

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION
2009 NEWSLETTERS

JANUARY 2009

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NEWS ITEMS

2008: Reflecting on another Successful Year for the Northwest Straits Initiative

Thanks to the hard work of each MRC member and staff, a solid budget, and our many project partners, 2008 was another successful, inspiring year for the Northwest Straits Initiative. Trying to capture a complete list of our many activities and accomplishments is a daunting task. We took a stab at one [here](#), fully recognizing we're bound to leave something off.

For a more complete "year in review," stay posted for the 2008 Northwest Straits Initiative annual report, due out in February. Feel free send [Simon](#) any of your favorite photos, MRC quotes, and flag projects and activities that you were most proud of in 2008. Thank you all for your hard work this year!

Derelict Fishing Gear Removal on Lawson Reef

The last field days of the year were some of the most grueling for our derelict fishing gear removal team as the weather was not friendly. The crew worked on Lawson Reef off Whidbey Island. Here's a summary from Jeff June, field manager:

"There is a lot of gear on Lawson Reef. It is a high current area and the nets tend to get



shredded into small clumps stuck under or around boulders with bare lead lines going everywhere. There are numerous nets through the bull kelp forest on the center of the reef as well. The divers say the entire reef is nearly devoid of fish and invertebrates. They saw some bait fish and an occasional juvenile lingcod but no adult rockfish, dogfish, red rock crab, Dungeness crab or other typical resident of this type of habitat. Kenny believes it is because nearly all the good hiding habitat under the boulders is filled with small balls of gillnet. If a fish or crab takes up

residence on the reef they eventually get caught by one of the net balls. Both divers described it as very weird because there just isn't anything alive down there. We did recover bird bones from the shallower areas, particularly around the navigation buoy that had a number of cormorants perched on it."

Outer Coast MRC Report Available Online

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has released their final report on 2008 outer coast MRC activities and it's available [here](#). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and outer coast citizens made great strides developing a framework for successful outer coast MRCs. The Northwest Straits Initiative was happy to assist in this process and is proud to see expansion of the MRC model.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jim Slocomb – San Juan MRC



As a liveaboard boater and long time resident of San Juan County, Jim Slocomb may have a greater appreciation than most for the marine waters in Puget Sound. Being on the water every day also gives him a perspective that is a valuable contribution to the MRC.

To meet him, you will likely have to head out to the San Juans to find him in his native habitat – he is known to avoid “the mainland” at all costs, preferring an intentional life exploring the archipelago by sailboat and kayak. When not exploring the islands by boat, he is often exploring them through underwater video surveys or digitally through his GIS work.

San Juan MRC was the first of the marine resources committees to form, prior to the establishment of the Northwest Straits Initiative. Though he joined the MRC in 1998 as a representative for the town of Friday Harbor, he was elected chair of the MRC the following year and became a citizen-at-large representative. Jim served as chair of the MRC for six years, ending his reign in 2005.

A dedicated advocate for the MRC model and local control, Jim imagines endless possibilities for what the MRC can accomplish with its broad community support, the consensus-based process, and its insulation from political pressures. He is most proud of the work San Juan has done on bottomfish recovery, its marine stewardship area, and integration with the salmon recovery work.

Despite his aversion to mainland life, Jim is far from reclusive: regaling island visitors from the wheelhouse of his sailboat is a favorite pastime, and one would be hard-pressed to find anyone more knowledgeable or passionate about the marine resources of the San Juans.

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Commission Bids Farewell to Kirby Johnson and Phyllis Kind

The December meeting was the last official meeting for Kirby Johnson and Phyllis Kind as Commissioners. The Commission presented Phyllis and Kirby each a Northwest Straits Commission hat and thanked them for the years of commitment and dedication.

Northwest Straits Commission's Forage Fish Project

Simon Geerlofs, staff for the Commission, presented on the Forage Fish Ecosystem project. Simon explained that Suzanne Shull, GIS Specialist for [Padilla Bay](#), created maps by combining MRC and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife data on forage fish spawning with data analysis on forage fish habitat suitability compiled by Anchor Environmental for the Northwest Straits Commission in 2002. [Read More....](#)

The Northwest Straits Commission has new representation from three MRCs beginning this January. Rex Porter, Executive Director for the Island MRC will be joining the Commission. Rex has been with the Island MRC for two years and has his own consulting business providing training on project evaluation. Tom Hoban is the new Snohomish MRC representative. Tom is retired from a varied career that included many adventures from recent work in real estate to years with the Coast Guard. Charlie O'Hara, Planning Director for the Swinomish Tribe will be the Skagit MRCs representative. Charlie has been with the MRC for many years and is a member of the Commission's tribal committee. We welcome

these new representatives and look forward to getting to know all of them a little better in the coming months.

In early January, Governor Gregoire re-appointed Joe Gaydos for a second term to the Northwest Straits Commission. We appreciate Joe's participation and continued leadership chairing the Commission's technical committee.

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

Several MRCs have new members who've joined recently:

Welcome to Lenny Corin and Leal Dickson who just joined the Island MRC in December, Britta Eschete joined the Skagit MRC in November, Andy Holman joined San Juan MRC in October, and Melissa Roberts was hired by Whatcom County to help staff the Whatcom MRC.



Goodbye to Stef Frenzl, Snohomish Marine Resources Committee

Snohomish County MRC and all of us in the Northwest Straits Initiative send a big *Thank You* to Stef Frenzl, staff to the Snohomish MRC for his three and a half years of dedicated work for the MRC. Stef is starting a new position in Snohomish County's Surface Water Management department working to develop public involvement and strategic social marketing programs. Stef always brought a lot of passion and energy to his job. We enjoyed working with Stef in his roles as staff, Commission representative and friend. Congratulations, Stef. We'll miss you and we're glad you're still

nearby.

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION NEWS

In the Year 2008

2008 was a hallmark year for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Funding expenditures topped \$600,000 and funding raised exceeded \$700,000. The Foundation is now the major source of funding for the Initiative's derelict fishing gear removal program, spending more than \$300,000 on gear removal, planning, and research in 2008.

Several important projects were completed this year, including the derelict gear prioritization project and the net mortality study. In addition, the Foundation completed

the [Port Susan Bay targeted interview project](#) and the [regional creosote beach debris removal project](#).

Projects started this year include an expanded recreational crabber escape cord outreach Project and a study to assess the economic and biological impacts of derelict crab pots.

ON THE HORIZON

Save the Date: April 24



For the past several years, the April meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission has been dedicated to presentations by each of the seven Marine Resources Committees on proposed or current projects. This year the meeting will be held on April 24 at Padilla Bay, and MRCs are invited to share information about one or two of their proposed projects for the next two-year grant period. This meeting is an opportunity for the Northwest Straits Commission to hear what the MRCs are doing and provide input before projects begin, and is a great way for MRC members to learn about work happening in other counties.

RECENT ARTICLES

[The Everett Herald – Help sought on planting projects](#)

FEBRUARY 2009

In this issue:

2009 Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference

Island County Beach Watchers Sound Waters

MRC Activities

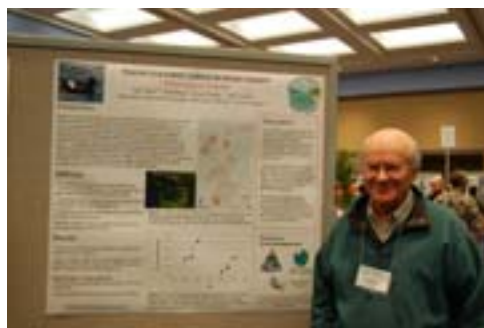
Science Team Update

Northwest Straits Foundation Crabber Outreach Evaluation

MRC Publications

News

Puget Sound Georgia Basin Conference



Many of us from the Northwest Straits attended the conference and shared our stories with conference attendees. The conference was huge – over a thousand people attended. Our table got a lot of traffic and the Northwest Straits Initiative had a significant presence throughout the conference.

Here's a summary of our oral and poster presentations:

Simon Geerlofs participated in a panel about transboundary ecosystem management. Ginny presented and chaired a session on derelict fishing gear. Rex Porter and Joe Hillers gave a tag team presentation on reclaiming surface and waste water from Penn Cove. Joe Gaydos presented a SeaDoc science prize to Ken Balcomb at the Seattle Aquarium reception on Sunday and was a witness for the closing plenary session. Kathy Fletcher participated on a panel about oil spill risk management. Charlie O'Hara chaired a session on traditional ecological knowledge. Daryl Williams presented on the state of tidal energy research. MRC poster presentations included the Skagit Pigeon Guillemot Census, Whatcom MRC's citizen

clam surveys, Snohomish MRC's Kayak Point project, WSU Beach Watcher/Island MRC's eelgrass assessment project, Island MRC's Breeding Pigeon Guillemot project and Snohomish MRC's Contaminant Trends in Puget Sound and the Georgia Basin: Mussel Watch 1986-2007.

Island County Beach Watchers pull off Another Amazing "Sound Waters University" Event



Nearly 600 people crowded Coupeville high school on February 7 to learn and spread the news about Puget Sound during the third annual [Sound Waters](#) "one day university for all". Beach Watcher volunteers planned and organized the entire event, which featured a key note by Mary Ruckelshaus as well as more than 60 classes about Puget Sound geology, history, marine life, island living, plant life, and wildlife.

Northwest Straits Commission staff member Simon Geerlofs joined DNR's Lisa Kaufman and Melissa Montgomery to teach a class about marine debris. Simon presented on the Initiative's derelict fishing gear removal program, while Lisa and Melissa shared DNR's creosote debris and derelict vessel removal programs. More than 20 people attended the class.

Congratulations to WSU Beach Watchers for demonstrating once again the power of citizen volunteers! Island MRC supports Sound Waters by budgeting some of Dan Pederson's time to generate press articles for local papers. Click on the articles below if you're interested in learning more:

[Whidbey News Times](#), 1/10/09

[Whidbey News Times](#), 2/10/09

MRC Highlights

MRC Deliverables update

All MRCs have submitted their January grant deliverables to the Northwest Straits Commission and Commission staff are busy with the review process. Invoices are also in, and once the review is complete, will be submitted for reimbursement. Once again, thank you to all MRC project leads and staff for their hard work preparing and submitting these

materials. The quality of grant deliverables reflects very well on the quality and value of your work!

Pre-proposal meetings

Simon, Sasha, and Ginny met with each of the seven MRCs to discuss their work plans for the upcoming grant. MRCs presented an impressive mix of continuing projects as well as plans for entirely new and innovative work. At the **April 24th Commission meeting**, we will dedicate the day to MRC project presentations. These presentations are to focus on a key project or projects that will be carried out in the future grant. This is an excellent chance for NWS Commission and Science Team technical review and we urge MRC members to attend and stay for the whole day if possible.

Bittersweet: goodbye and welcome to MRCs members:

Welcome and congratulations to Mike Hogan and Laurie Caskey-Schrieber who recently joined the Whatcom MRC along with Jerry Gorsline who joined the Skagit MRC.

Goodbye to Tom Campbell from Island MRC and Mike Stoner and County Commissioner Carl Weimer from Whatcom MRC. Thank you all for your contribution and dedication to the MRC.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights



Science Team Update

Last year at our annual retreat, the Northwest Straits Commission requested that we establish a Science Team to broaden and formalize our work with scientists. The Commission's Technical Committee drafted a detailed description of the role of a Science Team and proposed names of experts from various fields to be invited. The Northwest Straits Commission's Science Team is now formed and consists of: Raechel Waters,

Washington Sea Grant; Eric Beamer, Skagit River Systems Cooperative; Stuart Glasoe, Department of Health; Suzanne Shull, Padilla Bay NERR; Ron Thom, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories; and Shane Phillips, Coast Harbor Engineering. We are excited to welcome these scientists to the Northwest Straits Initiative and look forward to working together. An introductory meeting is expected to occur in March.

[Link to MRC reports and Minutes](#)



Bulletin Board

It's a girl

Congratulations! Sasha Horst who, after months of anticipation, gave birth to a healthy 8 pound 10 ounce baby girl named Fiona Grace Harris. Mom and baby are doing great.

On the Horizon

Save the date!

The 2009 MRC Conference will be on November 6-7. This year the conference will be in Whatcom County at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham.

MRC Publications -

Check out some MRC publications:

[San Juan Annual Report](#)

[Skagit MRC Report the Community in 2008](#)

MARCH 2009

News Items

Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill

What will a passed Reauthorization Bill mean? The Northwest Straits Initiative is working with Congressional staff and members of Congress to re-introduce the Reauthorization Bill that was introduced July 2008 in the 110th Congress. The Bill recognizes the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative and provides formal Congressional authorization of the program. The bill increases the number of Commissioners from 13 to 14 through the appointment of an additional tribal seat and creates a liaison position with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This liaison would allow for increased coordination and communications with NOAA. The bill does not guarantee an annual federal budget appropriation or put the Northwest Straits Initiative in an agency budget.

We expect the bill to be re-introduced in the 111th Congress within the next couple weeks. If you have questions about the bill please call Ginny Broadhurst or attend our March meeting to get an update on what's happening.

Northwest Straits Initiative 2009 Budget

The federal 2009 budget passed March 10 with \$1.6 million in funding for the Initiative. This is great news for all of us and is a testament to all the hard work and accomplishments in past years. This funding will allow Marine Resources Committees and the Commission to operate at essentially the same levels as 2008. Commissioners tentatively approved a \$1.5 million '09 budget in January and will discuss any refinements to it at the March 27 meeting. Many thanks to Senators Murray and Cantwell for championing this funding.

2008 Annual Report

Hard copies of the 2008 Annual Report will be available at our March 27 NWSC meeting. In the meantime you can download an electronic version. [Click here](#) to see the Initiative 2008 annual report.

Native Oyster Session

There will be a special session on native oyster restoration during the Pacific Estuarine Research Society meeting in Bellingham in early April (see conference details below in Calendar section). MRC members working on Olympia Oyster restoration are strongly encouraged to participate. Let us know ASAP if you need financial assistance to attend.

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

Clallam County Revisiting Marine Ecosystem Analysis Study

Click [here](#) to download the final draft of Clallam MRC's report on their update of the Marine Ecosystem Analysis Study (MESA). The MRC is working with beach watcher, MRC, and Peninsula College volunteers to sample and analyze the intertidal benthic infauna at sites originally sample during the MESA project in the late 1970's. The MRC is hoping to revisit the study to assess how the ecosystem has changed over the last 30 years and to establish a new baseline. This year's pilot project was a proof of concept that volunteers can be involved in updated MESA sampling activities.

Opportunity to provide suggestions for Ecosystem Project

The Technical Committee will be releasing a request for ecosystem project ideas for all MRC members and Commissioners to provide ideas for the Commission to consider.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

Recent Presentations to the Northwest Straits Commission:

Chemical Contaminants in the Northwest Straits and the Snohomish County MRC Mussel Watch Experience

Alan Mearns from NOAA (and a Snohomish MRC member) presented findings from Snohomish MRCs water quality sampling program, "Mussel Watch." Mussel Watch is a national NOAA program that the MRC has expanded at the local scale.

Tidal Energy Exploration in Puget Sound

Snohomish County PUD's Craig Collar updated the Commission on recent work to test and scope the feasibility of tidal power generation in Admiralty Inlet.

San Juan County's Voluntary Bottomfish Recovery Zones

Joe Gaydos presented findings from his recent work with the Sea Doc society to evaluate the effectiveness of voluntary rockfish recovery zones in San Juan County. Lessons learned from this report are providing important data to the policy discussion of rockfish protection in county waters.

Northwest Straits Foundation News

Natural Resource Damage Assessment of the Scott Paper Mill in Anacortes

The Northwest Straits Foundation is positioned to receive \$500,000 over four years from the Kimberly-Clark Company through the Department of Ecology. These funds are part of a natural resource damage assessment for impacts to the marine environment from the Scott Paper Mill site, in Anacortes. Payments are spelled out in Draft Cleanup Action Plan for the former Scott Paper mill site. If the Plan is adopted as written, the Foundation funding will be used for restoration projects in Fidalgo Bay and Padilla Bay. The Skagit Marine Resources Committee will play a key role in identifying and implementing projects with this funding. Thanks to Connie Thoman and Bob Elsner, of the Port of Anacortes, for recommending the work of the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and the Foundation during the development of the Draft Cleanup Action Plan.

Ecology is seeking public comments on proposed cleanup documents: a Draft Cleanup Action Plan, which describes recommended cleanup, restoration, and follow-up actions; and the Consent Decree, the legal agreement that guides the cleanup effort. The public comment period started Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009. On March 17th Ecology will hold two public meetings/hearings on the proposed cleanup.

For more information about the cleanup and the payments to the Foundation, visit http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites/scott_paper/scott_hp.html.

Marine Habitat Recovery of Five Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Sites

A study focusing on how marine habitats are affected by derelict fishing gear and how they recover after derelict fishing gear removal was completed in January and the final report is available [here](#).

<http://www.nwstraits.org/uploadBibliography/Marine%20Habitat%20Recovery%20Monitoring%20report.pdf>.

Results show that marine habitat service functions are negatively affected by derelict fishing gear. They show that natural ocean processes succeed in restoring these service functions within a single growing season after derelict fishing gear removal for areas dominated by kelp. Eelgrass beds take longer to recover, but can improve by 30% in less than a year.

Five derelict fishing gear removal sites were studied: four net sites and one crab pot site. The sites were monitored before and immediately after derelict fishing gear was removed, and again after approximately six months. The four net sites were monitored again about a year after removal.

Relative abundance was measured at each net removal site and each adjacent control site for four species groups: kelp/seaweed/hydroid, sessile invertebrates, mobile invertebrates, and fish. After one year, there was a 6% difference in relative abundance between the removal sites and control areas. This indicates that abundance of marine species using the habitat can be restored to 94% in about one year after derelict fishing net removal, or one growing season in the case of the kelp/seaweed/hydroid group. Four months after pot removal, divers noted a 30% recovery of eelgrass in the area affected by the pot.

Natural Resources Consultants conducted the research, which was funded by grants to the Northwest Straits Foundation from the Puget Sound Conservation Fund, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal and Recovery Programs.

More Funding for Derelict Fishing Gear Removal

The Northwest Straits Foundation was recently awarded \$100,000 for derelict fishing gear removal from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/NOAA Marine Debris Grant Program. In addition, the Foundation received \$125,000 from the Puget Sound Conservation Fund and \$25,000 from the Lucky Seven Foundation for derelict fishing gear removal work.

On the Horizon

The March Northwest Straits Commission meeting will include a comprehensive discussion of the 2009 budget. The Commission approved a 2009 budget at our January business meeting based on our best guess of 2009 budget levels. That budget will be amended as necessary on March 27. We will also hold a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting on the 27th and provide an overview of Foundation budget issues.

Bulletin Board

Farewell to Simon

We are sorry to say good bye to Simon Geerlofs, our Marine Program Coordination who joined us in August 2008. Simon accepted a position with Pacific Northwest National Laboratories in Seattle. Simon accomplished much in his short time with us (including great assistance with the strategic planning process, leadership on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area and the writing of the 2007 and 2008 Annual Reports). We'll greatly miss his tremendous abilities and positive attitude.

1,250 Shore Stewards and Counting

Over 1,250 residents around Puget Sound have enrolled as Stewards of Puget Sound. Shore Stewards is a local program for homeowners, renters, businesses, and residents who live or work along the shoreline or in communities with shared access to the beach. Participants voluntarily integrate up to ten nature-friendly guidelines in their property management decisions for beaches, bluffs, gardens, and homes. This free program, supported by the Northwest Straits Foundation and several MRCs, provides useful information and resources to shoreline residents because those actions preserve attractive, healthy, and safe shorelines for people, fish, and wildlife.

Puget Sound shorelines have long been a magnet for people who want to enjoy their natural beauty, serenity, and bounty. Unfortunately, we are on the brink of losing Puget Sound to death. Every year there are increasing indications that Puget Sound is in decline despite its surface beauty. However, there are things that each of us can do to lessen our impacts. Because it will take the concerted efforts of government, business, community groups and individuals to make sure our children and grandchildren can enjoy the same bounties that we do, more than 1,250 residents, cities, port districts, businesses and parks in eight Puget Sound counties have registered as Shore Stewards.

Shore Stewards receive a free reference book, **Guide for Shoreline Living**, which explains best care practices for our shorelines, a DVD, **Shoreline Living: Protecting Our Shorelines and Puget Sound**, plus monthly informational newsletters and invitations to a wide variety of marine and coastal-oriented workshops. To learn more about the program or how to join, visit: www.shorestewards.wsu.edu

Events Calendar

March 14, 2009 - Shoreline Landowner Workshops in Snohomish County. For more information contact Jacqui Styrna at (425) 357-6028 or sno.shorestewards@wsu.edu.

March 29, 2009 - Volunteers needed for the Whatcom MRC clam surveys from 12:00pm to 3:30pm at Bellingham's Marine Park, for more information call (360) 676-6876, or at mroberts@co.whatcom.wa.us.

April 2nd - 5th, 2009 - the Pacific Estuarine Research Society will be holding its annual meeting, at the Lakeway Inn, Bellingham, WA. Conference information, including the call for abstracts can be found at: <http://www.pers-erf.org/pers2009.html>. PERS is the regional affiliate of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, and this is always an excellent regional scientific conference.

April 2, 2009 - Whatcom MRC will be will be hosting a public speaker. Bob Mitchell, a geology professor at Western Washington University, will be speaking on the geologic hazards of Bellingham's waterfront. The presentation will start at 7. Meeting location is 322 N. Commercial St, 2nd floor conference room, Bellingham. Info: (360) 676-6876.

April 10-11, 2009 - [Exploring the Spectrum of Citizen Science](#) at the Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend. For more information susan@aquariumsociety.org.

April 17-19, 2009 - Sustainable San Juans 2009 Conservation Summit. Friday Harbor, WA. For further information and event registration, please see www.stewardshipsjc.org

April 25, 2009 – The 2009 Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebration. Snohomish Community Center in Anacortes. [Click here](#) for more information.

APRIL 2009

News Items

The Northwest Straits Initiative's Re-authorization Bill

The Northwest Straits Initiative's Re-authorization Bill was introduced in both the US House and Senate on March 23. Senator Patty Murray and Representative Rick Larsen sponsored the legislation. (Link to press release)



Winner of the Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award

The Northwest Straits Initiative received the prestigious Warren G. Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award presented by People For Puget Sound at a ceremony April 8 in Seattle. The Initiative was recognized for its continued commitment to tackling the tough issues facing Puget Sound and the Straits, with special recognition of the derelict gear removal program. In addition to recognizing the Initiative as a whole, former director Tom Cowan and project manager Jeff June received special recognition for their leadership on the derelict gear project.

Northwest Commission Highlights

Management of Dungeness Crabs in Puget Sound

Rich Childers from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife gave an interesting presentation on the management of Dungeness crabs in Puget Sound. [Click here](#) to see a copy of his presentation. Commissioners and audience members were intrigued by the information that Rich presented and discussion followed about the possible role of the Commission with regards to educating crabbers on best practices so that future crab pots losses could be minimized. Rich said that the number of recreational crabbers is on the rise and speculates that trend will continue.

A New Benchmark Account Established

The Northwest Straits Commission finalized its 2009 budget at the March meeting and established a new Benchmark Account. The Commission's goal is to make additional funds available to those MRCs that are ready to take on additional project work. Currently there

is \$161,000 in the account. Commissioners envision 2-3 MRC projects that would be awarded. The process for applying and criteria for funding is to be determined in the next couple of weeks through a Commission sub-committee. Details to come. Call Ginny with questions or to participate in the development of a review process.

MRC Membership

Farewell to Buck Meloy

Buck Meloy has served as a part-time Commissioner since the first Commission meeting in 1999, splitting his time between Puget Sound and commercial fishing in Alaska. Buck contributed greatly to the Commission's work and to the Whatcom MRC. He was instrumental in helping the Whatcom MRC develop policy recommendations on salmon farming for the county council. He always kept us honest on fishing issues as well as grammar! We will miss you, Buck.

Member Spotlight

Ed Bowlby – Clallam MRC



A person might wonder how a kid from the land-locked state of Oklahoma finds his way to a career in marine biology, but Ed Bowlby was inspired early on by the work of Jacques Cousteau. One thing led to another, and he made his way to California and then traveled further north along the Pacific to work in Seattle and Alaska. During these travels he discovered the Olympic Peninsula, so when a job opened at the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Ed found himself finally able to happily work and live in the same place.

Ed joined the Clallam County MRC wanting to put his professional skills to use in a volunteer position. He soon realized that the most essential skills for participating were interpersonal skills. One of the last of the original members still serving on the MRC, Ed enjoys the challenge of balancing the many ideas that members bring to the table. Luckily for the MRC, Ed is a dedicated scientist as well as a very personable fellow, able to exchange ideas and information in order to come to consensus around important issues. Over the years, Ed has also represented the Clallam MRC on the Northwest Straits Commission many times.

The Strait of Juan de Fuca presents a lot of shoreline in Clallam County, but one of Ed's favorite local places is Tongue Point, where the beaches start to become rockier and provide excellent places to go diving, tidepooling and just observe the natural world. These nearshore areas are the focus of many of the Clallam MRC's projects, including forage fish habitat surveys, eelgrass mapping, nearshore surveys around the Elwha River. Ed enjoys

seeing individual projects emerge and looks forward to the next step of weaving together all the pieces to get at the bigger picture.

Clallam MRC and the Northwest Straits Commission are fortunate to have Ed as a volunteer. His long-term participation has contributed much to the success of the MRC locally and the Northwest Straits Initiative regionally.

MRC Happenings

April Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission on April 24 is the annual presentations by Marine Resources Committees on their proposed projects for the next two years. All MRC members are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in the work of the MRCs. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what the MRCs will be working on this year. Lunch is provided for the Commission and MRC members who register to attend in advance. Please RSVP to Connie Price at price@nwstraits.org or 360-428-1064 by no later than Monday, April 20.

Northwest Straits Foundation Happenings

Russell Family Foundation

The Northwest Straits Foundation was awarded funding from the Russell Family Foundation to help build awareness about the problem of derelict fishing gear in Puget Sound and to build support for funding large-scale removal operations.

US Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal and Recovery Programs awarded the Northwest Straits Foundation funding to continue derelict fishing gear removal operations throughout Puget Sound.

Bulletin Board

Job Opening

The Marine Program Coordinator position is now open. [Click here](#) or go to www.careers.wa.gov using reference number NB00016966* (including asterisk) for more information.

The SeaDoc Society

[Click here](#) to check out the SeaDoc Society's website for the recently published "Top Ten Principles for Designing Healthy Coastal Ecosystems like the Salish Sea."

Reports recently added to our bibliography:

[ROV Assessment of Rockfish Abundance, Distribution, and Habitat in Whatcom County Marine Waters](#)

[Wetland Characterization: Chuckanut Village Marsh](#)

Events

April 17, 2009 - [Low Impact Development Tour](#) in Island County starting at Oak Harbor at 10:00am. [Click here](#) for more information.

April 17-19, 2009 - Sustainable San Juans 2009 Conservation Summit. Friday Harbor, WA. For further information and event registration, please see www.stewardshipsjc.org

April 25, 2009 – The 2009 Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebration. 9:00am - 4:00pm at the Snohomish Community Center in Anacortes. [Click here](#) for more information.

May 16, 2009 - Penn Cove Water Festival on Whidbey Island in Coupeville. [Click here](#) for more information.

MAY 2009

In the News

EPA Ocean Acidification

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a notice in the April 15 Federal Register to provide information on ocean acidification, solicit additional pertinent data and let the public know that it is reviewing current policies to determine if a revision to the Clean Water Act is needed to address concerns with ocean acidification. Comments are due June 15, 2009. [Click here](#) for more information. *(Can we provide a link to the federal register notice here?Yes)*

Puget Sound Partnership needs MRCs and Beach Watchers, Dicks tells crowd

By Dan Pedersen

David Dicks sees important roles for the Northwest Straits Commission, county MRCs and WSU Beach Watchers in the hard work ahead to save Puget Sound.

He outlined the Puget Sound Partnership's vision May 5 when he delivered the wrap-up speech in the six-week 2009 Whidbey Lyceum lecture series in Freeland. The event is co-sponsored by Island County MRC. All six speakers this year focused on the economic value of a sound environment.

Under the old, failed model for Puget Sound recovery, Dicks said organizations with concerns about Puget Sound carried out what Kathy Fletcher calls "random acts of kindness" unconnected to any overall strategy or priorities.

Under the new model of the PSP and its Action Agenda, Dicks said organizations will adopt pieces of the PSP strategy they are well suited to carry out. He lavished praise on the frontline volunteers in local organizations such as the MRCs and WSU Beach Watchers, pointing out that public engagement is critical to the PSP's mission. A majority of the state's citizens still do not grasp the gravity of Puget Sound's problems, he said.

Dicks said Sound Waters University, at which he spoke to a fired-up crowd of more than 500 people in Coupeville in 2008, remains the coolest experience he's had as PSP director. Sound Waters is produced by WSU Beach Watchers and co-sponsored by Island County MRC.

MRC Membership

San Juan MRC

The County Council appointed Steve Revella to serve a four year term on the San Juan Marine Resources Committee. Steve and his wife moved to San Juan Island in 2002 and have owned property in the islands for ten years. Steve has retired from a decades-long career in international management consulting where he specialized in aligning global management teams as they built and carried out strategic plans and helped people with differing perspectives achieve their goals.

Clallam MRC

The Clallam MRC will say farewell to Dave Croonquist, Roy Morris, Walt Blendermann and Ron Thom in April. They will all be greatly missed. Ron Thom will continue to be involved in the Northwest Straits Initiative through his participation on the Science Team.

New Member Orientation Online

Welcome to new MRC members out there! If you're just getting up to speed on the MRC and the Northwest Straits Initiative, take a look at the online member orientation page on our [web site](#). You'll find a lot of good background information, and useful reference material related to the work of the Commission, MRCs and the Foundation.

Member Spotlight: Erica Pickett, Skagit MRC

Skagit MRC member Erica Pickett is very good at many things, but sitting still is not one of them. When she retired from the business of running an Anacortes lumber yard specializing in boat-building supplies, she immediately joined the MRC.

Erica is a locally-born Puget Sounder. She grew up in Seattle, and moved to Anacortes in the early 1970s. Anacortes was small-town at the time, but development pressures were mounting. Erica joined the city planning commission and served on the forest land board at a time when it was critical to come up with creative solutions to ensure that forest land could be preserved while still providing revenue to the city. Erica worked with partners to establish an endowment fund for conservation easements on city forest land, which over time has grown to over \$1.5 million and provides protection of 40% of the city's land.

A dedicated volunteer, Erica completed training as a Beach Watcher and consistently contributes an impressive number of hours to this work. A highlight for her has been getting out on the beach as a beach naturalist to teach kids about nearshore areas, and developing protocols to allow for them to explore while minimizing the impact of so many visitors.

Erica is an enthusiastic learner, and finds the MRC an excellent setting to find out about marine issues in Puget Sound. She's impressed by the work that MRCs do with limited funds, particularly on projects where members contribute valuable support through data gathering and project planning, reducing the need for expensive professional assistance.

The combination of Erica's energy for on-the-beach projects, tolerance for planning activities and long-term vision makes her a vital contributor to the work of the Skagit MRC. She has also served as an alternate to the Northwest Straits Commission for the MRC, and is a member of the Anacortes city council.

MRC Happenings

2007-2009 MRC Grant Closeout

The end of next month is the closeout of the current two-year grant agreements with each MRC. All projects and reporting are due by late June and final progress reports and invoicing due by mid-July. This is the end of the biennium, so there is no possibility for time or budget extensions on this grant. Please contact Sasha Horst right away if your MRC is concerned about this deadline for any reason, or if you anticipate having unspent funds. MRC members should be sure to check with your MRC staff to find out the deadline for submitting any project or travel expenses that need to be included in the final invoice.

2009-2011 MRC Grants

As we close out the current two-year MRC grants, we are simultaneously preparing agreements for the 2009-2011 grant cycle. Proposed projects are currently out for review, and each MRC will receive feedback shortly on proposed projects. Draft agreements are expected to be sent to MRCs by late May in order to allow for a start date of July 1. Questions? Contact Sasha Horst.

Commission Highlights

April 24 Meeting

The April 24 Northwest Straits Commission meeting provided a great opportunity for each of the MRCs to highlight a few of their projects for the Commission and fellow MRCs. This year, our newly-formed Science Team was also present to hear about MRC projects for the next two-year cycle and provide expert input. Thanks to everyone who participated and congratulations to all the MRCs and presenters for making this event such a success. The collective work of this dedicated group of citizens is impressive, and we look forward to seeing the results over the next two years.

Benchmark Account

Commission staff are working with MRCs to solicit proposals for the Benchmark Account. Proposals will be accepted June 1 – June 15 and will be reviewed competitively by a committee comprised of one person from each MRC and at least two non-MRC Commissioners. If your MRC is submitting a proposal for the Benchmark Account, please limit your proposal to no more than five pages. Proposals should be sent to Connie Price price@nwstraits.org

Foundation News

Exploring the Spectrum of Citizen Science Workshop

Joan Drinkwin recently participated in the Exploring the Spectrum of Citizen Science Workshop held at Fort Worden. The workshop explored the many ways citizens can participate in the collection, analyses, and dissemination of scientific data that are so important to wise management of Puget Sound. The workshop included a full day of interactive sessions featuring marine and ocean-related citizen science panels focusing on topics such as the elements of starting a new program, training and working with volunteers, citizen science data driving action and change, funding issues, data successes and challenges, scientist and citizen partnerships, publishing and more. Posters of regional citizen science programs and current ocean science research were highlighted during the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by COSEE-Ocean Learning Communities, Washington Sea Grant, the Pt. Townsend Marine Science Center, and the Puget Sound Partnership. Joan sat on a panel exploring funding options for citizen science programs. For more information about the workshop topics, call Joan at 360-820-3323, or visit the COSEE website <http://www.coseeolc.net/event-detail.cfm?EventID=44>.

Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Habitat Conference

Joan Drinkwin recently attended the Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Habitat Conference. The conference focused on lessons learned from the past ten years of salmon habitat restoration in Washington state and was attended by more than 400 people. The conference sessions were focused on six subject tracks: Marine Habitat Restoration, Fish Passage and Screening, In-stream Habitat, Riparian and Upland Restoration, Floodplain Reconnection, and Habitat Protection. Sessions included opportunities to learn from not only the experiences of the project presenters, but from the experiences of all participants in the room. Especially valuable was the staff available during the whole conference to answer questions about permitting restoration projects. A lot of valuable information was

shared about on-the-ground implementation of nearshore restoration projects. For more information, call Joan at 360-820-3323.

Events and Workshops

Coastal Training Program of Washington Classes

The [Coastal Training Program](#) is offering classes on “Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats” (May 21) and “Puget Sound Coastal Processes and Shoreline Stabilization Measures” (two days, June 4 and 10). The Northwest Straits Commission will cover registration costs for MRC members and staff to attend these trainings. Please check space availability and contact Sasha Horst if you’d like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Upcoming ECO Net Coordination Days

The Puget Sound Partnership is holding ECO Net Coordination Days around Puget Sound to establish ongoing local education, communication and outreach networks in twelve areas around the Sound. Coordination Days in Skagit, Snohomish/Camano, Whatcom and Clallam/Jefferson are coming up in May and June. MRCs members and staff are encouraged to participate in these events to connect with other local organizations, establish ongoing partnerships and work on making our education and outreach efforts more efficient and effective. [Click here for more information.](#)

Outer Coast MRC Community Workshop and Forum

The Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee is officially started and they are holding their first community workshop June 20 in Aberdeen. Everyone is welcome to attend and members of Northwest Straits MRCs are especially invited to share this celebration. [Click here](#) for details.

SeaDoc’s 2nd Annual Underwater Photo Contest.

The SeaDoc Society is sponsoring an amateur underwater photography contest for the Salish Sea. The contest will be coupled with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation’s (REEF) Great Annual Fish Count and entry is free. [Click here](#) for more information.

Calendar

May 16, 2009 - Penn Cove Water Festival on Whidbey Island in Coupeville. [Click here](#) for more information.

May 21, 2009 - Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats. Coastal training program Washington. [Click here](#) for more information.

June 1 & 2, 2009 - A Sea Change at the Seattle International Arts Festival. [Click here](#) for more information.

June 4 & 10 - Puget Sound Coastal Processes and Shoreline Stabilization Measures. Coastal Training Program Washington. [Click here](#) for more information.

June 6, 2009 - Volunteers needed for the Whatcom MRC Clam Survey. 8:00am - 1:00pm at Point Whitehorn in Bellingham. For more information please contact [Sylvia Graham](#) at 360-676-6876.

June 20, 2009 - [Outer Coast MRC Community Forum and Workshop](#). 10:00am-2:00pm in Aberdeen. Contact Garrett Dalan at (360) 249-4413 or gdalan@co.grays-harbor.wa.us for more information.

JUNE 2009

Featured Projects

The Buoys are Back in Town



The Port Townsend waterfront boasts an eelgrass protection area that is a model for citizen-led habitat conservation. The seasonal eelgrass marker buoys were recently installed thanks to coordination by Jefferson County MRC staffer Gabrielle LaRoche, and aided by members Mike Porter and Caroline Gibson, commercial divers re-attached seven brightly-colored ‘no anchor zone’ buoys to permanent anchors in the seabed. This voluntary stewardship project is highly effective at protecting local eelgrass and preventing

vessels from drifting aground. By informing recreational boaters, many of whom are visitors to the area, that eelgrass beds teeming with marine life lie hidden below, the buoys and associated MRC outreach have resulted in close to 100% voluntary compliance for anchoring outside of the area. Eelgrass provides important shelter and food for many of the region’s iconic species, including Coho and Chinook salmon, herring, smelt, Dungeness crab and Brandt geese.

Coastal Training Program Eelgrass Class

Several MRC members recently took the Commission up on the offer to cover registration fees for trainings with the Coastal Training Program. Mary Knackstedt of the San Juan MRC attended “Planning for Protection and Restoration of Eelgrass Habitats” on May 21, and provided this review:

The eelgrass class at the Coastal Training Program provided a thorough overview of eelgrass in the Salish Sea with information ranging from ecology, distribution, protective regulations, mapping and restoration. It was interesting to learn about technologies for increasing light under docks and restoration methods such as seed buoys, which broadcast seeds and reduce the need to disturb healthy beds for shoot transplants. We lost the eelgrass beds at Westcott Bay (on San Juan island), so protecting the health of our remaining eelgrass beds is important. I plan to pass the information I received on to our county planner who’s leading the update of our Shoreline Master Program.

Marine Park, Bellingham

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association named Marine Park one of the 10 “Best Restored Beaches” at their 2009 Conference. A description of Marine Park and the

beach restoration written by Jim Johannessen, Coastal Geologic Services, is in the article attached (see page 11). It is the kind of project that could be replicated elsewhere in Puget Sound to improve habitat for people and marine life. Jim mentions the significance of the clam surveys done by the Whatcom MRC in his article. Congratulations to Coastal Geologic Services. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the report.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

Welcome Caroline Gibson, Marine Program Manager

This month we'd like to introduce you to Caroline Gibson, the Northwest Straits Commission's newest staff member in the Marine Program Manager position.

First, a practical matter: Caroline pronounces her name with a long 'i' sound, so that it rhymes with 'fishing line', not 'dorsal fin'.

Second, everything she has done to bring her to this point relates back to a serious obsession with sharks. That might seem incongruous for a person from Newfoundland, Canada (not to mention someone from the "Jaws" generation), but early on Caroline set herself on a path to meet and work with one of the world's premier shark biologists. This led her to work at Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution on Cape Cod, the Bahamas, the Middle East, and ultimately as a commercial fisheries observer based in Maine.

Over the years, Caroline has transitioned from spending much of her time on the water doing research, into communications and policy work. She spent the past nine years working for the Pacific Marine Conservation Council, a non-profit organization working with fishing communities to foster sustainable fishing practices and protect marine ecosystems on the West Coast. Caroline established the organization's Washington office in Friday Harbor, where she became involved in the work of the San Juan MRC. After moving to Port Townsend in 2003, she joined as a member of the Jefferson MRC.

Caroline will be making the rounds to attend a meeting of each of the Marine Resources Committees in the next few months. We are thrilled to have her working with us. You can reach Caroline at gibson@nwstraits.org or 360-428-1057.

Benchmark account

Proposals for the Benchmark Account must be received by 5 pm, June 15 to be eligible for consideration. No late proposals will be accepted. Any MRC that is submitting more than one proposal should rank them. Reviews and evaluations will be done by a representative from each MRC, two Commissioners and two Commission staff. Proposals will be sent to reviewers the morning of June 16 and they will have until June 24 to get their reviews completed. We are hopeful that a final decision on project(s) to be funded will be approved

at the June 26 Commission meeting. Please call Ginny or Sasha if you have questions on this process. Proposals should be sent to Connie at price@nwstraits.org.

MRC Happenings

Skagit MRC – Olympia Oyster restoration

Skagit Marine Resources Committee has been working on restoration of the native Olympia oyster for the past seven years, starting with planting native oyster seed in 2002. That was followed by additional plantings in 2003, 2004 and 2006, with a total of over 1.4 million seed planted. The MRC plans additional plantings as needed, and is now monitoring the survival, growth, and reproduction of the now-established populations in south Fidalgo Bay.

A group of volunteers recently spent time on the beach and in the lab, evaluating native oyster settlement on shells put out last season, monitoring planted areas of Fidalgo Bay, and spreading additional cultch for oysters to settle on. Survival of the oysters planted to date is high - an estimated 1.35 million have survived. The monitoring effort is now focused on finding out whether planted oysters are naturally reproducing. The overall goal of the project is to establish a self-sustaining population that produces larvae that distributes to other areas by water currents.

The Skagit MRC's effort to restore healthy populations of Olympia oysters in Fidalgo Bay is being done in partnership with the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#), the [Samish Indian Nation](#) and [Shannon Point Marine Center](#). This project was recently published in the *Journal of Shellfish Research* (Vol 28, No. 1, 79-85, 2009). [More information is available on our web site.](#)

MRC Membership

Snohomish MRC says goodbye and welcomes new members

Welcome and congratulations to Mike McHugh, Keeley O'Connell, and Brent Hackney who recently joined the Snohomish MRC. Goodbye to Daryl Williams, Kirby Johnson, and Chet Motekaitis from Snohomish. Thank you all for your contribution and dedication to the MRC.

On the Horizon

Canoe Journey Water Quality Project in 2009

This summer the Northwest Straits Commission is providing support for the second year of the Canoe Journey Water Quality project, where Tribal and First Nations canoe families sample water quality on routes through the Salish Sea region. This year, the Canoe Journey will be hosted by the Suquamish Tribe, with canoes landing August 3. The 2008 water

quality pilot project was recently recognized with the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award. For more information on the 2009 Canoe Journey, go to <http://www.tribaljournays2009.com/>.

Calendar of Events

June 20, 2009 - Boathouse & Beach Work Party & Learning Day-1:00-7:00pm at Woodstock Farm, Bellingham. [Click here](#) for more information.

June 20, 2009 - [Outer Coast MRC Community Forum and Workshop](#). 10:00am-2:00pm in Aberdeen. Contact Garrett Dalan at (360) 249-4413 or gdalan@co.grays-harbor.wa.us for more information.

June 20, 2009 - Snohomish Marine Resources Committee Beach Expo - Picnic Point County Park.

July 20, 2009 - Snohomish Marine Resources Committee Beach Expo- Mukilteo Lighthouse Park

JULY 2009

In this issue:

- **Northwest Straits Foundation Receives \$4.6 Million**
- **Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill**
- **Task Force on Ocean Policy**
- **Benchmark Account Projects**
- **New Intern for Island County**
- **Member Spotlight: Ron Akeson, Whatcom MRC**
- **2009 MRC Conference Update**

Featured Project/Program

Northwest Straits Initiative Receives \$4.6 Million Dollars to Remove Derelict Fishing Nets

The Northwest Straits Initiative through its Foundation has been awarded \$4.6 million in economic stimulus funding from NOAA to remove derelict fishing nets from Puget Sound. The project will remove 3,000 nets in eighteen months, with a goal of effectively eliminating the impacts of legacy derelict fishing nets on marine species throughout Puget Sound. The project will employ about 40 people and restore 645 acres of marine habitat.

Natural Resources Consultants, the Initiative's long-time partner in the derelict fishing gear removal program, is overseeing the field operations for the project. At least four vessels will be operating with dive teams to remove nets. Tom Cowan, former director of the Northwest Straits Commission and one of the people responsible for getting the derelict gear program off the ground, has been hired by the Foundation to manage the project.

In addition to removing derelict fishing nets, the project includes updating and refining the statewide derelict gear database and reporting system. This will set the stage for a derelict fishing net maintenance program designed to respond immediately to any recently-lost nets after the legacy nets are removed.

"Derelict fishing nets are actively killing enormous numbers of fish, seabirds and other marine animals. We now have the funding needed to get 90% of the derelict nets out of Puget Sound forever. These waters will be safer for boaters, divers, and marine life." said Ginny Broadhurst, Secretary of the Northwest Straits Foundation.

Since 2002, the Northwest Straits Initiative has removed over 1,200 derelict fishing nets, restoring more than 240 acres of marine habitat, and saving millions of animals from incidental death each year.

Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill

Senator Murray announced that the bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative (the original Congressional authorization has expired) passed through the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation July 8.

"The Northwest Straits are one of our state's most treasured economic and environmental resources," said Senator Murray. "And this bill will help to ensure that the Northwest Straits Commission can continue their work to protect them. The Commission has gained national recognition for its conservation efforts and ability to bring stakeholders together. The legislation will further their research, stewardship, and restoration efforts." The bill is co-sponsored by Senator Cantwell. A companion bill was introduced by Representative Larsen in the House.

Ocean Policy Task Force

President Obama took action last month toward protecting marine resources, by creating an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force with a timeframe of just 90 days to pull together a complex and important body of work. Led by Nancy Sutley, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Task Force has been directed to prepare recommendations and a framework for policy that "ensures the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhances the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserves our maritime heritage, provides for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change, and is coordinated with our national security and foreign policy interests."

It is heartening that the terrific local and regional efforts by MRCs and the Northwest Straits Commission align with those at the national level. We will shine the light on all this good work, and on the need for consideration of the essential roles and rights of treaty tribes, as co-managers of coastal ocean resources, during the development of a national ocean policy.

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

Benchmark Account Projects

The Commission awarded funds to San Juan, Jefferson, and Whatcom MRCs for the Benchmark Account. This is a new account established in 2009, to fund MRC projects through a competitive proposal process. The San Juan MRC project will map feeder bluffs to improve understanding of their historic and present conditions and work with partners to

protect feeder bluffs from development impacts. The Whatcom County MRC will remove accumulations of treated wood products along the Cherry Point reach to aid in increasing healthy nearshore habitat in an important and sensitive forage fish spawning area. The Jefferson MRC project will establish key elements of a Harbor Management Plan for Mystery Bay that will satisfy WA Dept of Health and allow shellfish harvest and recreational boat use to co-exist. An additional award is being considered to Snohomish MRC but is pending final approval.

New Intern for Island County

The Island MRC is delighted to have Kirsten Kreamer, better known as Kiri, as the Island County intern working on our Pigeon Guillemot project. Kiri is a graduate student in Environmental Studies at The Evergreen State College. She states her “life ambition is to educate and enrich people’s lives with the beauty and science that make up our natural surroundings.” This summer she is monitoring the breeding birds in 5 colonies on Whidbey Island. Her primary objectives are to map the nesting burrows, to identify the prey delivered to the chicks in the burrows and to determine the length of time between deliveries. She brings special experience to this project. She worked two summers on commercial fishing boats in Alaska identifying the species caught. She is already making excellent observations that enhance the Pigeon Guillemot research.

Member Spotlight: Ron Akeson, Whatcom MRC

A common theme among MRC members is that these are people who love to be out on the water. Ron Akeson of the Whatcom MRC is one of those people, but he takes it one step farther – he’s been diving for 33 years, and has spent a lot of time underwater. He also helps introduce others to the sport of diving through his business – Adventures Down Under – in Bellingham.

Raised in southern California, Ron spent summers and a single winter in Alaska before settling in Washington as a happy medium. He has a passion for education and community involvement, and lives by the philosophy that if everyone puts time back into what they love, the world will be a better place. After growing up around the ocean, Ron puts this philosophy into practice by investing a lot of volunteer time in marine protection and restoration work.

Ron’s seat on the MRC is to represent recreational interests. With a degree in marine biology and a minor in geology he had a head start in understanding marine issues. Being on the water a lot also gives him insight on what’s really happening in our marine waters. He particularly enjoys diving on shipwrecks, which give a glimpse into local history and marine life all at once.

Whatcom MRC has made an effort to learn more about the status of rockfish populations in the area, and a public speaker event on rockfish back in 2002 was what initially drew Ron in to join the MRC. After the talk, he began to learn what the MRC was all about. He's now in his 7th year, having served as co-chair of the MRC for several years and now serving as an alternate representative to the Northwest Straits Commission. Ron is also the current president of the Washington Scuba Alliance, and is interested in finding ways for projects to cross over to help support the work of the MRC.

Clallam and Jefferson MRCs welcome new members

Clallam MRC welcomes Bob Vreeland to represent conservation and environmental interests, Donald Hatler to represent sport fishers and Jeff Ward to represent the City of Sequim. Jefferson MRC welcomes new member Darcy McNamara who is stepping in as vice chair and fills the Beach Watcher position. Congratulations!

[Click here](#) for a copy of the MRC reports for the June Commission meeting

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

Ecosystem Projects Update:

The Northwest Straits Commission has approved funding for new projects in the areas of marine habitat and forage fish protection, focusing on invasive Spartina and Pacific sand lance. Spartina has now taken hold in every North Sound county, yet its complete eradication is still possible with new volunteer training for MRCs and a highly-effective ongoing restoration program by People For Puget Sound. On the forage fish front, the role of sand lance – a mainstay in the diet of many iconic species in this region - is poorly understood. To help determine what data is most needed, the Commission will convene a group of scientific experts this September.

Commission Meeting Minutes

[Click here](#) to see a draft of the June Commission meeting minutes.

Northwest Straits Foundation News

SeaWorld Busch Gardens Grant Award

Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund has granted the Foundation \$15,000 to remove derelict fishing gear from Puget Sound. These funds will be used to match the \$4.6 million dollars awarded by NOAA to remove nets from Puget Sound.

On the Horizon

Sand lance workshop

This September, the Northwest Straits Commission will host a scientific workshop on Pacific sand lance, to review what is known - and not known – about the life history of this species in the Northwest Straits. Contact Caroline Gibson if you or someone you know holds expertise to contribute at this workshop.

2009 MRC Conference

The 10th annual conference for MRCs, 'The Northwest Straits Initiative: Building Resilience in the Salish Sea', will be held November 6-7 at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham. The conference will begin on Friday morning with a field trip to be determined. Session topics will include climate change, rockfish science and conservation, and native oyster restoration. Invited plenary speaker Dr. Richard Feely, a NOAA oceanographer and professor at the University of Washington, will present his work on the effects of ocean acidification in this region. In 2007, Dr. Feely was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, with Al Gore and other members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Special guest Ross Anderson, a former Seattle Times journalist, will hold a workshop on how to write a good Opinion Editorial. Any MRC member who would like to provide input during conference planning is encouraged to contact Caroline Gibson. A special kickoff to this year's event is an evening film, open to the public, on Thursday, November 5. The documentary 'A Sea Change' will be shown at the [Pickford Cinema](#) in Bellingham.

Reports Recently Added to our Online Bibliography

[Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee 10 Year Report to the Community](#)

[Assessment of Clallam County Shoreline Features](#)

[Clallam County Marine Resources MESA Pilot Field Project Final Report](#)

[Northwest Straits Foundation: Escape Cord Outreach Evaluation](#)

AUGUST 2009

Featured Project/Program

Cannery Pond Project

An interesting project under development by longtime Skagit MRC member Paul Dinnel aims to study - and ultimately restore - a pond on Fidalgo Island which is believed to have been a pocket estuary. A short tromp through woods thick with salal and native blackberry ends at Cannery Pond, not far from the Anacortes ferry terminal and overlooking a rocky beach and great beds of kelp.

Pocket estuaries provide food and shelter to young salmon and surf smelt, shorebirds and other wildlife. Dramatic human alteration of our shorelines over the past century has resulted in the loss of these important habitats, posing additional challenges to small and hungry creatures on the move. At Cannery Pond, the name of which in itself elicits visions of local history, the original tide channel was blocked long ago by a berm built for the coastal railway. Currently home to bull trout and largemouth bass, ducks, geese, river otters and more, the pond is separated from the open waters of Guemes Channel by only a stone's throw.

Dr. Dinnel, a marine scientist at Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center, is working with colleagues to document historical, geological, and biological features of Cannery Pond, painstakingly laying the foundation needed for a major restoration effort. The effects of sea level rise will also be considered as both past and future aspects of tidal elevation are assessed at this site. If the studies show that there is a good restoration potential at the site, this work will result in a restoration project for the Skagit MRC.

News Items

The derelict fishing gear removal project has attracted a lot of media attention recently. We had a CNN reporter out on the boat July 27; his story ran several times on CNN and was also picked up by the local KING5 television station. NBC Nightly News was onboard the *BetSea* (one of our removal boats, currently working in the San Juan Islands) August 10, for a story expected to air this week. And a New York Times reporter visited the *Twila Dawn*, working near Seattle. We will post links to the stories on our home page as quickly as we get them.

The Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) met July 29 and 30 at the Lummi Nation's Silver Reef Casino. At this meeting, the ECB recognized the need to have the Northwest Straits Commission participate in discussions, and approved an ex-officio seat for us on the ECB.



2009 Canoe Journey

The 2009 Tribal Canoe Journey is now over, ending in Suquamish and marking the 20th anniversary of this event. This year was the second annual Canoe Journey Water Quality project, funded again in part by the Northwest Straits Commission. Data collected by canoes, photos and a video podcast are available online

at <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/coastsalish/>.

Coastal MRCs

Concerns about the future of marine resources on the outer coast have successfully led to the creation of a new MRC in Grays Harbor County; those in Pacific and western Clallam-Jefferson (jointly) counties are pending. The developing Clallam-Jefferson MRC has already expressed interest in doing aerial surveys of world-class kelp beds on the north coast. Through state legislation passed in 2007 and endorsing the Northwest Straits model, and with the support and guidance of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, outer coast counties have been provided a great mechanism through which to tackle local conservation projects. Congratulations to the many committed people engaged in this effort!

The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project

(<http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org>), a massive ongoing study, is a cooperative effort among the Army Corps of Engineers, resource agencies, tribes, the Northwest Straits Commission and other entities. Among the resulting products is a GIS-based tool known as the Change Analysis. By comparing current datasets with those from the advent of US territorial settlement (~1850-1880), this analysis provides a picture of human-induced changes to natural nearshore processes over time. Curtis Tanner, PSNERP's local project manager, recently paid a visit to our Padilla Bay offices to discuss ways in which MRCs might use the tool. Tanner will present the Change Analysis at the Northwest Straits Commission's annual conference on November 7.

Puget Sound Armoring Workshop

In May, a three-day workshop was held to share information on the science that has been done on the effects of shoreline armoring in Puget Sound. A full description of the workshop, along with the presentations, can be found at <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/SAW/>. Organizers are working on workshop proceedings, to be published by the US Geological Survey by early 2010.

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

Lead Staff and Chair Meeting

Last month, MRC chairs, MRC lead staff and Commission staff met at Padilla Bay to spend a day working on common issues and learning from each other. All seven MRCs were represented, and a meeting summary is available outlining discussion topics and action items. Commission staff will be working with MRC staff and project leads to carry out many of the action items discussed.

Welcome New MRC Members

The Whatcom MRC welcomes Paul Greenbough, a Blaine City Council representative. Clallam MRC welcomes Paul Blake, representing the Clallam Bay/Sekiu area. Congratulations to Tracy Patton, who is now a happily married Tracy Alker.

Member Spotlight

Jefferson MRC – Judy Surber

Watch out when you start talking to Judy Surber of the Jefferson MRC: you may find yourself lured into a surprisingly interesting conversation about shoreline planning and other wonky policy stuff. Her ability to understand and communicate land use-related issues is an incredible talent. Having been approached by an MRC member soliciting her expertise, Judy established for herself an important role as liaison between the MRC and the Port Townsend planning department. As the city's Senior Planner and Planning Manager, and a dedicated mom, it is no small commitment to volunteer time and energy to local conservation efforts.

Nine years of service on the Jefferson County MRC are now under her belt, some of it as representative to the Northwest Straits Commission. Judy is thoughtful and smiles broadly when asked about attracting new members and projects; there are many opportunities yet to explore. She recalls the early stages of the effort to prevent boaters from anchoring in eelgrass beds along the Port Townsend waterfront. Judy helped design the slogan 'Anchor out for Eelgrass' adorning large surface buoys installed by divers each spring. A diver herself, she sheepishly admits the water is just too cold here for her here – beachcombing, kayaking, and horseback riding in the sand are more her style.

With increasing levels of public interest around land use issues, Judy believes that the Northwest Straits Commission could play an important role in helping define where and how to do the monitoring required by Shoreline Master Programs. And she envisions a stronger connection between MRCs and K-12 education. With mounting state budget cuts, kids are missing out on one of the most memorable aspects of school – field trips to see firsthand the world-class beauty of this region. Clearly, Judy's passion for children and preserving the natural environment will keep her active in her community for many years to come.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

2009 MRC Fall Conference: Building Resilience in the Salish Sea

Don't miss out! The Northwest Straits 11th annual MRC conference will be held on November 6-7, at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham. Watch for registration by email soon. This is expected to be a terrific event, an informative and fun gathering of MRC and Commission members with our colleagues at the height of an extraordinary year. The national spotlight is on: 10 years of hard work lie behind us, reauthorization of the Initiative is humming right along, and as recipient of a highly sought-after federal economic stimulus grant the derelict fishing gear project has boats and crew going full throttle.

This year's conference will include a COMPASS (<http://www.compassonline.org/>) communications workshop designed for MRC members, sessions on climate change (with renowned NOAA scientist Dr. Richard Feely), rockfish conservation and management, a tribal perspective on the health of the region, and a facilitated workgroup on native oyster restoration. We encourage you to prepare a poster for the annual evening poster and networking session. This is a great way to share your project highlights and ideas with fellow MRC members, and learn what others are doing in your county and around the region.

This year's event features a special attraction, in the form of a film on the evening of Nov. 5 at the Pickford Theater. The Bellingham premiere of 'A Sea Change' (<http://www.aseachange.net/>) will be hosted by the Northwest Straits Commission and open to the general public. We hope to see you there!

Bulletin Board

MRC nearshore report

Island County MRC has produced a new report highlighting their work, including the restoration of forage fish habitat and eelgrass in Cornet Bay, creosote log removal from area beaches, and a pilot project-to-watch, filtering and diverting polluted storm water.

Featured Project/Program

On Common Grounds

The one-mile stretch of shoreline encompassing the Cherry Point Reach, in Whatcom County, was once spawning grounds for the most prolific stock of Pacific herring in Washington. Populations have plummeted to just 6% of historic levels, due to factors that include pollution and loss of prime habitat. Thanks to action by Whatcom MRC volunteers and other project

partners, the Cherry Point Reach will soon waft salt air - instead of creosote - and perhaps even attract spawning herring again.

Whatcom MRC, through a grant from the Northwest Straits Commission, has embarked on a new project to remove creosoted debris. Lumber treated with creosote is a continuous source of pollution along our shores. Over 300 chemicals are combined in its manufacture. When toxic lumber is present, whether as pilings, structures or wave action moving derelict logs, those chemicals that are soluble begin to percolate to the sediments and into the water. The resulting impacts on marine life are not fully understood, but creosote has proven especially harmful to forage fish, including Pacific herring.

The Whatcom MRC and the City of Bellingham were among the first entities in this region to focus on creosote removal projects; several MRCs have since followed suit. One year ago, a group of volunteer Whatcom Beach Watchers teamed up with Blaine High School students to inventory treated creosote debris between the Intalco and BP Cherry Point piers in Bellingham.

Together they identified and flagged an estimated 10.5 tons of material. Thanks to a great partnership with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Whatcom MRC and Beach Watchers will soon celebrate its removal.

Agreements with the agency, as well as with the Department of Ecology, are now being signed. In early October, DNR field staff and their trained volunteer crew will haul the flagged creosote logs and lumber off the beach, and transfer it to an approved disposal site.

SEPTEMBER 2009

News Items

Derelict Net Removal Update

We have four vessels working full time in Puget Sound surveying and removing derelict fishing nets thanks to the \$4.6 million of funding the Northwest Straits Foundation received through NOAA. Since 2002 we have removed 1,598 nets and 1,946 crab pots. We currently are not targeting derelict crab pots for removal but we do pick up ones that are caught in nets or right in the area of net removals. To keep current on our project, go to our web site www.nwstraits.org.

Department of Fish and Wildlife Appoints New Director

Congratulations to Phil Anderson who was recently appointed to be Director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Phil served as interim director of the department for over nine months. We are pleased to see him in the position on a permanent basis and look forward to working with him. See the WDFW press release for more details: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=sep1209a>

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

2009-2011 MRC Grants

The 2009-2011 grant awards to Marine Resources Committees are now underway. Click here to see a summary table of projects. For additional information, contact Sasha Horst or the [MRC](#).

Car Wash Kits

Skagit MRC recently completed a project to make water filtering kits available for car wash events in Skagit County. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Member Spotlight: Jonathan White, San Juan MRC

Jonathan White is a builder by trade, writer by calling, and member of the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee and the Northwest Straits Commission, among other things. He came to the Northwest from California as a teenager and immediately felt drawn to the area. Following adventures in the Caribbean and stints in other areas of the United States, he returned to start a non-profit boat-based education institute in the early 1980s. That experience gave him skills that have served him well over the years. The MRC and

Commission have benefitted from his experience working with boards, fundraising and managing programs.

Jonathan's work building custom homes keeps him geographically focused, but he's a big-picture person at heart. His recognition that problems in the marine waters took many years to create motivated him to join the MRC in order to be part of solving those problems. While he says the learning curve has been "steep", he enjoys the ongoing education and has found meaningful ways to contribute. Joining the MRC in the midst of them developing the Marine Stewardship Area Plan, he's proud of the MRC for that accomplishment and finds that it is a great foundation for the work they do.

Jonathan's favorite place on the water is wherever he happens to be at the time – just getting out on the water is the key – but that doesn't stop him from going to great lengths to get to distant and exotic locations. The Mentawai Islands off the coast of Sumatra are a favorite surfing area. Closer to the home he shares with his wife and son on Orcas Island he does a lot of sailing. He's also a diver and even surfs in the cold waters off Vancouver Island.

Elected to represent the San Juan MRC on the Northwest Straits Commission in 2006, Jonathan has served as vice chair and is currently the chair of the Commission. He feels fortunate to be a part of the Northwest Straits Initiative, and marvels at the idea that a builder can become chair – a testament to the bottom-up nature of the organization. He's looking forward to being part of the ongoing reinvention and growth of both the MRC and the Commission.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

Jefferson MRC Project Presentations

Eelgrass protection project

Gabrielle LaRoche, project manager for Jefferson MRC, showed a video on the eelgrass protection project. Gabrielle said the MRC is planning the next video on drift cell restoration and alternatives to shoreline armoring.

Mystery Bay Harbor Management Plan

Gabrielle gave a presentation on the Jefferson MRC and Northwest Straits Commission Benchmark project. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the presentation.

Commission Tours the Northwest Maritime Center

Last month, members of the Northwest Straits Commission were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Northwest Maritime Center facility (<http://www.nwmaritime.org>), encompassing 27,000 square feet on the downtown Port Townsend waterfront. Dave

Robison, Project Manager of the Center, serves on the Jefferson MRC and led the group. A complex of buildings will house the many programs offered by the Center and the Wooden Boat Festival, as well the H.W. McCurdy library, classrooms, boathouse, a chandlery, and beautiful office spaces for a wide array of tenants.

The Northwest Maritime Center facility has been over 10 years in the making, fueled by public and private funding from hundreds of private citizens and an impressive list of local, regional, and national entities. Robison kindly took an hour to share myriad interesting facts surrounding the facility's purpose and design, the world-class backdrop, huge beams, doors and impressive electrical system; even a pilot house from which visitors of all ages can use navigational instruments and communicate with passing cargo ships. A community opening was held on September 10. Be sure to visit and take advantage of all that happens here in coming months and years!

Northwest Straits Foundation News

Foundation office open!

The Northwest Straits Foundation has opened its Bellingham office. It is on the third floor of the Bellingham Herald building at 255 North State Street, Suite 322. The phone number is 360-733-1725.

This office is available to MRCs and Commissioners for meetings or events. It can accommodate meetings with up to ten people, and has three functional work stations for any telecommuters who need a landing pad. It has full conference calling capabilities, wireless internet, and (most importantly) a microwave, fridge, and coffeemaker.

Please drop by and visit! Call Joan if you would like to schedule a time to work there or hold a meeting.

Committee Happenings

Weaverling Spit Project Underway

This month the Samish Tribe begins a project partially funded by the Northwest Straits Commission to stabilize an eroding bank at [Weaverling Spit](#) in Fidalgo Bay. When complete, this project will restore the eroding shoreline using a soft shore stabilization approach, protect an archeological site in danger of eroding, and provide shaded habitat for forage fish in an area with documented forage fish spawning.

"The timing of this project is critical to preserve this important cultural resource," says Christine Woodward, natural resources director for the Samish Tribe. "We're also restoring habitat for forage fish to spawn, making it a win-win project."

Bulletin Board

2009 MRC Conference Update

The deadline to receive the group room rate is October 6. The registration deadline is October 13. [Click here](#) to get the latest conference information and agenda. If you did not receive your invitation with registration information via email, please contact Connie at price@nwstraits.org or 360-428-1064.

November 5, 7 pm. *A Sea Change*, a film about ocean acidification will be showing at the Pickford Cinema in downtown Bellingham. A brief question and answer time will be held afterwards with Dr. Jennifer Hoffman from Eco-Adapt. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Foundation and RE Sources for Sustainable Communities.

Derelict Gear Apparel

Here's your opportunity to purchase apparel with our unique Ray Troll artwork, recently commissioned for the derelict fishing gear removal program. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available for pre-order, and will be available at the MRC conference on November 6 (or items can be shipped for an additional postage fee). [Click here](#) for more information and to download an order form. Pre-orders are due by October 20.

Events and Articles

[NY Times](#)

September 19, 2009 - Fidalgo Bay Day, Fidalgo Bay Resort in Anacortes.

November 6, 2009 - 'A Sea Change' at the [Pickford Cinema](#) in Bellingham. 7:00pm

November 6-7, 2009 - 2009 MRC Conference, Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. [Click here](#) for more information.

OCTOBER 2009

News Items

MRC Report on NOAA Vessel Rule to Protect Orca Whales

In response to community concerns about a federal proposal to restrict marine vessel traffic in the San Juan Islands, an action intended to protect the Southern resident orca population, the San Juan County MRC submitted recommendations to the County Council on how to proceed. We appreciate the time and effort given to this issue by the MRC, and commend them for helping the island community weigh in during a somewhat contentious process. [Click here](#) to download the MRC report. The NOAA deadline for public comment on the vessel rule is October 27, 2009. Information is at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/ESA-Status/Orca-Vessel-Regs.cfm>

NBC Nightly News

On September 29, our derelict fishing net removal project was featured on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams. NBC reporter Lee Cowan and crew went out on the boat with us in August and Lee went underwater to witness the action. It's a great piece. Many thanks to the BetSea crew for their patience and to NBC for taking the time to cover the story. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#33079803>

Northwest Straits Initiative's Reauthorization

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative's reauthorization bill HR 1672 will have a hearing with House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife on October 20. The house bill is sponsored by Representative Rick Larsen. Ginny Broadhurst will be there to testify on behalf of the Commission.

Puget Sound Starts Here

The Puget Sound Partnership has rolled out a new campaign to increase awareness of the magnitude of Puget Sound's pollution problem, and to motivate residents to adopt new behaviors that will decrease the amount of pollution entering the Sound through stormwater runoff and other sources of pollution. Click the logo at left to check out the new web site.

Ghosts of the Salish Sea: Threats to Marine Birds in Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits from Derelict Fishing Gear

The Northwest Straits derelict fishing gear removal team contributed data and information to this publication in the current issue of Marine Ornithology. Congratulations to Tom Good on an excellent paper. [Click here](#) to see the report.

MRC Happenings

Member Spotlight: Lyn Muench, Clallam MRC

Lyn Muench of the Clallam MRC came to the Olympic Peninsula by way of Bangladesh and nearly twenty years of living overseas in Africa and Asia. An article in the New York Times about the “blue hole” of clear skies over Sequim and a job starting an aquaculture business for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe brought her here with her husband and daughters.

Fifteen years later, when the MRC was formed in Clallam County, Lyn was eager to occupy the seat held for the Tribe. As the only person in the three-member Natural Resources department who lived in Clallam County, she won out and has been on the MRC ever since. She appreciates the focus on saltwater that the MRC has, and is proud of the work the MRC has done. With good support from the County Commissioners, the work of the MRC has made progress in monitoring beaches for Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, providing internships for Peninsula College students, understanding, and promoting nearshore restoration associated with the Elwha Dam removal by convening an Elwha Nearshore Consortium. Clallam MRC was also the first to push for derelict fishing gear removal, which has led to the Sound-wide program the Northwest Straits Foundation is now engaged in.

Lyn herself has been most involved in public outreach for the MRC, and uses her knowledge of water quality issues to spread the word about the importance of keeping septic systems operating properly, picking up after pets, and managing stormwater runoff. Even though she has recently retired from her position with Jamestown S’Klallam, Lyn still makes great use of her expertise as a volunteer with the MRC and at the Dungeness River Audubon Center. At the recent Dungeness Festival held in Sequim, Lyn spent two days introducing water quality concepts into conversations over the live tanks filled with clams and geoducks.

Lyn has remained busy in her retirement, and is a frequent traveler to destinations near and far. When she’s close to home, she enjoys the luxury of walking on Dungeness Spit, some of the best beach walking in the world.

Welcome Kathleen Herrmann

Snohomish MRC and the Northwest Straits community welcomes Kathleen Herrmann as the MRC’s new Lead Staff. Kathleen has just completed a fellowship in the Mariana Islands and started as the Marine Steward on October 15. Kathleen earned a Masters of Marine Affairs Degree from the UW School of Marine Affairs and a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University. Her work as a Graduate Research Assistant with the University of Washington provided her with experience and familiarity in working with Sea Grant,

Northwest Straits, and MRCs. Kathleen also has more than ten years of professional work experience in facilitating watershed planning efforts, conducting education and outreach activities, and in working with local agencies and native people in implementing marine conservation projects.

Northwest Straits Foundation News

Derelict Gear Removal Project in Full Swing, restoring habitat and creating jobs

The Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project is in full swing. As of October 11, a total of 139.25 days of removal operations have been accomplished and 415 derelict gillnets have been removed. Found in the gear were more than 17,000 animals. Nets were covering more than 50 acres of marine habitat.

The project has created 21 new, full-time, living wage jobs. Ten of those workers are divers removing gear underwater and seven are boat pilots and deck hands manning the removal vessels. Four vessels are now working full time as weather permits: the F/V BetSea, the F/V Surveyor II, the F/V Twila Dawn, and the F/V Tenacious. Nisqually Aquatic Technologies operate the Twila Dawn and employees are tribal members. The Surveyor II dive team includes an Iraq combat veteran who was disabled during the war and unable to continue his military diving career. Dive teams on the BetSea and Tenacious are former harvest divers who used to harvest urchins and sea cucumbers for the high-end Asian food market. Because of the economic downturn, the market for these products has plummeted and these divers would be employed at about 10% time without this project. Now they are working full-time and earning a living wage. The project is also employing three newly-hired on-board biologists, one of which is a former commercial fisherman who was out of work before this project.

Two of the four vessels have been working consistently in the San Juan Islands. The project has rented a fully furnished house in Friday Harbor to cut down on per diem expenses. The two other boats have been operating out of Cornet Bay and Anacortes.

Bulletin Board

MRC Conference

[Click here](#) to get the latest conference information and agenda. For registration information please contact Connie at price@nwstraits.org or 360-428-1064.

A Sea Change

On November 5 at 7 pm, *A Sea Change*, a film about ocean acidification will be showing at the [Pickford Cinema](#) in downtown Bellingham. A brief question and answer time will be

held afterwards with Dr. Jennifer Hoffman from [EcoAdapt](#). Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission and [RE Sources for Sustainable Communities](#) and the Whatcom Marine Resources Committee. See www.aseachange.net for more information about the film.

Derelict Gear Apparel

Here's your opportunity to purchase apparel with our unique Ray Troll artwork, recently commissioned for the derelict fishing gear removal program. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available for pre-order, and will be available at the MRC conference on November 6 (or items can be shipped for an additional postage fee). Click here for more information and to download an order form. Pre-orders are due by **October 20**.

Public Comment Opportunity – Puget Sound Restoration

Your comment is encouraged on the scope of issues to be included in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will evaluate the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (<http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/>). The EIS will be a joint federal National Environmental Protection Act and Washington State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) document. Four meetings are upcoming around the Sound:

- October 26th, 2009 at Highline Community College, Des Moines
- October 28th, 2009 at the Chapel at Fort Worden State Park, Pt. Townsend
- November 3rd, 2009 at the Lacey Community Center, Lacey
- November 10th, 2009 at the Skagit Station, Mt. Vernon

Each will include an open house from 4-6 p.m. and a formal presentation from 6-7 p.m.

Commission Meeting Highlights

Derelict Gear Field Trip

The Commission held an afternoon tour of the derelict fishing net removal project in Friday Harbor on September 25. We witnessed a net being removed near Yellow Island by the crew on F/V BetSea. The net was estimated to be approximately 40 years old.

Coastal Society and Restore America's Estuaries conferences

Ginny proposed putting together a panel of speakers on the Northwest Straits Initiative at a national conference in 2010. Please contact Ginny if you have ideas and want to participate as a speaker. Here are some possibilities:

- **Coastal society conference:** June 13-16 in Wilmington, NC www.thecoastalsociety.org
Abstracts are due Oct 23, 2009.
- **Restore America's Estuaries conference:** Nov 13-17, 2010 in Galveston, TX www.estuaries.org

EPA request for proposals

This Request for Proposals is for local government and tribes. We expect to see other RFPs out soon. <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/Office+of+Water/WEI09RFP>.

WDFW sportsfishing marine rule changes

The new proposed regulations are available on the WDFW homepage at www.wdfw.wa.gov.

Natural resource reform

The Governor's web page has information about recent efforts to consider major consolidation of natural resource agencies and programs. The comment period will end on October 28. The full report is available on this web site: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/reform/naturalresources.asp>

Events

November 9, 2009 – Nearshore tools workshop, 9:30am-4:00pm, Edmonds – [click here](#) for more information.

Recent News Articles

[Indian Country Today - Crews save ocean life by cleaning up lost gear](#)

[Islands' Weekly - Marine Resources Committee to discuss NOAA whale protection proposal](#)

[Journal of the San Juans - Derelict fishing nets' toll: 30,000 marine birds, 110,000 fish, and 2 million invertebrates a year](#)

NOVEMBER 2009

Featured Project/Program

Fall conference a success!

The 11th Annual MRC conference generated great enthusiasm and an excellent turnout. Approximately 120 registered participants and more than two dozen speakers attended; highlights included the keynote address by Martha Kongsgaard, a diverse suite of knowledgeable speakers both new and familiar, and a fun evening of wine tasting and live jazz. Despite the gale-force winds and rain, a field trip to the Bellingham waterfront was booked beyond capacity, and has inspired people to tackle new restoration projects.

This year's gathering launched at the Pickford Cinema with an evening screening of 'A Sea Change', following which University of British Columbia Ph.D. candidate Becca Gooding answered questions from the audience in the standing room only theater. Over the course of the next two days, the light shone on several pressing and emerging marine resource issues and the important role of the MRCs and the Northwest Straits Commission. Presentations by invited experts included those on ocean acidification, sea level rise in the Skagit River Delta, rockfish conservation, native oysters, a web-based project celebrating Coast Salish people, and how to communicate with policymakers and the media.

MRC members brainstormed about regional projects, and we learned a lot in our two days together. In the words of attendees, "our shorelines have shrunk dramatically because of coastal development", "you can put seal poo through the washer in a bag to find out what was eaten," and "the increasing acidification of our oceans is a frightening and very real threat."

For more information on the conference, including Power Point presentations, [click here](#).

Your input is important. If you attended the conference, please [click here](#) to complete a short evaluation of the conference.

News Items/ In the news

Salish Sea Naming

In late October the name Salish Sea was endorsed by the Washington State Board on Geographic Names to collectively describe the body of water that includes Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Georgia Strait. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names followed suit, approving the name in November.

In August, the B.C. Geographical Names Office approved a resolution recommending the Geographical Names Board of Canada adopt the name contingent upon the U.S. Board adoption, though the board has not yet taken action on that recommendation.

For more information, see <http://tinyurl.com/DNR-SalishSea> for the press release issued by the Department of Natural Resources, and <http://tinyurl.com/GNIS-SalishSea> for feature details on the USGS web site.

Reauthorization Hearing Update

On October 20, the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife held a hearing on Representative Rick Larsen's bill (HR1672) to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission testified at the hearing. On November 18, the bill cleared the House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent with only minor changes.

Derelict Gear Field Trip

On a rare beautiful Thursday afternoon in November, we took some interested people out to see the derelict net removals occurring just a mile from the Kingston Ferry terminal. Our guests included Representative Christine Rolfes, Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer, Lisa Veneroso from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mendy Droke from Congressman Inslee's office and reporters from the Kitsap Sun. The divers were able to show us the area they were working in 60 ft underwater. It was a sandy bottom with a few boulders that had snagged a gill net, and the gill net had unfortunately just recently snagged a baby harbor seal.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2009/nov/13/under-water-old-nets-are-silent-killers/>

Extension on NOAA Proposed Orca Vessel Rule

NOAA extended the comment period for proposed vessel regulations until January 15, 2010. NOAA staff met with interested groups and are providing the same information as was provided at the public meetings, according to Lynn Barre. She documented the meetings and included the documentation in our record. Information is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/NOAA-OrcaRule>

Coastal and Estuarine Research Foundation 20th Biennial Conference

Our Marine Program Manager, Caroline Gibson, traveled to Portland, OR to present information on the forage fish habitat suitability model developed for MRCs in collaboration with Suzanne Shull, a Department of Ecology GIS analyst. With national attention increasingly focused on research and restoration efforts in the Puget Sound

region, many colleagues from Padilla Bay, and elsewhere in Washington, attended. The event drew more than 1,300 oral and poster presentations by researchers across the U.S., as well as Canada, Japan, Australia, China, Papua New Guinea, the U.K. and more. Conference proceedings will be made available online at <http://www.sgmeet.com/cerf2009/>.

Rockfish Conservation Plan Draft Extension

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife extended the comment period on the draft rockfish conservation plan and has scheduled additional public meetings. The new deadline for comment is January 4, 2010. The Northwest Straits Commission will discuss possible comments at our December 4 meeting at Padilla Bay. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for people with interest and knowledge of rockfish to be on an advisory group to help provide guidance on the new rockfish conservation plan currently out for public comment. The attachment provides details on how to apply. This is a great opportunity for MRC members to participate in an important conservation plan.

NWSC Happenings

Fostering Sustainable Behavior

By Sasha Horst

In early October, I had the opportunity to attend a two-day training on Fostering Sustainable Behavior, an introduction to community-based social marketing and how it is being applied throughout the world to foster sustainable behavior. The workshop, taught by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, explained the steps of community-based social marketing and provided many case studies as examples.

Along with a lot of other information, a few key points that I took away were that information intensive approaches are not effective for facilitating behavior change, and that community based social marketing can be very effective when done well.

If your MRC is interested in designing programs to facilitate behavior change, there are some

great (free!) online tools available to you. Two sites that are useful resources: www.cbsm.com – includes case studies, articles, strategies, discussion forums
www.toolsofchange.com – contains tools, a planning guide, more case studies and best practices

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

MRCs and the Aquatic Reserve Proposal

The proposal to designate state-owned aquatic lands around Protection Island as an Aquatic Reserve remains under consideration by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The agency, in collaboration with People For Puget Sound, is continuing outreach to communities in Jefferson and Clallam counties during the management plan development phase. Both Clallam and Jefferson MRCs have engaged in discussions about the proposal during the past two years, with different outcomes. Jefferson MRC provided a letter of support; Clallam MRC has not endorsed the effort but committed to serving on the advisory committee. A final decision is slated for summer 2010. For more information on Protection Island or other aquatic reserve proposals, please contact Kyle Murphy at kyle.murphy@dnr.wa.gov.

Welcome New Marine Resources Committee Members

Congratulations and welcome to the newest MRC members Lynn Danaher and Todd Zackey. Lynn will represent commercial fishing on the San Juan MRC. Todd has been appointed as an interim tribal representative which is a newly-added position on the Island MRC.

Northwest Straits Foundation News

Second Chance to order Derelict Gear Apparel

Who says you never get a second chance in life? Here's your second chance to order the cool Derelict Gear Project graphic T-shirts and sweatshirts in time for holiday giving! Just click the link below and fill out the order form. Email it to foundation@nwstraits.org and send a check to the Foundation, or mail a hard copy order form with your check. Shirts will be shipped to you before the holidays. But be quick: we need the orders by November 30.

Be sure and check out the 'styles and sizes' pages. Some folks have been surprised at the sizing on some of the shirts. <http://www.nwstraits.org/PageID/252/default.aspx>

Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Update

Four removal vessels have been working full time as weather permits this month. We have already accomplished more than 30 removal days as of November 15. The rest of the month will see reduced effort due to weather as well as boat maintenance.

For the entire American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project, through November 15th, a total of 201.5 removal days and 30 net survey days have been accomplished, putting us right on schedule. We have removed 574 nets measuring 63.7

acres. More than 39,000 animals have been found in the nets, including birds and one harbor seal.

On another front, we have hired Willamette Consulting to help us update and refine the derelict fishing gear reporting system and database. The new 'Information Technology' team is going full blast, coordinating with Initiative staff, Natural Resources Consultants, and WDFW to determine how best to approach the update.

Aerial photos of the Bet Sea, the Surveyor II, and the Twila Dawn working off of the San Juan Islands earlier this month.

Bulletin Board

Call for Proposals

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) has announced its official call for sessions, papers, and posters for the 2010 conference November 13-17 in Galveston, Texas. This is RAE's 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The theme is *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy*. **Deadline for sessions, presentations, and posters is March 2, 2010.** For more information and to submit a proposal, visit: <http://program.estuaries.org>.

Congratulations to Joe Gaydos

SeaDoc Society Chief Scientist and Northwest Straits Commissioner Joe Gaydos was appointed to the Puget Sound Partnership's Science Panel this week and participated in their November 17-18 meeting in Seattle. He's a great addition to that group. Information on the Science Panel is on the Partnership's website http://www.psp.wa.gov/SP_about.php

Events

December 4, 2009 - A film called *A SEA CHANGE* in Port Angeles at the Peninsula College Little Theater at 7:00pm. Co-sponsored by the Clallam MRC. Admission is free. [Click here](#) for more information.

DECEMBER 2009

In this issue:

- **Happy Holidays**
- **Skagit MRC Restoration Initiative Workplan Approved**
- **Job Announcement: Forage Fish Research Assistant**
- **MARINe update**
- **MRCs Say a Fond Farewell to Longstanding Members**
- **Bringing Back Abalone**
- **WDFW Draft Rockfish Conservation Plan**
- **Update From the Education Committee**
- **Upcoming Events**

Featured Project/Program

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

This is our last newsletter of the year, and we're already working on training our fingers to type the year "2010". We wish each of you a wonderful holiday season, and hope that 2010 rings in a new year of happiness and good health for you, your families and the marine waters of the Northwest Straits. Thanks to all of you for making 2009 a great year for the Northwest Straits Initiative. We're looking forward to some exciting projects in 2010, so stay tuned!

The House of Representatives passed the NW Straits Initiative Reauthorization Act (HR 1672), legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, by voice vote yesterday. "This is a wonderful vote of confidence for the Northwest Straits Commission and our seven Marine Resources Committees. We appreciate the leadership of Representative Larsen and Senator Murray to garner support for our work." said Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

Skagit MRC Restoration Initiative Annual Workplan Approved

March's Point in Skagit County will be the site of two projects included in the recently approved Skagit MRC Restoration Initiative annual workplan. The first project involves removing a groin associated with an old boat ramp on east March's Point. Removing this groin will help restore sediment transport processes in this drift cell and improve conditions for forage fish spawning. The second project is a partnership with the Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) that will enhance beach nourishment activities SRSC has already been planning for beaches along west March's Point. Both these projects are part of larger plans to restore sediment transport processes and forage fish habitat along all of March's Point.

The workplan, approved by both the MRC and the Foundation board, outlines how a [Natural Resources Damage Assessment](#) payment related to the cleanup of the old Scott Paper Mill site on Fidalgo Island will be used to help restore nearshore and marine habitat in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays. The funding, \$500,000 over four years, will be paid to the Foundation, with annual workplans developed, approved, and implemented by the Skagit MRC.

News Items

Job Announcement: Forage Fish Research Assistant

Applications are invited for a full-time, temporary (four month) position to support an ecosystem research project on Pacific sand lance. Responsibilities include: gathering historical beach seine and surface trawl datasets from around the Puget Sound region; extracting and assessing relevant information pertaining to Pacific sand lance; comprehensively analyzing this information; and preparing a report detailing the analysis and results. The position is based at the Commission offices at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Off-site work may be negotiable. Deadline is January 4, 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.nwstraits.org/>

MARINe update

Long-term rocky intertidal monitoring sites were recently established at new sites in five of the seven counties involved in the Northwest Straits Initiative through the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe). In the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, three sites were established this past August on Saddlebag Island and Hat Island. MARINe also established a site at Post Point in Bellingham, with support from Western Washington University. Melissa Miner of MARINe wrote a summary of their work for us, click here for the full report ([add link to report](#))

Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Update

For the entire American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project, through December 6, a total of 217.5 days of removal and 30 net survey days have been completed. We expect to be less productive for the next few weeks because of sketchy weather, but we will take advantage of any windows of good weather to continue removals.

Our teams have removed 708 derelict nets, restoring approximately 65 acres of marine habitat. More than 45,000 animals were found in the removed gear, including two marine mammals, 26 birds, and 179 fish. These impacts represent only the last 7-10 days of species impacts of these nets.

The project was represented at the Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle in November by Project Manager, Tom Cowan, and NRC biologist Shane Martin.

Marine Resources Committee Happenings

MRCs Say Farewell to Longstanding Members

Benye Weber, of Coupeville, represented the Port of Coupeville on the Island MRC and was instrumental in all the major initiatives of the MRC in recent years. She helped launch the MRC's interpretive signage program by paving the way for installation of the MRC's first three signs on the Port's Coupeville Wharf, and also was a strong advocate for creation of the Saratoga Passage and Admiralty Inlet Marine Stewardship Areas.

Phyllis Kind, of Greenbank, contributed the discipline of a scientific mind and strong links to the resources of the WSU Beach Watchers program and Whidbey Audubon Society to the Island MRC. She was instrumental in launching the MRC's multi-year partnership with Whidbey Audubon to study the breeding success of the Pigeon Guillemot, a key indicator species of the health of marine habitat in Island County and Puget Sound. She rose through the ranks to become chair of the MRC and later chair of the Northwest Straits Commission.

Jerry Larson has been a steadfast voice for northern Whatcom County on the MRC for eight years. Jerry doesn't just support projects, he engages as an active volunteer in numerous projects. He is the grandfather of the MRC's annual clam surveys, which have gathered information on abundance and distribution of clams up and down the Whatcom County coast. Similarly, Jerry has initiated numerous seeding projects, with both oysters and littlenecks. He has been a committed water quality volunteer, collecting samples even in the middle of winter. Considering the amount of energy he's put into keeping shellfish beds accessible and safe for community members, it's amazing that he doesn't even like to eat them!

Buck Meloy has been a Whatcom MRC member since its inception, and due to term limits, will always be the longest serving member. The MRC has in Buck a voice of reason representing the fishing industry. Buck has been a reminder to everyone that numerous interests depend on the marine environment. Among other accomplishments, Buck was the driving force behind a ban on salmon net-pen farming in Whatcom County marine waters, which was adopted by the County Council in 2002. He was also the NWSC representative for numerous years, keeping the MRC up to date on the commission's activities. To ensure the MRC has consistent representation of commercial fishing interests, Buck has actively (and successfully) recruited another fisherman to represent the industry—and keep the MRC fishy!

MRCs Report on Progress

Congratulations! December marks the end of the first six months of the current grants from the Northwest Straits Commission to MRCs. The work accomplished throughout the region is always inspiring to hear about, and we're looking forward to receiving progress reports from all seven MRCs in mid-January, when the first reports are due. Progress reports on all MRC tasks are required, as well as some project reports. Check with your MRC staff for details about what your MRC will be submitting.

These reports will be used to help Commission staff write the 2009 Annual Report for the Northwest Straits Initiative. If you have pictures from your MRC projects, please submit them to your lead staff or to Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

Bringing Back the Abalone

An effort to boost the recovery of native pinto abalone populations is underway, and was the subject of a presentation to the Commission this month by Betsy Peabody, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF). In collaboration with state and federal agencies, universities, shellfish growers and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, PSRF is rearing abalone spawned from local broodstock, and outplanting them in the wild. A brief film on the project, online at <http://www.restorationfund.org/projects-abalone.php>, showcases the surprisingly fast-moving gastropods, and the conservation genetics studies and rearing techniques being used by local researchers. In 2009, more than 2,000 little abalone were tagged and released by divers on reefs near Anacortes and Port Angeles. Their status will be monitored as additional abalone are raised for outplanting in 2011.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Draft Rockfish Conservation Plan

The Northwest Straits Commission discussed Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan at its December 4 meeting. The Commission will be submitting a comment letter that will be posted on our web site by December 14. Northwest Straits Commissioners expressed concern regarding the use of hatcheries and artificial reefs to enhance natural populations. Commissioners prefer a stronger focus on protecting existing populations and their natural habitats. "Rockfish tend to be long-lived and need to grow larger and reproduce at a high success rate if we expect to recover their populations. Puget Sound has the habitat for rockfish species to thrive, but we need to do a better job of protecting the fish and their habitat" according to Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Commission.

Northwest Straits Commission Working Towards Paperless Meetings

In an effort to reduce paper waste, the Commission approved sending meeting handouts via email in advance for those who can view them electronically at the meetings. The staff plans to use the projector screen for the agenda and other handouts as necessary.

Northwest Straits Foundation News

Remember the Foundation in Your Annual Giving!

It's that time of year again, where each of us decides which worthy organizations will benefit from our end-of-year generosity. Please give generously to the organizations of your choice, and consider the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation as one of your beneficiaries. Private donations make up an important part of our budget and are used judiciously to pay for activities and services that are crucial for effective management of our Foundation. Thanks in advance for your support. [Click here](#) to donate online.

Foundation Office Open House

Mark your calendars for the Foundation's first office open house on January 8, 2010, from 3:00PM -7:00PM. We're at 1155 N. State Street in Bellingham in the Herald Building, Suite 322.

Committee Happenings

Update from the Education Committee

This was a banner year for the Northwest Straits Initiative, particularly with regard to media attention. We are heartened that there continues to be a great deal of interest by MRC members in strengthening education and outreach efforts in our communities. We plan to take advantage of some great ideas and timely opportunities to capitalize on the momentum built in 2009. In response to the enthusiasm generated by several recent screenings of the documentary 'A Sea Change', the Commission will partner with People For Puget Sound to cosponsor environmental films around the Northwest Straits. We are also exploring partnerships with communications experts specializing in marine issues, to hold workshops tailored to the needs of interested MRCs.

Bulletin Board

SeaDoc Society E-Course on Designing Healthy Ecosystems

Attention Environmental Educators! Wondering what cutting edge science has to say about building healthy ecosystems for humans and wildlife? Take the SeaDoc Society's free month-long e-course on designing healthy coastal ecosystems. You'll get an informative

email every three days, each covering one of the ten ecological principles that provide a big picture view of how to create and safeguard a healthy ecosystem. You'll also be able to use on-line forums to discuss with other educators how to most effectively teach these principles. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.seadocsociety.org/courses/topten>

2010 Commission Meeting Dates

The new year is almost here. [Click here](#) to get Commission meeting dates for 2010. Dates and locations may change, so please check the web site for updates as the meeting dates approach.

Events/Articles

December 19, 2009 – Burke Museum, Seattle. 'Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway', an extraordinary exhibit of marine and terrestrial fossils and fossil-inspired artwork by Alaskan artist Ray Troll, opens to the public from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM. Meet Ray and co-curators Drs. Elizabeth Nesbitt, Burke Museum; and Kirk Johnson, Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

2010 - HAZWOPER training outreach program eight hour refresher course by the Northwest Spill Response Community. [Click here](#) for dates, locations and more information.

February 6, 2010 - 15th Annual Sound Waters, Coupeville. [Click here](#) for more information.

February 6, 2010 - Evening showing of the film *A SEA CHANGE* at the Coupeville Recreation Hall.