

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
Virtual meeting**

**Friday, September 15, 2023
Meeting Notes**



**SANCTUARY
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent and AC Chair:



Kevin Grant, Superintendent



Linda Sturgis, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates:

Jessica Stocking (WA Fish and Wildlife); Mike Doherty and Erik Bolton (Citizen at Large); Mike French (Clallam County Commissioner); Heidi Eisenhour (Jefferson County Commissioner); Rich Osborne and Liz Schotman (Conservation); Dawn Grebner and Asila Bergman (US Navy); Dann May and John Hunter (Education); Steve Shively and Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development); Parker MacCready (Research); Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee); Linda Sturgis and Patrick Gallagher (Maritime Industry); Haley Kennard (Makah); Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe); Larry Phillips and Charlie Sheldon (Fishing); and Steve Fradkin (Olympic National Park)

Presenters and Others in Attendance:

TJ Greene, Chad Bowechop, Glenn Ellis, Carol Reamer (Makah Tribe); Lee Whitford (citizen); TJ Tate, Erin Jaszczak, Justin Boevers, Michaela Miller, and Kaiya McGhaw (National Marine Sanctuary Foundation)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:

Andrew Mason (NOAA Marine Debris Program); Dwayne Hawes, Greg Busch, and Andrew Torres (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement); Kevin Grant, Chris Butler-Minor, Stephanie Haynes, Christine VanDeen, Katie Wrubel, Jenny Waddell, Andrew Micks

Call to Order and Welcome

Steve Shively, Council Secretary called the meeting to order. He introduced hosts Makah Tribal Council Chairmen T.J Greene and Vice Chairman Chad Bowechop, who is also the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Chair. Mr. Greene welcomed the council members to Makah lands and invited them to attend next year's 100th Anniversary of Makah Days in August 2024. Mr. Bowechop noted the importance of the ocean to the Makah cultural identity and provided insights into Makah views on partnerships and cultural practices in support of spiritual beliefs and actions that keep their lives balanced

Internal Affairs

- Agenda: Steve Shively introduced the agenda for the day. Due to the absence of John Shaw, nominee for the Vice Chair position, officer elections were tabled.
- Approval of Meeting Notes: The July 2023 meeting notes were approved by consensus.

Superintendent Report:

Kevin expressed great appreciation to the Makah leaders for hosting the council on their traditional lands. He began with an acknowledgement of the recommendation to hold all virtual meetings, the challenges of hybrid meetings, and comments on travel times to in-person meetings. He asked the council to ponder holding three virtual and three in person meeting each year. For in person meetings, staff would work with local hosts to engage in a cultural exploration after the business meeting.

Kevin announced the selection of a new Deputy Superintendent, [Hélène Scalliet](#), who will join OCNMS on October 10. She is returning to sanctuaries after a few years with

the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Previously she was the headquarters contact person for management plan reviews and has worked closely with OCNMS on prior versions and assessments of the site's management plan. He also announced that Jacqueline Laverdure will be transferring back to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in November after over a decade dedication in developing an exemplary Education and Outreach programs for OCNMS. Mr. Grant invited council members to sign up for the October 14 West End Maritime Heritage Symposium in Forks, Washington.

Information Items:

Olympic Peninsula Economic Survey Results

Kevin Deck, Coastal Economist with Washington Sea Grant and the council's Tourism and Economic Development alternate seat provided an overview of and results from a recent collaboration with the [Western Rural Development Center](#) on a project called the Area Sector Analysis Process. The purpose of this project was to try and identify Industries that were both desirable to and compatible with Washington coastal communities.

The surveys, conducted in five coastal counties, required locally influential steering committee members to make trade-offs between social, economic, and environmental considerations. A commonly noted concern was lack of housing prevents recruitment by industries that want to hire or expand. Highly desirable industries by county are shown in the table below. Next steps include short-term strategies such as conducting a regional supply chain analysis for maritime industries and organizing around economic development strategies for expansion, retention, and recruitment. A longer-term strategy would be to create assets for desirable industries where they do not currently exist.

County	Priority 1	Industry 1	Industry 2	Industry 3	Industry 4
Clallam	Environmental – new businesses don't pollute water	Light Manufacturing	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Maritime	Healthcare & Social Assistance
Jefferson	Environmental – new businesses don't pollute water	Maritime	Light Manufacturing	Hospitality & Tourism	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting
Grays Harbor	economic - New businesses hire locally	Hospitality & Tourism	Manufacturing	Information Services	Construction/Trades
Pacific	environmental – new businesses don't pollute water	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	Hospitality & Tourism	Healthcare & Social Assistance	Manufacturing
Wahkiakum	economic - New businesses hire locally	Transportation & Warehousing	Healthcare & Social Assistance	Personal Care Services	Manufacturing

Program Leads FY23 Recap and FY24 Planning:

Education and Outreach programming was presented by Education Associate, Christine VanDeen. Highlights included:

- Educational highlights: reaching over 1,500 students through K-12 programming, providing STEM Career focused opportunities for students with teacher support and professional development workshops along with ongoing support of B-WET and Ocean Guardian Schools. Higher Education efforts included hosting a Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps Service Member and educational presentations with Peninsula College.
- Outreach highlights: record breaking visitor season for Olympic Coast Discovery Center, updates to Discovery Center exhibits and kiosks, participation in multiple festivals, in person and virtual speaker series with multiple partners, engagement with AC and Marine Resource Committees, and two unique Get Into Your Sanctuary events
- Future efforts will continue to focus on core programs as well as enhancement to coastal signage/ kiosks and preparation for celebrating OCNMS 30th Anniversary!

Research and Monitoring team lead and Research Coordinator, Jenny Waddell shared highlights from the 2023 season and plans for 2024:

- Research Recap: 24th year of OCNMS Coastal Oceanographic Moorings, eDNA mooring, Ocean Sound Monitoring, Intertidal Habitat Monitoring, Subtidal Kelp Forest Monitoring, DNR Executive Working Group, Deep Sea Exploration and Research, Completion of West Coast Deep Sea Coral Initiative along with a report and web story.
- Partner projects: Oregon State University project - Multi-stressor impacts to Dungeness Crab, plus two new [Climate Program Office](#) awards, [Marine Biodiversity Observation Network for Northern California Current](#), and Ocean Acidification Program proposal that expand upon the previous research [The Olympic Coast as a Sentinel: An Integrated Social-Ecological Regional Vulnerability Assessment to Ocean Acidification](#)
- Planned Research: OCNMS Coastal Oceanographic Moorings, eDNA mooring and sample analysis, Ocean Sound Monitoring, Intertidal Habitat Monitoring, Intertidal OA sensor deployment(s), Subtidal Kelp Forest Monitoring, Seafloor mapping (vessel pending), and continuation of participation in partner projects

Resource Protection team lead and Resource Protection Specialist, Katie Wrubel described accomplishments and priorities for the upcoming year:

- Accomplishments: Tribal coordination and consultations, nine permit applications, Submarine cable seabed recovery survey completed, OASeS successes (website, budget), Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) out for Tribal review, Climate Adaptation planning for Management Plan Review (MPR), Oil spill preparedness

and response planning, Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) monitoring and outreach, Maritime Heritage - Ocean Exploration Research award for the search for the Sailing Vessel Nikolai

- Goals: Tribal engagement and coordination, second Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange, Support AC MPR Working Group, Publish CVA, OASeS Symposium - May 2024, Removal of the M/V Unwind from La Push area waters, Increase voluntary compliance with the ATBA thru partners, ongoing permitting, and Maritime Heritage Symposium

Management Plan Review next steps

Stephanie Haynes provided an overview of the current draft framework for the four action plans within the new Management Plan and the statement of work associated with the formation of an MPR working group. Members and subject matter experts will be invited to participate in review of one to all four of the draft action plan sections over three to four meetings. Stephanie will be reaching out by email to provide a sign-up form. The intent is to present a charter for adoption by the council at the next AC meeting.

[High-Impact and Large Marine Debris Removal Throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System](#)

TJ Tate, Director of Conservation for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (Foundation) provided an introduction to the Foundation and an outline of a recent \$15 million NOAA Marine Debris Program award. She noted the Foundation focuses on increasing awareness and developing a constituency that recognizes the value sanctuaries, raising revenue for programs, such as education, outreach, and research along with creation/management of visitor centers plus participation in special projects related to the National Marine Sanctuary System. This \$15 million grant will remove large marine debris from multiple sanctuary sites along the west coast of the US and the Gulf of Mexico. In Washington, the Foundation is partnering with OCNMS, and the Quileute and Makah Tribes to remove the M/V Unwind from waters offshore of La Push and 19 abandoned or derelict vessels along with large structures in Neah Bay.

Member Reports

Each seat's primary or alternate member is invited to share constituency-based current events or news of interest.

Mike French noted that information in Kevin Decker's presentation is similar to topics related to a federal grant program -Recompete [[Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program](#)] which is indented to help revitalize rural areas with persistent economic issues, especially the prime age employment gap.

Pat Gallagher noted that overall industry trends for shipping are persistently down for a wide variety of reasons but estimated to be roughly 300 below last year in Puget Sound. Particularly hard hit are the ports of Seattle and Tacoma at approximately 24% decline in incoming container and cargo ships. The significant arrivals and departures for cruise ships didn't lift the entire ship count enough make much of a dent. Related to slowdowns (voluntary speed restrictions): ECHO is currently ongoing Canada and Quiet

Sound will begin a voluntary slowdown in Washington state waters beginning October 1st through January 12th. Quiet Sound released report on the [2022-2023 results](#). Pat shared that the [Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee](#) has an open Fisheries Industries representative seat and invited interested people to contact him.

Julie Ann Koehlinger remarked that despite low rain fall, the Hoh River flows have improved which will allow for a fall fishery to open.

Jess Stocking shared that avian influenza in Washington and Oregon Caspian terns have dropped but have been detected in seals.

Kevin Decker announced the addition of a new Community Engagement Specialist, [Sanpisa Sritrairat](#), at Washington Sea Grant.

Steve Fradkin announced that the intertidal field season has wrapped up for the park. One of the notable things was a collaboration with partners at University of California Santa Cruz to conduct some biodiversity sampling at both Point of the Arches and Taylor Point over the last two years at four sites that are co-located with long-term monitoring sites for biodiversity. The hope is to have those data processed within the next six months.

Haley Kennard referenced the large marine debris removal project in Neah Bay and planning meetings taking place in the afternoon.

Larry Phillips noted the recreational fishing season on the Washington coast, which is an approximately \$2.6 billion industry in the state in nearly over. He commended the state on its management of the fisheries this year, especially salmon. He was looking forward to information on razor clam availability soon.

Steve Shively relayed that seven of the cabins at Kalaloch resort have been red-tagged due to coastal erosion. He also noted tourism levels remain high.

John Hunter identified Chris Morgan as a new instructor for Peninsula College Natural Resources program. Although the program is likely more forestry than ocean focused John noted the strong connection these environments. He also shared that the state is holding "[Outdoor Schools for All](#)" in Ocean Park at the end of October.

Heidi Eisenhour spoke of Marine Resource Committee efforts and jurisdictional issues related to derelict vessels, many of which are associated with affordable housing issues and later abandoned. She also spoke about state grants for county repairs to septic systems along coast lines.

Dawn Grebner shared that the Navy and Coast Guard Cetacean Desk representatives met to discuss how the Navy can use desk collected data and support efforts to reduce ship strikes.

Chad Bowechop spoke of his advocacy for IPC member involvement in AC to avoid silos versus information sharing. He also observed that probable topics of interest for both bodies are climate change refugees and improving spill response capacity by both US and Canadian Coast Guards, particularly considering expected increases in oil shipping traffic. He noted the absence of tribal data in the economic review presentation but acknowledged there are challenges to including it.

Public Comment

No comment provided

Standing Items:

Upcoming recruitment

Recruitment for the alternate Research seat is open.

Call for future agenda topics

Members were invited to share ideas for future meeting topics

Adjourn

Steve thanked attendees and closed the meeting.