

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



*Linda Sturgis, Chair
Casey Dennehy, Vice-Chair
Steve Shively, Secretary*

September 30, 2022

Representation

*Citizen-At-Large
Conservation
Education
Fishing
Marine Industry
Research
Tourism/Economic
Development*

*Tribal Government:
Hoh Tribe
Makah Tribe
Quileute Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation*

*Local Government:
Clallam County
Jefferson County
Grays Harbor County*

*Washington State:
Dept. of Ecology
Dept. of Fish and
Wildlife
Dept. of Natural
Resources
Coastal Marine Resource
Committees*

*Federal Government:
NOAA Fisheries
Olympic National Park
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Navy*

Artwork: David Sones

Dear Superintendent Grant,

At the November 19, 2021 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) meeting council members reformed a Charter Renewal Subcommittee tasked with reviewing and revising, as necessary, the OCNMS Advisory Council Charter, which expired February 7, 2022. The group met twice between the Nov. 2021 and Jan. 2022 meetings. At the January 22, 2022 AC virtual meeting, the subcommittee presented their preliminary recommendations to the full council. The subcommittee noted that an extension request was being submitted to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director to allow time to complete their review of the existing charter and to align the request for full council support of the recommendations until such a time as the new superintendent was selected and the updated Sanctuary Advisory Council Implementation Handbook was publicly available.

After the mid-August release of the new handbook and additional discussion during their Aug 25th meeting, subcommittee members decided to request a vote at the September 30 AC meeting in Lacey. Overall the recommendations put forth at that meeting were as follows:

1. Update references to the 2010 Advisory Council Handbook with content found in the 2022 Advisory Council Implementation Handbook. For example, [U.S. 16, Section 1445\(a\)](#) and the role of advisory councils.
2. Update vision, mission, and goals of national marine sanctuaries to match the current five-year strategic plan

3. Add diversity and inclusion statements as applicable.
 - a. Confirm the goal of a diverse membership composition;
 - b. Confirm the goal of recruiting members of diverse skills and background to represent local constituencies; and
 - c. Confirm the goals of ensuring equality among council members.
4. Revise pronouns usage to gender neutral terms.
5. Ensure use of plain language in the charter.
6. Update recruitment and waiver section to align with current practices.
 - a. Revise Federal Register notifications to show ONMS publishes recruitment notices in the Federal Register for all sites each spring;
 - b. Add information about recruitment at OCNMS: it is on an as needed basis versus at the beginning of the calendar year; and
 - c. Removal of outdated tables related to recruitment and service term expiration dates.
7. Executive Committee
 - a. Update executive committee term limits include the secretary role;
 - b. Add balloting as the method to tally officer election votes; and
 - c. Clarify authority roles of vice chair and secretary.
8. Replace the references to meeting minutes with meeting notes.
9. Clarify consensus references so that the term is understood to mean general or largely supported agreement rather than complete agreement of all members. Diverging opinions are recorded in meeting notes and in recommendation letters to the superintendent.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council agreed to approve and adopt the subcommittee's recommendations.

As the OCNMS AC, we represent a diverse group of constituencies that have a strong interest in sanctuary and marine resource management in the Olympic Coast region. Our role is to advise OCNMS' Superintendent on sanctuary management topics and concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Department of Commerce.

Sincerely,



Linda Sturgis, Chair,
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council