

Allied for Ocean Stewardship

continued  from front

but weary of its implementation on a national scale.

One year ago in July, President Obama addressed the pressing challenges faced by our salt waters by establishing the nation's first ever National Ocean Policy on the stewardship of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

Created to implement the policy was the National Ocean Council, made up of experts from 27 federal agencies, who devised a draft of "strategic action plans" to achieve "nine national priority objectives," outlined in the new policy.

To give ocean stakeholders and supporters a chance to discuss, question, and comment on the plans, the council has held "regional listening sessions," in cities up and down both coasts.

The group made their final stop in Portland on July 1 where hundreds of the ocean supporters included local tribes, fisherman, government officials, business owners, surfers and others convened in a crowded meeting room at Portland State University.

Council members echoed common visions for oceans; clean beaches, vibrant coastal communities and ecosystems, healthy fisheries, productive jobs, and protection and restoration movements, sided by looming threats of climate change, pollution, overfishing, acidification, and lack of financial resources.

The first strategy in the ocean council's strategic action plan and one that settled well with tribes and the local public was to adopt an ecosystem-based management of oceans in place of the current single-sector management, which fails to consider the whole ecosystem, including humans and natural elements.

"Each region has a diverse set of coastal issues," said Richard Whitman, Oregon Natural Resources Policy director. "The Na-



Kathryn "Kat" Brigham, secretary on the Board of Trustees for the Confederated Tribes of The Umatilla Indian Reservation

tional Ocean Policy is really going to take hold and succeed if it is a bottom-up effort, driven by particular issues from communities."

To effectively address regional issues on significant budget reductions, council members and experienced stakeholders recognized the need to foster and align existing local efforts, including tribal and eco-councils, with state and federal agencies.

"We need tribes represented on the planning council," said Tom H. Younker, vice chairman of Coquille Indian Tribal Council. "We have a big problem (ocean health and salmon survivability), but we are going to solve it through cooperation".

Representatives from coastal tribes, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Pierce tribe, the Intertribal Fish Commission, and others of nearby regions each voiced statements on the new policy.

Pacific Northwest tribal leaders complimented the council's intentions for regional input, but questioned how exactly local stakeholders would consider each region's diverse priorities with

national policy.

Meeting chair Dr. Jane Lubchenco said, "Federal and State agencies have authority, but are required to hear out local stakeholders."

Tribal leaders did not have to look too far back in recent history to point out huge, irreversible losses their populations have suffered because state and federal authorities neglected to gather tribal input in the past.

"We support this, but we are a little weary," said Kathryn "Kat" Brigham, secretary on the Board of Trustees for the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians. "If you don't have a regional approach, feds come down with an iron fist."

Since the 1950s, tribes whose

lifestyles depend on healthy ecosystems surrounding the Columbia-River basin and Pacific Ocean have seen their water turn undrinkable, their most vital food source, salmon, run dry, and promised res-

of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians. "Salmon are telling us the mountains, the valleys, the rivers, and the oceans are all sick."

Having long recognized the need

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ervation lands ceded in treaties by the government, resulting in one coastal tribe's termination.

"Endangered salmon are just a small symptom of our dying ecosystems," said Leo Stuart, chairman

to protect natural resources and guarantee next generations' healthy oceans and ecosystems, various tribal leaders committed their position on the future of oceans, saying "We are here to stay."

oh thank heaven. New Local 7-Eleven Store Celebrates Grand Opening

What: There is a new 7-Eleven store opening in the neighborhood. To celebrate the event the store is hosting a Grand Opening for everyone in the community. There will be plenty of food, drink, entertainment and prizes to win. And at 10 am – Ann Crowder representing the Woodstock Community Center will accept a \$500 donation from 7-Eleven for the center.

When: Friday, July 15 from 10 am to 2 pm



Where:

New 7-Eleven Store
5136 SE Woodstock
Portland OR 97206

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