



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
Skagit County– Padilla Bay, Mount Vernon  
January 8<sup>th</sup> 2008, 10:00am-3:00pm**

Attending: Duane Fagergren (alt.), Phyllis Kind, Polly Fischer, Buck Meloy, Kirby Johnson, Mary Knackstedt (alt), Scott McCreery, Tony Petrillo, Aleta Erikson (alt.)  
Absent: Terrie Klinger, Joe Schmitt, Terry Williams, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Jonathan White, David Dicks  
Alternates: Dick Toft, Mark Herrenkohl (alt.)  
Staff: Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens

**DRAFT**

Phyllis Kind, Chair opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. Terry Stevens introduced Gordon White from the Department of Ecology and manager of the Shorelands and Environmental Assistance program. The Commission director reports to Gordon. Gordon thanked Terry and said he appreciates the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Terry also reported he received notice from Governor Gregoire about new appointments to the Commission. Kathy Fletcher was reappointed, David Dicks was appointed to represent the Puget Sound Partnership, and Terrie Klinger was appointed. The Commission would like to honor Andrea Copping for her significant contribution to the Initiative.

It was moved and approved by consensus to appoint Duane Fagergren as the alternate for the Puget Sound Partnership representative David Dicks.

Terry Stevens reviewed the selection process that brought us the three candidates who will be presenting to the commission. The purpose of the meeting will be for the Commission to rank the candidates, which will be done in executive session as allowed by the Commission bylaws. The ranking will then be sent to the Department of Ecology for consideration. Once a candidate has been selected and accepted the position Ecology will announce the new director at the next Commission meeting on January 25. Terry indicated that he has spoken with the commissioners who are not present today about their preferences to include in the ranking of candidates.

The three candidates for Northwest Straits Commission director presented. The Commission moved into executive session starting at 2:15pm. The executive session was recessed until the January 25 meeting. The Commission did not reconvene following the executive session.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
January 25, 2008, 10:00am-3:00pm  
Jamestown S’Klallam, Clallam County**

Attending: Duane Fagergren (alt.), Dick Toft (alt.), Buck Meloy, Kirby Johnson, Jonathan White, Scott McCreery, Tony Petrillo, Ed Bowlby(alt), Terrie Klinger, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Jonathan White, Christine Woodward  
Absent: Terry Williams, David Dicks, Phyllis Kind  
Alternates: Aleta Erikson  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs

Scott McCreery, vice chair, opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. Scott announced the appointment Ginny Broadhurst as the new director of the Northwest Straits Commission. Ginny thanked the Commission for selecting her as director. The commission welcomed three new members, Terry Klinger, Tony Petrillo, and Christine Woodward. Ginny has met individually with the new commissioners and would like to meet with existing commissioners before the retreat.

The December 7 and January 8 meeting minutes were approved as written.

**Business Items**

**MRC Exchange Program** – Ginny introduced a Marine Resources Committee (MRC) exchange program to encourage MRC members to attend other MRC meetings and trainings. The Commission will cover the cost of travel and other costs if needed. MRCs should contact Sasha for more information.

**Northwest Straits Reauthorization** – Ginny explained that the Northwest Straits Initiative funding earmark is not a secure source. Ginny and Simon continue to work with Jamie Shimek and Katie Lassiter in Senator Murray’s office on reauthorizing the Initiative. A draft bill has been written. Once the bill is introduced and has a number it will be helpful for MRCs to write a letter of support. Staff will provide a draft template for MRCs and notify them in advance.

**Derelict fishing gear project update** – Simon reviewed the project update handout on the Volunteer Diver Derelict Crab Pot Removal Project. Commission and Foundation staff is working with Jeff June of Natural Resources Consultants, Mike Racine of the Washington Scuba Alliance (WSA), Snohomish MRC, and the Marker Buoy Dive Club to engage volunteer scuba divers in a crab pot removal pilot project planned for March 15-16. Safety is the primary concern and a full dive safety plan has been developed in collaboration with WSA. Copies are available for review, and will be sent to commissioners by email. This project is addressing important

liability and safety concerns that will make it easier for future removal operations by volunteer divers.

Ginny reviewed the Derelict Crab Pot Assessment Project and Recreational Crabber Outreach. The goal of this project is to determine the ecological and economic impact of derelict crab pots on Dungeness crab in Puget Sound. Ginny will send commissioners the methodology to be used for this project. The outreach component of this project is to educate 5,000 recreational crabbers about the problem of derelict crab pots and increase the use of biodegradable escape cord by recreational crabbers by 30%. Duane noted that due to the problems in Hood Canal there is an eagerness to get the derelict crab pots in that area removed. Ginny explained that in the prioritization project nets are given higher priority than crab pots but she will follow up with Duane to discuss the special circumstances in Hood Canal.

**March meeting location** – Sasha asked that the location of the March and May meetings be switched in order to hold an event for Andrea Copping at the March meeting in Snohomish County. The Commission agreed with the change, and the March meeting will be in Snohomish County and the May meeting will be in Jefferson County. A new schedule will be sent to all commissioners by email.

### **Legislative Issues**

#### **Secure Medicine Return Bill (HB2600)**

The Snohomish MRC has asked the Commission to send a letter of support for the Secure Medicine Return Bill. Kirby Johnson has researched this program and found the only con is the potential for a minimal cost associated with prescriptions in the future. The Commission agreed to send a letter of support for the legislation as a way to keep pharmaceuticals out of marine waters.

#### **Establishment of outer coast MRCs (SB6227)**

Jody Kennedy of the Surfrider Foundation explained the establishment of outer coast MRCs bill, which would provide funding to support the effort to create MRCs on five outer coast counties. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff has talked with representatives from those counties. They are supportive but need staff and resources to create an MRC. Grays Harbor County is particularly interested in an MRC as an opportunity for citizens to get involved. There are still many questions about how this bill would be implemented, particularly in Jefferson and Clallam counties who already have established MRCs. It has been recognized that the outer coast counties have different marine issues. The Northwest Straits Initiative was intended to be a model for other organizations, and the commission is willing to help in that process. Ginny will plan on attending the hearing on January 31 to support the bill. A meeting to continue the establishment of new MRCs will be held in Montesano on February 7.

#### **House Joint Memorial on Northwest Straits (HJM4029)**

Ginny received notice that this bill has been introduced and will have a hearing on February 4. She has made a follow up call to the bill's sponsor, Rep. Marko Lias (21<sup>st</sup> District), to get more information and to give thanks. Last year Lew Moore worked with several state representatives on this memorial, which received support from the Select Committee on Puget Sound but did not move beyond that step in the process. Ginny will provide more information as it is received.

### **Puget Sound Partnership – Action Area Process**

Steve Tharinger is a Clallam County Commissioner and the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board representative for the Strait of Juan de Fuca action area. Steve and Partnership local liaison John Cambalik described the process to develop the action agenda. Bill Wilkerson is the leadership council representative for this action area, which includes the area from Cape Flattery to Point Wilson. They are in the inventory process at this time and it is vital that MRCs submit projects on the Partnership's inventory spreadsheet by February 11. Commission staff will provide assistance if needed to MRCs to get this information to the Partnership. The inventory spreadsheet is more programmatic and they would like summaries of the projects rather than details. A model spreadsheet will be available on the Partnership website. Ginny said the Commission will also submit regional projects. A meeting for the Strait of Juan de Fuca action area will be January 30 in Sequim. At the meeting they plan to identify current on-going efforts, review draft inventory, operatively identify knowledge gaps and establish action area work groups. Steve showed a timeline for the development of the Partnership's action agenda, to be completed by September 1, 2008.

### **Public comment**

Jody Kennedy informed the Commission about a new bill to streamline the permitting process for wave and tidal energy technologies in Washington (HB2555). Jody noted that given the concerns about how tidal energy will impact the marine environment, fast tracking permits may not be the best approach. Ginny will send copies of the legislation to everyone, and the Commission agreed to send a letter expressing concern and recommending that the focus remain on learning more about the impacts.

John Cambalik announced there will be a Low Impact Development (LID) conference on February 28 in Clallam County. One of the speakers is a home builder and the newest Clallam MRC member, Arnold Schouten. He also mentioned that E3 conferences are being held around the state and are emphasizing environmental education ([www.e3washington.org](http://www.e3washington.org)).

### **Roundtable**

Kathy Fletcher brought a summary of legislative issues that People For Puget Sound is looking at in the 2008 legislative session. One key issue they are working on is the Neah Bay rescue tug funding. People For Puget Sound is also submitting a full proposals to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Aquatic Reserve program, recommending aquatic reserves for Protection Island and Smith Island. They would welcome support for those efforts. The Commission requested more information about what kind of protection DNR would be administering.

Jonathan White shared that the San Juan Initiative is now looking at the conservation efforts and gaps and need more case studies of nearshore environment. They are now in the assessment stage and have approximately another year to go.

Ed Bowlby is part of the steering committee for a seafloor mapping workshop that was held on January 22-23. The West Coast Governors' Agreement has stated that benthic nearshore maps, out to three miles from shore, are to be completed for Washington, Oregon and California by 2020.

### **Committee reports**

**Growth & Development Committee:** A written report was prepared by Joan Drinkwin and provided as a handout.

**Executive Committee, chair Scott McCreery:** The Committee met on January 14 by conference call. The committee endorsed the spending recommendations provided by the technical committee for two restoration projects, Kayak Point (\$143,000) and Cornet Bay (\$44,000). The Commission approved the spending recommendations. Dick Toft provided current information about the Cornet Bay project that has received \$50k more funding from the city of Oak Harbor. The Commission's strategic planning retreat will be on February 25-26 in La Conner. Holly O'Neil, who helped Whatcom MRC with their summit, will facilitate. The executive committee has a new member, Joe Gaydos, who volunteered to chair the technical committee.

**Technical Committee chair, Joe Gaydos.** The Committee met by conference call on January 23 to discuss the process for funding ecosystem projects. The majority committee recommended combining FY2006 funds with the FY2008 ecosystem funds to fund a large-scale project. The committee is developing a list of criteria by which potential ecosystem fund projects can be analyzed. At this time \$5,000 will be used to digitize data collected in the late 1970s as part of the Marine Ecosystem Analysis (MESA) project. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome.

**Education Committee, chair Kathy Fletcher** noted that the committee is planning to meet and anyone interested in helping with the planning of communication and education is welcome to attend as a one-time commitment.

### **FY2008 Budget**

Staff provided two versions of the FY2008 budget. Version one maintains the MRC grants at \$92,000 and provides funds to support MRC projects through a separate proposal process to be developed by MRC input. Version two of the budget increases MRC grants evenly by \$25,000 each (\$117,000 total), which would require amendments to all MRC grants. It is expected that the Commission will discuss the budget proposal at the retreat and adopt a final budget at the February meeting following the retreat. Feedback from MRCs is critical, so MRC representatives should discuss this at their upcoming meetings.

### **Comprehensive Conservation Plan, San Juan & Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge**

Kevin Ryan of the US Fish and Wildlife Service gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process for the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The NWRS consists of over 96 million acres of land and water including 545 refuges and numerous waterfowl production areas, coordination areas, and special management areas. The mission of the NWRS is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. Ginny commented that the Commission should consider responding as a body because almost all counties have refuge areas and that could reduce the burden on MRCs.

### **MRC Reports**

#### **Clallam County MRC**

Ed Bowlby reported there are two new MRC members representing development and a district appointment. Cyrilla Cook, shorelines program manager for People For Puget Sound, gave a presentation about their intended application to establish a DNR aquatic reserve north of Miller Peninsula, around Protection Island, and north of the island. Ed Bowlby has been trying to track down the actual data from the Marine Ecosystems Analysis (MESA) Program which he has determined are archived in Washington, DC. The Clallam MRC has been approached by an

interested citizen to provide funding for area elementary student field trips to the marine life center on the Port Angeles city pier.

### **Island County MRC**

Dick Toft reported the city of Oak Harbor has agreed to give \$50,000 to the Cornet Bay restoration project. Linda Lyshall from the Puget Sound Partnership and Stacey Smith of the Whidbey Island Conservation District discussed Low Impact Development and Island County at the December 18 meeting. As part of the Marine Stewardship Area outreach, seven new interpretive signs have been installed to date and four new ones are ready. A map showing the location of guillemot colonies where the volunteers conducted research in 2007 has been prepared.

### **San Juan County MRC**

Jonathan White reported the MRC has decided to add a membership committee, and he will be calling other MRCs for information to put together something that will help their membership as well as other MRCs. San Juan County has been invited to participate in the LID Technical Assistance Program through Puget Sound Partnership. The San Juan County Critical Areas Ordinance team has been working on the technical review of science and policy issues related to groundwater. The MRC held their annual retreat on December 13-14. Topics on the list for discussion were the 2008 work plan, annual report, committee description and review, and vision statement. Because data shows that the Bottom Fish Recovery Zones have not been effective, the rockfish subcommittee is revising its recommendations for improved management. A highlight of 2007: there were 24 presenters and 65 guests at San Juan MRC meetings in 2007.

### **Snohomish County MRC**

The MRC elected a new chair, Jerry Masters, with Tom Hoban elected as vice chair. The Marine Resources Program received a \$50,000 decrease in funding from the County general fund for FY2008. Staff has been working with the Commission and its partners to coordinate a pilot project using volunteer divers to remove derelict crab pots in Port Gardner. Kayak Point restoration project is currently half-way through a contract with Coastal Geologic Services to conduct feasibility and design options for road relocation and backshore creation, and an assessment of the existing bulkhead and feasibility of alternative stabilization approaches. Staff has completed a map of the creosote piling locations in Port Gardner overlaid with parcel information for the creosote piling removal and osprey nest relocation project. Staff is working with the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA) program at Everett Community College to establish a partnership and recruit volunteers for the mussel watch sampling to occur on March 12, 2008.

### **Whatcom County MRC**

Buck Meloy reported they will have a joint meeting with Skagit MRC within the next few months. Sue Blake of Washington Sea Grant/WSU Extension discussed her role and ways in which Sea Grant and the MRC might be able to leverage their projects to further the goals of both. Education and outreach was identified as one such area, and several ideas were discussed. Blaine Public Works Director Steve Banham was the featured speaker, outlining the new sewage treatment plant plans and progress that will eventually contribute significantly to reducing shellfish closures along Semiahmoo Spit. Representatives of the nearshore subcommittee visited the large marsh at the head of Chuckanut Bay's Mud Bay. Portions of the marsh appear to be influenced by the intrusion of saltwater. They concluded that removing a culvert and berm reduction may allow for additional saltwater intrusion and enhance estuary function. On January

19, Doug Stark and Chris Fairbanks will be guiding a nighttime tour of the Larrabee State Park intertidal area for interested citizens.

### **Jefferson County MRC**

Tony Petrillo reported the MRC elected Michael Adams as their new chair. The MRC has continued to partner with Jefferson Community Development to raise awareness of shoreline issues and educate the public about the opportunity the Shoreline Master Plan offers as a tool to address these issues. After months of discussions with Jeppesen Marine, the Jefferson County eelgrass polygons will appear on future versions of Nobeltec Navigation Software for commercial and recreational boaters. The MRC received the final version of a new image created by Cory and Catska Ench for the MRC and has been discussing options for brochures and interpretive signage.

### **Skagit County MRC**

Christine Woodward reported the MRC is planning a meeting with Whatcom County MRC in April. Neil Borman asked if the Skagit MRC wanted to participate in Mussel Watch, an ongoing NOAA project which analyzes chemical and biological contaminants. The Port of Anacortes will take possession of the abandoned tug in Fidalgo Bay. They will remove and dispose of it, possibly at the end of January. Betsy Stevenson requested that someone from the MRC serve on the Environmental Technical Committee for the Skagit Flood Control Zone District. Betsy is submitting a letter of interest on behalf of the MRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be the annual strategic planning retreat to be held in La Conner on February 25-26.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting**  
**February 26, 2008 11:00am-1:00pm**  
**La Conner, Skagit County**

Attending: Phyllis Kind, Buck Meloy, Kirby Johnson, Scott McCreery, Tony Petrillo, Terrie Klinger, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Christine Woodward  
Absent: Joe Schmitt, Terry Williams, Jonathan White, David Dicks  
Alternates: Dick Toft, Stef Frenzl  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin  
Unofficial MRC representation: David Freed (Clallam MRC), Polly Fischer (Skagit MRC)

**DRAFT**

Phyllis Kind welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. The NWSC officer election process was added to the agenda under business items.

The January 25 meeting minutes were approved with the attendance records modified to include the names of all Commissioners as either attending or absent.

**April 25th Meeting**

Ginny explained that last year's April meeting had a format for MRCs to present their projects and the Commission gave technical review and feedback. The Commission has stated a desire to keep that tradition going, so now is a good time to check in with MRCs on this meeting format. Commissioners suggested that staff put together a template for MRCs to use as they report on project progress.

**MRC Lead Staff/Chair Meeting.**

Ginny explained the goal of having two meetings a year for MRC lead staff and chairs. These meetings provide an opportunity for staff and chairs to discuss the nuts and bolts of running an MRC and are tremendously useful. The next one will be scheduled for mid May. MRCs should put forward agenda ideas. Several Commissioners recommended inviting the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Partnership representatives working on developing new MRCs in other areas.

**Comment [COPR4611]:** This meeting has been scheduled for April 24th 2008.



### **Elections Cycle**

Election of officers will be in April. The Commission has traditionally alternated having a Governor appointee and an MRC representative as chair. Following that cycle, the next vice chair would be an MRC representative.

### **Fall Conference Planning Group**

NWSC staff will be beginning to plan for the 2008 MRC Training Conference. MRC members are invited to help in the design and planning of the conference.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Legislative Issues Update**

Ginny reported that the Commission sent written testimony on the Secure Medicine Return Bill (HB2600). Stef Frenzl explained the bill is in appropriations committee and is likely to move forward. The Commission also sent written testimony on the Tidal Energy Bill (HB3216). Ginny attended and provided testimony at the hearing on the outer coast MRCs (SB6227).

Kathy Fletcher explained the funding for the rescue tug boat stationed at Neah Bay will run out in March. The legislature did not come up with a long-term plan and that bill is still pending. The issue is what funding source the three million dollars a year will come from. The Commission has previously been on the record in support of the rescue tug.

### **Puget Sound Partnership**

Ginny reminded MRCs of the deadline for submitting their projects to the Puget Sound Partnership for inclusion in the inventory process. The Commission staff will also submit NWSC projects and MRC projects to the Partnership and is expecting that MRCs are submitting projects to the Partnership as well.

### **FY2008 Budget**

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to adopt version two of the FY2008 budget. This budget provides \$819,000 for MRC grants (an additional \$25,000 per MRC).

### **Andrea Copping Event**

Sasha is organizing the event to recognize Andrea Copping on March 28th at the Port Gardner Inn in Everett. She proposed moving the Commission meeting time from the regular time to 11:00am-4:00pm and having the event from 4:00-6:00pm. Sasha will send invitations and a confirmation of the time change.

### **Committee Reports**

Scott McCreery reported the Executive Committee met in February with Holly O'Neal and worked on the planning of the retreat.

Kathy Fletcher reported the Education Committee plans to call a meeting in the near future.

Joe Gaydos reported the Technical Committee did not meet in February. They will meet again in March.

Joan Drinkwin reported the Growth & Development Committee did not have a written report. Scott McCreery reported the Foundation contracted with BP to hold a forum on Tribal Fishing Gear Loss in the Cherry Point area. The focus was on gear loss due to shipping lanes. There were outstanding outcomes and this could be an excellent model for continued work with the tribes. The Commission made a commitment to help Lummi find funds to remove the derelict pots.

## **MRC Reports**

Whatcom MRC – Buck Meloy reported that Jim West, a WDFW marine toxicologist, gave a presentation on toxins in marine organisms in Puget Sound. This was one in a series of our public outreach presentations and public turnout was good. The presentation focused on various fish species and how toxins reach Puget Sound and then migrate up the food chain. The focus was on three families of toxins: PCBs, fire retardants, and PAHs. Among the conclusions drawn from research to date are that toxins in fish tend to correlate highly with urbanization, that most of our migratory species are very low in toxins. Also, the Cherry Point herring do not seem to be carrying greater toxin loads than other herring in the region.

Snohomish MRC– Stef reported that NOAA’s mussel watch program’s funding has been threatened and the might not be a nationwide marine water quality monitoring program next year. The 5-year strategic planning process is underway. The Kayak Point Park Restoration has received \$143,000 from the Northwest Straits and construction is anticipated to begin in January/February 2009. The MRC is working to obtain additional funds for the project as well. The MRC currently has three vacancies, and received seven applications.

Clallam MRC – David Freed reported Kyle Murphy from the Department of Natural Resources attended the meeting and described their efforts to encourage community members to nominate aquatic reserves. The MRC could not come to agreement to support an aquatic reserve proposal suggested by People For Puget Sound. Vice-chair Bowlby briefed the committee on Deborah Moriarty’s proposal for the MRC to fund field trips to the Feiro Marine Life Center. The Clallam MRC has decided to support two local community education events: the Low Impact Development workshop on Feb. 28, and the Making It Last sustainability event on March 21 and 22.

Island MRC – Phyllis Kind reported 540 people attended Sound Waters including David Dicks and it was a big success. Twenty new Shore Stewards enrolled at the event. Jacques White and Robert Warren of The Nature Conservancy discussed *San Juan Marine Stewardship Areas, Process and Lessons Learned*. Kristen Cooley of Beach Watchers described their interest in monitoring eelgrass beds because large swaths seem to have been lost from Holmes Harbor. The Cornet Bay project started with a \$173,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and now it has grown to \$315,000 with added funding from Washington State Parks, the City of Oak Harbor and Northwest Straits Commission.

Skagit MRC – Christine Woodward reported that the Enchantress (an abandoned tug boat in Anacortes) does have lead-based paint and asbestos and is a local concern. The Department of Ecology asked the Port of Anacortes to remove it but no one has attended the public meeting in support of its removal. The annual 2007 report and work plan was recently finished and

submitted. The joint meeting with Whatcom MRC will be held on May 9 at Padilla Bay. There will be a LID workshop on March 22 and a field trip on March 29. The O Avenue Restoration project is in the design process, and restoration will begin in March. Jim Johannessen of CGS will be involved and Paul Dinnel will be advising.

Jefferson MRC – The MRC had presentations on the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Sea Partners Campaign and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center Project to monitor plastics in the Puget Sound marine environment. The MRC also considered but took no action on the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve. The Eelgrass Protection Zone committee has begun rigging the ground tackle and soliciting interest from volunteer divers in preparation for the spring buoy installation. Work continued on the draft strategic plan. The MRC now expects to approve the plan in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, March 28 at the Inn at Port Gardner in Everett.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
March 28, 2008 10:30am-3:45pm  
Inn at Port Gardner, Snohomish County**

Attending: Phyllis Kind, Buck Meloy, Kirby Johnson, Scott McCreery, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Christine Woodward, Joe Schmitt, Terry Williams, Jonathan White, David Dicks, Duane Fagergren  
Absent: Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens, Katrina Hoffman  
Unofficial MRC representation: Polly Fischer (Skagit MRC), Stef Frenzl (Snohomish MRC)

**DRAFT**

Phyllis Kind welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda.

The February 26 meeting minutes were approved after noting that the MRC Lead Staff/Chair meeting date was rescheduled for April.

Mike Cooper, vice chair of the Snohomish County Council and chair of the state Oil Spill Advisory Council, welcomed the Commission. Mike and the rest of the council are committed to the work of the Northwest Straits Commission and the Marine Resources Committee. He is impressed with the MRC projects, such as the pharmaceutical take-back program and the Kayak Point restoration project. Mike explained that Snohomish County has made a commitment to take care of the ecosystem and they are doing some exciting work locally. He also works on the prevention of oil spills in an advisory capacity to the State. Mike believes we can do a better job with volunteers to identify and protect critical marine areas from oil spills. Mike thanked the Commission for their work.

**Committee Reports**

In chair Joe Gaydos' absence, Ginny Broadhurst reported that the Technical Committee met in March and is seeking members. Anyone interested should contact Joe Gaydos or Ginny. The committee provided two handouts; one put together by Terrie Klinger describing the creation of a science panel and the other a rubric for prioritizing ecosystem projects. Commissioners should give comments to Joe, Ginny or Simon.

Terry Williams and Christine Woodward reported on the Tribal Committee meeting in March where they discussed the Canoe Journey Water Quality Project. Copies of the project proposal were circulated. This project brings tradition and science together to collect water quality data during the annual Coast Salish Canoe Journey. Using a traditional canoe as a sampling platform eliminates the impacts of boat engine and exhaust disturbance that interferes with data collection and quality. Christine will bring the equipment to the May meeting for the commissioners to see, and a presentation on the project will be scheduled for a future meeting. The total cost of the project is just over \$46,000. The Tribal Committee recommended using the entire \$25,000 from the FY2007 budget to support this project. The commission moved and approved by consensus to fund the Canoe Journey Water Quality project in the amount of \$25,000.

Scott McCreery reported that the Executive Committee met in March and discussed the derelict gear volunteer diver event that was cancelled due to liability reasons. Mike Racine of the Washington Scuba Alliance is working on a potential long-term solution to overcome perpetual liability concerns associated with working with volunteer divers. David offered to discuss the matter with WDFW and the State Attorney General's office to help find a way forward.

Joan Drinkwin reported for the Growth and Development Committee. The Foundation raised approximately \$680,000 last year and she is now managing 10 projects. Joan explained that raising money is about relationships and she may be contacting commissioners to help make introductions.

Kathy Fletcher reported the education committee is putting together a summary of work that has been done and a meeting will be scheduled. Anyone who wants to participate is welcome.

### **Strategic Planning and the Puget Sound Partnership**

Ginny explained during our strategic planning process the Puget Sound Partnership was identified as an area of opportunity. MRCs are in the action areas and they have been participating in the action agenda meetings. The Northwest Straits Initiative benchmarks align with the Partnership's goals and we are looking to figure out the relationship between the Partnership and the Initiative.

David explained he would like to see the Partnership as an enabling device for the many organizations working on Puget Sound issues and described the three components the Partnership is working on; the action agenda, the public awareness campaign and accountability. He added there are four questions are being asked of the seven action areas:

- What is a healthy Puget Sound?
- What is the current status of Puget Sound and what are the threats to it?
- What actions need to be taken to move towards a healthier Puget Sound?
- Where should we start?

David described the four categories of action and activities that will be relevant to the action agenda:

- 1- Bad stuff - programs and polices that are not working well.
- 2- Support for existing programs and help articulating them to the public.
- 3- Assistance and support for programs that can benefit from some improvements
- 4- Identifying gaps that need to be addressed.

Discussion followed, with some concerns expressed by Commissioners that because the problems are so complex there is no way for the action agenda to capture all of the important work going on. The issue of scale also emerged as a concern, with several Commissioners noting that projects might be locally important but not have regional significance. David feels there is a way to articulate the most important ecological priorities but not follow that dogmatically. There was agreement that ongoing communication between the Northwest Straits and the Partnership is needed.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Strategic Planning**

Simon distributed the first draft of the strategic plan and explained the process of taking the information from the retreat and putting it into a strategic plan format with measurable results. He noted some gaps that need filling in. The Commission felt that the question of how will we know that our projects have made an impact should be broadened to ask how will we know that the Initiative has made an impact. There is an organizational/human element that should be incorporated into each benchmark, because the Northwest Straits Initiative is getting results in large part because of the way we are organized, not just the projects we do. The Initiative has the flexibility to bring people together and inspire work, so that concept should be incorporated into our plan. Simon suggested either adding an objective under each benchmark or a global statement recognizing the organizational strengths. The Education and Outreach benchmark was not specifically addressed at the retreat and Kathy Fletcher suggested that an ad hoc education committee could have a role in identifying objectives for that benchmark. Overall communication with the public was also identified as an important aspect of all benchmarks.

The next step in developing the strategic plan is for Commissioners to provide input on this draft to Simon. He will incorporate those ideas and the ideas that arose from this meeting after which a revised draft will be sent out for Commission review.

### **Business Items**

Nominating committee – Election of officers will be held at the April 25 meeting. Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos, Duane Fagergren and Terry Stevens will serve as the nominating committee.

Reauthorization – Ginny reported on her trip to Washington, DC where she met with Senator Murray's staff and staff from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to discuss potential programs within the agency to house our annual budget. There are no clear answers at this time but staff will continue to pursue this as well as moving forward on reauthorizing language.

April 25 meeting format – Sasha explained that the April 25 Commission meeting will be a project-sharing format for MRC projects. Contact Sasha with details about who will present and which projects will be presented.

2008 and 2009 conference location/date – Mark your calendar for this year's MRC training conference, which will be held at the Port Angeles Red Lion on November 7-8. We anticipate that the 2009 conference will be at the Tulalip Conference Center.

Reducing waste at Northwest Straits Commission meetings – In an effort to reduce waste, staff will cut back on the number of paper copies of some materials brought to meetings. Bottled water will no longer be available.

Shadow of the Salmon road show – Now that each MRC has a copy of the film, MRCs are encouraged to host a showing the film locally. It can be used as a way to raise funds for MRCs. Scott McCreery and Buck Meloy will present the idea to Whatcom MRC at their next meeting for a pilot event and report back to the Commission.

2007 Annual Report – Sasha reported that printed copies are available and MRC representatives should take 30-40 copies with them to distribute to all MRC members and partners. A pdf version is also available online.

## **MRC Reports**

Snohomish MRC– Kirby Johnson reported the MRC chair and vice chair have held individual meetings with County council members to begin to strengthen communications. The MRC has begun its strategic planning process. Future sea-level rise will have three main potential effects on the physical processes at Kayak Point Restoration site; an increase in absolute water levels, increased wave heights/runup at the beach, and increased frequency of overtopping. Winter 2008 mussel samples have been collected and shipped to the TDI Brooks Laboratory for analyses. Fifteen new WSU Beach Watchers began training on March 17 in Snohomish County.

Jefferson MRC– Tony Petrillo reported he is the new chair of the shoreline alterations project committee. The committee has been investigating a number of potential projects that would be aimed at minimizing alterations and restoring drift cell function. A presentation on the MRC was made to the WSU Water/Beachwatchers class. The MRC participated in both the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda Workshops. The Eelgrass Committee has completed rigging the ground tackle. The County approved an updated volunteer diver liability release.

Clallam MRC– Joe Schmitt reported that Ginny attended their last meeting and met new members to the MRC. The MRC is nearing completion of their strategic plan. The MRC is working on a pilot project to revisit one of the studies done as part of the MESA Program in the late 1970s and they will be choosing four locations to sample. There is lots of excitement on the project and there is potential for it to be a good regional project.

Whatcom MRC- Buck Meloy reported the MRC is deciding how to use the additional \$25,000 for FY07 and should have the final decision next week. Jeff Chalfant is a new member to the MRC representing economic interests. Jeff currently works for BP, and is a former County employee with extensive knowledge on the Whatcom County Shoreline Management Plan. They will be having a joint meeting with Skagit MRC on May 9 at Padilla Bay.

Skagit MRC– Polly Fischer reported the Skagit MRC had a presentation by Sandra Caldwell from the Ecology Toxic Cleanup Program. She is the project manager for all the work being done in the Fidalgo and Padilla Bay cleanup areas. The Low Impact Development presentation and field trip was a success. Paperwork was handed out for a potential project using MRC

funding for an Operation Green Suds campaign to provide designated areas with StreamGuard Sudsafe car wash kits.

San Juan MRC– Jonathan White reported Randy Olson presented two short films regarding "Shifting Baselines." Nick Jones, owner of Jones Family Farms on Lopez, presented on the protection of shellfish growing areas. The MRC continues its involvement with the Critical Areas Ordinance update in San Juan County. Jody Kennedy provided background on a Keith Campbell Foundation grant to the Surfrider Foundation to assist with Marine Stewardship Area plan outreach. The first "Stewardship Connections" newsletter, which uses the Marine Stewardship Area plan as an organizing concept, was distributed in early March. The MRC adopted their 2008 work plan.

Island MRC– Phyllis Kind reported Nancy Conard, mayor of Coupeville, discussed the proposed Coupeville Reclaimed Water project. Phyllis explained if they reclaim all of the water the farmers can increase their production of alfalfa by 50%. The UW Luce Fellow team gave a progress report on their Island County Adaptive Management Plan for Salmon Recovery. The MRC will request additional funds in 2008 totaling \$25,000 for the following projects: signage, eelgrass survey, Pigeon Guillemot Survey, Web site maintenance, and Luce Fellow.

#### **Use of Volunteer Scuba Divers for Marine Projects**

Kirby Johnson gave a presentation on the use of volunteer scuba divers for marine projects. The presentation highlighted that volunteer divers are a valuable and underused resource, with a lot of potential for scientific research. Kirby explained that concern about liability is preventing wider use of volunteer divers. Kirby said the Commission is in a position to be able to support finding a solution to this problem, and said that there are good opportunities for the Commission to benefit from the work volunteer divers can do. Commission staff will continue to participate in discussions with the state and Washington Scuba Alliance about long-term solutions to this issue.

#### **Roundtable**

There were no topics for roundtable brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, April 25 at Padilla Bay NERR.





NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting**  
**April 25, 2008 9:00am-3:15pm**  
**Padilla Bay NERR, Skagit County**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Buck Meloy, Kirby Johnson, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Erica Pickett (alt.), Joe Schmitt, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Jonathan White, Duane Fagergren (alt.)  
Absent: Phyllis Kind, David Dicks, Christine Woodward, Terry Williams  
Alternates: Stef Frenzl, Mary Knackstedt, Gabrielle LaRoche  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens  
Guests: Brady Scott (DNR)

DRAFT

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 9:00am with welcome and introductions. The Commission reviewed the agenda and the list of MRC members who will be presenting projects today. The PowerPoint presentations are available upon request from Connie at [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org).

**Snohomish MRC:** Stef Frenzl presented information on the Kayak Point County Park Restoration the Mussel Watch program.

Questions and Comments

The Commission suggested having a public meeting to see what people like about the existing park at Kayak Point. The commission moved and approved by consensus to send a letter to Senator Cantwell voicing support for the program and asking her to inquire about mussel watch program funding during upcoming budget hearings with NOAA.

**Whatcom MRC:** Chris Fairbanks presented information about the Chuckanut Village Marsh project.

Questions and Comments

Q - Is there an indication of further development around the site?

A: Development most likely will be on the higher bank because the bluff is steep.

Q: Is the railroad causeway in use? Will they eventually put in a bigger trestle?

A: Yes, Burlington Northern uses it daily and eventually they could build a trestle for a second track.

It was recommended that Whatcom MRC talk to Skagit MRC about their work in Fidalgo Bay. Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership and Burlington Northern might have interest in this project. The Commission warned that removing the parking might be controversial and the MRC should include public access as part of the plan.

**San Juan MRC:** Mary Knackstedt presented their Marine Stewardship Area Outreach and the Rockfish project.

#### Questions and Comments

Q: What is the relationship between San Juan Initiative and Marine Stewardship Area?

A: The San Juan Initiative is 2-year program and they used the work from the Marine Stewardship Area as a building block.

Q: How would you characterize the Conservation Summit?

A: The awards were successful because the environmental groups were not eligible and they focused more on businesses and the community.

Q: Did the MRC view the Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Reserve as a key piece of the Marine Stewardship Area?

A: Yes, but the message that it would not impact fishing did not reach the community.

Q: What are some of the topics at the marine managers meeting? Will species decline, more specifically, abalone, be addressed?

A: The Marine Stewardship Area Plan will be the focus.

Kirby suggested stating the goal as “increase the population” instead of “reduce the harvest” (of rockfish and bottomfish).

Jonathan White reviewed a few of the lessons learned from the aquatic reserve by Kit Rawson, chair of the San Juan MRC:

- Do not get ahead of council and
- Do not attempt to put something through without 100% MRC support
- It is okay to apologize
- Do not support DNR aquatic reserve sites except a small well-defined area that is basically protected anyway
- Political climate can change in a very short time
- It is okay for something like this to happen once in a while

Jonathan added a note that the MRC has learned a lot from this experience and it will change the way they do things.

**Clallam MRC:** David Freed presented information about their Public Shellfish Garden and Shoreline Inventory.

#### Questions and Comments

Q: Why Pacific oysters, and not Olympia?

A: They originally planned to do both Pacific and Olympia oysters, but Olympia need more fresh water input.

Q: How will the MRC go about the MESA project?

A: They have copies of the scanned original documents and are trying to purchase the original sampling equipment to replicate the original studies.

Q: Has the MRC considered the possibility of water quality issues might be caused by the large seal population?

A: Human and residential activities are targeted because they *can* be reduced. One other component of the project is to increase stewardship.

Q: Have you had any negative response to the shellfish garden?

A: Yes, but not from the public. Some Beach Watchers have concerns about the plastic, which they plan to remove as soon as possible.

Q: Is this adding to the Clean Water District efforts or is it a separate project?

A: The project manager is working with the Clean Water District .

Pollution does not harm the shellfish, but it cannot be eaten by people. Shellfish filter approximately 30 gallons of water a day but there is no benefit to the ecosystem until they are removed.

**Jefferson MRC:** Gabrielle LaRoche and Tony Petrillo presented their Eelgrass Protection Project and Drift Cell Restoration projects.

#### Questions and Comments

Q: What type of lease was issued from Department of Natural Resources for eelgrass zone buoys?

A: A conservation lease.

Q: Has commercial crabbing been looked into as a disturbance to the eelgrass?

A: No

Q: Why not put in mooring buoys for boaters outside the eelgrass areas?

A: It is too expensive. Low interest loans might be a good incentive for boaters to move their mooring buoys. A community outreach workshop was suggested to get the information out about mooring and eelgrass.

**Island MRC:** Hi Bronson, Jim Somers and Bob Buck presented their Beach Seining and Pigeon Guillemot projects.

#### Questions and Comments

Q: Do you use the same nets for lagoons and open waters?

A: Yes.

Q: What do we know about the pigeon guillemot nests, do they use the same one?

A: Yes, they typically will go back to the same burrow.

Q: Do they breed?

A: Yes, they breed inside the colony.

Q: Who is interested in the data collected in the pigeon guillemot survey?

A: They are looking into it.

**Skagit MRC:** Erica Pickett presented information about Fidalgo Bay Day, Spartina Surveys/Removal and Low Impact Development Seminars.

### Questions and Comments

Q: Was there incentive provided for the builders and other planning people to use LID practices? For example do they get the permits bumped up in the process if it is using LID?

A: Yes, there were some methods explained during the workshop.

Q: Do you have a way to know if Fidalgo Bay Day was a success?

A: They hope to make people think more about our marine resources. In the past they have done education lectures and posters and they were not well attended. The Commission suggested working with a graduate student to help measure results.

### **Business Items**

The March 28 meeting minutes were approved with the addition of David Dicks' offer of assistance with the state for a derelict gear volunteer diver project and US Luce Fellow should be changed to UW Luce Fellow.

### **Election of Officers**

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

### **Committee Reports**

Technical Committee – Joe Gaydos reported on the Technical Committee meeting on April 11. They are developing a methodology for selecting an ecosystem project. It will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Terrie Klinger is soliciting members for science advisory panel. Growth and Development Committee – A written report was provided.

Executive Committee – Scott McCreery reported that strategic planning was discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting. Simon would like more feedback on the content of the draft and will be sending out more specific questions. Holly O'Neil is reviewing the draft at this time.

### **Derelict Gear Report**

Ginny reported they have made a goal of removing 90% of derelict gear by 2012 at an estimated cost of five million dollars. She has been meeting with targeted funders locally, in Washington DC and in California. Ginny also gave a presentation recently to the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen group.

### **MRC Reports**

**Island** -Graham Johnson, WSU Beach Watcher, described the proposal for the Coupeville Wharf Marine Education Center. Jan Holmes, WSU Beach Watcher presented a funding request for an eelgrass survey project that will cost about \$20,000. The MRC will allocate \$750 from its community outreach budget to Whidbey Island Conservation District to help pay speakers' fees and costs for their upcoming workshop series on low impact development. Last week signage was installed at Clinton Beach, Keystone Jetty and Ebey's Landing trailhead. The MRC recommended the UW Luce Fellow team develop a social marketing campaign focused on yards, encouraging homeowners to consider a range of salmon-friendly strategies

**Snohomish** – PH:ARM Take Program workshop was held Friday April 18. There were 80 participants from three different states. Three beach expos have been planned this year: June 21

at Picnic Point County Park from 11-2; July 19 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park from 11-2; and August 2 at Kayak Point County Park from 10:30 – 1:30. Construction on the Kayak Point Restoration Project is now anticipated for June 15, 2009.

**Jefferson** – The MRC has three new members Shannon Davis, Dave Robinson and Aleta Erickson. The MRC *Coastal Currents* blog made its debut this month and can be seen at <http://jcmrc.blogspot.com>. Olympia Oysters start sampling this month. Eelgrass buoys will be placed this month. The MRC hosted two displays over the weekend at Memorial Field to invite attendees to sign the Eelgrass Protection Pledge and shared information about current MRC projects.

**Clallam** – The Clallam MRC has submitted an amendment proposal focused largely on expanding a nearshore inventory project to include a dual-purpose seining project. Clallam County has recently hired a half-time webmaster, and will transfer the site to the County's servers, while maintaining the familiar '.org' address. The Clallam MRC members intend to wait for the public input portion of the Aquatic Reserve process before writing a letter of support. The MRC plans to contract with Battelle to write up a study protocol and design for the MESA project.

**San Juan** - The MRC will develop revised management recommendations for rockfish in the San Juans. Public meetings were held for the Aquatic Reserve Proposal on three ferry-served islands in early April. Due to public input at those meetings, the County Council voted not to pursue the proposal any further. Liz Illg gave a presentation on the San Juan Islands Scenic Byway designation. Todd Hass of Dept. of Ecology gave a presentation on Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) for Oil Spills in the San Juan Islands and North Puget Sound. The MRC agreed to send a support letter linking two of the top MSA plan strategies to the proposed driveway ordinance. The Marine Managers Workshop is May 5-6, at UW Friday Harbor Labs.

**Whatcom** – Todd Hass from the Department of Ecology spoke about the Geographic Response Plans. Doug Stark with ReSources gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Beach Naturalist Observation," which was developed as a tool for the North Sound Baykeeper Program. The MRC confirmed the two projects supported by the additional \$25k will be Chuckanut Village Marsh project and Shellfish Water Quality Monitoring. Field surveys to measure the effects of clam enhancement have been scheduled in June and July at Birch Bay, Semiahmoo, and Chuckanut Bay.

**Skagit MRC** – Sandra Caldwell from the Department of Ecology gave a talk about sampling in Fidalgo bay. They found toxins but mostly at the old mill sites and not around the refinery as expected. A joint meeting with Whatcom MRC will be held on May 9 at Padilla Bay. The MRC agreed to use the additional \$25,000 in FY07 funding for a Low Impact Development package. Keeley O'Connell is coordinating with the City of Anacortes and property owners to establish a scope of work and project timeline for the Whitmarsh Pocket Estuary Restoration project. The contract is currently waiting to be reviewed and signed by the City of Anacortes for the Ship Harbor Signage project.

**Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

### **Roundtable**

Scott McCreery recommended a book called: *A Geography of Oysters: The Connoisseur's Guide to Oyster Eating in North America*.

Kirby Johnson reported that Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife held a public meeting on the status of pinto abalone Monday, April 28, in Anacortes. See <http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/release.php?id=apr2208c> for more information.

Kathy Fletcher announced the People For Puget Sound will host its 3rd annual 'A New Day for Puget Sound' Spring Breakfast Fundraiser on May 8, featuring keynote speaker the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior and Arizona governor, and Magnuson Puget Sound Legacy Award honorees Bruce Higgins, Ken Balcomb, and Sam Wright. For more information see <http://www.pugetsound.org/sound-spotlight/newday/>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
May 30, 2008 10:00am-3:00pm  
Fort Worden State Park, Jefferson County**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Ed Bowlby (alt.), Jonathan White, Phyllis Kind, Walt Blendermann (alt.), Erica Pickett (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Mark Herrenkohl, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Stef Frenzl (alt.)  
Absent: David Dicks, Christine Woodward, Tony Petrillo, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Terry Williams, Kirby Johnson, Jim McEntire  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Anne Murphy (Jefferson MRC), Judy Surber (Jefferson MRC), Pat Pearson (Jefferson MRC), Andrew Shogren (Clallam MRC)  
Guests: John Cambalik (Puget Sound Partnership), Jadyne Reichner

**DRAFT**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with welcome and introductions. Anne Murphy, executive director of the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, welcomed the Commission. Anne has worked at Fort Worden for 20 years and she has seen many changes over those years. As a member of the Jefferson MRC since 2000, she believes the Northwest Straits Initiative has more citizens interacting with their neighbors than any other program.

Meeting minutes for the April 25 meeting were approved as written.

**Port Townsend Marine Science Center Plastics Education and Awareness Program**

Anne Murphy gave a presentation on Plastics in the Marine Environment. In 2004 she and her staff discovered tiny plastic balls on the beach that looked like they could be mistaken for fish eggs. They began to research them, working with Charles Moore, founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation in Longbeach, CA (<http://www.algalita.org>). Charles was doing research on what he called 'nurdles' and plastics in the marine environment. They use Algalita's protocols to collect samples that can then be sent to Dr. Hideshige Takada as part of the International Pellet Watch (<http://www.tuat.ac.jp/~gaia/ipw/index.html>) to identify their source. Since the start of their program there is a lot of new information about plastics.

A question and answer period followed the presentation:

Q: Where does it all the plastic come from?

A: 20% comes from fishing, shipping and illegal dumping and 80% from watershed run off

Q: What about recycled plastic, can it be a nurdle?

A: Nurdles can also be made up of recycled or downcycled plastics

Q: Does the sampling protocol accommodate the coarser beaches of the Northwest?

A: Yes, they have protocols for coarser and cobble beaches but the work is very difficult for volunteers so they prefer to stick to sand beaches.

Q: What about Styrofoam?

A: It is definitely a problem but Anne is not aware of any studies yet.

Q: Is the Marine Life Center in Port Angeles aware of this program?

A: Anne is in regular communication with them but not on this subject. It would be a nice addition for the students that visit the center.

Q: Is anyone tracking garbage on Puget Sound beaches? Does it stay here?

A: Anne is not aware anyone who is tracking the plastics in this area.

Q: Can you explain what the down side to biodegradable plastics is?

A: It's not clear if it ever gets hot enough in our climate for them to actually biodegrade. Also using a food source for non-food items is probably not a sustainable solution.

The Commission added this would be a good program for social marketing. There is also opportunity to do some education about fireworks which contribute a huge dose of plastics. Commission agreed this would be a good topic for the MRC Training Conference in November. Anne provided samples of water from the Pacific gyre where large densities of plastics have been found. She gave one to the Commission and may be able to get one for each MRC.

### **Committee Reports**

In Joe Gaydos' absence, Ginny Broadhurst reported for the Technical Committee. She reviewed the shortlist of ecosystem of projects that the Commission has discussed over several years and that the committee recently reviewed. Ginny asked the Commission for input on these projects. There is approximately \$85,000 in our ecosystem fund this year. The following comments were made on list of projects:

- ❖ *Eelgrass Surveys* -Phyllis Kind said to hold off on the investigation of eelgrass declines because Island County and the Beach Watchers are working on this project.
- ❖ *Mussel watch*- This would be a long term commitment and \$85,000 would not be enough to get a full distribution of samples. We need to be clear on what the research will result in.
- ❖ *Forage Fish* - There is no easily-accessible forage fish database, which should be a priority before collecting additional data. There are other things MRCs can do related to forage fish besides collecting data. The Commission is recognized for our forage fish work and putting the data into a usable format would support the MRCs.
- ❖ *Mapping and Inventory* - Individual MRCs have been doing mapping and inventory projects and the Commission staff is already working on coordinating data.
- ❖ *Water Quality* – We have been focusing on this issue and it affects the whole marine environment. It may be something that can be carried forward by MRCs.
- ❖ *Marine Birds* - It would be good to zero in on risk factors and research that can be done that is not monitoring.

In order to make a decision the Commission would like to see budget information on each project to know that there is adequate funding. A suggestion was made that the Commission choose a project that does not require ongoing funding, such as monitoring. The Commission would like to fund a project that other organizations are not already doing. Ginny added that the Foundation can possibly find other sources of funding. The Technical Committee will report



back in July with a budget and more detail on the three most favorable projects: forage fish, marine birds and water quality.

Jonathan reported the Executive Committee met by phone in May. The committee agreed the April project sharing meeting was valuable and informative. The committee also discussed the MRC proposals for the additional \$25,000 grant. Some MRCs are having problems spending the first year grant money. Sasha is working on giving those individual MRCs an extension but it is important they understand the second year cannot be extended. The committee reviewed the draft job description for all Northwest Straits Commissioners. Commissioners should review and provide input to Ginny.

Ginny reported for the Tribal Committee. The Shadow of the Salmon was mentioned in the May 30 Bellingham Herald. More copies of the DVD are available from Connie (price@nwstraits.org). It was noted that the Commission should be mentioned in promotions and articles about the movie. Charlie O'Hara will provide information on the Canoe Journey project at the June NWSC meeting.

### **Strategic Planning**

While Simon is gone Ginny has been working on the plan with Holly O'Neill. Ginny explained that the Commission and the MRC's strategic plans will not be the same, but should not conflict. The Commission agreed the Technical Committee should review the science section and the Education Committee should review the education and outreach section. The draft plan will be sent to the MRC chairs and lead staff for full MRC review. Please send feedback to Ginny by no later than June 30.

### **Public Comment**

John Cambalik, a Puget Sound Partnership Regional Liaison, explained that some scientists are concerned about the need for biological indicators of human disturbance, especially in water quality projects. John added we also need biological indicators for the marine environment similar to the Biological Index of Biotic Integrity or BIBI developed for watersheds by Jim Karr. Casey Rice of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gave a presentation on Puget Sound fisheries called, "Life History and Habitat Requirements" to the Bainbridge community on May 22.

### **Thank you to Phyllis Kind**

The Commission thanked Phyllis for her time and energy given during her term as chair and vice-chair, and presented her with a commemorative paddle and gift certificate. Phyllis was surprised by the gift and said "serving as chair has been a delight."

### **Field Trip to the Fort Worden Restoration Site**

The Commission took a short walk for a site visit to the Port Townsend Marine Science Center pier, the location of a Jefferson MRC project to restore drift cell function by removal of creosote pilings and a redesigned boat ramp. The MRC will complete a feasibility study in the coming year for this project.

### **Business Items**

Feedback on Northwest Straits newsletter – The second issue of the newsletter went out this month and feedback is welcome.

Commission and Foundation board member roles/responsibilities – Ginny explained this document will be used with our Commissioner orientation and it is important for Commissioners to know what the expectation is. MRC representatives to the Commission feel it is a challenge to put additional time into their MRCs or join committees. Stef Frenzl pointed out that it is important and challenging for Commissioners to carry back the full gist of the Commission meetings.

MRC Training Conference session ideas – Plastics, ocean acidification, and rockfish are some of the ideas already mentioned for conference sessions. Please send Commission staff session ideas for the upcoming fall conference.

Ginny provided a brief summary of Senator Cantwell's hearing on climate change/ocean acidification – Senator Maria Cantwell hosted a Senate field hearing in Seattle on May 27 at the Seattle Aquarium. Representative Jay Inslee participated and asked questions of the panel of experts including Northwest Straits Commissioner Terrie Klinger. The hearing brought attention to the issue of carbon sequestering in the oceans which is causing an increase in acidity that is certain to have serious environmental impacts. More on ocean acidification and links to articles are available on our website at <http://www.nwstraits.org/PageID/218/default.aspx>

Reminder: Please check your calendars. The June, July and August meetings will be held on Thursdays this year.

Reminder: Travel expenses must be submitted by the end of June. MRC representatives submit expenses to the MRC lead. Governor appointees submit expenses to Commission staff.

### **Derelict gear**

A draft schedule for the Army dive team was distributed. Ginny explained the dates and times are tentative and there may be last-minute changes. Ginny announced that the Discovery Channel show *Dirtiest Jobs* may do a segment on our Derelict Gear Removal Program. The Commission watched the KOMO 4 news clip from May 8. Scott McCreery has some copies available. The Commission will receive funding from the State for \$100,000 for a derelict fishing gear transboundary project with British Columbia.

### **Outer Coast MRCs**

Consultants developing the outer coast MRCs have been visiting the MRCs meetings. Ginny informed them about the MRC training conference in Port Angeles.

### **MRC Reports**

Snohomish MRC – Stef reported the Snohomish MRC helped provide information about the derelict fishing gear video on KOMO News. The MRC held a one-day retreat on Sunday, May 18 to continue its strategic planning process. The Commission, Natural Resources Consultants, and the MRC have removed 118 derelict pots and rings from Port Gardner outside of Everett. The MRC held its first weed-out at Picnic Point County Park for 2008 in coordination with

People For Puget Sound's Sound Stewards program. Amy Johnson and Keeley O'Connell from People For Puget Sound met with Pentec Environmental to begin discussions on how to transfer coordination roles of the monitoring of Jetty Island's beach nourishment to People For Puget Sound and the MRC once the Commission grant funds expire in December 2008. Jim Johannessen and Phillip-Williams & Associates have begun the sea level rise impact assessment at Kayak Point County Park.

Clallam MRC – Ed Bowlby reported there is a correction on the MRC report; The fyke netting is only being done in the Pysht River, not in the East and West Twin Rivers. The 2008 workplan is complete and ready to be approved at the next meeting. Ed Bowlby is stepping down as vice chair and the MRC representative to the Commission. Jim McEntire is the new representative to the Commission and Andrew Shogren is the new vice chair. Ed said both he and Joe appreciated the opportunity to work with the Commission and they both plan to stay involved with the Clallam MRC. The MRC is proceeding with MESA project and the subcommittee hired a consultant. The most noteworthy project for the \$25,000 grant is a contract between the Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory and the County to conduct boat-based video and/or still photo shoreline analysis of approximately 40 miles of Clallam County's shoreline. The MRC paid for a 40 cubic yard dumpster to be placed at the Clallam Bay/Seki County Park for the weekend following Earth Day.

Island MRC – The Island MRC will allocate \$3,050 to Whidbey Island Conservation District to co-sponsor their upcoming LID workshop. The MRC approved the expenditure of \$23,739 to purchase equipment, train and deploy Beach Watcher volunteers to survey eelgrass in Island County waters. The estuary seining team will be working at Harrington Lagoon on Monday. In May the Pigeon Guillemot team will do boat-based surveys that repeat previous Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) surveys, using DFW protocols, for all colonies on the west side of the island. The MRC provided funds to print a publication of a Pigeon Guillemot conservation brochure prepared by Craig Johnson and Dan Pedersen. Sarah Schmidt led the group on a walking tour of the Cornet Bay site. Cornet Bay is a key shoreline location in the Water Resource Inventory Area 6 salmon recovery plan, lying in a direct path for salmon moving between the nearby Skagit River and the open ocean. The MRC just ordered more copies of their book, *Getting to the Waters Edge*.

Jefferson MRC – Pat Pearson reported WSU is co-sponsoring a series of workshops on LID by Curtis Hinman. The MRC's Coastal Currents blog <http://jcmrc.blogspot.com> continues to be an active forum for MRC news and current events. The eelgrass protection "No Anchor Zone" buoys were installed on Tuesday, April 29. The MRC expects to approve their strategic plan in June. The committee has decided on three Drift Cell Restoration (formerly Shoreline Alterations) projects that will be completed by June 30, 2009.

- ❖ The MRC will conduct the Design Phase Study of the Oak Bay County Park (mainland site) to implement recommendations from the 2007 Johannessen/MRC feasibility report.
- ❖ The MRC will conduct a feasibility study for restoration of drift cell function following removal of nonstructural pilings at the Fort Worden/Port Townsend Marine Science Center pier.
- ❖ The MRC will conduct a bathymetry survey at Fort Flagler.

San Juan MRC – Jonathan White reported that the Marine Managers Workshop was held at Friday Harbor Labs May 5 & 6. The focus was to check in with regional managers regarding the protective and monitoring efforts outlined in the Marine Stewardship Area Plan and discussed at previous Marine Managers' Workshops. There was no presence from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife which raised the question of how to get more managers at the workshop. At the MRC meeting Darcy Gray, an MA candidate in the Department of Geography, University of Victoria, gave a presentation: "Understanding Recreational Boating in the Southern Strait of Georgia" Tom Cowan gave an update on the Puget Sound Partnership's regional topic forums. The science committee reports that there has been good progress on the monitoring plan with assistance from UW graduate students in Conservation Biology. Jim Slocumb, the MRC representative on the Critical Areas Ordinance update committee, reports that he has sent documents outlining fish and wildlife habitat, the biggest and most complex area of law, to the committee. The San Juan Initiative held its first community meeting, targeted at property owners who live in the four case study areas of the islands.

Skagit and Whatcom MRCs– Erica Pickett and Mark Herrenkohl reported on their joint meeting at Padilla Bay. Whatcom and Skagit MRCs joined in detailed discussions about similar work being done in both counties on rockfish, invasive species of *Spartina* and tunicates and the Chuckanut Bay and Fidalgo Causeway projects.

### **Roundtable**

Duane Fagergren commented that Fish and Wildlife is coming out with their conservation plan for rockfish. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/08034scoping.pdf>

Kathy Fletcher invited commissioners to attend the North Sound Appreciation Party for Senator Harriet Spanel hosted by People For Puget Sound on June 8. There will be good food and live music. Donations will be accepted, but it is not a fund raiser event.

Duane Fagergren reported the Hood Canal Science Symposium meeting will take place on June 30 at the conference center in Bremerton. They will summarize the progress made over the past three years by the Integrated Assessment and modeling project.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Next month's meeting will be in Bellingham, Whatcom County at Woodstock Farm on **Thursday**, June 26.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
June 26, 2008 10:00am-2:15pm  
Woodstock Farm, Bellingham, Whatcom County**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Jim McEntire, Jonathan White, Phyllis Kind, Erica Pickett (alt.), Mark Herrenkohl (alt.), Joe Gaydos, Stef Frenzl (alt.), Judy Surber (alt.)  
Absent: David Dicks, Christine Woodward, Tony Petrillo, Terrie Klinger, Terry Williams, Kirby Johnson, Kathy Fletcher, Buck Meloy  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Bert Rubash (Whatcom MRC), Susan Burke (Whatcom MRC)  
Guests: Jordan Watson, John Bower (Western Washington University), Dan Pike (City of Bellingham), Melissa Miner (U.C. Santa Cruz/MARINe), Katrina Hoffman (WA Sea Grant),

**DRAFT**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with welcome and introductions. Dan Pike, Bellingham mayor, welcomed the Commission. Mayor Pike thanked the group for using the Woodstock Farm facility and for the work that the Commission does. As a former fisherman, he has enjoyed seeing the results of the Commission and Marine Resources Committees and looks forward to seeing progress in the future.

Meeting minutes for the May 30 meeting were approved as written.

**Committee reports**

Joe Gaydos reported that the Technical Committee met by conference call on June 13. A list of 12 potential ecosystem projects were reviewed at the May Commission meeting and narrowed down to three: forage fish, marine bird declines, and monitoring areas of reduced water quality. The Committee looked for a project that would provide information that could help outline future restoration, preservation, or other ecosystem improvement actions that could be taken by individual MRCs. The most favorable project was determined to be a GIS analysis of potential forage fish spawning beaches based on known beach characteristics. Ginny explained this project will help raise the forage fish issue and make sure the maps that have already been done are being used. Ginny reminded the Commission that the ecosystem funds for next year will be available starting July 1. The Commission agreed that the sea level rise portion of the project will need a good scientific basis and that the data must be in a usable format. The Commission moved and approved by consensus to proceed with the proposed forage fish ecosystem project. The

Committee will work with Commission staff to put out a request for qualifications and quotations (RFQQ) to select a contractor.

Jonathan White reported that the Executive Committee met in June. The strategic plan is moving forward and should be finalized in July. The Committee brainstormed topics and keynote speakers ideas for the November MRC training conference. The committee also discussed the 4th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration which Simon will attend and present a poster. The Committee discussed Bert Webber's proposal to name the area's inland sea the Salish Sea. Most of the MRCs have not had the opportunity to hear about the proposal and the Commission will wait until those MRCs report back before taking any action on the proposal.

Joan Drinkwin reported that the Growth and Development Committee has two new proposals out for review. One to the Russell Family Foundation for derelict fishing gear which is a follow up on the support they gave for the priority ranking project. The second is to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund derelict gear assessment and removal in Puget Sound.

### **MARINE: Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network**

Melissa Miner from the University of California Santa Cruz and MARINE gave a presentation on their marine monitoring program. Melissa explained their agency is expanding and looking for potential partners. Copies of the presentation are available by contacting Connie at [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org). A MARINE meeting with potential Washington partners will be on August 12 at the NOAA facility at Sandpoint. For more information contact [mwilson@biology.ucsc.edu](mailto:mwilson@biology.ucsc.edu).

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

Q: Does MARINE collect other types of data such as biotic data?

A: They do collect water temperature data but no other biotic data?

Q: Have you contacted the Beach Watchers? Their data may be useful.

A: Melissa would be interested in seeing the Beach Watchers data.

Q: What is the cost per site?

A: The average cost is roughly \$5,000 per site. The set up of the initial year is the highest cost. Subsequent years would cost less.

Q: Can all the data be entered online or in a central place?

A: MARINE works with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) where one person can upload the data and make it accessible on their website.

Q: What kind of material do you use for the plats?

A: Meter tape.

Q: Have you considered working with community colleges? Peninsula College does a lot of monitoring and might be a potential partner.

A: Yes, it would be good to invite them to the meeting about potential partners in Washington.

Q: There are protocols set up by State and Federal agencies specifically for oil spill impacts. Is MARINE aware of those protocols?

A: Yes, they did work on the San Francisco oil spill.

Q: Has MARINE considered partnering with other types of organizations such as REEF or the NOAA mussel watch?

A: Yes, they are collecting data at some of the mussel watch sites.

### **Strategic Plan**

Simon explained that at the last Commission meeting a draft of the strategic plan and a timeline for completion was distributed. Comments are due by June 30. The Technical Committee has reviewed the science portion and the Education Committee is in the process of reviewing the education and outreach section. The Commission felt it would be beneficial to check in on the strategic plan every six months at a Commission meeting. The plan should be used as a tool to feed into our work plan and annual report.

### **MESA Bird Data**

John Bower from Western Washington University presented information on the project to convert hard copy MESA data to digital format. In the 1970s, the Environmental Protection Agency funded many biological inventories of the northern Puget Sound as part of MESA, one of which was a marine bird study. John showed the comparison between the 1970s airplane surveys to the airplane surveys done by the Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) program that began in 1992. John and his students have been collecting data from the shore and ferries and comparing it to the 1970s marine bird MESA data. NWSC funded John's students to convert some of the hard copy MESA data into digital format that will make it accessible and much more useful. At this time 60% of the data has been converted.

### **Recognition for Harriet Spanel**

The Commission thanked Senator Harriet Spanel for her support for the Northwest Straits Initiative and our derelict gear program. Harriet said she was honored to receive the commemorative paddle of the Northwest Straits Commission and said she believes in the work of the Initiative.

### **Public comment**

Elizabeth Kilanowski, citizen of Whatcom County, spoke in favor of Bert Webber's Salish Sea proposal.

### **Woodstock Farm beach site visit**

Tim Wahl from the City of Bellingham gave a tour of Woodstock Farm. The farm was purchased by the City of Bellingham in June 2004 with a plan to adapt the farm for public use and as part of the City's greenway system of parks and trails. For more information please see <http://www.cob.org/services/recreation/parks-trails/woodstock-farm.aspx> .

### **Canoe Journey water quality project**

Sarah Akin with the Swinomish Tribe described the Canoe Tribal Journey that will be taking place in July. The first canoe will depart July 15 from Shelton and the next three will leave July 22. The canoes will be equipped with water quality probes and GPS units. They will take a GPS reading every 10 seconds and download the data every evening. The United States Geological Survey (USGS), partner on the project, will create the map of the water quality parameters that will be available online. The links to the site are not setup yet but Sarah will send it to the Commission staff when it is ready ([www.usgs.gov/coastsalish](http://www.usgs.gov/coastsalish)). The tribes are hoping this will be an annual project. Ginny noted the Northwest Straits Commission contributed \$25,000 from our

Tribal Committee fund for this project. The Commission thanked Sarah and would like to have more discussion on thanking the families involved in the project. For more information go to <http://www.tribaljournays.com>.

### **Business Items**

Ginny reported that Senator Murray contacted her last week to announce that there is \$1.6 million included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations budget for the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Sasha reported that the fall conference planning is underway and provided a handout with a list of proposed topics. Several topics are already confirmed, but there is time for input on the other ideas. Commissioners and others suggested additional topics, including: economic valuation, MRC presentations, the Puget Sound Partnership action agenda, and seafloor mapping. Sasha will set up an online survey to send out to MRCs so they can give their input.

Joe Gaydos explained that while the research and restoration of abalone continues there is a need to get information to the public. Jordan Watson designed outreach posters about Pinto Abalone with the idea to get them into dive shops, ferries, and other locations where there are divers. The Commission funded the printing of the posters and several posters were given to each MRC representative to distribute in their counties. The Commission purchased the domain name [www.pintoablone.org](http://www.pintoablone.org) which is linked directly to a page on the Northwest Straits website.

Ginny reported that the study on mortality rates caused by derelict nets is complete and copies of the report are available on our website or in hard copy. Staff will be working with Dr. Kirsten Gilardi from SeaDoc Society to prepare the study for publication in a research journal.

Terry Stevens reported the Commission's budget for year eight (FY06) expires June 30. After balancing the account expenses through the end of the month the grant will be fully expended. The year nine (FY07) budget will expire in June, 2009. The grant application has been submitted for the year ten grant (FY08), which starts on July 1, 2008, and the newest funding will be for year 11 (FY09).

### **MRC reports**

Snohomish County – Stef Frenzl announced he will be leaving the MRC and moving to Toronto. The County Council received nominations to fill three vacancies and will likely appoint new members within the week. Stef suggested the Commission should send a card to those who are leaving due to term limits. A final strategic plan is expected for completion in Sept 2008. The Gravid Female Habitat Mapping project is intended to map all gravid female Dungeness Crab habitat in Snohomish County using an already-developed protocol previously approved by the Commission. Paul Cereghino from Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership plans to present at an upcoming MRC meeting for more information on how we can maximize our chances for full project funding for the Kayak Point Restoration Project. MRC staff has entered into agreement with TetraTech to conduct water quality data compilation and assessment project in the amount of \$18,500. The MRC's assistance with the PH:ARM take back project is now complete.



Island County - Phyllis Kind reported that Dan Pedersen wrote a nice article for the Whidbey Examiner on Pigeon Guillemots. On June 3 the UW Luce Fellow Team discussed the Adaptive Management Annex to Island County Salmon Recovery Plan they developed. On June 17, Kyle Murphy of the Department of Natural Resources and Cyrilla Cook of People For Puget Sound gave the MRC an update on the proposed Smith and Minor Island Aquatic Reserve. The MRC hired an intern for the Pigeon Guillemot project, a fisheries major from Oregon State University. Her primary goal will be to identify the species of fish delivered to the chicks.

San Juan - Jonathan White reported the May 17 event at Deer Harbor on Orcas Island had a good turnout of about 45 very engaged local residents. The event highlighted local salmon recovery projects and applauded backyard salmon recovery efforts. Billy Frank, Jr. was the keynote speaker. The management measures recommended by the MRC were adopted by the Critical Areas Ordinance committee. The MRC approved a draft letter to the WA Department of Ecology Spills Program. Mike Kaill gave an update on the detergent contamination connected to the recent die off of anemones in the Spring Street Aquarium. He said that a recent sampling of the water contained 1.4 parts per million (ppm) of detergent; 1.6 ppm kills rainbow trout. Paul Cereghino, acting program manager for the Department of Fish & Wildlife gave a presentation on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Vicki Heater of San Juan County Health & Community Services gave a report on San Juan County Water Resources Management Committee.

Jefferson - Judy Surber reported that the MRC's strategic plan was approved. Judy will send a copy to Ginny to share with other MRCs. The MRC voted to provide a letter of support for the Dabob Bay Natural Area Preserve. The MRC is advertising to fill a District 3 seat vacated by Hal Beattie. The MRCs Coastal Currents blog <http://jcmrc.blogspot.com/> continues to be an active forum for MRC news and current events. Seasonal sampling for the Olympia Oyster project continued through the month of June. The eelgrass protection project manager attended three multi-agency meetings to address illegal, un-permitted and improperly installed mooring buoys in Mystery Bay. The project manager prepared sign permit applications for eelgrass sign installations at Mystery Bay and Port Hadlock and worked with Jefferson County GIS staff to prepare eelgrass bed location maps for Mystery Bay and Port Hadlock. A new anchor and tackle was rigged and delivered to the volunteer divers who will install the last marker buoy along the Port Townsend waterfront. The drift Cell Restoration Project Manager conducted a site visit with North Olympic Salmon Coalition and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to a potential softshore restoration project on Discovery Bay. The project manager continued to develop a project description and budget for a future grant application for the removal of a 30' by 150' rock pile and derelict outfall pipe adjacent to the Fort Flagler Pier. The MRC produced postcards and an updated 3-panel poster using the drift cell restoration image for use at various outreach venues throughout the next year and developed an outline for a PowerPoint presentation on shore processes, soft-shore protection and drift cell restoration.

Whatcom – Mark Herrenkohl reported that Bert Webber, professor emeritus of marine ecology, WWU, gave a presentation on resource management issues in Bellingham Bay. Dr. Webber provided some background information and then shared his thoughts and some data on Bellingham Bay water quality, particularly the Whatcom Creek waterway. He requested the MRC consider supporting the proposal to name the Salish Sea. Members discussed codification

of maps and the value it would provide for public education as it could definitely clarify confusion. David Roberts from Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) presented on the status of the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve. WDNR has been working on the Aquatic Reserve process since July 2007. David provided a brief summary of the project, the Cherry Point workgroup process, and their progress over the last year. Questions were raised by MRC members, followed by discussion on what activities listed by WDNR are of concern to the MRC and Northwest Straits Commission. A draft plan is being prepared and will be out in the next few weeks for review. Next steps include a Cherry Point workgroup review of the plan, concurrent discussion with implementers, and an EIS with public review. Timeline for completion is this fall.

Skagit – Erica Pickett reported that the Estuary Salmon Recovery Project Workshops were presented to the group and the MRC members were asked to attend. Todd Woodard, Samish Tribe gave an update on the Fidalgo Bay Contaminant Study. Project managers gave updates on projects. Some are complete such as the LID workshops, others are ongoing. The MRC was asked to get all invoices in by the end of June.

### **Roundtable**

Joe Gaydos announced that The SeaDoc Society and REEF are having an underwater photo contest. You can register at [www.reef.com](http://www.reef.com) to enter underwater pictures. For more information go to <http://www.seadocsociety.org/photo-contest>

Ginny reported that Terry Williams is home and is doing well. His prognosis is good but there will be a long recovery. Ginny will send out an address where he can be reached.

Jonathan reported the San Juan initiative is finishing the assessment phase. There is a meeting tomorrow, June 27 in Friday Harbor.

Ginny said we have ordered 27oz. Kleen Kanteens with our logo and they will possibly be a giveaway at the MRC training conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 24 at the County building in Coupeville, Island County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
July 24, 10:00am-3:00pm, 2008  
Coupeville, Island County**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos, Lyn Muench (alt.), Christine Woodward, Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren (alt.)  
Absent: David Dicks, Tony Petrillo, Terry Williams, Kirby Johnson, Mark Herrenkohl  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Tom Hoban (Snohomish MRC), Gerald Larsen (Whatcom MRC), Don Meehan (Island MRC), Ken Urstad (Island MRC)  
Guests: Shawn Bills (Senator Murray Staff), Jan Holmes and Neal Clark (Island County Beach Watchers), Kristen Cooley (Puget Sound Partnership)

**DRAFT**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with a welcome and introductions. Don Meehan, Island County MRC and Beach Watchers, welcomed the Commission to Island County. Don introduced Jan Holmes and Neal Clark to present the Island County MRC and eelgrass project. Don explained that this pilot project has enabled them to do eelgrass mapping anywhere, anytime.

**ISLAND MRC – EELGRASS SURVEY PROJECT**

Jan Holmes, Island County Beach Watchers, introduced the project and explained the early phases and progress to date. She thanked the many volunteers and partners who dedicated their time and donated their vessels for the project. Neal Clark, an Island County Beach Watcher, presented examples of videos and data collected, maps of survey areas, and the equipment used. A question and answer period followed the presentation:

Q – With the data collected do you get the percentage of the area covered by eelgrass?

A – Yes, the percentage of area is part of the Department of Natural Resources protocol.

Q - What is the purpose of this study?

A - The purpose is to establish the capability to map and track eelgrass and to enhance Department of Natural Resources studies. Also, now that they have the ability to conduct their own survey, they can help with special projects such as Holmes Harbor and Cornet Bay.

Q – Are there opportunities to see other species beyond eelgrass?

A – Yes.

**Meeting minutes for the June 26 meeting were approved as written.**

**NORTHWEST STRAITS STRATEGIC PLAN – FINALIZE/ADOPT**

Ginny Broadhurst explained that we would like to approve the plan, including any changes made, today. This plan, once adopted, will be a living document and will be reviewed at a

Commission meeting every six months. The Commission made the following recommendations for changes:

- Add a short paragraph about our geographical region and change the term Puget Sound where appropriate throughout the document.
- Change the term “Best Science” to “Science” and add a definition to be written by the Technical Committee.
- Add more specific language on page 18 by changing the wording “strong budget” to “current budget” and add the dollar amount. Also, refer to the yearly funding figures in our new authorization language.
- On page 5, item number 5, under Initiative Weaknesses change “sufficient funding for staff” to “sufficient staff resources” and add “at a local level.”

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to adopt the strategic plan with the above changes.

### **PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP UPDATES**

***Puget Sound Restoration Act*** - Duane Fagergren reported the Puget Sound Partnership is working with Washington’s congressional delegation on legislation to establish a Puget Sound restoration office within the Environmental Protection Agency (HB 6364 in the House and SB 3196 in the Senate). Kathy Fletcher attended a June 26 hearing on the bill and explained that Congressman Norm Dicks is the lead and Senator Maria Cantwell introduced a companion bill in the Senate. The hearing on the 26<sup>th</sup> was an opportunity to provide broad testimony on the reasons why Puget Sound merits federal protection similar to Chesapeake Bay and other major national restoration efforts. The Sound is important to many user groups, including the military and the tribes. The fact that the Georgia Basin ecosystem is trans-boundary in nature between Canada and the US is also significant. According to Kathy, the hope is that the bill will be refined and passed next year. Ginny proposed the Commission write a letter of support to our delegation. The Commission moved and approved by consensus to write a letter of support for the Puget Sound Restoration Act.

***Action Plan/Area Characterization*** - Ginny reported that the Puget Sound Partnership is moving forward with the Action Agenda and many of the relevant reports are now on-line at the Partnership’s website. It is a good idea to check on these and see where our issues are addressed. Duane encouraged that we clearly communicate what is going on at a local level. The Commission and the MRCs are a good example of how to involve citizens in doing good work. In June the Commission helped sponsor the Whidbey Basin Workshop.

***Education/Citizen Involvement***- Kristin Cooley was hired by the Puget Sound Partnership as the Volunteer and Education Manager to coordinate and facilitate the on-the-ground efforts. Kristen explained the Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) Network has been established but they have not been engaged on a high level yet. A group of 16 people, including Sasha, have been asked to be on the Steering Committee to help develop the education and citizen involvement portion of the Action Agenda. They are now in the process of developing a structure and implementation. The structure is a two-level system with two different funding structures. The first level is the foundation with five Sound-wide organizations identified to meet basic needs. They are: WSU Extension who works with volunteers; Washington Sea Grant does citizen science coordination and best available science; People For Puget Sound does education and restoration projects using volunteers; The Conservation Districts communicate with agriculture community about slow impact

development; The Pacific Education Institute is the K-12 education liaison. The second level will look at each individual area and identify gaps. A grant program similar to a focused PIE Program will fill those gaps. In the Partnership's Action Agenda the education piece has not yet been developed but each part of the plan will to have an education and outreach component. For more information about the ECO Network visit [http://www.psparchives.com/our\\_work/education/eco.html](http://www.psparchives.com/our_work/education/eco.html)

Question and Answer period followed the presentation:

Q - Is there discussion ongoing on how much funding is going to each component of the Action Agenda?

A - The month of August is when the funding discussion will happen. Kristen is not counting on all of the funding coming from the Partnership so they are looking at other sources.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shawn Bills introduced himself as the new Northwest Washington Director for US Senator Patty Murray, and attended to learn more about the Northwest Straits Initiative.

### **MRC REPORTS**

**Skagit MRC** – Christine Woodward reported that the tribal Canoe Journey this year will include five YSI-brand water quality meters provided by USGS on a rental basis. The five canoes that will be in charge of these meters will be starting from the Frasier River, Campbell River on the Canadian side, Squaxin through Puget Sound basin, Makah from Neah Bay and Swinomish through the San Juans. This is a cooperative effort by USGS and the Salish communities to gather water quality information along the journey and tie traditional ecological knowledge from elders during the canoe journey. The Northwest Straits Commission provided a \$25,000 grant through the Swinomish Tribe. Curt Buchanan, a Beach Watcher for Skagit County, has inventoried forage fish habitat in Fidalgo Bay and March's Point. He has been busy looking at historical photos of the area and reviewing information from Dan Penttila on the subject. The Commission suggested Curt might contact Joe Gaydos to discuss our ecosystem project on forage fish.

**Clallam MRC**– Lyn Muench reported the Dungeness River Festival is Sept. 26 & 27. MRC members agreed to have a booth, and to focus the outreach on escape cord, marine plastics, and water quality. Lyn suggested the Commission consider getting involved in the event or display some materials. The MRC suggested taking a boat trip to Port Angeles Harbor for the fall training conference to be held in Port Angeles on November 7-8. The City of Port Angeles representative Nathan West brought a draft copy of the MRC strategic plan, which he built in Microsoft Project. David Freed updated the members on the status of the Red Hen project. Phase 2 has been initiated with field time for the camera boat, and very favorable coverage in the local papers and KPLU, thanks to Geoff Harvey, media specialist for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories. The Commission congratulated the Clallam MRC for the radio coverage. The MRC has contracted with Shreffler Environmental to provide the MESA project plan, protocol development, field sampling supervision, volunteer training, and reporting for this pilot project. Members and staff look forward to releasing a Request for Proposals for the eelgrass mapping project sometime this fall.

**Island MRC** - Phyllis Kind highlighted that the MRC thought it would be valuable to have a study on the effectiveness of shoreline regulations, perhaps Puget Sound wide, and to review differences in nearshore protection in the various counties. The MRC thought this might be an appropriate topic for the Northwest Straits Commission. Ginny suggested

looking at the recent San Juan Initiative where they specifically address shoreline regulations as a possible topic at the fall conference. The MRC will support the one-day university again this year. The MRC will consult their maritime expert, Roger Sherman, and make a decision at the next meeting on whether to support the designation of the name Salish Sea.

***Snohomish MRC*** – Tom Hoban reported volunteers passed out 500 escape cord cards this year versus last year's 1200. The message received from the volunteers was that many people in Snohomish County are already using escape cord. Tom reported that Stef Frenzl is not leaving the MRC as previously announced. Jen Sevigny, the Stillaguamish Tribe representative, is no longer on the MRC but still involved with the Port Susan Project. A new class of 20 Beach Watchers graduated in May. The beach expo on July 19 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park contacted over 300 people. The next expo is on August 2 at Kayak Point County Park from 10:30 – 1:30. The MRC staff met with Natural Resources Consultants and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on Tuesday, July 15 to review recent GIS data developed by Everett Community College that will be helpful for improving the gravid female Dungeness crab habitat mapping project. The summer Jetty Island beach monitoring survey occurred on July 7, 2008. Pentec Environmental will compile the data and create beach profile graphs representing elevation changes along the established transect lines. Staff is coordinating with Snohomish County Parks Dept to develop a strategy to obtain various park user groups' opinions on various strategies developed by our consultant for the Kayak Point restoration project. Staff is moving forward with the creosote piling removal and Osprey nest relocation project, and has scheduled an initial meeting date with Department of Natural Resources and Pilchuck Audubon Society in July.

### **SUMMARY OF MRC GRANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Commission would like to congratulate MRCs and their staff for submitting deliverables on time. Sasha explained the written summary of MRC grants and deliverables. There are different grant totals for each MRC because of the allocating of funds over the two year grant period or, in some cases, additional funding for a specific project. Notably, most of the MRCs are under spent in the first year of the grant. Sasha is working with MRCs to make sure they use their entire budget. Unlike this year, the money will no longer be available after June 2009. The funds that MRCs do not spend do not go unused but become part of the Commission budget. Sasha is available to visit MRCs to help them understand how the grants work. Simon has been doing technical review of deliverables and working with MRCs to make sure project materials are in a more sharable/stand-alone format. Connie has put together a reference database of MRC and Commission project materials and reports and a current list of these can be found on our website at <http://www.nwstraits.org/uploads/File/AllRpt2.pdf>.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Joe Gaydos reported the Technical Committee did not meet this month. Simon is working on the RFQ for the forage fish project.

Ginny reported the Tribal Committee Canoe Journey project has gone smoothly. Ginny was invited to participate in the welcoming ceremony at the Swinomish reservation and was acknowledged and thanked for the \$25,000 from the Commission for the water quality project. Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish tribal chair, presented her with a paddle. Ginny noted that USGS has a large role in this project. Christine Woodward shared a miniature version of the water probe. The data are updated daily and available online at <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/coastsalish>.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

***Reauthorization*** - Ginny shared the draft Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization text that will hopefully be introduced before the August Congressional recess. Ginny explained that her goal is to keep the Initiative intact and continue to operate in our current structure. Reauthorization will provide stronger rationale for getting Northwest Straits into the federal budget. Simon said it will be a long process and getting into an agency budget long-term might mean being part of a larger program.

***Derelict gear program update*** - Ginny reported on a recent net removals in Port Susan Bay which was the most damaging net found since the program began. There were 64 birds and many fish and crab in the net. More information is posted on our web site. Ginny explained that she gave a derelict gear presentation to the San Juan County Council which was a good opportunity to remind them about the Northwest Straits and how we connected to the MRCs. KIRO is doing a segment on derelict gear and they will be filming on the boat tomorrow. The Army dive team will be here for five weeks doing deep water removals. Ginny requested \$5,000 of Commission funds to help pay for support for the Army dive team. The total cost is about \$20,000. The Commission moved and approved by consensus to provide \$5,000 to support the Army dive team

***August meeting location*** – The original location in Clallam County has been changed to a Tulalip location on Thursday August 21. Friday meetings will resume in September.

***August Congressional recess/ field trips*** - Ginny reminded the Commission and MRCs that August 1-September 7 Congress will be in recess and many staff will be in our area.. If MRCs have opportunities for Congressional staff to see projects during that time, contact Ginny or Simon to coordinate.

***Northwest Straits internship program*** – The Commission staff is working with UW to hire a part time intern beginning in September and is open to hearing from MRCs about projects that an intern could help with.

***Northwest Straits Commission Representation*** – Scott McCreery asked if we need to formalize our bylaws to support multiple alternates or proxy. There is nothing in the bylaws that prevent a second alternate but they must be appointed by the MRC to be part of the quorum. The Commission feels there is no vehicle for Commissioners to be available by proxy and communication between the person who cannot be here and the one who will attend is important. MRC representatives will get the MRCs input and report back at the next meeting.

## **UPDATE ON OCEAN ACIDIFICATION ISSUES**

Terrie Klinger described the problem of ocean pH levels declining. The ocean pH is now 8.1 (on average) and at the end of the century it is projected to be 7.8. Somewhere between 30-50% of the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will end up in the ocean. Biologists are starting experiments to help project what the biological and ecological consequences will be. There are early indications that many organisms will respond negatively. One new report says that one species of phytoplankton and some sea grasses are showing a positive response to higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. Terrie explained some studies show there are three factors that accelerate the process; closeness to urban areas, freshwater inputs, and waters within of the North Eastern Pacific Region. Puget Sound has all three of these factors. In May Senator

Maria Cantwell, along with Jay Inslee, held a field hearing on the effects of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems in Washington state. The science community is working hard to see what can be done in the short term. Terrie will be hosting a workshop in Friday Harbor to create a biological research agenda for the west coast. Simon said there are two new groups that are focusing on these issues called [Carbon Masters](#) and [Climate Stewards](#). The Commission would like to be part of the effort to educate and more information can be found on our website at <http://www.nwstraits.org/PageID/218/default.aspx>.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Gerald Larson reported that Whatcom County is in a hiring freeze and Atina Casas has moved to a different job. The County has agreed to fund Birch Bay Watershed project. The Commission thought it would be beneficial for Ginny to give a presentation about the Northwest Straits and MRCs to the Tribal Boards. Christine Woodward invited to Ginny to attend the Northwest Indian Fisheries tribal water quality program conference in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be August 21, 2008 in Snohomish County.





NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
August 21, 2008 10:00am-3:00pm  
Tulalip Natural Resources Building**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Tony Petrillo, Kirby Johnson, Jonathan White, Jim McEntire  
Absent: David Dicks, Terry Williams, Mark Herrenkohl, Christine Woodward  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Tom Hoban (Snohomish MRC), Paul Dinnel (Skagit MRC), Ron Akeson (Whatcom MRC)  
Guests: Katrina Lassiter and Casey Fromson (Senator Murray Staff), Rick Larsen, Jill McKinnie and Mark Middaugh (Congressman Rick Larsen Staff)

**DRAFT**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 10:00am with introductions. Melvin Sheldon Jr., Chairman of the Tulalip Tribes Board, welcomed the Commission to the Tulalip Natural Resources Building. Mel thanked the Commission for the work that has been done and will continue to occur in years to come.

**Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

Terrie Klinger said that she wants to change “organisms will decline” to “organisms will respond negatively” in the Ocean Acidification portion in the minutes. The July 24 meeting minutes were approved with the changes made by Terrie.

**Business Items**

**Budget Issues** – Ginny explained that the Governor has requested that all state agencies freeze personal services contracts, hiring, out of state travel, and all but essential spending at this time. The contract with Natural Resources Consultants to support the Army Dive team was approved, but until further notice there will be no more personal services contracts. The ecosystem forage fish project Request for Proposals has been postponed unless an interagency agreement is feasible to accomplish the work. In addition, Simon will not be going to the Restore America’s Estuaries. The existing Marine Resources Committees grants will not be affected at this point in time.

***Army derelict gear removal update*** - - Ginny explained that the Army dive team arrived Monday August 18 and began removing what was estimated to be 800-1000 tires located offshore at Saltwater State Park in Des Moines. The removal has received a lot of media coverage including KING5, KIRO7, KOMO4, and the Tacoma News Tribune. The dive team will be working with us for 5 weeks and will head north after the first week.

***September Lopez Island meeting logistics*** - Connie explained that the Commission's September meeting will be in San Juan County at the Lopez Islander. Due to ferry schedules the Commission agreed that the meeting will begin at 11:30am and the agenda will be arranged to allow time to catch the 3:45pm return ferry.

***MRC conference registration*** - Invitations to the 2008 MRC training conference were sent to the Commission and MRCs last week. Please remind MRC members to register before the deadline of October 7. If there are any questions please contact Connie at [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org).

***Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference*** - Ginny explained that the conference will be February 8-11, 2009 in Seattle and the call for abstracts is out. They are due by October 10. Simon Geerlofs, who is on the conference steering committee, explained they are looking for more poster sessions and less talks. The Commission encourages MRCs to participate and discussed potential topics for Northwest Straits presentations, including a strong interest in marine stewardship areas. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal is encouraged to let Commission staff know. For more information see <http://www.psgbconference.org> or Simon at [geerlofs@nwstraits.org](mailto:geerlofs@nwstraits.org).

***Salish Sea proposal*** - Ginny explained that Bert Webber would like a letter of support from the Commission to add the name Salish Sea to official maps. Some of the MRCs support the idea, others did not discuss the proposal or have not come to a consensus to support the proposal at this time. Commissioners expressed concern that it would take a lot of time to discuss this and consensus still may not be reached. Ginny will communicate this to Bert Webber.

### **Northwest Straits Reauthorization Bill**

Congressmen Rick Larsen introduced district director Jill McKinnie and legislative assistant Mark Middaugh. Congressman Larsen reported that the Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on July 31. Congressman Larsen explained that the legislation adds a second tribal representative seat on the Commission and also authorizes specific funding levels for the Commission for the next five years. He said there is little apparent opposition to the bill, but because so little time is left in this year's congressional calendar, he doesn't expect any real chance of passing the bill until after the election. The Commission thanked Congressman Larsen for personally delivering the news and for his support. This is something the Commission had been talking about for years and understands that reauthorization is an important step for the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Katrina Lassiter from US Senator Murray's staff said the Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill was also introduced the Senate. Katrina said that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would like a stronger link the Northwest Straits Initiative and they suggested having a seat on the Commission. Katrina explained there is a need for NOAA to have some oversight of the Initiative in order for the bill to pass. Katie said the language in the bill aligns the Northwest Straits Commissions benchmarks with those of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Terrie Klinger suggested that NOAA be given an ex-officio seat on the Commission. There was a range of opinions about a potential role for NOAA and all agreed to continue discussing various options.

The Commission discussed the differences between the Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization Bill and the Puget Sound Restoration Act Bill. The Puget Sound bill is through the Environmental Protection Agency and Northwest Straits bill is through NOAA.

### **WA Supreme Court Decision on Critical Areas Ordinances**

Jonathan White reported on the Washington Supreme Court decision on Critical Areas Ordinances (CAO). Jonathan said the case [Futurewise v. Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board](#) determined that shoreline regulations should be managed by shoreline master programs and not by critical areas ordinances. Washington Community Trade and Economic Development along with the Department of Ecology have filed a motion and put out [interim guidance for local governments](#). This decision poses particular concerns for current protection of shoreline areas in counties where shoreline master programs have not been updated.

### **Port Susan Bay Project**

Simon explained that early on in the Port Susan Bay project there was recognition that one of the first steps would be to see if there was citizen support. To accomplish this, with funding provided by the Harder Foundation, the Northwest Straits Foundation contracted with Tom Cowan to do targeted interviews of key stakeholders in Port Susan Bay to help define what it would mean to have a stewardship area. Simon reported there were 19 people interviewed and good information was gathered. The interviews showed that people recognize a general need for some focus and they see Port Susan as a special place historically and socially. Simon explained the challenge now is how to explain what a marine stewardship area is. The summary report is available online at: [http://www.nwstraits.org/uploadBibliography/PS\\_Interview.pdf](http://www.nwstraits.org/uploadBibliography/PS_Interview.pdf)

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

### **MRC reports**

*Island County* – Phyllis Kind reported that the joint meeting on August 19 with Snohomish MRC was a success. On August 14, three interpretive signage panels on the waterfront trail in Oak Harbor were unveiled. The event was attended by Oak Harbor Mayor Jim Slowik, several members of the city council, four members of the parks board, city department

heads and staffers and members of several Oak Harbor families who originally owned the land or sponsored commemorative benches. Dan Pedersen, Dick Toft, Sarah Schmidt and artist Kris Wiltse represented the MRC. The MRC has recently installed two panels at Maxwelton Beach and one at Double Bluff. There are now signs at 12 sites.

*Clallam County* – Jim McEntire reported the MRC took action to strongly support the creation of an outer coast MRC in Clallam County. The MRC discussed how they could augment the MRC display by printing project specific hand-outs or medium sized posters in order to highlight particular topics. The members of the MRC decided to focus the display and activities at the Dungeness River Festival on escape cord education, and to not include marine plastics information because of the age and the distractibility of the festival audience. Members discussed preparations to publish a Request for Proposals for eelgrass mapping this project in the fall so that we can get on the contractor's schedule for late spring 2009. Shreffler Environmental and WSU Beach Watcher volunteers just completed collection of sediment samples for the MESA pilot project from Jamestown Beach and the base of Dungeness Spit on August 14 and 15.

*San Juan County* – Jonathan White reported that Mike Kaill updated the MRC on the "ongoing saga" of high detergent levels showing in storm water outflows in Friday Harbor. More than 300 people attended the recent Canoe Journey welcoming celebration at Roche Harbor. 9,000 copies of "Caring for Our Natural Resources," a publication put together by the MRC in conjunction with several other organizations, will be distributed at the Fair (6,000 were inserted in local newspapers in mid-July). Mary Masters, the MRC representative on the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update Committee, reported on the discussion regarding the State Supreme Court's recent ruling that the City of Anacortes' shoreline regulations be governed by the Shoreline Management Act, through its Shoreline Master Plan, and not by the Growth Management Act, via CAO updates. All the work the San Juan County CAO committee has been doing on shorelines is likely to be set aside until the County's Shoreline Management Plan update, due in 2012. The MRC will do its review and scoring on socio-economic benefits of Round 9 Salmon proposals at its next meeting. The MRC will review four issues recently raised by community members via local media articles, citizen comments at meetings, and correspondence to the MRC chair. Additional community issues include crabs, herring, marine birds (e.g. rhinoceros auklets and other derelict net kill), overall water quality, and a proposal for closed boating on the west side of San Juan Island.

*Snohomish County* – Kirby Johnson reported the Snohomish County Marine Resources Program was awarded a Washington Conservation Corps Individual Placement position from October 2008-September 2009. The MRC Executive Committee has met with most Snohomish County Council members and the Executive's office to begin strengthening our advisory role within the County. A final strategic plan is expected to be adopted at our September 2008 meeting. The MRC had three beach Expos this summer: June 21<sup>st</sup> at Picnic Point County Park, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park and August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Kayak Point County Park. A Request for Qualifications for the Gravid Female Habitat Mapping has now closed, and MRC staff is reviewing Statements of Qualifications. MRC Staff is coordinating with Snohomish County Parks Department for the Kayak Point Restoration project. A

volunteer training day is scheduled for Saturday, Aug 23. MRC staff and People for Puget Sound submitted an update to the 2007 Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program application submitted for this project. Approximately \$1.6 million may be available for projects like Kayak Point that scored just below the original funding cut-off list.

*Whatcom County* – Ron Akeson reported that the Whatcom MRC will be pursuing a pilot project with Department of Ecology to evaluate a methodology for removing the fine wood debris from Cliffside Beach. The method will be evaluated to determine if it can be used at a larger scale to complete the restoration project. The Whatcom MRC has had a representative on the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Work Group that has been meeting with Department of Natural Resources and preparing a management plan for the aquatic reserve. The August MRC meeting had a large focus on the management plan, perspectives regarding how the plan will be implemented, and how the MRC will provide comment. The final two clam surveys of the year were completed in August at Birch Bay and northern Chuckanut Bay. Approximately 60 volunteers provided over 250 of volunteers hours assisting with these two surveys. A strategic plan subcommittee has been formed and is developing the framework.

*Skagit County* – Paul Dinnel reported the shellfish water quality exhibit is moving forward and a new exhibit is coming to Padilla Bay. The MRC has two new projects; car wash kits which have been distributed and a smart sponge demonstration project. A smart sponge is basically a diaper for storm drain and will absorb toxins. The initial cost is about \$1500 dollars and replacement needed every 1-2 years cost \$1000. There have been some demonstrations on the east coast and there is a lot of information online that Paul will share with the Commission. The Fidalgo Bay day will be September 20 and the poster is complete. The principal business at the last MRC meeting was a report from Jim Johannessen about the drift cell analysis and restoration prioritization around north Fidalgo Island.

*Jefferson County* – Tony Petrillo reported that the Wooden Boat Festival is September 5-7 in Port Townsend. The MRC co-sponsored a workshop on shoreline master program. The seventh and final eelgrass buoy has been installed. The MRC hosted a booth at the County fair. Interagency meetings have begun on mooring buoys in Mystery Bay. The Olympia Oyster project is continuing. The MRC is planning to do a beach profile at Fort Flagler State Park before the removal of a bulkhead to measure the effects. At the next MRC meeting Cecilia Cook will talk about Protection Island outreach.

### **Puget Sound Partnership Update**

Duane Fagergren reported that the Partnership's action agenda is in progress and the regional liaisons are expected to be sharing key findings to groups at the end of September. The September Leadership Council meeting has been cancelled. Duane said the deadline for the action agenda is December 1. Duane added that the Partnership has put together a task force with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to do work related to watersheds. He believes this might have direct relevance to Northwest Straits Commission and Marine Resources Committees.

Kathy Fletcher reported that a draft of the action agenda will be released in October for a 30-day comment period. Kathy, who sits on the Ecosystem Coordination Board, said she expects that the ECB meeting tomorrow will mainly be to discuss funding.

Ginny said the Commission will work with individual MRCs and compile comments during the action agenda comment period. A tentative date will be scheduled for a Commission meeting by conference call in late October to compile and review comments to the action agenda. This will also be a topic on the September Commission meeting agenda.

### **Committee Reports**

*Technical Committee* – Terrie Klinger developed a proposal to create a Science Panel originally suggested by Terry Williams at the Northwest Straits retreat earlier this year. Terrie said the description needs more information about the role of the Science Panel. She had envisioned the panel as a small group of experts who would act as liaison with other science panels and to comment on technical or science based proposals. The next step will be to put together a matrix including possible candidates with their area and level of expertise and association.

Terrie reported she attended the MARINE: Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network meeting and believes we could possibly benefit working with them for two reasons; they are interested in citizen based science and they host and maintain a sharable database.

Simon reported the request for qualifications for the forage fish ecosystem project has been postponed due to the state budget freeze. Simon explained the Commission had done some work with Anchor Environmental in 2002 which fit nicely into the first steps of the project. Simon is working with Suzanne Shull at Padilla Bay to map the existing forage fish GIS data. Simon shared a sample map created by Suzanne that overlays Anchor Environmental's analysis of potential forage fish habitat with actual forage fish data collected by MRCs. This map also shows which areas were not surveyed. Simon explained the second part of the forage fish project is more policy-oriented and there might be need to coordinate with Dan Pentilla at WDFW. Simon suggested working with a School of Marine Affairs intern for the project. The Commission suggested using the title 'upper intertidal forage fish spawning beaches'.

*Executive Committee*- Jonathan White gave an update on the fall MRC conference topics discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. Ginny has invited Senator Murray for the wrap up.

The Commission would like to take the opportunity to invite people from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary based in Port Angeles.

*Tribal Committee* – Ginny reported Terry Williams is doing well and is in Hawaii. He plans on starting back to work on September 1. Ginny informed him we were successful in adding an additional tribal member in the reauthorization bill language.

*Education Committee* -Kathy Fletcher reported there has been no activity since the review of the strategic plan.

### **Abalone Outreach Update**

Sasha reported that Jordan Watson is now working for the Puget Sound Restoration Fund. He has been successful in getting the posters up on ferries and to locations throughout the Northwest Straits counties with the help of MRC members. He is now working to get additional big posters to science centers and marine facilities. Jordan is also working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to get posters up in British Columbia. Jordan also said there are plans to put in an Abalone exhibit in the Seattle Aquarium. He is still working with Don Rothaus of WDFW for more content to [www.pintoabalone.org](http://www.pintoabalone.org), the webpage on our site. If MRCs are still or have distributed posters please let Sasha know where to avoid duplicate efforts. More posters are available if anyone needs them.

The meeting was adjourned 2:10pm to a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting and re-convened at 2:50pm.

### **Roundtable**

Kathy Fletcher reported that the People for Puget Sound Gala will be October 25 at the Fremont Studios and they are still asking for auction items. For more information go to <http://www.pugetsound.org/connect/events/1025HL/>

Ray Fryberg, Director of Operations and Chairman of the Tulalip canoe family, stopped in and greeted the Commission. Ray feels a deep connection with orcas and feels he can be their voice by telling people to be environmentally aware. Ray explained how the salmon are very important to the tribe and orcas. The Tulalip Tribe is the only fishery manager that allocates a share of the salmon to orcas..

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
September 26, 2008, 11:30am-3:15pm  
Lopez Islander, San Juan County**

**DRAFT:**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Joe Gaydos, Terrie Klinger, Duane Fagergren (alt.), Kirby Johnson, Jonathan White, Jim McEntire, Terry Williams, Christine Woodward  
Absent: David Dicks, Mark Herrenkohl, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Terry Stevens  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Tom Hoban (Snohomish MRC), Rex Porter (Island MRC), Bob Cecile (Whatcom MRC), Mary Knackstedt (San Juan MRC)  
Guests: Tom Cowan (Puget Sound Partnership), Bob Myhr (San Juan County Council)

**DRAFT**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 11:30am with introductions. Bob Myhr from the San Juan County Council welcomed the Commission to Lopez Island. Bob is also a member of the Salmon Recovery Council. He explained that San Juan County is concerned about the Critical Areas Ordinance decision made recently and have put things on hold until they have more guidance from the Department of Ecology. Ginny noted that the session on shoreline protection at the MRC Conference in November will provide additional information about this and will also feature findings from the San Juan Initiative.

The August meeting minutes were approved as written.

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**2009 meeting dates** – The Commission reviewed the tentative 2009 meeting and would like the Executive Committee to further discuss the retreat before scheduling it. In the meantime, a regular business meeting will be scheduled for January. The Commission agreed on Fridays throughout the summer months, rather than Thursdays. Connie will send out the revised 2009 meeting dates.

**Final strategic plan** –Commissioners received a copy of the [final strategic plan](#). Simon explained that Joe and Terrie revised the definition of science on page 13 according to last months discussion. This will be reviewed periodically.

**Budget status report** – Sasha reported that the Commission's FY (fiscal year) 2006 federal grant ended June 30, 2008. Sasha and Terry Stevens worked with the Ecology fiscal office to close out the grant, which was overspent by \$216. A handout showed the Commission's approved budget and spending to date for current federal grants (FY07 and FY08). At a



future meeting, the Commission will need to make some spending decisions for the funds from fiscal year 2007 and 2008. Please contact [Sasha](#) with any questions.

**Fall conference awards announcement** – Ginny proposed creating some recognition awards at the conference. A few Commissioners noted that there are organizations and people outside the MRCs who might be worth recognizing as well.. Discussion followed about ensuring that any recognition does not de-motivate those who are not selected. To provide input on this idea, contact [Ginny](#).

**Outer Coast MRC session** – Simon explained he and Brie Van Cleve from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have been working on the Outer Coast MRC session for the MRC conference in November, and are seeking input on how to frame the session and get ideas about information we should share. The Commission agreed that a key point to convey is that information shared is what worked for the Northwest Straits and may be different from what works on the outer coast. Clallam MRC will be well-represented at the conference and will be a good resource for the outer coast group. The Commission agreed that it makes sense to combine this session with the concurrent Northwest Straits 101 into one group, and supported the idea of inviting approximately 25 people who are involved in the discussions on the outer coast. Kirby volunteered to talk about his experience in starting up the Snohomish MRC, which was the last MRC to form as part of the Northwest Straits Initiative. The Commission suggested meeting with tribes on the outer coast to find out if they are comfortable with the process and if they would like to participate. Please contact Simon with additional input.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS** (continued after lunch)

The Commission welcomed Terry Williams back and recognized his important contribution to the discussions and work of the Commission.

**2009-2011 MRC Grant Schedule** - The Commission reviewed the criteria and guidance for MRC grant proposals used for the 2007-2009 grants and Sasha explained now is time to start thinking about the next two-year grant period (2009-2011). Sasha would like to get comments and recommendations on the schedule and criteria at the next meeting. Ginny strongly encouraged MRCs to prioritize projects so they can easily decide which projects will remain if full funding is not available. Ginny suggested MRCs look to the Northwest Straits Foundation for help if there are gaps in the funding. This will be a topic at the MRC chairs/lead staff meeting scheduled for Monday, December 8.

#### **NORTHWEST STRAITS REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

Ginny explained that at the last meeting the Commission discussed NOAA's oversight role of the Commission, and requested that the Executive Committee discuss options and report back. The Executive Committee discussed many options and recommends a NOAA liaison position. The Commission discussed the function of the liaison position, and recognized that the value would greatly depend on who held the position and agreed that a liaison position is only recommended if it is required to get NOAA's support for the bill. If the MRCs have strong feelings about this they should communicate these to Ginny or raise it at a Commission meeting.. Ginny will continue to work with staff from Sen Murray and Rep

Larsen's office on the reauthorization bill. Changes to the bill are not expected to occur until early 2009.

### **PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP [ACTION AGENDA](#)**

Tom Cowan, San Juan County regional liaison for the Puget Sound Partnership, explained that the Partnership is taking a different approach to communicating the problems of Puget Sound by using pictures that show the problems rather than the beauty of the area. He mentioned a few important dates to remember:

October 1 -Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting  
November 6 – Action Agenda will be issued for a 14-day comment period  
November 11 - Leadership Council meeting to discuss the funding strategy  
November 20 - Public comment concludes  
November 21 – Public testimony  
December 1 - Action Agenda approved and sent to the legislature

Tom is working on submitting the action area priorities from San Juan County by Monday. He explained that to be represented MRCs should be linked to their core groups and give early input. He said the Commission should support the MRCs and look at the regional perspectives. The Partnership initiatives has a list of approximately 50 initiatives that will likely be narrowed down to about 30 for inclusion in the action agenda. Two things Tom believes would be good for the Northwest Straits to emphasize are derelict gear and marine stewardship area plans. A proposal to fund a derelict fishing gear initiative has already been submitted to the Partnership by the Northwest Straits Commission. Tom suggests preparing a list of the top priorities before the agenda is released. Ginny said Martha Neuman is scheduled to present at the 2008 MRC conference session on the Puget Sound Partnership two days after the release of the action agenda. This is an excellent opportunity for MRCs and the Commission to bring forward questions and comments. It might be necessary to form an ad hoc committee to meet after the session to compile comments that will come from Commission. Staff will draft and send out a more detailed plan.

Ginny has been invited to participate in the Puget Sound Task Force along with Stef Frenzl from the Snohomish MRC.

### **OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

Terrie Klinger reported the [Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review](#) is now open and there is an opportunity for participation and comments. The Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary is required to review and revise its plan every five years and it has been the early 1990's since the last review. There will be [seven public meetings](#) intended to reach out to the communities near the sanctuary. The goal of these meetings is to get thoughts and ideas from the public on sanctuary management priorities.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee – The Committee is pleased to add Jim McEntire to be a member of the Executive Committee, representing MRCs.

Technical Committee – Terrie Klinger distributed a draft list of areas of expertise that might be included in a science advisory panel, along with sample names of experts from

each area. Terrie believes we should limit the panel to five or six. The Commission considered a suggestion to have a North Sound Science Summit, similar to the former South Sound Science Summit, to engage with the members of the Science Advisory Panel. The Technical Committee will prepare a job description for science panel members so they will know what kind of commitment would be required. The Commission discussed the areas of expertise and how to align them with the Commission's benchmarks and strategic plan. Additional areas of expertise suggested were traditional knowledge, social sciences, aquaculture and climate change.

## **MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Island MRC*** – Rex Porter reported that Linda Lyshall, the Puget Sound Partnership regional liaison for Whidbey Basin, distributed copies of a four-page working draft of priority actions. In 2008 a variety of local groups contributed \$13,500 to the signage project. The MRC authorized \$1,000 from the community advisory budget to sponsor publicity for Sound Waters 2009.

***Clallam MRC*** – Jim McEntire reported that several MRC members prepared a draft outline for their strategic plan, as well as a priority action plan and work schedule. Alicia Aguirre, stewardship coordinator for the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, presented information about NOSC's upcoming workshops that will educate and equip shoreline landowners who'd like to design and plant or enhance their native plantings along their bluffs or low- and no-bank shorelines. The MRC will provide support for these workshops, which will focus on the Port Angeles and Sekiu areas. The MRC is finalizing plans for the Port Angeles harbor field trip that is part of the MRC Conference in November. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is donating the tour coaches. The tour will start with a very brief context setting presentation indoors at the Art Feiro Marine Life Center, next door to the conference site followed by a bus tour of various sites. MRC members and others familiar with restoration and research sites in and around Port Angeles Harbor will act as interpretive guides for the tour.

***Snohomish MRC*** – Kirby Johnson reported that Dawn Lawrence, Jerry Masters and Kirby Johnson met with Peter Camp from the Snohomish County Executive's Office on July 22 to update the Executive's office on MRC activities. The MRC Summer Beach Expos have come to an end, and all were successful. Amy Johnson is wrapping up her work with Keeley O'Connell from People For Puget Sound to develop a site restoration management plan for Picnic Point County Park. She successfully hosted five monthly work parties from May – September, resulting in almost 200 volunteer hours, and almost 100 bags of invasive species removed. MRC staff partnered with the Stilly-Snohomish Fishery Enhancement Task Force to secure a Mud-Up grant for the Snohomish-Camano Nearshore Cooperative to host United Way's Day of Caring event on Jetty Island in September. The Snohomish County Mussel Watch Summer '08 sampling occurred during the morning of Thursday, August 28, and was a success. Alan Mearns has graciously agreed to give a presentation on the results so far for the Mussel Watch data analysis, by highlighting trends in PAHs, PCBs, PBDEs, and pesticides.

***Whatcom MRC*** – Bob Cecile reported that the MRC had a presentation on the Lily Point Restoration project by Melisa Holman from The Nature Conservancy. Last week Melisa contacted Erika about restoration projects that the Nature Conservancy is working on to

see how they might be able to coordinate with the MRC. The Nature Conservancy is working with Whatcom County Parks to seek funding for restoration and to define specifics for restoration. Talks so far are aligned with the recommendations made by the MRC, including excavating pilings and disposal of slag and marine debris. The goal is to recover lost intertidal habitat, enhance alongshore sediment transport, enhance juvenile salmonid migration, and improve local water quality.

**San Juan MRC** – Jonathan White and Mary Knackstedt reported that MRC signed a contract with Russel Barsh for a toxicity monitoring project that will establish baseline data on toxicity of San Juan County surface waters and will share the results to educate the public. The MRC approved providing \$5,686 to San Juan County Public Works for the completion of a LIDAR survey. Amy Windrope of the San Juan Initiative presented on crab harvest allocation and impacts to the ecosystem. This issue was top concern of participants at recent San Juan Initiative public meetings and in responses to mailed surveys; property owners are particularly concerned about commercial harvest in terms of allocation and impacts on eelgrass. The Tulalip Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have agreed to work with the San Juan Initiative to look at impacts and allocation issues.

**Skagit MRC** – No written report. Christine Woodward did not attend the last meeting of the MRC at which Linda Lyshall presented on the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda.

#### **ROUND TABLE**

Christine Woodward reported the Fidalgo Bay project study report has been completed and they are now discussing the next phases of the project.

Terry Williams reported that the Swinomish Tribe has completed a study on the Canoe Journey Project. More information can be found at the [USGS website](#).

The Commission staff is working with the Governor's office on a derelict gear transboundary workshop showcasing the program to Canadians on October 8-9. Day one of the workshop will be held at Padilla Bay and day two will be on a boat observing a derelict net removal. If anyone is interested in coming contact [Simon](#) or [Ginny](#).

The Army Diver Team completed their five weeks of derelict gear removal.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.



NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
November 7, 2008, 12:00pm-2:00pm  
Port Angeles Red Lion, Clallam County**

Attending: Scott McCreery, Kirby Johnson, Jonathan White, Jim McEntire, Terry Williams, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Phyllis Kind, Buck Meloy  
Absent: David Dicks, Terrie Klinger, Joe Gaydos, Christine Woodward  
Alternates: Gabrielle LaRoche  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Walt Blendermann (Clallam MRC), Polly Fischer (Skagit MRC), Andy Palmer (Jefferson MRC)  
Guests: Tom Cowan and Lynda Lyshall (Puget Sound Partnership), Susan Bauer

**DRAFT:**

Scott McCreery opened the meeting at 12:00pm with introductions.

The September meeting minutes were approved as written.

**PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP ACTION AGENDA**

Linda Lyshall from the Puget Sound Partnership provided an overview of their newly-released [action agenda](#). She explained that comments can be submitted until November 20 and can be made in writing or person at the [Leadership Council meetings](#) on November 11 and 21. Linda explained that as this document will continue to be refined. The Partnership is looking for high-level recommendations for changes, flaws, and priorities. The first action agenda adopted will provide a framework and will be updated every two years.

The Commission discussed the upcoming conference session on the Puget Sound Partnership and action agenda. The Commission staff will send an email to MRCs asking for their feedback. The Commission staff will collect and categorize comments and the Executive Committee will review the comments to the Puget Sound Partnership.

The Commission moved and approved by consensus to authorize the Executive Committee to provide guidance on the letter. Ginny will collect, compile and submit comments on the action agenda to the Puget Sound Partnership and draft a letter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walt Blendermann from the Clallam MRC feels that a linkage should be established between MRCs, salmon recovery groups, and watershed groups.

Gabrielle LaRoche from Jefferson MRC reported that Jefferson County is updating their Shoreline Management Plan. There were some intense negotiations with Department of Ecology on what is an acceptable restoration plan. Ecology wants more in the restoration plan component, but the County does not fund that piece. They have proposed an annual summit convened by the MRC and including the salmon and watershed groups.

Andy Palmer from the Jefferson MRC introduced himself as a former Murray Metcalf Commission member who works with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

### **NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION BUDGET**

Sasha followed up on the budget discussion from the last Commission meeting. At this time there is \$160,000 that has not been allocated. There is no urgency in deciding how to spend those funds because there is a state contracting freeze. The Commission would like to make sure that the Department of Ecology isn't imposing inappropriate restrictions on our spending as our funding is federal, not state and should not be subjected to the same restrictions. Scott and Ginny may decide to meet with Terry Stevens and talk about the strategic value of the Commission sending a letter to Department of Ecology and will report back to the Commission.

Ginny reported that a request for proposals has been sent to the MRCs based on a \$100,000/year budget. It is important for MRCs to be optimistic when putting together project lists, but have projects prioritized. There are some MRC projects that might be good candidates for funding from other funding sources.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### ***Northwest Straits Comment letter re: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary***

Ginny explained that Carol Bernthal from the National Marine Sanctuary encouraged the Commission to submit a comment letter on the scoping process for their management plan review. Because of the long distance meetings Ginny would like to see if there is someone closer who might consider being an alternate for Ginny on the Sanctuary Advisory Committee. Jim McEntire will bring this to the Clallam MRC and see if there is someone there who can serve as the alternate. Ginny will draft a comment letter.

#### ***2009 retreat planning***

It is time to start planning the 2009 Commission retreat. The Commission set the date to January 29-30. The Executive Committee will further discuss the locations and agenda topics at their next meeting. MRC representatives who are new as of January will hopefully be able to attend with the former MRC representative to provide some carryover of knowledge.

### **MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Skagit MRC*** - Polly Fischer reported that Charlie O'Hara with the Swinomish Tribe discussed the Water Quality project and Canoe Journey that occurred this year. With funding from the US Geological Service and the Northwest Straits Commission, YSI water quality meters were attached to 5 different canoes traveling from the Puget Sound locations and Canadian locations. More information can be found at: <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/coastsalish/>. Kyle Murphy from Washington State Department of Natural Resources updated the group on the Aquatic Reserve Program and

the pilot project that the Samish Indian Nation and Department of Natural Resources teamed up on this past year.

**Island MRC** – Phyllis Kind reported that the MRC will soon have 3 vacancies; 2 members from Whidbey Island and one from Camano Island. There is a chance they will have two new Commissioners in Island County after the election results are final. Eric Beamer of Skagit River Systems Cooperative (SRSC) described the Camano Island State Park and Possession Beach Estuary Feasibility Studies they have done with the Tulalip, Lummi and Suquamish tribes. The two sites under consideration are Camano Island State Park and Possession Beach. Studies show that it would be feasible to go forward with Camano Island State Park because the opening would stay open, but less feasible to restore Possession Beach because the opening would require frequent maintenance. The Pigeon Guillemot Survey Team finished its survey for the year and submitted an abstract to the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference. Dan Pedersen and webmaster Stacey Neumiller are working on several updates to the website. The MRC submitted a letter of support for Whidbey Island Conservation District grant application.

**Snohomish MRC** – Kirby Johnson reported that Amy Johnson's position with the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) ended on September 30. Mike Tillotson started on October 15 as the new WCC Individual Placement, and will be with us until September 2009. Stef Frenzl will participate on the Puget Sound Partnership Community Implementation Task Force. MRC staff completed contract language with our chosen consultant to conduct field surveys of gravid female Dungeness Crab Habitat. The Parks Department has been developing several preliminary surveys for community feedback on various elements of the Kayak Point Restoration plan. The Parks Department has asked that we internally attempt to agree upon a single plan to present to the public and obtain feedback on the various components of that plan. MRC staff has entered into agreement with TetraTech to conduct our water quality data compilation and assessment project in the amount of \$18,500. Amy Johnson prepared a Training Manual for the Mussel Watch program. The manual is intended to facilitate a smooth transfer of project responsibilities from year to year.

**Whatcom MRC**– Buck Meloy reported on the MRC meeting was held on November 6. The Washington Department of Ecology gave a presentation on the current plan for the Cliffside woody debris removal project. The MRC provided \$15,000 to cover the cost of the pilot project, which will begin in March. The plan is to manually excavate 285 cubic yards of small woody debris and to compost it on denuded blackberry patches in the nearby uplands. The MRC held a discussion of Whatcom's representation on the Northwest Straits Commission and who would fill the Chair and Vice-chair positions on the MRC. Tom Rybczyk was this month's featured speaker. Using examples from Skagit county and elsewhere, he gave an interesting look at what we might expect from rising sea levels over the next 100 years, under different scenarios, and what we might and might not be able to do by way of mitigation.

**San Juan MRC** - Jonathan White reported that the San Juan Health Department requested the MRC help in writing a white paper on desalination. The MRC's new member, Andy Holman, is a representative of the Puget Sound Anglers, San Juan Chapter. The MRC, along with Friends of the San Juans and Friday Harbor Labs, has been invited to participate in an advisory group by the new owners of Rosario Resort. San Juan County is facing severe

budget cuts to staff and programs and the projection is that all current expense money will be lost for the MRC and for Salmon Recovery Programs. Rebecca Ponzio, of Puget Sound Partnership, provided a general overview of critical habitat responses that are representative of examples from other jurisdictions, pointing out that everyone is unique but all are in struggle with the process. Amanda Azous, Science Director for Herrera Environmental Consulting, gave a presentation on “Promoting soft shore armoring in the San Juans.” She said that there is a lack of local experience in low impact development and soft shore armoring. Joe Gaydos of the SeaDoc Society gave a presentation on “The Silent Disappearance of Marine Birds?” He reminds us that there are about 30 species of marine birds in the Salish Sea, 24 of which are listed by one of four jurisdictions with listing authority.

**Clallam MRC-** Jim McEntire reported that the MRC has completed the request for proposals for the eelgrass monitoring project. The strategic planning committee has begun to work on their plan.

**Jefferson MRC** – Tony Petrillo reported that Aleta Erikson has resigned her position with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and she can no longer fill the tribal seat on the MRC. The Eelgrass Protection Project Manager attended two multi-agency meetings to address illegal, un-permitted and improperly installed mooring buoys in Mystery Bay. The ultimate goal is to coordinate education and outreach for proper mooring and anchoring in this location. The MRC successfully removed the seasonal marker buoys On October 19, marking the close of the fifth season of the Voluntary No-Anchor Zone. On October 11 the MRC and Blue Water Engineering Services, Inc. documented baseline conditions in order to measure the anticipated drift cell recovery following removal by Department of Natural Resources of the Fort Flagler Pier. The MRC conducted the beach profile survey immediately following pier removal, which was completed October 10. The MRC will repeat this study at the same time next year. The results will be used to gather support for and design criteria for similar projects elsewhere in Jefferson County.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be on Friday, December 5 at the Port Hudson Marina Room in Port Townsend, Jefferson County.





NORTHWEST STRAITS  
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting  
December 5, 2008, 10:00am-3:00pm  
Port Hudson Marina Room, Port Townsend, Jefferson County**

Attending: Kirby Johnson, Jonathan White, Walt Blendermann (alt), Terry Williams, Tony Petrillo, Kathy Fletcher, Phyllis Kind, Buck Meloy, Duane Fagergren (alt), Christine Woodward  
Absent: David Dicks, Terrie Klinger, Joe Gaydos, Jim McEntire  
Alternates: Gabrielle LaRoche  
Staff: Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst, Connie Price, Simon Geerlofs  
Support: Joan Drinkwin, Terry Stevens  
Unofficial MRC Representation: Jadyne Reichner and Judy D'Amore (Jefferson MRC)  
Guests: Phil Johnson (Jefferson County Commissioner), Larry Crockett (Port of Port Townsend)

**DRAFT:**

Jonathan White opened the meeting at 10:00am with introductions. Phil Johnson, Jefferson County Commissioner, welcomed the Commission to the County. Phil said construction has started on the Port Townsend Maritime Center, set to open in the spring. Phil also talked about a project to protect Tarboo Bay. Larry Crockett, Executive Director of the Port of Port Townsend, also welcomed the Commission to the Port facility, built in the 1930's and used by the military. Larry noted that ports are accomplishing on the ground restoration work and he appreciates the support of the Commission and MRCs. Larry said the Port will be working with the Northwest Maritime Center to make a complete maritime experience for visitors.

The minutes from the November meeting of the Commission were approved as written.

**MRC REPORTS**

**Snohomish MRC** – Kirby Johnson reported that osprey nests currently on pilings to be removed will be relocated to new pilings that are not made from creosote. To date, four pilings are anticipated for installation, with a fifth possible depending on Department of Natural Resources. The MRC is contributing \$8000 - the price of one piling installed - to the project. Stef Frenzl participated on the Puget Sound Partnership Community Integration Task Force with Ginny Broadhurst over the past few meetings. The task force held its final meeting on November 19. The coastal geologist consultant on the Kayak Point Restoration project, Jim Johannessen from Coastal Geologic Services, presented his feasibility and design report to the Parks Department and key Surface Water Management staff on October 29. The Parks Department has asked for staff to schedule a field trip to a restoration project of similar design, as they are still hesitant to remove the sheet-pile wall.

**Clallam MRC** – Walt Blendermann reported that the Clallam MRC will have their strategic plan out by December 10. The Port of Port Angeles is interested in serving as a home port for NOAA ships. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife just purchased Olson's Resort in Sekiu. There is a delay with the restoration and redevelopment of the former Rayonier mill property because people are questioning the establishment of the Harbor Authority. In preparation for the 2009-2011 MRC funding request, MRC members invited a representative from the Feiro Marine Life Center (on the Port Angeles City Pier) to discuss a potential partnership between our groups intended to bring 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Sequim and Port Angeles to the Center. The Clallam MRC's website now resides on the Clallam County servers, allowing for greater content control and updating ability. The RFP for the June 2009 eelgrass mapping and surveying project has been released. The MRC decided to increase the geographic scope of the project and reschedule the data processing portion of the project to allow for more mapping during a very short sampling window between June 1 and June 15, 2009. Members of other MRCs are encouraged to pass this RFP on to other qualified contractors.

**Whatcom MRC** – Buck Meloy reported that Andrea Olah was elected the new chair and Jeff Chalfant as vice chair. Buck will remain the representative to the Commission until April when Bob Cecile will take over with Mark Herrenkohl and Ron Akeson as alternates. The MRC held a long discussion about letters of support and how to respond to letters that need a quick turnaround. At the November meeting staff from the Washington Department of Ecology gave a presentation on the current plan for the Cliffside Beach woody debris removal project. John Rybczyk, the featured speaker, used examples from Skagit county and elsewhere to give an interesting look at what we might expect from rising sea levels over the next 100 years under different scenarios. He also talked about what we might and might not be able to do by way of mitigation.

**Island MRC** – Phyllis Kind reported that an additional \$100,000 in funding to the MRC for Cornet Bay Restoration was likely to be approved from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The MRC will appoint a new representative and alternate to the Commission in January. An artist has completed the watercolor art for the local interpretive signage panel for Flintstone Park in Oak Harbor, which will be installed at that location alongside the Saratoga Passage Marine Stewardship Area panel. The Beach Watchers have been flabbergasted at the high quality of the eelgrass program. They want to invite the press to attend our next MRC meeting when Jan Holmes will be reporting on it. Because of the very short comment period for the Puget Sound Partnership's action agenda, the MRC agreed to send individual comments to Rex Porter to summarize and send to the Commission. The MRC will contribute up to \$500 from the MRC's community advisory budget to help fund this year's salmon spawning survey on Maxwellton and Quade creeks, to be conducted by Wild Fish Conservancy.

**Jefferson MRC** – Tony Petrillo reported that Lisa Friend from RE-Sources gave a presentation on the Marine Plastics Recycling Program. Dave Robison will be the new alternate to the Commission. The Interpretive Panel committee met to review conceptual designs for three 18"x 38" panels that will be installed at the Northwest Maritime Center. The project coordinator for the Marine Science Center project worked with Northwest Straits Foundation to prepare a grant seeking funding for manufacture and installation of the Northwest Maritime Center Interpretive panels. The project manager for the Eelgrass Protection Project attended one multi-agency meeting to address illegal, un-permitted and

improperly installed mooring buoys in Mystery Bay. They are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation to prepare two grants seeking funding to support the sixth and seventh seasons of the Voluntary No-Anchor Eelgrass Protection Zone along the Port Townsend Waterfront.

**San Juan MRC** - Jonathan White reported that the San Juan MRC had four presentations. The San Juan Initiative by Amy Windrope,; Toxins in the Marine Environment by Randy Shuman, King County; San Juan County's Pollution Prevention Program by Brian Rader, San Juan County; White Paper on Desalination Plants by Ron Mayo, Lopez Island. Two projects were designated "projects of concern" by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review panel. The Garrison Creek project education and outreach support will move forward in modified form, but the San Juan County shoreline modification inventory will not be funded through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board process. Barbara will recommend to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in December that this project move forward. The MRC, as the salmon recovery lead entity, approved the project unanimously. Ken Balcomb's article in the local paper three weeks ago about orca dependence on Chinook reported that the run was 22,000 out of the Fraser River; Jack Giard said the state's count is 260,000 (200,000 hatchery-sourced and 60,000 wild). In fact, expectations are that the Chinook run will be better than Coho this year. Brendan Cowan, Department of Emergency Management Director, recommends the MRC's role in oil spill response be focused on preliminary work such as publishing an annual newspaper article with information on both large and small (chronic) spills and helping to develop an email list of interested parties and organizations (e.g. whale watch operators). It was suggested that basic spills protocol be added to the MRC manual.

**Skagit MRC** - Christine Woodward reported that the Fidalgo Bay Feasibility study was presented. This study looked at the chemical and biological issues along the Tommy Thompson Trail that spans Fidalgo Bay. The study is complete. Most issues were in and around the 770 creosote pilings. High levels of PAH's at all sites that had chemical analysis done. The City of Anacortes and the Samish Tribe are moving forward with this project. The next step will be a partner meeting with the city and then a series of public meetings. Connie Thoman went over the Port cleanup projects that MRC is working with Department of Ecology focusing on Fidalgo Bay. Britta Eschete, who represents People for Puget Sound will replace Keeley O'Connell on the MRC.

### **FORAGE FISH MAPPING PRESENTATION AND PROJECT NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION**

Simon presented on the Ecosystem project and the goals that have been met so far. Simon explained that Suzanne Shull, GIS Specialist for Padilla Bay, created maps by combining MRC and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife data on forage fish spawning with data analysis on forage fish habitat suitability (very low, low, moderate, high, very high) compiled by Anchor Environmental for the Northwest Straits Commission in 2002. Simon showed an example of the data behind each GIS point on the maps.

The Commission discussed possible next steps:

- Do a policy analysis to find out what percentage of beaches are not protected.
- Find the gaps and what it would take to do the rest of Puget Sound.
  - Note - There are [protocols](#) available written by Larry Moulton on the San Juan MRC website.

- Update the Anchor Environmental data and connect them with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.
- Do more site-specific surveys where there is high suitability but eggs were not found.
- Color code dots where surveys were done to show age of the data.
- Get together with people who did the original surveys to identify anomalies.
- Get this information it into the hands of policy makers.
  - Note – regulatory change is easier to accomplish than a statutory change.
- Have a peer review done to generate interest in the science community.
- Present the project to audiences such as the Fish and Wildlife Commission or the Coastal Caucus.

The Technical Committee has a conference call scheduled on Tuesday, December 9 and will discuss the project next steps.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Executive Committee*** – Jonathan White led the discussion on how to shape our retreat on January 29-30. There will be several new MRC representatives and it will be a good time to get to know new members and do some reflection on the past year. Some other discussion topics suggested were toxics, land use and the balancing of the Commission in relation to MRCs and the Partnership Action Agenda. In order to allow enough time for internal discussion, it was suggested that any invited guests attend an afternoon session and dinner.

***Technical Committee*** – Simon reported that a meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, December 9 to discuss development of the science team, the next steps of the ecosystem project, and a plan for the review of MRC grants.

***Tribal Committee*** – Terry Williams reported the next meeting will be on December 15. “Shadow of the Salmon” will be aired by KVO5 at 7:30 a.m. on December 21 and at 1 p.m. on January 3.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Johnson, who is a member of the Jefferson MRC, is interested in the forage fish issue. He is curious about a specific stretch of beach on Hood Canal and its forage fish suitability. Simon will leave the Jefferson County forage fish map for the MRC. More maps will be available on the Northwest Straits website soon.

### **FAREWELL TO KIRBY AND PHYLLIS**

Ginny announced that this is the last official meeting for Kirby Johnson and Phyllis Kind as Commissioners. The Commission appreciates all of their time spent on the MRCs and Commission and they will be missed. Kirby said that he would like to stay involved and will continue to be part of the Technical Committee.

### **NEW LEGISLATION FOR CRAB POTS AND UPDATE ON DERELICT GEAR PROGRAM**

Ginny explained some of the issues with the current crab pot legislation in Washington, including:

- Consumers can purchase a crab pot in a store where escape cord is not available.
- Consumers can purchase a crab pot that is not rigged properly with escape cord.

- There is a problem with definition of cord in the current regulations (specifies number of strands rather than size).
- Crabbers can have illegal pots on their vessel cannot be ticketed unless illegal pots are in the water.

Joan Drinkwin explained that the Northwest Straits Foundation is finishing the Escape Cord Crabber Education project and one component is an evaluation done by Applied Research Northwest. Joan will circulate the final report. The Commission discussed escape cord issues and areas of opportunity. Ginny will do some research on the legislation and follow up.

KIRO television did a series on Puget Sound called [Puget Sound in Peril](#) that included the derelict fishing gear program. Ginny and Joan are working with Canadian (BC) resource managers to orchestrate a derelict gear removal pilot project in Boundary Bay.

### **PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP: LINKAGE WITH NORTHWEST STRAITS**

Ginny thanked everyone who submitted comments, including the Executive Committee, San Juan and Jefferson MRCs. The first priority for the Commission's comments was to get the Northwest Straits Initiative acknowledged in the action agenda. The final version includes the derelict fishing gear program as a priority near term action. Commissioners were pleased with the NWSC comment letter.

Kathy Fletcher explained one of the key issues around the action agenda is the funding. The action agenda does not lay out a comprehensive funding strategy for the 2020 timeframe other than state agency budgets. Another public review process is likely because the Environmental Protection Agency will not approve the action agenda as part of the National Estuary Program unless there is a proper comment period.

Duane Fagergren added that now the Partnership will need to prioritize the work and see what kind of funds are available.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Summary of Conference comments** – Sasha reviewed the handout of conference survey results and said that overall there was a positive response. She suggested that the retreat might be a good time to discuss next year's conference.

**2009 Meeting dates** – The retreat is scheduled for January 29-30, the location is to be determined.

**2009 grant schedule** – Sasha will be leaving on maternity leave soon and Simon will be serving as the point of contact for MRC grants. Commission staff will provide more details next Monday at the lead staff and chair meeting. The MRC project presentation meeting is planned for the April 24 Commission meeting.

**Puget Sound Georgia Basin ecosystem conference** – Several MRCs and the Commission proposed sessions for the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference. Registration fees are considerably higher this year and the Commission would like to help get at least one MRC member there. Please let Ginny if there are MRC members that need assistance with registration fees.

**Reauthorization** – Commission staff continues to work with Senator Murray's office on the reauthorization of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

**Budget** – This year there will be no congressional earmarks. The Commission 2009 budget is unknown, but if we face a significant reduction we will assemble a budget that sends as much as possible to the MRCs. Terry Stevens complimented Sasha on doing a great job tracking the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm to the Northwest Straits Foundation meeting and reconvened at 2:45pm.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Buck Meloy said there is a laboratory on Marrowstone Island that researches herring. They might be a good contact for Simon's forage fish project. He also reported that the [POST project](#) is now using acoustic arrays to track animals entering and leaving Puget Sound.

Kathy Fletcher said the Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day is February 19. For more information visit the [People For Puget Sound](#) website.

Kathy gave an update on the funding for the Neah Bay rescue tug, which runs out in July of 2009. The Partnership action agenda includes the rescue tug, but does not include a more comprehensive approach to addressing oil spills.

Terry Stevens highlighted a recent article in the Alaska Airlines magazine on the West Coast National Research Reserves written by David Gordon.

Jonathan White explained that the San Juan Initiative's research into shoreline protection discovered that in San Juan County you can get a bulkhead on your beach if any upland use is threatened, not just a primary residence. The San Juan Initiative policy group has a set of recommendations for the County, two of which (reduce the threatened area to your primary residence and increase the setback to consider an erosion rate) were not approved by consensus by the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.