

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

**Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
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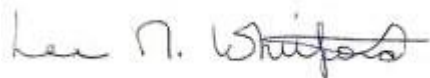
OCNMS Advisory Council Virtual meeting

**Friday, April 1, 2022
Meeting Notes**

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Kevin Grant, Superintendent



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates and Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Members in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Casey Dennehy (WA Dept of Ecology, Vice-Chair), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Dan Aryes (WDFW), Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Dann May (Education), Henry Bell (WA Dept of Ecology), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Julie Anne Kohelinger (Hoh Tribe), Kate Dean (Jefferson County Commissioner), LCDR Keola Velasco (US Coast Guard), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Mike Doherty (Citizen-at-Large), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Steve Fradkin (Olympic National Park), Tom Mumford and Jan Newton (Research), and Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe)

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Tammy Russel (Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego), Kara Cardinal, John Shaw, John Veentjer, Cotton Rockwood

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Dwayne Hawes, Greg Busch and Andrew Torres (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement), Kevin Grant (Superintendent), Anna Marchand, George Galasso, Haley Glos, Jacqueline Laverdure, Jenny Weddell, Katie Wrubel, Kennedy Cameron, Pike Spector, Nicole Harris, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) Chair introducing the new Sanctuary Superintendent, Kevin Grant. Kevin shared that this is his first AC meeting as sanctuary Superintendent, but that he has been at OCNMS for about a decade. To reach him, you can email Kevin at kevin.grant@noaa.gov.

Internal Affairs

- The draft agenda was adopted with consensus declared by Lee Whitford.
- The January 2022 meeting notes were approved by consensus with a motion from Dan Ayres and a second by Mike Doherty.
- Chris Butler-Minor shared that recruitment is open for 7 AC seats and that applications will be accepted through April 29th. This effort includes the primary conservation seat and fishing seat, as well as both primary and alternate seats for Education and for Tourism/Economic development, and the alternate seat for Marine Business/Ports/Industry. More information can be found [here](#) on the OCNMS website.
- Katie Wrubel reminded participants that the OASeS Symposium is planned for May 10-12 in Ocean Shores, WA and that it will be a hybrid format. Katie also shared that OASeS is working through their AC approved work plan, and are making progress on a standalone website.
- Katie Wrubel also shared that the Climate Rapid Vulnerability Assessment Working Group has completed all of their virtual workshops, including the latest adaptation and mitigation workshop. Next steps include writing a draft report and

sharing it with participants for feedback. The full report is planned for later this year.

- Rich Osborne, chair of the Whale Reporting Working Group, reported that the working group has met three times and has had many presentations from member managers and scientists in Canada and the US. They are now working on compiling draft recommendations from members before meeting again. There is a very preliminary recommendation from the Port of Vancouver to continue the working group as a cross boundary whale committee.
- Chris Butler-Minor shared that the AC Charter Renewal Working Group has not met recently. They are waiting on the new copy of the National Marine Sanctuaries AC handbook to be finalized in order to work off of the best information available.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Tribes and Their Relationship to the Management Process

Steve Joner, with Makah Fisheries Management, presented a picture of the history and current relationship between tribes in the Pacific Northwest and the management process. Steve shared that there are three groups of tribes that are involved in fisheries management in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho: Columbia River Treaty Tribes, Klamath River Tribes, and the Northwest Washington Treaty Tribes. In 1854-55 the US entered into five treaties with the tribes living along the Washington coast and Puget Sound. These treaties commonly reserved the right of fishing for the Treaty Tribes. The treaty with the Makah Tribe also reserved the right to whaling and sealing; it was the only treaty to retain these rights because the Makah insisted as these rights were very important to their culture.

As the population of Washington grew, the state regulated fisheries in a way that excluded the tribes. These regulations resulted in several lawsuits being filed by the United States (US) and several western Washington Indian tribes against the state. In 1968 and 1973, the supreme court ruled on Puyallup I and II, and ruled that the state powers were limited as they relate to regulating tribal fishing, except for necessary conservation purposes. In 1970, the US and several of the tribes in western Washington joined in a lawsuit against Washington state, which eventually resulted in the 1974 Boldt decision. Key rulings in the Boldt decision confirmed that: the treaties were not a grant of rights to the Indians but a grant of rights from them, and a reservation of those not granted; Treaty Tribes had the right to 50% of the harvestable fish in Washington state; and that tribes are co-managers of the resource with the states. The court also established criteria for self-regulating tribes; the Fisheries Advisory Board, which was active through the 1980s; and the usual and accustomed fishing areas for each tribe.

There have been a number of sub-proceedings since the initial ruling including confirming that rights secured by the treaties are not limited as to species of fish, plus allocations of halibut, shellfish, and whiting. Federal groundfish regulations also established tribes as co-managers with the US in federal waters, not just with the state in state waters.

Nearly every Coastal Treaty Tribe has a hatchery and releases salmon each year. Makah Fisheries Management was established in 1975, but Makahs have been regulating their fishers since 1937. When federal regulations do not apply, the tribes create their own regulations and enforce them. This has resulted in programs like the bycatch reduction procedures implemented by the Makah with good efficacy due to their ability to regulate in real-time particularly as fishing remains the lifeblood of the Makah people, accounting for 50% of household incomes.

The Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) was established in 2007, which includes membership from the Coastal Treaty Tribes, Washington state, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. “The [IPC](#) provides a regional forum for resource managers to exchange information, coordinate policies, and develop recommendations for resource management within the sanctuary.” Coastal Treaty Tribes also maintain representation on the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Spatial patterns of seabirds in the California Current ecosystem

Tammy Russell, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, shared the preliminary findings from the first chapter of her PhD work on the spatial and temporal patterns and abundance of seabirds in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE).

Tammy shared that the CCE provides habitat for many different species of seabirds, including both resident and migratory species, but understanding the distribution of these species can be challenging, partly due to data collection methods and opportunities, which can cover large areas and include many species. These data are collected via ship and aerial-based transect surveys. Surveyors record species and number of individuals within a strip along transect lines. These surveys have been conducted within the CCE mainly between 1980-2017 on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Such datasets allow broader understanding of seabird distributions, potential impacts from climate change, and investigations into how species compositions are changing overtime. Tammy used survey data to describe spatial patterns of density, diversity, and community composition. She then grouped data into different regions (north vs south, onshore vs offshore, sanctuary versus non-sanctuary) for comparisons.

Tammy found that seabirds had more diverse populations onshore, and that this diversity tended to increase with latitude. Density of seabirds was higher in sanctuaries when compared to overall and offshore density. OCNMS had the highest density of seabirds overall, with higher density along the coast and the highest density near the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Tammy also shared that species richness and Shannon diversity index was greater for seabirds onshore than offshore in the CCE. Species composition varies by latitude, with three distinct regional communities occurring in the northern, central, and southern regions. Of the 63 species noted within OCNMS, the most abundant birds are Common Murres, Sooty Shearwaters, and

Rhinoceros Auklet.

The next steps include completing analysis on these patterns and submitting results for publication in summer 2022. The next chapter will focus on temporal trends of seabirds in the CCE. This work will provide key information for national marine sanctuary research coordinators and result in a more comprehensive understanding of seabird patterns and show potential impacts from climate change.

Public Comment

Kara Cardinal shared that there is a Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network region scholarship available for students and young leaders to attend the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Superintendent report

Kevin Grant noted that the Office Report has been revised with the goal of it being more user friendly and welcomed feedback on this new newsletter format. Kevin highlighted that 2022 is the 50th birthday of the National Marine Sanctuary system and that several events to celebrate this milestone are planned for the summer and fall. He also called attention to several large accomplishments in 2021 including delivery of a new research vessel, activities since the official designation of ocean acidification sentinel site, and compilation of an exhibit at the Ocean Shores interpretive center. Learn more about 2021 sanctuary system accomplishments online in [2021: A Year of New Opportunity and Community](#). Kevin also noted that sanctuary staff have received their 30-day notice for transitioning from mandatory teleworking to in office work days. OCNMS has a new vessel captain coming on board in two weeks. The new captain will take the vessel back to All American Marine to work on the punch list and get her back in mid may, which means we may be able to do a vessel dedication at an upcoming meeting.

Member reports

Dan Aryes shared his appreciation for Steve Joner's comments on current ocean conditions, noting that while many beaches are enjoying record clam seasons, Kalaloch clams continue to have high mortality of adult clams. The Dungeness crab fishery remains strong with ex vessel value estimated at \$30 million.

Joel Kawahara reported that PFMC is half way through the ocean salmon season limit setting process. Washington is showing improved Coho salmon catch numbers and both tribal and no-tribal limits for Chinook will be about the same as last year.

Marc Ozias shared that Clallam County is committed to conducting a baseline assessment of greenhouse gasses and investing internally in solar and micro grids. The county is also establishing a five-year community health evaluation which will include questions about climate change. Mark reported that the Dungeness River off-channel reservoir project has reached the 30% design phase. He also encouraged input from

west end residents and partners regarding transportation and access. On April 23rd there will be a community Earth Day event at the City Pier in Port Angeles (not a county sponsored event).

Mike Doherty inquired about where to find information for the Ocean Shores OASes conference.

Steve Joner shared that after many years of poor runs, a good sockeye run is expected this year.

Steve Shively reported that tourism rates continue to be high and noted high participation in the recent Ocean shores Razor Clam Festival. The Port of Seattle has 317 scheduled cruise ship sailings on 17 vessels for the upcoming season.

Steve Fradkin welcomed Kevin as sanctuary superintendent, and noted that Olympic National Park (ONP) expects to hire a new superintendent. He also echoed Dan Ayres' report on razor clams, which are not doing as well at ONP/ Kalaloch as hoped. Higher intensity of the Nuclear Inclusion X (NIX) pathogen may be contributing to higher mortality rates in this population.

Tami Pokorny invited participation in upcoming North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee meetings monthly on the third Tuesdays from 4-6pm. Meetings are currently held virtually.

Casey Dennehy reported that the [West Coast Ocean Alliance](#) (WCOA) has received 2 million dollars via an infrastructure bill and that they will be working on a five-year strategic plan, ocean health scorecard and dashboard, and supporting tribal capacity and engagement.

Jan Newton shared that the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) [community workshop](#) went very well and generated several new ideas for future efforts including webinar programming and working with partners toward real time buoy data infrastructure within OCNMS. Jan also mentioned that a recent paper "Multi-Stressor Observations and Modeling to Build Understanding of and Resilience to the Coastal Impacts of Climate Change" completed with contributions from Joe Schumacker and Jennifer Hagen.

Joe Schumacker remarked that Casey had summarized the WCOA mtg well - funding supports this regional partnership forum for ocean governance over the next five years.

Keola Velasco reported that after the Center for Disease Control and Prevention lifted its risk advisory for cruise ship travel, sailings will begin next week and sail through July and possibly until October. He also reported that the Coast Guard has received and is reviewing the salvage proposal for the Unwind.

Kevin Decker shared that he is working on Area Sector Analysis and that five coastal counties are working to recruit compatible and desirable industries within these coastal Washington counties.

Future agenda topics

The next meeting is scheduled as a hybrid of in-person and online for May 20th, 2022 with the venue to be determined.