

## 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

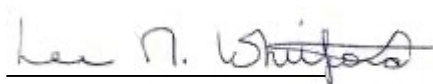
### OCNMS Advisory Council Virtual meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 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), Cindi Kunz (U.S. Navy), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Tami Porkorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), Tom Mumford and Jan Newton (Research), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Hannah Blackstock (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources), Linda Sturgis (Maritime Industry), Heidi Eisenhour (Jefferson County), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Dan Ayres (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), Mike Doherty (Citizen at Large), and CDR John Fu (US Coast Guard)

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** John Moriarty (U.S. Coast Guard District 13), and Tommy Moore (NWIFSC)

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Bill Douros and Lindsey Peavey Reeves (West Coast Region), Anne-Marie Runfola (Stellwagen Bank NMS), Greg Busch and Andrew Torres (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement), Jennifer Clinchy (Office of General Counsel) Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Katie Wrubel, Nicole Harris, Anna Marchand, Kennedy Cameron, Jacqueline Laverdure, Jenny Weddell, 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. Carol Bernthal read the poem "[blessing the boats](#)" by Lucille Clifton

### **Internal Affairs**

- The draft agenda was adopted by consensus with a motion by Mike Doherty and a second by Tom Mumford.
- Meeting notes from the July meeting were approved with a motion by Steve Shively and second by Casey Dennehy.
- Chris Butler-Minor advised that future meetings will continue to be virtual for the foreseeable future.
- The climate mitigation recommendations provided in response to Executive Order 14008, Section 216(c), and approved by resolution of the council at the July meeting have been forward with a cover letter of concurrence from Carol Bernthal to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director, John Armor. Receipt of the letter has been acknowledged, but no reply response has been received.
- Lee Whitford referred members to the 2021 AC workplan in the meeting materials and advised the council that review and approval would be requested at the November meeting.
- Bill Douros, Regional Director for the West Coast Region of National Marine Sanctuaries expressed sadness at Carol's retirement and introduced Anne-Marie Runfola as the Acting Superintendent for the 4-month period beginning October 12.

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

#### OASeS Working Group Work Plan approval

Katie Wrubel led the review of the first Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) annual work plan. There are 18 different entities in the working group from a variety of disciplines. Within the meeting plan, items are divided into two categories. Green-highlighted items are proposed tasks for the OASeS working group, and blue-highlighted items are recommendations for the group to make. All the proposed tasks

and recommendations further one of the working group's three main goals: improving management, research/reducing impacts, and education/outreach. The plan is a living document that the group intends to update annually. Highlights include a May 2022 symposium on the outer coast, a standalone OASeS website, and a combination of webinars and in-person educational events to increase public awareness of ocean acidification. After a brief questions and answer session with the council, the plan was approved by consensus with a motion from Tom Mumford and second by Steve Shively. No public comment was received.

#### Port Access Route Studies (PARS)

John Moriarty, U.S. Coast Guard District 13, presented information on the Port Access Route Studies. This project, which is authorized under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act, is being conducted in both District 13 and 11. The study is intended to ensure that the waterways within approximately 20 miles from the shoreline are safe to use by eliminating obstacles in shipping lanes. Environmental concerns, such as those presented by OCNMS, must be balanced with other needs, including economic expansion and national security. The project has four phases and is currently in phase one. Phase one involves data gathering (i.e. determining current shipping routes, public outreach, etc.). Phase 2 will apply suitability criteria to determine high risk/conflict areas and mitigation strategies. Phase 3 will involve modeling and analysis (via GIS) to capture interactions that may affect navigation and safety, and phase 4 will implement study results after public comments. Moriarty clarified that oil spill prevention will be considered during the study, but is not a driving factor. Public comments on the project are due by January 22, 2022.

#### R/V Storm Petrel in action at sea

Kevin Grant, OCNMS, shared some photos and information about the R/V Storm Petrel. Kevin delved into some of the features of the new vessel that will make it an asset to the sanctuary. The R/V Storm Petrel at 51 feet, 11 inches long is 25% longer and 30% wider than the Tatoosh. It has a max load of 8,000 lbs and can fit 18 people. The new vessel's range is 300 miles at cruising speed. A standardized research grid at the stern will allow researchers to "plug and play" while aboard. A new crane for the back deck will also allow the crew to lift heavy items more safely and efficiently. The new vessel will increase the possible days at sea from 30-35 to 70-75, providing the OCNMS team and partners with exciting new opportunities for research and engagement. The R/V Storm Petrel has been in use since mid-August. The crew welcomed a new vessel captain, Marshall Stein. Its home port will be in Port Angeles during the off-season and La Push otherwise.

#### Whale Reporting Working Group

George Galasso, OCNMS, presented information on the new Whale Reporting working group to the council. The draft charter was provided alongside the meeting materials. The goal of this short-term working group is to review the current status of threatened and endangered whales in and adjacent to OCNMS, to identify near-term conservation measures. The Southern Resident Killer Whales will be a focus of this group, but could include all relevant whale species. The first meeting is slated to take place before the next AC meeting.

## **Superintendent Report & Member Reports**

John Armor and Bill Douros joined the meeting to recognize Carol Bernthal's many and effective years of service as OCNMS' superintendent. Carol holds the current ONMS record for longest service at one site by a superintendent. Short video clips recorded by previous advisory council members were played and current members also took the opportunity to share their appreciation for Carol's efforts and successes.

## **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
- Status of National Science Foundation Cascadia plate seismic survey
- Pacific Crossing cable survey results

## **Location of Next Meetings**

*November 19, 2021* on GoToMeeting. Registration is not required. Join at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/934726957> or dial in [+1 \(872\) 240-3212](tel:+18722403212) Access Code: 934-726-957