

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 19, 2019

Quinault Indian Nation Community Center
124 Quinault Ave Taholah, WA 98587

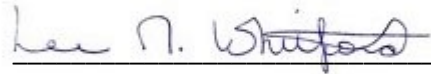
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Chair and Education), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Dann May (Education), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Tami Pokorny (Marine Resource Committee), Dan Ayres (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), CMDR John Fu (U.S. Coast Guard), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Jan Newton (Research), Casey Dennehy (Vice Chair and Washington Department of Ecology), Hannah Blackstock (Washington Department of Natural Resources), Tom Mumford (Research), and John Veentjer (Secretary and Marine Industry).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Cathy Pfister (University of Chicago), Tommy Moore (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), and Phyllis Bernard-May.

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Clara Smith (Hollings Scholar), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Washington SeaGrant), Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Jenny Waddell, and Chris Butler-Minor (NOAA/Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford. Attendees were welcomed by Joe Schumacker, on behalf of Ed Johnstone. Joe introduced Cheryl Bumgarner, the local caterer for breakfast and lunch. He also encouraged members to take advantage of the nearby lake each location for a stroll during lunch.

Internal Affairs

- The draft agenda was revised for a presentation title change, then adopted by consensus <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190719-sac-agenda.pdf>.
- Approval of the May meeting notes deferred until the September meeting in order to incorporate additional feedback from members.
- Recommendations for four Advisory Council seats including Conservation (primary), Education (primary and alternate), and Fishing (primary) have been sent to the Director of Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for confirmation. Fishing (alternate) and Tourism and Economic Development (alternate) closed on June 28, 2019. Applications have been received for one of the positions which will be considered by OCNMS Advisory Council Executive Committee. Recruitment for the remaining seats will be extended.
- OCNMS' 25th designation anniversary and the fourth annual "Get Into Your Sanctuary" weekend are coming soon: <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/news/calendar.html>. A new video which highlights Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary was produced as part of the celebration: Earth is Blue video "Go Coastal", <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/WK239-OCNMS-tourism.html>.

Carol described that designation of OCNMS resulted from a coalition of tribe, state, and county governments with the purpose of protecting natural resources of the outer coast of Washington state. Carol expressed appreciation for the time and efforts given by former OCNMS superintendents and all Advisory Council members in providing guidance and engaging in stewardship over the past 25 years. She also acknowledged the single staff member at OCNMS who has been with the sanctuary from the time of designation, George Galasso.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Coastal Management Challenges – from ocean conditions to derelict fishing gear

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190807-schumacker-presentation-july-19-2019.pdf>

Joe Schumacker, Quinault Indian Nation, spoke with the council and invited them into a conversation about the many interrelated management issues that the Quinault Indian Nation is facing on a scale never before seen in their history.

- Ocean and watershed changes are concerning for their culture and economy. For example, this is the second year in a row, iconic blueback sockeye salmon are not being fished. Hostile ocean conditions have resulted in woeful survival rates.
- Along the Quinault River, the tribe is continuing its long-term deforestation mitigation project by installing engineered log jams to help reestablish permanent channels and side-channels and implementing revegetation activities to reestablish spawning areas and cool, shaded rearing areas for all five salmonid species native to the area.
- Marine hypoxia has been recurring since 2006, evidenced by fish and shellfish kills on the Quinault reservation beaches. Low oxygen conditions are a product of upwelling via waters with low concentrations of dissolved oxygen waters exacerbated by decomposition of plankton blooms, versus anthropogenic or natural nutrient loads. However climate change induced ocean heat along with warmer waters of the Columbia River plume may also be amplifying hypoxia and its impacts on local species.
- Marine heat waves up to the Bering Sea are affecting gray whales and decreasing salmon runs along the Olympic Peninsula. Restoring Chinook salmon and Southern Resident killer whale discussions are also tied to the challenge of managing sea lion predation on salmon including ESA listed stocks.
- Other concerns include sea otter predation of shellfish, increases in whale entanglements, and derelict fishing gear. The tribe is taking proactive measures to avoid entanglements and protect their important crab fishery in their usual and accustomed fishing areas with derelict gear removals and exploring the use of new technologies.

Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASes) Working Group – Review and Recommendations for OCNMS sentinel site designation initiative with action sought

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190716-oases-final-report.pdf>

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190712-draft-oases-steering-committee.pdf>

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190807-resolution-in-support-of-oases-draft.pdf>

Julie Ann Koehlinger, Washington SeaGrant Fellow at OCNMS, recapped the OASes working group activities and its purpose as a follow up to the Washington blue-ribbon panel report recommendations along with making the case for Office of National Marine Sanctuary designation of OCNMS as a sentinel site for ocean acidification (OA) research. She referred back to Joel Schumacher's talk as confirming the need for OA research.

Recommendations of the OASes working group include designating OCNMS as an OA sentinel site, establishing a steering committee, and confirming OCNMS as the coordinating entity for the site.

In the discussion, Dan Ayres asked about funding considerations. Carol confirmed that support for the sentinel site program would be included in budget prioritization exercises with additional resources requested as needed with the intent of leveraging partnerships. The sanctuary is committed to providing staff and continuation of the oceanographic mooring network. Matching resources with partners improves the designation argument and makes it more compelling. Of note, the recommendations for steering committee membership don't call for EPA involvement directly as WA Dept. of Ecology reports to EPA.

The Council was asked to accept the recommendations. Joe Schumacker made a motion to accept them which was seconded by Jennifer Hagan. The Council was requested to vote on the resolution to adopt the drafted letter of recommendation to OCNMS superintendent. A motion was made by Jan Newton and seconded by Casey Dennehy. The motion passed by consensus.

Marine Debris on the Olympic Coast – results from seven years of monitoring and transitioning into the future <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190807-marine-debris.pdf>

Clara Smith, Hollings Scholar and Chris Butler-Minor, OCNMS gave a joint presentation on Marine debris monitoring along the Olympic Coast and southern edge of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Clara began by describing the Marine debris monitoring program over the past seven years and then discussed the analysis she conducted to uncover spatial and temporal trends indicated by the data set.

Her study identified plastic as the largest component of debris collected at 89.1% by count. Seasonal and regional trends compared the Olympic Coast to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Mean debris loads were higher on the Olympic Coast. This was attributed to the influence of the California current on the Olympic Coast and the fact that the shoreline of Strait of Juan de Fuca is more sheltered. In both regions, winter debris loads are highest due to larger storms and lack of upwelling to move debris offshore.

Chris followed by describing the contributions of various partners over the seven years of marine debris monitoring and the future of marine debris monitoring the Olympic Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Volunteers were acknowledged as critical partners in the monitoring program and are being invited to begin using the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team protocols (COASST) to continue adding to the long-term data sets.

OCNMS will continue to support CoastSavers semiannual cleanups which also collect data. The data analyzed during Clara's internship will be used to inform a report out on the seven-year Marine debris monitoring program to the NOAA Marine debris program and an article for the OCNMS conservation series.

Ocean Acidification and Kelp Forests – 20 years of research in canopy kelp throughout the state <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190807-kelp-and-climate.pdf>

Dr. Cathy Pfister, University of Chicago, engaged advisory Council members in a review of over two decades of kelp canopy data in the vicinity of OCNMS. Her investigation seeks to uncover century scale dynamics of blue carbon i.e. vegetation carbon capture in the ocean and nearshore as well as nitrogen bio-availability, influences on phytoplankton and microbe links.

Using digitized maps of kelp cover from prior studies during the World War I era and data collected by WDNR since 1989 and her team in the 21st century, they see that kelp beds have similar area cover now as they did in the past on the outer coast and western Strait of Juan de Fuca. There were correlations between kelp canopy and climate, with negative values of the Pacific decadal oscillation associated with higher kelp cover. Overall kelp beds appear to regulate biologically important chemical parameters and physical properties, such as pH and nitrogen.

Kelp beds also were associated with increased microbial diversity in seawater. Ongoing research will focus on dynamic interactions in kelp beds, including food web influences via sea otters. The work that was presented occurs in a backdrop of decreasing pH and thinning in shells in the OCNMS – hallmarks of ocean acidification.

Superintendent's Report

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20190807-office-report-final.pdf>

Carol Bernthal provided a report on important or newsworthy activities conducted by staff over the last months at OCNMS such as the first steps in the designation of Malloys Bay – Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary.

The Tatoosh remains the top priority in the facilities updates budget and ONMS is committed to its replacement. The House of Representatives has recommended a \$5 million budget and has forwarded their recommendations to the Senate. OCNMS is working towards being contract ready by working with marine architects on the design specifications. She thanked the AC for weighing in and garnering support for the new vessel.

Because of the successes in Thunder Bay NMS and OCNMS, ROV competitions are being considered for each sanctuary.

In September, the/V Bell Shimada will be in OCNMS to collect high resolution seafloor data as part of the Deep Sea Coral and Sponge cruise. Results from the meteorite search in early June are not in yet.

George Galasso advised the Ac that there are 7-8 permits in process and he is actively sharing information with the Coastal Treaty Tribes.

Jenny Waddell shared that the sound trap project is being implemented in eight sanctuaries. Four are deployed in OCNMS and will be serviced prior to battery life is exceeded.

Future Agenda Topics

- Update on outcomes from the Governor's Orca Task Force related to addressing prey availability, contaminants, vessel traffic, and habitat factors.
- Salmon Ocean Behavior and Distribution (SOBaD) project

Location of Next Meetings

Friday, September 27, 2019
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
239 4th St. Bremerton, WA 98337

Friday, November 8, 2019
La Push at the Quileute Tribal Council Chambers – West Wing
90 Main St, La Push, WA 98350

Member Reports

John Veentjer shared that measures, largely Canadian, being taken to reduce noise from commercial vessel traffic. Voluntary vessel speed reductions, down from 15-18 knots to 11.5 to 14.5 knots depending on vessel type, have been in place since July 5 along Haro Strait and Boundary Passage. See <https://www.portvancouver.com/environment/water-land-wildlife/echo-program/projects/voluntary-vessel-slowdown-trial/> for additional information. Based on a recommendation out of the Governors Orca Task Force, a meeting will be held on October 3 to consider taking similar measures in Puget Sound during the winter months for the benefit of SKRW.

Tom Mumford described a NOAA and NW Straits Commission initiative in Puget Sound focused on kelp conservation and a recovery plan for listed rockfish which could also aid in ecosystem benefits for multiple species. Out of the previous workshop, actions include providing a draft plan in November for peer review and public comment. A hope of these efforts is to engender kelp as a resource west coast-wide.

Hannah Blackstone reported on a possible whale sanctuary project led by the Whale Sanctuary Project <https://whalesanctuaryproject.org/>, which would enclose a large bay to provide a home for retired captive orca and a rehabilitation location for wild orca. There are several regulatory aspects to consider in the process in addition to building public support. No application has been submitted to WDNR at this time.

Casey announced the December 2-6, the West Coast Alliance meeting in Tacoma [\[https://westcoastcoceanalliance.org/2019meeting\]](https://westcoastcoceanalliance.org/2019meeting). He shared that Ecology's will post marine spatial planning data onto a website after NOAA's review is completed.

Jan Newton announced the Aug 1 meeting of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) governance council. She also reported that NANOOS has funding to reestablish glider operation of the Columbia River glider and replace the glider off La Push. Environmental science writer Chris Dunagan, will write a synthesis paper of presentations at the Washington OA Center's science symposium last May [\[https://coenv-media-gene1ufvxiloffjq.stackpathdns.com/2019/04/Symposium-2019-Agenda-1.pdf\]](https://coenv-media-gene1ufvxiloffjq.stackpathdns.com/2019/04/Symposium-2019-Agenda-1.pdf). High Frequency Radar (HFR) sighting on the WA coast has proven challenging due to things like the geography, access to power, and beach based noise interference. The hope is for three locations: Westport Lighthouse State Park, Kalaloch, and an unselected northern location. SEPA & NEPA efforts have begun for the southern coastal site.

Joe Schumacker described that placement of ~138 acoustic sensors by the Salmon Ocean Behavior and Distribution (SOBaD) project has been limited to federal waters. There have been no accidents involving these liter-sized sandbag anchored moorings however he asked whether a notice to mariners had been issued and recommended an image of the mooring be distributed as well.

Katie Krueger announced the latest edition of the West End Natural Resource News [\[https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/8106/2019-NPC-MRC-Newsletter_FINAL_LowRes4Email\]](https://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/8106/2019-NPC-MRC-Newsletter_FINAL_LowRes4Email) for the North Pacific Marine Resource Committee (NPC MRC) and lead entity includes an article on the May 2019, MATE ROV competition and is available for members. She gave a shout out to Nicole Harris, OCNMS, for excellence in organizing and executing the event and Alice Ryan as Mentor of the Year. This is the first year the competition was recognized internationally and Olympic Peninsula competitors will go onto the next level. NPC MRC will host the 2019 MRC Summit.

Rich Osborne announced this is the third year of Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC) and Makah Tribe harmful algal bloom (HAB) sampling near the Juan de Fuca eddy via CTD sampling [\[https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/facts/ctd.html\]](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/facts/ctd.html). Results will be correlated with WDFW and available on the NANOOS website and in Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB)'s PNW HAB Bulletins <http://www.orhab.org/PNW%20HAB%20BULLETINS/index.html>.

CDR John Fu announced the arrival of Rear Admiral Anthony (Jack) Vogt, Thirteenth District Commander (D13) for SeaFair. The Admiral is an aviator and familiar with Alaska and Pacific Northwest interactions and issues.

Dan Ayres shared that this year's razor clams at Kalaloch are quite small with overall densities much lower than state's southern management beaches. He will be attending a training in California for managers from the three west coast states related to reducing entanglements. Whale entanglements in crab gear have increased resulting in a WDFW applying for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the National Marine Fisheries Service for humpback whales.

Developing affordable, practical gear without vertical lines to reduce entanglements bi-coastally and in other countries versus additional fisheries closures is the preferable alternative. Methods to incentivize gear collection, especially summer pots is also under discussion. More information is available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/crab/coastal/letters-notices>.

Tami Pokorny shared that the COASST presentation scheduled for Neah Bay has been canceled. She announced Chigger Stokes retirement from the NPC MRC. He has been a longtime supporter of marine debris removal and investigating exposed Pleistocene wood on the coast such as the current landslides study being conducted led by Dr. Kathy Troost with students at Rialto Beach.

The NPC MRC will next meet on Aug 20th. A new funding cycle and request for proposals is being developed. They have approximately \$40,000 in funding available annually to support studies and education programs. She invited members to consider and share information about the upcoming RFP.

Jennifer Hagen announced the completion of a multi-year derelict fishing gear removal program which included a prevention-education component. The Quileute are committed to avoiding whale entanglements. Phytoplankton and HAB sampling will begin in August on the NOAA vessel Bell M. Shimada.

Carolyn Winters announced the Navy's participation in the SeaFair US Navy ship tours and environmentally focused booths. The comment period for the NWTT EIS has closed, however materials are still available on their website. She also announced her August retirement from the Navy and expressed appreciation for involvement with the AC. She confirmed the Stephanie Sleeman will continue to participate in the AC meetings.

Katie Wrubel shared that the Makah Tribe has officially joined the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification (OA Alliance) and are developing on OA Action Plan. Makah Fisheries are continuing to trap European green crab. Last year they captured 1,078 green crab in the Wa'atch and Tsoo-Yess estuaries, versus ~78 that were captured in the entire Puget Sound region. Tommy Moore is trapping in the La Push area and there is hope to expand the monitoring area on the outer coast. Bobbie Buzell, a graduate student at Western Washington University is investigating whether river otter are predators of green crab.

The Makah Tribe is planning to conduct coastal erosion monitoring at several sites in partnership with WA SeaGrant and WA Dept. of Ecology under the Washington Coast Restoration and Resilience Initiative. Under NOAA Marine Debris funding, the Tribe has removed 29 derelict crab pots, to date, and is working with their fishermen to develop long term solutions that reduce gear losses and increase recovery.

The West Coast Ocean Alliance (WCOA) Tribal Caucus is developing a best practices framework for tribal engagement and consultation with support from the Udall Foundation. The WCOA Tribal Caucus is also planning for a Tribal/First Nations Summit focused on ocean planning, data, and consultation for Sept 30-Oct 4, 2019. Lastly, Makah Days is August 23-25 in Neah Bay.