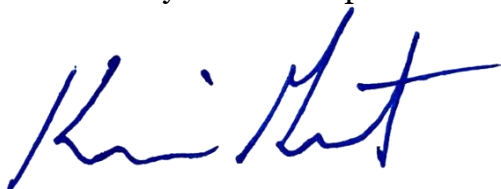


Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
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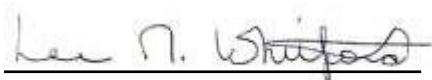
OCNMS Advisory Council
Virtual meeting
Friday, May 20, 2022
Meeting Notes

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Kevin Grant, Superintendent

Reviewed by OCNMS AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Casey Dennehy (WA Dept of Ecology, Vice-Chair), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Tom Mumford and Jan Newton (Research), Linda Sturgis (Maritime Industry), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), LCDR Keola Velasco (US Coast Guard), Hannah Blackstock (Washington Dept of Natural Resources), Cindi Kunz and Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy), Mike Doherty (Citizen-at-Large), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Julie Anne Kohelinger (Hoh Tribe), Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), and Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe)

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Danielle Claar, Wendell Raymond, and Helen Berry (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources), John Veentjer, John Shaw, and Tommy Moore

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Kevin Grant (Superintendent), Katie Wrubel, George Galasso, Pike Spector, Andrew Micks, Jacqueline Laverdure, Haley Glos, Jenny Weddell, 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.

Internal Affairs

- The draft agenda was adopted by consensus with a motion by Casey Dennehy and a second by Mike Doherty.
- The April 2022 meeting notes were approved by consensus with a motion from Steve Shively and a second by Rich Osborne.
- Members inquired as to the availability of the recording of Steve Joner's April meeting presentation on Tribes and Their Relationship to the Management Process. It is still being edited and closed captioned, but will be available by the end of the month.
- Chris Butler-Minor shared that recruitment is open for 3 AC seats and that applications will be accepted through June 27th. This effort includes the primary and alternate Education seats, as well as the primary Fishing seat. More information can be found on the OCNMS website <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/recruitment.html>.
- Katie Wrubel provided a recap of the OASeS Symposium, held May 10-12 in Ocean Shores, WA. Approximately 100 people attended either in person or online. Topics included information needs and next steps relevant to policy and management; science and research; as well as education and outreach. Participants from the Hoh Tribe, Quileute Tribe, and Quinault Indian Nation shared aspects of culture and values at risk from OA. The meeting was an overall success and future symposia are likely in alternating years. Other members who attended the conference shared presentation highlights from the event. Kevin Grant expressed his appreciation for the many co-sponsors and organizers of the symposium.

- Katie Wrubel shared that the full report on the Climate Rapid Vulnerability Assessment Working Group to the AC is planned for the fall of this year.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Floating kelp canopies: a new vital sign indicator in Puget Sound and along the Olympic Coast

Tom Mumford introduced guest speakers Helen Berry, Marine Ecologist with Washington state's Department of Natural Resources; Danielle Claar, NOAA Climate and Global Change Postdoctoral Scholar in the Wood Lab at the University of Washington; and Wendall Raymond, Nearshore Ecology Research Scientist at University of Washington - Friday Harbor Laboratories. This team began with acknowledging that although western management is commonly broadly organized and implemented, collaborative efforts are more successful in terms of meaningful stewardship. Next they noted that the 2011 [Puget Sound Vital Sign](#) program was revived in 2020 as a tool for communication, planning, and providing reference points for ecosystem health and/or recovery. They provided an overview of efforts related to including [floating kelp canopy areas as a vital sign](#) indicator of ecosystem health, not only in the Puget Sound region, but also along the outer coast of Washington state. They began with recognizing that there are thousands of kilometers of kelp around the state's waters, but noted there are concerns with declines in coverage over the last 100 years, especially in Puget Sound. Kelp is an important ecosystem health indicator as it provides foundational habitat and is a prolific primary producer. Goals of the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan include increasing: understanding distribution and trends as well as stressors; diverse participation; intentional outreach; and co-production of knowledge, all with the objective of inspiring action such as designation of protection areas. Phase 1 focused on indicator development. The project has reached phase 2, Exploring Indicator options with an option report planned for May 30th release. Public comments are due Aug 1st. Phase 3, Refine and Finalize the indicator is slated for the end of 2022. Danielle dove into an overview of the Proposed "Blended Indicator" which would combine and visualize multiple data sources in various sub-basins and use a hierarchical structure to balance key results and nuanced detail resulting in visual summary and technical products. In the upcoming weeks analysis for the outer coast will begin so that these data can potentially be added to outcome products. Attendees were encouraged to participate in upcoming workshops, such as the June 7 – options workshop or provide public comment by August 1. Helen also invited AC members to contact nearshore@dnr.wa.gov for more information on this topic or about the Puget Sound Kelp Research and Monitoring Workgroup. AC members joined in a question and answer session noting during the OASes symposium tribal observations of kelp canopy loss along the coast were shared and support for outer coast kelp forest coverage inclusion in the vital indicator program.

Management Plan Topical Review: Conserve Natural Resources

George Galasso kicked off this third in the AC management plan review preparation series by referring AC members to Management Plan Review (MPR) Process, which is [chapter four](#) of OCNMS' 2011 Management Plan. This section provides an overview of the MPR process, planning, public scoping and developing a draft plan along with public review and issuing a final management plan and environmental analysis. George

provided a brief recap of sanctuary staff and AC participation in the previous MPR Issue Prioritization Workshop. Participants looked at topics through the lens of assessing and reducing threats to sanctuary resources. Benefits to sanctuary resources, urgency, whether items advanced OCNMS' mission, and limiting factors were the inputs. Outputs identified highest priority topics, second-tier topics, and topics that would not be advanced. George briefed members on the resulting Action Plan recommendations included preventing and responding to spills; addressing climate change, marine debris; wildlife disturbance, water quality and habitat protection plus regional ocean planning. The topics and associated strategies are included in section [D. Conserve Natural Resources in the Sanctuary](#).

Whale Reporting Working Group updates and draft recommendations

Rich Osborne spoke to the council about ongoing efforts of the Whale Reporting working groups (WRWG) efforts to review the current status of threatened and endangered whales in and adjacent to OCNMS, for the purpose of identifying near-term conservation measures during its four sessions. This group includes representatives from a broad array of federal, tribal, state/provincial, and municipal governments, private and non-profit organizations as well as academic institutions, many of whom have provided presentations on issues or actions they are pursuing that align with the WRWG mission. Through information sharing and discussions the working group identified four overarching topics: 1) shipping and the reduction of acoustic impacts, 2) monitoring, 3) reporting networks, and 4) coordination. The WRWG plans to meet a final time in July to review the final set of recommendations and finalize those recommendations for presentation to the AC at the September meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment was received

Superintendent report

Kevin Grant expressed his thanks to the council for their flexibility as sanctuary staff continue to respond to COVID transmission levels such as ability to return to the office, hold in person meetings and so on. He was pleased to announce that AmeriCorps service members have been able to provide in person learning opportunities in community schools, staff have been able to work with community partners by holding remotely operated vehicle competitions and training sessions with interpretative rangers in preparation for the high visitation levels over the summer, in addition to kicking off the 23rd season of moorings.

Member reports

Casey Dennehy shared information about an unsolicited 20-30 mile offshore wind farm project slated for a 100 square mile area south of Westport, WA. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will review [Olympic Wind Floating Offshore Wind Project](#) proposal from Trident Winds for environmental impacts and may review it individually or solicit "request of interest" to determine if there is competitive interest from other companies. This project could take 10 years for implementation

Hannah Blackstock noted that WDNR has announced a [kelp and eelgrass protection zone](#) near the mouth of the Snohomish River.

Jan Newton announced a new Environmental Sample Processor (ESP) has been deployed at an existing near-real time ocean observatory off the coast near La Push, WA for the purpose of monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HABs). It consists of a surface mooring, Chá?ba and a subsurface profiling mooring.

Joe Schumacker commented that it's been a good and productive year for the Pacific Northwest, noting that the third best year for the state's Dungeness crab fishery and Razor clam abundance is the best seen in the past 25 year based on assessments so far. Salmon also appear to be doing well.

Julie Ann Koehlinger shared that the Hoh Tribe's commercial salmon fishery for spring Chinook salmon is closed due to poor projections. Subsistence and cultural harvest is still open.

LCDR Keola Velasco thanked the council and sanctuary for their participation in the Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PARS). He noted that a [Notice of Availability and Request for Comments](#) was recently published in the Federal Register. He also shared that the Coast Guard is celebrating National Safe Boating Week, May 21 through May 27. He recommended boaters check their life jackets and to wear them when underway.

Linda Sturgis announced that the Port of Seattle's Maritime Blue organization is encouraging cruise ships to reach near to or zero emissions. She also shared that the [Seattle Maritime Academy](#), housed at Seattle Central College is one of the few such training centers on the west coast of the US and encouraged members to share this information with people interested in a maritime career.

Mark Ozias shared that Clallam County continues its efforts to preserve working farmland as part of climate change mitigation and reported that [Intermediate Outcome 1](#) and its deliverable were completed. A five year effort to complete an inventory of greenhouse gasses will take a broad view in connecting climate change with public health. The data will assist in prioritizing efforts. After a new community development director is elected in November, the county will begin a review of its land use and comprehensive plan.

Mike Doherty expressed interest in involving the seven regional Marine Resource Committees in field work to identify and geo-locate kelp forest areas using interns and volunteers. This could aid in keeping the citizenry informed about kelp ecosystem health and encourage their support of policies that promote incorporating science into priorities.

Steve Shively reported clamming season has been very successful and profitable. Concession areas are reopening around the peninsula. The Hoh rainforest remains popular and can result in heavy traffic and waiting times. Ruby Beach's parking lot is closed for repaving. Festival season is starting around the peninsula as well, including Port Townsend's Rhody Festival and Hood Canal's Shrimp Festival.

Steve Joner followed up on the most recent Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting which was held in person. Using conservation principles, tribes were able to

persuade the council to adopt a higher sablefish quota for the next biennium. He shared that it has become the largest tribal fishery. He also offered to connect attendees with additional information about the FMC process.

Tami Pokorny reminded the council of the dates for the regional MRC Summit in Wahkiakum County, September 21-23.

Future agenda topics

The next meeting is scheduled as a hybrid of in-person and online for July 22, 2022 with the venue to be determined.