

**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, March 15, 2024
Meeting Notes**



**SANCTUARY
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent and AC Chair:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Grant', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Grant, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Linda Sturgis', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Sturgis, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates:

Linda Sturgis (Maritime Industry, Chair), Charlie Sheldon and Larry Phillips (Fishing), Tami Pokorny (North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee), John Shaw (Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee, Vice-Chair), John Hunter and Dann May (Education), Joe Schumacher (Quinault Indian Nation), Parker MacCready (Research), Adrienne Akmajian (Makah Tribe), Lorna Wargo (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner), Patrick Gallagher (Marine Industry), Brittany Poirson (Washington Department of Natural Resources), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Liz Schotman (Conservation), Micah Horwith (Washington Department of Ecology), Mike Doherty (Citizen-at-large) and Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy)

Presenters and Others in Attendance:

Tammy Russell (Nancy Foster Scholar), Clayton Manning (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Kara Cardinal (Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network), Glenn Grant (interested community member), Sanpisa Sritrairat (Washington SeaGrant), Tommy Moore (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:

Andrew Torres, Dwayne Hawes (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement), Kevin Grant, H el ene Scalliet, Chris Butler-Minor, Stephanie Haynes, Jenny Waddell, Christine VanDeen, Katie Wrubel, Haley Wilson, Kathy Hough, Stori Smith, and Sarah Luigard (OCNMS)

Call to Order and Welcome

Linda Sturgis, Council Chair called the meeting to order.

Internal Affairs

- Linda Sturgis recognized John Shaw as the new Vice Chair, who was elected to the position in the November meeting.
- Agenda: Steve Shively moved to adopt the meeting agenda, which Lorna Wargo seconded.
- Approval of Meeting Notes: Steve Shively moved to adopt the November 2023 meeting notes as presented. This was seconded by John Shaw.

Superintendent Report:

Kevin Grant shared recent and upcoming efforts for OCNMS.

- OCNMS has officially posted a marine scientist a job opening. This is a federal position that will close on or before Jan 26, 2024 depending on number of applicants.
- OCNMS is co-hosting the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASeS) workshop in Forks on May 14th through 16th.
- OCNMS is hosting the second Cross-Pacific Exchange workshop this April in Monterey, CA.

- OCNMS and Feiro Marine Life Center's Speaker Series is now up and running. The first speaker in the series is Alex Wegmann with his talk "Coconut Palms, Seabirds, Coral Reefs and Sea Level Rise" on January 23rd. The next speaker will be Megan Juran from Washington CoastSavers. She will present on collaborative efforts to remove marine debris from Olympic coastlines in February. All of the speaker series talks will be recorded for future viewing.
- This July will be the 30th anniversary of OCNMS designation.
- There are ongoing efforts to post an opening for an Education and Outreach Coordinator position at OCNMS. The hope is to have this position filled within this calendar year.
- The executive committee is now interviewing candidates for the Conservation Primary Seat and the Research Alternate Seat.

Member Reports:

Fishing Seats:

Charlie Sheldon

- Started commentary on draft Management Plan documents as a member of several MPR working groups

Larry Phillips

- WDFW regulations for [2023-24 coastal steelhead season](#) notes declines in steelhead populations throughout river systems, especially in the Queets and Quinault watersheds. This has resulted in closures in many areas.
- North of Falcon process will start soon. The timeline is available at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/north-falcon/public-meetings>
- He noted WDFD has noted several areas of concern for groundfish so state, tribal and other recreational fishers want to partner to come up with a plan to address those conservation concerns.
- The 100th session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission is meeting next week in Anchorage, AK. He's hopeful the 2A area (WA, OR, & CA) will be able to maintain the 1.65 million pound quota. A recording is available at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLww0sbZpeo2cFp8DIYg5x8xFJ2Wz60KRB>

Education Seats:

Dann May

- University of Washington's Deborah Kelly will present at Peninsula College on January 25 on [Cabled Array in the Classroom](#) to encourage students to apply to an at-sea program.
- He and Mac Macdonald will be giving a presentation on "Earthquakes and Tsunamis for Mariners" on Feb 14th at 6:15 p.m. at the Sequim Bay Yacht Club at the John Wayne Marina

John Hunter

- August 10-12; [Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators](#) Annual Conference, hosted by BC Chapter will be held at Pearson College, a little

west of Victoria. A call for presentation proposals will be coming in February. If you are interested, contact him at hunter_john_m@yahoo.com.

Research Seat:

Parker MacCready

- State legislature requested that the University of Washington study the effects of offshore wind development. A bill has been introduced that would fund this project ([HB 2341](#)).

Makah Tribe Seat:

Adrienne Akmajian

- New representative for Makah Tribe seat. Steve Joner is looking toward retirement

WA Fish and Wildlife Seat:

Lorna Wargo

- San Juan County and the Coast Guard met for the San Juan Oil Spill Workshop in November 2023. They discussed spill deterrent methods for the San Juan area. These methods could possibly be extended to the mouth of Juan de Fuca.
- The Washington State Historical Museum is hosting an exhibit on the Boldt Decision. <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/exhibit/boldt-decision/>

Tourism and Economic Development Seat:

Steve Shively

- There has been an increase in year over year tourism and lodging for the Peninsula. Many challenges still exist (e.g., weather, minimum wage increase, number of weekends per month) that affect businesses' success.
- There will be a summit for industry sustainable tourism in April.
- Current efforts to develop a [5-year tourism master plan](#).

Local Government Seat:

Mark Ozias - Clallam County

- Clallam County is updating a comprehensive plan for outreach and engagement.
- The Department of Natural Resources is updating their [Outdoor Access and Recreation plan](#).

Maritime Industry Seats:

Patrick Gallagher

- Washington Maritime Federation [2024 State-Level Priorities](#) legislation plan will cover commercial fisheries, energy, and environment.
- Subscribe to Marine Exchange Of Puget Sound newsletter and also read our annual report at <https://marexps.com/>.

Linda Sturgis

- Reflected on meeting with other SAC chairs across the sanctuary system. OCNMS is unique in the direction of its Management Plan, tribal engagement and co-stewardship, and member participation.

WDNR Seat:

Brittany Poirson

- [HB 2400](#) and [HB 2207](#) focus on reducing solid waste, dumping, and marine debris. [HB 1984](#) would designate the razor clam as Washington's state clam. All three bills are currently under consideration.
- Requested input on [DNR Outdoor Access and Recreation Plan](#).

Hoh Tribe Seat:

Julie Ann Koehlinger

- The Hoh Tribe will be working with a WA SeaGrant Hershman Fellow to support their climate change resiliency work through an assessment.
- This year is the 50th anniversary of the [Boldt Decision](#).
 - Chris Butler-Minor will share a recorded presentation by Steve Joner on [Tribal Management Responsibilities](#) in honor of this anniversary. It is not available for the public but may be shared with SAC members.

Quileute Tribe Seat:

Jennifer Hagen

- Shared an image of the route for the test deployment of their wind and wave height sensor which is intended to aid improved safety at sea.
- NOAA Marine Debris Program is providing funds to clean up a sunken vessel, off La Push that poses an oil threat to nearby fishing grounds.

WA Dept of Ecology Seat:

Micah Horwith

- On May 14th - 16th there is an OA Sentinel Site Symposium in Forks. Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-7UdiF4Xgd3rUCdtLqeTokVaFslWWUAW-kc21CDY2B_Zfgg/viewform

US Navy Seat:

Stephanie Sleeman

- The Navy is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to compile marine species densities to support species distribution models, such as the [Mapping Tool for the Navy Marine Species Density Database for the U.S. Pacific & Gulf of Alaska](#). They are interested in data on whales and sea turtles that may not be already recorded.
- She is also working on execution of climate resiliency and adaptation funding. She noted that for FY2025-26 there may be opportunity to collaborate in the Pacific Beach area since there is overlapping in the installation and sanctuary in the area.

Information Items:

Establishing Seabird Surveys within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Tammy Russell (PhD Candidate, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Nancy Foster Scholar) presented on protocols and findings from seabird surveys in the five west coast sanctuaries. Her research focused on spatial and temporal patterns of seabirds on the West Coast with including in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). She also used previously collected, but uninvestigated data from 1980-2018 including 21 ship and aerial survey programs. Most surveys to date have been conducted in spring and summer. Between 1990s - 2010s, there was an overall 14% increase in seabirds, but since 2006, summer bird counts have been decreasing. OCNMS no longer has a seabird survey team, and some of the survey's goals included:

- Evaluate the survey capabilities of the R/V Storm Petrel
- Determine the feasibility of seabird surveys in OCNMS and present survey options
- Compare methods and software to maximize future survey efforts

Tammy evaluated various survey methods used in the California Current Ecosystem region and factored in available resources. "The Pacman," trapezoidal transit was based on survey patterns previously used by WDFW and OCNMS. The route followed two existing WDFW lines, crossed over the Juan de Fuca Canyon to the farthest point of the OCNMS transect, and could be completed in one day.

Results:

- The final survey plan used a 200-meter width survey strip using dLog software. One observer documented location, time, species, count, behavior, and comments.
- In both May and September 2023, one Pacman Survey and two Opportunistic Surveys were conducted. This allowed cross shore data collection to fill in temporal resolution and covered diverse habitats
 - May survey counts: 26 species and 1737 birds
 - September survey counts: 23 species and 2564 birds
 - Pacman routes captured offshore species; opportunistic routes captured coastal species. Altogether, the surveys included many of OCNMS' unique habitats and species.
- Key findings:
 - higher seabird abundance as one moves north along the West Coast
 - higher seabird diversity recorded within OCNMS compared to other regions of the west coast and national marine sanctuaries
- Conclusions:
 - R/V Storm Petrel works for bird surveys.
 - Juan de Fuca Canyon is a foraging and biodiversity hotspot for seabirds and other marine animals.
 - Increased efforts to survey offshore and the Juan de Fuca Canyon can help in understanding the importance of these areas, monitoring biodiversity changes, and predicting impacts of climate change, offshore wind, and more.

- Extending surveys to the south to Quinault Canyon could be helpful in creating a view of more of the sanctuary region.
- Several potential future survey plans with different costs were developed for sanctuary consideration.

OCNMS Management Plan Review update

Stephanie Haynes provided a status report on the management plan working groups.

- Individual working groups will meet by mid-February to discuss comments and suggestions on their relevant sections
 - Jan 29: Improve Ocean literacy
 - Feb 1: Conserve Resources in Sanctuary
 - Feb 5: Achieve Effective Collaborative and Coordinated Management
 - Feb 9: Conduct Collaborative Research, Assessments, and Monitoring
- The sub-working groups will send recommendations to full council by March 1, for consideration of accepting the proposed suggestions

Stephanie noted that the work on the draft Environmental Analysis, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act ([NEPA](#)), has begun.

Kevin thanked all working group members for their time and input and invited anyone else who was interested to participate.

Decision Item:

Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) report and recommendations

Katie Wrubel shared that the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is at the point where the working group's report is ready for the council's review. She provided an historical recap and next steps.

- The CVA working group was formed in May 2021 at which time selection of focal resources, likely to be affected by climate change impacts were selected. Four workshops were held in Feb 2022 to refine the degree of that influence in terms of risk and adaptive capacity. A workshop to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies was held in March 2022. The first draft of the document was presented to OCNMS and the working group in August 2022. After working group edits and tribal review, the CVA was submitted to the SAC November 21, 2023.
- Next steps include SAC acceptance of the report and peer review so the report may ultimately be published.

The report was accepted by consensus with the acknowledgment that SAC recommendations will be addressed before it is sent to peer review.

Public Comment

Clayton Manning –

- Sat in on the meeting as an observer from the Canadian government. They are looking to start an MPA advisory committee and want to learn how SACs operate across the Strait.

Sanpisa Sritrairat - Washington Sea Grant

- New community engagement specialist for Washington Sea Grant
- WSG is working on improving community resiliency along the coast, has hired a new resilience specialist, and is in the process of hiring an ecology scientist

Standing Items:

Upcoming recruitment: The executive committee is now interviewing candidates for the Conservation Primary Seat and the Research Alternate Seat. May be filled by the next meeting.

Call for future agenda topics: Julia Parish may present in March since she was unable to attend the November meeting.

Final Remarks:

Kevin thanked everyone for their time and asked for feedback on future agenda topics, especially information and presentations SAC members would like to hear during meetings.

Adjourn:

Linda Sturgis thanked attendees and adjourned the meeting.