

**OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

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

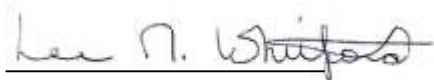
**OCNMS Advisory Council  
Virtual meeting**

**Friday, March 26, 2021  
Meeting Notes**

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent



Lee Whitford, Chair

### **Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates and Intergovernmental Policy Council**

**(IPC) Members in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (AC Chair, Education), Casey Dennehy (Vice Chair, WA Dept. of Ecology), Steve Shively (Secretary, Tourism and Economic Development), Dan Ayres (WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Sarah Creachbaum (Olympic National Park), Mike Doherty (Citizen at Large), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Heidi Eisenhour (Jefferson County), Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Jennifer Hagen(Quileute Tribe), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Joel Kawahara(Fishing), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe), Cindi Kunz (US Navy), Jan Newton (Research), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Mark Ozias (Clallam County), Josh Peters (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources), Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy), Jim Vail (Citizen at Large), John Veentjer (Maritime Industry), LCDR Keola Velasco (US Coast Guard), and Dan Nutt (Maritime Industry),

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Allen Pleus and Chelsey Buffington (WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Liz Schotman (Citizen), and Katharine Sell (Citizen)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Andrew Torres and Greg Busch (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement), Carol Bernthal, Jacqueline Laverdure, Katie Wrubel, Jenny Weddell, Anna Hallingstad, Cheyenne Palmo, Holly Keedy, Nicole Harris, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

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The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) Chair, with recognition of the one year anniversary of virtual SAC meetings.

### **Internal Affairs**

- The draft agenda was adopted.
- Meeting notes from the January meeting were approved with a motion by Heidi Eisenhour and second by Joel Kawahara.
- Recruitment is open through April 16, 2021 for the alternate conservation seat.
- Activities related to the Condition Report include invited community partner reviews have been completed and peer reviewers secured. Peer reviewers will have the document in mid-April with a month for the review process. The final Condition Report is expected to be published during late summer or early fall.

### **Information, Discussion, and Action Items**

#### *Vessel Updates: Increasing capacity and naming input*

Kevin Grant began his presentation on the new research vessel (R/V) for Olympic coast National Marine Sanctuary by thanking Jennifer Hagan for the role she played in securing mooring space at the La Push Marina for the new vessel. He briefly reviewed the process used, which included establishing requirements and wishes for OCNMS and partners along with obtaining significant Procurement, Acquisition & Construction (PAC) funds. He compared the new R/V expanded capabilities with R/V *Tatoosh*, then gave a breakdown of the vessel design

LTJG Anna Hallingstad led the council through the ONMS naming guidelines and then steps taken locally to whittle down the list of potential names before sending a recommendation to John Armor for the final selection. The SAC was asked to participate in a poll to select their preferred name and a second choice from the vetted list. The poll results shown below do not reflect the votes of phone participants

#1 choice of preferred name	#2 choice of preferred name
R/V Murre 8%	R/V Murre 13%
R/V Tufted Puffin 16%	R/V Tufted Puffin 13%
R/V Storm Petrel 32%	<b>R/V Storm Petrel 29%</b>
<b>R/V Kingfisher 36%</b>	<b>R/V Kingfisher 29%</b>
R/V Gull (or Qwalal) 8%	R/V Gull (or Qwalal) 17%

Comments from the discussion following the polls included “The boat kind of looks like a Storm Petrel”, Port Townsend middle school students and others informally queried like Kingfisher. Positive comments for Kingfisher - it is easy to pronounce over coms and they are sighted frequently in sanctuary water research. Negative feedback is lots of boats have the name “Kingfisher” so it could cause communications problems.

*The evolving landscape of climate change and OCNMS efforts*

Carol Bernthal spoke on linking OCNMS efforts to national strategies for climate change. She introduced the Climate 21 Project, which is designed to provide actionable advice for climate response coordinated by the Executive Office of the President with accountability directly to the President. NOAA’s role is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, the ocean, and coasts then share this information and support its use broadly to aid in making necessary adaptation and planning decisions. NOAA will conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources through incorporating climate change goals and actions in national marine sanctuary management plans and working with other relevant agencies to establish a process for protecting 30% of the US ocean by 2030 as directed in Presidential Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad (EO 14008). Each NOAA line office will develop a near-term, climate rapid response plan and a five-year research spending plan. Climate and ocean acidification impacts are noted key issues in OCNMS’ Condition Report and will be addressed in the management plan update set to begin in 2022. OCNMS well aligned to embrace climate change actions through evaluating and testing ranges for adaptation and mitigation strategies within OCNMS.

*Climate Change Planning for OCNMS - Vulnerability Assessment.pdf*

Katie Wrubel spoke on climate change planning for OCNMS which is intended to enhance sanctuary resilience to climate change via climate-informed management. Efforts will build on existing work and a Regional Vulnerability assessment (RVA) facilitated by working group member expertise to identify sanctuary vulnerability and resilience to climate and non-climate stressors. RVA working group is recruiting working group members (contact [katie.wrubel@noaa.gov](mailto:katie.wrubel@noaa.gov)). The group will hold a kick off meeting in later May, review methodologies over the summer, hold training in early fall, and hold a multi-day workshop in November, followed by report writing

*Support for European Green Crab: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presentation on Washington coast efforts*

Allen Pleus provided an overview of current efforts and needs related to European green crab (EGC) monitoring and removal efforts in Washington state with a focus on the outer coast. He noted as the lead entity for aquatic invasive species, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking financial support through the Washington state legislature to continue and/or increase efforts as is Washington SeaGrant (WSG) on behalf of several organizations and tribes. WDFW is also working with collaborators to develop a statewide management plan and capacity building that accommodates adaptive management-based approaches at the local level.

*Introduction of resolution to recommend an EGC letter of support to OCNMS superintendent*

Steve Joner formally introduced a resolution for SAC approval to recommend that OCNMS' superintendent support the WDFW and WSG proposals for funding EGC monitoring and trapping efforts. Joel Kawahara made a motion to approve the draft letter of recommendation with an amendment to expand the noted impacts to include tribal jobs and increase the count of jobs from more than 1,903 to more than 2,000. An additional amendment to specific that the \$20 million annual value for the Dungeness crab fishery on the outer coast of Washington is the ex-vessel worth. Heidi Eisenhour seconded the motion. The council adopted the resolution by consensus.

**Superintendent Report**

Carol Bernthal provided a recap of the sinking of the "Unwind" in OCNMS and noted a salvage plan is being developed. She reminded members of the annual Earth Day weekend Washington Coastal Cleanup and the upcoming virtual Maritime Washington National Heritage Area public meeting. She also referred members to the current Office Report which was distributed with meeting materials.

**Member Reports**

Casey Dennehy provided a quick overview of the Qualitative Model Network recent collaborative work with a graduate student to produce an executive summary on climate change scenarios for two different habitats (kelp and sandy sea floor) in response to offshore wind energy and aquaculture. He offered to provide a briefing at a future meeting. Some highlights from the summary by habitat include

- Kelp forest: uncertain hypoxia levels, negative outcomes in the majority of climate change simulations
- Sandy sea beaches: reduced hypoxia, positive outcomes in climate change simulations in rocky environments

Dan Ayers noted continuing challenges with domoic acid levels and impacts on recreation razor clam and Dungeness crab fisheries.

Heidi Eisenhour attended a presentation on a recent study of impacts from military aircraft noise on species "Above and below: Military Aircraft Noise in Air and under Water at Whidbey Island, Washington" <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1312/8/11/923/pdf>. The study indicates that aircraft noise permeates the water barrier and has impacts on

ocean species. Carol Bernthal noted that there are four locations for acoustic monitoring in OCNMS, which is very “chatty.” Data are being analyzed and staff/research partners will provide a presentation on the results at a future date.

Jan Newton: Waiting to hear from Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) on the outcome of a Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) proposal. In the meanwhile, a new proposal for supporting the transition of the LiveOcean model to a sustained operation that will stand beyond retirement of staff is underway. She thanked SAC members who provided letters of support for the proposal. NANOOS has started Capitol Hill visits with Washington and Oregon delegations. One topic of discussion has been the value of an acoustics network. She offered thanks to Jenny Waddell and others how support NANOOS efforts to bring data to light.

Jennifer Hagan suggested looking at EO 13990: “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis (2021) [<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/eo-13990-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-tackle>] which rescinds EO 13795 & EO. She also announced the beginning of their fieldwork season which includes trapping Dungeness crab larvae, EGC trapping, putting out hypoxia mooring equipment in May. Chá?ba will be getting its summer configuration which includes more sensors. Transmission issues are also expected to be resolved.

Joel Kawahara announced that salmon forecasts have been issued for Washington and Oregon. Big news from the Columbia River is an expectation for 1.7 million Coho salmon returns (primarily hatchery) which is the third largest run in the last 20 years. The southward headed juvenile run is expected to be larger and corresponds to expectations of healthy adult naturally spawned Coho returns to the Oregon coast and relatively poor returns to the WA coast. Chinook forecasts are roughly the same as last year. Pink salmon runs will occur this year. North of Falcon measures for winter chinook returns, used in determining protection actions for southern resident killer whales, exceeds the threshold for additional management actions on the chinook actions this year.

Mark Ozias relayed that Clallam County is gaining traction in climate change resiliency efforts. He also noted formation of Conservation Futures Advisory Committee’s and the opportunity to target investments aimed at saving local farmlands. Mark shared COVID-19 vaccinations are available through the Jamestown S’Klallam tribe for any Clallam County residents over 18 years old.

Rich Osbourne recommended the WDFW North of Falcon background information pdf for more digestible information on salmon management processes [https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/nof\\_background\\_information\\_and\\_glossary.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/nof_background_information_and_glossary.pdf) .

Steve Joner shared that last year was a strange year for fishing harvests, fishing vessels, and processing due to COVID-19 precautions. Nevertheless the tribe had a good halibut harvest. The Makah Tribe will kick off black cod and halibut seasons two to

four weeks earlier than last year, which could be a beneficial sign for more southern tribes who were impacted by hypoxic conditions last year.

Steve Shively described trends in tourism noting that around the peninsula in the first quarter of 2021 purveyors are doing well. He identified the need for clarification of Phase 3 assembly capacity requirements (assembly does not apply to non-seated festivals) and that cruise ship season has not started. Cruise ships still do not have access to Canadian ports. He also shared that Pike Place Market was noted as #2 of the top ten public markets in USA Today.

Tami Pokorny announced the April 20 meeting of the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee. Eric McRae will be presenting on vertical mooring and shallow profiler systems for the Ocean Observatories Initiative's Regional Cable Array project.

### **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
- Pacific Crossing cable survey results
- Cruise Line MOU with Washington state

### **Location of Next Meetings**

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

*Friday, May 21, 2021*

Location is virtually via GoToMeeting. Registration is not required. Join at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/865430437>. Access Code: 865-430-437