

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 20, 2018

Navy Getaways Pacific Beach Resort & Conference Center
Pacific Beach, WA

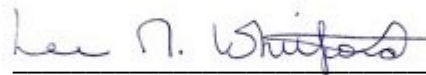
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

OLYMPIC COAST

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Steve Joner (Makah), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Casey Dennehy (Marine Resource Committee, Vice-Chair), Jan Newton (Research), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe alternate), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development), Joe Schumacker (Quinault Indian Nation), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Carolyn Winters (US Navy), John Veentjer (Marine Industry, Secretary), CDR John Fu (US Coast Guard), and Carol Maloy (Washington Department of Ecology [WDOE])

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Julie Ann Koehlinger (Marine and Environmental Affairs at University of Washington), Susan Hughes, PhD (Navy Archaeologist)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Lynne Barre and Nancy Young (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]), Andrea Fisher (Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) / National Ocean Service [NOS]), Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, and Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS).

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Council Chair and Carolyn Winters, Navy Seat and site host. Joe Schumacker extended a welcome to the traditional Quinault lands on behalf of Ed Johnstone, Quinault Tribe.

Internal Affairs

The meeting agenda was adopted via a motion by Jan Newton and a second from Steve Shively [https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180720-sac_agenda.pdf]. May meeting notes were adopted as presented. The motion was made by Jodie Toft and seconded by CDR John Fu. Lee Whitford reminded council members that they are encouraged to contact the Executive Committee with meeting topics.

Jennifer Hagen spoke briefly on some components of the un-numbered Ocean Policy Executive Order issued on June 19, 2018. Examples given include substitution of prior stewardship goals in favor of national security and replacement of diversely composed regional planning bodies with Regional Ocean Partnerships consisting only of federal agencies. Lee Whitford suggested a future presentation to the council on the scope of changes.

Recruitment for Marine/Industry, Tourism and Economic Development, and Marine Resource Committee alternate seats continues. There has been some interest expressed by prospective applicants, who have until July 23rd to apply for the open positions.

Chris Butler-Minor described the upcoming national photo contest and local veteran focused activities for “Get Into Your Sanctuary” day on Saturday August 4th. The *Wind Song*, a charter boat out of Neah Bay and the R/V Tatoosh will take up to 40 Washington area veterans and

their families out onto OCNMS waters for a morning recreational fishing tour and/or wildlife viewing opportunity. Two guided hiking tours to the Ozette archeological site will also be offered to the public. SAC members were encouraged to be involved and help promote public awareness and participation in these events.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Marine Traffic Issues: [2017 Area To Be Avoided ATBA Compliance Report](https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-ocnms_atba-2017.pdf) and Harbor Safety Plan [https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-ocnms_atba-2017.pdf] was presented by George Galasso and John Veentjer. OCNMS designation regulation mandates oil spill prevention efforts. The voluntary observance of the Area to be Avoided (ATBA) off the coast of Washington by large vessel traffic (400+ gross tons) transiting or carrying hazardous materials in the sanctuary aids in reducing damage to Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Automatic Identification System (AIS) software, which is designed primarily to aid in preventing collisions is used in tracking vessel compliance. George discussed estimated 2017 ATBA compliance, which although slight lower than prior years, remains high at 95.9%. Variance in the data for 2016 & 2017 is possibly related to an increase in legal fishing in 2017 and / or changes in the report data sources, data processing methodology, and monitoring period. John shared that the review of the 2017 Puget Sound Harbor Safety Plan has not resulted in updates in 2018, however new or revised Standards of Care can be implemented to address concerns as warranted.

Large Cetaceans: Whale Stressors & Management Update.

[<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-whale-stressor-and-management-update.pdf>] Lynne Barre and Nancy Young of National Marine Fisheries Services provided a view into current stressors and management actions related to large whales and dolphins in OCNMS. Nancy discussed large whale entanglements and strandings are higher in 2018 than prior years although ship strikes remain negligible, possibly due to low detection rates. Of strandings, which includes all causes of death, over a third are due to unknown causes. Only nine percent are directly attributable to human fishery interactions. Seasonal patterns, timing of fisheries seasons, and increased reporting are all being investigated as possible factors in the higher number of strandings. In 2018, there have been eight confirmed strandings compared to the usual three to four per year. Nancy has also been involved in drafting the new blue whale recovery plan. Blue whales are global listed as an endangered species. The new plan evaluates new information and actions as well as sets the course for upcoming research. Lynne provided a status update on Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) or Orcas, which have been listed under the Endangered Species Act since 2005 and they are a NOAA "[Species in the Spotlight](#)." Their number is 75 members, which is the lowest count in three decades. A [SRKW Recovery and Task Force](#), comprised of various governments and agencies has been established by the state Governors office to investigate, report, and recommend actions for recovery and sustainability of SRKW by November of this year. Areas addressed will include critical habitat and prey, toxins, and acoustic disturbances. Efforts by others include using whale watching safety flags, voluntary no-go zone expansion in

San Juan County, and vessel slow down trials in Harro Strait. Prey recovery plans will consider increased hatchery production and timing of release of hatchery salmon and how they benefit whales, especially orca.

Using Art to Highlight Value of National Marine Sanctuaries - How a painting can summarize ways various individuals and groups connect to a National Marine Sanctuary

[https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-using_art_highlight_valuenms.pdf]. Andrea Fisher shared the genesis for and progress made to date in her internship project with the West Coast Sanctuaries. Her goal is to create a unique piece of art for each of the five sanctuaries thorough visiting each of them plus talking with staff and visitors to gain an understanding of their sense of place. Through her art she hopes to increase public awareness of sanctuaries and a way to enjoy them. She hopes to have a piece for OCNMS completed in the fall of 2018.

Soft Gold, The Honeymoon Hotel, and Enemy Detection: Changing Sense of place at Pacific Beach

[https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-soft_gold_susan_hughes.pdf]. Dr. Susan Hughes provided an in depth review of the Pacific Beach area including its geology, its original and later inhabitants, and how utilization have modified the landscape and sense of place over time. This resource rich area supported Copalis and Quinault tribal groups for millennia. Europeans came for “soft gold” or sea otter pelts initially, then later to take advantage of the recreational opportunities and natural beauty of the area. In the twentieth century Pacific Beach again morphed, this time for military strategic purposes. The small town of Pacific Beach now hosts a Department of Defense recreational facility and a state park.

Positive Temperature Anomalies in the OCNMS during Blob and El Nino Years - an examination

of water temperature anomalies and their relationship to winds and currents using data from OCNMS seasonal moorings [<https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-koehlinger-ocnms.pdf>]. Julie Ann Koehlinger described her climate research into OCNMS deeper water column trends with an eye to effects on productivity in the sanctuary. The historical data provided by the OCNMS mooring program was invaluable to her assessment of changing climate conditions effects compared to upwelling. Her findings suggest that anomalous water temperatures related to the 2011 marine heat wave aka “Blob” increased average temperatures at 40 meters deep to 4.5°C from the normal 2-3°C. Such thermal stress can reduce the range of biological tolerance in species already existing at their upper limit by reducing oxygen levels at critical times such as during upwelling transitions. There are resulting social and economic impacts.

Second Annual Olympic Coast Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Challenge – education, evolution, and community involvement

[\[https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-second annual olympic coast mate rov challenge.pdf\]](https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/20180720-second%20annual%20olympic%20coast%20mate%20rov%20challenge.pdf). Katie Krueger provided background on the ROV program design and shared her experience as a volunteer judge for the final competition. The program is a great way to engage middle school and older students in communicating and developing practical devices in support of science and technology initiatives. She encouraged other SAC members to sign up as judges for the 2019 competition.

Superintendent's Report Carol Bernthal highlighted recent news articles found in the Office Report. <https://nmsolympiccoast.blob.core.windows.net/olympiccoast-prod/media/docs/201805-office-report.pdf>

SAC Member Updates

Joe Schumacker submitted his updates via email in the interest of saving time. He reported early and reoccurring hypoxia events and the resulting need to close the Quinault Dungeness crab fishery two months early. Crab populations appear to be suffering from last year's hypoxia events and probable predation by sea otter. They have not had to enact fisheries closures due to harmful algal blooms. The Quinault Tribe is concerned with the effects to their treaty rights due to the recent revocation of the National Ocean Policy. They are contemplating next steps to ensure their treaty rights remain intact.

Jodie Toft spoke of Washington Coastal and Resiliency has received its third set of packages for projects for review. They continue to seek projects for funding and will be releasing spatial explicit updates related to sea level rise estimates in the next couple of weeks while working to get this new information into the hands of planners and others who need this information. Also new international initiative called Community, Economy, and Place is kicking off.

John Veentjer – The Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee will be held on August 1st at the Foss Building from 10 am to noon. On August 15th, at the same location, they will meet to discuss the State of Washington Vessel Traffic Report draft. Sign up at PSHSC.org to receive notices.

CDR John Fu shared that discussions on the junk car barges issue are moving forward along with a look at a similar operation on the Duwamish.

Steve Joner mentioned the beneficial use of AIS tracking in the whiting fishery. It has been a good fishing year – particularly for Petrale sole.

Katie Krueger spoke of the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee and NPC Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery's joint publication of a quarterly national resource magazine "West End Natural Resources News" which has received acclaim from American Fisheries. Katie also announced she will be writing an article on marine mixotrophs for future inclusion. Copies of the magazine will be available at the next SAC meeting.

Casey Dennehy announced that the Surfrider Leadership Academy will not be officered this year. Instead they will focus on developing the alumni network. They may reinstate the

academy next year. "[My Coast, My Community](#)" is hosting a Surfrider hosted video competition for high school students to thank their local heroes involved in marine issues. The annual MRC summit will be held October 25-27th in Ocean Shores.

Jan Newton shared that NANOOS has been awarded \$10,000 to incorporate biological data into the portal and are interested in learning what type of data people are seeking/ want to see. The organization's next council meeting will be held 8/16/2018. She encouraged attendees to participate in the 5 minute NANOOS Data Portal survey available on the website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6FNY2T2>. A request is being submitted to the governor's office for biennium funds to support ocean acidification biological responses research focusing on salmon, forage fish, and harmful algal blooms. If there are other areas of interest, requests are encouraged.

Jennifer Hagen spoke of this year's Canoe Journey. Paddlers from La Push are expected to reach Hollywood Beach in Port Angeles during the SAC meeting where they will be joined by Canadian paddlers before the continuation onto Puyallup in South Puget Sound.

Steve Shively stated that it's been a busy tourism season with most counties are reporting a 15-20% increase in business, thanks at least partially to Olympic Peninsula places and events being featured in culinary and travel magazines. Of note are three Neah Bay restaurants in 1890 magazine. The Sequim Lavender Festival is in full swing this weekend. He announced the Olympic Peninsula's Annual Tourism Summit in Port Angeles on October 31st through November 2nd will explore "Sustainable Tourism" in efforts to avoid the global phenomenon of "over tourism."