund more projects but at a lower amount per project.

Steve Shively announced that after seven years, the WA legislature has voted for state funding to support tourism. The bill is expected to be signed by the Governor in April. In May, the International Food Writers association will be able to taste seafood made possible due to the healthy habitat of the sanctuary and he expects good international press as a result. The Olympic Peninsula Tourism Commission's website (<https://www.olympicpeninsula.org/>) will debut its new design in June. The 2018-2019 regional Travel Planner includes OCNMS and how to become involved. He spoke of current and upcoming clam digs and their economic benefits to coastal communities. In earlier March, at the request of the OCNMSF chapter's director, he flew to Washington D.C. to participate in an appropriation request process on Capitol Hill that supports the NMS system. 92 House of Representative members have shown support for a \$15.5 million increase in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

Jennifer Hagen shared that the SeaGrant cultural vulnerability to OA assessment, led by Dr. Melissa Poe, will kick off in the next week. She also discussed development of an oceanographic monitoring project from La Push out to the hopefully re-deployed Chá bã buoy.

Jennifer Hennessey announced the WA Coastal Advisory meeting will be held in Aberdeen on Wednesday Mar 28th at Port of Grays Harbor with a focus on coastal hazards resilience, especially in relation to erosion. DOE held a workshop with the Sanctuary on seafloor mapping prioritization on 3/6/18. State and federal agencies along with Coastal Treaty Tribes reanalyzed the inputs for the prioritization process. A workshop report regarding the updated areas and purposes should be available soon. DOE is working on finalizing the response to public comments on the Marine Spatial Plan. She also

announced the WDOE drafted a comment letter to BOEM on the proposed offshore gas and oil leasing program, which was forwarded to council members (via AC Coordinator).

Mike Barton discussed monitoring for European green crab. Trapping efforts and surveys are being used to estimate preliminary populations at Dungeness Spit. New SeaGrant volunteers have expanded efforts to identify the extent of European green crab and collect data on their basic biology.

Joel Kawahara shared that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) will be reviewing proposed essential fish habitat (EFH) designations for groundfish. PFMC also provided a comment letter to BOEM on the proposed offshore gas and oil leasing program. Three Coho runs (Queets, Straits, and Snohomish Rivers) are identified as overfished: escapements are less than the geometric mean requirements for the past three years. Two Chinook runs (Sacramento River and Kalamath Falls) are classified as overfished, all of which complicates establishment of ocean catch limits. Salmon season limits will be set around the Tulle Chinook which are primarily hatchery fish, but include a wild ESA listed component, as well as Oregon and Lower Columbia River ESA Coho. Puget Sound salmon treaty negotiations with Canada for 2019 are ongoing. Halibut quotas announced today reflect an 11% reduction for WA, OR, and CA fisheries.

John Stadler spoke of the PFMC council adding final preferred alternatives into the April meeting's briefing book regarding Essential Fish Habitat for Groundfish. Changes are expected to conservation areas that prohibit bottom trawling and elimination of the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) at 100-750 fathoms along the entire coast. U&A are currently excluded from changes in EFH conservation areas although changes are considered for seaward areas. In allowing for public comment and further EIS documentation, the process will continue over the next year. EFH data is available on a new website at <http://efh-catalog.coas.oregonstate.edu/overview/>. Information related to the PFMC meeting is available at <https://www.pcouncil.org/2018/04/53731/april-2018-council-dsd-online/>. The steering committee for West Coast Deep Sea Coral (DSC) initiative will hold a workshop in Santa Barbara during mid-April to strategize efforts for the next three years. One goal of NMFS and PFMC is to seek the resource management relationship between DSC and managed fish.

Steve Joner reported that he has been focused on hypoxia and halibut. The August International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) surveys, conducted from south to north last year, coincided with a large hypoxia event thus provided a coast wide indication of poor recruitment. Per unit effort increased by 22% from the prior year and over the past six years capture has exceeded the number of hours allotted in the tribal management plan because of fish availability. U.S. and Canada negotiations didn't result in agreement, so for the second time since 1923 there will be domestic implementation of quotas. In the meanwhile he is working with the IPHC survey teams and regional office NMFS to include catch data into the assessment as shares for 13 tribes are based on the conservation assessment. U.S. and Canada whiting (hake) committee reported that last year's catch is the largest on record.

Lee Whitford requested a presentation on EFH by John Stadler and invited Steve Joner to give a presentation on the halibut fishery at a future meeting.

Tom Burlingame announced Chris Butler-Minor would be a guest speaker at Eagle Fest in Neah Bay on April 28th at the request of the Neah Bay Chamber of Commerce.

Sarah Creachbaum stated that snowpack was at 120%. The Elwha Project's sediment report will be published soon. The Elwha is exhibiting wild river action in terms of sediment transport. Road work near the upper dam removal site to repair flooding over the previous roadbed requires a continuation of the area's closure to vehicular traffic. She announced that Steve Fradkin (ONP alternate) has received the PNW Region Resource Managers award and was nominated for a national award. She also shared that

Attorney General Bob Ferguson will recreate an August hike along the coastal wilderness taken 60 years ago by conservationists Polly and William Dyer that resulted in protection of the coastal strip. This walk is intended to demonstrate the reasons for excluding the WA coast from offshore oil and gas exploration leasing.

Mark Ozias shared that he and Clallam County partners are focusing on Code enforcement among other efforts. As a board member of the OCNMSF chapter the team is developing a strategic plan from scratch. They will be meeting in Seattle next week in an effort to expand the organization's funding base.

Carolyn Winters is investigating holding a future meeting at the U.S. Navy's Pacific Beach Conference Center. She highlighted that information on Navy activities can be found at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/content/dam/cnic/cnrnw/pdfs/NASWifactsheets/Pacific%20Northwest%20Environmental%20Projects%20Quick%20Look.pdf>.

Dan Ayres described a well-attended (15,000 people) razor clam dig at the beginning of the month. The crab season is expected to be moderate at 10 million pounds vs. the usual 12 million pounds. He is the only Washington coast representative to be invited as a reviewer of the National Ocean Service Coastal Science HAB report. He mentioned a new HAB bulletin being created to accompany information related to clam digs. He suggested a HAB presentation at a future meeting.

John Veentjeer announced the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting will be on 4/11/2018 at the Port of Seattle's Terminal 5 and will feature Jennifer Hennessey presenting on MSP. In response to automatic identification system (AIS) revision questions, John reiterated that the tool is a collision avoidance program vs. a shore-based management vessel identification application, so there are large hurdles to redesigning its capabilities.

Allison Mahaney shared that a North Olympic Land Trust (NOLT) Conservation Breakfast and presentation on the Elwha River Restoration process was attended by over 300 people this morning.