

OLYMPIC COAST  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting  
Friday, January 24, 2020

Montesano City Hall  
112 North Main Street, Montesano, WA 98563

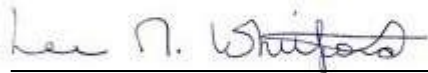
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port  
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

**Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance:** Lee Whitford (Chair and Education), Rich Osborne (Conservation), Joel Kawahara (Fishing), Steve Shively (Tourism and Economic Development), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Micah Horwith (Washington Department of Ecology), LCDR Keola Velasco (U.S. Coast Guard), Katie Wrubel (Makah Tribe), Dann May (Education), Stephanie Sleeman (U.S. Navy), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), and Dan Ayers (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife).

**Presenters and Others in Attendance:** Larry Phillips (WDFW Regional Director, Region Six), Todd Haas (Puget Sound Partnership), Hillary Burgess and Timothy Jones (Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team), and Dan Evans, Jr. (Olympic Coast Chapter of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation).

**NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance:** Dwayne Hawes (NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement), Kevin Grant, George Galasso, and Chris Butler-Minor (NOAA/Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary).

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The meeting was opened by Lee Whitford. Attendees were welcomed by Larry Phillips, Regional Director for Region Six of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Larry described the variety of beneficial services his regional staff provide which range from dangerous animal response to razor clam harvest management.

### **Internal Affairs**

- The draft agenda was adopted by consensus  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200124-sac-agenda.pdf>.
- Notes from the November meeting were approved with a revision to Dan Nutt's members report and the attendee roster. A motion by Steve Shively and second by Dann May led to the approval of the November meeting notes.  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20191108-sac-notes.pdf>.
- Proposed meeting dates and locations for 2020 were discussed and some changes recommended. The July date has not be established. The September meeting will be relocated to Forks to facilitate a joint meeting of the SAC and the Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC).  
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/2020-sac-meeting-dates-draft.pdf>.
- Recruitment efforts for the primary and alternate positions for both positions of the Research and Citizen at large seats as well as the conservation alternate resulted in executive committee recommendations to the superintendent for four positions. The recommendations were accepted and submitted for national level vetting. Additional recruitment efforts will be planned in the next 30 days.
- Next steps related to the Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification (OASes) are working with IPC partners to support efforts to include the larger coast of Washington and invite steering committee members

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

### **2020 AC Workplan**

The 2020 AC Workplan includes plans for SAC members to increase support for OCNMS through a variety of methods, including social media and letters of support for programs. Suggested additions to the workplan included support for acoustic monitoring, the development of the management plan for the Maritime Washington Heritage Area, adding hospitality to the Blue Economy, and considering what aspects of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Park and Outdoor Recreation are applicable and beneficial to OCNMS. The draft 2020 AC Workplan was approved through a motion by Joel Kawahara and second from Dann May.

### **Condition Report Status & Trends Workshop**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200124-condition-reprot-worksop.pdf>

George Galasso recounted the proceedings of the recent Status and Trends workshop related to updating OCNMS' Condition Report. In facilitated discussions, using a template framework, approximately 70 experts reviewed a decade's worth of existing indicator data as representative of the driving forces, existing pressures, and responses of resources as well as the ecosystem services provided/available in order to assess the state of sanctuary resources. Based on evidence presented or identified as available from additional sources, a status and trend was assigned to the majority of indicators along with affiliated confidence rating which also captured the level of agreement within the pool of experts. Topics with high priority data gaps may drive actions within the new management plan. Some work remains to assess maritime heritage and some aspects of ecosystem services and drafting of the narrative for the report is in the early stages. Expectation are that work will continue on this document throughout 2020.

### **Governor's Orca Task Force Overview**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200124-orca-task-force.pdf>

Todd Hass, Special Assistant to Puget Sound Partnership's Director provided an overview of the endeavors and outcomes related to the two year assessment and planning long-term recommendations for southern resident killer whale recovery. Identified impacts to orcas included noise and pollution levels in their habitat as well as reduced prey availability. Three working groups established 36 recommendations during the first year of the task force which resulted in four pieces of legislation passed in 2019, some as stop gap measures and some laying the groundwork for recovery and sustainability of the species. Thirteen additional recommendations were established in 2019. During 2019, a review of the progress shifted to longer-term considerations and included climate change effects and the influence of population growth in the region as well as hiring enforcement agents.

### **Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team (COASST) – seabirds and marine debris**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/202001-coastt-sac.pdf>

Hillary Burgess, Science Coordinator began the presentation with an overview of this University of Washington's long-term, rigorous citizen engagement science project designed to monitor coastal ecosystem health through monthly surveys of marine debris and dead seabirds on west coast beaches. Annually, COASST receives an average of 30 data requests. Tim Jones, post-doctoral

researcher and data analyst illustrated how these highly accurate collected data support management efforts, such as debris prevention and understanding seabird mass mortality events, cyclic and catastrophic changes in populations, as well as chronic stresses through analysis for trends and patterns when compared to baseline datasets.

### **Superintendents Report**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20200110-office-report.pdf>

Superintendent designee, Kevin Grant spoke on recent activities in OCNMS and noted more information is available in the bi-monthly office report. He related that current research vessel acquisition efforts are focused on developing affordable specifications that meet operational needs. New vessels are completed over multiple fiscal years and OCNMS continues to have priority for replacing the *RV Tatoosh*. He also highlighted OCNMS' involvement in many educational partnerships and grant opportunities such as Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-Wet).

### **Future Agenda Topics**

Members are encouraged to contact AC Chair and/or Coordinator with suggestions for topics of interest to the council

- Salmon Ocean Behavior and Distribution (SOBaD) project
- Condition Report progress
- Acoustic monitoring in OCNMS

### **Location of Next Meetings**

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/meetings.html>

Friday, March 13, 2020

Elwha Heritage Center - Eagle's Nest  
401 E First St Port Angeles, WA 98362

### **Member Reports**

LCDR Velasco shared that the USCG is working with the Dept. of Ecology on determining whether a cement dock purchased in Bellingham can be safely transported to Hawaii as a floating dock.

Katie Wrubel spoke of the annual meeting of the West Coast Ocean Alliance in Tacoma in December where she provided a presentation on Tribal Caucus. She also described "Ocean Health Scorecard," a new project to create framework and common metric for measuring ocean health.

Dan Ayres announced that Dungeness crab season opened on the last day of 2019 south of Klipsan Beach on the Long Beach Peninsula in Washington in conjunction with Oregon and California. Vessels are going through hold inspections today to insure compliance with opening date criteria. Crabbing will open north of Klipsan on Jan 25, 2020. He also relayed that razor clamming will be opening tonight and tomorrow with some of the largest populations in 25 years which should allow many dig days this year.

Dan also shared that at the annual Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) meeting reinforced the need to share that beaches are closed to shellfish harvest between April 1 and November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to prevent human sickness from toxins that frequently occur in shellfish during warmer weather.

Joel Kawahara described that early Columbia River Chinook salmon fishing forecast quotas are low in light of poor ocean conditions which will likely impact 2020 returns. Coho follow a similar trend. Recreational fishing will likely be effected.

Joel shared that he had participated in several stakeholder interviews as a panel member at public meetings related to Snake River dam removal discussions as well as other factors that will influence Orca recovery efforts. He has also been participating with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council has been working with National Marine Fisheries Service to finalize the risk assessment for the biological opinion relative to orca forage. It's expected to be available for public comment in February.

Rich Osborne discussed the annual meeting for ORHAB program participants held on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>. New weekly phytoplankton sampling efforts will allow documentation of shifts in species diversity. The group is also working to ensure they are able to garner funding that will support maintenance of the associated database.

Steve Shively summarized last year's tourism trends for the Olympic Peninsula, which reflect the partial governmental shutdown and impacts from the "Snowmagedon" extended snow storm of early 2019. Trends are level after four years of record growth, while lodging taxes income increased without an increase in rate or inventory. He shared that the Olympic Culinary Loop (OCL) calculates that 46¢ per \$1 of tourism spending is on food. This is 10¢ higher than other Washington locations. OCL is also working collaboratively with hospitality professionals to develop a framework for sustainable, reduced waste stream practices on the Olympic Peninsula.

Steve also shared that local photographer and videographer, John Gussman was the 2019 Grand Prize winner of the Boston Drone Film Festival for his documentary *Semper Paratus* about US Coast Guard surf training at La Push, WA. The short film can be viewed at <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=semper+paratus&view=detail&mid=F8219922EF80103D4895F8219922EF80103D4895&FORM=VIRE>.

John Veentjer recapped the newly adopted and posted standard of care by the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force encouraging oil barges and tankers to use offshore lanes vessel travel further off shore as a proactive vessel management measure. Transport Canada has other proactive vessel management projects that John is participating in including one related to articulated barges and another suggesting vessel traffic voluntarily remain 50 miles offshore (similar to the 25 mile offshore Area To Be Avoided). Vessel traffic has decreased and also changed in its composition, for example there are more cruise ships, but also larger vessels or alternate modes of transporting goods. He also shared that an RFP for a new Emergency Response Towing Vessel service provider in Neah Bay has been announced and submissions will be due in mid-February.

Dann May announced/reminded members that there is a four year degree in Environmental Science through Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment with classes held on the Peninsula College campus. He mentioned that students look for internship opportunities related to their areas of study and so might serve as an intern resource pool. Feel free to contact him if you are interested.

Micah Horwith introduced himself as a six-week veteran of the Dept. of Ecology (DOE) as the newly created Ocean Acidification (OA) Senior Scientist. DOE has secured permanent funding for monitoring ocean acidification conditions at 20 stations, a program he is managing. He's particularly interested in understanding when and where OA sensitive animals are in the water. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to join the council as the alternate seat for DOE, in supporting OASes efforts, and working towards balancing the current Salish Sea OA focus of DOE with that of increased coastal research.

Joe Schumacker announced that Ocean Observatories Initiative's will hold a NE Pacific OOI group community workshop meeting in Portland, OR during June 23-25 to address current and future ocean science needs of resource managers, researcher, and educators that are supportable through OOI infrastructure. He invited attendees to contact him if they are interested or have recommendations for participants from OCNMS staff or SAC members.