

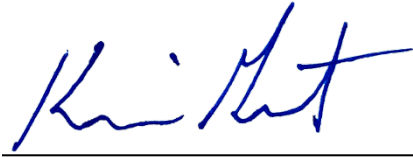
OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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, November 18, 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), Cindi Kunz, Stephanie Sleeman, and Dawn Grebner (US Navy), Larry Phillips (Fishing), Dann May and John Hunter (Education), Jan Newton and Tom Mumford (Research) LCDR Keola Velasco (U.S. Coast Guard), Patrick Gallagher (Maritime Industry), Brittany Poirson (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), Dan Ayres (WA Fish and Wildlife), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Mai Aoki (WA Dept. of Ecology), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe), John Shaw (Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee), Mike Doherty (Citizen at Large), Liz Schotman (Conservation), Steve Fradkin (Olympic National Park), Julie Anne Kohelinger (Hoh Tribe), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), and Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee)

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Lee Whitford, Sean Mahaffey, and Amelia Ritger.

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Sarah Stein (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries), Kevin Grant (Superintendent), Emma Htun, (Acting Deputy Superintendent), Katie Wrubel, Kathy Hough, Brendon Rager, Jenny Waddell, Andrew Micks, Jacqueline Laverdure, Haley Glos, and Chris Butler-Minor (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff).

Call to Order and Welcome

Linda Sturgis, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) Chair opened the meeting. Steve Joner provided updates on the wildfires in Neah Bay, which triggered the pivot from an in-person component in Neah Bay to a strictly virtual meeting. He shared that the fires were contained as of Friday morning.

Internal Affairs

Agenda: Agenda was motioned for adoption by Dann May, seconded by Dan Ayres. Motion was approved.

Meeting Notes: Sept. 2022 Meeting notes was presented for approval. Dan Ayres moved to accept the notes. Mark Ozias seconded the motion. No dissent or amendments were proposed.

Superintendent report

Kevin highlighted George Galasso's retirement after 40 years with NOAA, including George's commitment to attend every Advisory Council meeting since its establishment in 1995.

Kevin announced that Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) has a new [website](#) which offers a more modern interpretation and user-friendly format. He

encouraged council members to check out the website and share comments or suggestions.

Kevin also shared that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a [\\$4.2 million multi-year, multi-stressor award](#) to study effects of ocean change research for marine ecosystems (affecting Dungeness Crab specifically) along the Pacific Coast from Washington to California. He reported that the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is close to completion and will be accompanied by recommendations to address climate impacts. The timing of the CVA release fits well with the upcoming Management Plan Review (MPR) effort. Much as Condition Reports provide a look back, for the first time a CVA will also be used to look forward for management planning purposes. Kevin opened to the group for questions.

Mark Ozias asked about the research award, whether it is a one-off or a possibility for continued funding into the future. Kevin responded that the research was funded due to a very specific proposal. The research could lead to further research and more funding, and that nationally, the program should be used. Alternately that funding source could potentially be allocated to different locations every four years.

Member reports

Dan Ayres noted issues with marine toxins on Washington's coast which can be reviewed at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/basics/domoic-acid/levels>. Razor clam season opened late in September and is once again on hold due to domoic acid levels, which are above average but not above historical high levels. Domoic acid testing in crabs showing no toxins detected on the Washington coast, but Oregon samples have found toxins in crabs tested on its southern coast. Dan explained that Dungeness Crab fishery is managed both inside and outside of state waters through tri-state committee representing Washington, Oregon, and California. Testing results show crab are not passing minimum meat recovery levels for harvest so the season will be delayed until mid-December. In response to questions, Dan advised that this will result in a shortened season, but will that most crab are harvested within the first month or so of a season. Dan reflected that the multi-stressor studies might potentially result in creation of a Management Transition Advisory Group, such as used in some sea level rise adaption projects.

Dann May shared that his public presentation on preparing for a Tsunami at the Port Angeles Yacht Club in October was well attended.

Jan Newton reported a successful field season. The use of the Quileute Tribe's landers and help from Jennifer Hagen in the Čhá?ba buoy placement and recovery has yielded a great dataset. Čhá?ba will collect real-time CO2 and weather information but without real time transmittal. Funds from the [Infrastructure Recovery Act](#) bill received by. Integrated Ocean Observing System will allow for buoys and glider to be refreshed.

John Hunter announced that the annual Northwest Aquatic Marine Educator ([NAME](#)) and National Marine Educators Association ([NMEA](#)) conference will be held in Bellingham July 23-27, 2023.

LCDR Keola Velasco announced that US Coast Guard (USCG) will join in the annual [Pacific Marine Expo](#) in Seattle fishing vessel fleet to provide education and information to interested mariners. USCG will have representatives from all along the west coast: Alaska to California. He emphasized that this is a well-attended event providing a great opportunity for USCG to provide outreach, trainings, and inspections.

Kevin Decker: [Washington Sea Grant](#) is hiring several positions including a Coastal Management Specialist, Resilience and Adaptation Specialist, along with Commercial Fishing & Aquaculture Specialist. His area sector analysis project in which he's working with several coastal area cities is about 75% completed. He's also added several features to the [WA Coast Economist website](#) including a shellfish aquaculture dashboard and commercial industry dashboard.

Liz Schotman: shared that the Surfrider Foundation is advertising to fill the [Washington Regional Policy Manager position](#).

Mark Ozias spoke about a recent Energy Resilience and Futures summit focused on the Olympic Peninsula. This well attended event looked at specific projects such as creating microgrids to provide local energy resilience, redundancy, and flexibility needs in working the Bonneville Power Administration in addition to other needs related to community preparedness for natural disasters. If anyone is interested in more information, please contact him via email: mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov. Washington state received \$900 million toward broadband expansion in the state. He and others are pushing for allocation to Clallam County. Washington state Legislature plans to focus on public health in services and resources expansion.

Mike Doherty shared that in 2019, Washington Department of Ecology issued a [Report of Vessel Traffic and Vessel Traffic Safety: Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound Area](#) which included a chapter on Tug Escort and Tug Capability Requirements. A follow up in 2022, [Tug Escort Analysis](#), was developed in response to comments on the scope of work and is now available online along with transcripts from summer webinars.

Patrick Gallagher introduced himself to the council as the current Executive Director of [Marine Exchange of Puget Sound](#). He summarized that cruise line traffic is up while container shipping traffic has decreased. [Quiet Sound](#) is receiving data from the Marine Exchange on voluntary slowdown measures implemented to reduce noise. Voluntary compliance rates are high. Marine exchange hosted 3-day summit that include other Marine Exchanges around US to discuss issues in the industry and propose innovations such as data sharing and expansion. Superintendent Grant asked whether there is any comparable effort on slowdowns in the inbound lanes from Cape Flattery toward Puget Sound. Patrick replied that Quiet Sound is working on a pilot gear toward incremental slowdowns, but currently it is more focused on garnering the most impact for Southern Resident Killer Whales with minimal impact to industry focused in the south sound. Kevin noted he would advocate expansion further out in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Patrick replied that the incremental change model has thus far been very successful.

Stephanie Sleeman shared that the Pacific Marine Expo also includes support from the

US Navy to work with stakeholders and discuss Navy activity(ies) with industry members.

Steve Joner commented on the great urgency to develop offshore wind on both east and west coast of the US. On the west coast, lease areas have been identified along the coasts of California and Oregon. The Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management ([BOEM](#)) has received unsolicited lease requests for Washington. In response the Pacific Fishery Management Council has created an ad hoc planning committee, with Steve as tribal representation. Tribes are concerned that there may be both large-scale and unknown impacts from energy development along the coast. He noted a very generic EIS was completed 15 years ago however the committee is requesting a programmatic environmental impact study (EIS) that includes an assessment of effects on resources both inside and outside the sanctuary. Some concerns include impacts to survival of larval fish dependent on wind and currents, migration forage fish as well as marine mammals, plus possible area closures of local fisheries. Steve also shared that this topic was discussed between Makah Tribal Council members, John Armor (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director), and Kevin in a mid-September meeting. The Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and IC science panel will follow up to develop a research work plan. They would like to present it at a future Advisory Council meeting.

Steven Fradkin announced new Olympic National Park administrators including the Superintendent, Sula Jacobs, and an Acting Deputy Superintendent. Steve also shared concerns with Kalaloch Lodge Resort area infrastructure: The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is examining accelerated bluff erosion, especially near the cabins. The Park and USGS have co-authoring a paper "[Evaluating the effect of nuclear inclusion X \(NIX\) infections on Pacific razor clam populations](#)" on the unhealthy razor clam population at Kalaloch Beach. Harvest is closed due to high mortality rate. He noted most razor clams are infected with NIX, but the Kalaloch population shows much more concentrated infection levels than elsewhere.

Tami Pokorny shared that the North Pacific Coastal Marine Resource Committee ([NPC MRC](#)) will have a presentation from Washington CoastSavers Coordinator, Megan Juran at the Tuesday, November 22 meeting and they are excited for presentation by Jennifer Hagen on Quileute hypoxia moorings in December.

Thomas Mumford reported that the Puget Sound Partnership and Washington Department of Natural Resources are developing a "Kelp Vital" sign for Puget Sound and Washington statewide. The dataset, which began in 1989, includes mapping and analysis collected within the sanctuary. In December, there will be web-based materials available. Ultimately the goal is global kelp forest restoration targets and thus they are pursuing conservation efforts with other countries.

Steve Shively shared that six of the cabins at Kalaloch Resort are no longer useable due to bluff erosion. Overall, the tourism industry at large is doing well. He noted that consumers are showing interest in getting back to traditional restaurant service.

However, restaurateurs are concerned due to ongoing labor shortages. Both Steve and Chris attended the first Washington State Tourism Conference in many years in October. It was well attended and provide a lot of opportunity to learn about sustainable tourism efforts across the state. Tourism representatives are gearing up for the next legislative session to seek additional funding as financial support for tourism across the state is very small compared to neighboring states and territories (Canada).

Larry Phillips shared that the PFMC adopted the recommendations for recreational halibut season off the WA for 2023. <https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2022/10/e-1-a-supplemental-wdfw-report-1-proposed-changes-to-the-pacific-halibut-catch-sharing-plan-and-2023-annual-regulations.pdf/>.

Brittany Poirson mentioned Dept of Natural Resource Commissioner Franz canceled leases for Net Pen Farms on State Owned Aquatic Lands: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/news/commissioner-franz-cancels-leases-remaining-net-pen-salmon-farms-puget-sound>

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Decision Item: Whale Reporting Group Recommendation Memo: George and Rich gave a presentation at the September meeting and provided a draft recommendation memo for the council to pass on to superintendent. Feedback from the Makah Tribe included a request to add some caveats to memo. Between meetings a proposal was made that caveats be added separately as an attachment rather than changing the memo itself. Linda asked if it would be appropriate to hold off on discussion until adequate Makah representation could be present. Kevin highlighted that report was accepted at last meeting but that action items in the memo are the formal submission to the superintendent. He noted it would be respectful to wait until the Makah representatives are available. Steve Shively and Linda recommended that the discussion to defer discussion be tabled until next meeting. Tom Mumford made the motion to defer the discussion to January which was seconded by Dan Ayres.

Discussion Item: Management Plan Review: Acting Deputy Superintendent Emma Htun and National Science Foundation Fellow and OCNMS intern Amelia Ritger facilitated the discussion.

Emma provided overview of topics including the initial recommended Management Plan Review timeline, topic prioritization poll results, and the proposed public scoping approach. A Federal Register Notice of Intent to conduct public scoping is slated for an early February publication followed by four in-person public scoping meetings and one virtual meeting in late February.

- *Timeline moving into 2023:* The sanctuary is currently addressing Site Level Assessment & Need and will then move into preparing for public scoping
- *Federal Register Notice:* Emma shared the Federal Register Notice or Notice of Intent (NOI) requires inclusion of a high-level preliminary priority topic list in addition to how to provide feedback or comments. The level of specificity is

typically generalized for the NOI and is meant primarily to get the public thinking about what they consider important. Publication is slated for February 1, 2023

- *Public Scoping*: During the public comment period (generally 60 days) the public can comment on any topic or concern; the topics are just a guide. The proposed meeting format is a 3-hour long open house with displays, outreach materials, digital QR codes, comment and breakout groups with a notetaker and facilitator for each group, and report out summaries for each breakout group
- Proposed dates for Public Scoping are Feb 21-27, 2023 with 4 in person meetings from 6-8 pm and 1 virtual meeting from 5-8pm. Locations under consideration include:
 - Ocean Shores or Taholah
 - Forks or La Push
 - Neah Bay
 - Port Angeles

Emma clarified that follow-up with specific times and locations will occur after next IPC meeting. She also confirmed that the look ahead on the MPR timeline is public comment which can be discussed further at the next Advisory Council meeting on January 20, 2023.

Emma and Amelia introduced the Advisory Council's (AC) preliminary priority topics poll results. Emma reiterated that poll's purpose was to facilitate discussion for advisory council and prepare for comments and concerns that will arise during actual public scoping process. It also informs framing of preliminary priority topics for Federal Register Notice that officially kicks off public scoping.

We received 15 responses from 14 members of council with no "new topics" provided. Rankings were assigned as High priority, Medium Priority, or Low Priority. Amelia provided graphical representations of the data to explain the findings from AC responses. The three highest ranked topics were working with Coastal Treaty Tribes, continuing Long Term Oceanographic Mooring, and focusing research on Changing Ocean Conditions. She also described which topics had high and which had low convergence or shared agreement on the priority rankings. The highest convergence ranking was found in working with Coastal Treaty Tribes and the lowest convergences were Marine Resource Committee and K-12 Education. She noted that high convergence means there were very similar responses from members regarding ranking of a topic; low convergence indicates a range of responses from members regarding ranking of a topic.

Council member discussion included the challenges in selecting a ranking and that in some cases the wording seemed too broad. Kevin shared that the point of this poll was designed to capture big ideas to help guide public comments during public scoping while noting that the public will not for example be asked to rank importance of hypoxia over harmful algal blooms, but during drafting of the new management plan. Emma shared that picking priorities is can be difficult as many new challenges are facing people and resources are limited.

Public Comment

No comments were received.

Standing Items

Upcoming Recruitment:

The alternate Fishing seat is currently open. Tom Mumford and Jan Newton terms expire in January so the primary and alternate Research seats will be opening for new members. In addition, the Citizen-at-Large alternate seat has become open due to resignation submitted by current member, Jim Vail. In addition, Dan Ayres will be retiring from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at the end of January 2023.

Kevin noted how important it is to have members that are qualified and interested to serve on the council as their voices are very important for the sanctuary and that information from the sanctuary can be shared by council seats to their respective constituencies. One of the biggest benefits of the Advisory Council is the two-way communication it affords.

Kevin also acknowledged Lee Whitford's contributions to the council and thanked her for all the things she has done for the council over the years. Kevin presented Lee with a gift in recognition of her service and contributions including a challenge coin. Lee thanked everyone on the council for the opportunity to work with them and for the gift.

Kevin received sign off from director for filling three AC seats and welcomed Dann May as the new primary Education seat, John Hunter as the new alternate Education seat, and Larry Phillips as the new primary Fishing seat.

Review of 2022 AC Workplan: Chris shared and reviewed the 2022 draft Advisory Council workplan. She noted that the council was able to meet many of its goals and thanked the council for the efforts.

Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2023: Chris shared prospective meeting dates for 2023, which will be held as hybrid in-person and virtual meetings.

- Proposed Dates
 - January 20 (Port Angeles)
 - March 17 (Forks)
 - May 19 (Taholah)
 - July 21 (La Push)
 - September 15 or 29 (Neah Bay)
 - November 17 (Port Townsend, Bremerton, or Seattle)

Linda announced that the January meeting is tentatively at the USCG Small Boat Station Training Room. Discussion on the proposed dates include a request for a R/V Storm Petrel tour after January 20 meeting in Port Angeles. Dann May expressed preference for a Sept. 15 meeting and Linda commented that the Friday before Thanksgiving can present challenges for attendance. Proposed moving the November meeting up to second week in November. Chris noted that the prior week could conflict

with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meeting in the second week of November.

Call for future agenda topics:

- Linda proposed the Whale Reporting Group Letter for the next meeting.
- Chris proposed Public Scoping process.
- Kevin proposed Advisory Council Working Groups specifically related to MPR logistics and proposed MPR process as standing item.
- Linda asked for input on format of meeting agenda by having the superintendent report at the very beginning of the meeting. None opposed to keep meeting agenda format.

Adjourn

Jan Newton asked for clarification on attendance at January meeting for herself and Tom Mumford as research seats. Chris noted that both members are invited to attend as any new members would not be seated prior to the January meeting.