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NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meets on the 29th and 30th of January, 2009 at the Olympic Natural Resources Center, 1455 S. Forks Avenue (Highway 101), Forks, Washington.

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council will hold a two-day workshop session on the 29th and 30th of January, 2009 meeting at the Olympic Natural Resources Center, 1455 S. Forks Avenue (Highway 101), Forks, Washington. The goal of the workshop is for the Advisory Council to make recommendations about the priority issues it believes should be addressed in a revised sanctuary management plan. The meeting on January 29th will convene at 10:00 AM and is open to the public. Two public comment periods are scheduled for 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm. The meeting on January 30th will convene at 8:30 am and will adjourn at 4:30 PM, with two public comment periods at 9:15 am and 12:45 pm. Members of the public are invited to comment on items pertaining to the agenda during this time. To obtain a copy of the agenda, please contact Andrew Palmer as noted above or visit the website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/Issue_Wkshp_Agenda.pdf.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council is comprised of twenty-one representatives of various local and regional organizations and agencies whose role is to advise the Sanctuary Manager on matters of policy and in reviewing strategic plans.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and was designated in 1994 as the first National Marine Sanctuary in the Pacific Northwest. It encompasses about 3,300 square miles off the Washington Coast, extending from Cape Flattery to the mouth of the Copalis River. Significant natural and cultural resources include 29 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, large populations of nesting seabirds, Native American communities and archaeological sites and some of the last remaining wilderness coastline in the lower 48 states.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's National Ocean Service: <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov>

National Marine Sanctuary Program: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary: <http://olympiccoast@noaa.gov>

Sanctuary Advisory Council: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/welcome.html>