



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Fort Casey Inn, Garrison Hall
Coupeville, Island County
January 13, 2005, 12:30pm-2:00pm

Members attending: Kathy Fletcher, Anne Murphy, Ed Bowlby (alt.), Susan Bauer, Gary Wood, Ivar Dolph, Daryl Williams (alt.), Buck Meloy, Andrea Copping, Duane Fagergren, Jody Kennedy
Members absent: Joe Schmitt, Kirby Johnson, Terry Williams, Joe Gaydos
Alternates attending: Scott McCreery, Phyllis Kind
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst
Support: Terry Stevens

The meeting was started at 12:30pm. Kathy Fletcher, chair, opened the meeting with introductions. There were no changes to the agenda.

There was no public comment.

The meeting minutes from the December 3 meeting were approved as written.

Committee chairs reported on recent activities. The **Administrative/Planning Committee** chair, Anne Murphy, reported that the committee worked to finalize the agenda for the Commission retreat and developed a draft set of recommendations for the FY05 workplan and budget. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**, chair Terry Williams was not present but Tom Cowan noted that draft language on tribal rights to forward as a component of the reauthorization bill has been sent to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and to Northwest Straits region tribes. **Fundraising Committee**, chair, Gary Wood noted that a letter was submitted to the Cruise Industry Charitable Foundation for derelict fishing gear removal and it is expected that decisions on the NOAA Community Based Restoration program grant will be made soon. The **Technical Committee** reported no actions this month. The **Education Committee**, chair, Duane Fagergren noted that the Commission web site redesign is in progress and that a newsletter is expected to be started for an early summer publication.

The Fiscal Year 2005 workplan/budget was distributed. It was moved and approved by consensus to adopt the FY05 Workplan and Budget as written while giving Tom Cowan and Terry Stevens flexibility to make minor adjustments as needed.

During administrative matters, Tom noted that MRCs will be recognized at the upcoming Shared Strategy conference. MRCs should be sure that the chair or other representative is available to attend. A meeting of MRC chairs and lead staff is scheduled for January 20 in Skagit County.

Ginny Broadhurst provided an update of the Marine Program. A project meeting for the creosote removal project is scheduled for January 28 and should be well attended. It was noted that there is a lot of interest in this project from MRCs and agencies.

MRC representatives provided summaries of their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** had a presentation from Pam Johnson of Olympic Environmental Council (OEC) with an update of the clean-up operations for the Rayonier Mill site; had various committee updates, which included good news from our shellfish monitoring efforts. PSP levels are below DOH cutoff levels, so recreational shellfish collections are open for the Straits; Curtis Beus of WSU Extension Office, will present on January 10 on how the MRC could collaborate with the Beach Watchers program to hire a combined full-time staff person. **Island MRC** had a presentation by Rex Porter, Whidbey Watershed Manager, on Whidbey Island Non-Point Pollution Action Update: Freeland Water Quality Projects; is working to record data in GIS format from shoreline hardening, forage fish eelgrass and feeder bluff projects; created a science committee to review grant proposals and datasets from MRC projects; will partner with DNR and Orca Conservancy to remove logs imbedded with creosote from selected beaches in Island County; will co-sponsor the Sound Waters One-Day "University" on February 5; approved the MRC's five year plan; elected new officers at the January meeting (Phyllis Kind, chair, and Ian Jefferds, vice-chair). **Jefferson MRC** has a new representative for the BOCC on the MRC (Phil Johnson); held election of officers (Gabrielle LaRoche, chair, Tod Wakefield, vice-chair); will hold a planning retreat on February 3; developed a Monitoring Plan for the voluntary eelgrass anchor free zones; attended the regional Olympia Oyster Advisory Group meeting sponsored by Puget Sound Restoration Fund and recommend participation in these meetings for any group working with Olympia Oysters. **San Juan MRC** held a community outreach meeting on Orcas Island with 32 people attending; presented the Stewardship Area to the Power Squadron; received approval from the Port of Friday Harbor and the Town of Friday Harbor for the MRC's proposed interlocal agreement for the removal of derelict vessels; adopted the 2005 work plan; had a presentation from Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria on the decline of eelgrass in San Juan County and strategies for restoration and protection of the species. **Skagit MRC** elected officers for 2005 (Paul Dinnel, chair, Margaret Schwertner, vice-chair); led a tree planting day at the new trail along Fidalgo Bay Dec 16th; will met with Samish Island folks Jan 12th to show them what the MRC does; met with the management team at Tesoro Refinery to show them the Skagit Blueprint and to present a proposal to do restoration at March's Point. **Snohomish MRC** did not have a monthly meeting in December but did hold subcommittee meetings. These meetings will be reported on at the next meeting of the MRC in January. **Whatcom MRC** had a presentation on recent developments in finfish aquaculture; the County Council recently enacted an emergency moratorium on the siting of salmon-rearing pens in county marine waters; discussed policies and how the MRC operates and a new subcommittee was formed to review existing policies and formulate proposals for any changes; had 27 attendees at the recent Chuckanut Bay workshop, including 3 MRC members who provided informational presentations on marine near-shore processes and on shellfish; is working on prioritizing the 29 tasks in their 2005 workplan to determine what projects will be proposed for the MRC grant.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next regular meeting will be on March 4 at a location to be announced in Clallam County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission
March 4, 2005 – 10:00am-3:00pm
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center

Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Attending: Joe Schmitt, Buck Meloy, Ivar Dolph, Duane Fagergren, Terry Williams, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos
Absent: Daryl Williams, Andrea Copping
Alternates attending: Scott McCreery, Ed Bowlby
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst

Marlene Shaw, chair of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, welcomed the group to the Tribe’s community center and thanked the Commission and MRC for efforts on behalf of the marine environment.

The minutes of the January 13 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Richard Wright of the Clean Sound Cooperative (CSC), provided an overview of the work that Clean Sound Cooperative does in oil spill response in Puget Sound. Members of CSC include refineries, pipeline companies, tanker operations and other petroleum related businesses.

Julie Knight of the Islands’ Oil Spill Association (IOSA), presented information about their citizen-based oil spill response organization in the San Juans, which was started in 1998. Their organization focuses on proximity and local knowledge to provide early response in areas that might otherwise take a long time to reach.

Kathy Fletcher provided some historical notes on oil spill response in Puget Sound, including changes made as a result of the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska.

There was no public comment.

Committee chairs reported on recent progress. **Administrative/Planning Committee, chair Anne Murphy**, discussed potential intern projects and developed a list of priority project ideas; discussed derelict fishing gear removal project future funding. **Education Committee, chair Duane Fagergren**, noted that the Commission web site updating will be complete within the month and new images are needed from MRCs. **Tribal Committee, chair Terry Williams**, provided an update on the status of the revised language regarding tribal participation in the initiative. The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission has reviewed and approved the language. **Technical Committee, chair Andrea Copping**, was not present but noted that the committee is working on scoping an update to the 1999 Science Gaps report to shape action projects and scientific studies for the next 5 years.

During administrative matters, Terry Stevens, Buck Meloy and Terry Williams were appointed as the nominating committee for the election of officers to be held at the April meeting. A change of date was made and a location approved for the Fall 2005 MRC Training Conference. The conference will be held on November 4-5 at The Skagit Resort in Bow. Regional project funds were discussed, and Ginny Broadhurst discussed a process recommended by the A/P Committee that would allow MRCs to receive an additional \$10,000 for their action grants if the MRC is doing a priority project. The priority projects are native shellfish restoration, eelgrass surveys and the bays blueprint project. This will allow MRCs to do one of these projects or expand funding if one of the projects is already planned. No applications are necessary, funding will be provided through the action grant process. Ginny will get more information about the regional project funding to each MRC.

Ginny Broadhurst provided a draft vision statement and implementation plan that will be included in the strategic plan. This strategic plan will begin with the goals and benchmarks adopted by the Commission in October. Ginny will continue to work on this document, incorporating comments from the discussion.

Anne Murphy led a discussion for MRC representatives, to determine if time should be designated at Commission meetings for MRC interaction. MRC representatives had a positive response, although some felt that a more formal arrangement is not necessary. At future meetings the local MRC will be encouraged to attend, and provide a brief update on progress.

MRC representatives reported on recent activities. **Clallam MRC** focused on clarifying projects the MRC would address during 2005, which included discussion on the MESA study; the Beachwatcher program, a shellfish garden; publication of outreach materials, a beach clean up, ongoing shellfish PSP monitoring and eelgrass survey work in coordination with Jim Norris. **Island MRC** had a presentation by Micah Wait of WA Trout to update on their juvenile salmon survey project; established priorities for next year's project funds; worked with DNR to undertake a creosote removal project at Fort Casey State Park; will cosponsor the Whidbey Institute Lyceum Series and a 4-H outreach program in the Whidbey Island school districts. **Jefferson MRC** recommended 2 names to our BOCC to serve as new MRC members; had a successful planning retreat to prioritize projects for the 2-3 and 3-5 year range; conducted a brief orientation for new County Commissioners Phil Johnson/David Sullivan; the MRC chair resigned in order to pursue the possibility of contracting with us. **San Juan MRC** presented the Marine Stewardship Area for the Marine Science Lecture Series hosted by the SeaDoc society and San Juan Nature Institute; presented a draft proposal of a Marine Stewardship Area zone scheme to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC); received approval from the San Juan BOCC for a proposed interlocal agreement for the removal of derelict vessels; interviewed applicants for MRC positions, there are currently five positions open. **Skagit MRC Report** started an outreach program and met with Samish Island and met on Guemes Island; had a presentation from Phil Bloch and Dave Palazzi from DNR about the history of the aquatic reserve program; developed a list of projects that we would like to have funded for the next two years. **Snohomish MRC** subcommittees developed detailed work plans in preparation for the FY04/04 MRC grant application; is hiring a full-time Marine Resource Steward to support the MRC and provide direct technical assistance and education to targeted audiences; is organizing four monthly volunteer work parties to remove ivy from the beach at Picnic Point County Park. **Whatcom MRC** discussed their 2005 work plan; discussed clam survey and restoration projects; has a new County Council representative to the MRC – Dan McShane; has two members participating on the hiring committee for the Beachwatcher coordinator position; have joined the Nooksack Salmon Recovery Team.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, April 22 at the Port of Everett in Snohomish County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission
Port of Everett, Snohomish County
April 22, 2005, 10:00am-3:00pm
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Attending: Joe Schmitt, Buck Meloy, Ivar Dolph, Duane Fagergren, Terry Williams, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Phyllis Kind, Andrea Copping, Daryl Williams
Absent: Joe Gaydos
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst
Support: Terry Stevens, Rachelle Hein, Sally Hintz

Chair Kathy Fletcher opened the meeting at 10:00 with a welcome and good wishes for Earth Day. No changes were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the March 4 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Members of the Snohomish MRC provided a presentation on the current work of the MRC. Dawn Lawrence, chair, led the presentation off with an overview of the current and future projects, including oil spill response, derelict fishing gear removal and education on rot cord use, creosote log removal, and working closely with property owners. Kent Scudder provided an overview of the workplan and process that the MRC used to develop their projects. Successful use of subcommittees and modeling their workplan activities on a Puget Sound Action Team document have helped the MRC organize and become very efficient.

Under the Northwest Straits Grants and Administrative Policy discussion, Tom introduced policy concerns brought forward by the Island County MRC and additional issues regarding MRC grant structure. Phyllis described improvements recommended by the Island County MRC Executive Committee. Following a thorough discussion, it was agreed that:

- The Commission needs to revisit the criteria for Categories A/B/C grant distribution for future grant cycles.
- MRC representatives should discuss the \$86,000 Northwest Straits regional project ideas with their MRC and come to the May 20 meeting prepared to prioritize these.
- Action or essential information items from the Commission meetings should be highlighted.
- MRC representatives must take key information back to their MRC.
- Staff will clarify decision points as they are determined during Commission meetings.

Several Commissioners noted that the “bottom-up” nature of the Initiative presents challenges, but remains one of its strongest assets and that the MRCs and Northwest Straits Commission work better than almost any other organization.

There was no public comment.

Lynn Barre, from NOAA presented the Draft Orca Conservation Plan & ESA Status of Southern Residents. A proposal was made in December 2004 to list the species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the process will take one year. At this time, a draft conservation plan is available for comment through May 15. <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/index.html>

Committee chairs reported on recent progress. It is expected that at the next Commission meeting on May 20, committee chairs will provide an overview of the work of their committee and the membership of committees will be discussed. Commissioners should plan to discuss the committees and provide input on work that needs to be done and recommendations for potential members. **Administrative/Planning Committee, chair Anne Murphy**, noted that many of the items were already elsewhere on the agenda. The committee is working on identifying a keynote speaker for the upcoming MRC Conference **Education Committee, chair Duane Fagergren**, noted that the web site overhaul is complete and encouraged Commissioners to review the new site. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee. Technical Committee, chair Andrea Copping**, noted that six MRC grant applications have been received and proposed projects are being reviewed.

During administrative matters, some proposed changes were suggested to the Rules of Procedure in order to change the name of the Administrative/Planning Committee to Executive Committee and provide for additional MRC representation on the Executive Committee. It was moved and approved by consensus to adopt the proposed changes. At the next Commission meeting, Committee chairs will discuss the role and makeup of their committee. The Commission library was discussed, and it was agreed that materials from MRC and Commission work would continue to be maintained (with a strong preference for electronic versions in addition to hard copies of reports). Additional materials and reports will be kept as needed for staff use, but will not be cataloged as library materials. The next draft version of the Strategic Plan was distributed, and MRCs should plan to review this before the next Commission meeting.

Tom Cowan provided an update on funding for the Derelict Fishing Gear Project. There is currently an opportunity for funding from a NOAA Marine Debris program, and the Commission has applied for funding of \$450,000 to expand the program to other regions of the country, continue removal operations in Puget Sound, train divers to do removal and for outreach. It is expected that decisions will be made on this funding very quickly.

Officers for the Commission were elected for one-year terms. Following the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Anne Murphy was elected chair, and Duane Fagergren was elected as vice-chair. The Commission expressed appreciation and many thanks to Kathy Fletcher for serving as chair for the past year.

Ginny Broadhurst provided an update on the Marine Program. Ginny had initial conversations with Tim Strickler, Puget Sound Action Team GIS staff, who is interested in any data available in GIS format. Ginny will contact MRC lead staff to coordinate that effort. Regional creosote removal project is moving forward, and a meeting was held with interested MRC representatives and others to discuss the project. An ad hoc subcommittee is forming to discuss native shellfish planting. Please contact Ginny if you are interested in participating.

MRC representatives reported on recent activities. There was no report of the **Clallam MRC. Island MRC** had a presentation about non point pollution, including a description of actions the public can take to reduce pollution; presented a poster and two presentations were made on Island MRC projects at the PS/GB Research Conference; have four subcommittees to make progress on benchmarks (marine life/habitats, marine water quality, science, education and outreach); will begin recruiting for Shore Stewards on Whidbey Island. **Jefferson MRC** has a new Chair – Judy Surber, a planner for the City of Port Townsend; appointed two new members (Hal Beattie and Bill Miller); has been working on planning for the Northwest Straits grant proposal; had four members attend the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin

Research Conference; is interested in participating in the regional creosote log removal project; would like to discuss future possible technical expertise support from the Commission. **San Juan MRC** gave a briefing on the Marine Stewardship Area to the Whale Watch Operators Association and presented at the PS/GB Research Conference; is now the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Lead Entity Citizens' Committee; five new members were appointed, representing commercial fishing, SJ Chamber of Commerce, the San Juan Nature Institute, Friends of the San Juans, and a waterfront business on Orcas Island. **Skagit MRC** has been working on planning for the next two years; had a presentation of the oil response capabilities of the Anacortes oil refineries from Tesoro Refinery; held a work party that picked up creosote wood, railroad ties, and assorted junk from the Tommy Thompson Trail in Anacortes; will meet with Betsy Peabody on April 27th to check on Olympia Oysters planted in Fidalgo Bay. **Snohomish MRC** provided a presentation in lieu of a written report at this meeting. There was no report of the **Whatcom MRC**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, May 20 at the Whatcom County Water Resources Building in Bellingham.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) At future NWSC meetings, action or essential information items will be highlighted and reviewed so that Commissioners are aware of decisions and actions required. MRC representatives to the Commission are responsible for relaying key information to their MRC.
- 2) MRC representatives should discuss the NWSC regional project ideas with their MRC and come to the May 20 meeting prepared to prioritize these.
- 3) MRCs may be interested in reviewing and commenting on the Draft Orca Conservation Plan for Southern Resident Orcas, found at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/index.html>.
- 4) At the next Commission, committee chairs will provide an overview of the work of their committee and the membership of committees will be discussed. Commissioners should plan to discuss the committees and provide input on work that needs to be done and recommendations for potential members.
- 5) Some administrative changes to the Rules of Procedure were adopted. MRCs should familiarize themselves with the new language.
- 6) MRCs should ensure that all reports are provided to the Commission in electronic format whenever possible.
- 7) The next draft version of the Strategic Plan was distributed, and MRCs should review this in order to provide comment at the next Commission meeting.
- 8) All GIS data that MRCs have generated is going to be provided to the PSAT GIS staff. Ginny will contact MRC lead staff to coordinate this.
- 9) An ad hoc subcommittee is forming to discuss native shellfish planting. Please contact Ginny if you are interested in participating.
- 10) The next Commission meeting will be on Friday, May 20 at the Whatcom County Water Resources Building in Bellingham.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission
Water Resources Building, Bellingham, Whatcom County
May 20, 10:00am-3:00pm
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Attending: Anne Murphy, Joe Schmitt, Margaret Schwertner (alt.), Dennis Willows (alt.), Duane Fagergren, Joe Gaydos, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Phyllis Kind, Chris Fairbanks (alt.), Pat Stevenson (alt.)
Absent: Terry Williams, Jody Kennedy, Ivar Dolph, Andrea Copping, Daryl Williams, Buck Meloy/Amy Kraham
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Sasha Horst
Support: Rachelle Hein, Ardis Dumett

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 10:00 with a welcome and thanks for the opportunity to serve as chair. Introductions were made. No changes were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the April 22 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Chris Fairbanks of the Whatcom MRC presented information about recent projects of the MRC, including a survey of Cherry Point Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Clam Population Assessments, and the annual Salmon Summit, as well as an upcoming Eelgrass Seeding Project.

Committee membership and reporting was discussed. It was noted that for this and future meetings, committee reports will only be provided by committees with activity during the previous month. For the **Education Committee**, former chair Kathy Fletcher agreed to help coordinate a meeting in June to evaluate the current status of the committee, and discuss future strategies. Results from that meeting will be brought back to the Commission for further discussion and appointment of a committee chair. **Technical Committee**, chair Andrea Copping was not present but Ginny Broadhurst noted that work has been focused on review of action grant proposals. Joe Gaydos and Dennis Willows were added to the membership of the Technical committee. A draft organization plan for the new **Growth and Development Committee** was distributed for comment. It is expected that in the next month, staff and the Executive Committee will work to refine and further develop the outline. This will be discussed at the next Commission meeting, along with identifying a potential chair for the committee. Joe Schmitt was added as a member of the new Growth & Development committee. Follow up discussion about committees will be included on the agenda for the June 24 Commission meeting.

An updated Draft Strategic Plan was distributed, and discussion followed based on input from the MRCs. It was moved and approved by consensus to adopt the Strategic Plan as written.

During public comment, Joan Drinkwin, formerly of the Puget Sound Action Team, and Ardis Dumett of Senator Patty Murray's office introduced themselves to the Commission.

Ann Eissinger, Green Crab Volunteer Coordinator for the State, presented information about the volunteer monitoring program in Puget Sound. Several MRC representatives noted inactive monitoring sites and requested information about these sites in order to follow up with their MRC about potential interest in volunteering for the program. One goal of the program is to expand monitoring sites into Canada. Ann invited the Commission to help support that effort.

During administrative matters, Tom Cowan noted that he has been invited to present at the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in August. Rachele Hein reported that Senator Murray is working on reauthorization efforts. An overview of the Fall MRC Training Conference was provided, and a brief survey will be sent in the next week to MRC members and others to gather additional input on the design of the agenda. It was noted that a Commission staff member attended all of the MRC meetings this month.

Ecosystem Projects were discussed, and Ginny Broadhurst clarified the difference between MRC Regional project funds and Ecosystem Project funds. MRC representatives provided input on priorities based on the project list sent to MRCs and agreed upon a list of criteria to help evaluate the project list. Before the next meeting, MRC input will be compiled into a matrix of projects in order to narrow down the list. The matrix will be sent to MRCs before June meetings. MRCs should review this matrix and come prepared to make decisions at the next Commission meeting.

MRC representatives reported on recent activities. There was no report of the **Clallam MRC**. **Island County** had a presentation to review GIS data collected by the MRC; discussed recommendations for Ecosystem Projects, with data analysis, pocket estuaries and shore stewards as the top three recommended projects; assigned MRC members to oversee 2005-06 research projects. **Jefferson MRC** is seeking a new MRC Project Coordinator to start in July; is working to schedule an annual, joint meeting with Clallam MRC for summer 2005; conducted bi-annual Olympia oyster monitoring and found three year old oysters as well as new recruits from spring spawn; will participate in Discovery Bay Day on June 4; hosted a derelict fishing gear removal day which received good media coverage locally; discussed recommendations for Ecosystem projects with Derelict Gear Removal, Data Coordination and Shoreline Armoring Inventory as the top three. **San Juan MRC** presented on the Marine Stewardship Area at several events, including a multi-day naturalist training in Friday Harbor and the Anacortes Swap Meet/Opening day; held a public outreach meeting for the MSA on Shaw Island; continued to develop a conservation planning approach to the Marine Stewardship Area project working with the Nature Conservancy; had a presentation from State parks on new mooring buoys around Sucia Island to protect eelgrass habitat; reviewed San Juan's draft chapter in the regional Shared Strategy salmon recovery plan, which will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners next week. **Skagit MRC** had a presentation from the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance; met with Betsy Peabody to check on the Olympia Oyster Restoration Project in Fidalgo Bay, and found new seed showing that the oysters are now naturally reproducing; will present to the City of Anacortes Planning Commission in the fall. **Snohomish MRC** hired a new Marine Steward position that will begin work next week; are continuing work on projects with Tribes, including nearshore habitat mapping. **Whatcom MRC** worked to develop action grant projects, including Nearshore Assessment and Restoration planning; development of a Public Lecture series; assessment and restoration of shellfish populations, starting with clam seeding; and Assessment of Rockfish Populations in the County.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, June 24 at the Seminar Room at Fort Worden, in Port Townsend, Jefferson County.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) The Strategic Plan was adopted by consensus of the Commission.
- 2) A survey will be sent to all MRC members in the next few weeks to get ideas that will shape the November 4-5 MRC Training Conference. Please take a few moments to complete the online survey.
- 3) A matrix of Ecosystem Projects will be sent to MRCs for another round of input in order for the Commission to make decisions at the June meeting about which regional project to undertake.
- 4) At the next Commission meeting, committee functions and membership will be discussed. MRC members should consider the possibility of participating in one of the committees of the Commission (Growth & Development, Education, Technical, Tribal).
- 5) A meeting to discuss the strategies and future direction of the Education Committee will be scheduled in June. Anyone interested in participating should contact Kathy Fletcher or Sasha Horst. It is hoped that each MRC will have at least one person attending this work session.
- 6) As a follow up to the presentation on Green crab monitoring, MRCs may be interested in helping to find volunteers to monitor at stations in your county. Information about where help is needed will be forwarded to MRC representatives.
- 7) The next Commission meeting will be on Friday, June 24 at Fort Worden in Port Townsend, Jefferson County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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Northwest Straits Commission
Seminar Room, Fort Worden, Jefferson County
June 24, 2005 – 10:00am-3:00pm
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Attending: Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Ivar Dolph, Andrea Copping, Daryl Williams, Amy Kraham, Duane Fagergren, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Phyllis Kind
Absent: Terry Williams, Joe Gaydos, Joe Schmitt
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 10:00 with introductions. No changes were made to the agenda.

Phil Johnson, Jefferson County Commissioner and member of the Jefferson MRC welcomed the Commission to Port Townsend. As a former commercial fisherman, he thanked the Commission and MRCs for their ongoing work.

Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands, presented recognition awards to Jefferson, Skagit, Island and Whatcom MRCs for their restoration projects in the past year. It was noted that there is funding available from the Department of Natural Resources for MRCs to undertake new projects in the next year. The MRCs thanked Lisa Kaufman and David Roberts for their work in partnering on these projects.

The minutes of the May 24 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

During committee reports, the **Growth and Development Committee** was discussed. A draft organization plan and work plan was distributed. The committee does not currently have a chair, and members are being solicited. MRCs should provide input on potential members, either within or outside of the MRC. Commission staff will develop job descriptions for the work needed to staff this committee in the next month. The **Education Committee** will hold a work session on June 29 at Padilla Bay to discuss the role of the committee and future priorities. MRCs are encouraged to have a participant at this meeting. A summary report from this work session will be provided at the next Commission meeting. The **Executive Committee** worked to refine the agenda for the November 4-5 MRC Training Conference.

During administrative matters, Tom provided an update on the derelict fishing gear removal project, including training of Navy divers that is currently underway and making a presentation to the United Nations about the project. Sasha reminded all Commissioners to submit travel expenses in the next few weeks in order to be reimbursed for any expenses from the last fiscal year. It was announced that Susan Wood, Padilla Bay education staff, will take over some of Sasha's responsibilities during maternity leave. Susan will begin training in July and will attend the July 29 meeting of the Commission. The status of grants to the MRCs was reviewed. At this time, Jefferson, San Juan and Whatcom have been submitted for signature with Ecology, Snohomish and Skagit are in progress, and we are awaiting additional information from Clallam and Island before those can proceed. Not all MRCs will have a July 1 start date.

During public comment, Polly Fischer and Gary Hulsey of Puget Sound Anglers noted that their organization is a good audience for the Commission and MRCs and information about projects can be presented at local or regional meetings.

Pat Pearson, lead staff for the Jefferson MRC, presented information about the Discovery Bay Stewardship project and their Bay Day event. Volunteers Jennifer Taylor and Ray Hunter and John Cambalik of the Puget Sound Action Team were recognized and thanked for their efforts in making this project a success.

The regional ecosystem project was discussed. Each of the MRCs provided a list of their highest priority projects. It was noted that the data coordination project was a high priority for six of the seven MRCs. In the next month staff and the technical committee will define the goal of this project. Andrea will write up a short description to circulate to MRCs before a final decision is made.

Andrea Copping provided an update on the work being done by Sea Grant on the invasive tunicate found in the region. There is now a monthly newsletter on the project, identification cards are available, and a workshop is available for interested groups. Other organizations and agencies are participating in the project, including Puget Sound Action Team, which is compiling a GIS data layer of reported sightings of the tunicate.

MRC reports were provided in written format. **Clallam MRC** discussed and prioritized ecosystem projects; are planning for a joint meeting with the Jefferson MRC on July 18th; completed a revised grant proposal addressing concerns raised during technical review; have started planning for clean-ups along the Straits of Juan de Fuca on September 17-18 as part of the International Coast Clean-up; will be putting together a sub-committee to begin building new outreach materials for the MRC. **Island MRC** had a presentation on a Camano Island Blueprint-style mapping project; have developed a 3-panel display for the Shore Stewards program; have identified a coordinator for their upcoming booklet "Getting to the Water's Edge"; will work with Whidbey Audubon on the annual Pigeon Guillemot survey in bluffs around the island. **Jefferson MRC** hired a project coordinator, Gabrielle La Roche; scheduled a joint meeting with Clallam MRC; are advertising for two openings on the MRC; installed their seasonal eelgrass protection zone buoys on the Port Townsend waterfront. **San Juan MRC** presented the Marine Stewardship Area to the Rotary Club; hosted a table at an environmental fair on Orcas Island; held a one-day workshop to develop marine conservation targets for the San Juans; completed a draft proposal for a county-wide zone scheme, dividing the marine waters of the county into four types of management zones. **Skagit MRC** worked on finalizing last years projects and had a presentation about the Swinomish Shoreline plan. There was no report of the **Snohomish MRC**. **Whatcom MRC** continues to hold clam surveys and have had excellent media coverage; will hold another clam survey at Cherry Point on July 23rd; discussed ecosystem funding and priorities; sponsored a presentation by John Bower on the decline of marine birds.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, July 29 at the Padilla Bay NERR, in Mount Vernon, Skagit County.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) Growth and Development Committee: MRCs are encouraged to nominate members for this committee by the next Commission meeting.
- 2) Travel expenses: Be sure to submit expenses for reimbursement by July 15.
- 3) MRCs should ensure that their web sites are updated with the new benchmarks.
- 4) There is a workshop available from Sea Grant on invasive tunicate.
- 5) The next Commission meeting will be on Friday, July 29 at Padilla Bay in Skagit County.



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Northwest Straits Commission
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Skagit County
July 29, 2005 – 10:00am-3:00pm

Attending: Anne Murphy, Ivar Dolph, Jody Kennedy, Joe Schmitt, Phyllis Kind, Buck Meloy, Daryl Williams, Joe Gaydos, Susan Bauer, (Scott McCreery, Alternate), Duane Fagergren, Andrea Copping
Absent: Terry Williams, Kathy Fletcher
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Susan Wood
Support: Terry Stevens, Rachelle Hein, Sally Hintz

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 10:00 with introductions. No changes were made to the agenda.

Terry Stevens, director of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve welcomed the Commission to the Reserve.

The minutes of the June 24 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

During committee reports, the structure of the **Growth and Development Committee** was discussed. We may need to revisit the bylaws for selecting a chair, which may allow MRC members to participate or to excuse the chair from attending Executive Committee meetings. Jody Kennedy, Phyllis Kind, and Charlie O'Hara offered to be members and Tom will re-contact Kent Scudder and set up a meeting for interested people. The **Education Committee** met June 30 at Padilla Bay. They discussed what the committee could be doing, and even whether it should be a standing committee. Unfinished business is on hold until Kathy Fletcher returns. The **Executive Committee** chair, Duane Fagergren reported that issues from the committee meeting are elsewhere on the agenda. The **Tribal Committee** discussed \$40,000 tribal project ideas. There is considerable support for the idea of a media focused project on "traditional knowledge." Charlie O'Hara, Skagit MRC member and Swinomish Tribe Planning Director, discussed the November Salish Sea Conference and that commissioners would be receiving an invitation.

Paul Dinnel, with the Skagit MRC and Shannon Point Marine Center presented the Skagit MRC creosote removal project and answered questions. The total amount of creosote wood removed was approximately 75 tons.

Andrea led a discussion on the data coordination project. The group agreed that the first next step is to identify the different types of data that MRCs have generated. Once that is known, then we can have a better handle on the scope of our data coordination project and who else will need to be involved. The NWSC will continue to steer the project and Andrea will help staff develop a survey form to send to MRCs.

During administrative matters, Tom explained that Susan Wood will be working half time to cover during Sasha's maternity leave the next 3 months. Sasha's phone and email will continue unchanged, so communication will be the same throughout the change. Also, some of money budgeted for a summer intern will be used to contract out annual report. Ginny provided an overview of all seven MRC's action grant projects as proposed (in materials). This information will be posted on NWSC web-site in the near future. Tom gave a summary of the lead staff/chair meeting that occurred on July 13. The meeting was well attended and feedback from the participants was very positive.

Ginny provided a quick report on the regional creosote project. She will be submitting a large grant proposal for creosote removal at several priority sites with a few partner organizations this fall.

During public comment, Sally Hintz from Senator Cantwell's office, reported that Senator Cantwell will lead a meeting next Monday on oil spill prevention issues and invited Commissioners to participate. Rachele Hein from Senator Murray's office invited commissioners to talk with her about issues of interest.

Fall Training Conference

Andrea will talk to Nate Mantua about moving his keynote address to Friday evening as Julie Packard is not available to attend the conference. The Saturday morning agenda will be a project design and evaluation session led by Coastal Services Center. Saturday afternoon will have two tracks:

- A. Improving MRC skills and tools: Media outreach / data coordination
- B. MRC Project ideas: Water quality / salmon recovery

It was suggested that we should consider facilitated networking for participants during the reception/poster session and provide tables or areas set up with an assigned topic. Also, provide white boards around for groups to use.

Derelict Fishing Gear Video

The new video was shown and discussed. It replaces the previous video and will be available to MRCs and others.

MRC reports were provided by five MRCs in written format. **Clallam MRC** held a popular and successful joint meeting with the Jefferson MRC on July 18. On topic was the proposed new electrical transmission line through Port Angeles Harbor. **Island MRC** discussed their MRC grant and the Shore Stewards program and also had a presentation on strategies for protecting property. **Jefferson MRC** discussed the successful Olympia oyster project and eelgrass protection project. They now have regular participation with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary. **San Juan MRC** reported on results from a one-day workshop with science experts and several follow-up meetings with the MRC and a core-planning team. The MRC moved forward a list of conservation targets to guide the MSA planning process. A new Lead Entity Coordinator was hired for San Juan County, Barbara Rosenkotter, and the MRC is the Lead Entity citizen's committee. **Skagit MRC** Guemes Island Rapid Shoreline Inventory is in progress. They also discussed their 2004 and 2005 projects. **Snohomish MRC** is moving forward with the Port Gardner derelict fishing gear project and Dungeness crab studies. **Whatcom MRC** Geoff Menzies reported on the feasibility for the clam restoration project. The MRC also discussed the Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking Program.

Round Table

Joe Schmitt suggested that the NWSC should advocate for legislative or rules changes for crab pot design to reduce by catch. Another suggestion was for the NWSC to lead legislative efforts on new creosote policies. The latest issue of At Home magazine from San Juan County featured articles on the NWSC, MRC and SeaDoc Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, August 26 on Lopez Island, San Juan County.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) Growth and Development Committee: will schedule a meeting to discuss committee structure and possible changes.
- 2) Andrea and Ginny will develop a survey form to get data type information from MRCs.
- 3) Andrea will ask Nate Mantua to reschedule his presentation to Friday evening at the Fall Training Conference.
- 4) The next Commission meeting will be on Friday, August 26 on Lopez Island, San Juan County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission
Lopez Islander, Lopez Island, San Juan County
August 26, 2005 –11:15am-3:30pm
DRAFT

Attending: Anne Murphy, Ivar Dolph, Jody Kennedy, Joe Schmitt, Phyllis Kind, Amy Kraham, Terry Williams, Joe Gaydos, Susan Bauer, Duane Fagergren, Andrea Copping
Absent: Kathy Fletcher, Daryl Williams
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Susan Wood
Support: Rachelle Hein

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 11:15 with introductions. No changes were made to the agenda.

Tom Cowan welcomed the Commission to Lopez Island and complimented the San Juan County MRC members' attendance at this NWSC meeting, which is the highest he could recall.

The minutes of the July 29 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

The **Executive Committee** chair, Duane Fagergren raised the issue of the Ships to Reef program. Agencies have been cautious about endorsing the program. A few MRCs have had presentations from the Ships to Reef group and Tom mentioned that it is important for this kind of local project to be discussed at the local level. Ginny explained that NWSC funds could likely not be used for artificial reef development as they do not help MRCs to achieve any of our benchmarks. It was agreed that more information and conversation is needed. The **Growth and Development Committee** has \$40,000 in discretionary funds that will be used to hire a coordinator and fund raiser. These are 2 distinct jobs and may be filled by 1 person or 2 part time people with clear distinctions between the jobs. The committee is ready to begin the hiring process. Terry Williams reported for the **Tribal Committee** and said that the traditional knowledge project is on-going. It looks like the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will also be a partner to the project.

During Public Comment, Rachelle Hein related that the reauthorization process has been slowed down due to senate committee staff not being available. Rachelle will be leaving Senator Murray's office at the end of August. The Commission expressed its disappointment as Rachelle has been the key contact with Senator Murray, but wished her well in her new job. Richard Civile from the San Juan County Economic Development Council mentioned a CED grant to research the economic state of San Juan County. The council is exploring possibilities in emphasizing marine-related trades such as Marine Carpentry and Marine Science research and education.

Andrea mentioned the Data Coordination letter which was sent to MRC chairs, leads, and commissioners. It asks for information about data collected by the MRCs, with a response due by October 1. MRCs should contact the commission if they need assistance with this task.

Jody talked about involving the community in the development and implementation of the Marine Stewardship Area conservation plan. San Juan County MRC intern, Kirsten Evans, presented information about the 5 S Planning Process developed by The Nature Conservancy and used by the San Juan MRC to set objectives and develop a plan for the Marine Stewardship Area. The strategy includes 5 steps, is ecosystem-based, uses adaptive management, is inclusive and participatory. San Juan County is in step 1 – soliciting input from users, managers, and scientists. Terry Williams

said that the Tulalip Tribes will express its support to the county commissioners. San Juan County's Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery, Barbara Rosenkotter shared proposed salmon recovery projects. They have submitted 5 proposals for funding, totaling \$400,000. Proposed projects include protecting nearshore habitat through assessment and monitoring, restoration, and protection of existing high quality habitat through easements, stewardship, and education.

Administrative matters- Changes in the MRC grant process are not ready for discussion by the commission. Tom Cowan, Terry Williams, Terry Stevens, Andrea Copping, and Scott McCreery will be presenting information about the Northwest Straits Initiative at a White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation August 29-31. The NWS Initiative was selected as a model for the conference. The Nov 4-5 MRC training conference agenda is almost finalized. MRCs should send poster titles to Susan. Joan Drinkwin has been hired to write the Progress Report. She will look through MRC reports and will be contacting MRCs for more information. It should be finished by November 4.

Ginny reported that Spartina has been found on Spencer Spit in San Juan County, , on Guemes Island in Skagit County, and at Birch Bay in Whatcom County. Counties should be aware of this spreading and may want to consider becoming active in looking for Spartina.

Kit Rawson with San Juan County MRC and the Tulalip Tribes presented a checklist for evaluating management measures. It has been a useful tool for evaluating proposals that have come to the San Juan MRC and has many applications to help review new management ideas.

Joe Schmitt presented recommendations that need to go to WDFW or the legislature that include free rot cord distributions for crab pots, prohibiting newer designed shrimp pots with horizontal doors that trap juvenile bottom fish, and banning the sale of gear that doesn't meet regulations. He proposed a sub-committee that tracks legislation and makes recommendations. Tom will take the lead for contacting and working with WDFW and to also discuss legislative options with Senator Oke.

MRC reports Clallam: the MRC grant will be in P.A.'s office for 3 more weeks before going to BOCC
Island: Now assigning a MRC member as project lead (like Skagit) to get more member involvement. Responsibility for three of the NWSC-funded projects was assigned as follows: Shore Stewards- Bronson, Shoreline Resource Book- Pedersen, Water Quality- Hillers.

Jefferson: Solicited public input on projects by offering 3 nickels to vote at county fair - reinforces marketing? Have contract with Project Manager, Gabrielle LaRoche. Much focus this summer on Olympia oyster project with The most significant remnant population of Olys found in Discovery Bay at a site where a major salmon restoration project is being planned.

San Juan: nothing to add.

Skagit: Re: RSI for Guemes, didn't get permissions from beach property owners to access their property so many are upset. A successful Spartina dig day was held July 23 with a good turnout.

Snohomish.: The MRC is partnering with PSAT and WSU Beach Watchers for creosote log survey and removal. MRC is working with WDFW to study degradation times and rates of different types of legal rot cord. They have created rot-cord educational card for recreational crabbers. In 3rd month of juvenile Dungeness crab survey.

Whatcom: Eelgrass seeding project is very good. MRC presentation to County Council well received. The Cherry Point clam survey is complete. Information will be shared with other agencies.

Round Table

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, September 30 at Service Alternatives for WA, Coupeville, Island County.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) MRCs should send titles of Posters for the Nov. 4-5 Training Conference to Susan.
- 2) MRCs need to send data descriptions for the Data Coordination project to Susan by October 1, 2005.
- 3) Tom will contact WDFW and the legislature regarding improved fishing gear designs.
- 4) The next Commission meeting will be on Friday, September 30 at Service Alternatives for WA, Coupeville, Island County.

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NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville
September 30, 2005 –10:00am-3:30pm**

Attending: Anne Murphy, Kathy Fletcher, Andrea Copping, Ed Bowlby (alt.), Buck Meloy, Joe Gaydos, Jody Kennedy, Susan Bauer, Ivar Dolph, Phyllis Kind, Daryl Williams, Terry Williams, Duane Fagergren
Absent: Joe Schmitt
Staff: Tom Cowan, Ginny Broadhurst, Susan Wood

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 10:00. No changes were made to the agenda.

Don Meehan welcomed the Commission to Island County

The minutes of the August 26 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Committee Chairs provided their monthly reports. Though the **Tribal Committee** hasn't met since the last NWSC meeting, Tom and Terry gave updates on an education project about the importance of traditional knowledge. The \$40,000 NWSC money will be matched by NWIFC. The project includes producing a television program to reach the general population as well as decision makers. There will be an emphasis on the urgency of situation, especially regarding our increasing population and the accompanying increase in resource use. Duane, chair of the **Executive Committee**, discussed PSAT's interest in creating MRCs in the South Sound. The goal would be broader than salmon restoration which is currently the focus. Duane will be working with Linda Lyshall and NWSC to organize a meeting with county commissioners. This follows the "replication" recommendation that came out of the evaluation process.

Ginny explained an application she submitted for a training run by the Institute for Conservation. The Commission has applied for 4 people to attend. If accepted, the training date will be Nov. 16.

Puget Sound Initiative update by Andrea and Kathy. The governor proposed a "bold, new," initiative for a partnership with Federal, state and private agencies and organizations. The governor convened an internal meeting, with about 100 people representing resource agencies and key groups. Participants looked at the question, "How can Puget Sound be brought to the national agenda?" The group recognized the role of MRCs and watershed groups.

Island County MRC presentation:

Resource Protection Database - Kim Bredensteiner, Island County salmon recovery coordinator, showed Island County's GIS resources. Salmon recovery areas are ranked by priority based on salmon use/populations. Data includes, geological coastal processes, forage fish areas, eelgrass (not area, but occurrence), shoreline armoring. There has been little data analysis.

Doug Kelly of Sound Hydrogeology, subcontractor for the MRC and the county hydrogeologist., demonstrated software that deals with data in a simple, graphic way. The software scores areas in regard to restoration potential. The data includes parcels. It is not GIS, but is based on Microsoft Access software. A current Island MRC action grant will add shoreline hardening to this database.

Public Comment

Don Meehan stated his concern that about funding for research. Federal money is available, but the state doesn't contribute. Frances Wood stated that citizen and volunteer science can also contribute and public support is needed.

Randy Taylor, with the WA Dept of Agriculture spoke on Spartina removal in the north sound area. Removal has been a cooperative program with WA Fish and Wildlife. Randy discussed recent removal projects in Birch Bay, Spencer Spit and Fisherman's Bay on Lopez Island, and Chimacum Creek in Jefferson County. While agencies and volunteer groups have the resources to remove Spartina, MRCs and groups such as Beachwatchers should be aware of the problem and help spot infestations in early stages.

Frances Wood, of Whidbey Audubon presented the results of a volunteer Pigeon Guillemot Study on Whidbey Island. Populations of pigeon guillemots, as well as many other marine birds have decreased dramatically in recent years. For three seasons, volunteers have observed nesting colonies during breeding season. They have entered data on GIS maps from the county. There is concern about very few observations of young leaving the nests.

Administrative matters

Tom Cowan announced that the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation was very successful. The audience included key administration people, all of whom attended the NWS presentation.

Ginny attended NOAA's community based restoration event in DC. It was a good acknowledgement of NWS work.

MRC Fall Training Conference is November 4-5 at the Skagit Valley Casino. The session on data coordination has been changed to working on shoreline master plan/ critical areas ordinances. Members were reminded to register.

The Coastal Protection Fund awarded \$60,000 for a joint DNR and Foundation project for creosote removal. It will be used at Dungeness Spit and Lake Hancock (Island County)

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is holding a "Protecting our Places" workshop Nov. 16-18. Representatives from MRCs are encouraged to attend.

MRC Reports

Skagit- The new Beachwatcher program is up and running with a good coordinator. A committee is writing an MRC report to the community. Education committee is designing outreach programs. The MRC gave input to city of Anacortes comprehensive plan. **Snohomish** –The MRC co-sponsored a creosote log survey training Sept. 14 in preparation for surveying all public areas for rogue creosote logs this fall. They have completed the sampling efforts for the juvenile Dungeness crab pilot study, sampling for juvenile crabs every two weeks throughout the summer. **San Juan** – The MRC has started to think about how to be more active in county processes. It commented on the Rosario Resort plan. It is interested in assessing human impacts on marine resources such as birds and mammals. **Whatcom** –the MRC written report was incomplete: after "as for the race," please insert the following: the MRC fielded a team called the MRC Bottomfishers (Chris Fairbanks, Doug Stark, Erika Stroebel along with Lance Rextroat from the City and friends). They raised \$110 through the Traverse itself and through the shellfish raffles \$243 was collected. The funds go to the NWS Foundation for future use by the Whatcom MRC. **Clallam** – The MRC is working on a new display with logo. It is trying to create a part time MRC staff position. The September 18 beach cleanup made front page of the Peninsula Daily News. It was very successful with 80 volunteers and 2.5 tons of trash. Public access to beaches was an issue. **Jefferson** – The MRC plans to pull their eelgrass buoys out in mid October. The MRC discussed if and where to expand the project. Though it's a valuable project, now may not be the right time to expand. **Island** – The MRC is working on a shoreline resource book. They expect it to include all the current shoreline sites plus some maps, color photography and information about trails, kayaking, bicycling, hiking and birding. The MRC will be deploying a water quality datalogger in Penn Cove.

Round table

Kathy Fletcher mentioned that the pending energy bill contains controversial items such as lifting the Magnuson amendment that limits the size of refineries in Washington. People For Puget Sound is presenting its 05-06 speaker series in Seattle. The People for Puget Sound Fundraising Auction will be held October 15.

Joe Gaydos organized a marine bird meeting. He will send Susan notes from the meeting. No one is acting on a major decline. There are two NWSC issues directly connected to marine birds – forage fish and derelict gear.

Buck Meloy thanked the commission for endorsing citizen advisory committees on oil transportation issues.

Terry Williams mentioned the October 27 climate change conference in Seattle. State fisheries and tribes are being sued by farmers and local governments for their fishing plan.

Kathy Fletcher noted that Terry Williams received a national award for his work helping tribes develop environmental policies.

Andrea Copping distributed new SeaGrant publications.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, November 4 from 1:00-3:00 at the Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit County.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission
The Skagit Resort, Bow, Skagit County
November 4, 2005
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Attending: Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Ivar Dolph, Andrea Copping, Stef Frenzl (alt.), Buck Meloy, Duane Fagergren, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos
Absent: Terry Williams, Joe Schmitt, Daryl Williams
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Christy Gullion

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 1:00 with introductions and a summary of the field trip hosted by Skagit MRC members. No changes were made to the agenda.

The minutes of the September 30 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

During administrative matters, Tom thanked Susan Wood for her assistance while Sasha was out on leave. Joan Drinkwin and Ginny were also acknowledged for their work to complete the Two Year Progress Report. The 2006 Commission meeting dates were approved, with one change. A final list of dates will be sent to all Commissioners, Alternates and MRC Chairs/Leads. The upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat will be held at the Fort Casey Inn on January 17-18. Tom provided an update about his meeting with the Governor's Executive Policy lead regarding the Puget Sound Initiative. They are interested in including appropriate components of the NWS Initiative model and projects in the package.

During public comment, Christy Gullion introduced herself as the new staff for Senator Patty Murray and said she looks forward to learning more about the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Terry Stevens provided an update on the Northwest Straits Commission budgets for the grant cycle that ended in July, as well as the two open grants, the derelict fishing gear project budget and the Northwest Straits Foundation budget.

During committee reports, committee chairs reported on recent meetings and progress. The **Growth and Development** Committee does not currently have a chair. Tom updated the Commission on the process to hire a coordinator. Anyone interested in participating on this committee should contact Tom. Duane Fagergren, chair of the **Executive Committee** was absent, but a report was provided. Most topics were covered elsewhere on the agenda. Tom has continued to discuss the next MRC grant cycle with lead staff and will report back to the Commission next month. Andrea Copping, chair of the **Technical Committee**, noted that responses on the data coordination project are still needed from six of the seven MRCs. The **Education Committee** expects to reconvene in the near future to work on prioritizing efforts.

MRC reports were provided in written format. **Clallam MRC** had presentations on changes in the lower Elwha River and surrounding areas after removal of the two upriver dams in 2008, including one from Pat Crain of Olympic National Park on lower river changes to adjacent landowners and one from Anne Shaffer, WDFW discussing what is projected for changes in the nearshore habitats; reviewed and discussed the new draft poster we plan to use for public outreach and road shows – a near final draft will be displayed at the MRC workshop. **Island MRC** has completed feeder bluff and accretion shoreform mapping; data will be added to the “blueprint” by January; noted that there are now 155 Shore Stewards; collected data and a poster was completed for the Pigeon Guillemot study; will present

several posters and displays at the MRC conference. **Jefferson MRC** is recruiting new members; pulled out the eelgrass protection zone buoys on October 11 and cleaned up for storage, noting that two were lost; are coordinating with the county on an armoring project; will hold their December meeting somewhere in the South County. **San Juan MRC** will hold a celebration of one year of the Marine Stewardship Area and ten years of the MRC in January; met with DNR to discuss concerns about mooring buoys; participated in a public workshop on stormwater and attended the Watchable Wildlife Conference; held a planning workshop for the MSA with over 40 participants, and identified more than 30 threats to the marine environment; approved a resolution endorsing San Juan's chapter in the PS Salmon Recovery Plan, which will now be reviewed by the BOCC. **Skagit MRC** has two new members (Christine Woodward of the Samish Tribe; Michelle Myers, alternate for Scott Schuyler of the Upper Skagit Tribe); had a presentation by Linda Wagoner of DNR on the 5-year planning process to develop a statewide multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for state-owned aquatic lands; noted that the Board of County Commissioners removed funds to pay for the services of the county representative to the MRC; has seen the first class of 23 Beach Watchers in Skagit-Snohomish graduate. **Snohomish MRC** removed approximately 2 tons of derelict fishing gear from Port Gardner between Oct 25-28, 2005 and monitored the efficacy of rot cord's ability to degenerate from derelict pots surveyed in July 2004; are partnering with WDFW to study rot cord degradation; have completed creosote log surveys on all public beaches; will attend NOAA's 2-day oil spill awareness course in January; have started planning for Shoreline Landowner Workshops, expected to be held in February. **Whatcom MRC** had a presentation by Paul Dinnel on "Development of Pacific Herring Embryo and Larval Bioassays"; distributed results from the 2004-2005 Clam Survey results; noted that two new Spartina surveys found no new infestations; will participate in the Nearshore Salmon Habitat section of the Salmon Summit on November 17; thanked Duane Fagergren and Taylor shellfish for generous contributions for the Eco-Expo in September; are working on a vision statement via internet; will provide input to DNR on proposed new language revising its Aquatic Reserve definitions and rules.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm. The next meeting will be on Friday, December 2 at the Swinomish Spiritual Center in La Conner, Skagit County.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) MRCs should return data coordination information to Andrea as soon as possible.
- 2) MRC members should put the 2006 MRC conference (November 3-4) on their calendars.
- 3) Commissioners and Alternates should put the January 17-18 Planning Retreat on their calendars.
- 4) Committee membership is needed for the Growth and Development Committee and the Education Committee. MRC membership is not a requirement to serve on a committee, so MRCs should consider if they or anyone they know might be interested in participating and forward contact information to Tom.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission
The Skagit Resort, Bow, Skagit County
November 4, 2005
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Attending: Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Ivar Dolph, Andrea Copping, Stef Frenzl (alt.), Buck Meloy, Duane Fagergren, Kathy Fletcher, Susan Bauer, Phyllis Kind, Joe Gaydos
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NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission
Swinomish Spiritual Center, Skagit County
December 2, 2005
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Attending: Anne Murphy, Jody Kennedy, Ivar Dolph, Ian Jefferds (alt.), Buck Meloy, Kathy Fletcher, Joe Gaydos, Terry Williams
Absent: Joe Schmitt, Andrea Copping, Daryl Williams, Susan Bauer, Phyllis Kind, Duane Fagergren
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst, Ginny Broadhurst
Support: Christy Gullion, Sally Hintz

Chair Anne Murphy opened the meeting at 10:00. Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the Swinomish tribe, welcomed the group to the spiritual center and noted that it will take everyone to solve the problems in the marine environment.

The minutes of the November 4 Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written.

Tom described the biennial grant process that has been proposed for MRC grants. Under this schedule, the next proposal from MRCs would be submitted in winter 2006 for a July 1, 2007 start date. All MRCs will need to amend their current grant to add administrative and support funds for 2006-2007. There was agreement that MRCs need to track grant funding more closely and that a firm completion date be determined so that any unspent funds may be reallocated by the Commission on projects of regional benefit.

Don Rothaus of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented information about the changes in pinto abalone populations in the San Juan Archipelago and Strait of Juan de Fuca. Based on ten sites studied it appears that pinto abalone are in serious decline.

During public comment, Britta Eschete of People For Puget Sound handed out invitations to the annual Swinomish Earth Enhancement event on April 22. Christy Gullion of Senator Patty Murray's office noted that the Senator was very excited about the \$1.4 million in FY06 funding for the Commission.

Terry Williams provided an overview of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission's (NWIFC) Traditional Knowledge Environmental Education project. NWIFC is seeking to partner with the Commission to produce an hour long film about traditional knowledge. A draft script was provided and a proposal for the project. The proposed timeline for the project would be for completion in the fall of 2006.

Charlie O'Hara gave an overview of the recent Salish Sea Gathering in Port Angeles. This was a three day gathering of Tribes and First Nations. At this event it was decided to form a Coast Salish Aboriginal Council with representation from Tribes and First Nations in the Salish Sea region. Seven Northwest Straits Commission members attended the Gathering.

During administrative matters, two NOAA grant opportunities were discussed: the Community Based Restoration Program and the Marine Debris Program. The Commission has already applied for the CRP grant for both derelict fishing gear removal and creosote log removal, and plans to submit proposals for both of those

projects for the Marine Debris Program deadline on December 12. A draft agenda for the strategic planning retreat was provided, and the Commission is asked to provide any comments by December 9. Clallam MRC provided a copy of a letter sent to Department of Ecology director Jay Manning, supporting the expedited cleanup of the Rayonier mill site in Clallam County. The Commission recommended sending a letter endorsing the MRC's position.

During committee reports, committee chairs reported on recent meetings and progress. The **Growth and Development Committee** announced that Jody Kennedy will serve as chair and noted that interviews were held for the coordinator position. The position has been offered to the top candidate among several well-qualified applicants. The coordinator will participate in the January planning retreat. Duane Fagergren, chair of the **Executive Committee** was absent, but a report was provided. Linda Lyshall joined the committee for a meeting to discuss MRC replication in south Sound counties and the progress report has been sent to a mailing list developed by Commission staff. Andrea Copping, chair of the **Technical Committee**, was absent, but noted that she is still awaiting information from MRCs for the data coordination project. The **Education Committee**, chair Kathy Fletcher, noted that a conference call is scheduled for December 14 to discuss next steps for the Committee.

Clallam MRC had a presentation by Martha Hurd from DNR on the Port Angles Harbor Master Harbor Plan; finalized their poster display materials; drafted a letter to Jay Manning, Director of the Dept. of Ecology, supporting an enforceable Clean up Schedule for the Rayonier Mill Site. **Island MRC** had an excellent presentation on Tracing Bull Trout with Hydrophones and Sounding Devices; are deciding on cover designs for the new Water's Edge book; has developed a new, card version of the Shore Stewards application form that has been very successful; submitted grant applications for shoreline restoration and pigeon guillemot surveys. **Jefferson MRC** is still recruiting for a district three representative; will hold their December meeting at the Quilcene Community Center; had media coverage for the seasonal removal of the eelgrass protection zone buoys; is collaborating with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council to pursue funding for removal of an old sawmill and creosote pilings. **San Juan MRC** will hold an anniversary event of the Marine Stewardship Area on January 28; had a presentation on nearshore habitat associations of rockfish and a presentation on lingcod predation and the recovery of rockfish; has two new members, Howie Rosenfeld and Ken Sebens, the new Friday Harbor Labs director; compiled notes from the November Marine Stewardship Area workshop and are discussing next steps. **Skagit MRC** participated in a dedication ceremony for the Tommy Thompson Trail on November 19; will partner with Skagit River System Cooperative on March's Point restoration projects; are continuing work on creosote survey and removal. **Snohomish MRC** submitted a proposal to the Commission to include in the Marine Debris grant application to NOAA for recreational crabber education and monitoring the rate of accretion of gear at a target site; has been invited to attend NOAA's 2-day oil spill awareness course in January; have begun planning for shoreline landowner workshops expected to begin in March. **Whatcom MRC** had a presentation on marine mammal strandings; expects to ratify a new Process & Procedural Agreement; now has part-time data management staff; are working via Yahoo discussion forum on a MRC vision; will hold elections at their December meeting and will have a new chair as the current chair, Michelle Evans, is stepping down from the MRC.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18 at the Fort Casey Inn in Coupeville, Island County, following the strategic planning retreat.

ACTION ITEMS OR DECISIONS:

- 1) Commissioners should provide any feedback on the proposed Retreat Agenda by no later than December 9.
- 2) Any MRC that has not sent information to Andrea about data coordination should do so as soon as possible in order for the project to move forward.
- 3) Commissioners and alternates should contact Sasha to confirm participation in the January 17-18 strategic planning retreat.
- 4) MRC members or others interested are welcome to participate in a conference call on Education Committee priorities on December 14. Contact Sasha or Kathy for information.