

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, July 24, 2020

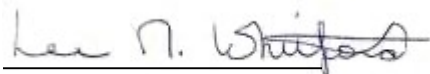
Virtual GoToMeeting

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



Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:**

Lee Whitford (Chair, Education), Jennifer Brown-Scott (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Mike Doherty and Jim Vail (Citizen at Large), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe), Jan Newton and Tom Mumford (Research), John Veentjer (Secretary) and Dan Nutt (Maritime Industry), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), LCDR Kedo Velasco (US Coast Guard), Dan Ayres (WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), David Sullivan (Jefferson County), and LCDR Keola Valasco (US Coast Guard), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy).

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:**

Michelle McClure (PMEL), Alex Stote, Emily Grason, and Sean McDuff (WA SeaGrant Crab Team), George Hart, Adrienne Akmajian (Makah Marine Ecologist), Evan Dobrowski (Dept of Ecology, Stormwater and Maritime Compliance), and Kersti Muul (Salish Systems Protection Institute).

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:**

Gregory Busch and Andrew Torres (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement), Jennifer Clinchy (NOAA Office of General Counsel), Katie Denman (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries), Carol Bernthal, Anna Hallingstad, Nicole Harris, Katie Wrubel, Kevin Grant, Jenny Weddell, George Galasso, Jacqueline Laverdure, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

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The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford. Attendees on the call announced themselves to other participants via roll call.

**Internal Affairs**

- The draft agenda was adopted by consensus after a motion by Dan Ayres and second by Mike Doherty. <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/sac-mtg-may2020-agenda-remotemtg-final.pdf>.
- Notes from the May meeting were approved with a motion by John Veentjer and second by Rich Osborne.
- Katie Wrubel provided a briefing on the iterative pilot climate change planning process which is designed to enhance staff capacity through incorporating information gained from the condition report, and set the stage for the management plan review. She also provided an overview of plans related to the first Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) steering committee in mid-September and the future formation of a sanctuary advisory council (SAC) working group.
- Chris Butler-Minor shared information on the two virtual activities planned for this year's Get Into Your Sanctuary weekend on Facebook including a live Olympic Peninsula Chowder cooking demonstration ([https://www.facebook.com/81729891655/videos/578150166195523/?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZWWet5SsYfPem7bJvutvGrG9kdHXSDwRdZQ8jEZKydkRRhpSDEfipMSgv78ZQtFi-N3aZKBQMjukuPKSwq7nvLbWPu3VQs0Nve1PoOYPRsjgkcfmNti4IHPXazpYRrGhwnunUbE5U7EsSed3-tUUe6FGQB27hDsIKBUfGbkUBtQTChiRjEizzbtbaQpeTpWk6A](https://www.facebook.com/81729891655/videos/578150166195523/?_cft__[0]=AZWWet5SsYfPem7bJvutvGrG9kdHXSDwRdZQ8jEZKydkRRhpSDEfipMSgv78ZQtFi-N3aZKBQMjukuPKSwq7nvLbWPu3VQs0Nve1PoOYPRsjgkcfmNti4IHPXazpYRrGhwnunUbE5U7EsSed3-tUUe6FGQB27hDsIKBUfGbkUBtQTChiRjEizzbtbaQpeTpWk6A)) and sustainable fishing tips presentation

([https://www.facebook.com/81729891655/videos/650253992256121/?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZV1pqrFtwQZ1d4-JAylf72y3rydDISH5o53lsqtP0wpZOcDmkYGTzQCTiwIXkTkNhYbvlG51mltPi5wG0-jwmEfwFUUX-JCHLsOaje\\_EBYen7BbV2WmFfz7XXlwTmNhsGBkJEzKVexzsD6og\\_g4iZGTBd50wIORIkNcixL63bSUrdrbqhyW0sXwJe386kGgBxc](https://www.facebook.com/81729891655/videos/650253992256121/?_cft__[0]=AZV1pqrFtwQZ1d4-JAylf72y3rydDISH5o53lsqtP0wpZOcDmkYGTzQCTiwIXkTkNhYbvlG51mltPi5wG0-jwmEfwFUUX-JCHLsOaje_EBYen7BbV2WmFfz7XXlwTmNhsGBkJEzKVexzsD6og_g4iZGTBd50wIORIkNcixL63bSUrdrbqhyW0sXwJe386kGgBxc))

- Carol Bernthal shared that the open bid for the R/V *Tatoosh* replacement has been awarded to All American Marine, Inc. (AAM) in Bellingham, WA. AAM will build a 50 foot catamaran hulled vessel for OCNMS for delivery by December 2021. She shared how crucial SAC support was to the process and encouraged members to thank John Armor for his support as well.
- OCNMS' Volunteer of the Year, Jan Newton was recognized by Carol Bernthal for her work in support of science and outreach in the sanctuary. Congratulations, Jan!

## Information, Discussion, and Action Items

*Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) -Five year strategic plan and partnering with OCNMS*  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200724-pmel-overview-and-strategic-plan.pdf>

Michelle McClure, Director of PMEL spoke to the SAC about PMEL's current activities, their 2020-2029 Plan, and opportunities they have to collaborate with partners in creating long-term time series and global ocean observations. PMEL plans to continue engaging in education and outreach to share innovations in research that can help in societal responses to a changing planet by leading integrated and interdisciplinary ocean, atmosphere, climate and ecosystem research on topics such as PMEL's ocean acidification and carbon work, earth-ocean interactions, acoustics, and genetics & genomics. Several SAC members expressed appreciation for the partnership between OCNMS and PMEL.

*European Green Crab – Washington SeaGrant scope of work review including assessment efforts, sentinel site selections, and partnerships*  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200724-green-crabs-west-coast.pdf>

Alex Stote, Washington SeaGrant (WSG) new Crab Team Coastal Specialist spoke briefly to give an introduction to the biology and concerns related to the invasive European Green Crab (EGC) on Washington's outer coast such as their predation on economically important bivalve species. She shared how, thanks to new Washington state funding, WSG is working with partners to assess the size of the EGC population and establish a scope of work which includes identifying habitats (they are highly adaptable), detecting populations through molt hunt/surveys, and conducting intensive and extensive trapping efforts for removal over multiple days at selected "sentinel sites" during April through September. Hopefully future efforts will incorporate community science primarily in early detection.

*Cruise ships in OCNMS – a review of the industry's memorandum of understanding (MOU) and regulations*  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200724-cruise-ship-in-ocnms.pdf>

George Galasso, OCNMS spoke to the council to provide an overview of Cruise Ships in OCNMS. He described the memorandum of agreement with Washington state (renewal in 2021), OCNMS' Management Plan Review and Rulemaking aspects, known violations, transits in OCNMS during 2019 and Area to Be avoided monitoring, as well as 2020 Swiftsure Bank voluntary ship slowdown trials.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Carol Bernthal spoke of field season challenges in finding the right balance between the work to be done and reducing staff risk. Mooring placements at Cape Elizabeth were prioritized and OCNMS optimized transit of the Rachel Carson through the sanctuary to deploy a noise reference stations as well. The E/V *Nautilus* cruise is delayed until mid-September and no staff will be on board and so will be relying heavily on telepresence streamed on [NautilusLive.org](https://NautilusLive.org). OCNMS is in phase 1 of reopening plans. Cases of COVID-19 in Clallam County are increasing while numbers are stable in Jefferson County. Coastal Treaty Tribes' reservations remain closed. She congratulated the Education and Outreach team on their ability to pivot quickly to provide virtual camps and webinars.

## **Member Reports**

Rich Osborne shared that the Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) program and Olympic Natural Resources Center ONRC received confirmation of funding for the wind and solar powered SUBMARAN drone for conducting harmful algal bloom (HAB) sampling.

Jan Newton expanded on Rich's report saying Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) has funds for an extra deployment of the Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) used to detect pseudonitzia and domoic acid. Stephanie Moore and John Mickett have been working on these deployments plus adding a spring date through the Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms (MERHAB) program. Congressional funds have been received to support the Pacific Northwest HAB bulletin along with Coastal Treaty Tribes HAB sampling needs. In addition to the Ocean Aero, the sea glider which operated off La Push will be replaced and hopefully online this fall. The Čhá?ba buoy and the NEMO profiler are in the water (thank you Quileute Tribe) sending real-time data to the NANOOS portal. Current temperatures at 1 m depth read as 13.9 C°/ 57.02 F°..

Mark Ozias relayed that, in addition to focusing on COVID-19 responses in Clallam County he also met with the county's Marine Resource Committee (MRC) regarding citizen scientist programs. Going forward he is interested in connecting the information gained through citizen science with the county's planning work and wonders if any advisory council members have experience with this concept.

Andrew Torres introduced himself as the incoming Compliance Liaison with OLE. He's getting up to speed on the OLE directors list of top 10 priorities for fiscal year 2020 and connections with NMS West Coast Region needs.

Greg Busch confirmed OLE efforts reported by Andrew. He noted that Andrew is Dayna Matthews' replacement on the Council

Julie Ann Koehlinger reported that the Hoh reservation remains closed to outside visitors. Staff continue to work remotely.

John Veentjer relayed that in addition to ship slowdown efforts reported in George's presentation, ship traffic is down substantially since March which will translate to significant economic impacts for the state.

Keola Velasco echoed John's report on vessel traffic. The closure of Canadian ports to cruise ships and Center for Disease Control (CDC) extension of the no sail order, effectively halts cruise ship operations. Several lines have requested layup at Oregon and Washington locations. The USCG continues to enforce ballast water management to reduce the discharge of invasive species.

Jim Vail introduced himself to the council as our alternate Citizen-at-Large seat. He has been joining the remote meetings and learning much about the council operations and interests.

Steve Shively reported travel industry sentiment remains in flux. Visitor sentiments is trending backwards with overall consumer confidence eroding. County lodging tax income was at record lows in June. There's interest in the US Travel Associations proposed tax incentive for household travel. The meeting travel industry will recover at a slower pace than leisure travel. Non-urban hubs are peaking in interest, which may play into favor for the Olympic Peninsula as a destination, especially as interest in road trip travel increases. Our region's traditional market remains Oregon, California, Texas, and New York visitors. August will see the launch of a campaign aimed at promoting exploring Washington's backyard with a virtual passport program in collaboration with Washington Hospitality's Rediscover Washington campaign.

### **Future Agenda Topics**

Members are encouraged to contact AC Chair and/or Coordinator with suggestions for topics of interest to the council. Items noted include

- Condition Report progress
- Acoustic monitoring in OCNMS
- Status of National Science Foundation Cascadia plate seismic survey

### **Location of Next Meetings**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/meetings.html>

Friday, September 25, 2020 – Science focused

Location is virtually via GoToWebinar (Registration URL:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8681062522616485643>)

Friday, November 6, 2020 – Joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Policy Council

Location is virtually via GoToWebinar (Registration URL:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8683853083133136907>