

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
March 15, 2019

Clallam County Commissioner Council Chambers
223 E 4th St #4
Port Angeles, WA 98362

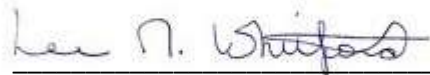
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Dan Nutt (Maritime Industry), Scott Hecht (National Marine Fisheries Service), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development), Capt. Patrick McElligatt (US Coast Guard), Dann May (Conservation), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), Dan Ayres (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), Carol Maloy (Department of Ecology), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Tami Pokorny (Marine Resource Committee), Lee Whitford (Chair And Education), Mike Barton (Education), Stephanie Sleeman (U.S. Navy), Allison Mahaney (Citizen at Large), Jan Newton (Research), Wendy Largent (Hoh Tribe), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner) and Greg Brotherton (Jefferson County Commissioner).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Randy Johnson (Clallam County Commissioner), Russell Callender (Washington SeaGrant), Laura Callender, Ed Bowlby, and Sandy McCormick.

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Dr. Meredith Everett (Northwest Fisheries Science Center), Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Kevin Grant, Jenny Waddell, Julie Ann Koehlinger, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford. Attendees were welcomed by Randy Johnson, Clallam County Commissioner.

The draft agenda was adopted by consensus after a motion by Dan Ayres and second by Joel Kawahara.

Approval of the November meeting notes was motioned by Steve Shively and seconded by Dann May https://nmssanctuaries.blob.core.windows.net/sanctuaries-prod/media/docs/20190201-21sep2018_notes_final.pdf.

Internal Affairs

- Julie Ann Koehlinger, Washington Sea Grant fellow, provided an Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASes) working group update. The working group has determined that it is important to establish a big picture set of goals and objectives through a review of the 2016 OASes workshop before addressing the proposed composition of the steering committee. The working group is planning a one-day meeting in February 2019.
- SAC Seat Recruitment and Member Changes: Recruitment is open for seven advisory Council seats including Conservation (primary), Education (primary and alternate), Fishing (primary and alternate), Grays Harbor Marine Resource Council representative, and Tourism and Economic Development (alternate). Member changes include Casey Dennehy stepping down from Grays Harbor MRC seat and being reappointed as Department of Ecology primary, Katrina Lassiter stepping down as Department of Natural Resources alternate, Jody Toft stepping down as primary for Conservation, Mike Barton leaving the alternate education seat, and Tom Burlingame leaving the alternate fishing seat.

- Review and closeout of 2018 Advisory Council Work Plan: Lee acknowledged that some items are ongoing and will carry on into 2019 while thanking SAC members for their efforts in accomplishing tasks identified in the 2018 workplan.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Washington Sea Grant Overview and Partnership Opportunities: new leadership and opportunities to increase partnerships with OCNMS

<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20190319-olympic-coast-NMS-SAC-waseagrant.pdf>

Russell Callender, Director of Washington Sea Grant (WSG), provided a look into this organization's current activities. He shared his vision for WSG as an honest broker of science over the next several years while giving a WSG overview/update. Project examples increasing science services on the Washington coast, increasing resiliency, aquaculture, water quality, marine safety, and programs such as the Orca bowl and fellowship programs - all of which are focused on increasing ocean literacy. Mr. Callender is also interested in continuing partnership opportunities with universities, state & federal agencies, Tribes, industry, and citizen scientists.

Draft 2019 Advisory Council Work Plan: Review and adopt priority action items for OCNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council for 2019

<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/201903-2019 AC WorkPlan DRAFT.pdf>

Lee Whitford led the discussion on action items under consideration for the 2019 Work Plan. Members accepted the new format and action items in alignment with sanctuary priorities. Discussions lead to adoption of three additional tasks: 1) support efforts to secure state funding for green crab monitoring; 2) support and become engaged with the development of a management plan for the newly designed Washington Maritime Heritage Area; and 3) working collaboratively to increase knowledge of the socio economic benefits of sustainable recreational fishing in OCNMS. The ACX will flesh out the wording for the additions to the 2019 Advisory Council workplan. The new topics were approved for inclusion in the 2019 workplan with a motion by Joel Kawahara and second by Jan Newton. The amended work plan was adopted by consensus through a motion by Dan Ayres and second from Katie Krueger.

Northwest Area Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response - Status of Biological Opinion: status update on the interagency consultation and its relationship to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary <https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20190319-response-presentation-314-scott-hecht.pdf>

Dr. Scott Hecht, Chief of the Washington Coast-Lower Columbia River Branch of the National Marine Fisheries Service briefed the council on the Endangered Species Act Consultation Process, the geographic area of transport corridors under review in this consultation (which includes lanes that traverse OCNMS), and implications for biological and chemical effects on species from proposed actions to take in response to an oil spill. The timeline for the biological opinion (BiOp) presumes that applicable agencies will complete their review of the draft BiOp in mid-May with the final document signed in early June 2019.

An Introduction to The Deep-sea Coral Research and Technology Program West Coast Research Initiative: research goals and science plan development, the fall cruise in OCNMS and other current fieldwork plans <https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20190319-ocnms-meeting-everett.pdf>

Dr. Meredith Everett, Post-Doctoral Research Associate for Northwest Fisheries Science Center, provided an introduction to NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program (DSCRTP) and the west coast research initiative that will occur in FY18-FY21. The goal of the DSCRTP is to provide scientific information needed to manage, conserve, and protect deep sea coral and sponge ecosystems through a rotational focus on different regions of the U.S. Dr. Everett shared major components of the regional initiative that is planned for the west coast in the next few years, touching on fieldwork priorities, including mapping and visual surveys within OCNMS, as well as topics of coast-wide relevance such as modeling, species identification, genetics and connectivity, and human impacts. In OCNMS, the initiative is expected to support two research cruises and associated ROV surveys of sanctuary seafloor habitats--the first on the NOAA Ship Shimada in September 2019 and the second on the E/V Nautilus in 2020. Potentially, DSCRTP will also assist with analysis of OCNMS video data collected by the E/V Nautilus in 2017. Whenever possible, the initiative will leverage other complementary research activities in an effort to expand and enhance research on seafloor habitats

Ocean Dumping: Shipping Scrap Metal in the Pacific Northwest

<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20190315-cg-presentation-ocnms.pdf>

CAPT Patrick McElligatt, Chief for the Prevention Division at 13th Coast Guard District advised the council on the history and current outcomes related to "Operation Jalopy", an investigation into incidental derelict car dumping related to scrap metal shipping through OCNMS. USCG, in partnership with the Canadian government, notified the suspected offenders of their liability related to dumping in both the United States and Canada. The operation was successful in reducing the probability of lost vehicles in the sanctuary. The organization under investigation has hired a load master to ensure balanced loads on the barges used to transport scrapped cars. Recent observations indicate the company continues to cooperate with safety measures to reduce the potential for dumping. USCG plans to continue monitoring the situation and will re-engage with industry if needed.

Superintendent's Report

<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20190311-office-report.pdf>

Carol Bernthal highlighted activities in and around the sanctuary system, many of them reported in the bi-monthly Office Report. For example, the passage of the National Resources Management Act of 2019, and the recently signed memorandum of agreement between NOAA, recreational fishing and boating industry leaders, and resource management groups to foster joint cooperation and communication in pursuit of sustainable recreational fishing. She expressed thanks for the support given during the government partial shutdown and acknowledged that a lot of effort is being put into getting federal systems and offices back up to

speed. One example of furlough impact is distribution of the ONMS annual budget. At the national level, there is \$1.0 million to be allocated towards a broad spectrum of facility and vessel needs, with a priority for OCNMS to replace its aging vessel R/V Tatoosh. ONMS is still in the process of determining individual sanctuary site budgets. The ecosystem indicator workshop for the Condition Report has been scheduled for May 2. The 3-day expert workshop is expected to be held in November. Carol also announced recruitment efforts for Executive Director of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation chapter

SAC Member Updates

Steve Shively reported that West End Weekend, annually hosted by the Jefferson County Historic Society, originally scheduled for February at Kalaloch was snowed out and will be rescheduled for some time in the fall where he will present a keynote speech on cultural awareness. Aggressive marketing is being used to try to recover from reduced tourism during “snowmagedon.” As a follow-up to the fall Olympic Peninsula tourism Summit, the Olympic Culinary loop will present a lunch and learn in Ocean Shores focused on sustainable hospitality on April 16.

Joel Kawahara advised that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council Groundfish Amendment 28 is still undergoing public review process of appendices on habitat as it was delayed due to the government partial shutdown. The appendices are expected to be available in March as well as an Integrated Ecosystems Management Report <https://www.integratedecosystemassessment.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-04/CCIEA%202019%20ESR%20508.pdf>. The National Marine Fisheries Service has issued guidance letter related to salmon harvest and its effects on forage needs of southern resident orcas. There are no recommendations regarding the harvest this year as data continue to be collected and prioritized by species. NMFS data, on Chinook salmon runs, in particular lower Columbia River Chinook (aka Tules), indicate they are a primary forage food for orcas. The data will cross reference orca forage areas to harvest locations to determine if fishing quota adjustments are needed.

Scott Hecht advised that the region has seen effects of the furlough particularly related to processing endangered species permits for research. As a result, they are prioritizing particularly research permit requests related to lower Columbia River salmon juvenile abundance, survival rates plus restoration successes of salmon prey item.

Dan Nutt shared that the towing industry has been engaged in Subchapter M vessel inspections. By July, 20% of vessels need to be inspected and issued a Certificate of Inspection (CUI) from the US Coast Guard. Regulations require redundancy and onboard maintenance for risk reduction against dead drifting. In a recent Puget Sound Harbor safety committee meeting an update to the harbor plan was recommended. Foreign ships will receive a safety plan which describes the sanctuary and its need. In addition, the marine disaster recovery committee will work up scenarios and a checklist for use in case of a Cascadian event and distant tsunami events. The

plan envisions designated spots for safe muster in deep water depending upon vessel size. This topic could be a future presentation to SAC.

Katie Wrubel noted Surfrider's connection to sustainability through their Ocean Friendly Restaurant program. The tribe has submitted a proposal which will support the local coastal economy, address erosion issues at several beaches through the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative. A derelict crab gear removal program through NOAA Marine debris has yielded 13 pots and five lines to date with a ramp up this summer. An indigenous caucus has been formed and is being led by Chad Bowe chop to elevate indigenous voices in a Strait of Juan de Fuca emergency response plan. She is currently the Coordinator for West Coast Ocean Alliance so will share more information on upcoming events.

Tami Pokorny re-announced the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee (NPC MRC) Summit to will be held in Forks over October 23-25 and that they are looking for speakers. The River and Ocean Film Festival will be held on April 20 at the RainForest Art Center in Forks. The NPC MRC aims to generate local capacity for filmmaking through workshops. COASST, funded by the NPC MRC, is conducting statistical analysis of beached bird data. Beach profile monitoring has also been funded along with European Green Crab monitoring in addition to supporting coastal cleanup activities. They are working to install water bottle refill stations in Forks at additional buildings. They are also supporting the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) competition. ROV building kits are also available through the Grays Harbor MRC.

Katie Krueger shared that she had been helping to write film festival submittals and have just enough entries to run a film festival. On March 16 Olympic Natural Resource Center (ONRC) will host a workshop for participants in the upcoming remotely operated vehicle competition. Katie pitched volunteering at the competition to members. The 3rd Annual MATE (Marine Advanced Technology Education) Olympic Coast ROV Competition will be held on May 18 at the Forks Athletic and Aquatic Center. Since one out of six jobs are Marine related, students learn how to build machinery and demonstrate its use, communicate their project's value verbally, and market their project with a poster. Judges are needed for each segment of the competition.

Carol Maloy confirmed Casey Dennehy as the new SAC primary seat for the Department of Ecology. In his new position he will work with the state's long-term marine monitoring program. A recent addition is ocean acidification monitoring thanks to a two-year grant from EPA and hope to continue at 20 stations in Puget Sound collocated with plankton sampling stations. At a recent governor's policy group meeting, challenges surrounding the translation of science for the average person/legislature was discussed. Long term sediment monitoring this year will be conducted with Smithsonian staff on eDNA on benthic organisms.

Dan Ayres announced razor clam season is going well. It is the largest shellfish recreational fishing in the state. A new decal "Dig Washington" has debuted. Citizens have appealed to the legislature to name razor clams as the state clam. The Copalis River area is the most productive area. Kalaloch is currently closed due to disappointing results. The large Dungeness crab fishery yields on average 13.5 million pounds through state and tribal landings. The increase in whale

entanglements continues to be threat. A Tuesday workshop with the fleet crab fishery fleet will be held to address the issues. Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife are seeking Marine Mammal Protection Act take permits as part of a five year study process. Biggest issues with entanglements are seen in California. A meeting was held in Astoria for crab fishers and tow operators to let constituents talk amongst themselves regarding how to reduce gear losses and avoid fouling related boat repairs by following voluntary crab pot free towboat lanes.

Carolyn Winters spoke about the U.S. Navy Northwest Training & Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement will soon be open for public comment. She has fact sheets to share and several public meeting will be held. Her team would like to give a presentation to the Advisory Council in May.

Jan Newton announced that NANOOS' tsunami evacuation routes app is available to view online or a hard copy can be printed. Feedback on this product is also encouraged. They also have a climatology app which shows real time temperature data from Chá bã buoy. Next week she'll be in Washington, D.C. meeting with delegates for Washington and Oregon. She mentioned a Seattle Times interview with Dick Feely on interpreting ocean acidification (OA) measurements, which show increased acidification and regional accelerations in line with modeling on Washington's coast. There will be a bi-annual OA symposium at UW Center for Horticulture. She recently visited New Zealand to share Washington State's strategies for OA. NZ is the lead on OA strategies for the 53 member commonwealth.