

# 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  
Hybrid meeting**

**Friday, September 30, 2022  
Meeting Notes**

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent and AC Chair:



**Kevin Grant, Superintendent**



**Linda Sturgis, Chair**

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates:** Linda Sturgis (Maritime Industry, Chair), Casey Dennehy (WA Dept. of Ecology, Vice-Chair), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary), Brittany Poirson (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), Lee Whitford (Education), John Shaw (Grays Harbor MRC), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Dan Ayres and Lorna Wargo (WA Fish and Wildlife), Haley Kennard (Makah Tribe), Thomas Mumford (Research), Stephanie Sleeman and Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Julie Anne Kohelinger (Hoh Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), LCDR Keola Velasco (U.S. Coast Guard), Liz Schotman and Rich Osborne (Conservation), Sula Jacobs and Steve Fradkin (Olympic National Park), Mike Doherty (Citizen-at-Large), Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast MRC), and Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner).

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribal Council), John Hunter, Alexis H, Alisa, Amelia Ritger, John Veentjer, Larry Phillips, Tommy Moore (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), and Tara Galuska (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office).

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Andrew Torres (Office of Law Enforcement - NOAA Fisheries), Sarah Stein (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries), Kevin Grant (Superintendent), George Galasso, Jacqueline Laverdure, Katie Wrubel, Pike Spector, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

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## **Call to Order and Welcome**

Linda Sturgis, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) Chair opened the meeting.

## **Internal Affairs**

Agenda: The draft agenda was adopted by consensus with a motion by Joel Kawahara and a second by Steve Shively.

Meeting Notes: The July 22, 2022 meeting notes were approved by consensus with a motion from Mike Doherty and a second by Joel Kawahara.

Recruitment: Chris Butler-Minor announced the term renewal of the primary Conservation seat, both Tourism and Economic Development seats, and welcomed a new member, Patrick Gallagher as the alternate seat for marine Industry. She shared that recommendations for both education and the primary fishing seats have been submitted to headquarter for concurrence. She also shared that recruitment for the alternate Fishing Seat and both research seats will begin in mid-November. She requested members share this information broadly once the announcement is posted online.

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

### Advisory Council Charter Subcommittee Recommendations Action Item

Kevin Grant noted that a decision on the recommendations provided by the subcommittee is necessary as councils charter is expiring. In addition to formatting and

diversity, equity, and inclusion language revisions, the consensus voting structure of the council was clarified to mean majority support versus unanimity in alignment with the national model for national marine sanctuary advisory councils. The model encourages documenting dissenting opinions in letters of recommendation to the sanctuary superintendent. Makah and Quileute tribal representatives shared their concerns with their seats' participation in voting in this forum and recommended consideration of modifying these seats to mirror other federal governmental seats, which are non-voting seats. This would not preclude their input to council recommendations. A motion to accept the subcommittee recommendations, with the caveat to continue discussions on future tribal engagement, was offered by Dan Ayres. Steve Shively provided a second to the motion which was affirmed by the council.

#### Whale Reporting Working Group Recommendations Action Item

George Galasso shared an overview of the Whale Reporting Working Group (WRWG) twelve recommendations with the council, noting that this group represented diverse collaboration among a governmental, academic, and non-profit organizations. Makah Council member, Chad Bowechop shared his concerns with some of the recommendations, in particular those related to vessel slowdowns and traffic studies and possible implications for Makah fishing treaty rights. Makah representative Haley Kennard shared Makah council comments which suggest that prior to implementing any of the recommendations sanctuary leadership and staff should r conduct and analysis and review to ensure consistency with the sanctuary's authority and responsibility, identify where recommendations duplicate existing whale protection efforts, and feasibility of implementation based on sanctuary capacity. The council thanked the WRWG for their time and efforts. The council voted to accept the WRWG report, but table the recommendations memo to incorporate dissenting opinions. A revised motion was made by Casey Dennehy and seconded by Joel Kawahara.

#### Management Plan Topical Review: Ocean Literacy

##### **Public Comment**

No public comment was received

##### **Superintendent report**

Kevin Grant noted that much has been accomplished in the last few months, so provided a forward-facing report for this meeting. He highlighted that the management plan review will be a major focus the sanctuary. The process involves staff pre-scoping to develop a list of priority topics for the next 7-10 years; collecting input from the AC, input from the IPC and tribal councils; and holding public scoping meetings. Working groups will be formed to consider all the feedback on the drafted priorities followed by a draft management plan and then further public comment will be solicited. This whole process is expected to take about two years. Kevin shared that he hopes to work with the AC to draft the preliminary priorities between now and the end of the calendar year. Bill Douros also informed the council that the sanctuaries program overall is moving away

from expansive management plans, towards creating plans that are more directed at specific priorities. He emphasized that the management plan is not meant to be an exhaustive list of sanctuary activities so it's okay if not every single project makes it into the plan. Jenny also added that during upcoming meetings, she hopes to share information about some new projects that have recently been funded, which will be relevant to the scoping discussions.

## **Member reports**

Casey Dennehy shared that there is funding for regional partnerships through recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. He noted it provides funding of \$2 million per year, for five years to [West Coast Ocean Alliance](#) for projects including their data portal. There will be a focus on offshore wind, data collection, and sharing between agencies. Casey also shared that Brian Lynn has retired and Bobbak Talebi is now the Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager.

Steve Shively shared that tourism on the Olympic Peninsula is back after the COVID slump. However, the industry is still in recovery due to travel associated costs such as high gas prices and inflation, as well as staffing shortages. He reported that Ruby Beach is closed for parking lot renovations so diverting tourists to other beaches. Lodging stays are up 18% for the peak season from last year, which was also a good year. Last year, Washington households enjoyed tax offsets from visitor spending.

Mark Ozias reported that his team is making progress on two capital investments: new emergency operations center and a climate adaption effort - the Dungeness River off-channel reservoir. He noted that Clallam county is unique in electing the county land use planner and there is an upcoming election. When there is a new director of community development, he will invite them to join these meetings.

Joel Kawahara: shared that the salmon quota is lower for Chinook and increased for Coho from last year. Chinook are more abundant than the projected allocation and the quota was rapidly met, which impacted La Push and Neah Bay tourism. It has reduced how much poundage received at Neah Bay and La Push compared to previous years. He also shared that forage fish and squid seem to be in good abundance. From his personal observations, halibut also seem to be recovering. Lastly, incidental catch in troll fisheries surveys show that other groundfish species have recovered significantly from 20 years ago.

Mike Doherty reported that the Department of Ecology is doing a study on rescue escorts and suggested that the council should watch for opportunities for comment. He also shared that when the report goes to the state legislature there may be lots of publicity. He commented that the America the Beautiful (30X30) act could influence management plan review priorities.

Dann May announced that he will be giving his first public presentation on earthquake preparedness with a focus on boating.

Jennifer Hagen reported that a year ago, a lander was deployed to help understand hypoxic conditions on Quileute Tribal Usual & Accustomed fishing areas by measuring temperature and oxygen the seafloor. However, there has been significant difficulty in retrieving this mooring, with a fourth retrieval attempt upcoming.

Jan Newton shared that the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems ([NANOOS](#)) Governing Council. & Principal Investigators.Meeting, which is open to all AC members, will be held virtually on August 3rd and 4th. She reported that NANOOS has also benefited from infrastructure regional funds, and will receive \$582 thousand per year for five years. Some of those funds will be used to keep the current moorings functional. She announced that the National Science Foundation project “[convergence accelerator](#)” will provide small wave buoys “backyard buoys” in the nearshore waters of La Push and Quinault. She emphasized that within a couple of years, there will be wave data for these sites. Since these buoys cost \$5,000 each, the program can be replicated and expanded to other tribes. She noted that anyone can register for the free, virtual National Science Foundation’s Convergence Accelerator 2022 Expo, which is scheduled for July 27-28, 2022.

Hannah Blackstock will be switching positions within the Washington Department of Natural Resources, so the representative on the council will change.

Steve Fradkin reported that management shifts are currently happening within Olympic National Park. The new superintendent, Sula Jacobs will be in place by mid-August. The new deputy superintendent position is yet to be filled. He also shared that they are continuing to see a substantial adult razor clam mortality at Kalaloch beaches. Water sampling is ongoing to determine the cause of this mortality. Intertidal monitoring for the season is wrapping up and has been successful.

Greg Busch shared that they are in the second year of conducting Operation Clean Seas, and thanked the AC for sharing outreach materials on appropriate vessel discharge.

Linda Sturgis: thanked the Quileute Tribe for hosting the meeting on their sacred land, and thanked Casey for chairing this meeting. She also gave a huge shout out to Chris, Kevin, and George for pulling off the hybrid meeting, and a congratulations to the *Storm Petrel* crew. She also acknowledged that Lee did an excellent job chairing the committee for many years.

### **Future agenda topics**

The next meeting is scheduled as a hybrid of in-person and online for September 23 or 30, 2022 with the venue to be determined. A poll will be provided to council members to help determine if the meeting date will remain the 23 or be moved to the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Meeting adjourned.**

Many SAC members and staff, including Congressional reps. attended R/V Storm Petrel christening and participated in a brief cruise.