

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Meeting Notes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
September 21, 2018

Makah Marina Conference Center
1321 Bay View Avenue
Neah Bay, WA

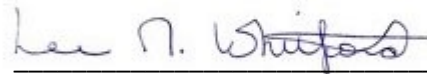
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301 Port
Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Katie Wrubel (Makah), Katie Krueger (Citizen at Large), Mike Barton (Education, alternate), Tom Burlingame (Fishing alternate), Casey Dennehy (Marine Resource Committee, Vice-Chair), Jennifer Brown-Scott (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Dan Ayres (WA Fish and Wildlife), Tom Mumford (Research alternate), John Stadler (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]), Josh Peters (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), Mark Ozias (Local Government - Clallam County Commissioner), and CDR John Fu (US Coast Guard).

Presenters and Others in Attendance: Adrienne Akmajian (Makah), Dan Nutt (Kirby Offshore Marine), Sarah Brown (Cradle to Wave [C2W]), Chad Bowechop (Makah), Tami Pokorny (Jefferson Co / North Pacific Marine Resource Committee [NPC MRC]), Rich Osborne (University of Washington Olympic Natural Resources Center), Shirley and Rose Perete (Perete Catering), Lora Halttunen (Makah), Mike Doherty (Citizen), and Joe McKenzie (Makah).

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Nir Barnea (NOAA Marine Debris), Leslie Waylan-Clift (Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary [FGBNMS]), Carol Bernthal, Kevin Grant, Jacqueline Laverdure, Nicole Harris, Chris Butler-Minor (OCNMS), Julie Ann Koehlinger (WA SeaGrant), James Roubal (CoastSavers/Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation), Christine VanDeen and Gabrielle Genhart-Stiehler (AmeriCorps).

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcome by Lee Whitford, Advisory Council Chair and Katie Wrubel, Makah representative and site host.

Internal Affairs

The meeting agenda was adopted via a motion by Katie Krueger and a second from John Stadler [https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-sac_agenda.pdf]. July meeting notes were adopted as presented. The motion was made by Dan Ayres and seconded by Katie Krueger.

Chris Butler-Minor shared that candidates for Marine/Industry and Marine Resource Committee alternate seats had been selected by the Advisory Council Executive Committee and forwarded to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for final background checks and approval. Tourism and Economic Development will be re-advertised in October, after the busiest of the tourism season has passed. Lee Whitford encouraged members to provide any recommendations for this seat that they might have to the Advisory Council Coordinator.

Lee Whitford reviewed highlights of the Advisory Council Work plan: the joint Intergovernmental Policy Council and Sanctuary Advisory Council (AC) meeting is currently slated for January 2019; there will be a national AC Chairs' webinar in November; Annual work plan development planning will begin soon; an update on the Ocean Acidification Sentinel Site (OASes) to be provided during the current meeting; a presentation on the Condition Report will be given during the November meeting; support for replacement of the *R/V Tatoosh* remains a priority for OCNMS and nationally, with strategic development related to the Small Boat Program currently taking place at the national level; the Travel and Tourism strategy will be

covered during a presentation reviewing Get Into Your Sanctuary Day; Marine Debris is a presentation topic in the current meeting; Recent cultural history was discussed in the July “Soft Gold” presentation; Vessel traffic was also discussed during the July meeting; and Coastal fisheries will be a topic for today's meeting. Members are encouraged to contact the Chair to request additional attention to topics in the work plan.

Chris Butler-Minor provided a visual description from activities for “Get Into Your Sanctuary” day on Saturday August 4th. <https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/2018-get-into-your-sanctuary-photos.pdf>. The *Wind Song*, a charter boat out of Neah Bay and the R/V Tatoosh will took 40 Washington area veterans and their families out onto OCNMS waters for a morning recreational fishing tour and/or wildlife viewing opportunity. Makah guides led 20 members of the public on hiking tours to the Ozette archeological site. Carol Bernthal added context to the events as a way to garner support for sanctuaries through engaging the public to use and connect with these national treasures via local tourism businesses in quality experiences. Social media tracking indicates sanctuary audiences grow as a result of promoting these events.

Kevin Grant announced the release of the OASeS detailed Proceedings document and Final Report summary from the September 2016 workshop. These documents have been published on the Ocean Acidification Information Exchange (<https://www.oainfoexchange.org/index.html>) and WA SeaGrant page (<https://wsg.washington.edu/our-northwest/ocean-acidification/>). He acknowledge the tremendous contributions of the AC working group. The next steps are to define specific geographic areas for research and monitoring to tell story though education and outreach to contribute to management of resources. Kevin reintroduced Julie Ann Koehlinger, the WA SeaGrant Fellow assigned to OCNMS as a new member of the OASeS team. As members may recall from her July 2018 presentation, she is familiar with prior mooring and other data collection work in OCNMS. In this role, Julie Ann will work on establishing the OASeS Steering Committee and assist in determining priorities, particularly in formulating the joint research plan.

Information, Discussion, and Action Items

Marine Debris: Overview of the Washington Marine Debris Action Plan and current status
<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-wa-marine-debris-action-plan-ocnms8.pdf>. Nir Barnea, Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator for NOAA Marine Debris spoke to the Council about recent efforts to address marine debris in Washington. Successful beach cleanups and crab pots removal programs have existed for several years, however in December 2017, it became a priority for state, federal, and local agencies and citizen groups to develop a strategy for cooperatively conducting research, preventing and removing marine debris from the coast of Washington state to increase the efficacy of efforts. An initial two-day workshop was held in Ocean Shores to establish goals, strategies, and actions that incorporated current and envisioned ideas in a draft document based off of similar plans undertaken previously in Hawaii and Oregon. Terms were defined and actions established for a six year period. In the second workshop, held at the end of May 2018, a review of the foci was conducted along with providing an opportunity for organizations to sign on to complete specific actions with the plan. A particular focus was addressing derelict fishing gear, which commonly contributes 10,000 pounds of debris each year. Another is reducing single use packaging. Next steps include partners to the plan taking action and submitting semi-annual updates with photos. In response to guest queries, Nir

reminded participants that NOAA Marine Debris is offering grant opportunities for research and removal efforts [<https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/funding/funding-opportunities>]. Innovative ideas and partnerships are critical to adding weight to proposals.

Tatoosh Island Lighthouse: Restoration opportunities

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-cape-flattery-lighthouse-treasure-nathpo-draft.pdf>. Rebekah Monette of the Makah Cultural and Resource Center provided background and future goals related to the lighthouse on Tatoosh Island. The lighthouse was built within the usual and accustomed territory (U&A) of the Makah by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in 1857. In 1978, USCG began transitioning manned lighthouses to automated systems, thus the lighthouse has been decommissioned. The island was returned to Makah in 1984, however discussions regarding the ultimate fate of the lighthouse continue. Placement of the whole island on the National Register of Historic Places Washington State was completed in 1972, however the current listing for the lighthouse is weakly supported. Over the past century and half the building has significantly deteriorated. The Tribe is seeking partnerships in funding for restoration and documentation of artifacts which can raise awareness of the Makah cultural and maritime ties to Tatoosh Island. Council members and attendees offered some suggestions for organizations and plans that could aid the Makah in accomplishing their goals related to the lighthouse and island.

Makah Research: Climate Adaptations

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-makah-climate-adaptation-and-outreach-ocnms-sac.pdf>. Katie Wrubel, Ocean Policy Analyst for the Makah Tribe showcased results of climate adaption planning completed through Department of Ecology and Bureau of Indian Affairs grants. A pre-assessment review found that existing information did not provide digestible information for Tribal resource managers or include traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) components, thus lacked appropriately scaled and relevant content. The new approach, finalized in June 2018, used a logic model to incorporate parts that were relevant to Makah into their planning such as integration of TEK; identification of specific species of importance; physical indicators; and identification of gaps in current research and understanding. The community was engaged to identify concerns and baseline knowledge so that education efforts could be tailored to them. Resulting strategies for climate change adaption included replacement of diesel engines in 13 fishing vessels and updated woodstoves for tribal elders. Other energy audits indicate concerns with electricity and water shortages as well as a future need to address carbon storage and identification of species likely to be impacted. Audience members congratulated Katie on creating a well-developed approach and encouraged her to share this replicable approach with others.

Makah Research: European Green Crab Trapping & Intertidal Surveys

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-makah-intertidal-and-european-grn-crab-presentation-for-sac-adrienne.pdf>. Adrienne Akmajian, Marine Biologist for the Makah Tribe described current monitoring projects which include continued comprehensive monthly intertidal surveys of rocky and sandy substrates so that the Tribe can track changes in

community composition and abundance related to human use and climate as well as facilitate oil spill planning and marine spatial planning. Species of particular interest include shore birds, forage fish, beetles, the culturally important olive snails, and sea stars. A separate program for trapping the newly discovered invasive European green crab is also in full swing. Trapping with volunteers began in 2017 at three locations: Tso-Yess estuary; Wa'atch estuary; and Neah Bay. To date over 2,000 traps have captured 968 invasive crabs, mostly younger males with no capture of egg bearing females. It's believed the species arrived in Grays Harbor in 1998 from California via El Nino transport. This species is highly successful as an invader due to its adaptability to various habitats as well as changes in temperature and salinity levels. The Tribe is interested in developing long-term strategies with partners such as state and federal wildlife agencies, SeaGrant, and others as the spread of European green crab is a coast wide issue, particularly as this new predator is able to out compete valuable fisheries species, such as Dungeness crab. She is considering instituting a citizen science program to help quantify molts.

Amendment 28 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Plan: Updating Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-amendment-28-efhca-changes-ocnms-ac.pdf>. John Stadler explained that EFH is designated to protect areas used by 82 species for spawning, feeding, and growth stages and thereby minimize fishing impacts, particularly bottom trawling and overfishing. Much of the designated area is deeper than such gear would be used. Amendment 28 is the result of a mandatory periodic review of EFH. In April 2018 the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) selected an area alternative based upon the preliminary draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), wherein there are no recommended changes within Washington State Coastal Treaty Tribes U&A's, and off the coasts of Oregon and California there is a net increase of 10,000 square miles. Some research questions related to the implementation: Are the effects of rules on habitat and levels of fishing beneficial? Are protections for deep sea corals validated via increases in fish populations? To what areas does fishing effort shift? Next steps include sending the DEIS to the Environmental Protection Agency, publication of the PFMC recommendation in the Federal Register to allow for a public comment period, with implementation anticipated in mid to late 2019.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Boundary Expansion Relationships

<https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/20180921-fgbnms-for-ocnms-advisory-council.pdf>. Leslie Waylan-Clift, Advisory Council Coordinator for the Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) introduced council members to features of the 50 mile offshore FGBNMS, such as salt domes, healthy coral populations, and unique species such as Manta rays and whale sharks. The FGBNMS AC also has 22 members, however there are two seats for each position rather than a primary and alternate member and meets four times each year. One of the items this SAC is currently addressing is which of the five alternatives related to the proposed FGBNMS Boundary Expansion to recommend for selection. The current process began in June 2016 with an active working group co-chaired by representatives of Oil & Gas and Commercial Fishing. Although previously areas of expansion recommendations extended as far east as Mississippi and included squared polygons around included salt domes to facilitate regulatory

enforcement, the current boundary selections tend to hug the domes closely in favor of resource extraction. There continues to be lots of discussion. Leslie also described recent restoration efforts in FGBNMS via partial removal of oil platform upper layers to encourage coral species to populate these artificial reefs.

Superintendent's Report Carol Bernthal welcomed new OCNMS members, James Roubal Program Coordinator for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and CoastSavers; Julie Ann Koehlinger, WA SeaGrant Fellow; and Gabrielle Genhart-Stiehler, new AmeriCorps Service member. She also highlighted three recent news articles found in the Office Report https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/media/docs/201809-office-report_hq.pdf. During the September 15th International Coastal Cleanup, 500 volunteers removed over five tons of debris. Thinking into the future, CoastSavers partnered with Million Waves [<https://www.millionwavesproject.com/about-us>] to sort out plastics for repurposing via 3D printing of items such as prosthetic appendages. Next year, cruises in OCNMS will review the condition of the Pacific Crossings fiber optic cable [<http://www.pc1.com/>] to inform a 2021 end of life environmental impact statement and support appropriate actions if any. Another area of increasing interest is protecting maritime heritage within OCNMS using permitting.

SAC Member Updates

Lee Whitford advised the members that she will not attend the November meeting as she will be traveling to India.

Casey Dennehy reminded members that the My Coast, My Community Video Competition has been extended to October 15th and is open to students in grades 9-12 with the winner announced at the upcoming Marine Resource Committee Summit. It will be focusing on coastal resiliency and action, will be held Oct 25-27th in Ocean Shores. He invited sanctuary research staff to attend and present on activities in OCNMS. The Cascadia Chapter Conference will be held at Lake Crescent in October.

Jennifer Brown-Scott advised that USFWS were unable to conduct their annual seabird breeding surveys this year. They are working with the Makah Tribe to engage one of their biologist in the aerial surveys and Tatoosh Island. She is also in conversation with WDFW and the University of Puget Sound to survey burrow nesting seabirds on islands which have never or not completed in quite some time. Currently acoustic devices on some island are capturing sounds of storm petrels for the first time. USFWS is assisting WDFW in monitoring tufted puffins and marble murrelets as well.

Dan Ayres observed that there will be a razor clam season open during the GH MRC Summit. Dungeness crab fishing has closed after an average harvest year of 12 million pounds, 15 million pounds including tribal harvest with prices at high levels. Tariffs with China may an effect on future exports. WDFW has an innovative crab gear removal program in place which allows fishers with permits to remove derelict pots and sell or retain them. The Olympic Region Harmful Algal Bloom (ORHAB) project is actively monitoring twice weekly along with three other projects. He relayed that Vera Trainer, NMFS has offered to provide a presentation on ORHAB to the SAC at a future meeting date. The group produces a quarterly bulletin: the most recent is available at

https://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/efs/microbes/hab/outreach/pdf_files/ORHABNEWSletter4.pdf. Along with Makah researchers the group samples the Juan de Fuca eddy as a reliable initiation site of HAB events. NOAA will soon place a surface water HAB sampling lab device on the *Chá bã* buoy which will directly feed data to NANOOS. Next week a new pilot “SubMaran” vehicle [<http://www.nanoos.org/news/index.php?item=Submaran180924>] will be deployed to collect seawater samples for HAB detection.

Tom M: NPC MRC will be held November 16-17 in Port Townsend. They will be reviewing the effectiveness of funded projects. For example Kelp counts and the difference it has made. He and Jan have talked with Seattle Aquarium regarding the three year monitoring in the Makah area patterns that are emerging.

Josh Peters shared that the Washington Department of Natural Resources, through the Rural Communities Partnership Initiative (RCPI), selected two projects this year associated with the coastal region:

- 1) “[Recycling Derelict Vessels](#)” – partner with the Port of Ilwaco to build a derelict vessel deconstruction and recycling facility; nearly \$1 million investment

2) [“Helping Oyster Growers Control Burrowing Shrimp”](#) – Willipa Bay-Grays Harbor focus; collaborative research with investment exceeding \$1 million

John Stadler described that the Amendment 28 discussion by Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting included consideration of the benefits of deep sea coral research. Three years of funding is earmarked to cover the development of a research plan and fieldwork. The April draft report from that workshop is in process and is nearly ready for tribal review. On a separate note Dana Matthews is retiring at the end of September.

CDR John Fu confirmed that shipment of scrap via barges to Oregon is under scrutiny by the US Coast Guard. They have issued letters of concern to Surrey Transport of Canada and will be observing future transports and for change behavior. In addition, outbound transiting vessels through the Strait of Juan de Fuca will on a voluntary basis be laterally displaced ½ mile towards the southern edge of the traffic lane in a trial testing noise reduction relative to the noise impacts on feeding whales. This action will last through October.

Katie Krueger let members know that the quarterly publication of the North Pacific Coast MRC and the NPC Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery was on the back table. She has an article published in it on marine mixotrophs. She pointed out that she was wearing a Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary T-shirt from when she had scuba dove in the 1990s, near two salt domes situated approximately 70 to 100 miles offshore. The site has unique fauna including manta rays. Some divers chose to interact and took turns riding the manta rays. She did not as there are very strong surface currents she didn't want to get caught in. She also helped to with placing anchor locations.

Mark Ozias announced that Clallam County's new shoreline master plan final draft is expected to be adopted within the next month and will soon be on the county web page. Interested parties are encouraged to comment. In addition, this season's budget is expected to be more stable in terms of water quality testing funding throughout the County. The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Chapter board meetings have been focused on building membership and developing strategic plans for the shorter and long-term. They want to raise money and awareness regarding the new Marine Discovery Center and determine what support it will be able to provide to the sanctuary in addition to becoming the fiscal agent for CoastSavers.

Tom Burlingame announced that Canary rockfish numbers have increased greatly, allowing for harvest after many years without. Recent surveys show yellow-eyed rockfish are on the same track and recovery happening. The original pacific salmon treaty between the U.S. and Canada expires at the end of this year, so its good news that a new pacific salmon treaty has been negotiated with Canada. The new treaty is expected to be publically available soon. An outcome is that Chinook salmon harvest has been reduced in an effort to support southern resident killer whales.

Katie Wrubel shared that derelict crab gear removal is being facilitated by aerial surveys, which have identified approximately hundred in the Makah U&A. October 2018 and potential May 2019, and June 2019 target dates have been set for removals. Natural resource enforcement are out on the water and vessels are set up for opportunistic removals. Fifteen community interviews related to OA vulnerability have been completed and are being transcribed. On October 1 and 2, the Makah are hosting a First Nations and Tribes along the Strait of Juan de Fuca caucus to initiate the development of a Straits integrated oil spill response plan and are looking to determine where gaps in response capacity exist. On October 3, they will hold a second climate change dinner and adaptation survey.

Public Comment

Sarah Brown, an environmental communication visitor from Cradle to Wave and Winston Churchill Fellow has noted great cultural differences in meeting interactions between her native United Kingdom and the United States. She appreciated the invitation to observe this meeting and see the respect, collaboration, and cooperation between participants. Much of her interest in attending meeting is to compare approaches used by various organization in marine planning efforts. A new area of contention in the marine environment of Scotland is between aquaculture and alternative energy offshore. Previously, due to the smaller scale of both, there was little conflict, but now that's changing. She wonders, can 40 years of successful management in the US transfer to the new regime in UK?

Dan Nutt with Kirby Offshore Marine shared that as of July 20th new regulations, collectively known as Subchapter M (of title 46 CFR), require US flagged towing ships of 26 feet or more in length to have vessel materiel and safety inspections by the Coast Guard or have a classification society complete the inspection. This is intended to address problems related to tug and barge repairs and institute higher standards of safety.

Joe Mackenzie from Neah Bay addressed the council to offer his thanks for their work and strength of following through with resource protections. He caution the SAC to remember the purpose of the SAC in all their deliberations because policy and procedure has a direct effect on natural resources. He also encouraged that the council members must put aside their ego, remain professional, and shake hands with those they work with and in support of other agencies like the US Coast Guard, fisheries management, and other managers.