



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
January 21, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Whatcom County Civic Center, Garden Level Conference Room
322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham, 98225

Attending: Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Lincoln Loehr (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Connie Thoman, Lenny Corin, Duane Fagergren, Lyn Muench (alt.), Tony Petrillo (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Jerry Masters

Absent: Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger, Shannon Davis, Tom Hoban, Bob Vreeland, David Dicks

Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price

Support: Terry Stevens, Joan Drinkwin, Suzanne Shull

Guests: Seth Fleetwood (Bellingham City Council), Don Burdick and Ann Stark (City of Bellingham), Penny Dalton (Director, Washington Sea Grant)

Other MRC
Representation: Ron Akeson, Burt Rubash, Renee LaCroix, Melissa Roberts (Whatcom MRC)

DRAFT

Welcome and Introductions

Ginny Broadhurst opened the meeting with introductions.

Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham City Council member, welcomed everyone to Bellingham and thanked them for the important work that they do. Seth is a member of the Whatcom MRC and has served eight years on the Bellingham City Council. Seth was born and raised in Bellingham and remembers when he was young there was a lot of waste dumped into the bay. Since then there has been a lot of clean up and efforts continue to restore Bellingham Bay.

Meeting Minutes

The December meeting minutes were approved as written.

Staff Reports

Ginny welcomed two newly-appointed Commissioners: Connie Thoman, Skagit MRC and Jerry Masters, Governor's appointee.

Connie said she has been the industry representative on the Skagit County MRC for five years. She works for the Port of Anacortes as an Environmental Administrator and is a planner by trade.

Jerry said he is a general manager for Valley Supply Company which sells and delivers construction materials. Jerry served as chair of the Snohomish County MRC for the last three years and considers it the fun part of his job.

The Commission welcomed Connie and Jerry to the group.

2011 Meeting Date Proposed Revisions

Ginny explained that there are a few proposed location changes to the [2011 meeting dates](#). The Commission noted that the 2011 Salish Sea Ecosystem conference might conflict with the October 28 meeting date. If many Commissioners plan to attend that conference the October meeting date can be reviewed later in the year and rescheduled as needed. The proposed revised locations did not present any other conflicts and will replace the previous 2011 meeting schedule.

MRC Grant Applications

Sasha reported that the MRC grant application form was sent to MRC staff and chairs. She said the application form is significantly different than last year. Sasha and Caroline have been meeting with MRCs to get an idea of what new and continuing projects are being proposed. Proposals are due by March 28.

Bills of Interest from WA Legislative Session

Ginny said there are some bills of interest in the legislature at this time. One bill, [HB1086](#) is about the state budget but includes reductions in education and outreach projects funded through PS Partnership. Another bill, [HB1186](#), would make changes to the state's oil spill program. Ginny said the bill addresses some concerns that the Commission had discussed on a vessel of opportunity system and a volunteer coordination system. The hearing for this bill is scheduled for February 1. Kathy Fletcher said that there is a similar bill being proposed by Senator Kevin Ranker ([SB5439](#)) that will be heard on January 26.

Kathy suggested that a letter of support for the oil spill bills would be timely. Other Commissioners supported the idea and requested that Commission staff prepare a letter of support.

Ginny said that bills are easy to track by going to the [homepage for the legislature](#) and looking up a bill number. You can also watch most hearings online at [TVW- Washington State Public Affairs Network](#).

Ginny said she recently spoke with Representative Christine Rolfes and let her know that we have received funding from the bill she sponsored last year for crab pot removal. The Foundation is working with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to use the funding for crab pot removal in Snohomish County.

Island MRC Data Coordination Project

Don Burdick and Ann Stark from the City of Bellingham presented on the City's GIS map viewer system called [CityIQ](#). Don and Ann are working with the Island County MRC to use this platform for their data coordination project, to be launched as SoundIQ. Don gave an overview of what the CityIQ website and how it will correlate to MRC data. He provided [sample pages of the program](#). Don said the City of Bellingham proud of their technology and is happy to work with MRCs.

Suzanne Shull was aware of Island MRCs interests in data coordination and knew of City of Bellingham's platform and put the 2 together. Suzanne explained that SoundIQ will be spatial data that allows the public to see online maps of MRC data such as forage fish habitat suitability data. She said there is also opportunity to download data and do scientific analysis.

A comment and question period followed the presentation:

Q: Must the data be in a specific format to load and will it be a big task to load the data?

- Don explained that yes, making sure the data is in the right format is important. If the data are already being used and available it will be easier. Don suggested working with college interns to load data.

Q: Is the MRC planning on using this application to scope new projects and how close is the MRC to being able to use it?

- Lenny Corin said it is just a matter pulling together the MRCs data with the support of Island County. They need to have enough data in the right format before they can load it.

Q: How much will it cost?

- Don said the City of Bellingham is partnering to be a successful collaboration and estimates the Island MRC project will have 10 map layers and use their formatted data for an initial cost of \$10,000, based mainly on staff salaries at an average of \$90 per hour.

Q: In San Juan County the MRC is looking into using a SQLShare program through the University of Washington, how does SQL compare to this program?

- Suzanne explained that this type of data program is not as spatial (visual) like SoundIQ but it might be a nice complement to the SoundIQ program.

Q: Is there some standard form for data?

- Suzanne explained that there is a federal standard called FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) for GIS data.

Q: How do you verify the integrity of the data?

- Quality control is a continual problem when you are working with data. It will be the responsibility of the MRC and possibly a technical data committee is needed.

Ginny stressed the importance and power of the visual portion of data collection. Ginny noted her appreciation for Island MRC and Suzanne sticking to this data coordination project and finding a way to visually share the years of data work done in Island County.

Lenny said once the project gets going it might be something that other MRCs will be interested in. During the initial stages is a good time to get MRCs involved so they understand the nuts and bolt of the project and they can plan for funding.

Don said that the Huxley College in Bellingham has a GIS department and interns that are clamoring for work.

For more information about this project contact Don Burdick at dburdick@cob.org or Ann Stark at astark@cob.org. Suzanne Shull is also available at sshull@padillabay.gov.

MRC Reports

MRC representatives shared the following information along with the provided [written reports](#).

San Juan - Jonathan White reported that the MRC has had some challenges with getting local government support so the MRC assigned an MRC member to each council member, and they plan an informal meeting over lunch every 6 months. The purpose is not to bother the BOCC, but to help provide information about the MRC's work and build relationships.

Clallam - Lyn Muench reported on the 2009-2011 MRC budget which looks like they will have \$10,000-15,000 remaining at the end of the grant period. The MRC would like to do crab pot removals in the new aquatic reserve with the funds. She also pointed out that studies on impacts of

the pending Elwha Dam removal now extend well beyond Olympic National Park borders and are getting attention from many more players because of the work of the MRC and project partners.

Island - Lenny Corin said the MRC administration and Shore Stewards are the two major budget categories. They plan to continue to do the projects they are currently working on, but due to the overall financial uncertainty they budgeted 10% less for next year, except for Shore Stewards where they added \$5,000.

Snohomish - Jerry Masters senses that the MRC is integrating with Snohomish County and is set up to take on a bigger share of work, and possibly receive a larger contribution (possibly double) from the county public works department. He said it has been helpful to have Ginny come down and talk to county managers.

Whatcom –Bob Cecile introduced Doug Stark as Whatcom MRCs newest committee member and stated that he has volunteered for years and also supported MRC as a county staff person in the past. He mentioned that the MRC was still working their way through project selection for their upcoming grant proposal. Many of the potential projects have emphasis on water quality.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Washington Sea Grant Program Update

Penny Dalton, Director of Washington Sea Grant presented on their program. She explained that WA Sea Grant that is a federal academic program administered by NOAA and run through the University of Washington. The University recently pulled together all of their ocean and atmospheric sciences and some of their policy groups to form the [College of the Environment](#). Currently Sea Grant has 26 staff in various locations around Western Washington. Because they are a relatively small organization they work in partnership with other organizations. Penny gave an overview of their program.

Penny announced two WA Sea Grant requests for proposals in 2011. The first is a one-to two-year research project by investigators at academic research institutions throughout Washington state and the lead applicant must be a qualified Principal Investigator through the University of Washington's system. The second is for social science research projects that are regional and include more than one institute. More information can be found on their [web site](#).

Penny said that some of the MRC citizen science projects would qualify for the [current request for proposal](#) but those types of proposals do not typically score as well in technical review because they are harder to evaluate. Kate Litle and Michelle Wainstein oversee the WA Sea Grant citizen science efforts and are currently working with Snohomish/Island (Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area) and San Juan (stormwater monitoring) MRCs. She suggested that anyone interested in submitting a proposal should find a University of Washington researcher who can advise on the project and be its champion. For questions the request for proposal or other WA Sea Grant programs please contact Penny at pdalton@u.washington.edu.

Penny also introduced Ian Miller, the new Coastal Resiliency Specialist with WA Sea Grant who will start work in late February, based in Port Angeles.

Committee reports

Executive Committee – Lenny Corin reported that the Executive Committee met this month and talked about the retreat agenda for February. Ginny explained that the retreat will begin at Padilla Bay Reserve on day one and day two will be at the LaConner Country Inn.

Tribal Committee - Ginny reported that the Tribal Committee did not meet but a request for proposals was issued and is available on our [web site](#). The request is for a tribal project that aligns with Northwest Straits benchmarks. There is a total of \$32,000 available for projects. Sasha is also working on the contract with Tulalip Tribes for a Snohomish Basin carbon budget project.

Technical Committee - Caroline reported that the Technical Committee has not met recently but their focus remains on forage fish and *Spartina*. Caroline and Joe are coordinating a needs assessment workshop that will look at forage fish management and research in WA and BC. There will be a summary report generated from the workshop. Caroline said they are incorporating the final edits to the manuscript from the sand lance data coordination project and they hope to submit it for publication this winter. The Commission, in partnership with USGS and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, submitted a proposal for a one-day symposium on forage fish at the [American Fisheries Society annual meeting](#) in September. Gary Greene and Tina Wyllie-Echeverria are planning their next field expedition on subtidal work in early February. Their project will wrap up in Fall 2011. For any questions about forage fish projects please contact Caroline at gibson@nwstraits.org.

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened after the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

Update from Washington, DC

Shawn Bills, legislative aide to Senator Murray, reported that the 111th congress ended without passing the Northwest Straits Initiative's reauthorization bill. He said the bill is ready and Senator Murray's office is prepared to introduce it the first week of February. The biggest challenge is that there are people in Congress who do not want to see any increase in federal funding and the Northwest Straits Initiative's appropriation falls into that category. Shawn said that Congress also failed to pass an omnibus budget before the close of 2010. They have begun drafting a new budget that will not have earmarks. At this time Senator Murray's office is not accepting appropriation requests for fiscal year 2012.

The Commission discussed a similar scenario from 2007 when NOAA received funding intended for the Northwest Straits in their budget but without the earmark. Ginny will be meeting with David Kennedy, assistant administrator for NOAA's National Ocean Service.

Shawn said that the completion of our derelict fish gear stimulus project would be good to highlight and to send the information about it to his office.

Ginny said our budget strategy will be discussed at our retreat in February.

Ginny added an item to staff reports that the job announcement for a restoration manager is expected to go out next week but may be re-considered given the current budget outlook.

Roundtable

Kathy Fletcher said the issue of stormwater funding is back and a bill should be introduced shortly. She announced that People For Puget Sound is accepting nominations for the [Warren G. Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award](#). More information is available [online](#). Kathy's retirement party will be on June 27 at the Seattle Aquarium.

Jonathan White said that the San Juan Local Implementation Committee, created to implement the action agenda, has met three times. The committee has two official MRC representatives and three other MRC members. Jonathan said the committee has been promised \$600,000 over the next three years. Jonathan sees the effect of the group in the MRC workplan and hoping the Implementation Committee will complement the work of the MRC.

Joe Gaydos said he recently had a chance to talk to the Senate Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee and mentioned the work of Northwest Straits Initiative and the derelict fishing gear removal project.

Tony Petrillo said that if anyone has not seen the movie *Flock of Dodos* it is worth watching, Lincoln Loehr owns a copy and is willing to lend it.

Lenny Corin said that [Sound Waters University 2011](#) will be February 5 at South Whidbey High School in Langley.

Ginny said there is an interesting [report by Earth Economics](#) valuing the Puget Sound Basin. They partnered with the Tulalip Tribes looking at the carbon cycle in the Snohomish Basin.

Jonathan White reported that San Juan MRC is moving ahead with the *Getting to the Water's Edge* project and thanked Island County MRC for their help with the project.

The next meeting will be part of our annual planning retreat on February 25 in LaConner.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
February 25, 12:45 pm -2:00 pm
La Conner Country Inn Conference Room
107 S 2nd Street, La Conner 98257

Attending: Shannon Davis, Tony Petrillo, Connie Thoman, Tom Hoban, Bob Cecile, Jerry Masters, Terry Williams, Duane Fagergren, Joe Gaydos, Jonathan White, Terrie Klinger

Absent: Kathy Fletcher, Bob Vreeland, David Dicks

Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price

Support: Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay NERR, Joan Drinkwin and Tracie Johannessen, NWS Foundation

Other MRC Representation: Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC) Tracy Alker and Neil Borman (Skagit MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

DRAFT

Terry Williams opened the meeting.

Approval of January meeting minutes

The January meeting minutes were approved with changes noted.

Business items

The [5th International Marine Debris Conference](#) is March 20-25 in Honolulu Hawaii. Ginny will be presenting on the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal project. Kyle Antonelis from NRC and Crayton Fenn from Fenn Enterprises will be presenting on the new side scan sonar.

The [American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting](#) is September 4-8 in Seattle. Caroline explained that this is the largest meeting in the country of fishery scientists and managers. Caroline with other key partners submitted a proposal for forage fish symposium that was accepted. There will be 27 presentations, a keynote and poster session.

Sasha and Caroline have been working on the Initiatives 2010 annual report. The writing portion is complete and it is now in the hands of the graphic designer. Initially there will be an electronic version launch followed by print copies.

Florian Graner has a new project with KIRO Television called [Secrets in the Sound](#). The program is scheduled to air on March 24 and April 2. The DVD can be purchased [online](#).

Kathy Fletcher is retiring from People For Puget Sound and has [announced appointment of a new director, Tom Bancroft](#). Caroline and Kathleen volunteered to be on the Celebration committee. The Governor's office will appoint a new person to her seat and we can weigh in. Please forward us your suggestions.

Committee reports

Technical committee – Joe Gaydos reported the forage fish workshop was a success with standing room only. The workshop summary is available [online](#). They now have a list of action items and Joe is working on prioritizing some of the work. The workshop has succeeded in getting researchers and policy groups talking with great follow up discussions on Google Groups.

Tribal committee – Ginny reported the request for proposals for tribal projects will close March. The solicitation has been posted on our website homepage. The Tribal committee members will be the reviewers.

Executive committee – Ginny reported that the Executive committee met on February 4 and did some retreat planning. She said the restoration manager position has been postponed.

FY2011 Budget/Workplan

Ginny Broadhurst explained that we need to adopt a budget plan for fiscal year 2011 so we can act on any funding awarded by NOAA. The Commission discussed using Ecosystem funds to develop a strategy to integrate sea level rise into our projects.

The Commission moved and approved the budget template scenarios as presented and the budget strategy committee to give recommendations and approve amendments if a grant agreement with NOAA is needed.

MRC Reports

In addition to the [written reports](#) the MRC representatives gave the following updates:

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that the marine manager's workshop will be February 28 – March 1 in Friday Harbor.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile had no additions to the written report.

Skagit – Connie Thoman had no additions to the written report.

Snohomish - Tom Hoban had no additions to the written report.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Round Table

Ginny said there are several important bills in legislature right now. Ginny testified on a bill that requires mandatory reporting of lost nets that if the bill is passed they need to give us funding to remove them. Another is the oil spill bill ([HB1186](#)) and the plastic bag ban bill.

Joan reported that the Foundation did its first derelict gear removal in British Columbia waters. They removed over 200 crab pots and half of a purse seine net. The project was paid for by the BC government and saw some good press.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be March 25 at the Pacific Rim Institute in Island County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
March 25, 2011 - 10:30 am-3:00 pm
Pacific Rim Institute - 180 Parker Road, Coupeville, WA 98239

Attending: Shannon Davis, Connie Thoman, Tom Hoban, Ron Akeson (alt.), Jerry Masters, Terry Williams, Duane Fagergren, Joe Gaydos, Jonathan White, Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher

Absent: Bob Vreeland, David Dicks, Bob Cecile

Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price

Support: Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay NERR

Agenda Guests: Rex Porter (Island MRC), Andrea Kunz (UW), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

Other MRC Representation: Joe Hillers and Dick Toft (Island MRC)

DRAFT

Terry Williams opened the meeting.

Approval of February meeting minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved as written.

Island MRC – Data Coordination Project Update

Rex Porter, Executive Director of the Island Marine Resources Committee gave an update on the MRC's data archiving and access project. He explained the purpose of the project is to provide internet-based access to data that functions for both technical and community members of Island County, WRIA6, and the Northwest Straits region. Rex explained that the project is underway with the help of Suzanne Shull, other Northwest Straits staff and the City of Bellingham. The cost of the project is \$12,000. Phase one should be complete July 1, 2010. The project is based on the City of Bellingham's CityIQ platform and will be called Sound IQ. Rex explained that Phase II of the project will include metadata. The pilot version is on the City of Bellingham's server and in the next six months they will be move services to the cloud. [Click here to see a handout with more information about the project.](#)

Lenny Corin, Island MRC representative to the Commission, added that Dr. Linda Rhodes, a NOAA scientist and member of the Island MRC, has done a tremendous amount of work on the MRC's GIS data layers. Lenny feels that SoundIQ will be a tremendous asset for all.

Rex hopes to send out a link to the SoundIQ project soon. The City of Bellingham's site, which is a close relative, can be accessed at: <http://www.cob.org/services/maps/online-mapping/index.aspx>

STAFF REPORTS

2010 Annual Report

Sasha reported that the online version of the 2010 annual report is available at www.nwstraits.org. Hard copies are scheduled to be delivered next week. Commission staff will get copies of the report to MRCs before their next meeting. The Commission discussed the distribution of the reports and requested that MRCs report back on who received a copy and give feedback on their usefulness.

Salish Sea Conference

Caroline reported that the 2011 [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) will be in Vancouver, BC on October 25-27. Caroline said the following abstracts have been submitted: WA Department of Fish and Wildlife on Forage Fish; Northwest Straits Foundation on Marine Debris and People For Puget Sound on *Spartina*. Duane Fagergren added that despite the travel and budget barriers it is important that this conference move ahead and he encourages MRCs and others to consider participating.

Nominating Committee

Ginny requested appointment of an ad hoc committee to nominate candidates for election as chair and vice chair of the Commission. Terry Stevens, Duane Fagergren, Terrie Klinger and Terry Williams volunteered to serve as the nominating committee.

International Marine Debris Conference

Ginny reported on the [5th International Marine Debris Conference](#) on March 20-25 in Honolulu, Hawaii where she presented on derelict fishing gear removal in Puget Sound. Kyle Antonelis from Natural Resources Consultants presented on the new sidescan sonar techniques for locating derelict nets. Tom Good from NOAA presented on derelict gear impacts in Puget Sound. Ginny said there was good representation from NOAA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and she had opportunities to talk with people from NOAA. She noted that it was good to see what is going on in other parts of the world. The conference included an artwork component and there were many creative marine debris pieces on display.

Ginny would like to take the information from the conference and do a 'call to action' to help get plastic and other trash out of circulation. For more information about the conference, contact Ginny.

Summer interns/volunteers

Ginny reminded the group that it is a good time to consider projects for summer interns and volunteers. Caroline has a short list of candidates and would like to talk with MRCs who are interested. Interns can help in many areas including communications, graphic design, and GIS work.

Rockfish workshop

Joe Gaydos said that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, and the Sea Doc Society are putting together a workshop on rockfish in June. Joe explained some species in Puget Sound are on the Endangered Species list. The workshop will present what is known and include a discussion of priorities and actions. Northwest Straits is going to propose a presentation on derelict fishing gear removal and its relationship to rockfish. Joe said space will be limited but they would like participation from those who are working on rockfish

issues. Ginny said more information on how to get involved will be in the Initiative's newsletter.

Outer coast MRC update

Caroline said that Rich Osborne, Coordinator for the North Pacific Coast MRC will present at our meeting on May 20 in Clallam County. Four MRCs are established on the outer coast, including the newest in Wahkiakum County. The North Pacific Coast and Pacific County MRC issued a request for proposals in February 2011, and there will be more information on the selected projects soon. Jenna Norman with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife is still the lead contact for the MRC program.

Legislative updates

Ginny updated the Commission on movement of some bills of interest in the State legislature this session:

- House bill 1086 on the state budget and Puget Sound Partnership outreach funding cuts passed and is in effect.
- House bill 1186 on oil spill response passed the House and is now under Senate review.
- House bill 1721, banning the use of coal tar sealants, passed in the House (as ESHB1721) and passed the Senate committee on Environment and Water and Energy.
- Senate bill 5661 on mandatory derelict gear reporting has been "X filed" and is not likely to move forward this session.

MRC Grants/budget information

Ginny reported that the federal budget is in its 3rd continuing resolution. There has been enormous support for the Initiative, and it was helpful to have the documentation of local and regional support. Ginny thanked everyone for their efforts to reach out to a broad audience. Ginny said there are opportunities to work with the Partnership and other agencies, and having project descriptions from MRCS will be useful.

Terry Stevens, who was recently in Washington DC, said that every elected official or staff he spoke with said that they have been hearing a lot about the Initiative and it is helpful to get letters from a broad range (community members to elected officials) of supporters.

Sasha is preparing for the closeout of current MRC grants at the end of June and it is expected that there will be some unspent funds coming back from MRCs. The budget committee will discuss these funds and other carryover funds in the near future.

The Commission discussed the process for the fiscal year 2012 budget and whether our situation will be the same. Ginny said it is unlikely we will have any more information about our budget until after April 10, following the end of the current continuing resolution.

April meeting format/presentations

Ginny explained that communications on our April MRC project sharing meeting will go out next week to MRC staff and Commission representatives. MRCs will be asked to focus on projects that are good candidates for outside funding. Joan and Tracie from the Foundation will participate and give feedback on a project's readiness for outside funding.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Working Lunch

The group participated in the [Secrets in the Sound](#) live web chat during lunch.

Oil Spill Preparedness & Response Project; UW Environmental Management Team & Snohomish MRC

Kathleen Herrmann, staff for Snohomish MRC, and Andrea Kunz, UW Program on the Environment, presented on the recently-completed Snohomish County Oil Spill Preparedness and Response project. Kathleen explained the goal of the project was to inform Snohomish County government about the threats and potential impacts of marine oil spills on social, environmental, and economic interests in the County, and to identify and develop prevention and preparedness options for reducing the risks and consequences of marine oil spills. Kathleen explained that the UW Program on the Environment has a \$7,000 application fee, which is a bargain considering the high quality of work. [The final report is available online](#) (8MB). Kathleen reviewed the reasons for the project, the logistics, project objectives and the applicability for other MRCs. Andrea talked about threat scenarios, gap analysis, and next steps. [Click here for a copy of the presentation in PDF.](#)

Commissioners agreed that the information from this project would be valuable to other MRCs and county governments. Kathleen said the data from other counties can be easily integrated into the project and presented to local governments. The challenge is getting officials to take oil spill preparedness seriously. Commissioners discussed ways to link the counties together or the possibility of a regional oil spill contingency plan.

MRC Reports

In addition to the [MRC written reports](#) the representatives gave the following updates:

San Juan MRC – Jonathan White reported that a big piece of the Marine Managers' Workshop was about oil spill management and the next workshop will focus on oil spill response. Mary Knackstedt, MRC staff, will be leaving her position. Mary has been a tremendous asset to the MRC and they are sorry to see her leave.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban had no additions to the written report.

Jefferson MRC - Shannon Davis reported that the MRC welcomed new member Shelby Smith. She said the spring Beach Watcher training class is full. At the last meeting the MRC went through the project ranking process and had a good discussion of their priorities, which are advocacy and education and outreach. The Jefferson County Shoreline Master Plan has hit a snag in the approval process on the controversial issue of net pen aquaculture.

Clallam MRC – There was no representative present from Clallam MRC. Ginny noted from the written report that David Freed is resigning as the Beach Watcher coordinator effective April 10. Joe Schmitt is no longer an MRC member.

Island MRC - Lenny Corin gave the group a brief history of the Pacific Rim Institute, which is located on what used to be a pheasant farm.

Whatcom MRC - Ron Akeson reported that the MRC Executive Committee met to discuss the potential reduction in funding. Their MRC is planning to invite some of the original members of the MRC and discuss the funding challenges from the early years.

Skagit MRC – Connie Thoman reported that at the last meeting the MRC tried unsuccessfully to prioritize projects without considering budget. The MRC decided to submit their project list as

written. They also discussed whether the MRC was interested in playing more of an advisory role and decided that those interested could start an advisory committee. The MRC concluded that they would like to focus on project work.

Committee reports

Tribal Committee

Ginny reported that the request for proposals closed March 1. Proposals were received from the Stillaguamish Tribe, Swinomish Tribe, and Lummi Nation. The proposals were reviewed by Ginny, Caroline, Sasha, and Christine Woodward. After gathering more information and ranking the proposals the evaluation team recommended funding two out of the projects:

- \$9,865 to the Stillaguamish Tribe for ocean acidification monitoring in Port Susan Bay
- \$5,000 to the Lummi Nation for two beach clean ups that would involve tribal members and tribal schools.

Terrie Klinger would like to review the Stillaguamish project to verify their testing equipment is adequate for measuring the data specified.

The Commission moved and approved the tribal project funding recommendations pending the approval of the Stillaguamish tribe's monitoring method by Terrie Klinger.

Technical Committee

Caroline reported that there is \$80,000 left in the ecosystem account which was intended for forage fish work but after discussion at the retreat the committee decided delay spending the funds. Caroline and Joe Gaydos met with potential funder for a forage fish research project. Joe is making the necessary revisions and submitting the sand lance manuscript to Northwest Naturalists . A previous submission to the Fishery Bulletin was rejected as it did not meet the criteria for statistical analysis. Caroline has an outline of the forage fish symposium at the [American Fisheries Society 141st Annual Meeting](#).

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Duane Fagergren gave an update on the Puget Sound Partnership. Duane said there is a lot of information available on their [web site](#). Kristen Cooley, ECO Net coordinator is out on maternity leave and Emily Sanford from WSU extension is temporarily handling the coordination. Even though the ECO Net faced a budget cut this year the program will be funded with Environmental Protection Agency funds starting in June or July.

Duane explained that the Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) are in the process of hiring coordinators and getting established. Once established they will begin the competitive funding process to allocate 90% of their funds. He said that at this time the Local Integrating Organizations have not factored in the work of the MRCs and in many cases are not connected with the marine environment.

Caroline has talked to the two ecosystem recovery coordinators assigned to Snohomish, Island, Whatcom, and Skagit counties. She said that in Whatcom County the Local Integrating Organization is established and the MRC is not yet involved. Caroline feels there is opportunity and believes the MRC needs to take the initiative, rather than wait for the Partnership to figure out how they should participate. The ecosystem recovery coordinators do not know the full history of the Northwest Straits and some perceive the MRCs as just another stakeholder organization within each LIO. One challenge is that there is

no timeline or clear guidelines for the LIO process. Morgan Scheidler, ecosystem recovery coordinator for Whidbey and Snohomish, is preparing a strategic plan for the LIO. An LIO has not yet formed in Skagit County and this would be an ideal time for the MRC to get involved.

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened after the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher announced that Terry Williams will be a recipient of the **Warren Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award** for his many years of work on marine issues. Both Ginny and Duane wrote letters of support for his nomination. The award will be presented on April 6 at [People For Puget Sound's New Day for Puget Sound luncheon](#).

Kathy announced that this year is People For Puget Sound's 20th anniversary and to celebrate they will be reprising the voyage that launched the organization in 1991. There will be several legs to the voyage, including celebrations in many ports of call. Kathy's retirement party will be on June 22 at the Seattle Aquarium, everyone is welcome.

[Click here for more information about People For Puget Sound's community events and retirement party.](#)

[Click here for more information about day-trips and 3-day voyages.](#)

The meeting was adjourned. The next Commission meeting will be on April 29 in Skagit County at the Padilla Bay Reserve.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
April 29, 2011 - 9:00 am-3:30 pm
Padilla Bay Reserve, Skagit County
10441 Bayview Edison Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Attending: Shannon Davis, Connie Thoman, Tom Hoban, Bob Cecile, Jerry Masters, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher, Lenny Corin

Absent: Bob Vreeland, David Dicks, Terry Williams, Jonathan White

Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price

Support: Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay NERR; Joan Drinkwin, Tracie Johannessen, Northwest Straits Foundation

Other MRC Representation and guests:

Andy Stevenson (Clallam MRC), Joe Hillers (Island MRC), Gabrielle LaRoche, Michael Adams (Jefferson MRC), Jeff Hanson (San Juan MRC), Tracy Alker, Neil Borman (Skagit MRC), Kathleen Herrmann, Brandon Jensen, Jared Bond, Emily Whitney (Snohomish MRC), Wendy Steffensen, Doug Stark (Whatcom MRC), Tom Bancroft (People for Puget Sound), Raechel Waters (WA Sea Grant), Sally Hintz (Sen Cantwell's office), Suzanna Stoike (Dept. of Ecology), Betty Carteret (Skagit Beach Watchers)

DRAFT

Lenny Corin welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. The election of officers was moved in order to take place before the lunch break.

MRC PRESENTATIONS:

Whatcom MRC

Wendy Steffensen, member of the Whatcom MRC, presented on Water Quality Monitoring and its relation to the shellfish harvest in Whatcom County. In Drayton Harbor the MRC proposed adding 10 new water quality monitoring sites that are believed to effect shellfish harvesting.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (5MB)

Skagit MRC

Betty Carteret, president of Friends of Skagit Beaches, presented on the Trail Tales Interpretive project. The Skagit MRC has been asked to provide funding for this education and outreach project on Tommy Thompson Trail along Fidalgo Bay.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (1MB)

Connie Thoman, member of the Skagit MRC, made a brief presentation on the Shannon Point Forage Fish Habitat Restoration project. The Skagit MRC has proposed to remove large rock rip rap to improve habitat and restore movement of sediment drift along the beach.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (1MB)

Clallam MRC

Andy Stevenson, member of the Clallam MRC, presented on the Derelict Crab Pot Removal project. The MRC has proposed to remove derelict crab pots from two popular crabbing areas, Dungeness Bay and Discovery Bay.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (1MB)

San Juan MRC

Jeff Hanson, staff for the San Juan MRC, presented on the Stormwater Monitoring Program in San Juan County. The MRC is proposing to help implement a stormwater monitoring plan in San Juan County. Jeff explained that five locations have been prioritized and the plan includes:

- Water quality monitoring
- Complete quality control and assurance to be sure they are getting complete data
- Flow data
- Comparison of stormwater toxicity to shoreline waters
- Monitoring contractors who will bid on the project
- Incorporating citizen science
- Utilizing MRC Science Committee to interpret and provide data to the County
- Utilizing wide range of outreach

Jeff said the plan is ready to be implemented.

Jefferson MRC

Michael Adams, chair of the Jefferson MRC, presented on the Olympia Oyster Restoration project. The MRC is proposing to continue monitoring and evaluating the dynamics and limiting factors of *Ostreola Conchaphila*. In addition MRC volunteers, in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will identify and survey other oyster populations in Jefferson County.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (3MB)

Gabrielle LaRoche, staff for the Jefferson MRC, presented on the Maynard Beach Nearshore Restoration. Gabrielle explained that this project, which will restore habitat at Maynard Beach, compliments the Olympia oyster restoration project which is located in Discovery Bay.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (2MB)

BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Officers

Terry Stevens reported that the ad hoc Nominating Committee recommends to the Commission that Lenny Corin continue to serve as vice chair and Jerry Masters serve as chair.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus that Jerry Masters serve as chair and Lenny Corin serve as vice chair.

Introducing Tom Bancroft

Kathy Fletcher introduced [Tom Bancroft](#), the new executive director for People For Puget Sound. Tom said he “is excited to be here and get his feet in the mud”. Tom worked in the Florida Keys where there are similar, but different, issues. He said it is fun to hear about the projects of the Northwest Straits Initiative and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend.

MRC PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED:

Island MRC

Joe Hillers, member of the Island MRC, presented on the Stormwater Phytoremediation Project. Joe explained the pilot project will filter storm and sewer water through Phytoremediation, which makes it useable for agriculture and decreases the amount of toxics flowing into Penn Cove and Admiralty Inlet.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (3MB)

Snohomish MRC

Kathleen Herrmann, staff of the Snohomish MRC, presented on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project. Kathleen explained that the MRC and many partners are working to develop a complete conservation action plan in Port Susan.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (4MB)

BUSINESS ITEMS CONTINUED:

March Meeting Minutes

The March meeting minutes were approved as written.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Salish Sea Conference

Caroline Gibson would like to know if MRCs are planning on submitting an abstract for the [Salish Sea Conference](#). She is available to help write abstracts and bundle similar projects for presentation.

Budget

Ginny said there is no new information about the Initiative's fiscal year 2011 budget and she will keep everyone posted.

Roundtable

Kathy announced that People For Puget Sound has a full list of upcoming community events and more information is [available online](#).

The meeting was adjourned. The next Commission meeting is May 20 at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal center in Sequim.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
May 20, 2011 - 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center, Red Cedar Room, Clallam County
1033 Old Blyn Highway Sequim, WA 98382

Attending: Shannon Davis, Connie Thoman, Tom Hoban, Bob Cecile, Jerry Masters,
Duane Fagergren (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Lenny Corin, Jonathan White
Absent: Bob Vreeland, David Dicks, Terry Williams, Kathy Fletcher, Terrie Klinger
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation
Other MRC
Representation: Andy Stevenson, Don Hatler, Lyn Muench (Clallam MRC)

DRAFT

Jerry Masters opened the meeting and introduced Clallam County Commissioner Mike Doherty.

Commissioner Mike Doherty welcomed the Commission thanked the group for visiting Clallam County, which he says is, “a pretty special place.” Clallam County has over a 3,000 square miles of land and water and home to over 20 parks, the largest being Olympic National Park with over one million acres. Commissioner Doherty talked about the removal of the Elwha Dam which will begin with a celebration on Saturday, September 17.

Meeting Minutes

The April meeting minutes were approved as written.

Ad Hoc Budget Committee Recommendations

Jerry explained that there is no new information available on our fiscal year 2011 budget. Until we get more information from NOAA, expected sometime in June, the ad hoc budget committee is recommending a 6 month budget with the estimated remaining funds of \$380,000 in order to ensure that MRC grants can begin July 1. After discussing several scenarios, the committee decided it was important to keep the infrastructure of the Initiative intact, which can be accomplished with the funds available for six months. The committee recognized that each MRC has different funding needs for staff but the committee recommends allocating funds equally. Ginny said that she is optimistic that

there will be more funding and this is not the final budget. Jerry asked the group to consider whether they support the idea to keep the infrastructure and how tightly to structure the funds to MRCs.

The Commission heard from each member and agreed that the Initiative has an enormous amount of support and dedicated members that will continue to make progress even in hard times. The group supported the proposed budget with Commission staff working with MRC staff on grant specifics.

The Commission moved and approved the proposed budget as written. Lenny asked for more specific detail on the financial implications to the NWS Foundation.

MRC Grant Proposal Review and Approval

Ginny explained that once the Commission approves the projects proposed by MRCs for 2011-2013, they can be carried out as funds become available for them. The Northwest Straits Foundation is also seeking project funding for MRC work.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus the full list of 2011-2013 MRC grant project proposals.

Elwha Restoration Project Update

Dean Butterworth from the National Park Service gave a presentation on the Elwha Restoration Project. The National Park Service is working closely with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and many other partners to restore the Elwha River and its ecosystem. Dean says the removal of the Glines Canyon Dam and the Elwha Dam is scheduled to begin in September 2011. The removal of the dams will benefit salmon and trout that have been blocked from spawning. Before the dams were built, fish could access over 70 miles of streams and freshwater, but now only the lower five miles of the Elwha River remain accessible for spawning. The dams also block the movement of sediment from the river into the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

[Click here for the website with more information on the project.](#)

Staff reports

MRC Conference – Ginny announced that this year’s conference will be in Port Townsend at the [Northwest Maritime Center](#) on December 2-3. We will be sending out a “save the date” reminder soon. Funds for MRC members to participate in this event will be included in MRC grant agreements.

[Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference](#) – Ginny said this conference, formerly known as the Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Research Conference, will be held October 25-27 in Vancouver, B.C. MRC members are encouraged to attend. One scholarship for each MRC is available through the Northwest Straits Foundation. Please contact [Connie](#) for details. Caroline reminded the group that abstracts are due Friday May 27.

Puget Sound Action Agenda update - The Partnership is working on an update to the action agenda. MRCs should work with their Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator to ensure their projects are included in this updated version. Duane Fagergren added that the [web site](#) should have current information. He explained that they are focusing on issues that have not yet been addressed, such as ocean acidification. Caroline noted that they are not adding individual projects, but rather actions that align with the action agenda by category.

New MRC Web Sites

Sasha announced that [Snohomish](#) and [Jefferson](#) MRCs have launched new web sites and reminded everyone to update any bookmarks and links. San Juan and Island MRCs will launch new sites next month.

Reauthorization Bill (S.962) (HB 1858)

Ginny reported that Senator Patty Murray and Congressman Rick Larsen introduced the Initiative's reauthorization bill. Ginny will monitor its progress through the legislative process.

Alternate Gubernatorial Representative

Ginny reported that Kathy Fletcher is not able to attend all Commission meetings through the end of her term in October, 2011. Kathy requested that the Commission consider appointing Tom Bancroft as her alternate.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus Tom Bancroft as Kathy Fletcher's alternate through October 2011.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Northwest Maritime Center: Boater Education and the Marine Environment

Jake Beattie, director of the Northwest Maritime Center, gave a presentation on the Northwest Maritime Center's boater education programs. One goal of the program is to make boaters more reverent about the environment, based on the theory that "if people love it, they will protect it."

[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

Following the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting, the meeting was re-convened.

Update on North Pacific Coast MRC

Rich Osborne gave an update on the North Pacific Coast MRC. He reported that in 2008 the coastal MRC program began as state program modeled after the Northwest Straits Initiative's MRCs. There are now 4 outer coast MRCs:

- North Pacific Coast MRC (including outer coast of Jefferson and Clallam counties)

- Gray's Harbor MRC
- Pacific County MRC
- Wahkiakum MRC

Rich explained that the coastal MRCs are working on their bylaws. He said it is a challenge to lack a governing body like the Commission, and they also have funding challenges. Their current annual budget is \$20,000.

Rich explained that all of the coastal MRCs are members of the State Ocean Caucus and participating in the marine spatial planning process. Their work has focused on marine education, coastal cleanup and other key projects that don't require much money. They have a newsletter, [web site](#) and are working to set up a foundation to help supplement funding.

MRC Reports

Jerry asked for verbal reports to touch on the 3 P's (people, projects, and politics) in order to give a flavor of what's happening locally.

San Juan – Jonathan reported that the MRC is talking about the NOAA orca vessel regulations. The MRC discussed the complexity of the orca issue and decided to put together a stakeholder group. MRC members have had regular, informal meetings with county council members to establish a rapport and keep information flowing about the role of the MRC.

Whatcom – Bob reported that SSA Marine has proposed a big project at Cherry Point in Whatcom County that would involve the transport of coal by railroad cars coming from Montana.

Island - Lenny reported that they have a county council member who participates on the MRC. Their data access project ("SoundIQ") will have a beta version accessible to the MRC in the next few weeks. The MRC is providing direction on Beach Watcher eelgrass survey priority areas.

Snohomish – Tom reported that the MRC is getting good press, including a recent front-page article in the Everett Herald. Tom said the MRC is not showing signs of slowing down, and that they have built important relationships, such as with Burlington Northern and the many partners involved in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project. The data from their mussel watch program is coming soon, and they have proven to be an important partner for NOAA on that program.

Clallam - Andy noted that they are challenged by having a large area with few people and a lot of ideas. Their outreach work is key. Initial results of a groundwater study done by the MRC indicate there aren't problems in the area with contamination. The MRC does communicate with the County Commissioners. Andy plans to work on mending a gap in communication along with Rich Osborne and the outer coast MRC, and the Commission.

Jefferson - Shannon reported that the county shoreline master program is delayed due to disagreement about the prohibition of net pens. The County Commissioners support the ban, so it is possible the issue may go to court. The MRC's newest member, Shelby Smith, works for the Jefferson land trust which is a new connection for the MRC.

Skagit - Connie said the MRC has had a lack of communication with County Commissioners. The MRC has not focused on politics at all. Duane added that the Samish Bay cleanup is a big deal, and wondered if there is a connection on the MRC. He recommended the MRC connect with Rick Haley to find out how to be involved.

Roundtable

Caroline reported that the article resulting from the Pacific sand lance project will be submitted to a journal next week.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
June 24, 2011 - 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Port of Everett, Blue Heron Room
1205 Craftsman Way, Everett, WA 98201**

Attending: Shannon Davis, Neil Borman (alt.), Tom Hoban, Ron Akeson (alt.), Jerry Masters, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Lenny Corin, Jonathan White, Bob Vreeland, Tom Bancroft (alt.)
Absent: Gerry O'Keefe, Connie Thoman, Bob Cecile, Terrie Klinger, Joe Gaydos
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin and Terry Stevens, Northwest Straits Foundation
Guests: Sheila Babb and Uriel Ybarra, Senator Patty Murray's office
Other MRC
Representation: Keeley O'Connell, Jared Bond, Emily Whitney, Francesca Perez, and Chrys Bertolotto (Snohomish MRC)

DRAFT

Jerry Masters opened the meeting and introduced John Mohr, Director of the Port of Everett.

John welcomed the Commission to the [Port of Everett](#). He said there is a lot going on at the Port including the Fisherman's Tribute Statue Dedication and Waterfront Center Grand Opening last night. John said the Port has a state of the art boatyard with zero discharge and the marina facilities are 'Clean Marina Certified'. John appreciates the work of the Commission and thanked the group for visiting.

Approval of May meeting minutes

The May meeting minutes were approved as written.

Report from Senator Murray's Staff

Sheila Babb spoke on behalf of Senator Murray about her disappointment in the lack of a federal appropriation to the Northwest Straits Initiative for FY 2011. She said the Senator plans to organize a blue ribbon panel in the next couple of weeks to talk about how the Initiative can move forward.

Sheila reported that the Initiative's re-authorization bill passed through the Senate and now heads to the House for consideration.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Lenny Corin reviewed the Executive Committee report. Ginny explained that the Commission has been awarded \$400,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency that will be passed through the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Commission discussed the language in the re-authorization bill regarding a NOAA liaison position. If the bill is passed the Commission will work with NOAA to identify the right person.

Ginny reviewed the list of MRC projects with the 6 month budget of \$27,500. Each MRC has identified what they will do with the funding. In Skagit, the County has agreed to cover MRC lead staff and as a result, the MRC is able to move forward with some projects.

Ginny described a proposed MRC recognition project to get local government and media attention on what the MRCs have accomplished and possibilities in the future. The award will recognize a signature project of each MRC. The Commission staff is working on the details.

Ad Hoc Budget Committee - Jerry reported that the Ad Hoc Budget Committee went through details on the Foundation budget and how it will support the Commission staff. While the Commission continues to look for additional funding the committee will standby to make budget recommendations when more is known. Jerry noted that MRCs need to get their projects ready for possible funding opportunities.

Staff reports

National Ocean Council – Caroline reported that the [National Ocean Council](#) is moving ahead with the National Ocean Policy that was adopted through [Executive Order](#) last year. The NOC has identified nine priority objectives and there is a draft strategic action plan for each. The public comment period is open through July 2 and [can be submitted online](#). There is a public hearing Monday, June 27 in Ocean Shores, which Caroline and Terry Williams will attend.

End of year paperwork reminders – June 30 is the end of the fiscal year and biennium. All travel and other expenses need to be submitted immediately after June 30.

Salish Sea Conference – The deadline for super saver registration rate of the conference is July 8. Each MRC has been offered a scholarship for one registration. Please contact Connie at price@nwstraits.org before July 8 if your MRC would like to participate.

Working with Puget Sound Partnership on Action Agenda – Caroline reported that the Partnership is updating the Action Agenda. It is important to get MRC projects into the

agenda and Caroline recommends MRCs work with the Lead Integrating Organization (LIO) in their area. The three MRCs in the Whidbey Basin do not have an LIO yet and they should send information directly to Martha Neuman. Duane encouraged MRCs to keep watching the [Partnership's website](#) for updates and the release of the [Environmental Protection Agency funding opportunities](#). Ginny said the Action Agenda is important and if our projects are not in it they will not be eligible for Puget Sound funding. Caroline noted that if MRCs group projects or partner with their County they will be stronger candidates for inclusion in the Action Agenda.

WSU Beach Watchers update - Ginny reported that Chrys Bertolotto has pulled together an advisory group to create a business plan for the Beach Watchers program. It is particularly important now that MRCs are unable to provide funding support for the program.

Congressman Rick Larsen Derelict Gear field trip – Ginny reported that Congressman Rick Larsen joined the derelict gear removal team one day for an observation in Whatcom County at Alden Bank. KPLU's reporter Bellamy Pailthorp was also aboard.

Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board – Ginny participated in developing recommendations for the target setting exercise.

Statement of Cooperation between British Columbia and Washington – Ginny reported that she participated in the Statement of Cooperation meeting in British Columbia, a group she is involved in to maintain communications across the border.

MRC Reports

Jerry said that a director's report will be included at future meetings to ensure that Commission staff business gets back to the MRCs.

In addition to the written reports MRC representatives gave the following updates:

Snohomish – Tom Hoban reported that the MRC, in partnership with Island MRC, held an open house last weekend at Cama Beach. Due to rain, turnout was not as good as expected. July is the opening of crabbing season and Beach Watcher volunteers have 2,000 packets ready to hand out to recreational crabbers. This year they are concentrating on prevention of lost pots. Keeley O'Connell, Snohomish MRC member, added that the MRC went through a project ranking process which allowed them the ability to re-rank projects when necessary. She noted that projects MRC staff can manage rose to the top.

Whatcom – Ron Akeson reported the Whatcom MRC met with some original members to see how the MRC operated before there was funding. They concluded the MRC would like to be a facilitator and play a more advisory role to the County Council. Ron said the MRC has water quality projects ready once funding comes through. The MRC has asked presenters in their public speaker series to send them the materials ahead of time so questions can be prepared.

San Juan - Jonathan White reported that the MRC is a citizen advisor to WRIA2 and volunteer hours to review and rank grants proposals for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Jonathan said the MRC is involved in the Critical Areas Ordinance update and the Shoreline Master Plan update. The MRC has successfully installed a rain garden in Friday Harbor, despite reservations by the town folk. Jonathan credited MRC members, especially Johannes for persevering with this project.

Island - Lenny Corin reported that the MRC rallied and formed a grant subcommittee to find funding opportunities. They plan to work closely with the County and other local partners. The City of Oak Harbor contributed \$50,000 for the MRC Cornet Bay restoration project.

Jefferson - Shannon Davis reported that Darcy McNamara, Beach Watcher coordinator for Jefferson County, is resigning. Volunteers will now share her position. The Maynard Beach project partners met to address some challenges with the trail plans and came up with a solution to re-route the trail around private waterfront property. Deliberations over the Jefferson Shoreline Master Plan continue. There will be a public hearing on July 11. Shannon asked the Commission to consider providing a letter of support for the restriction of net pens before the hearing in July.

Skagit - Neil Borman reported that the Swinomish Tribe has invited the Northwest Straits to the [Salish Sea Canoe Journey "Paddle to Swinomish" celebration July 25-31](#). Skagit County Beach Watchers is without a coordinator and volunteers took over the training temporarily but have expressed this is not a long term solution. The Skagit Restoration Initiative projects in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays will continue with penalty funds from Kimberly Clark. Neil emphasized that the Skagit MRC has always included pre and post-monitoring in their projects so they know what is working.

Clallam - Bob Vreeland reported that an MRC subcommittee will be reviewing their budget to re-consider administration costs and prioritize projects. Clallam County is updating its Shoreline Master Plan and Bob is the MRC representative on the Committee. Bob announced that in future he will not claim his travel expenses to Commission meetings.

Public Comment

Chrys Bertolotto, Snohomish County Beach Watcher coordinator, thanked MRCs and the Commission for their support. Chris explained that each year Beach Watchers volunteer 40,000 hours and many are for MRC projects. The program contacts over 25,000 people a year and currently there are 600 Beach Watchers. Chrys encouraged MRCs and the Commission to consider partnering with Beach Watchers when preparing project proposals.

Keeley O'Connell announced the final celebration for Kathy Fletcher's retirement brought 600 people to the Seattle aquarium. People For Puget Sound staff are excited to have Tom Bancroft on board and ready to move forward. Keeley encouraged visitors to take time to

visit [Jetty Island](#) and the official opening of the free ferry beginning July 1 through Labor Day.

The group moved to lunch and recognition for Kathy Fletcher. The Commission thanked Kathy for her years of service on the Commission, and Terry Williams presented Kathy with a blanket commemorating the Canoe Journey to Swinomish this year.

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting. The next meeting will be at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend on July 29.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
July 29, 2011 - 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Northwest Maritime Center, 431 Water Street
Port Townsend, Jefferson County

Draft

Attending: Shannon Davis, Tom Hoban, Jerry Masters, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Lenny Corin, Jonathan White, Bob Vreeland, Tom Bancroft (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger
Absent: Gerry O'Keefe, Connie Thoman, Bob Cecile, Kathy Fletcher, Terry Williams
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Sasha Horst
Support: Joan Drinkwin and Tracie Johannessen, Northwest Straits Foundation
Other MRC
Representation: Clare Fogelsong (Whatcom MRC), Ivar Dolph (Skagit MRC), Jeff Ward (Clallam MRC), Michael Adams and Al Bergstein (Jefferson MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

Jerry Masters opened the meeting and introduced Phil Johnson, Jefferson County Commissioner.

Commissioner Phil Johnson welcomed the Commission to Port Townsend. Phil explained that he was a commercial fisherman 1972-1984 and restoring salmon populations in Jefferson County is a priority to him. He supports the Northwest Straits Initiative and says "there is tremendous return on the dollar with all of the volunteer work". Phil explained that Jefferson County is working on their Shoreline Master Program and would like to prohibit fish net pens. Phil thanked the Commission for visiting beautiful Jefferson County.

Approval of June meeting minutes

Shannon Davis requested that the June meeting minutes be corrected to say that "deliberations over the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Plan continue" (instead of the Plan being on hold). The June meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Jefferson MRC Briefing

Michael Adams presented the issue of finfish aquaculture in the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update, and thanked the Jefferson County Commission for their involvement in the SMP process. He explained that the draft SMP was approved locally before being reviewed by the Department of Ecology. The agency conditionally approved the draft pending required changes, including removal of the language banning net pens. The Jefferson MRC testified in support for the County Commission's recommendation that net pens be prohibited, citing that direct discharge to the marine environment violates the Clean Water Act.

Michael explained that the MRC does not support finfish aquaculture in the nearshore because it represents too many risks, and the MRC believes that the policy and science used in the Ecology decision to allow net pens is dated. The MRC has recommended that the County promote upland finfish aquaculture in closed containment systems as an alternative.

MRC member Al Bergstein serves on the citizen advisory panel to the SMP process, and stated that the panel voted unanimously to support the ban of finfish aquaculture in marine waters. Al requested that the Northwest Straits Commission write a letter of support for Jefferson MRC's position. Al noted that one role of the Commission is to develop and propose scientifically sound recommendations to government agencies and the MRC would like the Commission to support upland finfish aquaculture rather than net pen aquaculture.

The Commission discussed other concerns relating to finfish aquaculture including the risk of escape, aquaculture predator nets that have been found during NWSI derelict gear removal operations, and the transfer of sea lice and other parasites. Ivar Dolph commented that there is a commercial finfish aquaculture operation in Skagit County and a representative serves on the MRC.

Michael explained that Jefferson MRC chose to focus on discharge and the risk to the environment because those are the areas with the strongest science. He compared the direct discharge of food and fecal waste into the environment in a concentrated feeding operation with the current practices in the aquaculture industry. He also noted that currently finfish aquaculture is allowed in Jefferson County but there are no existing operations. The MRC fully supports shellfish aquaculture and considers it a separate issue.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus that the Technical Committee review the Jefferson MRC's position, and make a recommendation to the Commission at the August meeting as to whether they should provide a letter of support for the MRC or craft a position on finfish aquaculture.

Soft Shore Stabilization Project

Shannon Davis shared the [Jefferson MRC's new soft shore stabilization poster](#) and handed out rack cards of the display. The poster is on display at the Port Townsend Watershed Stewardship Resource Center and will be part of Jefferson MRC's education and outreach booth. Shannon said an eelgrass poster will also be ready soon. Tom Hoban shared his concern that the illustration looks to be promoting building in wetlands and there was some discussion of the challenge of communicating soft shore armoring.

Ginny suggested sharing the materials with other MRCs and groups that are doing outreach on shoreline armoring. Shannon will check with the project partners about sharing the materials.

Al Bergstein mentioned that the Jefferson MRC has a new dog poop scoop song recorded by a local musician at no cost to the MRC. Once the song is finished they will get it out on YouTube and other venues.

MRC Reports

In addition to the written reports MRC representatives gave the following updates:

Island MRC– Lenny Corin reported that the MRC held a training session for SoundIQ at Padilla Bay Reserve this week. Lenny says it is an amazing system and can be accessed at the new [Island MRC web site](#). He also mentioned that their Executive Director, Rex Porter, will attend an organizational meeting for the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) soon and will report back.

Clallam MRC– Bob Vreeland reported the MRC has been discussing budget issues and are concerned that they are unable to fund HAZWOPER training this year. Bob feels oil companies should pay for HAZWOPER training. The Commission discussed training for volunteers versus paid workers and the conflict when oil companies oversee clean up. Recently Senator Maria Cantwell has taken an interest in supertankers in the Strait and the potential for spills which might mean new legislation that could be a funding opportunity for volunteer training.

Whatcom MRC – Clare Fogelson reported that the MRC, in response to the budget issues, has decided to go back to the basics and focus on programs and volunteers. The MRC recently had a community event called, "*In Search of Poo, Spew, and Goo: Determining the Diet of Southern Resident Orcas Using Molecular Genetics*".

Skagit MRC– Ivar Dolph reported that the Skagit County Beach Watchers hired a new coordinator, Lynne Jordan, with funding through December. They failed to have a quorum at the last MRC meeting. Paul Dinnel, a longtime member of the MRC, has been ill but is getting better. Ivar reminded people to go to the Swinomish Tribal Canoe Journey celebration which continues through the weekend.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that the MRC, in partnership with Beach Watchers, had a successful crabber education project this season. They handed out 1,500 informational packages which included a map and a crab measurer. The public meetings for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area were well attended. Tom reported that lately the MRC has been getting a good response from Snohomish County leadership. The County Council will appoint two new members to the MRC on August 2.

Kathleen Herrmann, staff for the Snohomish MRC, added that she has been emailing ideas to the Puget Sound Partnership for the Action Agenda. One suggestion that received traction was the need to evaluate the Department of Ecology's policy on railroad landslide materials. The MRC plans to write a letter of support and Kathleen will email a copy out to MRCs and Commissioners. A departing MRC member has left a forage fish monitoring project without a lead and Kathleen invited ideas on how to get the project started.

Jefferson MRC - Shannon Davis reported that the Beach Watcher coordinator position is now temporarily being covered by volunteers Mary Pitts, Mary Adams and Michael Adams.

San Juan - Jonathan White reported that two county council members and Kit Rawson from the MRC recently attended an oil spill drill on Whidbey Island. The MRC will spend time in August reviewing and ranking proposals for the WRIA 2 salmon recovery grants. A County staff person

will take over the MRC staff position in August, though they hope to grow the position back to full time and hire specifically for that position in the future. The Local Integrating Organization is strong and moving forward in coordination with the MRC, and may provide good opportunities in the future for funding their priority projects.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Lenny Corin reported on the Committee's discussion about the structure of standing committees and said that the Executive Committee plans to take the topic up again at its August meeting to ensure that committees are able to work at their full potential. The Committee also had a discussion about a blue-ribbon panel to be convened by Senator Patty Murray that is expected to kick off in August. Invitations to potential participants are being sent from Senator Murray's office. The Committee also discussed budget issues and a proposed workplan for EPA funding the Commission will receive through an agreement with the Puget Sound Partnership. Ginny explained that the workplan proposes tasks that MRCs already planned to accomplish but that there will be some specific outputs required.

Public Comment

Tom Bancroft of People For Puget Sound noted that Congress included 40 amendments to the appropriation bill that would cut the Clean Water Act. He encouraged people to contact members of Congress to show community support for the Clean Water Act, and also pay attention to negotiations around funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that may reduce funding for work in Puget Sound and reduce the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act.

MRC Conference Planning

Caroline Gibson announced that Commission staff are now planning details for the MRC conference, to be held December 2-3, 2011 at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. Caroline is looking for an overall theme and would like to narrow down speakers and topics. There is a 3-hour block of time for MRC member training. This year we are planning a silent auction and are interested in ideas or contributions from MRCs and Commissioners. The group was in favor of including a forage fish session and a session on MRC involvement in Shoreline Master Program updates.

Staff Report

Ginny summarized the scope of work for EPA funding, which requires a 1:1 match that can include volunteer hours. It will be increasingly important that MRC members and Commissioners document their volunteer time, including meetings and conferences. The Commission discussed the possibility of each MRC being responsible for matching the funds they receive from this award. EPA funds will be available in September and will fund MRC work from January 2012 through June 2012. Ginny plans to meet with each MRC to discuss further. In the meantime, if there are questions about this funding please contact her.

Kathleen Herrmann said she has an excel spreadsheet to track volunteer hours that might be handy for other MRCs. The Commission staff will send out more information about matching funds soon.

Ginny reviewed some of the Commission cost-saving measures that have been implemented, including cutting back on lunch costs for meetings, travel, loss of GIS support and a 3% pay cut to Commission employees. The monthly staff report will give the Commission an idea what staff is currently working on.

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel Update

Joe Gaydos, member of the PS Partnership Science Panel, reported that the Science Panel has just finished evaluating the targets set for dashboard indicators and providing data to help make policy decisions. The next step is to ensure monitoring occurs on these indicators. Joe explained the Panel will next focus on revision of the Action Agenda and the Biennial Science workplan. They are strategizing to have data available to help make decisions in the future. The panel realized that the state is lacking a large-scale risk assessment, which could take several years. Joe said that they are starting to engage with social scientists, and would like to have some tangible things to show the Governor before she leaves office.

Duane Fagergren said the Science Panel is doing a lot, and without a budget. They hope to have the Action Agenda revision available for public review in September. Based on feedback they have planned more time for public review of the Action Agenda.

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

Following the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting, the meeting was re-convened.

Round Table

Discussion continued on the Action Agenda. Tom Bancroft asked about the Partnership's indicator targets and how they are connected, and expressed concern that the Action Agenda will become a laundry list of actions that will not accomplish anything. Joe Gaydos responded that now that they have targets they are going back to review them and make the connection of how they fit into the Action Agenda.

Kathleen Herrmann asked how other MRCs are integrating with the Action Agenda. The Snohomish MRC submitted information online.

Duane Fagergren said the Whidbey action area does not have an LIO yet. He recommended talking to Rebecca Ponzio. Duane anticipates a new coordinator in the Whidbey area soon.

Caroline Gibson noted the Action Agenda revision is different depending on area and there will not be an opportunity to get individual projects into the agenda, but rather suites of actions.

Jerry Masters advised MRC representatives that even if your MRC is not linked to a LIO at least be connected with those agencies that are.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Commission meeting will be August 26 in Island County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
August 26, 2011 - 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Road
Coupeville, Island County**

Draft

Attending: Tom Hoban, Jerry Masters, Lenny Corin, Tony Petrillo (alt.) Jonathan White, Bob Vreeland, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Bob Cecile, Terry Williams, Connie Thoman, Gerry O'Keefe
Absent: Kathy Fletcher, Shannon Davis
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Sasha Horst
Support: Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay NERR
Other MRC
Representation: Ian Jefferds, Dick Toft, Frances Wood, Ken Urstad (Island MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

Jerry Masters opened the meeting and introduced Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner.

Commissioner Angie Homola welcomed the group and gave an overview of what is going on in Island County. Commissioner Homola sits on 17 committees and highlighted some of their accomplishments. She explained even though 20% of expenses have been cut, and they have 15% less staff capacity than in 1998, they have been able to get a lot done. The Commission was impressed by the work of Commissioner Homola and Island County and thanked her for coming.

Approval of July meeting minutes

The draft July Commission meeting minutes were approved as edited.

Report out on Senator Murray August 18 meeting

Ginny opened the discussion about the Senator Murray meeting. Senator Murray kicked off the meeting by saying the need for the Initiative continues and asked meeting participants to find a way to make it happen. Ginny explained that the future of the Initiative might look like a cobblestone approach, bringing various pieces together to fully fund our work.

Jerry Masters said even though there are some promises to help, the more difficult question is how to support the Initiative's core functions. Jerry said the Commission needs to continue to pursue our reauthorization and put pressure on the 'big thinkers'.

The Commission discussed the summary and ideas and challenges around finding a stable place for our budget. Ginny concluded by saying there will be many conversations in the near future to work through these issues.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee - Caroline explained that Jefferson County proposed prohibition of finfish aquaculture in their Shoreline Master Plan, which the Department of Ecology did not accept. At the July Commission meeting Michael Adams, chair of the Jefferson MRC, presented the MRC's position that finfish aquaculture violates the Clean Water Act and explained that they proposed the continuation of an existing moratorium and asked the Commission to provide a letter of support for their position. The Commission asked the Technical Committee to review the issue and provide a recommendation. Since that meeting, the Technical Committee reviewed the information and drafted a letter to the Department of Ecology (DOE) asking the DOE to review the exemption of finfish aquaculture from regulated discharge under the Clean Water Act. The Commission reviewed the letter and agreed it should be from the whole Commission, noting that the Commission does not endorse or oppose finfish aquaculture, and that the letter is written specifically for the Jefferson County situation.

The Commission moved and approved sending the letter, with a revision that it be sent on behalf of the full Commission rather than just the Technical Committee.

Executive Committee – Lenny explained that the committee met and discussed the Senator Murray meeting and the MRC conference. Caroline Gibson reviewed a draft conference agenda and explained that speakers are marked as tentative if not confirmed. Caroline said that feedback from previous year's conferences reflects that MRC folks are more interesting in learning about projects and networking than training.

The meeting was adjourned to convene the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

Following the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting, the meeting was re-convened.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Staff report

2012 Meeting dates – The Commission reviewed the proposed list of meeting dates and locations. Ginny explained that given the budget we considered recommending a revised schedule or not going to all counties since some have higher travel costs, but decided against those options at this time. We have implemented some cost saving by using free spaces, carpooling, and cutting our lunch budget. Some commissioners will have trouble when meetings are held in locations requiring two ferry rides, but we will continue to discuss ways to keep the presence of those commissioners at meetings.

EPA funded MRC grants - Ginny said EPA funding for MRCs (January 1 – June 30, 2012) has been finalized and funds should be available in September. Ginny has been meeting with MRCs to help them understand the requirements that come with this funding.

MRC staff/chairs meeting – Ginny announced the upcoming MRC chair and staff meeting on September 28. Our goal is to get someone from every MRC. Island MRC is not currently represented.

Bangor Munitions Wharf Mitigation Funding

Pat Iolevera, Regional Community Planning Liaison Officer for [Naval Facilities Engineering Command \(NAVFAC Northwest\)](#), talked about their mitigation programs. NAVFAC does compatible planning with communities to make sure the impacts for both the Navy and communities are minimized. Pat explained that mitigation means measuring impacts and negotiating with three agencies (National Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Services, Army Corps of Engineers) and five tribes to decide what they need to do to satisfy the regulatory requirements and offset those impacts. Often this will be funding for restoration projects. There are three mitigation projects at this time:

1) The Kitsap Bangor mitigation is in the Hood Canal watershed and they are working on an in-lieu-fee program. They hope that some of the funds will go into the program and be administered by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, but they are still negotiating the impacts. Pat said that there are a huge number of potential restoration projects in the Hood Canal area.

2) Pat is working with Lynn Wall, Environmental Program Manager for NAVFAC, in Dabob Bay under the Readiness and Environmental Protections Initiative (REPI). The project is in the national conservation area and mitigating agencies are The Nature Conservancy, Jefferson County Land Trust, the Northwest Watershed Institute, WA Dept of Natural Resources and Pope Resources.

3) Pope Resources owns the town of Port Gamble and plans to sell the land. The mitigation would be negotiated with the regulatory agencies in that area.

Pat explained that mitigation is tied to the waters where there is an impact. Pat can be reached at pat.iolavera@navy.mil for more information.

MRC Reports

In addition to the written reports MRC representatives gave the following updates:

Island MRC – Lenny Corin said today's site visit will be at the MRCs phytoremediation project site, at which initial testing has shown that the water going in is coming out improved. Frances Wood shared outreach materials for the MRC pigeon guillemot project. Francis has successfully raised funds to keep the project going. Lenny said the MRC has started to work with the Whidbey Local Integrating Organization and are working on getting their projects into the Partnership's Action Agenda.

Snohomish MRC - Tom Hoban announced the MRC has two new members representing tribes: Kathy Stanley and Franchesca Perez. Kathleen Herrmann added that they recently started conversation with Army Corps of Engineers on a project that the Corps is considering putting into their 7-year plan. Kathleen said the MRC is working to get their projects into the Partnership's Action Agenda.

Jerry Masters added both the Island and Snohomish MRCs covered the Port Susan project in the written reports.

Clallam MRC - Bob reported that he did not attend the last meeting and had no additions to the written report. Ginny, who attended the meeting, said that Jim McEntire is leaving the MRC. The MRC crabber outreach work is happening with the help of Sasha Horst. Ginny said there is a lot of excitement over the September 17 Elwha dam removal events.

Skagit MRC - Connie Thoman reported that Skagit County hired a new Beach Watcher coordinator. The MRC is gearing up for Fidalgo Bay Day which will be September 17. Connie said their meetings have not been well attended this summer mostly due to vacations.

Ginny noted that if there is a lack of attendance related to funding issues please let her know.

Jefferson MRC - Tony Petrillo reported that it has been a quiet month in Jefferson County. The MRC continues to monitor the no anchor zones. Last month members took a tour of the Maynard Beach project site. Tony announced the annual [Wooden Boat Festival](#) will be September 9-11 and the MRC will have a booth.

San Juan MRC - Jonathan reported that at the last meeting Simon Geerlofs gave a presentation on tidal energy. The MRC rated the top three Salmon Recovery Funding Board proposals and projects moving forward for full funding from WRIA 2 are the Neighborhood Conservation Easement Program (\$49,850 -- Friends of the San Juans), the Blakely Island Forage Fish Habitat Restoration (\$99,985 – Friends of the San Juans), and the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal project (\$255,995 – NW Straits Foundation). This year, \$500,000 will come from Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and about \$300,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Morgan Schneider, Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for the Whidbey Basin, gave an overview on the Action Agenda update. She said the Partnership is making a strong effort to get local input and projects in the Action Agenda. There are three [workshops, scheduled on September 13, 14, and 15 in Tacoma](#) to get input. They are also planning to hold a series of meetings for the general public.

Morgan reported there have been developments in establishing Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs). The two areas that are still in the early development stages are Whatcom and Skagit counties. In Snohomish they have put together a proposal and it should be out for comment today. In the areas that do not have LIOs they are using other entities to get local actions into the Action Agenda update.

Round Table

There were no roundtable items.

Island MRC Phytoremediation Project Site Visit

Rex Porter and Joe Hillers met the group at the Coupeville phytoremediation project site and explained the layout and design of the project, next steps and expected results.

The meeting was adjourned.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
September 30, 2011 - 10:30 am-3:30 pm
San Juan Island Grange, 152 North 1st Street, Friday Harbor**

Attending: Tom Hoban, Jerry Masters, Ian Jefferds (alt.), Shannon Davis, Lyn Muench (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Bob Cecile, Terry Williams, Connie Thoman
Absent: Kathy Fletcher, Lenny Corin, Bob Vreeland, Terrie Klinger, Jonathan White
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Sasha Horst
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation
Other MRC
Representation: Barbara Marrett (San Juan MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

Draft

Jerry Masters opened the meeting and introduced Port Commissioner and long-time MRC member Barbara Marrett. Barbara welcomed the group and gave an overview of what is going on at the [Port of Friday Harbor](#). She explained that the Port has made education and environmental stewardship a priority, and shared many examples of how they accomplish this. She said the Port is a Certified Clean Marina and in 2008 won the Finney Shoreline Stewardship Award. The Commission thanked Barbara for coming and Ginny thanked them for their support of the derelict fishing gear removal program.

Approval of August meeting minutes

The draft August Commission meeting minutes were approved as written.

Pacific sand lance predictive model

Dr. Gary Greene and Dr. Tina Wyllie-Echeverria have been studying sand lance in deep waters of the San Juan Archipelago, with funding from the Commission. Over the past year, the project team conducted research cruises, sampled sand wave fields and other bedforms, analyzed fish, and studied the burrowing behavior of sand lance in aquaria. Among innovative technologies used in this project were an acoustic multibeam echosounder and a U.S. Geological Survey eyeball sediment camera, which produced high resolution images of seafloor sediments that harbor sand lance when they are not swimming.

Dr. Greene concluded that Pacific sand lance prefer medium to coarse grains, subtidal habitat hosts all age classes, and there is a high density of Pacific sand lance in winter months. Gary believes that the model they developed has the ability to successfully track and monitor the species. There is more work to be done and Gary recommends continuing to identify and map potential subtidal habitats, validate habitat types, monitor selected habitats and incorporate other habitat factors such as water temperature and quality.

Dr. Wyllie-Echeverria presented on the species study of the Pacific sand lance. She concluded that in their sample area more fish are in the sediment in winter than summer. They found all stages of sexual maturity, although only 5% of the sample fish were sexually mature. They found one egg in the sample. Tina explained that the samples have been archived for possible future genetic study. She explained that there are different species of sand lance that are bigger and live longer. In San Juan County the population is small and lives to about three years old.

A question and answer period followed the presentations:

Q - Do Pacific sand lance migrate?

A – There is no evidence that they do, but they have not done a tag study. Canadian studies indicate that it is possible mature fish are located in different areas than juvenile fish.

Q –Why is one egg significant?

A – They do not know where they lay eggs other than beaches. It might be possible they can lay eggs in underwater beds. Tina explained that the number of egg-producing beaches are inconsistent with the number of fish.

Committee Reports

Tribal Committee – Tom Cowan has been working outreach and coordination with tribes to increase reporting of lost fishing gear to the Commission. Tom developed information and reporting forms for tribal fishermen to use on their boats. The forms are water resistant and more convenient for fisherman. Tom said he successfully communicated with five of the largest fishing tribes to report lost derelict nets to the Commission. Other tribes who actively fish rivers are also looking into changing their reporting process. Tom clarified that reporting can be anonymous, but getting contact information is preferred in case the removal crews have questions. Tom will submit a final report and give recommendations.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

San Juan County Local Integrating Organization

Stephanie Buffum, Executive Director of FRIENDS of the San Juans, thanked the Commission for supporting the Cumulative Impacts Workshop last year. Stephanie provided a [final report](#) and said they will be presenting at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in October.

Stephanie reviewed the origin of the San Juan County Local Integrating Organization (LIO). In October of 2009 a Steering Committee was established to develop a recommendation for the San Juan County LIO. The Steering Committee [submitted a proposal to the San Juan County Council](#) on the LIO process. The San Juan County Council formally adopted the LIO process in May 2010 and formed an Accountability Oversight Committee and an Implementation Committee.

The Accountability Oversight Committee has five members, two appointed county council members and 2-3 tribal members. There is also an ex-officio member from the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council. The County Council has one vote and the Tribes have one vote. Both votes are needed for action.

The Implementation Committee has 14 members appointed by local entities. They provide prioritization of funding and improve coordination between groups working on Action Agenda implementation. Since October of 2010 they have met once a month.

Stephanie explained that the LIO allows San Juan County to be full spectrum for funding opportunities. She says in the beginning they were a little ‘over-ready’ and did not receive much guidance from the Partnership. There was some frustration because people were tired of planning and wanted action. But the Implementation Committee continued to meet and work together to be accountable.

Terry Williams explained that the intent of the LIO was to create a joint process between tribes and governments. He said the Accountability Oversight Committee’s role is taking the recommendations from the Implementation Committee to a place where they can be implemented. The progress has been positive.

Stephanie said they are now planning to hire a coordinator which might be a combined position with an MRC coordinator.

Jerry Masters said that despite frustration and the lack of success some MRCs have experienced, they need to make the connection with their LIO and be at the table. The Partnership people might come and go, but the stakeholders are still be there and need to be the ones forming a plan.

[Click here for a schedule of the Puget Sound Partnership meetings related to the action agenda.](#)

MRC Reports

MRC Representative gave the following additional reports to the written report.

San Juan MRC – Stephanie Buffum gave an update for Jonathan White. She said that San Juan County has just begun the Shoreline Master Plan update. They have held several community meetings around the county and there are strong private property rights perspectives.

Island MRC– Ian Jefferds reported that the Pigeon Guillemot study is continuing. The MRC continued into phase two of their phytoremediation project, installing test cells to enable analysis of different soil types and start testing the wastewater. Tim Lawrence has included this project in a grant proposal that will help remove pharmaceuticals and other chemicals in wastewater.

Jefferson MRC - Shannon reported that the MRC recently discovered that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has not approved moving the trail at the Maynard Beach Restoration site. The MRC would still like to move forward with the restoration if they can get a permit.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban announced that long-time MRC member Dawn Lawrence has resigned. The [Sound Living: A One Day Communiiversity](#) will be on November 5. Kathleen Herrmann, staff for the MRC, added that they submitted an abstract for the Port Susan Project to the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference and it was originally accepted as a poster, but recently upgraded to a presentation.

Skagit MRC – Connie Thoman reported that they received four letters of intent for the Skagit Restoration Initiative project and they have invited three of them to submit a full proposal. Fidalgo Bay Day was September 17 and they had a great turnout. At the last MRC meeting Tesoro talked about their proposal to build a new rail terminal and ship crude oil to March’s Point. Connie said it seemed to be an environmentally-sound operation, but would increase traffic in the community. She noted that it was good sign that industry folks made the effort to inform the MRC of their plans.

Whatcom MRC– Bob Cecile reported that there is movement to expand the WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Plan to include the nearshore and marine environments. The County submitted a LIO plan to the Partnership and it was approved in 2010. The plan, which includes the MRC involvement, says they will develop a workplan by June 2012. The MRC had a work session and discussed water quality and the coordination of data with the County Health Department.

Clallam MRC - Lyn Muench reported that the MRC is energized about the crabber outreach project and they are focusing on good fishing habits. Clallam County is working on its Shoreline Master Plan update and two MRC members are on the committee. The MRC hosted a booth at the Elwha River Festival and the Dungeness River Festival. The giant crab pot (without escape cord) was a huge success.

Committee Reports (Cont.)

Executive Committee – Ginny reported that Kathy Fletcher and Terrie Klinger’s terms on the Commission will expire at the end of October. Tom Bancroft has been attending as Kathy’s alternate. Tom and Terrie are interested in reapplying for Commission seats. Ginny explained that there are no designated seats (with the exception of the Puget Sound Partnership) and anyone can apply. Senator Patty Murray will not be available for a follow up to the August meeting and the Commission will follow up Senator Murray’s request for support with agencies after October 15.

Staff report

Budget update

Ginny reported that Sasha is working with MRCs to get EPA-funded grants in place. Ginny has also been contacted by EPA and NOAA about some additional project funding. It has been helpful to have the MRC lists of projects submitted in the spring to submit when opportunities come up. Ginny has also been making contact with industry representatives (i.e. BP and ConocoPhillips) and encourages everyone to look for local business support.

MRC conference

The MRC conference is shaping up to be a great conference. There is a draft agenda available on our web site. We encourage MRC members to spend the night in order to stay for the full program. Contact Commission staff if the MRC does not have funds in the travel budget to provide overnight accommodations.

October meeting date change to November 4

The October 28 Commission meeting date has been changed to Friday, November 4.

Jefferson SMP Netpen Aquaculture letter

The Department of Ecology responded to the letter sent by the Commission about netpen aquaculture in the Shoreline Master Program in Jefferson County. The Technical Committee will meet again to see whether there are any next steps for the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned to convene Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
November 4, 2011 - 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Tulalip Tribes - Natural Resources
6406 Marine Dr, Tulalip, WA 98271**

Attending: Tom Hoban, Jerry Masters, Lenny Corin, Shannon Davis, Bob Vreeland, Bob Cecile, Terry Williams, Connie Thoman, Tom Bancroft, Terrie Klinger, Jonathan White

Absent: Joe Gaydos, Gerry O'Keefe

Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Sasha Horst

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation and Terry Stevens, Padilla Bay Reserve

Other MRC

Representation: Kathleen Herrmann, Emily Whitney (Snohomish MRC), Todd Zackey (Island MRC)

DRAFT

Welcome

Terry Williams, Executive Director of Natural Resources for the Tulalip Tribes welcomed the Commission.

Approval of September meeting minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved as written.

Staff Report

Debrief from Salish Sea Conference - Ginny reported that the Northwest Straits Initiative was well represented at the conference thanks to the support from EPA. Commission staff and representatives from all seven MRCs were among the more than 900 people attending the conference. Many felt that sessions integrated Canadian and US work well, and there were many opportunities to network with partners.

2011 Annual Report – Ginny reported that Commission staff plans to begin preparing our 2011 annual report. Due to the cost of the report there will be a limited print run, but it will be available digitally. The Commission felt the annual report is a good fundraising tool and suggested we look into a shorter, less expensive print version. Sasha requested that MRC members and others send pictures, particularly of MRC projects, people and places.

Snohomish MRC Nearshore Sediment Study

Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish Marine Resources Steward, presented on the Snohomish MRC nearshore sediment assessment project. Kathleen explained that the project was developed with the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan in mind and is a good example of a linkage between salmon recovery groups and MRCs. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#) [Click here for more information online.](#)

Salmon: A Keystone Species

Barbara Rosenkotter, WRIA 2 lead Entity Coordinator in San Juan County, presented on salmon recovery and the Lead Entity program in the San Juan Islands. Barbara explained that the goal of the work is to recover salmon to harvestable levels so that we can once again enjoy the resource. In San Juan County the MRC is the citizen's advisory group and has an important role in the local salmon recovery plan. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

Public Comment

Sally Hintz, Northwest Washington Director for US Senator Maria Cantwell, provided an update on current issues that they are tracking, including the Coast Guard reauthorization bill, marine debris from the Japanese tsunami, and the salmon virus issue in British Columbia. She also reported on their efforts to find funding for the Northwest Straits, noting that the appropriations committee is facing many challenges. Sally said it is important to explain how many jobs are leveraged in our work when talking with legislators.

Jerry Masters noted that the Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization bill is currently held up in the House Natural Resources Committee and asked if the funding attached to the Senate side of the bill is preventing it from moving forward. Sally explained that few bills are moving and the funding piece is not likely the reason for the delay.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee - Caroline reported that the Technical Committee has not met since they have received the letter from the Department of Ecology on the netpen issue in Jefferson County. Caroline asked whether the Commission wants to respond to the letter and overall the group felt that they should hold off at this time. The committee is expected to continue discussion of the issue.

Executive Committee – Lenny announced that there is approximately \$45,000 in funds returned by MRCs from the previous grant cycle that have not yet been reallocated. The committee is recommending that these funds (\$6,000 per MRC) go to the MRCs for projects or to build internal capacity. Lenny said that the committee recognized that this funding would mean a lot to the MRCs, but noted that these funds are not intended to support other organizations when the decision was made not to support the Commission staff. Commissioners discussed the recommendation and agreed that the funds should be used to support the work of MRCs.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to approve the recommendation of the Executive Committee to distribute the remaining funding to the MRCs.

Lenny said that the Commission retreat has been tentatively scheduled for February 23-24. It would be a considerable cost savings to have it at the Padilla Bay Reserve. Ginny noted that it might not feel like a retreat since it is the Commission staff's workplace and not everyone could stay overnight. The group decided to look into some alternative low-cost options and delegated the final decision to the committee. Ginny noted that she would like Commissioners to lead the development of the agenda.

MRC Reports

Jerry asked MRC representatives to give a realistic picture of what is going on with their MRC. In addition to the written reports representatives gave the following reports:

Island MRC - Lenny Corin reported that last year they created a Coastal Volunteer Award that was presented at Sound Waters University last February. This year they will present the second annual award at Sound Waters and Lenny has received several nominations. Lenny said the last few MRC meetings had poor attendance, but there are still members who are dedicated and Lenny predicts the MRC will continue. The MRC has been successful in getting funds for Coronet Bay Restoration and the Coupeville phytoremediation project. The MRC will see some turnover this year with seven members whose terms are ending. Four members are likely to re-apply and they expect to get some new candidates who can continue the work of the MRC.

San Juan MRC - Jonathan reported that MRC members are amazingly optimistic and highly dedicated. Prior to the Northwest Straits Initiative the San Juan MRC operated without funding. They have planned a retreat in January to discuss their future without Commission funding. It is possible that they could merge with the Local Integrating Organization or Conservation District. Recently San Juan County asked the MRC to research the topic of chip seal on roads. The MRC called in some experts and submitted a letter to the County with recommendations. Jonathan will share the letter with the Commission.

Clallam MRC - Bob Vreeland reported that members continue to attend meetings. Andy Stevenson has created some energy and Don Hatler is excited about the crabber outreach project. Bob said he commented on the Clallam County Shoreline Management Draft Plan but has received no response yet. David Freed's position as MRC staff might be eliminated, but no decision has been made yet.

Snohomish MRC - Tom Hoban reported that the MRC has had great attendance and two new members representing tribes. Next month the MRC will have a joint meeting with Island County to talk about the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. Tomorrow will be their one-day university, called Sound Living.

Skagit MRC - Connie Thoman reported that the MRC core group continues to attend, though there are several members that seldom attend. The MRC has funding from Kimberly Clark for restoration projects in Padilla and Fidalgo Bays.

Jefferson MRC - Shannon Davis reported that the MRC is co-sponsoring a film festival with Northwest Maritime Center. The MRC is also working with the Maritime Center on oil spill simulation training. The Maynard Beach project is proceeding despite some earlier setbacks. The

County will do the engineering for the trail behind the water line. The MRC is concerned about the eelgrass protection project and the possibility that there may not be funding to remove the marker buoys at the end of the season. They are also hoping to do an informal test of some of the new copperless bottom paint on the marker buoys. The MRC is excited about the conference next month and Jefferson MRC members have offered overnight accommodations for those who don't have funding. Please contact Commission staff if you would like to make overnight arrangements.

Whatcom MRC – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC still has good participation. Bob and Ron Akeson's terms are expiring at the end of December. There are several candidates who are interesting in joining the MRC. They have discussed continuing without funding and the public speaker series is one of their priorities. They will hold elections next month and Wendy Steffensen has been nominated as chair and Stephanie Williams vice chair. Ken Carrasco has been nominated as the Commission representative and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber as his alternate.

The meeting was adjourned to convene Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.