



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
January 29, 2010, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Edmonds City Hall, Snohomish County**

Attending: Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Kathy Fletcher, Shannon Davis, Jim McEntire, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terry Williams, Scott McCreery, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Charlie O'Hara

Absent: David Dicks, Lenny Corin

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Jamey Selleck

Other MRC Representation: Frances Wood (Island MRC), Kathleen Herrmann and Jerry Masters (Snohomish MRC)

Guests: Shawn Bills (Senator Murray Staff), Aaron Reardon (Snohomish County Executive), Steve Thomsen (Director Snohomish County Public Works)

Ginny Broadhurst opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda, noting that chair Jonathan White had encountered a delay on the ferry.

Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive, welcomed the Commission to Snohomish County and the City of Edmonds. Aaron said that in Snohomish County, "they deeply value the role of the MRC." He understands the challenges of the current economic climate, which make the work of the MRC especially appreciated.

Steve Thomsen, director of Snohomish County Public Works, also welcomed the Commission. Steve said that after looking into the projects of the Marine Resources Committee, he is impressed with the ratio of funds leveraged by the MRC. He thanked the Commission for its' financial support.

Snohomish MRC Mussel Watch Program

Jonathan White introduced Kathleen Herrmann lead staff for the Snohomish County MRC. Kathleen presented the Snohomish MRC's involvement with the Mussel Watch program. [Click here](#) to view her presentation (pdf).

The Commission discussed ideas for getting the Mussel Watch data analyzed sooner than the current system. Kathleen explained that the samples are all tested in one location contracted by NOAA. She said there is a lot of historical data and frozen samples at that location and she felt it would be difficult to use a different lab. The Commission also asked how the data are being used and what they do when the results show high numbers. Jerry Masters from Snohomish MRC explained that some of the sites are located in places such as marinas that typically show high numbers. Jerry said they would like to increase the number of sites and get more baseline data. Ginny explained that we've discussed possibilities for other MRCs to help expand the program and there's been interest.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

The Northwest Straits Commission's December meeting minutes were approved as written.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Update on 2010 Budget

Ginny reported that since the last Commission meeting Senator Patty Murray secured the Initiative's funding in the 2010 federal spending bill. The Commission signed a thank you letter to Senator Murray for her leadership and support.

Shawn Bills from Senator Murray's office gave an update on the Initiative's reauthorization bill. Shawn explained that Senator Murray's attempt to get the bill to hotline (unanimously approved) was unsuccessful. The next step is to find a bill or group of bills that the Northwest Straits Initiative's reauthorization can be added to. Shawn reported that Caroline Paulsen completed her NOAA Knauss fellowship and there are no plans for another Knauss fellow at this time.

Retreat – agenda and location

This year's annual retreat will be at the Captain Whidbey Inn outside in Coupeville. Connie will be sending out an email soon with details and registration information. The ad hoc committee to plan the retreat agenda reported on their conference call and some potential topics. The suggested topics were discussed, and additional ideas brought forward by Commissioners.

Sasha will send out a survey for the Commission to give input on the topics discussed. Additional topic ideas should be emailed to Commission staff, who will continue to work with the committee on preparing the agenda. The retreat committee will meet again by phone to prepare the final draft of the agenda.

Benchmark account/process for 2010

Ginny reported that the Executive Committee recommended a benchmark account process for 2010. The committee would like to consider the feedback from last year and make some changes to the process. Ginny estimates there will be \$100,000 - \$160,000 in the benchmark account this year. The process will also be discussed at the MRC chair and lead staff meeting on February 5.

White House Interim Ocean Policy

Ginny referred to the document [*Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*](#) for the Commission to review. The Commission discussed ways to proceed and is interested in how Governor Gregoire and the Puget Sound Partnership plan to respond. Ginny will follow up with governor's office and the Partnership and determine how best to comment.

EPA Funds

Ginny reported that the EPA has several funding opportunities open that might be of interest to MRCs. There will be a meeting of MRC lead staff and chairs February 5 where EPA and other funding sources will be discussed.

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Rockfish Advisory Committee

Ginny reported that she is a member of the Rockfish Advisory Committee and noted that sport fishermen are well represented. The big discussions have been focused on marine reserves, artificial reefs and hatcheries. If Commissioners are interested in providing input, please contact her.

Kathy Fletcher noted that the Department of Natural Resources has issued a draft strategic plan for its stewardship of public lands and will be holding public meetings statewide. There are some parts of the plan about management of aquatic lands that MRCs may be interested in. Ginny said the Commission will circulate more information and Kathy noted there is more information on the process on the [People For Puget Sound's website](#).

Port Susan Science Workshop

Caroline Gibson explained that there was an initiative that started two years ago to establish a Marine Stewardship Area in Port Susan Bay. The working group has decided to use a marine stewardship planning process developed by The Nature Conservancy known as Conservation Action Planning (CAP). One step of the CAP is to hold a meeting with scientists, which was held on January 27. There were 45 participants and a facilitator. The workshops objectives were to identify 5-8 biodiversity targets for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area, begin to develop a list of key ecological attributes for the targets, and to build understanding of the Open Standards for Conservation. All of the objectives were reached by the end of the

day. Kit Rawson of the Tulalip Tribes will be finishing the assessment and coming out with a report in June. He is also looking for more funding. Another positive outcome from the meeting was the support of Rich Childers from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife who offered the use of their research boat based in Port Townsend for up to three weeks. Caroline has more background information, a participant list, and a map of the area. If anyone is interested please contact her at gibson@nwstraits.org.

Public Comment

Kathy Fletcher noted there were two handouts related to Snohomish County available:

- [Winter/Spring 201 Snohomish Sound Stewardship Events](#)
- [Friends of Edmonds Marsh](#)

Regional seabird forage fish project

John Piatt from the Alaskan Science Center USGS Biological Resources Division presented on a Seabirds and Forage Fish in the Puget Sound Ecosystem. [Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation (pdf).

A discussion followed the presentation about beach seining and how to sample the entire Puget Sound as suggested by John. There is also a need for someone to compile the data and store it. Caroline introduced Jamey Selleck, who has been hired to collect and analyze Puget Sound sand lance data. The position will last four months starting on February 16. Jamey received his Masters degree in 2003 from Western Washington University in the Marine and Estuarine Science Program. He has worked with Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife conducting surveys and analyzing data.

MRC REPORTS

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that Clallam County is in the beginning stages of Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. The eelgrass surveys conducted by Clallam MRC will contribute to the plan. The MRC has scheduled a meeting with the county planning department to discuss the SMP. The MRC has been replicating MESA studies and county attorney will meet with the MRC to discuss the Public Records Act as it relates to holding raw data.

Skagit - Charlie O'Hara reported the mayor of Anacortes came to the last MRC meeting to update the MRC on the rebuilding of the trestle trail that was damaged by a fire in December. The MRC held elections and Charlie will remain the representative to the Commission for another year.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban reported that the MRC is looking into expanding its membership to 13 people. The staff are working with Coastal Geological Services to ensure that plans meet the MRC's expectations.

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

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that the MRC held their annual retreat in December. It was a one day meeting facilitated by Tom Cowan. The MRC's 2010 work plan was adopted and approved by the County Council. One of the MRC's goals for next year is to improve their communication with the public and County Council and they are looking forward to the COMPASS workshop arranged up by Sasha. The MRC has been working with the Puget Sound Partnership on the local integration and implementation process.

Island - Frances Wood reported that Lenny Corin is the official appointed MRC representative to the Commission. The two main projects of the Island MRC at this time are the Cornet Bay restoration project and the Smith-Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve.

Jefferson – Shannon Davis reported that the Mystery Bay management plan draft is done and the MRC is getting good feedback. At the next meeting the MRC will watch the Pinto Abalone film produced by the Puget Sound Restoration Fund. There has been an appeal of the Shoreline Master Program.

[Click here](#) to read MRC reports to the Commission for January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported that the Request for Proposals for sub-title research for sand lance is being reviewed by the Department of Ecology and they hope to release it soon. Part of the RFP is to do an analysis and provide a report to the Commission.

Kathy Fletcher gave an update on the *Spartina* survey and removal project in 2009 where 39 volunteer kayakers surveyed over 103 miles of Puget Sound shoreline for *Spartina*. These surveys resulted in nearly 200 square meters identified and mapped, including a large infestation on the Dredge Islands at the North entrance of the Swinomish Channel in Skagit County, and a cluster of clones in the Nooksack River Delta in Whatcom County.

Tribal Committee – Terry Williams reported that the contract to assess the feasibility of improvements to the FRAM model is out for signature. There have been some recent updates to the model and they are waiting for Gary Morishima to finish designing the proposal.

Ginny reported that at last tribal committee meeting Christine gave overview of the Bank Stabilization and Beach Nourishment project at Weaverling Spit. They also talked about ways to get information out to other tribes about the project.

Education Committee – Sasha Horst reported that she has been talking with Liz Neeley from COMPASS to do a series of three full-day workshops. The first workshop will be in San Juan County, followed by one on peninsula and a centrally located one on the mainland. Sasha will send out more information when it is available and work with MRCs to schedule the remaining workshops.

Current bills of interest in WA legislature

Ginny reported that last week she went to Olympia to testify on two bills. The first was [SB 6350](#) on marine spatial planning sponsored by Senator Kevin Ranker. The other was [HB 2593](#) addressing crab pot regulations sponsored by Representative Christine Rolfes from Bainbridge Island. The bill also addresses the enhanced enforcement of rot cord and developed some funding for crab pot removal.

Kathy Fletcher reported on several bills:

[HB 1614](#) - designed to help local governments prevent storm water pollution

[SB 6557](#) - to limit the use of copper and other substances in brake pads

[HB1165](#) - to provide safe collection and disposal of pharmaceuticals

[HB 1180](#) – regarding the safe use of chemical Bisphenol A in baby bottles and other materials

Kathy said the Puget Sound Partnership is supporting bills SB 6557 and SB 6350 and that budget is the big issue.

Round Table

The deadline for [proposals](#) for the [5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](#) is March 2. Ginny's new cell phone is 360-325-3560.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next Commission meeting will be on February 26 in Island County.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
February 26, 2010, 12:50pm-2:00 pm
Captain Whidbey Inn, Island County**

Attending: Jonathan White, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Bob Cecile, Shannon Davis, Lenny Corin, Tom Hoban, Terry Williams, Jim McEntire, Ivar Dolph (alt)

Absent: Kathy Fletcher, David Dicks, Charlie O'Hara

Other MRC Representation: Tracy Alker and Neil Broman (Skagit MRC), Mary Knackstedt (San Juan MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC), Tony Petrillo (Jefferson MRC)

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

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens

Jonathan White, chair, opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The January meeting minutes were approved as written.

Business items

April 23 Commission meeting planning

Ginny reminded the Commission that the April meeting will be the traditional format with MRC project presentations. This year is the mid-point of a two-year grant cycle, so presentations will be focused on current projects. Commission staff will send specific information with expectations to the MRCs. Each MRC will have approximately 40 minutes; half of the time for a presentation and the other half for discussion. The bunkhouse is available for overnight guests. If there is enough interest overnight guests and staff can arrange a barbeque the night before.

2009 annual report distribution

The 2009 annual report will be ready in a few weeks. Copies will be handed out at the March Commission meeting for MRC representatives to distribute to MRC members and local officials.

Location of 2009 fall conference

Ginny reminded the Commission it is time to start thinking about a location for our annual conference that will be held on November 5-6, 2010. The challenge is finding a hotel that can accommodate 60+ rooms, a banquet room for 120+ people, and two breakout rooms for 50+ people at per diem rates. Please forward any suggestions to Connie to follow up on.

Restore Americas Estuaries conference support for MRC members

The deadline for abstracts for the Restore Americas Estuaries Conference in Galveston, Texas is Tuesday March 2. Ginny submitted one for the derelict gear project and Caroline will be submitting another one for the Initiative. Ginny said that the Commission will provide some financial support for MRC members or Commissioners to help cover travel and encouraged anyone interested to contact her.

Governor appointee alternate for industry seat

Governor appointed members of the Commission may have an alternate, and there is currently a vacant alternate seat for Scott McCreery, who represents industry. Our bylaws state that the appointment of a new alternate must be agreed upon by the Commission. The Commission approved Scott McCreery's recommendation of Tim Johnson of ConocoPhillips to serve as his alternate.

COMPASS workshops

Sasha reported that there will be three communications workshops for MRC members scheduled on March 24 in San Juan County, April 28 in Sequim, and May 12 in Padilla Bay. Sasha will be sending out more information soon.

FY2010 Budget/Workplan

The Commission reviewed the proposed budget. Terry explained that the category of indirect is paid to Department of Ecology and covers salaries, benefits, vehicles, insurance, office space, computers, office support and other services provided by them. NOAA does sometimes take a rescission, but did not do so in 2009 and will not do so in 2010. Ginny explained that the one difference in the budget from the current year is to provide funds for an additional staff person to work for the Commission in a job similar to Caroline's. This position would provide support to MRCs and help with the development of regional projects as well as other projects.

The commission moved and approved by consensus to adopt the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and allow staff to make minor adjustments as needed for submission to NOAA.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

MRC Reports

In addition to the written reports, MRC representatives provided the following updates:

Island MRC – Lenny Corin had no additions to the written report.

San Juan MRC– Jonathan White reported that March 1-2 will be the 6th Annual Marine Managers' Workshop in San Juan County. Jonathan also shared a copy of the [San Juan MRC annual report](#).

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that the Snohomish MRC is back to full capacity.

Skagit MRC – Ivar Dolph made a correction to the written report that Joan had obtained a commitment from the Department of Ecology to contribute \$30,000 (not \$30 million) toward the East March's Point Boat Ramp Groin Removal Project.

Whatcom MRC– Bob Cecile reported that at the MRCs March 4 meeting they will have a public presentation on ocean acidification. There are three members waiting to be approved by county council. Bob said the MRC held a retreat for strategic planning last week.

Jefferson MRC– Shannon Davis reported that MRC has been working with the WSU Beach Watcher Coordinator to update the curriculum for the spring Beach Watcher training. The Mystery Bay Management plan was presented to the public in January and finalized early this month. There is now an agreement on the configuration of the no-anchor zone marker buoys and they are working on obtaining permits. Beach Watchers have been expanding the plastics education in Jefferson County and have reached 490 students.

[Click here](#) to read the full MRC reports for February.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be on March 26 at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
March 26, 2010, 10:00 am-2:45 pm
Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, Clallam County

Attending: Jonathan White, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Bob Cecile, Shannon Davis, Lenny Corin, Tom Hoban, Tim Johnson (alt.), Jim McEntire, Ivar Dolph (alt.), Duane Fagergren (alt.)
Absent: Terry Williams, David Dicks, Charlie O'Hara, Terrie Klinger, Scott McCreery
Other MRC Representation: Jeff Ward, Andrew Shogren, Lyn Muench, Don Hatler (Clallam MRC), Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC), Al Bergstein (Jefferson MRC)
Guests: Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commissioner), Jenna Norman (WDFW)
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin

Jonathan White, chair, opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Mike Doherty, Clallam County Commissioner, welcomed the Commission to Clallam County. Mike gave a brief history of the county and said that "Clallam County is a great place to live."

The February meeting minutes were approved as written.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Benchmark account process for 2010

Ginny reviewed the benchmark account draft description which includes the review process and the proposal deadline of June 10, 2010. The Executive Committee discussed pulling MRCs together to define a few common large scale projects that MRCs could select from while continuing to keep the process open and creative.

Commissioners recommended that the April meeting is a good opportunity to hear and discuss projects MRCs are considering. Commission staff will work with MRC lead staff and adapt the April 23 Commission meeting agenda to accommodate time for benchmark account project ideas.

Discussion of Retreat – action items/decisions

Ginny said the responses to the questionnaire that retreat participants completed were generally positive. At the retreat some challenges and action items came out of the discussions including: expanding our profile and identifying strategies to get better recognition for MRC work, increasing the impact of projects, providing more trainings for MRCs (specifically water quality, ocean acidification and communications), facilitate more sharing amongst MRCs, involve more young people, improving understanding of the function of committees, and more connection of MRCs to the Initiative. Jonathan added that he believes it is important to get younger people involved and to

improve the connection between MRCs and Commission. The Commission discussed having a more formal internship and an annual commission-level orientation for new initiative members.

Ginny said that the new staff person that was approved in the 2010 budget will help connect the MRCs to the Commission. The position will be similar to Caroline's but will cover a different geographical area. The newsletter is also a good communication tool and MRCs are welcome to contribute content to the newsletter.

Annual report distribution

Ginny reported that copies of the Initiative's 2009 annual report will be distributed to the MRCs this month. An electronic version is already available on our website. [Click here to download \(13.24 MB\)](#).

Legislative wrap up

Ginny said there are three bills of interest that passed the state legislature:

[Senate Bill 6350](#) –Marine spatial planning

[Senate Bill 6557](#) - Copper brake pads

[House Bill 2593](#) - Derelict fishing gear

Ginny said that bill 2593 identifies some potential funding for crab pot removal but we don't have any details at this time.

Kathy Fletcher reported the stormwater bill is still pending. She noted some of the other bills of interest that have recently passed:

[Senate Bill 5543](#) – Reducing the release of mercury in the environment and the recycling mercury containing light bulbs

[Senate Bill 6248](#) – The use of bisphenol A in baby and water bottles.

Appoint nominating committee

Ginny explained it is time to appoint a nominating committee for elections at the April meeting. Terry Stevens volunteered to chair the nominating committee and Jonathan White and Duane Fagergren volunteered to be members.

Committee reports

Technical Committee –Caroline gave an update on the request for proposals for sub-tidal research on Pacific sand lance. Four proposals were received. The Science Team is doing reviews. A meeting is scheduled on April 2 to discuss the proposals and make recommendations. The announcement of the contractor selected will be made on April 9.

Caroline reported that Jamey Selleck is contacting sources and getting sand lance data. His deadline for receiving data is April 12 and the final report will be presented in June.

Education Committee – COMPASS workshops

Jonathan White gave a briefing on the COMPASS communications workshop in San Juan County. He said the workshop was based around the 'message box' tool and focused on clarifying messages to effectively communicate. Jonathan said the workshop was productive, fun, and everyone got something out of it. He feels that MRCs undervalue the ability to talk with elected officials and speak publicly. Sasha said the next workshop will be in Clallam County at the Dungeness River Audubon Center on April 28 followed by a workshop on May 12 at Padilla Bay.

Outer Coast Marine Resources Committees

Jenna Norman from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife gave an update on the outer coast MRCs. Jenna provided the following handouts:

[Progress Establishing Coastal Marine Resource Committees](#)
[WDFW Coast Marine Resource Committee Program](#)

Commissioners commended the progress reported by Jenna. The Commission discussed ways to communicate, especially in Jefferson County where there are two MRCs (one outer coast and one Northwest Straits). Some Commissioners felt that the progress of MRCs in South Sound needs to be raised as a priority with the Puget Sound Partnership.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Update on Draft Rockfish Conservation Plan

Ginny reported that the rockfish conservation plan has been delayed but should be out next week. When it is released Ginny will circulate the link. Ginny participates on the rockfish advisory group and feels that overall it has been a constructive effort to look at the issues around protecting and restoring Puget Sound rockfish. Ginny introduced Norm Baker from the Sierra Club who talked about marine reserves at the rockfish advisory meeting. Norm gave an update on the marine reserve process and the progress in Washington State. He said there are 127 marine reserves in Washington and two of them make up 99% of the area. Norm said that in Puget Sound we have the most depressed fisheries and the largest endangered species list. He believes the problem is the science is too young and the state of Washington is 15-20 years behind on the marine reserve process. Norm is interested in working with MRCs on this issue.

Welcome to Tim Johnson

Commissioners welcomed Tim Johnson, the new alternate for Scott McCreery. Tim introduced himself and shared that he resides with his wife and three sons in Bellingham and is the environmental coordinator for ConocoPhillips. Tim grew up back east and went to school in Pennsylvania. He loves the Pacific Northwest and spends much of his free time camping and enjoying the outdoors.

MRC Reports

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

Skagit MRC – Bob Cecile had no additions to the written report.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that the Beach Watchers training this spring is a full class.

Clallam MRC – Jim McEntire had no additions to the monthly report. Lyn Muench, Clallam MRC member, reported that at the MRC's last meeting Curtis Tanner, local project manager for Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, presented on their Change Analysis of Puget Sound Shorelines. Lyn said the MRC is scheduling a joint meeting with the Clallam County Planning Commission and the Department of Community Development to discuss the Change Analysis. Don Hatler, Clallam MRC member, said the MRC is looking into doing more crab pot removal and they are interested in the recent crab mortality study. Joan Drinkwin will get the MRC information on where crab pots have already been removed in Clallam County. Ginny said that Jeff June (Natural Resources Consultants) and Rich Childers (Washington Department of Wildlife) are scheduled to present on the crab pot mortality study at the May Commission meeting in Port Townsend.

Jefferson MRC - Shannon Davis reported that the MRC's Oak Bay restoration project has had a set back and might not be possible. The MRC's last meeting was a joint meeting with Island County MRC.

Island MRC - Lenny Corin reported that at the MRCs joint meeting with Jefferson Craig Collar from Snohomish Public Utility District presented on the Admiralty Inlet Pilot Tidal Energy Project.

San Juan MRC – Jonathan White reported that the marine managers' workshop had a good turnout. The first day was a panel discussion and the focused on the Critical Areas Ordinance and the Shoreline Master Plan update.

[Click here](#) to read the full MRC reports for March.

Ginny announced that Commissioner Terrie Klinger, associate professor in the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs, has been awarded the University of Washington's 2010 Outstanding Public Service Award. Ginny and Carol Bernthal from the Olympic Marine Sanctuary did a joint nomination for Terrie.

Puget Sound Partnership Updates

Joe Gaydos reported that a science panel evaluation report will be coming out soon. The report will address the comments made about scientific issues in the Action Agenda. Joe will let people know when it is available.

Duane Fagergren reported on the recent staff changes at the Partnership. Deputy Director Lynda Ransley will be moving into an outreach position and Jerry O'Keefe will be the new Deputy Director. Frank Mendizabal is the new Communications Director and John Becker is the new Performance Manager. Duane explained that they would like to hear if MRCs know their Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator. Duane and Chris Townsend will also be working on the connection between the Partnership and the Northwest Straits at the management level. Duane will be attending a workshop on ocean acidification in Seattle next week. Duane said that there will be follow up workshops that the Commission could have a role in.

Caroline reported that she has been working with John Meyer from the Partnership to include the Initiative's 18 restoration projects in the new table of all restoration projects in Puget Sound. [Click here](#) to download the map from the Partnership's website.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher reported that the Restore Americas Estuaries has released a [Hope for Coastal Habitats](#) publication which has some interesting stories from around the county. Kathy said Dr. Carl Safina will be the speaker at the [Spring Fundraiser](#) where the winners of the 2010 Warren G. Magnuson award will be presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm to convene a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting. The next Commission meeting will be at the Padilla Bay Reserve on April 23.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
April 23, 2010, 9:00am-3:45pm
Padilla Bay Reserve, Mount Vernon, Skagit County**

DRAFT

Attending: Jonathan White, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Bob Cecile, Shannon Davis, Lenny Corin, Tom Hoban, Jim McEntire, Charlie O'Hara, Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger
Absent: David Dicks, Scott McCreery
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin
Other MRC Representation: David Freed (Clallam MRC), Mary Knackstedt (San Juan MRC), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC), Gabrielle LaRoche (Jefferson MRC), Melissa Roberts, Doug Stark, Scarlet Tang, Bert Rubash (Whatcom MRC), Erica Pickett, Tracy Alker, Ivar Dolph (Skagit MRC)

DRAFT

Jonathan White, chair, opened the meeting with introductions and review of the agenda.

The March meeting minutes were approved as written.

MRC PRESENTATIONS

Jonathan explained that members of each of the seven Marine Resources Committees will present one of their projects and put forth Benchmark Account project ideas for discussion at the end of the presentations.

Clallam County MRC

David Freed, staff for the Clallam MRC, presented on the Marine Ecosystem Analysis (MESA) project to re-visit MESA intertidal sites sampled from 1976 to 1978, and collect and analyze data to assess changes or long-term trends in the intertidal benthos community over the last approximately 30 years. Following a pilot project initiated in 2008, the MRC has refined their study goals and sampling methods, and identified two research questions to guide future work: what are the probable causes of marine bird declines along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and how will removing the two Elwha River Dams effect beach sediments and the ecosystems of the Elwha River drift cell? The MRC expects to collect additional field data in the next year.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf. (1.48MB)

Island County MRC

Lenny Corin, member of Island MRC, presented on the Nearshore Stormwater Phytoremediation project. This project is a year round regulated pollutant biotreatment of storm water and waste water pollutants by phytoremediation. The design is now complete and initial planting will begin this spring. From this pilot project the MRC anticipates improved water quality and data to inform a landscape-scale project.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (2.58MB).

San Juan County MRC

Mary Knackstedt, staff for San Juan MRC, and Brian Rader, Pollution Prevention Specialist for San Juan County, presented on pollution prevention in San Juan County. This project is reducing pollution and runoff, build San Juan County's capacity to provide technical assistance for small businesses and citizens, and to help the county operations become greener.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (6.6MB).

Snohomish County MRC

Kathleen Herrmann, staff for the Snohomish County MRC, presented the Kayak Point County Park Restoration project. This project will restore habitat and habitat-forming processes at Kayak Point County Park by removing approximately 680 feet of an asphalt shoreline loop road, restoring native vegetation in the backshore area, and removing a sheet-pile wall.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (5.74MB).

Jefferson County MRC

Gabrielle LaRoche, staff for Jefferson County MRC, presented the Mystery Bay Project. This project includes the development of a management plan to avoid the threat of shellfish closure in Mystery Bay because of the number of boats anchored or moored near shellfish beds.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (1.62MB).

Whatcom County MRC

Doug Stark, member of the Whatcom MRC, and Cheryl Lovato-Niles, former WSU Beach Watcher staff, presented on Watershed Based Outreach: Chuckanut Bay Days 2009 and Birch Bay Events 2010. These two events enhanced resident and visitor understanding of the estuary and salt marsh, the Chuckanut Marsh restoration project, current water quality problems, good stewardship, and volunteer opportunities.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (4.57MB).

Skagit County MRC

Erica Pickett, member of the Skagit MRC, presented the O Avenue Restoration and Low Impact Development project. This project is a series of Low Impact Development (LID) projects to enhance the O Avenue mitigation project in partnership with the Port of Anacortes.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation in pdf (4.3MB).

Terrie Klinger recommended that MRCs look into the [University of Washington's Program on the Environment](#) which is focused on providing students with hands-on projects related to the environment that contribute to local communities.

BENCHMARK DISCUSSION

The MRCs contributed to a list of project ideas which were categorized for discussion purposes:

Citizen Science

- Mussel Watch
- Olympic oyster research
- Data archival
- Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area – identify critical threats
- Expand *Spartina* surveys

Restoration

- Edmonds Marsh
- Maynard Beach (Discovery Bay)
- Sediment transfer – Skagit
- Derelict gear – vessel removal, crab pot removal
- Shoreline owners riparian vegetation planting

Outreach

- Shore Stewards – regional curriculum
- Onsite septic
- Softshore armoring
- Marine plastics
- Support for Shoreline Master Program update
- Crab pot loss/ prevention
- Stormwater

Water Quality

- Groundwater
- Stormwater management
- Regulatory effectiveness

Commissioners discussed some of the ideas brought forward and came up with some additional criteria to help narrow the focus. The additional criteria were recommended as ideals but with the recognition that there are worthy projects that don't meet all of these:

- Meets the Northwest Straits benchmarks (mandatory)
- Earns acknowledgment for our federal funding
- Gets people involved
- Not derelict gear (other funding opportunities for this)
- Projects that are not set up for funding from other sources
- Outcome within the given timeframe
- Plays a unique role within an existing project
- Relevance outside this region

- Something that will slow down the rate of change from climate change impacts (i.e. capturing carbon)

The Commission staff will send a summary of this discussion to MRCs as soon as possible. Please contact Caroline or Sasha if there are ways we can help facilitate joint projects or if there are additional project ideas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kate Litle, Citizen Science Specialist from Washington Sea Grant, explained that her job is to provide assistance to citizen science projects and that she is interested in working with MRCs. She can be contacted at kalittle@u.washington.edu for MRCs who are interested in support.

Kathleen Herrmann said the MRC was invited to meet with BNSF Railroad talk about shoreline impacts. She explained that the railroad would like to have sediment from the railroad to flow into the Puget Sound but the Department of Ecology does not allow it because it is believed the sediment is contaminated. BNSF would like to partner with groups to do some sediment testing to find out if it is contaminated.

BUSINESS ITEMS

New Office in Port Townsend

Caroline's new office will open the beginning of May in the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend.

Fall conference location

Ginny reported that the Commission staff has narrowed down the conference locations based on capacity. Rosario Resort on Orcas Island, if available, is the preferred location.

Furlough days for Commission staff

Ginny explained that Governor Gregoire has signed the temporary layoff bill which means ten mandatory furlough days for Commission staff in 2010 and 2011. The dates will be announced once confirmed.

WDFW Draft Rockfish Conservation Plan and Environment Impact Statement

Ginny reported the [April 2010 Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan](#) has been released and is open for comment through May 21. Ginny has addressed the issue of lack of acknowledgment for our Derelict Gear Program and MRC work.

COMPASS workshops

Sasha said the next COMPASS communications workshops are scheduled for April 28 in Sequim and May 12 at Padilla Bay. Contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org for more information or to register.

2009 Annual Report

The Initiative's 2009 annual report is complete. Copies can be [downloaded online](#) or hard copies are available by contacting Connie at price@nwstraits.org.

Pacific Sand Lance Research Contract Awarded

Ginny announced the Pacific sand lance research contract was awarded to Dr. Gary Greene, Tombolo Institute, and Dr. Tina Wyllie-Echeverria, University of Washington/Friday Harbor Laboratories. Fieldwork will begin this summer.

Distinguished Service Award for Commissioner Dr. Terrie Klinger

Ginny announced that Commissioner Terrie Klinger is the recipient of the [University of Washington's 2010 Outstanding Public Service Award](#). An award ceremony will be June 10 in Meany Hall.

Film Series

Ginny announced that Sasha will be organizing various screenings of the new film "Beneath the Salish Sea" and eventually other films. For more information contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

ELECTIONS

Terry Stevens reported the nominating committee would like to nominate candidates Terry Williams for chair and Lenny Corin for vice chair of the Commission. The new officers will begin their terms at the May meeting of the Commission.

The Commission moved and approved the election of Terry Williams as chair and Lenny Corin as vice chair.

ROUNDTABLE

Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation, announced an opportunity for volunteers to staff a Derelict Gear booth at the Northwest Dive Expo May 22-23 in Tacoma. Joan will send out a notice to MRC leads and chairs. Joan also announced that Joth Davis and Betsy Peabody agreed to hold a training in June on Olympia Oyster presence/absence surveys. She will send out more information when it becomes available

Kathy Fletcher announced the [People For Puget Sound "New Day For Spring" Spring fundraiser](#) will be May 18. Awards will be presented to the winners of the 2010 Warren G. Magnuson Sound Legacy Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm to convene a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting. The next Commission meeting will be held on May 21 at the Bishop Victorian Hotel and the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
May 21, 2010, 11:20am - 3:00pm
Port Townsend, Jefferson County

Attending: Jonathan White, Joe Gaydos, Bob Cecile, Shannon Davis, Lenny Corin, Tom Hoban, Tim Johnson (alt.), Jim McEntire, Ivar Dolph (alt.), Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terrie Klinger

Absent: Terry Williams, David Dicks, Charlie O'Hara, Scott McCreery

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

Support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay Research Reserve), Joan Drinkwin (Northwest Straits Foundation)

Guests: Stan Cummings (Director Northwest Maritime Center) Rich Childers (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) Jeff June (Natural Resources Consultants)

DRAFT

Jonathan White, Chair, opened the meeting at 11:20am. There were no changes to the agenda.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL

Ginny recognized Jonathan for all of great work this last year. Ginny said, "He has gone above and beyond the duties of chair and brought good sense and magic to it." The Commission presented him with an engraved paddle made by a Swinomish carver and a gift certificate.

Jonathan thanked the Commission for its support and encouraged others to take on the role as chair. He said, "It's been an incredible privilege to get to know Ginny and the other staff and I am flooded with appreciation." Jonathan said it has been a challenge to know how he fits in because, "This staff is so talented it's like a train going 100 miles per hour and you're at a dead stop; you have to get up to speed before you can hang on."

Based on that experience Jonathan suggested that the Commission considers a more flexible approach to Chair terms to allow and even encourage longer terms. The Commission discussed benefits and concerns of electing a chair for additional terms and challenging the assumption that the vice chair becomes chair. There was overall support for greater flexibility. Commissioners requested that the Executive Committee review the current bylaws and bring back any proposed changes at the next meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

The April meeting minutes were approved as written.

MRC REPORTS

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

Skagit and Whatcom - no additions to the written reports.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban provided an update of the Earth Day event sponsored by Beach Watchers.

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that this is his last meeting and introduced Bob Vreeland who will be the new Clallam MRC representative. Bob said he has a background with NOAA Fisheries and is a recreational diver. He joined the MRC less than a year ago with the desire to do more work in the marine environment.

Jefferson – Shannon Davis reported that Jefferson MRC just bought two car wash kits and they are hoping to use them at the many fundraising carwashes held in Port Townsend this summer.

Island – Lenny Corin reported that their last meeting was a good synopsis of the entire eelgrass program and encourages anyone interested in an eelgrass to take look at the Island MRC's project. The tree planting for the phytoremediation project has been postponed until fall because of the short planting window before summer arrives and the potential for poor tree survival from lack of water.

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that at the last meeting Jack Giard, a Lopez reef net fisherman and member of the Pacific Salmon Commission, gave a presentation on the Fraser River salmon runs. Jonathan says Jack would be a good speaker for a Commission meeting. Shannon Davis added that the MRC elected a new chair, Steve Revella, and Kit Rawson, departing chair, gave a wise and pointed presentation to the San Juan County Council that would be worth sharing. Jonathan will pass along the report to be distributed with the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported that the Technical Committee reviewed their project budget and recommends that Commission make a decision about spending the \$30,000 from FY2009 first, and then discuss how to spend the \$80,000 in the FY2010 budget once the Pacific sand lance data analysis project is complete (July). One idea is a ground-truthing the forage fish habitat suitability model Suzanne Shull has done. Another idea is to look at the beach seine data to indentify gaps. Joe explained that these are just ideas and no decisions have to be made at this time. The committee agreed they would like to stay relevant and see the forage fish project through. Joe added that at the next meeting they will review the Commission's strategic plan to identify areas that they might be missing.

Executive Committee - Lenny Corin reported that the Executive Committee discussed the MRC fall conference which will be on Orcas Island at Rosario Resort. The Committee discussed names of possible speakers for the Annual Conference. This year there will be a session for new members. The committee also came up with a list of presentations for the upcoming Commission agendas.

BUSINESS ITEMS

New Staff Position

Ginny reported that the paperwork for the new staff position has been submitted to the Department of Ecology. Once the position is approved we will begin to advertise. Ginny explained that Caroline and the new person will be working closely together rather than splitting on strictly geographical lines.

Benchmark Account – Identify Reviewers

Ginny said Commission staff will need to identify a reviewer from each MRC for the Benchmark Account proposals and will be contacting each MRC representative soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ROUNDTABLE

Duane Fagergren announced the [3rd Annual South Sound Science Symposium](#) will be October 27 and Joe Gaydos will be a keynote speaker.

Following lunch the group relocated to the Northwest Maritime Center for the afternoon presentations.

Stan Cummings, Director Northwest Maritime Center, welcomed the Northwest Straits Commission and guests. He said the mission of the Northwest Maritime Center is to engage and educate people of all generations in traditional and contemporary maritime life, in a spirit of adventure and discovery. Stan sees the Northwest Maritime Center as a community resource with programs for both youth and adults. He thanked everyone for coming and invited them to come back soon.

Crab Management in Washington State

Rich Childers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented on the Puget Sound Dungeness crab fishery. It is one of the most complex fisheries in the world with 17 tribes and 3 co-managing agencies. State and Tribal fishery managers develop annual harvest management agreements each year, with quotas are established for each Puget Sound crab region based on an average of the prior three years' harvest. Treaty and non- treaty commercial catch must be recorded on a fish receiving ticket at the point of sale. Estimating recreational crabbing is more challenging. In past years they have used the returned catch cards along with phone surveys to estimate the number harvested. Phone surveys are expensive and not accurate. This year they will assess a \$10.00 penalty for failure to report crab catch. The Department uses soft shell surveys to determine opening and closing dates. Rich reports that the crab fishery is managed sustainably and currently all marine areas except for South Hood Canal have the highest catches on record.

[Click here for a pdf of Rich's presentation.](#)

A question and answer period followed the presentation:

Q - How much education for crab catch regulations is being done?

A - News releases, some radio and a postcard reminder. Most people reporting are doing it online.

Q -The salmon management group is still trying to read the cards from 2004. How has the crab management group been able keep up with reporting data?

A – The \$3.00 crab endorsement money is used to hire a team to collect crab catch data. Also, internet reporting is much more efficient. Rich explained that the \$3 crab endorsement is a federally-designated fund and can be used for catch accounting, monitoring, and recently added for derelict gear removal. Funds this year will be under spent because the phone survey is no longer being used.

Q - Why are treaty fishermen already fishing in areas 8-1 and 8-2?

A - Molt occurs on a different cycle in that area. The area will soon close until September.

Q – Has the department studied crab genetics?

A – No, not yet.

Q – Does Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife perform gear checks?

A – Gear is checked when in the water but not before.

Q – Do you find cycles of increased crab population in Puget Sound?

A - No, they don't see cycles like they do on the coast.

Q - Have you found any needle disease in Puget Sound?

A – No, needle disease has not been found north of Grays Harbor.

Q- What about invasive crab species?

A –The Aquatic Nuisance Species department addresses invasive species.

Derelict Crab Pot Mortality

Jeff June is from Natural Resources Consultants and is the derelict fishing gear removal field manager for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Jeff presented on the recent crab pot mortality study supported by the Stillaguamish tribe and Northwest Straits Foundation.

Jeff said the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that 12,193 crab pots are lost each year in Puget Sound. Each lost crab pot without escape cord kills approximately 30 crabs until deterioration. He said there are several ways to prevent crab pot loss:

- Don't fish in marine transit zones
- Weight your pot so they don't move in high currents
- Make sure float line is long enough for depth you are fishing
- Use multiple floats in high current areas
- Don't place pots too close together.
- Always use escape cord – 120 thread count is the regulation but that guidance is not helpful because there is no regulation limiting the thread size. It is better to use cord that is 1/8 inch in diameter.
- [Report lost pots](#)

There has been a recent change of regulation that allows enforcement agents to ticket crabbers for transporting illegal pots on marine waters instead of only being able to ticket for actively fishing illegal pots. Jeff says there are some areas that have concentrated accumulation of crab pots that will be targeted for this enforcement.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next Commission meeting will be on June 25 in Whatcom County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
June 25, 2010, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Squalicum Yacht Club, Bellingham, Whatcom County

Attending: Terry Williams, Jonathan White, Joe Gaydos, Bob Cecile, Shannon Davis, Tom Hoban, Tim Johnson (alt.), Bob Vreeland, Charles O'Hara, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terrie Klinger
Absent: David Dicks, Scott McCreery
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Jamey Selleck
Support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay Research Reserve), Joan Drinkwin and Tracie Johannessen (Northwest Straits Foundation)
Guests: Representative Kelli Linville, Senator Kevin Ranker, Tina Whitman and Kyle Loring (Friends of the San Juans)

DRAFT

Introductions

Terry Williams, chair of the commission opened the meeting with recognition to the Lummi Nation for the meeting location in their area and proceeded with introductions around the room.

Welcome

Representative Kelli Linville (42nd District) welcomed the Commission to Bellingham, her hometown. She serves as the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and has been working on closing a \$3 billion budget shortfall in this biennium and an expected \$8 billion shortfall in the 2011-13 biennium. She recognizes that when faced with day-to-day challenges like putting food on the table, it is easy to put off thinking about the environment. She encouraged the Commission to work on its core mission, as "...this is no time for organizations to be distracted by anything else". Representative Linville reflected on the fact that Bellingham harbor is cleaner now than when she was growing up, when there was little consideration for what went in the water, and also that there are now more pleasure boats than fishing boats indicating a significant shift in the economy. She said that cleanup and protection of marine waters is everyone's responsibility, and it will require everyone to participate in making it happen.

Review Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and the Commission agreed to reconvene after lunch at 12:40 to hear from Senator Kevin Ranker (WA-40th district) about coastal and marine spatial planning.

May Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 21 meeting in Port Townsend were approved with a correction to the date of the 3rd Annual South Sound Science Symposium (October 27) and a request to confirm that the start and end times for the Commission meeting were noted accurately.

Committee Reports

Ginny provided a summary of the Executive Committee conference call which of generated ideas for the November 5-6 MRC conference to be held at Rosario Resort with a theme of *Salish Sea: Past, Present, Future*. Randy Olson, author of “Don’t be *Such* a Scientist” will be the keynote speaker. The committee also reported back on the follow up discussion regarding election of officers. The committee did not recommend any changes to the Commission’s rules of procedure to allow for re-election of officers. The Commission agreed to revisit the discussion before the 2011 elections.

Joe Gaydos, Technical Committee chair, introduced Jamey Selleck who is currently working on the forage fish data project (presentation later) and reminded the Commission about this project and the deepwater Pacific sand lance research that are currently funded by the Commission’s ecosystem account. That research is just now underway, and several research papers are anticipated from the work. The Technical Committee will meet in the next month to discuss recommendations for the additional \$30,000 that is in the budget.

For the Education Committee, Sasha Horst reported on upcoming screenings of *Beneath the Salish Sea* by marine biologist and cinematographer Dr. Florian Graner. Screenings are scheduled for August 12 at Padilla Bay and August 24 at the Everett Performing Arts Center.

Business Items

Caroline Gibson described the Benchmark Account request for proposals and review process, designed to fund MRC projects. Five proposals were received, and a review team of nine people (seven MRC representatives and two Governor-appointees) read and reviewed the proposals. Following a conference call of the review team, the team provided a recommendation to support three projects: Skagit MRC *Spartina* survey, Jefferson MRC Maynard Beach and Snohomish-Island MRC Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. Caroline noted that the Island MRC Access to Data project is being addressed through other routes.

Because there are not adequate funds to fully support these projects, the review team requested additional information to support phased projects and revised budgets. The Commission is not able to fund the *Spartina* work in British Columbia, so Skagit submitted a revised budget without that component.

The Commission supported the concept of funding some element of all three projects, as long as the projects will still be successful with partial funding. Discussion followed about how to ensure that the criteria for future proposals are communicated well in the request for proposals, including a suggestion to have the Technical Committee review the RFP prior to issue.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to request that staff collect additional information from MRCs based on the discussion and make a funding proposal for final approval by technical committee.

Sasha Horst reminded commissioners and MRC representatives that with the end of the fiscal year on June 30, any expenses (such as travel) should be submitted for reimbursement. Contact your MRC lead staff or Connie Price for additional information.

MRC Reports

In addition to the written reports, MRC representatives provided the following updates:

Clallam – there were no additions to the written report

Island – Sarah Haynes reported that the MRC hosted a boat trip on June 24 to see the projects the MRC is funding. Experts and project leads were on board to explain the projects and technology used. Sarah noted that the boat used is available to any MRC, and they had a small grant from the Puget Sound Partnership for the event.

Jefferson – Shannon Davis reported that their Oak Bay restoration project has hit a snag. A recent report from the archeologist confirms that there is an intact midden so they will not be able to restore the beach without disturbing the midden. The MRC is planning to redirect the funds to the Maynard Beach restoration project.

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that the MRC is the citizen advisory for their salmon recovery area and summer is a busy time for review in that process.

Skagit – Charlie O’Hara reported that Kirk Buchanan talked about forage fish in Skagit Bay and discussed the impact of sea level rise and other issues on forage fish. He also reported on a co-management agreement between Swinomish Tribe and the State Park Department to manage a new preserve area on Kikit Island, and a naming ceremony for the Salish Sea to be held in Victoria on July 15.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban noted the MRC has a lot of focus on crabber education for the season opening on July 1. The MRC also held a full-day workshop on Hat Island with sessions on maintaining septic systems, bluff management, and other stewardship concepts.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that three members of the MRC attended the Olympia oyster training held on June 15. The MRC also held their strategic planning retreat and expect to have a draft plan for review at their next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Senator Kevin Ranker (40th district) thanked the Commission for making time on the agenda for him to talk about coastal and marine spatial planning. In the next legislative session, he will be co-sponsoring a bill that will address one aspect of ecosystem management by mapping existing uses and resources and requiring new proposed uses to be overlaid on those maps to identify conflicts and protect key uses. Working waterfronts, natural shorelines, recreational and cultural uses, and areas of biodiversity are examples of uses that would be included. He has worked closely with shellfish farmers, realtors, ports, industry and many others to prepare the bill. The intention is for the bill to require better communication among the various managing agencies and be prepared for any proposals in the future

for new uses of the marine environment. The initial bill calls for the collection of data to identify key habitats and uses and requires implementation of the plan that is developed. Following development of a plan, significant funding from private foundations is anticipated that could be invested in the implementation.

Shoreline Issues in San Juan County

Tina Whitman of Friends of the San Juans summarized a project in which they inventoried all shoreline modifications in San Juan County in order to identify and prioritize nearshore restoration projects and inform policy. The results showed almost 4,000 modifications for an average of four modifications per shoreline mile. The total includes 710 bulkheads, 472 docks, 32 groins, 55 marine railways, 70 boat ramps, 50 marinas, 1,914 buoys/floats, 166 groups of pilings and 191 other modifications. Sand/gravel beaches are areas where the majority of impacts are concentrated, even though they make up only 20% of the total shoreline. Tina noted that there are significant restoration opportunities, and that there are significant protection challenges ahead.

To view a copy of the presentation by Tina Whitman, [click here](#).

Kyle Loring, also of Friends of the San Juans, gave a presentation on recent work they have done to determine whether existing shoreline protections are preventing deterioration of shoreline habitat. A case study was described in which a shoreline property owner was able to receive permission from the Shorelines Hearings Board to install a bulkhead on a shoreline with documented forage fish spawning in which no structure was at risk. Friends also conducted a survey to determine whether or not bulkheads categorically impact beach substrate and elevations over time. Scientific knowledge is still improving in this area. The lessons learned include recognition that regulators are not using forage fish data available to them; there isn't legal authority or political will to achieve "no net loss" of habitat; to protect marine resources protection must receive the same priority as restoration.

[Click here](#) to view a copy of the presentation by Kyle Loring.

No Sand Lance Left Behind: An Historical Review of Puget Sound Data

Jamey Selleck, Commission staff, presented a summary of his work to compile and analyze existing data on Pacific sand lance. He described work done to date by the Commission and MRCs on forage fish research. His current project is focused on collecting existing datasets from the Puget Sound region. Data were provided by a variety of agencies, tribes, universities, businesses and non-profit organizations. Any new data collected can be added to the database he developed. Data for the report covers a period from March, 1970 through October, 2009 and includes 15,166 records from at least 1,432 sites.

Working with Suzanne Shull at Padilla Bay Reserve, they created two maps for each of the 12 counties in the Puget Sound region. One map is presence/absence of sand lance and the other map shows abundance. The analysis done was intended to be fairly broad. Jamey is now working with Suzanne Shull, Caroline Gibson and Joe Gaydos to write a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

To view a copy of the presentation, [click here](#).

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher announced her retirement from People For Puget Sound in early 2011. The organization will be turning 20 next year as well. A search for a new executive director will begin this fall. Suggestions

for candidates can be passed along to Kathy. Her term on the Northwest Straits Commission will end in October 2011.

Duane Fagergren reported that former Commissioner and Island MRC member Gary Wood is facing difficult health problems and recommended that the Commission send a card.

Dan Penttila of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife was in the audience and the Commission recognized him for his work over the years, particularly on forage fish research. He is retiring from the agency on June 30.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on July 30 at the Tulalip Tribes' administration building in Marysville.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
July 30, 2010, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Tulalip Tribes Administration Building
6406 Marine Drive, Tulalip, WA 98271**

Attending: Terry Williams, Jonathan White, Ron Akeson (alt.), Tom Hoban, Tim Johnson (alt.), Ivar Dolph (alt.), Lenny Corin, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher
Absent: David Dicks, Scott McCreery, Charlie O'Hara, Bob Vreeland, Shannon Davis, Bob Cecile, Joe Gaydos
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price, Jamey Selleck
Support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay Research Reserve)
Guests: Jon Neel (Department of Ecology)
Other MRC
Representation: Pat Pearson (Jefferson MRC), Kathleen Herrmann, Tom Carter and Andrea Hennings (Snohomish MRC), Melissa Roberts (Whatcom MRC), Sarah Haynes (Island MRC)

DRAFT

Terry Williams opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda. Terry welcomed the Commission to the Tulalip Tribes' new facility.

Meeting Minutes

The June meeting minutes were approved as written.

Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program

Jon Neel from the Department of Ecology Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program started with an overview of a recent incident of an articulated barge losing power en route from Cherry Point to the Columbia River. In answer to a questions, Jon explained that these vessels don't require escorts. Jon followed with a presentation on the Washington State Oil Spill Program. Jon reviewed agency roles and the program's preparedness and response procedures. He provided photos of the Gulf and explained that Washington's inland and coastal waters are very different from the Gulf because the water is colder in Puget Sound, oil transported here is heavier, tidal changes are more dramatic (up to 20' feet), and a spill would not be 'offshore'. This means that in the event of a spill the

oil would spread much more quickly and be close to shore. Jon says Washington is far better prepared than the Gulf states and also has no offshore drilling. Many members of Washington's response team are in the Gulf Coast region to assist and also for training purposes.

Jon explained that the Department of Ecology and the Coast Guard would be in charge in case of a spill. Washington state has veto power over the Federal Government on oil spill response.

The program has been cut back in the last several years and this year they are facing more budget cuts. With additional funding Jon said there would be some opportunities to improve our state's oil spill program, for example establishing a vessel of opportunity program with the local fishing fleet.

In response to the many questions for Jon and interest in the topic, Ginny noted that the Commission will continue to talk about related issues in future meetings. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

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

The meeting was reconvened after the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

MRC REPORTS

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

Jefferson MRC– Pat Pearson reported that Jefferson and Clallam's annual joint meeting will be August 3 at Discovery Bay. Pat is hoping that they can move forward on a project together. Pat asked about the status of the Spartina project and suggested using the joint meeting as a place to introduce the project idea to both MRCs. Buoys were installed in Mystery Bay as part of the harbor management plan to protect shellfish beds. The planned Oak Bay restoration project was cancelled and efforts are now shifted to the Maynard Beach project.

Snohomish MRC - Tom Hoban introduced Kathleen Herrmann, MRC lead staff, who reported that the MRC's big project is the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area that she will be presenting on later in this meeting. Recreational Dungeness crab outreach took place July 1-3. The outreach materials, emphasizing proper crabbing techniques and ways not to lose your pot, were handed out to recreational crabbers, sporting good stores and marinas. The MRC is working on a nearshore sediment study, beginning with a biological and physical analysis to identify sites that have high potential for beach rehabilitation. Tom Hoban reported that the MRC is hosting the film "*Beneath the Salish Sea*" on August 24 at the Everett Performing Arts Center. The planning has begun for the annual picnic with Island County MRC in September.

Island MRC– Lenny Corin reported that the Penn Cove water quality project is complete and a summary of the project is in the written report. Lenny and Joan Drinkwin submitted an application to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for restoration work in Cornet Bay and hope to receive funding.

San Juan MRC – Jonathan reported that because the MRC is the citizen advisory for their salmon recovery area (WRIA2) they are busy reviewing grant proposals, which included a proposal from the Northwest Straits Foundation for derelict gear removal. The MRC would have liked to fund the Foundation's proposal but the top two proposals that were funded are ongoing projects. If there is any additional funding it will go to derelict gear removal.

Skagit MRC – Ivar Dolph reported that the March's Point groin removal will start next week. The MRC will issue an RFP to identify projects in Fidalgo or Padilla Bay to use the \$500,000 Natural Resources Damage Assessment money and has been fortunate to leverage additional funds for one project on their list. On August 12 the MRC will host the film "*Beneath the Salish Sea*" at Padilla Bay.

Clallam MRC – no report.

Whatcom MRC – Ron Akesson said that the MRC is working on their strategic plan.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Farewell to Jamey Selleck

Ginny, on the behalf of the Commission, thanked Jamey for his excellent work on the Pacific sand lance data project. With Jamey's help our forage fish work is now officially a 'program'. Jamey was presented with a Northwest Straits Commission logo Kleen Kanteen and a farewell cake.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Benchmark Account Wrap Up and Approval for Ecosystem Funding

Ginny explained that the Technical Committee met to follow up on funding decisions for the Benchmark Account. The committee strongly considered the recommendation from the Northwest Straits Commissioners expressed at the last meeting that if we fund a project we should provide enough funding to accomplish the project goal. In preparation for the funding decisions, staff reviewed our budget for unspent funds and determined that up to \$190,000 could be allocated to the Benchmark Account. Of these funds the Technical Committee decided that \$100,000 would go the Jefferson MRC's Maynard Beach project and \$90,000 to the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project. The Committee recalled that previous funding for Spartina monitoring was funded through the Ecosystem fund and the Technical Committee decided it would be appropriate to use the Ecosystem fund again this year. There is \$30,000 of unspent funds in the Ecosystem fund which will go to the Spartina project. Commission staff are working with the project leads to develop contracts and amended scope of work as necessary.

Sasha reported that the MRCs are all under spent for the first year of this two-year grant. She will be talking with MRCs individually to find out when spending will be back on track in the second year.

Job announcement

Ginny reported the job announcement for the restoration manager was released on July 21 and is available on the homepage of the Commission's Web site until August 8. Ginny will send out an interview schedule and anyone interested in helping with the interview process should contact her.

FY2011 Appropriation and NWSI Reauthorization

The Northwest Straits Commission's appropriation request for \$1.8 million was included in the Senate's bill for fiscal year 2011 and approved by the Appropriations Committee. Our reauthorization bill is still waiting to pass in the Senate.

Ocean Acidification Workshop

Caroline announced that the Commission and several co-sponsors are hosting a two-hour ocean acidification workshop on October 7 from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. Caroline is working with the MRCs and would like members to participate. She will be sending out a draft agenda soon.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Ginny reported that she, Kathy, Terry Williams, Jonathan, and Caroline gave a presentation to the Leadership Council on July 29. The presentation went well even though only three members of the council were present. David Dicks, director of the Puget Sound Partnership, expressed an interest in helping to find additional funds for our derelict fishing net removal project. Ginny thanked Sasha and Caroline on putting together a great presentation which is available for future use.

The Partnership is looking at some new projects and one interesting project is flood plains. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has to comply with the Endangered Species Act in flood plain development and this has raised some issues. [Click here to see a copy of the background report on the project.](#)

Duane Fagergren reported that there have been some staffing changes at the Partnership. David Jennings is a new chief technology information officer, Ken Currens is the science director and Todd Hass is the new oil spill policy specialist. The Partnership is still hiring an ecosystem restoration coordinator. Duane said that they will soon relocate their offices to Tacoma.

Kathy Fletcher announced that Bill Ruckelshaus is stepping down from the Leadership Council. The council is expected to announce the new chair shortly, but the new member is still unknown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee - Lenny Corin reported that conference planning is underway. Caroline and Sasha will be developing sessions and contacting speakers. The committee discussed writing a letter of concern about the number of oil spill vessels from our area being deployed to the Gulf. After doing some research, Ginny didn't feel that a comment letter was the appropriate. Kathy suggested that now would be a good time to define the minimal level of equipment needed here in Washington. The Commission agreed that more discussion on oil spill issues and the Commission's role is needed, including how to bridge the gap between the Islands' Oil Spill Association and the state.

Technical Committee - Caroline reported that the committee will schedule a conference call to discuss how to spend the \$80,000 in the Ecosystem Fund that came available on July 1. Jamey's Pacific sand lance research project will be wrapping up today and Jamey will be the lead author on the upcoming Pacific sand lance research paper to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Tribal Committee - Terry reported that there has been a change in the Tribal Committee project funding. Ginny explained that not enough additional funding has been raised for the *Shadow of Time* project, the sequel to *Shadow of the Salmon*, and the project has been postponed and the contract canceled until additional funding can be raised. Terry said that the feasibility assessment for improvements to the Chinook and Coho Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) is underway.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area

Kathleen Herrmann and Sarah Haynes presented on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area, partially funded by the 2010 Benchmark Account. Sarah explained that Port Susan has a tremendous amount of natural resources that have been neglected. In 2006 partners got together and decided to create a Marine Stewardship Area. The goal of this project is to complete the threats, strategies, and measures steps in the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) framework for Port Susan Bay. Citizen science will be used to fill in critical data gaps. Kathleen shared the results from the initial science workshop held in January 2010. The next step will be another workshop with 30 stakeholders. [Click here to see a copy of the presentation.](#)

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher announced that [People For Puget Sound's Harbor Lights 2010](#) event will be on October 23 at the Westin Hotel in Seattle.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Commission meeting will be on August 27 in Island County at the Coupeville Service Alternatives building.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
August 27, 2010, 10:00 am-3:00 pm
Coupeville, Island County
20 NW 1st Street Coupeville, WA 98239**

Attending: Terry Williams, Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Scott McCreery, Charlie O'Hara, Lenny Corin, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher, Joe Gaydos, Bob Vreeland, Shannon Davis

Absent: David Dicks

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

Support: Terry Stevens (Padilla Bay Research Reserve)

Guests: Al Bergstein (Jefferson MRC), Helen Price-Johnson (Island County Commissioner), Sarah Schmidt (Terrafilia)

Other MRC
Representation: Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC)

DRAFT

Terry Williams opened the meeting with introductions and a review of the agenda.

Meeting Minutes

The July meeting minutes were approved as written.

Al Bergstein's 'Voices of the Strait'

[Al Bergstein](#) is a filmmaker and Jefferson MRC member. He participates in the Puget Sound Partnership's ECO Net and hosts a blog called the [Olympic Peninsula Environmental News](#). Last year he secured ECO Net funds to produce a short film called Voices of the Strait that was made to document the knowledge and experiences of people who lived and survived by using the natural resources in the area. Al showed a second video called '*The Scuba View*', filmed by a local high school student.

Al is planning on coming to the MRC fall conference in November and will be teaching a session on making videos. He is also available to visit MRCs who are interested in watching the film or, with funding help from the Commission, he can send copies.

Local Oil Spill Concerns: Discussion on potential Northwest Straits Initiative involvement

Jonathan White said Jon Neel's (Department of Ecology) presentation at the July Commission meeting gave him the impression that the agency is not open to working with local volunteers. He asked Jon to present at the August San Juan MRC meeting, which he did. Volunteers from the Islands' Oil Spill Association, San Juan County Emergency Management, and Hazmat Spill Response also participated in the meeting. Jonathan said the meeting opened the discussion

on how volunteers groups, such as IOSA, and the Department of Ecology can work together. Jonathan feels now is a good time for other MRCs to discuss the topic. Julie Knight from IOSA and Brendan Cowan from San Juan County Emergency Management will present at our September meeting.

The Commission discussed local volunteer programs in counties other than San Juan (which has IOSA) but recognized it takes an extraordinary level of commitment. There are several levels where volunteers can be helpful, such as local knowledge of the area to get crews to a spill location.

Scott McCreery explained that after the Maury/Vashon Island spill Dept of Ecology funded Julie Knight to build a volunteer program in the area. The Vashon effort failed once the volunteers understood the extent of the commitment required to participate. Scott warned that from his recent experience in the Gulf, the national oil spill response framework will be changing significantly. He said there are opportunities to improve preparedness, such as organizing volunteers and establishing a vessel of opportunity program. Tribal fleets, which remain in the area throughout the year, could be included. Scott said that he is available to talk to MRCs about oil spill issues.

Terry Williams said the tribes have trained oil spill response people and he suggested to the Puget Sound Partnership that the tribes can play a role in oil spill response at a local and federal level. Charlie O'Hara said there needs to be some change in the tribe's relationship with the oil companies because the refineries have not been interested in working with the tribes, even though the tribes have equipment and training.

Ginny cautioned the Commission about the amount of time we could spend on oil spill issues and the need to determine how to move forward. The Commission discussed some of the first steps which included MRCs looking into ways to get involved (possibly the using the model of Snohomish MRC that was requested to research oil spill issues for the county) and the Commission learning more about local programs. The Executive Committee will continue to discuss the topic and help shape a discussion at the September meeting and possibly a session at the conference.

MRC REPORTS

MRC representatives gave the following highlights in addition to the written report.

Jefferson MRC– Shannon Davis reported that the MRC is conducting monitoring as part of the Olympia oyster restoration project. Beach Watchers are monitoring the number of boats in Mystery Bay, where shellfish operations have been able to continue as a result of the harbor management plan the MRC helped create. The Maynard beach restoration project is underway.

Island MRC – Lenny Corin reported that the First World Seabird Conference will be September 7-11 in Victoria and the MRC will give a Pigeon Guillemot presentation.

Skagit MRC – Charlie O'Hara reported the last MRC meeting was held at Padilla Bay right before the screening of "*Beneath the Salish Sea*", which was attended by 75 people.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that 250 people turned out for the screening of "*Beneath the Salish Sea*" held at the Everett Performing Arts Center. Tom shared the MRC [crabber outreach flyer](#) which focuses on the prevention of lost crab pots. The MRC is in the

process of recruiting four additional members. September 16 will be the joint MRC meeting with Island and Skagit.

Ginny added that the Commission is looking to expand the Snohomish MRC's crabber outreach project regionally.

Whatcom MRC - Bob Cecile reported the final version of the MRCs strategic plan will be presented at the September meeting. They are experiencing some membership attendance issues and they will be looking at the MRC policies at the next meeting.

Clallam MRC – Bob Vreeland gave no report.

San Juan MRC - Jonathan White reported that the MRC had an opportunity to report on various MRC projects to the San Juan County Accountability Oversight Committee. Two MRC members, including Jonathan, are participating on the Puget Sound Partnership's Implementation Committee. The MRC is excited about a regional crabber outreach program.

[Click here to see written MRC reports.](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Lenny Corin reviewed the committee report and noted that there will be a session on oil spills at the MRC Conference.

Ginny updated the Commission on the hiring process and invited Commissioners to participate in the interviews. Ginny met with Sally Hintz and Jeff Watters from Senator Cantwell's staff and discussed the Initiative's reauthorization bill which is waiting for a larger bill to pass with. Ginny explained that the topic of marine reserves surfaced out of the rockfish advisory board. She would like to discuss our role and determine whether the Commission could host a productive conversation. Terry Williams said that NOAA's Marine Protected Area Center staff is coming to visit the tribes October 5-7 to talk about marine protected areas. They will be reviewing the policy and discuss where the United States and tribes need to think about reserves. Charlie O'Hara will be attending. Terry would like get people to understand how marine reserves can be constructive and help reach the goal of finding the best way to manage Puget Sound.

Technical Committee – Caroline reported that the Technical Committee had a conference call last week and has \$80,000 for a project that continues the momentum of our forage fish work. The committee will be reviewing four projects at their next meeting and will have project recommendations at the September Commission meeting.

Education Committee – Sasha reported that the next screening of "*Beneath the Salish Sea*" will be September 22 at the Pickford Cinema in Bellingham. If other MRCs are interested in hosting a screening please contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

Northwest Straits Foundation Update – Ginny reported that two proposals, Penn Cove Water Quality and Derelict Gear Deepwater Surveys, were rejected for funding by the Environmental Protection Agency. The table included in the Foundation written report shows the progress of the stimulus grant and our goal of 3,000 nets removed. Now, with the new surveying method they estimate 1,000 nets will remain after the stimulus project is complete. Approximately

two million dollars will need to be raised to remove the remaining nets. Ginny will be leading a new fundraising campaign.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Welcome

Helen Price-Johnson, Island County Commissioner, welcomed the Northwest Straits Commission to Island County. Commissioner Price-Johnson said the Island MRC successfully leverages funds and is doing incredible work. She believes that people can change through the power of relationships and these relationships are strongest at the local level. She said, "even though our fiscal resources are limited, our creative resources are not." Commissioner Price-Johnson welcomes the chance to work with the Northwest Straits and the MRC and believes together we can make a positive change in this region.

Cornet Bay Restoration Project

Sarah Schmidt, a contractor for Island County MRC, presented on the Cornet Bay Restoration project. Cornet Bay provides refuge for juvenile salmon and forage fish from the high energy of the Deception Pass corridor. Its beach areas and eelgrass beds are ideal habitat for forage fish. Island MRC is partnering with Washington State Parks to restore ecosystem functions at Cornet Bay while making the beach more accessible to the public. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

Kiket Island – Kukutali Preserve

Charlie O'Hara briefed the Commission on the process which led to the acquisition of Kiket Island-Kukutali Preserve. The island will be the only park co-owned and jointly operated by the state and a tribe in Washington. Charlie sits on the six-member board (which includes three representatives from the tribe and three from the state) that will develop the policies to manage the island. He said that at this time, because of the lack of funding and a permanent management plan, entry on the island is limited.

[Click here read the Seattle Times article online.](#)

STAFF REPORTS

Staff temporary layoff dates

Ginny reminded everyone that the Commission staff is not exempt from the layoff days and will have a temporary layoff day each month through April of 2011. The next scheduled furlough day is September 7. She said another recent budget issue is a new bill that prohibits boards and commissions to meet in facilities that are not publicly owned. Because our annual conference is not held at a public facility the Northwest Straits Foundation will be the lead sponsor this year.

Budget report

Sasha reported she will have the MRC grant closeout information at next month's meeting. Invoicing for the first half of the two year grant 2010/2011 shows that MRCs are \$240,000 under spent. This means that MRCs need to review their spending and make good use of their funds in the second year. Ginny recommends that MRC members get involved in reviewing their budget.

Marine Spatial Planning - upcoming workshop

Ginny said The Nature Conservancy has taken a role in making sure the public is engaged in the Department of Ecology's draft framework on Marine Spatial Planning. Paul Dye from The Nature Conservancy proposed adding a public session onto our Commission meeting in Friday Harbor. The listening session has been tentatively planned following the Commission meeting from 3:00-5:00pm. More information about the session will be distributed with our September agenda.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher reported the Whale Trail project will hold its next site dedication on Tuesday August 31 at the Salt Creek recreation area. Dedicated sites all around the Puget Sound will show appreciation of marine animals. For more information go to their Web site at <http://thewhaletrail.org/>.

Duane Fagergren reported that the Puget Sound Partnership has been getting a lot of publicity and David Dicks would like to let people know that their mistakes have been or are being corrected. Terry Williams added, "This partnership is not new to taking on the Puget Sound and belongs to everyone whether we are supportive or not - we have to find solutions."

Terry Stevens reported that bids came in for removal of the Elwha Dam and a Bozeman, Montana construction company has been awarded the \$26.9 million contract. [Read more...](#)

Terrie Klinger is submitting a large proposal to National Science Foundation for a training grant on human mediated ocean change. The project will be with graduate students who would like to get input from Commissioners and MRC members.

Kathy Fletcher reported that Victoria will finally treat its sewage. [Click here to read the latest new article from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer online.](#)

Caroline reported that an ocean acidification workshop will be Thursday, October 7. The workshop is open to the public and will be information about ocean acidification for general marine audiences. [Click here](#), or contact Caroline for more information.

Terry Stevens said the Department of Ecology's Coastal Training Program holds 20 -24 workshops a year. Cathy Angell, program manager, surveys her clients once a year for new training topics. This year she received over 300 responses and the top requested training topic was marine restoration.

The meeting was adjourned.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
September 24, 2010, 10:30 am-3:00 pm
Friday Harbor Grange, San Juan County - 152 First Street North**

Attending: Terry Williams, Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Scott McCreery, Charlie O'Hara, Lenny Corin, David Dicks, Terrie Klinger, Bob Vreeland, Shannon Davis
Absent: Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Tom Cowan
Guests: Lovel Pratt (San Juan County Commissioner), Gary Greene and Tina Wyllie-Echeverria (Pacific Sand Lance Project), Andrea Hennings (Snohomish County MRC), Julie Knight (Islands' Oil Spill Association), Carl Andersen and Sonja Larson (Dept. of Ecology), Brendan Cowan (San Juan County)
Other MRC
Representation: Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC), Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC)

DRAFT

Welcome and Introductions

Terry Williams opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda.

Lovel Pratt, San Juan County Commissioner, welcomed the Commission to San Juan County and thanked everyone for coming. She said that the MRC is an important resource for a community that faces many issues with the marine environment. Commissioner Pratt invited meeting participants to an [oil spill symposium](#) sponsored by the Madrona Institute on September 30 at the Roche Harbor Pavilion beginning at 7:00pm.

Meeting Minutes

The August meeting minutes were approved as written.

Deepwater Pacific Sand Lance Habitat Evaluation & Prediction in the Northwest Straits

Gary Greene and Tina Wyllie-Echeverria presented on the work in progress on the subtidal Pacific sand lance habitat study in the Northwest Straits. Gary explained the different methods used to predict marine benthic habitats and some results of the most recent work.

[Click here for a copy of Gary Greene's presentation](#) (9.19MB).

Tina along with Joe Bizzarro, Don Gunderson, Kurt Fresh, Dan Penttila, and Adam Summers are working on the biological part of the Pacific sand lance project. Tina presented the initial findings and the work yet to be done in the remaining nine months. So far they have caught 100 fish in

various trolls and grabs. She said that they have caught more immature than mature fish, with the oldest being three years (sand lance can live up to 12 years and grow to 100 millimeters in length) and slightly more males than females. In July they caught only two small fish in the outer waters which was surprising because they usually are larger in open water. Tina and her team have done three behavioral experiments in the lab. The first experiment was sediment. When given a choice 84% of the fish prefer the medium-coarse sediment. The second experiment was preference of packed or unpacked sediment and the fish showed no preference. The third experiment was when and how often do the fish burrow. They discovered that over a 24-hour period they will burrow 75% of the time and there was no pattern of nighttime burrowing. For questions about the project's biology work please contact Tina at tinawe@fidalgo.net.

More Crabs for All: A Snohomish County MRC Beach Watchers Partnership

Andrea Hennings, former AmeriCorps assistant to the Snohomish County MRC, presented on the Dungeness crab derelict crab pot outreach project. Andrea talked about the problem of lost crab pots, the timeline of the project, research results, education and outreach, and ideas for future outreach. Andrea explained that this year the project was re-focused from the number of crab killed each year by lost pots to actions that could result in keeping your pot and eating more crab. The Snohomish MRC and WSU Beach Watchers developed a [nautical chart flyer](#) which includes tips for best crabbing practices. Andrea said the flyer has been popular and she is still getting requests for more.

[Click here for a copy of the presentation](#) (8.18MB).

MRC Reports

MRC representatives gave the following reports in addition to the written report.

San Juan – Jonathan reported that the last MRC meeting was a joint meeting of a large network of volunteers who are doing monitoring in San Juan County. There are 5-6 monitoring programs in San Juan County.

Caroline said that there will be a session at the MRC conference on citizen monitoring to establish a regional monitoring program.

Clallam – Bob Vreelend reported that Clallam MRC members held a “*kiss the geoduck*” booth at the Dungeness River Festival. Bob said that the MRC and others are monitoring the algae bloom on the coast which has the same effect on birds as an oil spill.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC completed its strategic plan. The MRC also had an interesting discussion about the mission of the MRC and how that relates to uses of water and shoreline, and particularly which marine resources they are trying to protect. Some felt that the MRC's focus is strictly environmental while others thought it should be broader. The MRC Executive Committee will make recommendations on how to revise the MRC's strategic plan.

Snohomish County – Tom Hoban reported that he is working on getting car wash companies to become Shore Stewards and is willing to work with Brown Bear locations in other counties if an MRC is interested. This month the MRC had a joint picnic with Island MRC at Lighthouse Park in Mukilteo.

Jefferson – Shannon Davis reported the seasonal monitoring of the voluntary No Anchor Zone showed 100% compliance. The Mystery Bay project has allowed the harbor to remain open to shellfish harvesting but only 10% of boats are relocating to the designated area. The MRC hosted a booth at the Wooden Boat Festival.

Island - Lenny reported that the MRC did not meet in August. The MRC was impressed with the low impact development at the joint meeting site in Mukilteo with Island County. The MRC is establishing a volunteer of the year award to be presented at the Sound Waters event. The MRC is working on updating their strategic plan with some action items.

[Click here to see written MRC reports.](#)

Public Comment

Lovel Pratt said San Juan County established an action area Accountability Oversight Committee of two tribal and two county representatives and a non-voting representative from the Puget Sound Partnership. The committee's goal is to identify and add to the priorities in the action agenda from the recommendations made by the Implementation Committee. The San Juan MRC has an active role in the Implementation Committee.

Val Veirs, a concerned citizen, said the [Whale Museum](#) is, "a connection between science and public education." He explained that one of the museum's programs, Soundwatch, does on-the-water boater education. Another educational program, [SeaSound remote sensing network](#), promotes stewardship of whales by listening to online live sounds of the whales. These and other education programs through the Whale Museum are in need of stable funding. Val said he would appreciate any sources of support.

Fred Felleman from Wave Consulting shared thoughts from his attendance at the Partnership's Oil Spill Cross Partnership workgroup. Fred said there are some things that can be done to stop oil spills such as: keep our state's Spills Program funded and make sure the program is doing the right thing. He said we need to develop a program so our fishermen can respond. He reported there is a risk assessment study in Prince William Sound that finds in narrower waters the potential for collisions and powered groundings is much greater. Fred said that traffic has increased and says, "The only thing consistent in the maritime business is change." Fred referred people to two articles he wrote in Crosscut.

Gary Greene noted that one thing lacking in spill response programs are maps of the most critical habitats that need to be protected.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

David Dicks gave an overview of the Puget Sound Partnership's accomplishments and the future direction of the organization.

The action agenda was created the first year with four strategies: protect what is there, do restoration projects to restore ecosystem function, stop contamination, and pull together the variety of groups that are doing incredible work. David explained that it is a challenge to think of the 'big picture' concerns in Puget Sound and then break it down into smaller regional issues. The action agenda view covers the entire Puget Sound and the Implementation Committees bring it to a local level.

The Partnership is now in phase two and will focus on their most important role: being a valuable and helpful partner. David highlighted some of the ways they will be carrying out this role:

- Build a robust monitoring system in Puget Sound. This system would consist of two parts, compliance monitoring (accountability system), and measuring whether the efforts having

the desired impacts. Without showing results we will have a hard time securing Federal support.

- Create local partnerships, starting with ECO Net and the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign. The Partnership would like to empower local groups to do on the ground work. Securing funding through the Environmental Protection Agency has been a challenge but they are trying to get resources to the people doing incredible work.
- Secure stable and long term funding. They are hopeful Partnership, through the Puget Sound Recovery Act, will be authorized by Congress. David says efforts in Puget Sound are getting national attention.
- Update the action agenda to more a focused, project-by-project level. They might divide it in two parts: capital projects and programmatic policy.
- Try to synthesize the vast amounts of science that are out there. The Puget Sound Institute at the University of Washington received \$4 million to improve the science in the action agenda.
- Promote public awareness and personal action by Puget Sound residents. The two campaigns are 'Puget Sound Starts Here' and the more recent 'Do Some Good for the Hood'. They are also doing some analytical work to see if these campaigns are working.

David says the Partnership is working on some important bills in the upcoming legislative session, including:

- Revise the hazardous substance tax bill [HB3181](#) on stormwater. If [Initiative 1053](#) passes this bill will go to the voters in 2011. They are looking for alternative ways to fund stormwater pollution cleanup.
- The development of a Puget Sound-wide taxing district which would establish a long-term revenue source for cleaning up Puget Sound. The details on how these funds will be allocated has not yet been decided.
- Puget Sound Recovery Act is an important bill that will give the Partnership a permanent home in the President's budget and their appropriation will no longer be an earmark.

David explained that the recent issues with the state auditor and press have been corrected. Puget Sound is too important and they want to move forward.

Terry Williams added that we need to sort out how we can get business and industry to be part of the recovery process. There is no way grants can keep up with the population increase.

Oil Spill Preparedness in Puget Sound

Ginny thanked the speakers for coming and started this session by explaining that the Commission has been exploring oil spill issues for several meetings and wants to focus the current discussion on "how can MRCs be most useful." Ginny explained that the Clallam MRC held a HAZWOPER

training for its members and that may be one issue that the Commission can help coordinate more broadly for all interested MRCs.

Brendan Cowan, Emergency Management Coordinator for San Juan County, introduced himself and described the work of his department. His department focuses on any event that disrupts county function, which includes oil spills. Their focus is on communications and logistics, so he works on gathering all useful information and communicating between responders and stakeholders. Brendan also noted that each tribe also has someone identified to work on emergency management issues.

Julie Knight of the Islands' Oil Spill Association (IOSA) described some of the common responses she sees from citizens during oil spill events, such as wanting to participate somehow, and a lack of understanding about the federal requirements for trained responders to ensure safety. She said that Washington does have very high standards for spills and has a good sense of community between responders and local groups, which helps allow good decisions to be made more quickly. Her experience has been that people who have connections to environmental organizations (such as MRCs, Beach Watchers, etc.) are more likely to maintain the required training to respond to an oil spill event.

Carl Andersen and Sonja Larson from the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Spills Program discussed the work they do to prepare for spills, such as drills and gathering information from locals about specific areas. Ecology has contingency plans for various scenarios and areas. In previous years they have been focused on refining booming strategies and they are now looking at resources at risk and identifying other protection strategies for sensitive resources that cannot be protected by booming. Ecology is planning a road show to focus on deployment drills in local areas.

Discussion followed about how local MRCs can address oil spill issues in a productive way. Several potential next steps were identified:

- Contact the local Department of Emergency Management in each county for information about local resources.
- Review online [Geographic Response Plans](#) (GRPs) in your area and provide input where possible.
- Facilitate HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard) training and refreshers for interested individuals.

Other actions to consider:

- Advocate for actions that are known to make a difference (such as the Neah Bay rescue tug)
- Provide data to the local Department of Emergency Management (DEM).
- Support the local DEM by coordinating local community meetings to inform residents when an event occurs.

Other discussion topics included:

- 1) What is the role of tribes? Individual tribes have someone identified to work on emergency management issues. Some spill response equipment is placed with tribes, and depending on the location there is a tribal representative participating in the unified command.
- 2) Is there a Vessel of Opportunity program? The state contingency plan requires Vessels of Opportunity to be called out within 48 hours, using a tiered system. Ecology submitted a grant application to develop a program with the Makah Tribe. They plan to gauge interest and follow up with training. The Gulf spill has provided some good lessons learned, including an OSHA-approved four-hour training for vessels.

- 3) What about the use of dispersants? Dispersants are conditionally approved for use in inland waterways of Puget Sound. There are no pre-approved areas. A local policy preventing its use would not hold up, since spills cross county lines and the Coast Guard has ultimate authority if they feel dispersant use is needed. Dispersant is not effective after 48 hours. It was noted that now is a good time to comment on the type of dispersants allowed here, since there is a lot of attention on the issue.

Committee reports

Executive Committee - Lenny Corin reported that the Executive Committee met and talked about the upcoming two-year cycle MRC grants. The Committee also discussed getting some feedback and possibly doing a program evaluation. Ginny said she has been looking into some options and encourages anyone who has ideas or experience in program evaluations to contact her.

Caroline Gibson updated the Commission on the MRC conference agenda which will be November 5-6 at Rosario. She is working on sessions and a [draft agenda is available online](#).

Caroline added that there are two upcoming events at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. [The Ocean Acidification workshop](#) on October 7, and the [Ray Troll book signing fundraising event](#) on November 10.

Tribal Committee – Terry reported the next Tribal Committee meeting is scheduled for September 30.

Staff reports

Northwest Straits Foundation Update - Ginny reported that the stimulus funding project is nearly complete. They have planned to do as much work as possible in priority areas for the remaining removals. With the new sonar they are able to locate more nets and estimate \$1.8 million in additional funding is needed to remove them. Ginny is launching a fundraising campaign to raise funds needed to remove the remaining nets. Joan is working on funding for deepwater surveys for nets below 100 feet. Tom Cowan reported at the end of the stimulus project in December all of the high-priority areas will be surveyed. He is exploring options for a closing event at Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle

2011 Meeting Dates – A draft of the 2011 meeting dates was included in the handouts. Ginny would like everyone to review and let staff know if any of those dates are a problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
December 10, 2010, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Padilla Bay Reserve, Skagit County
10441 Bayview Edison Road, Mount Vernon**

Attending: Terry Williams, Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Lincoln Loehr (alt.), Scott McCreery, Charlie O'Hara, Lenny Corin, Duane Fagergren, Terrie Klinger, Bob Vreeland, Tony Petrillo (alt.), Kathy Fletcher
Absent: Joe Gaydos, Shannon Davis, Tom Hoban, David Dicks
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Terry Stevens, Joan Drinkwin
Guests: Curtis Tanner (US Fish & Wildlife Service), Lisa Kaufman (Department of Natural Resources)

Other MRC
Representation: Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC)

DRAFT

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project

Curtis Tanner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, presented on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). Curtis discussed the site selection process for the US Army Corps, the 2011 schedule and near term next steps, and the nearshore project database.

[Click here to see a copy of Curtis's presentation.](#)

Caroline Gibson said she represents the Northwest Straits Commission on the PSNERP Steering Committee. She explained that the 26 candidate restoration sites presented by Curtis are those projects that best fit the requirements of the US Army Corps process. There are many more restoration projects in the [nearshore database](#) including the current MRC restoration projects. Curtis provided a handout on [how to put information into the web-based portal](#). Jenna Norman is database manager and can be contacted at jenna.norman@dfw.wa.gov. For other questions about the project contact Curtis at curtis.tanner@dfw.wa.gov.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Creosote Removal Program Update

Lisa Kaufman for the Department of Natural Resources presented on the creosote removal projects around Puget Sound.

[Click here to see a copy of Lisa's presentation.](#)

Lisa added there is a new study by the Department of Ecology on the effects of creosote that will be released in January. Ginny said the report will be circulated to the Commission once released.

Staff reports

Farewell to Scott McCreery

Ginny said that Scott McCreery was “a joy to have on the Commission” and did much more than “just sit at the table”. His perspective as a representative from an oil company started a dialogue with big business and opened new doors. The Commissioners thanked Scott and presented him with a signed poster and Northwest Straits Initiative hat.

Scott thanked the Commission and said he has been affiliated with the Initiative for 11 years starting with Whatcom MRC and then the Commission. His involvement has brought on great friendships and a fun way to mix his personal and professional life. Scott said that he believes in the Commission's mission and looks forward to seeing it evolve in the coming years.

Conference debrief and evaluation summary

Ginny reported that this year's conference feedback was constructive and positive. Sasha put together a [summary of the evaluation results](#). Dates for the 2011 conference are being reviewed in order to plan around some of the other events that time of year.

Reauthorization update

Ginny reported that our reauthorization bill is bundled with other environmental bills, which we are hoping will pass in the Senate. Otherwise we will have to begin the process again next year.

Hiring process

Ginny reported the position description for restoration manager was accepted by the Department of Ecology and will be posted by the end of the year. We plan to have it posted for long period of time to attract as many applicants as possible. The position is full time and is stationed at Padilla Bay.

February 24-25 retreat – La Conner

Ginny said the Commission's annual retreat is scheduled for February 24-25 in La Conner. The Executive Committee will draft the agenda. The retreat is for Commissioners, Alternates and MRC staff. Connie will make room reservations for this group so please reply to her email which will be sent in early January.

2011-2013 MRC grants

Sasha reported that the request for MRC grant proposals was sent to MRC chairs and lead staff. Caroline and Sasha are planning to meet with each MRC in January or February. This year there is once again, an emphasis on encouraging MRCs to develop common projects.

MRC Reports

MRC representatives gave the following reports in addition to their [written reports](#).

Clallam – Bob Vreeland said he would meet with the Clallam MRC and clarify the wording in the report under possible derelict crab pot removal that says, “This topic did not go very far.” Bob explained it did not mean they do not want to remove pots.

Snohomish - Lincoln Loehr reported that Coastal Geological Services was selected to do the feasibility study of a barrier lagoon for the Kayak County Park restoration. The MRC’s Mussel Watch project has eight or nine sites but only enough funding for four. Lincoln said that some sites do not have mussels at the moment due to predators, so they will probably have enough funding for the remaining sites.

Island – Lenny reported that the planting for the phytoremediation project took place in November. There were many volunteers and the planting was complete in a couple of hours. Lenny shared an [article about the project](#). The MRC is working with the University of Washington’s Program on the Environment to do a study on bioswales, phytoremediation and different soil types. The study will include an evaluation of other potential sites in Island County. Island County Beach Watcher Jan Holmes was recently designated as the 2010 Cox Conserves Hero for Western Washington and on her behalf \$5,000 was awarded the Island County Beach Watchers.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC asked representatives from the city, county, and state to present at upcoming meetings on stormwater.

Jefferson - Tony Petrillo reported that at the MRC’s last meeting new member candidates attended and it was nice to see some younger folks interested. The MRC watched a short film on car wash kits developed by Skagit MRC.

Committee reports

Technical Committee – Caroline reported the committee will meet again in early February. Caroline has been researching costs of four projects and will bring that information forward at the meeting. She is also planning a forage fish needs assessment workshop in January with experts from Washington and Canada hosted by SeaDoc and the Commission. The American Fisheries Society’s annual meeting will be in Seattle next year and Caroline is scoping an opportunity to submit an abstract for a forage fish symposium.

Education Committee – Sasha reported that some MRCs have taken up the offer for web site technical assistance from the Commission offered at the last lead staff meeting. Jefferson and Snohomish MRCs now developing new web sites, and San Juan and Skagit also plan to do so.

Ginny reported that showings of the *Beneath the Salish Sea* will continue. Sasha is working on a showing at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. [Florian Graner](#), maker of the film, is doing a piece for KIRO scheduled to air in March.

Tribal Committee – Ginny reported that the Tribal Committee met and made the following recommendations for spending; \$20,000 for Tulalip Tribes for the carbon budget project in the Snohomish Basin, \$15,000 to continue derelict gear outreach to tribes, \$32,000 to be issued as a Request for Proposals to all tribes in the Northwest Straits region for tribal projects that address Northwest Straits benchmarks.

The Commission moved and approved the funding recommendations of the Tribal Committee.

Round Table

Duane reported that the Partnership should have information about the EPA funding early January. The Commission and MRCs should review projects that might fit into the funding criteria and make sure they are networked into their local network.

Terry Williams said that the EPA has set aside funds for the tribes but the time frame is very long. The tribes recently met to find ways to streamline this funding.

Bob Vreeland picked up brochures from MRCs at the conference and said that it was great stuff. He will be pushing the Clallam MRC to do a brochure using some of the existing materials as templates.

The meeting was adjourned. Next Commission meeting will be in Whatcom County on January 21.