



**16th Annual MRC Conference: Mapping Our Progress**  
**December 5-6, 2014**  
*Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, Washington*

**FRIDAY**

- 9:30AM-11:30AM **Boat Tour: Jefferson MRC Nearshore Projects and Early Winter Migratory Birds**  
*Hosted by the Jefferson MRC in partnership with the Puget Sound Express*
- 11:00AM **Conference registration opens**
- 11:30AM-12:30PM **Lunch**
- 12:40PM-1:00PM **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
*Marlin Holden, Natural Resources Committee Chairman, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe*  
*Christine Woodward, Chair, Northwest Straits Commission*  
*Jeff Ward, President, Northwest Straits Foundation*
- 1:00PM-2:15PM **Ocean and Climate Change: A Spotlight on Local Response**  
*Moderator: Jerry Masters, Northwest Straits Commission*  
**The Washington Shellfish Initiative: Coordination and Progress**  
*Julie Horowitz, Office of the Governor*  
**A Multi-Faceted Approach to Combating Ocean Acidification**  
*Betsy Peabody, Puget Sound Restoration Fund*  
**Assessing Local Impacts of Sea Level Rise**  
*Ian Miller, WA Sea Grant*
- 2:15PM-3:30PM **Forests of the Salish Sea: The Quest to Protect Kelp and Eelgrass Habitats**  
*Moderator: Nan McKay, Northwest Straits Commission*  
**Why Kelp is the next Big Thing**  
*Tom Mumford, Marine Agronomics*  
**Eelgrass News: Restoring Puget Sound’s Meadows**  
*Ron Thom, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory*  
**Local Action: MRCs and Eelgrass Protection Efforts**  
*Cheryl Lowe, Jefferson MRC*
- 3:30PM-3:45PM **Break**
- 3:45PM-4:15PM **Accelerating Sound Recovery through Collective Action**  
*Sheida Sahandy, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership*
- 4:15PM-5:00PM **National Ocean Policy and Communities**  
*Beth Kerttula, Director, National Ocean Council*

- 5:00PM **Announcements and Adjourn**
- 5:15PM-6:45PM **Networking and Silent Auction**
- 7:00PM – 8:00PM **Dinner**  
*Environmental Leadership Award*

**SATURDAY**

- 7:30AM-8:15AM **Buffet Breakfast**
- 8:30AM-9:15AM **Northwest Straits History and MRC Project Highlights**  
*Ginny Broadhurst, Director, Northwest Straits Commission*  
**Salish Sea Stewards** *Morty Cohen, Skagit MRC*  
**Leave No Trace** *Barbara Bentley, San Juan MRC*  
**Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area** *Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish MRC*
- 9:15AM-10:15AM **Oil and Rail Transportation Study and Oil and Coal Project Environmental Review**  
*Moderators: Jeff Ward, Northwest Straits Commission/Foundation*  
*Scott McCreery, BP*  
*Gordon White and Dale Jensen, WA Department of Ecology*
- 10:15AM-10:30AM **Break**
- 10:30AM – 11:45PM **Concurrent Sessions**

<b>TRACK A: Maritime Room East</b>	<b>TRACK B: AV Room, Chandler Building</b>
<b>Nearshore Monitoring: Planning, Methods, and Tools for MRC Projects</b> <i>Moderator: Caroline Gibson, NW Straits Comm.</i> <i>Jason Toft, UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences/ WA Sea Grant</i> <i>Emily Bishop, University of Rhode Island</i> <i>Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation</i>	<b>Sound IQ Applications and Opportunities: Work Session</b> <i>Moderator: Ginny Broadhurst, NW Straits Commission</i> <i>Suzanne Shull, Padilla Bay Reserve</i> <i>Ann Stark, City of Bellingham</i>

- 12:00PM-1:00PM **Lunch and Interactive MRC Displays**
- 1:15PM-2:30PM **Species at Risk: Recovery Efforts in Puget Sound**  
*Moderator: Franchesca Perez, Stillaguamish Tribe and Snohomish MRC*  
**Restoring Pinto Abalone in the Salish Sea**  
*Josh Bouma, Puget Sound Restoration Fund*  
**Pacific herring “recovery”:** **Identifying causes of decline**  
*Tessa Francis, Puget Sound Institute*  
**The Decline of the Tufted Puffin in Puget Sound**  
*Peter Hodum, Oikonos*
- 2:30PM-2:50PM **MRC Awards and Closing Remarks**
- 3:00PM **Adjourn**  
*Ferry departs to Coupeville: 3:30PM, 5:15PM*