

**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, May 17, 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 black ink, appearing to read 'John Shaw', written over a horizontal line.

John Shaw, Vice-Chair



Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates:

John Shaw (Grays Harbor Marine Resource Committee, Vice-Chair), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development, Secretary), Jess Stockton (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife), Larry Phillips and Charlie Sheldon (Fishing), Dann May and John Hunter (Education), Julie Ann Koehlinger (Hoh Tribe), Kevin Decker (Tourism and Economic Development), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Pat Gallagher (Marine Industry), Casey Dennehy (Washington Department of Ecology), Liz Schotman (Conservation), Parker MacCready and Glenn Grant (Research), Brittany Poirson (Washington Department of Natural Resources), and Stephanie Sleeman (US Navy)

Presenters and Others in Attendance:

Jessica Cross (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), Karen Affeld (North Olympic Development Council), Tommy Moore (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Phyllis Bernard (Clallam County Public Utility District Commissioner, (District #3)), Hannah Tenant (WA Sea Grant Hershman Fellow for the Hoh Tribe,) Miss Sleeman, Miss Gallagher, and George Galasso

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:

Sarah Stein (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries); Kevin Grant, H el ene Scalliet, Chris Butler-Minor, Katie Wrubel, Christine VanDeen, Stori Smith, Sarah Luigard (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary)

Call to Order & Welcome

John Shaw, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order.

Internal Affairs:

- Agenda: A motion to adopt the agenda was put forward by Steve Shively and seconded by Dann May.
- Approval of Meeting Notes: The March 2024 meeting notes were approved by consensus.
- Advisory Council Chair Elections: Linda Sturgis will not renew her officer position as AC Chair. There were no nominations or volunteers to fill the position. The AC requested Chris Butler-Minor share a position description with everyone and to wait to elect a new chair at the next meeting. [OCNMS AC Charter 2022](#), page 11.

Superintendent Report:

Kevin Grant highlighted events shared in the OCNMS May 2024 newsletter.

- He noted, that the Ocean Acidification and Sentinel Site (OASeS) Symposium was held May 14-16 in Forks, WA. This is a biannual meeting that brings together

partners and stakeholders including tribal, scientific, and community members to discuss ocean acidification-related pressures on the coast. In response to feedback from the last OASes Symposium, this year's agenda allowed more time for discussion, which resulted in productive collaboration among attendees. Kevin also thanked everyone who helped organize the Symposium.

- Kevin encouraged members to attend the 6th annual Marine Advanced Technology and Education (MATE) Olympic Coast Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) Competition happening the next day, on May 18. Students from across the Peninsula will gather at the Forks Athletic & Aquatic Club to “fly” ROVs they built through an underwater obstacle course simulating real world ROV tasks. Past competition participants have continued to build and fly ROVs during college. One team, Sea Dragons, a Port Townsend-based team, use ROVs to find and remove derelict crab pots in the area.
- Kevin noted OCNMS is accepting applications for 2024-2025 Environmental Education and Stewardship AmeriCorps service member positions. He acknowledged most of the sanctuary work highlighted in the newsletter was supported by the current AmeriCorps service members and asked the AC to thank them for their work.

Kevin also discussed takeaways from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Leadership Team meeting. The idea of “transformational change” came up repeatedly, with the primary goal of changing the way ONMS is perceived from a niche program to an essential government organization. The AC and Kevin agreed engaging people who do not live near a marine sanctuary will play an important role in achieving this outcome.

Increasing awareness of fisheries and sanctuaries' industrial and economic influences may be helpful in encouraging support. ONMS estimates that to accomplish all of ONMS' goals sanctuary system's current should be \$300 million, however is closer to a quarter of that amount and in the next fiscal year, funding could decrease by \$2.5 million. When asked about funding for OCNMS, Kevin said with a full \$300 million ONMS budget, OCNMS would likely double its staff. He described how he submits the sanctuary's top funding priorities to ensure as many programs as possible get funded and also noted the mooring program's importance.

ONMS is currently in the designation process for six additional sanctuaries. During a robust discussion, AC members voiced concern over whether existing long-term operations and research will continue to be funded and how required tasks for the newly proposed sanctuaries will be achieved with decreases in funding. Kevin noted while no money is specifically designated for getting the proposed sanctuaries running, the sanctuary system is not in the worst financial situation it has faced. Additionally, most of these new locations have been nominated by local communities, signaling public support for national marine sanctuaries.

Action Item:

Resolution to forward Management Plan Review Working Group recommendations for draft programmatic sections to the superintendent

Hélène Scalliet thanked the working groups for their efforts and contributions. She then explained the timeline for finishing the Management Plan. The recommendations will be sent to Kevin, then Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) for their review, followed by forwarding the plan to ONMS Headquarters. Headquarters and IPC will likely have much of the summer to review the draft document. A second public comment period is slated for the fall. The current draft considers each of the working group's suggestions and edits. Forwarding the draft document to Kevin Grant was approved by consensus.

Information Items:

Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) efforts in Clallam County

Jessica Cross, Earth Scientist with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory presented on current efforts and plans for mCDR exploration in Clallam County. The goal is not to offset carbon emissions or replace land-based carbon dioxide removal. Instead, mCDR specifically aims to remove existing marine carbon dioxide and diversify carbon removal efforts. The current portfolio of mCDR methods include photosynthesis, mineralization, engineered capture, and storage in seabeds.

mCDR is a slow process thus there is a reliance on decreased human carbon emissions for successful implementation. However, if emissions decrease and mCDR rates increase, it may be possible to pause ocean acidification at its current level. It's important to note, though, that carbon removal is not likely to be able to reverse ocean acidification.

Live in-ocean testing is being pursued in an effort to validate research model's available data output for mCDR methods, costs, and benefits. Steps necessary to create a local pilot program include: evaluating costs and benefits; building relationships with subject matter experts, communicators, and regulators; obtaining testable technology; and finding testing sites and equipment for both closed and open, natural systems.

Currently, Pacific Northwest Labs is testing a closed system in Sequim Bay and has proposed a temporary open system in Port Angeles.

Jessica encouraged everyone to register for and attend a virtual listening workshop in June. The goal is to understand what mCDR non-experts want to know about the programs. Jessica also encouraged everyone to take a viewpoint survey beforehand to help inform the workshop's agenda.

Exploring Marine Renewable Energy as a Strategy for Energy and Climate Resilience

Karen Affeld, Executive Director for North Olympic Development Council (NODC),

described current [marine renewable energy](#) efforts for the North Olympic Peninsula. Among NODC's goals is investment in the Olympic Peninsula's environmental and economic resiliency. Key considerations for energy resilience and renewable energy in the area include the reliability of energy supplies and feasibility of renewables during all seasons and weather.

There are several reasons to re-evaluate the Olympic Peninsula's energy system. Threats such as severe storms thus vulnerability to tree fall power failures, droughts that could lead to decreases in hydropower, and earthquakes are all compounded by the current power structure in which all power for the Peninsula comes from one Bonneville Power Administration transmission line. A severe event could leave much of the Peninsula without power for up to a year. Additionally, the Washington state [Climate Commitment Act](#) requires a transition to more renewable energy.

Before this transition, the Peninsula will need to find new local sources of power. NODC's role is to ask community members for input on all plans before implementation. There are currently two steering committees and a convening to be held on June 6.

One potential change to the Peninsula's energy system could be use of microgrids. These self-contained electrical networks could continue to supply power during outages by disconnecting from larger power grids.

Another option is marine renewable energy, which typically refers to tidal and wave energy. Utilizing tidal currents for energy is not very feasible on Washington's outer coast. Areas closer to Port Townsend with faster current flow are better options.

There are many choices and tradeoffs involved in marine renewable energy. While marine energy is typically strongest near sea level, factors such as sea surface traffic, seabed conservation, and infrastructure visibility will influence where equipment is actually placed in the water column. Karen provided examples of successful marine energy utilization in other countries, such as Scotland. [RivGen](#) is also testing river current power in the Rosario Strait and San Juan Islands.

Karen concluded by presenting marine renewable energy benefits and challenges gathered from roundtable discussions.

- Benefits
 - Improved energy resilience
 - Energy independence and sovereignty
 - Microgrids for disaster response
 - Blue economy and technology development
 - Predictability of tidal energy
 - Availability of grant funding
- Challenges
 - Potential threats to marine life and habitats
 - Shoreline infrastructure
 - Cost and return on investment

- Honoring treaty rights
- Ownership and control
- Maintenance and life cycle of equipment
- Cumulative impacts of this list plus challenges posed by other energy system changes (eg. offshore wind)

Public Comment:

No public comment provided.

Member Reports:

Each seat's primary or alternate member is invited to share constituency-based current events or news of interest. Reports were submitted in advance as follows:

Jess Stocking – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Heather Hall is the new regional director.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council met in April. Coho numbers are down. Chinook is up. A lapse in permit coverage will hopefully be resolved next week. This should be prevented in the future by moving from an annual renewal to 5-10 year renewal requirement. Halibut is only at about 5% of the pre-season quota so far due to weather constraints.

Dann May – Education
Peninsula College started a [natural resources](#) certificate program at the Forks campus.

John Hunter - Education
John echoed Kevin's invitation, noting the Olympic Coast MATE ROV competition will be held the next day after this meeting

The Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators [NAME](#) Conference will take place over August 10-12 in Metchosin, British Columbia, Canada at Pearson College. Registration is now open.

Julie Ann Koehlinger - Hoh Tribe
A Habitat Restoration Biologist position with the tribe is now open. The tribe has secured three years of funding for this position.

Stephanie Sleeman - US Navy
No update but her daughter came with her to the meeting and let us know she can kayak.

Steve Shively - Tourism and Economic Development
The Five-Year [Olympic Peninsula Tourism Master Plan](#) is available.

Upcoming events:

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting May 17, 2024

- Seabrook Food and Wine Festival on May 18
- Hood Canal Fjord Fest (formerly Shrimpfest) from May 15-26

Jennifer Hagen - Quileute Tribe

A contingent of tribes are going to Washington, DC for Capitol Hill Ocean Week ([CHOW](#)) to bring up concerns about offshore wind.

The tribe deployed a wave buoy on the Quileute River to provide wave height measurements in real time. There are also moorings that the NANOOS, NOAA, and University of Washington will use to evaluate demonic acid and other water quality metrics. Data will be available on the NANOOS webpage.

Pat Gallagher

Commercial traffic trends for Puget Sound are up, including a double in bulk carrier numbers over the past two years. More cruise ships are expected to come in as the season continues.

Puget Sound Day on the Hill addressed funding and expansion to protect resident orcas from vessels. Reporting whale sightings to boats in real time to lower vessel risks needs to be tested this fall and winter.

Casey Dennehy - WA Department of Ecology

Department of Ecology starting the [rulemaking process](#) to amend Chapters 173-18, -20, -22, -26, and -27 under the Shoreline Management They plan to conduct outreach beginning this summer thru the fall of 2025 while collecting public comment.

The Department has contracted Gridworks to provide recommendations on how Washington can improve tribal consultation and stakeholder engagement in terms of offshore wind. The final report is expected to be released in June.

Liz Schotman - Conservation

- Washington Coastal Cleanup removed 16,000-21,000 pounds of trash from beaches along the outer coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca. About 1,500 pounds was removed from the Hobuck area where OCNMS staff worked.
- Capitol Hill Ocean Week ([CHOW](#)) will have a free virtual ocean justice session on June 4th.
- Surfriider and Resource Media are offering a free virtual communications leadership training series.

Parker MacCready - Research

So far, proposed federal funding for IOOS and NANOOS is lower than in previous years.

Brittany Poirson- Department of Natural Resources

The Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation Plan now has a clear mission and goals. DNR is now working to create actions to achieve those goals. Another public comment period will follow to address those actions.

[MyCoast](#) is an app managed in part by DNR for people to submit marine debris they find.

Standing Items:

AC members provide member reports

Going forward, AC members are requested to submit member reports to Chris Butler-Minor two weeks prior to the next SAC meeting.

Upcoming recruitment

Chris congratulated Liz Schotman on her selection for the primary Conservation Seat. The alternate Conservation seat is now open. Linda Sturgis' Chair position is open.

Call for future agenda topics

Submit any future agenda topics to Chris Butler-Minor.

Chris encouraged everyone to attend the OCNMS 30th anniversary celebration on July 26-27. The event will be in Port Angeles, WA. The July 26 SAC meeting will start later than usual to encourage members to stay for a chance to meet Big Mama, the lifesize inflatable humpback whale, and watch the film festival at Field Arts and Event Hall. The following day's activities will take place at the future Marine Life Center location in Port Angeles from 10am-2pm.

Chris also invited all AC members to go tidepooling at Second Beach and tour the R/V Storm Petrel after today's meeting.

Adjourn

John Shaw thanked attendees and closed the meeting.