

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL



January 23, 2013

Dear Superintendent Bernthal:

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council endorses the reactivation of the sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL), which is a vital part of the process leading to the creation of national marine sanctuaries.

By current law, a site must first be included on the SEL for the Secretary of Commerce to consider establishing that place as a national marine sanctuary. Therefore, the SEL is an important first step in a proven process by which a local community can start a public conversation about options for creating a national marine sanctuary off their coast. Reactivating the SEL will afford communities across the country an opportunity to engage in the process of nominating and lending their voices to supporting additional special marine places for potential consideration as national marine sanctuaries.

We ask you to please forward our recommendation to the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to re-open the SEL as soon as feasible.

As the OCNMS AC, we represent a diverse group of constituencies that have a strong interest in sanctuary and marine resource management in the Olympic Coast region. Our role is to advise the OCNMS Superintendent on sanctuary management topics and concerns. We volunteer our time to assist OCNMS in maintaining a transparent, interdisciplinary, and comprehensive management structure for the sanctuary.

Chip Boothe, Chair
Brady Scott, Vice-Chair
Ellen Matheny, Secretary

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Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
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NOAA Fisheries
Olympic National Park
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Navy

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The council is an advisory board to the Sanctuary Superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,



Myles (Chip) Boothe
Chair, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council