



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
January 30, 2009 10:00am-1:00pm
Inn at Port Hadlock, Jefferson County**

DRAFT:

Attending: Scott McCreery, Tony Petrillo, Rex Porter, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren (alt), Lincoln Loehr (alt), Charlie O'Hara, Jim McEntire, Jonathan White, Buck Meloy, Terry Williams, Bob Cecile

Absent: Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Tom Hoban, David Dicks

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Simon Geerlofs, Connie Price

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens

Other MRC Representation: Ron Akeson, Ivar Dolph, Hi Bronson

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with introductions.

The September meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Business items

MRC pre-proposal meeting summary – Simon reported that the MRC pre-proposal meetings are complete and the MRCs are on track. MRCs have prioritized projects given the unknown budget and have done a great job.

Forage fish mapping project update – Simon explained the progress since the presentation in December. Suzanne Shull, GIS specialist from Padilla Bay NERR, spoke with Dan Pentilla of the Department of Fish and Wildlife about the project because she felt he was an important person to be aware of the work being done. Simon explained the final step is to look at the project from a policy standpoint. He also noted that according to the maps there are some places in the Northwest Straits region with high suitability for forage fish spawning that could inspire potential future MRC research, protection and restoration projects.

April 24 Commission meeting – Ginny reminded the Commission that this will be the project presentation meeting. She encourages MRC members to come for the whole day and learn about what others are doing. MRCs should consider presenting projects that would benefit most from feedback from the science team.

2008 annual report & distribution – The Commission’s 2008 annual report is nearly complete. Commission staff asked for feedback on the distribution and MRC representatives agreed the method used last year was sufficient.

Future NWSC meeting topics & presentations – Ginny explained we are soliciting topics for presentations at future Commission meetings and would like MRC input. We would also like to continue hearing about MRC projects when the meeting is in that county. The staff will work with each MRC so it does not become a burden. The following topics proposed are:

- MRC project connection work session
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife crab management - Rich Childers
- Kayak Point project and sea level rise
- The Coastal Zone Management Act reauthorization.
- Zooplankton in ballast water - Jeff Cordell
- The West Coast Governor’s agreement – Kathleen Drew and Jennifer Hennessy
- Rockfish recovery and the San Juan County project lessons learned.
- Tidal Power
- Desalination
- Water issues and salt water intrusion

Location of 2009 fall conference – Connie is working on the location for the 2009 fall conference and is open for suggestions. She explained that we are limited to a location that can provide overnight accommodations for 60. We are looking at Lakeway Inn in Bellingham, Silver Reef Casino in Lummi, and the Hilton in Mukilteo. The Commission would like to begin promoting the conference and discuss ways to improve the event at an upcoming meeting. Connie will send out a ‘save the date’ email to MRC members.

2009 meeting dates – Connie will send out the revised 2009 meeting dates.

Committee reports

Tribal committee – Charlie O’Hara reported that the tribal committee met and discussed the tribal canoe journey water quality monitoring project. The tribal committee recommended using \$25,000 from the tribal committee fund to expand the project next year. He explained the long term goal is to get more secure funding so we can plan a few years ahead. Next year, the project partners are adding deep water sampling and hope to get youth involved. The final report is complete and will be available on the Commission’s website.

Terry Williams explained that the tribal committee will be discussing a proposal that would be in coordination with the salmon commission to help promote the use of the Fishery Regulation Assessment Model (FRAM) at their next meeting.

Technical committee –Ginny reported that the science team is progressing and we are hoping to get 5 members. Ginny will provide a list of names when all are confirmed and then the technical committee will look at the gaps in categories and work on filling them.

The technical committee and tribal committee will plan a joint meeting to share data from the canoe journey and the forage fish project.

Draft FY2009 Budget/Workplan

Ginny explained that at this time our 2009 appropriation is unknown but we need to adopt a budget. The Commission can adopt a budget based on best available information and can revisit it in the future once our appropriation is known. She noted that there was under-spending on Commission committees and some additional cost savings that can be used to help offset a lower appropriation. Ginny suggested that the Commission adopt the same budget that was adopted in 2008.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus a proposed budget of \$1.5 million.

MRC Reports

Each MRC representative gave a report and provided the following additional information:

Skagit MRC- Charlie O'Hara reported that Neil Borman is the new chair of the MRC. The recent Fidalgo Bay symposium was well attended by MRC members. The MRC discussed the upcoming budget and the budget committee had a meeting.

Whatcom MRC – Buck Meloy reported the MRC has been working on its strategic plan and a facilitated discussion might be the next step. Joan and Simon attended the last meeting and he believes it is helpful to the MRC. Buck feels the dynamics of the MRC have changed and members do not propose projects the way they used to.

Jefferson MRC – Tony Petrillo reported that the MRC is working on the request for proposals (RFP) for phase II of the Oak Bay restoration project. Ginny noted that RFP's can be posted on the Commission's website.

Island MRC – Rex Porter reported that Ian Jeffords is the new chair and Joe Hillers is vice chair. The MRC is well represented by the County and 2 out of the 3 Commissioners are members. The MRC scheduled a tidal power session in addition to regular meeting. Rex explained there was good attendance because the local high school instructors gave credit to students who attended and it might be part of the Washington State Assessment and Learning (WASL).

San Juan MRC – Jonathan White reported that the MRC had a presentation by Rich Childers from the Department of Fish and Wildlife on crabs. The MRC recognizes that presentations can bring in the community and are a good exposure for the MRC.

Snohomish MRC – Lincoln Loehr reported that the Snohomish MRC re-elected Jerry Masters as chair. Lincoln noted that Snohomish members have a 6 year term limit. At the last meeting the MRC had a presentation from the students from ORCA, a high school program, on science and ocean research.

[Link to full MRC reports for January](#)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher reported that this month will be the last hard copy issue of the People For Puget Sound newsletter. If you would like to make sure to receive the electronic version you can sign up for the newsletter and other 'feeds' on their website at <http://www.pugetsound.org>.

Terry Williams reported on a project with the City of Monroe that turns cattle waste into gas. They would like to use byproduct produced from this process in composting and restoration projects. Terry would be happy to schedule a tour if there is interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
February 27, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm
Port of Everett, Snohomish County**

Attending: Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Tom Hoban, Jim McEntire, Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger

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

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Simon Geerlofs, Connie Price

Other MRC Representation: Paul Dinnel (Skagit MRC), Dick Toft (Island MRC), Mary Cunningham, Stef Frenzl and Mike Tillotson (Snohomish MRC)

Guests: Brandon Whitaker and Karen Clements (Port of Everett), Alan Mearns (NOAA), Craig Collar (Snohomish County PUD)

Jonathan White opened the meeting at 10:00am with introductions. Karen Clements and Brandon Whitaker from the Port of Everett welcomed the Commission.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Snohomish MRC Mussel Watch Project

Alan Mearns is a senior staff scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Alan presented on the mussel watch from 1986 to 2007 and the Snohomish County MRC experience. Alan referred to a [procedure guide](#) to collecting mussel samples put together by Amy Johnson of Snohomish MRC. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the PowerPoint presentation and [click here](#) to see Alan's handout.

In conclusion Alan said that the program could be expanded into Northern Puget Sound and places like Port Townsend that are high in Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PCT). The Commission discussed the value in combining the mussel watch information with other types of data from fish and seals.

Update of tidal projects in Northern Puget Sound

Craig Collar, Snohomish Public Utility District (PUD), gave an update on the Snohomish County tidal energy project. Craig explained that in the next several years Snohomish PUD will need to add ~ 140 megawatts of new renewable energy (roughly enough power to serve a city the size of Bellingham) to meet load growth and Washington state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requirements. Right now ~85% percent of Snohomish PUD's energy comes from traditional hydro, however large conventional hydro does not count toward meeting the state's RPS

requirements. Craig explained why the Snohomish PUD has been looking into tidal energy and the latest developments. [Click here](#) for copy of the presentation.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee Report - Joe Gaydos thanked everyone involved in getting the science team together. The members of the science team have been invited to be present at the April 24 project sharing meeting. Joe said the technical committee will begin working on the next ecosystem project.

Simon reported that Suzanne is preparing a final report of Phase I of the forage fish project and she is interested in continuing to work on the project.

The Commission discussed the process and timing of the ecosystem process. Last year the committee put together a rubric for project selection and they want to improve on the process. Now that our budget for the next year has been determined the Commission can discuss the ecosystem project budget and selection process at the March meeting.

Executive Committee – Jonathan White reported the Executive Committee did not meet this month.

Tribal Committee – Ginny explained that at the meeting last month the Commission failed to formally approve the tribal committee's request for funding to the tribal canoe journey.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to provide \$25,000 in funding for the Tribal Canoe Journey project in 2009 .

Growth and Development Committee - Ginny reported that the Foundation is managing several contracts at this time. While in Washington DC, Ginny met with Holly Bamford of NOAA and she strongly encouraged the Foundation to submit a full grant proposal for derelict fishing gear. The Foundation needs to consider what we can do given the 12-18 month time period. Ginny gave an update on the current happenings of the derelict gear removal project. One boat is operating in the South Sound and Jeff June is working to help train the Nisqually dive team. Another boat, is in the San Juan Islands and just completed two days of surveys that revealed 50-60 nets in one area. They believe the entire reef on the west side of San Juan island is covered with derelict fishing nets.

Kathy Fletcher said that People for Puget Sound is a part of Restore Americas Estuaries and NOAA has also encouraged them to submit proposals on stimulus related projects, some of which are marine debris. Kathy would like to make sure they working with the Foundation and will talk with Ginny about further developments.

Kathy Fletcher said the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council reviewed proposals for the Environmental Protection Agency funds held for implementation at their last meeting. The proposals, prepared by the Partnership staff, consisted mostly of studies. There is a movement to use the funds in a more action oriented way and Kathy suggested that derelict fishing gear removal might be a good project to take the action needed.

Public Comment

Stef Frenzl, who is leaving the Snohomish MRC, thanked the Commission for their hard work and said it has been a pleasure and an inspiration to work with the people of the Northwest Straits Initiative. Stef is looking forward to the possibility of putting a session together on social marketing for the MRC conference next fall.

Business Items

Reauthorization Bill Status – Ginny reported while in Washington DC she met with Senator Murrays’s staff for an update on the Reauthorization Bill. Caroline Paulsen took over for Katrina Lassiter and is getting up to speed. The Bill should be re-introduced soon.

Northwest Straits Budget –Ginny reported our budget of 1.6 million starting in July 2009 made it into the budget that was passed by the House of Representatives last week. This is promising and could mean the same level of spending and grants to MRCs as last year.

MRC Grants - Simon explained he will be working through amendments before he leaves and encouraged MRCs to let him know if there is the possibility of more amendments. He also emphasizes when project spending falls short and MRCs need to choose projects on short notice a strategic plan is a valuable tool. Simon reported that all seven MRC invoices have been sent to Ecology.

Ginny explained that the next few months the Commission staff will be limited and amendments will not be feasible at this time. She also noted that there are still challenges of MRCs not spending money by the end of the year. She explained when project proposals come in the middle of a grant period we do not have the opportunity to do a thorough review.

Annual Report – The 2008 Annual report is complete and the online version is [available here](#). Copies will be available at our March Commission meeting.

Staffing – Ginny reported that Simon will be leaving in March and Sasha is on maternity leave until mid-April. The State issued a hiring freeze but because our funds are federal we might have an exemption.

Simon thanked everyone for the opportunity to work with the Northwest Straits Initiative. He will be working for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The Commission thanked Simon for his good work and wished him well.

New funding sources – Ginny explained that there was a Natural Resources Damage Assessment done in Anacortes and the Northwest Straits Foundation was named to receive \$500,000 of the penalty money. The money must be spent in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays and is for 4 years beginning in April of 2010. The Northwest Straits Foundation will be working with the Skagit MRC to define how the money will be spent. The Foundation’s Board of Directors will discuss further details at the Foundation meeting in March.

Fall conference themes – Ginny said an idea that came out of the retreat was to focus our 2009 MRC conference on Transboundary issues and make it a full two day conference. For convenience to Canadian participants the conference will be at the Lakeway Inn in Bellingham on November 6-7.

Port Susan Bay Update – Simon explained that he has been the facilitator and coordinator of a working group for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project. The group is reviewing a draft of the goals for the Marine Stewardship Area. Kit Rawson applied for funding through Puget Sound Partnership for a science workshop and he will be putting that together sometime in the fall. Kit will also be taking over the organization of future meetings until Simon's position is rehired.

PS Partnership News – Ginny reported she met with David Dicks and discussed NWSI representation on the Ecosystem Coordination Board. Kathy Fletcher feels that there is not real difference between ex-officio member and a real member and she thinks we should take the opportunity. Kathy explained that the National Estuary program requires there to be an Ecosystem Coordination Board and the Northwest Straits Initiative should be part of the conversation about implementation of the Action Agenda.

Status of Bottomfish Recovery in San Juan County

Joe Gaydos from the Sea Doc Society presented a study evaluating the efficacy of San Juan County's voluntary bottomfish recovery zones. The bottomfish recovery zones have been in existence for almost a decade and where mandatory reserves showed a positive reserve effect after 10 years (larger fish at higher density), the study did not show a positive effect in the voluntary reserves. The failure is likely due to a combination of reserve size and the voluntary nature of the reserve. San Juan County is going to work with the community, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the tribes to seek ways to improve the situation. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the presentation.

Following the presentation there was discussion of rockfish and marine reserve issues. There was much interest in building a session on rockfish related topics at the fall MRC Conference. It would be a good time to learn about different types of management strategies and learn more about what is happening to the fish with Canada.

Retreat Summary and PSGB

Ginny reported that the summary of the retreat will be out next week and the Commission can discuss at the March meeting. A summary of the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference was in the Northwest Straits February newsletter. [Click here](#) to see a copy.

MRC Reports

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that Mary Cunningham, Mike Tillotson, Stef Frenzl have been coordinating with Chrys Bertolotto and the WSU Extension team, City of Everett and the City of Mukilteo to host two half-day marine shoreline landowner workshops.. The events are on Saturday, February 28 in Everett at Legion Hall and Saturday, March 14 in Mukilteo at the City Hall Building. The next mussel watch sampling effort will take place on March 3. Nine volunteers will help collect mussels at Mukilteo, Edmonds, Everett and Hat Island.

Island MRC – Dick Toft reported that Ian Jeffords is the new MRC chair and Joe Hillers is vice chair. He explained that the Island MRC meets twice a month for one business meeting and one educational meeting. The MRC has moved its meeting location to the Coupeville commissioners hearing room which allows more attendance by county employees and commissioners. At their

meeting in February approximately 85 people attended. The Island MRC helped fund the local conservation district to run a bus trip through Whidbey Island to an estimated 9 sites that have incorporated Low Impact Development.

San Juan MRC– Jonathan White reported that the sockeye run for the Fraser River has been low in recent years at 11 million, but the prediction this year is 817 million. This is a similar number to predictions back to the early 60's.

Clallam MRC – Jim McEntire reported that the MRC had a project come out half of the budget so at their last meeting the MRC spent time thinking of ways to spend the extra \$25,000. An interesting mix of projects came forward but the MRC made a final decision.

Jefferson MRC – Tony Petrillo reported that Fred Hill Materials has a Bill ([HR1970](#) and [SB3856](#)) going through the State that would give the Department of Natural Resources sole permit authority over permitting a hood canal dock and a 4- mile conveyer belt to the gravel pit. The House Bill was killed in committee. Phil Johnson, a Jefferson County Commissioner, testified at the hearing.

Whatcom MRC – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC is working on developing projects for next year. At the last meeting they had a presentation from Battelle on the hydraulic model.

Skagit MRC – Paul Dinnel reported that at the MRC last meeting they had a presentation from John Franz of Anacortes about the wastewater treatment plant technology. The treatment plant is adding an interface to include water quality. The Port of Anacortes has taken the lead in cleaning up the waterfront and they have teamed with Department of Ecology to be one of the biggest and most expensive clean-up sites in the State. The MRC has partnered with the Port of Anacortes to bring in Low Impact Development practices including rain gardens to the area. The Smart sponges have arrived. They are essentially big sponges that fit in storm drains and catch oil and containments and will be a demonstration project. The MRC is excited to see their budget in next few years and acknowledged that Bob Clark was instrumental in getting those funds to the MRC.

[Click here](#) for a full version of February MRC reports.

Roundtable

People for Puget Sound has an award program called the Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award. The deadline application is tomorrow and Kathy feels that within the Northwest Straits Initiative there are some good candidates for the award. Candidates can be nominated online at People for Puget Sound's [website](#).

Terrie Klinger reported during the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference she learned about a Low Impact Development certification call [Green Shores](#). Right now they are in the process of developing criteria and the Commission and MRCs might be interested in giving input.

Terrie also said the [Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary](#) is reviewing their management plan and there is opportunity for input, particularly from Jefferson and Clallam Counties. Ginny

is looking for someone in Clallam or Jefferson County to help represent the Northwest Straits Initiative on the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Committee.

Tom Hoban just returned from Hawaii and while he was there he attended a 3 day conference on Humpback whales. There is some incredible High Definition filming of the whales that will be on the Discovery channel in April.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
March 27, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm
Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville, Island County**

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

Absent: David Dicks, Tony Petrillo

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens

Other MRC Representation: Ron Akeson(Whatcom MRC), Pat Pearson (Jefferson MRC), Ken Urstad, Benye Weber and Lenny Corin (Island County MRC)

Guests: John Dean (Island County Commissioner), Rich Childers (WDFW)

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with introductions.

John Dean, Island County Commissioner and Island MRC member, welcomed the Commission to Island County. John agrees with David Dicks comments that, "this is our last chance to repair the Puget Sound". He thanked the Commission for all they do for Puget Sound and Island County.

Benye Weber announced the Penn Cove Water Festival will be May 2, 2009 in Coupeville.

Crab Management in Puget Sound

Rich Childers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented on the Puget Sound crab fishery management in Washington State. Rich is the shellfish policy lead for Puget Sound shellfish fisheries and a crab disease specialist. [Click here](#) for a copy of the presentation.

Business Items

Approve February meeting minutes - The February meeting minutes were approved with changes.

Reauthorization update – Ginny reported that our bill was introduced Monday March 23. It is [H.R. 1672](#) and [S668](#). Ginny will let everyone know when a hearing is scheduled.

Commissioners discussed the new appointment of former Governor Locke as Secretary of Commerce and Jane Lubchenco as head of NOAA. The Commission staff will put together a welcome letter to Gary Locke and Dr. Jane Lubchenco of NOAA.

Retreat follow up and action items – Ginny suggested the Commission review the action items from the retreat, particularly those who were unable to attend. She explained there may be some time sensitive items that need to be addressed at the May Commission meeting. The Commission discussed a few of the action items and felt that it is time to start scheduling sub-committee meetings on the transboundary and the State of the Straits ideas.

Review and amend 2009 Commission budget – Ginny explained that at our meeting in January we approved a \$1.5 million budget based on last year. Now that our funding for this year has been secured we need to make some adjustments. The MRC proposals were due today but because of the timing of our budget we delayed the MRC project proposals until next week so they can use the full new grant amount of \$120K.

Sasha explained the handout of the Commission budget FY2007-FY2009 which compares the budget vs. actual spending. In FY2009 there is the adopted amount plus the carryover from FY2008 and the possible rescission amounts to be adjusted. There is a total of \$301K of unspent funds than must be spent before June 2010; \$140K of programmed funds and \$161K of non-programmed funds.

Ginny explained the Executive Committee recommended creating a Benchmark Account for the \$161K that can be awarded to MRCs by a competitive process. The Commission discussed and agreed a Benchmark Account would be favorable under the following conditions:

- It was used for multiple MRC projects (preferably 2-3 big projects rather than lots of small ones)
- Proposals met a robust specific criteria created by a subcommittee and adopted by the Commission
- The award process has a fixed deadline rather than a rolling deadline (so that the funds can be spent promptly)

The Commission moved and approved by consensus the development of the Benchmark Account with the above listed conditions.

The Executive Committee also discussed using the education funds to develop a North Sound conference that would create a “State of the Straits” report. Kathy Fletcher discussed a similar project done in 1994 with scientists from Washington and British Columbia (the marine science panel). . Terrie Klinger stated that agency scientists are no longer easy to find for free as they were in 1994. Commissioners discussed the development of the State of the Straits and agreed to use \$50K to proceed. Additional funding could be allocated in the future and there might be other organizations interested in a partnership on the project.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to approve the FY2009 proposed budget with minor adjustments as needed.

April 24 meeting format, purpose, and logistics – Ginny explained that this year our April MRC project sharing meeting and the schedule will be similar to last year. Presenters are encouraged to stay for the whole meeting and all MRC members are encouraged to attend. One addition this year is the Science Team will be there to provide constructive feedback. The Commission discussed the format of the meeting and agreed it would be valuable to hear the leveraging that will occur, broader impacts and rationale for MRC project proposals. The Commission staff will be sending a project presentation template to MRC staff. Please note the meeting begins at 9:00 am and anyone interested in staying at the [Padilla Bay Guest House](#) the night before please contact [Connie](#).

Appoint nominating committee – Ginny explained that in April we will need to elect a chair and a vice chair. Traditionally the chair and vice chair positions alternate between a MRC representative and a Governor Appointee. Terry Stevens, Duane Fagergren and Scott McCreery volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee.

Thank you letters to Senator Murray and Cantwell – letters to Senators Murray and Cantwell thanking them for leadership in securing the 1.6 million dollar budget in 2009 were circulated for Commissioners to sign.

2008 Annual Reports – Ginny reported the 2008 annual reports are here and MRC representatives should take one for each MRC member and enough for local elected officials and community leaders. Everyone is welcome to take copy. We did not order as many as expected this year due to the cost, but copies can be found online. [Click here](#).

Awards – Ginny congratulated Kathy Fletcher for receiving the Seattle Aquarium Society Medal award. Ginny explained that the Northwest Straits Initiative was selected as a winner of the Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award from People For Puget Sound this year. There will be a special acknowledgment of Jeff June and Tom Cowan for their work on the derelict gear program. The breakfast will be on April 8 and Jonathan will be receiving the award on behalf of the Initiative. [Click here](#) for more information about this event.

Staffing – Ginny reported that we are still waiting to hear from Ecology to approve our exception to the hiring freeze so we can post the Marine Program Coordinator job announcement. Ginny will let everyone know when we receive an approval. Sasha will be returning the in April. The Commission thanked Connie for covering during this low staffing period.

Puget Sound Partnership Updates

Duane Fagergren reported that budget will be coming out soon and state agencies will be hit hard. Lynda Ransley, who is familiar with the Northwest Straits Commission and MRCs, is the new Deputy Director of the Puget Sound Partnership. Michael Grayum, Director of Public Affairs, has expressed an interest in learning more about the Northwest Straits Commission. Duane explained that at this time he believes that the federal stimulus money is the greatest hope to do work in Puget Sound.

Duane explained he has been working on the oyster emergency project. Because of pH level drops and low levels of oxygen, bacteria has developed and caused the death of the oyster larvae. Some hatcheries are seeing a mortality rate of 80%. Duane noted that if it is happening to oysters, it is also happening to other species in the food chain. Several partners have teamed up with the project the help with research and in some cases re-tooling hatcheries.

Kathy Fletcher reported that the Partnership's Action Agenda is out for another round of public comments through April 20. She explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did not feel the Action Agenda met their criteria for approval and the Partnership put out a supplemental document. Kathy noted that one significant reason the EPA did not approve the plan was the lack of implementation information.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Committee reports

Technical Committee –Joe Gaydos reported that the ecosystem idea solicitation went out to MRCs last week. The project ideas will be reviewed by the Technical Committee based on the list of criteria. Joe hopes to get a project that could become a flagship project for the Northwest Straits or help us reach our benchmarks. Rex expressed interest in having MRCs go through a selection process for ideas. Joe clarified that this is a Commission project and anyone, including Commissioners or others can submit a project idea. Ideas do not have to be entirely vetted through an MRC. Since May 1 was the deadline in the solicitation the Commission agreed to keep this date and decide in the future if we would like to extend the deadline.

Joe explained that Technical and Executive Committee discussed the leftover funding from the forage fish project and the possibility of using some of that money to fund mussel watch.

Tribal Committee – Terry Williams reported that the Tribal Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss a FRAM proposal for \$25000. Charlie O'Hara noted there is a paper being published on the first year of the Tribal Canoe Journey and he will get a copy to the Commission when available.

Executive Committee – Jonathan reported that the Executive Committee met twice in March and the topics discussed have been or will be talked about throughout this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm to the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:30 pm.

MRC Reports

Whatcom MRC - Bob Cecile reported that [World Water Day](#) was held in Bellingham on March 22. The event is about the lack of clean drinking water around the world. Whatcom MRC was asked to put up their display. Buck Meloy will formally hand off the seat to Bob Cecile next month.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that Snohomish MRC has a lot of volunteers and a strong Beach Watcher presence. He added the Beach Watch class for 2009 Beach Watcher was full.

Island MRC – Rex Porter reported that Ken Urstad from the Island MRC began working in Cornet Bay last week on the Juvenile Salmon Habitat Assessment project. More will be reported on the progress of this project in April.

Whatcom MRC – Jonathan reported that there are no additions to the report.

Skagit MRC – Charlie O’Hara reported that the MRC had a conversation about the Natural Resources Damage Assessment money. He said that Swinomish hosted a workshop on climate related research on the Skagit River that was well attended. Reports from that event can be found at their website at <http://www.swinomish.org/>.

Jefferson MRC – Pat Pearson reported that the Jefferson MRC exhibit at the Northwest Maritime Center will give the MRC professional and permanent exposure. Pat explained that the eelgrass video that was done by a professional videographer is so high resolution stops and starts but once fix it they will share it.

Clallam MRC – No additions to the report.

[Click here](#) to see the full report.

Round table

Tom Hoban reported he is working with the Port of Everett to become a Shore Steward and asked if other Ports are Shore Stewards. At this time the Port of South Whidbey and Coupeville are Shore Stewards.

Joe Gaydos handed out maps with the top 10 principles to design a healthy ecosystem, also available [online](#).

Terrie Klinger reported that Friday Harbor Labs received funding to begin building a small facility to do experimental work on Ocean Acidification.

Kathy Fletcher reported that other than [4th Annual "A New Day For Puget Sound" Spring Fundraising Breakfast](#) and [David Suzuki](#) on April 7 there is lots going on and check out their [website](#). Kathy highlighted the [Swinomish Earth Enhancement Celebration](#) on April 25. She also reported that the legislation was passed to secure permanent funding for the rescue tug at Neah Bay.

Ginny reported that there is a new film called “A Sea Change” on ocean acidification that will be at the Seattle Film Festival and possibly the Wooden Boat Festival. Ginny is getting a copy to preview and will look for opportunities to show it during a NWS event. She also reminded Commissioners that we still have coffee mugs and Klean Kanteens available.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.



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Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
April 24, 2009 9:00am-3:30pm
Padilla Bay NERR, Skagit County

Attending: Scott McCreery, Buck Meloy, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Terrie Klinger, Jonathan White, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Jim McEntire, Rex Porter, Charlie O'Hara, Terry Williams, Tom Hoban
Absent: David Dicks, Joe Gaydos
Science Team: Eric Beamer, Shane Phillips, Stuart Glasoe, Raechel Waters, Suzanne Shull (Ron Thom absent)
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens
Presenters: Chris Fairbanks and Bert Rubash (Whatcom MRC), Arden Tomas and Dena Peel (Snohomish MRC), Mary Knackstedt and Kit Rawson (San Juan MRC), Cathy Lear (Clallam MRC), Tony Petrillo (Jefferson MRC), Rex Porter and Joe Hillers (Island MRC), Paul Dinnel and Neil Borman (Skagit MRC)
Other MRC Representation: Hi Bronson and Judy Feldman (Island MRC), Scarlet Tang and Melissa Roberts (Whatcom MRC), Lincoln Loehr (Snohomish MRC), Paul Sund and Tracy Patton (Skagit MRC)
Guests: Elizabeth Kilanowski, Sarah Martin (Island County Beach Watchers), Katrina Hoffman (WA Sea Grant), Troy Talbot and Kenji Tanaka (Marina Accessories Inc.), Doug Dobyms

DRAFT

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 9:00am with welcome and introductions. Scott made a special welcome to the members of the Science Team who were present for the meeting and who would be offering comments and reviews of MRC projects. The Commission reviewed the agenda and the list of MRC members presenting projects. Projects presented are part of each MRC's grant proposal for funding in the 2009-2011 grant cycle. The PowerPoint presentations are available upon request from Connie at price@nwstraits.org.

Whatcom MRC: Chris Fairbanks presented information about the MRC's Chuckanut Marsh restoration monitoring project. Bert Rubash, Whatcom MRC member, presented information about the Chuckanut causeway modification study.

Snohomish MRC: Arden Tomas, Snohomish County Senior Habitat Specialist, presented information on the MRC's nearshore sediment study to direct restoration approaches. Dena Peel presented information about the recreational crabber education.

San Juan MRC: Mary Knackstedt and Kit Rawson presented the MRC's Marine Stewardship Area monitoring plan.

Clallam MRC: Cathy Lear presented information about the MRC's eelgrass mapping and Marine Ecosystem Analysis (MESA) update projects.

Jefferson MRC: Tony Petrillo presented on the MRC's Oak Bay drift cell restoration project.

Island MRC: Rex Porter and Joe Hillers presented on the MRC's Cornet Bay and nearshore stormwater phytoremediation projects.

Skagit MRC: Neil Borman presented on the MRC's North Skagit Bay drift cell analysis project. Paul Dinnel presented on the investigation of Cannery Pond for possible restoration as a pocket estuary.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Officers

The nomination committee recommended Jonathan White as chair and Terry Williams as vice chair. No other nominations were brought forward. It was moved and approved by consensus to elect Jonathan White as chair and Terry Williams as vice chair.

Benchmark Account

Ginny provided some background on the establishment of the Benchmark Account which came as a recommendation from the Executive Committee to the Commissioners at the March Commission meeting and was approved by the Commission at that meeting. She worked with Rex and Charlie to develop a process for applying and criteria for review, all of which is spelled out in the handout. Ginny explained that she will follow up with MRC staff to answer questions. Proposals will be accepted June 1-15 and a committee of reviewers will be established that has a representative from each MRC. Kathy and Duane volunteered to participate in the review committee.

Public Comment

Doug Dobyns informed the Commission of two big changes in British Columbia, Canada's protection of marine resources and habitats. One is that killer whale habitat can be protected through a regulatory process. The other is that the British Columbia provincial government now has jurisdiction over regulation of salmon farms. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has a year to come up with regulations. In response to questions, Doug suggested tracking marine issues in British Columbia through the David Suzuki foundation or the Georgia Strait Alliance.

Doug also mentioned that he is going to Alaska to work and understands that much work needs to be done on derelict gear there, as fishermen are currently penalized for losing their gear.

Paul Dinnel introduced the Smart Sponge being used as a demonstration project Anacortes and Mount Vernon. The unit contains a basket with netting that fits in a storm drain. Polymer fabric within the unit soaks up oil, and other contaminants. The Smart Sponge Plus also removes bacteria.

Troy Talbot of Marina Accessories Inc. asked if the Commission addresses marine debris. He explained that they have [trash skimmers](#) at the Port of Edmonds, Bellingham Bay, and the Seattle Fisherman's Terminal and they are looking for feedback. Ginny explained that our derelict fishing gear removal project is our largest project that addresses marine debris. In addition, the Commission supports Anne Murphy's project on plastics and the MRCs do beach clean ups. Sarah Martin, Beach Watcher coordinator in Island County, added that the Beach Watchers have distributed over 10,000 brochures on plastics and ways to address the problem. Soon they will update their website to include more on plastics and monofilament education.

Thank you to Buck Meloy

Scott noted that it was the last meeting for Buck Meloy as the representative of the Whatcom MRC. Buck served as their representative since the start of the Initiative. The Commission thanked Buck Meloy for his hard work throughout the past ten years, noting that he has been a pleasure to work with. Ginny presented an autographed plaque and a Northwest Straits Commission hat.

Roundtable

Ginny gave a reminder that the Northwest Straits Foundation has GPS units available for use in MRC projects. Contact Joan Drinkwin if you are interested in using them.

Ginny displayed the Magnuson Puget Sound Awards that were presented to the Northwest Straits Initiative by People For Puget Sound.

MRC Reports

[Click here](#) to see full copy of MRC reports for April.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
May 29, 2009 10:00am-2:15pm & 2:45-3:00pm
Swinomish Pat Twohy Center, La Conner**

Attending: Jonathan White, Scott McCreery, Terry Williams, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Rex Porter, Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Terrie Klinger, Jim McEntire, Charlie O'Hara

Absent: David Dicks, Joe Gaydos

Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price

Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens, Suzanne Shull (Padilla Bay NERR)

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

The March and April meeting minutes were approved with the additional note that Science Team member Ron Thom was unable to attend the April meeting.

Charlie O'Hara welcomed the Commission on behalf of Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the Swinomish Tribe. Chairman Cladoosby was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Business Items

Hiring update - Ginny announced that Caroline Gibson will join our team as Marine Program Coordinator starting on Monday, June 1. The hiring committee conducted interviews of four candidates. Caroline has a lot of relevant experience and excellent references. She lives in Port Townsend and will be able to telecommute and help serve the Olympic Peninsula region better than we have been able to previously. Ginny plans on having her work at Padilla Bay 3-4 days a week for the first month and then she will commute one day a week.

Ginny gave a brief overview of staff job descriptions:

Caroline- technical assistance with the benchmark account, fall conference agenda planning, writing annual report, MRC proposal, and amendment technical review, develop new projects communications, and working with the media.

Sasha- MRC grants and contract management, and budget tracking.

Connie - Meeting and conference logistics, general office duties, bookkeeping for the Foundation, website updating, archiving deliverables, and newsletter distribution.

Benchmark Account - Ginny reviewed the funding process and timeline for the benchmark account. She explained that the proposals are being accepted from June 1-15. On June 16 proposals will be sent to a review panel made up of one person from each MRC and Duane Fagergren and Kathy Fletcher who will be reviewing for the Commission. MRCs will not review their own proposals. The reviews will be due June 24. The Commission agreed to use surveymonkey.com for the review process with a follow up conference call discussion on June 25. The review panel will rank the projects and provide a recommendation to the Commission at the June 26 meeting. If an MRC is submitting more than one proposal they should clearly

note what their priority project is and make sure there is an administrative lead. The Commission offered some things to consider for the review including:

- What is the joint benefit or regional benefit?
- Does the project support the reauthorization process of the Commission?
- Could this project be a bigger project? If so could it be combined and funded with another project?
- Does the project accomplish a benchmark and is it consistent with the Commission's strategic plan?

Reauthorization Bill update – Ginny reported that Senator Murray's staff is working to get a hearing on our reauthorization bill next week which is Oceans Week. Ginny will let the Commission know if something is scheduled.

Beach Watcher Program update - Ginny reported that the Beach Watcher program has not been funded through 2009 and she encourages everyone to check in with their local programs. Ginny spoke with Don Meehan who is working with the Puget Sound Partnership and Environmental Protection Agency. At this time Adria Banks, the Skagit County Coordinator leaving next month, might not be replaced until their funding is secured. Commissioners acknowledged that several MRC proposed budgets will contribute funds to Beach Watchers over the next two years. The Commission acknowledged the value of having Beach Watchers in each county,

Approval of MRC grant proposals – Ginny explained that the Commission has, in the past, approved all of the expenditures of the MRC projects and she would like to re-instate this procedure. The Commission reviewed a brief version of the MRC grant proposals and their budget for next two years. After reviewing the list Commissioners noted that the administration amounts vary greatly, due to different approaches to documenting staff time. The Commission recommended restructuring to account for project management of each task, leaving only MRC operations under the administrative task. In several situations, MRCs have lost all county funding. The Commission encourages MRCs to meet with their county officials and discuss savings in their budget. The Commission also discussed the possibility of having a standard budget template.

The Commission provisionally moved and approved by consensus the MRC proposals with revisions for final review at the June 26 Commission meeting.

Lone Tree Pocket Estuary Monitoring

Charlie O'Hara gave an overview of the Lone Tree Pocket Estuary Monitoring project. He explained that by replacing a culvert, moving undersized culverts, putting in a railroad bridge, and digging out the lagoon they have been able to restore a pocket estuary. They also took out invasive species and woody debris. Today they are seeing an increasing number of Chinook using the stream. They had several partners on the project including Environmental Protection Agency, the Swinomish Tribe, and the Skagit MRC. Charlie is available to share more information with anyone who is interested.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Terrie Klinger reported on the ecosystem project selection process. There were a total of nine ideas submitted. The committee used the rubric created last year to review project ideas. The Technical Committee is interested in 2 projects that would explore life history and habitat requirements of the Pacific sand lance and recommends working with

researchers to collaborate on these sand lance ideas. The Technical Committee also recommends supporting a spartina training for seven groups of volunteer kayakers. Commission staff will develop a process to carry out the Technical Committee's recommendation.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to spend of \$120,000 on a sand lance project and \$17,000 for spartina removal trainings from the ecosystem fund.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Thank you to Scott McCreery

On behalf of the Commission, Ginny thanked Scott for his time and energy given during his term as chair and vice-chair, and presented him with an engraved commemorative paddle and gift certificate. Scott thanked the Commission and said "it has been a great opportunity to do wonderful things." Jonathan White, new chair, thanked Scott for being a great example and acknowledged that he has some big shoes to fill.

Tribal Committee - Terry said that Tulalip Tribes has asked him to open a new treaty rights protection office by September 2009. One of Terry's goals is to get the tribal community together and become more efficient at fish management.

Charlie O'Hara gave an update on the 2009 canoe journey. He reported that last year's journey received an award by the Department of Interior and was singled out as a great example of collaboration. Suquamish will host the 2009 journey on August 3-8. At this time they are preparing all of the families who will be in the canoes. This year they will monitor deeper water from the support boats. Charlie explained that they are working to raise more funds and meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Interior increased their funding to \$40,000.

Executive Committee - Terry Williams reported that the Executive Committee met in May and discussed a support letter for an executive order on ocean policy. Kathy Fletcher explained that the People For Puget Sound is working to encourage President Obama to issue an executive order which will bring together the federal family in a coordinated effort on oceans. Many entities are sending in letters of support. A sample letter was sent out to Commissioners, written to Secretary Gary Locke and the Washington federal delegation, but the Commission might want to create their own version. Kathy said the executive order is not controversial, but many organizations would like to see it as a priority. The Commission agreed to have Ginny and Kathy draft a letter from the Commission, add Governor Gregoire to the list of recipients, and send the draft out to the full Commission before submitting.

Forage fish modeling project

Suzanne Shull gave an update on next steps and integration with MRCs. [Click here](#) for a copy of her presentation.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to recess the meeting at 2:15pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:45pm.

MRC Reports

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

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that the Clallam MRC's strategic plan has been approved. He also noted that Clallam is holding their own in the current economic climate.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban reported that Stef is now only half time for the Snohomish MRC and they recently lost an AmeriCorps assistant position.

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that the Marine Managers' Workshop was held on May 18-19 at the Friday Harbor Labs. The theme was Rockfish Management and Adaptive Management. The San Juan County has cut the MRC funding for staff and Mary Knackstedt will cut back to .8 FTE.

Jefferson – Tony Petrillo reported that the MRC had a booth at Earth Day to do outreach for the eelgrass project. Tony recently attended a HAZWOPER oil spill response training in Clallam County. Approximately 60 people attended.

Island – Rex Porter reported that cutbacks are expected at WSU Extension and they will know more by July 1.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC is having a strategic planning retreat and Holly O'Neil will facilitate. Whatcom County has not made changes to the MRC funding at this time.

[Click here](#) to see full MRC reports for June.

Roundtable

Kathy announced two upcoming events - The [Puget Sound I love U art contest and gallery showing](#) on June 6-15 in LaConner and [Orca Sing](#) on June 20 on San Juan Island.

Terrie Klinger announced the new film called [Sea Change](#) will be playing at the Seattle Film Festival. Terry explains it is a really powerful film that includes ocean acidification. She suggested that MRCs might like to show the film. Ginny said we might have a showing at our fall conference. Kathy Fletcher suggested having someone talk before or after the film to add more factual context.

Terry Williams reported that the tribes will be meeting with the Puget Sound Partnership leadership. They are concerned about the messages the Partnership are conveying to the public, as well as what is not being said. Terry would like some feedback from individuals by email on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
June 26, 2009 10:00am-1:45pm
Whatcom County, Squalicum Yacht Club**

Attending: Jonathan White, Scott McCreery, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Hi Bronson (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Jim McEntire, Charlie O'Hara, Joe Gaydos, Duane Fagergren (alt.)

Absent: David Dicks, Terry Williams, Rex Porter, Terrie Klinger

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

Support: Joan Drinkwin

Other MRC Representation: Melissa Roberts, Bert Rubash, and Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC), Jerry Masters (Snohomish MRC)

Guests: Stan Snapp (Bellingham City Council), Laurie Caskey-Schreiber (Whatcom County Council)

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

Laurie Caskey-Schreiber, Whatcom County Councilmember, welcomed the Commission and said it is an honor to have the Northwest Straits Commission in Whatcom County. She explained one of the key problems in improving our environment is the education component. People want problems fixed but everything is connected like a ball of string. Communicating this to the public is difficult and the Northwest Straits does this education very well and makes a difference.

Stan Snapp, Bellingham City Council, welcomed the Commission and explained he is new to the MRC after 1½ years working on watershed advisory board for Lake Whatcom. Six months ago he replaced Barbara Ryan as the City Council representative to the MRC. Stan explained that the many issues in the protection of Puget Sound are similar in some ways to the issues of Lake Whatcom. The council is currently working on a waterfront project with the Port of Bellingham and there has been some progress and a few challenges. Stan explained the recent failure of the economy and lack of support for re-development has slowed progress.

Whatcom MRC 10-Year Report to the Community

Bob Cecile reported on the Whatcom MRC's 10-year report to the community. Bob showed a copy of the report and said that Ken Carrasco along with other MRC members wrote it. The total project cost was under \$6,000. The MRC plans on printing approximately 2,000 to distribute to elected officials, government agencies, city offices, and to citizens when

opportunity arises. Laurie Caskey-Schreiber added the MRC has developed a good reputation and is a wealth of knowledge. Laurie encouraged them to continue to be a resource to the community and the council.

[Click here](#) (2MB) to see a copy of Whatcom MRC's 10 year report to the Community.

Approval of Minutes

The Northwest Straits Commission May meeting minutes were approved as written.

Business Items

New staff introduction – Ginny introduced and welcomed Caroline Gibson to her first meeting as the Commission's Marine Program Manager. Caroline thanked the Commission and gave some background about herself ([click here](#) for article about Caroline on the Commission's web site). Caroline plans to visit all of the MRCs in the weeks to come. She is looking for input on ways she can provide support to MRCs. Caroline is also working on the MRC fall conference and ecosystem projects. She is looking into increasing the Northwest Straits Initiative's national presence, such as ensuring Initiative presence at relevant national conferences.

Benchmark Account – Ginny explained that the Commission agreed to set aside \$161,000 for a Benchmark Account and MRCs were encouraged to submit proposals. The Review Committee was comprised of someone from each MRC, two governor appointees and one Commission staff. SurveyMonkey.com was used for the review process followed up by a conference call of the committee. Each proposal was ranked and the Committee recommended funding the three highest-ranked proposals¹ for a total amount of approximately \$95,000. The committee also recommended working with Snohomish County, who had the fourth highest ranked proposal, to resolve questions about their staff capacity to complete the proposed project within the given timeframe. If it can be confirmed that the project has a solid lead person then the committee recommended funding the project for the remainder of the Benchmark Account funding (approximately \$66,000)

Ginny explained that Rex Porter, a member of the Review Committee, commented that the Benchmark Account was created to get bigger, more regional projects that worked more directly towards the Commission's benchmarks and the proposals received did not accomplish this goal. The Committee recognized that the desire was to get at such projects but acknowledged the short turnaround time and felt that the selected projects are also worthy of funding. The Commission discussed preparations for the next Benchmark Account and gave some suggestions:

- Begin to brainstorm during the year and allow time to come up with ideas for bigger projects

¹ San Juan Feeder Bluff Mapping, Whatcom Creosote Removal on Cherry Point, Jefferson Mystery Bay Harbor Management Plan

- Make MRCs more aware that we have regional funding and encourage regional thinking
- Create a Benchmark Account development process
- Discuss how to link similar MRC projects to make a bigger impact
- Package the funding and promote the project
- Have a session at the conference on Benchmark Account and Ecosystem Funds projects
- Let MRCs know the criteria used in the review process

Ginny said the staff will debrief the MRC lead staff members and chairs at their upcoming meeting in July. She also noted that Joan Drinkwin from the Northwest Straits Foundation will be looking for other funding sources for proposals not funded by the Benchmark Account.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to fund projects ranked 1,2 and 3 for \$95,000 and approved partial funding of the fourth ranked project pending staff confirmation of Snohomish County's ability to complete the proposed work.

Reauthorization Bill update – Ginny reported that Senator Murray's staff submitted two written questions about the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative for the Senate Commerce Committee's hearing on the NOAA budget. Senator Cantwell asked the questions to Dr. Lubchenco, administrator of NOAA, on June 11. Ginny explained that this process counts as a hearing on our reauthorization bill in the Senate. The Commission watched the live video of the hearing. Dr. Lubchenco said, "That particular program is often held up as a nice model of local citizens' actions in partnership with counties, states, and tribes in the region..." [Click here to see the video online](#) (questioning about the Northwest Straits Initiative begin at minute 84)

Ginny thanked everyone who wrote support letters and reported that a total of 26 letters were received from a wide range of organizations, agencies, tribes and MRCs. She said we will continue to collect them when our bill moves to the House of Representatives.

Approval of MRC grant proposals – Sasha explained that at the last meeting there were concerns about how administration costs were represented for the MRC grant proposals. A revised spreadsheet more accurately reflects the staff time on project management compared to general administration of the MRC. The biggest change is the Snohomish MRC where the County is requiring the Commission grant to fully fund a staff position. Jerry Masters, chair of Snohomish MRC, explained that it was less difficult for the county to provide funding for projects that will show results rather than fund staff time. The Commission recommended having MRCs compile a total budget including private, county, and other funding to show leveraging.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus the MRC grant proposal spending plan as presented.

Fall Conference Planning – Caroline reported that she has been working on developing sessions and making connections. The conference will be a full two days and will include a transboundary element. At this time there are three known sessions: ocean acidification, rockfish, and a workshop with Ross Anderson on how to write an Op-Ed. Caroline said if anyone would like to provide input on speakers, panelists, or sessions to contact her. We are working on arranging a showing of the film *A Sea Change* at the local independent theater that will bring in the local community. The Commission discussed the importance of keeping the focus on MRC members, but that other groups and individuals will also be invited. There are also opportunities for sponsorship of this event.

Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership - Caroline Gibson gave an update on the PSNERP annual retreat. Caroline replaced Simon Geerlofs on the steering committee. The retreat was led by Curtis Tanner and had two objectives; to review and complete the Army Corps of Engineers general investigation study and articulate a problem statement of national significance that will bring in funding to restore Puget Sound. So far they have not been able to convince people at the national level that Puget Sound needs restoration. In order to complete the General Investigation they need \$1.3 million in non-federal funding. They would like MRC input to identify potential restoration sites. They are looking for major wetlands and estuaries. There are some tools they have developed that might be of interest to MRCs including a change analysis database that is a computerized tool to analyze shoreline data and a risk assessment project that calibrates the risk to restoration action.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported on the two projects approved for funding last month. They are still in the development phase of the forage fish project, and expect to hold a workshop in September.

Executive Committee – Jonathan White reported that at the Executive Committee meeting they discussed Commission officer terms. Jonathan feels that one year is not enough time to make a significant impact. He understands there are pros and cons to a one year term. The Commission discussed the officer term limits and noted the fact some MRC representatives also have term limits and would not be able to make a longer time commitment.

Tribal Committee – Ginny reported that Terry Williams has moved to vice chair of the Commission and now the Tribal Committee no longer has a chair. They will discuss a new chair at a Tribal Committee meeting scheduled for July 14.

Growth and Development Committee – Joan Drinkwin provided a written report and suggested that the Commission might want to discuss the future of the Growth and Development Committee.

Public Comment

Ron Akeson was elected president of the Washington Scuba Alliance last month and he would like to offer the assistance of its divers when needed. He suggested that volunteer divers can do monitoring on a regular basis.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Duane Fagergren reported that Puget Sound Partnership is doing some reorganization. Regional Liaisons will now be Restoration and Implementation Coordinators. Duane will also be moving into a new position which is still in the development process. Duane has been working on a collaborative project on ocean acidification and the effects on Pacific oysters. He said that the Partnership has placed a lot of emphasis on salmon recovery. Charlie O'Hara pointed out that the salmon recovery plan was a five year process and said it is important to the tribes that not all be lost in the new initiative. Ginny added that she recently met with Lynda Ransley and talked with her about reorganization and how to integrate our work with what the Partnership is doing. Ginny will be doing some outreach making presentations on how we can integrate our work.

MRC Reports

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

Island MRC - Hi Bronson reported that the Cornet Bay restoration project is Island MRC's biggest project and was founded from earlier mapping projects. He explained that out of 100 different sites mapped for restoration Cornet Bay was chosen because it is public property.

Clallam MRC – Jim McEntire reported that Jefferson and Clallam MRCs will have a joint meeting in September. Scott McCreery noted the recent HAZWOPER oil spill response training class in Clallam County is a good way to get the public involved and asked about annual retraining opportunities.

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

San Juan MRC - Jonathan reported that San Juan County is going through a Critical Area Ordinance update and some issues, particularly setbacks are getting a lot of public interest. He said San Juan MRC has filed a minority report on this issue.

Jefferson MRC - Tony Petrillo reported the drift cell restoration report from Coast Harbor Engineering is complete.

Snohomish MRC – Tom Hoban reported that Snohomish MRC is hoping to do a potluck joint meeting with Island MRC and he is hoping to get Senator Murray or Cantwell and possibly Representative Rick Larsen to attend.

Skagit MRC – Charlie O'Hara reported that Steve Sakuma gave presentation on the Puget Sound Partnership at the last MRC meeting.

[Click here](#) to see full version of MRC reports.

Proposal on Naming the Salish Sea

Bert Webber, a professor emeritus from Western Washington University, explained that there is a movement to name the Salish Sea as an umbrella term for the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin/Strait of Juan de Fuca area. He explained the challenge of discussing this issue without using the term 're-name' which is incorrect. There is no intent to diminish the existing names. The Salish Sea is a new name to recognize an ecological entity. The name is already commonly used by many organizations. Bert said the Washington State Board on Geographic names will likely contact the Northwest Straits Commission and MRCs and ask them to make a comment in the near future.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to recess the meeting at 1:45pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:45pm.

Round table

Kathy Fletcher reported that President Obama appointed a task force on ocean policy convened and chaired by Nancy Sutley of the [Council on Environmental Quality](#). The task force will report back in 90 days with recommendation for ocean policy. Kathy suggested we submit input quickly to Nancy Sutley from the Northwest Straits Initiative. Caroline will put together ideas for a discussion on this at the July meeting.

Jonathan White gave an update on the San Juan Initiative. They finished a series of public workshops in spring and are asking the public about recommendations for shoreline management. There is strong public support for changing bulkheading regulations. The recommendation that the San Juan Initiative is putting forward to the County Council is to prohibit installing or replacing a bulkhead unless a house, road or septic system are threatened. Joe Gaydos added that the recognition of the need to map feeder bluffs in the County came from the San Juan Initiative.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on July 31 in Clallam County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
July 31, 2009 10:00am-3:30pm
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim, Clallam County**

Attending: Tom Hoban, Hi Bronson (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Jim McEntire, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Susan Bauer (alt), Terry Williams
By phone: Joe Gaydos, Jonathan White, Terrie Klinger, Bob Cecile, Ivar Dolph (alt)
Absent: David Dicks, Scott McCreery, Rex Porter, Charlie O'Hara
Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst and Sasha Horst (conference call), Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Support: Joan Drinkwin (phone), Terry Stevens
Guests: Ron Allen (chairman Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Mike Doherty (Clallam County Commissioner), Judith Morris (Congressman Norm Dicks' office), John Cambalik (Puget Sound Partnership)

DRAFT

The meeting was delayed due to fog which caused travel problems for commissioners and staff who had planned to fly to the meeting. Those who could not attend in person called in and the meeting started at approximately 11am.

Terry Williams, vice chair, opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda. The agenda items were re-arranged in order to review the tribal committee recommendations before Terry Williams left the meeting.

Ron Allen, chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe welcomed the Commission to Jamestown. He said the environment is important to Jamestown and they share a mutual interest and good working relationship with the local communities. Ron announced the Canoe Journey will be landing today at the original Jamestown village site around 1:00pm followed by a cultural event this evening in Sequim. The Commissioners thanked Ron for his hospitality.

Mike Doherty, Clallam County Commissioner extended his welcome the Commission. Mike said Clallam County encompasses a geographic area of over 1,100 square miles of land and 158 miles of shoreline. It is home to four tribes and over 20,000 residents and is a resource worth protecting. Mike thanked the Northwest Straits Commission and their work in restoring and protecting our waters.

Jonathan White joined the meeting by phone and chaired the meeting via telephone with assistance from Kathy Fletcher at the meeting location.

Committees Reports

Tribal Committee– Terry explained that the committee elected Harlan James as the new committee chair. Ginny explained the three projects that are being recommended for funding by the committee:

- The Fidalgo Bay restoration project would restore a shoreline archaeological site of great significance to the Samish Tribe. Christine Woodward has secured \$65,000 and looking to raise an additional \$40,000. She agreed to notify the group if additional funding was raised to cover the entire project cost.
- Steve Robinson of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission described a film project called *Shadow of Time* that is a follow up to *Shadow of the Salmon*. A minimum of \$100,000 is needed for the project, and he is also seeking other sources of funding.
- Terry Williams proposed adding the survival rates of Coho salmon into an existing model called FRAM. Total funds needed for the project is \$25,000. Terry agreed to look for additional funding and to check back in with the committee in September.

The committee recommended that \$20,000 be provided to each of the three projects discussed.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus recommended funding by the Tribal Committee for the three proposed projects in the amount of \$20,000 each.

Approval of Minutes

The Northwest Straits Commission June meeting minutes were approved as written.

Business Items

Reauthorization Bill update – Ginny reported that the reauthorization bill is being reviewed by agency staff and others. Representative Rick Larsen’s staff wrote a letter to the House Natural Resources Committee requesting a hearing on the bill.

MRC Lead staff and chair meeting summary – The Commission reviewed the summary and discussed some of the action items. Ginny explained the internal communication action item and our goal of getting consistent information to MRCs from Commission meetings. Ginny said Commission staff could provide representatives with a summary of action items from each meeting. The Commission agreed it would be valuable and would be good to distribute to all MRC members, Commissioners and the Science Team. Ginny said there was good feedback during the Benchmark Account discussion and suggested the Commission plan a discussion on the Benchmark Account process if we decide to use it again.

Budget: year-end estimates - Sasha estimated that the amount coming back from MRCs of the grant ending June 30 will be \$95,000. The Commission discussed the possibility of

funding projects that they have not been able to fund in the past. Jim McEntire suggested seeking out possible MRC projects that are ready to go. Duane Fagergren suggested considering funding the ocean acidification calibration project which has a shortfall of \$80,000. Ginny will work with Executive Committee and come up with some recommendations to discuss at next meeting.

2010 meeting dates – Connie reviewed the proposed Commission meeting dates for 2010. The Commission approved the 2010 dates with a change to the January meeting date from the 28 to the 29. [Click here](#) to see a copy.

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported that Caroline has organized a workshop on Pacific sand lance on September 16. The workshop will review the ‘state of knowledge’ and information from the workshop will inform a request for proposals from the Northwest Straits Commission.

Executive Committee – Kathy reported that the committee discussed the Benchmark Account funding and possible solutions to the pending Kayak Point project in addition to other topics already covered.

Public Comment

No public comment.

MRC Reports

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

Clallam - Jim McEntire had no additions to the written report.

Jefferson – Tony Petrillo reported that they are in between grant cycles and there is nothing new to report at this time.

Island – Hi Bronson had no additions to the written report.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban explained that the Snohomish MRC has no staff at this time. They anticipate the County getting someone on board by September.

Skagit – Ivar Dolph reported that Skagit MRC has been awarded \$500,000 over a period of 4 years and the Restoration Initiative subcommittee is working on prioritizing projects to spend the money.

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

San Juan – Jonathan reported that the County recently lost their director of community development and planning who was a liaison to the MRC. Pete Rose joined them at the last meeting and will hopefully stand in for the planning director until the issue is resolved. Jonathan explained that San Juan MRC acts as a citizen advisory group for salmon recovery

and Barbara Rosenkotter is the lead entity in their area. MRC members visit the project sites and then do a review of the grant proposals in August.

[Click here](#) to see a full version of MRC reports.

Emerging Issue Discussions:

Ocean Policy update - Kathy Fletcher gave an update on the Ocean Policy Task Force. The Ocean Policy Task Force plans to hold field hearings for the west coast in Anchorage and San Francisco. Kathy and Kevin Ranker are part of a non-governmental process and they are considering holding a meeting with key people to develop a list of the issues in our area. It would be an opportunity to prepare for the hearings in Anchorage and San Francisco. Kathy shared a letter written to the Task Force that she summarized as a request to “not reinvent the wheel” but work from recommendations of the previous Ocean Commissions. The Commission discussed the possibility of attending one of the field hearings and writing a letter. A special Executive Committee session including anyone who would like to participate will be held to continue the discussion on ways to proceed.

Native oyster update - Duane Fagergren reported on the native oyster recovery workshop held at the Little Creek Casino in Shelton. Approximately eight tribes and 30 people attended. The native Olympia oysters on the west coast and native oysters from the east coast are being considered keystone candidates for recovery by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Duane explained they used a software tool to identify the problems, strategize a solution, find funding sources, and create performance measures of recovery. The idea is to build back the naturally producing locations and then use their larvae and seed stock to serve as a seed source. Hatcheries would be used as a last resort. Duane said there are two more workshops scheduled for August 12 and September 3 and he plans to stay involved in the project. Ginny said that there will possibly be a follow up discussion of this topic at our conference in November.

Puget Sound Partnership regional work - John Cambalik is the ecosystem recovery coordinator for the Puget Sound Partnership in the Strait of Juan de Fuca area that includes Jefferson and Clallam counties. John gave an update on the Partnership’s efforts to integrate salmon recovery and the broader action agendas actions that need to be implemented. Ecosystem recovery coordinators are starting conversations at local level how to integrate and implement the action agenda. They are using a three-fold strategy which includes:

- 1 - Focus on efforts to implement key actions within the action agenda at the local level
- 2 - Begin conversation with local communities to integrate efforts
- 3 - Accelerate salmon recovery efforts.

John said they recognize there will be many centers of implementation including Northwest Straits Commission and MRCs. The Partnership’s [staff webpage](#) is the best place to find what area each coordinator is covering. John reviewed three handouts on local integration, one was a memo from the Partnership and the second was draft proposal. The third handout was an example of an executive summary of an integrated ecosystem

recovery group framework for the Strait of Juan de Fuca area. John explained that each area will be developing their own integration and implementation process.

A question and answer period followed the presentation:

Q - How will the Jefferson and Clallam MRCs be involved in the process?

A - They will be active participants in the workgroups.

Q - Is there funding stream that comes with local integration plan?

A - No, not at this time.

Q - Is there a timeframe for the integration plan?

A - No, because every area is in a different state of implementation.

Q - Will this be like a council of governments? Not a new layer but a way to connect and coordinate?

A - Yes, in some action areas it is similar to a council of governments.

Q - If there is funding that comes with the integration plan how will they prioritize? Will it still be considered a council of governments?

A - This is still being determined.

Ginny proposed a meeting at the Partnership's office to have a centralized conversation about implementation. Ginny announced that the Commission has been appointed an ex officio seat at the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

Update on fall conference agenda, speakers, and sessions – Caroline Gibson gave an update on the fall conference planning. She said sessions are coming together and so far speakers have been enthusiastic. Terrie Klinger suggested including the new federal requirements to include climate change on restoration projects as part of Curtis Tanner's presentation of the change analysis. A draft agenda should be ready soon. Invitations will go out next week and Commissioners should contact Connie if they have people they wish to invite. We hope to get good representation from all MRC members, especially new members.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (postponed)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm to Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:00pm.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher announced People For Puget Sound's annual event called Harbor Lights will be on October 10. Reservations can be made [online](#).

Jonathan White reported that NOAA will be holding a hearing to get public input to increase the no-go zone for vessels around whales from 100 yards to 200 yards. Ginny suggested this might be a good topic to discuss at the next meeting.

Tim Wheeler, reporter from Baltimore, said he and his wife have been actively involved with some of the same issues in Chesapeake Bay and are inspired by what they have observed today and happy to see the work being done by Northwest Straits Commission.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
August 28, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm
Port Townsend, Jefferson County**

Attending: Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Rex Porter, Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Jim McEntire, Charlie O'Hara, Joe Gaydos, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terry Williams, Terrie Klinger

Absent: David Dicks, Scott McCreery

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

Other MRC Representation: Pat Pearson, Gabrielle LaRoche and Dave Robison (Jefferson MRC)

Guests: John Austin (Jefferson County Commissioner), Jeff June (Natural Resources Consultants), Ross Anderson (Freelance Journalist), Al Bergstein (People For Puget Sound)

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

The Northwest Straits Commission July meeting minutes were approved as written.

Business Items

Conference details – Caroline updated the Commission on the MRC conference developments and reviewed a [draft agenda](#). Jonathan is working with the staff to create a fun event after the dinner speaker on Friday night. He is hoping to bring in a band and wine tasting. Caroline unveiled the T-shirt design by well-known Alaskan artist Ray Troll and Karen Lybrand for the derelict gear Project. They will be available for purchase at the conference.

(Break from business items for welcome)

Welcome by John Austin

John Austin, Jefferson County Commissioner, stopped by and officially welcomed the Commission. John explained that the kind of research and support done by MRCs is extremely helpful to get legislation passed. He thanked the Commission for visiting Jefferson County and for the work they do.

(Business items continued)

Benchmark account projects – Ginny gave an update on the benchmark account projects. The Snohomish MRC is in the process of hiring a lead staff who will oversee the Kayak Point nearshore restoration design, outreach and permitting project. Gabrielle LaRoche will present today on the Jefferson Mystery Bay Harbor Management Plan project. The Whatcom creosote logs at Cherry Point reach have been surveyed and they are ready for removal. The San Juan MRC put out a request for qualifications for the mapping feeder bluffs project.

National ocean policy hearings - Ginny provided comment on the ocean policy process: 1) Do not slow down the process by re-inventing what has been done through the previous ocean commissions 2) What is happening nationally should be plugging into what is going on in the Pacific Northwest. The Commission discussed working with groups to put together a local forum for those who are unable to attend in San Francisco. At the hearing in Anchorage the public testimony was interesting and recognized by the media. There is opportunity to submit written comments. Terry Williams said it is important to look at the tribal perspective.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported that the Sand Lance workshop will be held on September 16 at Padilla Bay. The workshop will discuss the work that is being done and where there are gaps. For example, Terrie Klinger explained that George Hunt, School of Fishery and Aquatic Sciences from University of Washington, reports there are sharp declines in sea birds and Kurt Fresh, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, reports forage fish abundance is good. We would like to learn more about the relationship. Both will be attending the workshop.

Executive Committee – Terry Williams reviewed the Executive Committee summary and noted that the date of the ocean policy hearing was moved to September 17 from September 23 or 24.

Tribal Committee – Nothing new to report.

Dungeness Bay Crab Pot Mortality Study

Jeff June, Natural Resources Consultants, gave a presentation on a Crab Pot Mortality Study in Dungeness Bay.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am to convene a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:00pm.

Public Comment

Al Bergstein, People For Puget Sound, has been working with the Jefferson County democrats to support the Shoreline Master Plan. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the handout.

Northwest Maritime Center Tour -Dave Robison, Northwest Maritime Center, gave the Commission members a sneak preview tour of the [Chandler Maritime Education Building](#). The Building will be open to the public on September 10.

MRC Reports

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

Island – Rex Porter reported that the MRC retreat will be at the Cornet Bay shelter and they plan on spending half the time reviewing their strategic plan.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban reported that Snohomish and Island MRCs held their joint meeting last Tuesday which was hosted by the city of Mukilteo. The MRC is looking to have a new lead staff by the end of September.

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that the Jefferson and Clallam joint meeting will be on September 1 at the Jamestown tribal center.

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

Skagit – Charlie O’Hara reported that at the last meeting Steve Hinton from Skagit River Systems Cooperative gave a presentation addressing issues in the Fidalgo Bay restoration and aspects of his March’s Point proposal that picks up where the Texaco restoration left off.

San Juan – Jonathan White reported that the San Juan MRC acts as an advisory council to the salmon recovery process and two or three meetings annually are spent reviewing proposals. The final vote was submitted at last meeting. The MRC is developing background information and advisory recommendations for the County Council on the [NOAA proposal](#) to close vessel traffic on west side of San Juan Island from May 1 through September. Jonathan shared two publications, a brochure on stewardship for education and outreach at the San Juan County fair and a newspaper insert called [Living Green](#) that was distributed to San Juan County residents.

[Click here](#) to see the full version of MRC reports.

Jefferson MRC projects

Eelgrass protection project

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

Mystery Bay Harbor Management Plan

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

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Carol Bernthal, superintendent of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, gave an update on their Management Plan Review. Carol handed out the [priority topics, working groups and workshops](#) and a full version of the [priority issues work plan](#). All of the working groups are looking for input and anyone interested should contact the leads of the working groups.

Round Table

Kathy Fletcher reported on the Maury Island case where a Federal District Court Judge put a halt on Glacier Northwest’s project to build a 305-foot barge loading facility. Kathy explained the lawsuit challenged the Corps of Engineers which failed to uphold federal laws when they approved the permit. Kathy explained the discussion brought forward new scientific information and questioned the concept of the traditional ‘work window’ that allows construction while juvenile salmon are not using the nearshore. Kathy said the study [Juvenile Salmonid Composition, Timing, Distribution, and Diet in Marine Nearshore Waters of Central Puget Sound in 2001-2002](#) was used in the case to argue that fish are present during the ‘work window’. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the federal ruling.

Kathy announced that the [5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration](#) is in Galveston Island, Texas on November 13-17, 2010 and is a good opportunity to showcase projects. [People For Puget Sound's annual Harbor Lights gala](#) will be October 10.

Duane reported that the oyster emergency project has begun and they have installed a native Olympia oyster monitoring site in south Puget Sound and one in Dabob Bay for Pacific oysters. An [ORCA](#) buoy that gives real time data that was used in Hood Canal for dissolved oxygen that they plan to move to Dabob Bay. They will have a panel from the project at the next annual [Shellfish Grower's Conference and Trade Show](#) in Portland.

Terrie Klinger will be at Woods Hole learning the chemistry around the ocean acidification problem during the time of the MRC conference.

Terry Williams worked with Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission last week and they are pushing for tribes to have a stronger role in climate change and recovery.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, September 25 at the Grange in Friday Harbor, San Juan County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
September 25, 2009 10:00am-4:00pm
Friday Harbor, San Juan County**

Attending: Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Jim McEntire, Charlie O'Hara, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terry Williams, Scott McCreery
Absent: David Dicks, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Rex Porter
Commission Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Caroline Gibson, Connie Price
Other MRC Representation: Kit Rawson, Mary Knackstedt and Laura Arnold (San Juan MRC), Bert Rubash (Whatcom MRC), Tracy Alker (Skagit MRC), Judy Feldman (Island MRC)
Guests: Lovel Pratt and Richard Fralick (San Juan Council), Tom Cowan (Northwest Straits Foundation), George Hunt (School of Fishery and Aquatic Sciences, University of Washington), Peter Kilpatrick (San Juan Initiative), Lynda Ransley (Puget Sound Partnership)

DRAFT

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

The Northwest Straits Commission August meeting minutes were approved as written.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Conference details – Caroline updated the Commission on the MRC conference developments and reviewed a [draft agenda](#). The deadline to receive the block room rate is October 6.

Newsletter: member spotlight and MRC projects - Sasha explained the purpose of the member spotlight is to share the diversity of the people on the MRCs. MRC members are encouraged to participate to help tell our story. She explained that at the most recent meeting of MRC chairs and lead staff, MRCs said they would like to see more about the projects and updates of other MRCs in our newsletter. MRCs are encouraged to submit articles or updates about their projects to Commission staff for the monthly newsletter.

MPA Workgroup – Ginny is participating in working group chaired by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and under a directive from the legislature (through SB 6231) which has met several times over the year to develop recommendations

on Marine Protected Areas. Kit Rawson and Mary Knackstedt also participated and provided input to the group on the role of Marine Stewardship Areas. Brie van Cleve at WDFW is the point person for the written report.

Reauthorization bill – Ginny reported a hearing has been scheduled on October 20 with the House of Representatives. She plans to go to Washington DC to testify at the hearing. Letters of support they can be sent to Congressman Rick Larsen’s office. The [Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife](#) is holding the hearing.

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

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

A number of topics were raised for information purposes but were not discussed:

EPA request for proposals

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

WDFW sportsfishing marine rule changes

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

Natural resource reform

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technical Committee- Caroline reported the technical committee held a scientific workshop on sand lance with 15 sand lance experts from around the state on September 16 at Padilla Bay. The goal of the workshop was to figure out what is not known about sand lance. Caroline said it is astonishing how little is known about sand lance and funding is not being directed towards forage fish scientists. A bibliography and summary materials available on our website at:
<http://www.nwstraits.org/PageID/247/viewpagemode/2/default.aspx> The Technical Committee will meet next week to begin developing a request for qualifications. George Hunt commented that a group at University of Washington is putting together proposal and

are bringing in an economist to build a model of the economic value lost if forage fish disappeared.

Executive Committee – Terry Williams reviewed the Executive Committee report and said that the committee discussed the budget and a process to spend unspent funds. The committee agreed the annual retreat would be a good time to brainstorm a new process. The next executive meeting will be rescheduled.

LOCAL INTEGRATION PROCESS IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

Kit Rawson thanked Lovel Pratt and Richard Fralick from the San Juan County Council for coming. He also thanked Mary Knackstedt for putting together the materials for his presentation.

Kit explained that the San Juan MRC has carried out the citizen advisory role successfully for many years. For example, they successfully played an advisory role when the crab fisheries closed harvest to commercial fisherman. The MRC recognized there was a lack of understanding on how crab management works so the MRC organized two community outreach sessions with Rich Childers from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help people understand crab management. This reduced the controversy. Another example is the current NOAA proposed orca rule. The MRC put together recommendations for the city council. [Click here](#) to see a copy of the report.

Kit explained that the MRC, has made some mistakes in the advisory role. Kit explained that working with diverse elements of the community and the cost of running a public program creates challenges. The MRC is continually learning how to improve their role as an advisory committee and to choose their battles carefully. [Click here](#) for a handout on San Juan MRCs advisory role.

Jonathan White, chair of the San Juan MRC, thanked Kit for being an exemplary leader and for his tremendous effort. Jonathan said that the biggest challenge for the San Juan MRC is to work harmoniously with citizens and the government. Sometimes, when things become cluttered with political issues, it prevents the MRC from reaching its potential. Their goal is to work mutually and supportably.

Terry Williams said that it is important for the Tribes and the counties work together and avoid costly court procedures. One place where negotiations have been successful is in Tulalip where farmers and the tribe worked together to turn animal waste into biogas.

Charlie O'Hara, chair of the Skagit MRC, complimented the San Juan MRC and their advisory role with the county.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Lynda Ransley, deputy director of the Puget Sound Partnership, gave an update on the Partnership. Lynda said she is a long-time supporter of the Northwest Straits Commission

and was involved with the Snohomish MRC for many years. Lynda listed several things that are going on at the Partnership:

- Working on building teams locally for efficiency and clarifying their roles in monitoring, outreach, technical, land use, and in lieu fees
- Recruiting new science panel members - the nomination process open soon for those interested in serving on the science panel certified by the Washington Academy of Science
- The Ecosystem Coordination Board will be developing bylaws
- Hiring new staff – chief IT manager, science program manager, and monitoring coordinator
- Reviewing the natural resource reform and what it means to the Partnership – the information on the website is a collection of ideas and some could have significant impact on how state government works with the goal to be more efficient without compromising quality
- Working on the State of the Sound publication
- Author selection process for the Puget Sound science update that will be out in April
- Preparing for the next legislative session
- Tracking the Environmental Protection Agency funding of \$20 million in FY2009 – \$10 million has been set aside for land use and the other \$10 million is still in question.
- Kristen Cooley is leading the ECONet for education work at the county level - Some funding is available from the Partnership to support local outreach work
- Cross - Partnership work groups are under way with members of Science Panel, Ecosystem Coordination Board and the Leadership Council to bring science and policy conversations together.

Linda would like to discuss how the Partnership can work more closely with the Northwest Straits Commission.

[Click here](#) for an overview of the Partnership's local integration process by Joe Ryan, which was provided as a handout at the meeting.

MRC REPORTS

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

Island – Judy Feldman reported that the MRC is really excited about their pigeon guillemot project.

Snohomish – Tom Hoban reported that Snohomish MRC has hired Kathleen Herrmann as new lead staff.

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that Clallam will be involved in outreach at the Dungeness Festival and the MRC had joint meeting with Jefferson on September 1 at the Jamestown tribal center.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC is facing the challenge of decision making between meetings. Bob would like to hear from other MRCs having the same issue.

Skagit – Charlie O’Hara reported that at the last meeting the MRC focused on the Fidalgo restoration project.

San Juan – Jonathan White had no additions to the written report.

[Click here](#) to see the full version of MRC reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am to convene a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:50am.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Kilanowski, citizen, complemented the derelict gear shirt design and said there are two important conferences coming up: [CERF](#) and [2010 Ocean Sciences Conference](#).

Karrie Cooper, project coordinator of Kayak Education and Leadership Program (KELP) for [Soundwatch](#), is doing outreach on [the new law passed in 2008](#) on Orca protection. She encourages people to look into the issue and participate by going to the meetings or submitting comments. There will be a meeting on October 5 in Friday Harbor at 7:00pm.

Kathy Fletcher gave a briefing on the Ocean Policy hearing in San Francisco which she and three other participants from Washington State attended. Kathy said close to 500 people attended the meeting and each presenter was given two minutes to speak. Kathy was impressed by the eight high level federal officials that were listening. There is a [draft out for comment](#) and Kathy encourages the Northwest Straits to comment. The focus is mainly on federal waters but many comments, including Kathy, emphasized the importance of our inland waters and estuaries. Those who are interested [can check out her blog](#) about attending the hearing.

Ginny reviewed the logistics for the derelict fishing net removal demonstration after lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm. The next meeting will be on December 4 at the Northwest Straits Commission offices at Padilla Bay.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
December 4, 2009 10:00am-3:00pm
Padilla Bay Reserve, Skagit County**

Attending: Jonathan White, Bob Cecile, Tom Hoban, Kathy Fletcher, Tony Petrillo, Jim McEntire, Ivar Dolph (alt.), Duane Fagergren (alt.), Terry Williams, Scott McCreery, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Hi Bronson (alt.)

Absent: David Dicks, Rex Porter, Charlie O'Hara

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

Support: Terry Stevens, Joan Drinkwin, Deb Canon (Metcalf Hodges)

Other MRC Representation: Tracy Alker and Neil Borman (Skagit MRC), Melissa Roberts and Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC), Shannon Davis (Jefferson MRC)

Guests: Sally Hintz (Northwest Washington Director for Senator Maria Cantwell), Ken Dahlstedt and Ron Wesen (Skagit County Commissioners), Tom Cowan (Northwest Straits Foundation), Katrina Hoffman (WA Sea Grant)

DRAFT

Jonathan White, chair, opened the meeting with introductions and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was approved as written.

Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County Commissioner, welcomed the Northwest Straits Commission to Skagit County. He said that the County is pleased to have the Padilla Bay Reserve in Skagit County and he feels there is nothing more critical than protecting the environment. "It is our responsibility to leave it in better shape for our children." said Commissioner Dahlstedt. In Skagit County they are dedicated to protecting the marine waters and he is big believer in local government and local solutions. Tracy Alker, staff for Skagit MRC, distributed a copy of the 2009 Skagit County Clean Water Program's annual report that was distributed as a newspaper insert called "Clean Water is Everyone's Business."

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

Business Items

Conference debrief, results of evaluations, ideas to consider for action

Sasha reviewed the summary from the results of the conference evaluation. A total of 21 people completed the survey. Ginny said there have been some follow up conversations about regional projects, and it is timely to get MRC staff together to continue that discussion. The Commission staff will schedule a meeting of MRC lead staff and chairs in January and continue the focus on regional projects. Another idea worth capturing from the conference was the more global topic of climate change and how to link it to clean energy and more green jobs. Dr. Richard Feely made a key point about the importance of shellfish as the central feature to studying ocean acidification. Ginny said another accomplishment of the conference was to increase the exposure of the Northwest Straits Initiative regionally.

Ginny reviewed the conference budget summary and talked about the importance of sponsorship to help offset the expenses that are not covered by the Commission's budget. Scott McCreery said it was helpful that BP, a conference sponsor, received a thank you letter from the Northwest Straits Foundation with a list of elected officials who attended the event. The Commission thanked the staff for the incredible amount of work in putting on this successful event.

Update on Reauthorization Bill – House Committee progress

Ginny reported that on October 20 the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife held a [hearing on the Northwest Straits Reauthorization Bill](#) and she went to Washington, DC to testify. The bill passed out of committee with little change and is expected to go to the floor of the House next week. Sally Hintz added they are looking for another bill that the Northwest Straits Reauthorization Bill can be attached to. She said that the Senate is working only on health care at this time and they are expected to be done by the end of the year.

Reducing Paper at Commission Meetings

Ginny explained that more organizations have made the effort to go completely paperless by utilizing laptops and thumb drives. She is proposing that the Commission reduce the amount of meeting handouts. Terrie Klinger added that the Marine Sanctuary meeting has successfully gone paperless. The Commission approved efforts to reduce papers and staff will work individually with Commissioners to determine their needs.

Retreat Planning

Ginny recommended that this year a retreat planning committee be created to develop the agenda for the Commission's annual retreat on February 25-26. Terrie Klinger, Jonathan White, and Scott McCreery volunteered to be on the committee. Anyone who has suggestions or comments can send them by email to the committee.

2010 Calendar

Ginny noted that next year's MRC conference date is in conflict with the Restore America's Estuaries conference and there will be a possible change of date.

Port Susan Science Workshop

Caroline gave an update on her work with Kit Rawson of Tulalip Tribes on a Marine Stewardship Area in Port Susan Bay. The original group consisted of Island and Snohomish MRCs, Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy and People For Puget Sound. The next steps will be a two-year process with a series of science workshops. The first workshop will be on January 27 where the group will work with 30 invited scientists. Caroline will give a report on the workshop at the Commission's annual retreat. Anyone who is interested in attending is welcome and can contact Caroline at 360-428-1057 or gibson@nwstraits.org.

MRC Reports

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

Island – Hi Bronson had no additions to the written report. Terrie Klinger reported that she is working with the Island MRC and six University of Washington graduate students on a water quality project in Island County. The project is to collect data and analyze the water quality along with giving public presentations on the results. Duane Fagergren said he was impressed that that Island County MRC has equipment that will monitor nitrates because they are difficult to monitor.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile reported that the Whatcom County Council is considering rescinding their new onsite septic system regulations. Whatcom MRC is planning to make a delicate effort to recommend the County Council keep existing regulations and is hopeful they will keep strong regulations in place that can accommodate homeowner concerns.

San Juan County – Jonathan White reported that Ginny attended the last San Juan MRC meeting and gave an update on the Northwest Straits Initiative's activities.

Jefferson – Tony Petrillo reported that Shannon Davis will be the new representative to the Commission for Jefferson MRC in January. Shannon gave a brief background on her beginnings with San Juan MRC as a graduate student and then her position as the first staff person for San Juan MRC. Shannon currently works for Friends of the San Juans from her home in Port Townsend. She has been a member of the Jefferson MRC since her relocation to Jefferson County.

Clallam – Jim McEntire reported that the MRC funds half of their staff member, David Freed, and Beach Watchers funds the other half of his time. Knowing that the funding from Beach Watchers is in jeopardy the MRC will be working on ways to keep the MRC staffed. Jim also said that Clallam MRC is facing the challenge of finding a way to relate to the outer coast MRC so they can coordinate activities. Terrie Klinger added that many residents on the outer coast are opposed to the Marine Sanctuary and are seeking more citizen involvement on Marine issues.

Skagit (no written report provided) – Ivar Dolph reported that at the last MRC meeting Mike See gave presentation on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit. The Phase II would increase regulations and encourage LID development. A temporary ordinance was passed in August and more public hearings will be held before the final ordinance is passed. Rick Haley of Skagit County Public Works reported on the Samish Basin water quality. The Samish Basin is a difficult area because of number of shellfish growers. There are high levels of fecal coliform that have caused nine temporary shellfish closures in the last 18 months. In addition, one section of the coast near Samish Island is permanently closed to shellfish harvesting due to fecal coliform. The City of Anacortes is working on a rain garden in downtown Anacortes. The MRC is working with Beach Watchers and the Department of Natural Resources on the cleanup at Secret Harbor on Cypress Island. Volunteers surveyed 44 miles in Skagit County, putting in a total of 139 hours. The MRC has found that Smart Sponges clog during high water and they are looking into have fewer, but larger, sponges installed.

Kathy Fletcher added that the State Parks and Recreation Commission will go forward on a purchase of Kiket Island in Skagit County. [Click here](#) to read more.

Snohomish - Tom Hoban reported that the Snohomish MRC has been asked to assist Kitsap County Beach Watchers to implement a regional citizen science volunteer program to collect mussel samples for NOAA's Mussel Watch program. The crabber education program that was delayed last year is back on track.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am to convene a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 11:50am.

Public Comment

The Commission welcomed Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen to the meeting.

Sally Hintz from Senator Cantwell's office said she is glad to hear the focus on jobs created from our Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program. She reported that Senator Cantwell plans to have another

field hearing in Seattle on oceans through her Oceans, Atmospheric, Fisheries and Coast Guard subcommittee in late winter or early spring Sally will let the Commission know once it gets scheduled. Sally asked for a name and contact for someone who is an expert on green sturgeon.

Abalone Restoration in Puget Sound

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

The Puget Sound Restoration Fund is looking for additional financial support and volunteers. They need new locations for outplants and more data on populations. They would like to partner with MRCs who could conduct surveys and assessment work. Betsy said it is important that they don't advertise where they are doing outplants. They would like to do more education and outreach so the public knows that they are a vulnerable species. Some questions were asked after the presentation:

Q - Why has the abalone population declined?

A – Poaching and overfishing. They cannot reproduce if they are not close enough to each other. When buying abalone make sure they are farmed red abalone. A population assessment is not being done.

Q - What is Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's investment?

Their abalone program is skeletal with one staff person, Josh Bouma, who works most of the time at the spawning site in Mukilteo.

Q - Is there any federal funding?

A - NOAA helps by providing the hatchery facility and outplanting and they are holding workshops. There is some funding for species of concern but it is a small pot and very competitive.

Q - What would be your ideal partner situation with Puget Sound Restoration Fund and Northwest Straits Commission?

A – Any level of support would be helpful.

Q - What is the survival rate?

A – Preliminary findings have seen 30% for animals larger than 25 millimeters which is better than the survival rate is nationally. They hope the bigger ones will have a better chance to survive. When they do surveys they will know more.

Ginny encouraged Betsy to visit MRCs and the Commissions' Technical Committee will discuss other ways we can help support abalone restoration. The Commission has partnered on some outreach by helping with the abalone posters and www.pintoabalone.org website. The derelict gear removal project divers might be a good group to target for ideas and Ginny will make some connections.

Ron Akesson, president of the Washington Scuba Alliance, said they are interested in helping with abalone restoration and he will coordinate with Betsy.

Committee Reports

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported on the most recent updates regarding the Northwest Straits Commission's sand lance work. The job announcement has been posted for a full-time, temporary (4-month) position to support an ecosystem research project on Pacific sand lance. The deadline is January 4, 2010. A request for proposals will go out in January to gather more information.

Education Committee – Kathy Fletcher reported that the committee needs to re-visit the Initiative's communication strategy and that they plan to meet after the New Year. Anyone interested, including past MRC or Commission members, can join the committee. One recommendation is that the committee sponsor educational films such as 'A Sea Change'. People For Puget Sound is interested in working with the Northwest Straits Commission on community education efforts by co-sponsoring films. Another idea is for the committee to contract with [COMPASS](#) to provide communications workshops in 2010 that are tailored to the emerging issues of MRCs. This is in response to the hugely popular session at the MRC conference, led by Liz Neeley.. Jonathan White proposed an idea to have a derelict gear art installation by partnering with artists in the area and putting together an exhibit. The Seattle aquarium would be a possible venue.

Tribal Committee – Terry Williams reported a tribal committee meeting has been scheduled for December 9. Terry said the committee will check in with progress on projects and will finalize funding. The proposal for the Coho FRAM model was approved for \$20,000 and the committee will consider an increase to \$25,000.

Ginny explained that committee spending has been delayed in part because a policy is in place that all contracts through the Department of Ecology must be reviewed by the union.

Rockfish Conservation Plan

Joe Gaydos led the discussion on the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan](#). The goal of the discussion was to touch on strategies of concern and get agreement on key points.

Ron Akeson of the Whatcom MRC shared their points of concern in their comment letter which encourages them to look at all species of rockfish as money comes available. They also made recommendations for other categories including research, education, and enhancement.

Commissioners expressed concern regarding the use of hatcheries and artificial reefs to enhance natural populations. Commissioners prefer a stronger focus on protecting existing populations and their natural habitats. The Commission agreed that the ecosystem portion of the plan, which is crucial to the future of rockfish, needs to be more clear.

From this discussion Ginny will draft a comment letter to be posted on the Northwest Straits web site by December 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm. The next meeting will be on January 29 in Snohomish County at the Edmonds City Hall.