



## minutes

**Location:** Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Road, Coupeville, WA, Island County  
**Date/Time:** January 29, 2016 – 10:00 AM-3:00PM

### Attendees:

**Commission Members:** Jamey Selleck (Skagit), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Phil Green (San Juan), Ken Carrasco (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Nan McKay (Chair), Jerry Masters (vice chair), Ron Thom, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish),

**Additional MRC Support:** Kes Tautuydas (Island), Anthony Turpin (Island), Barbara Bennett (Island), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson), Jay Lind (Skagit)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson and Lenny Corin (Northwest Straits Foundation), Josh Baldi (Department of Ecology), Representative Norma Smith (State Rep., 10<sup>th</sup> district), John Githens

### Welcome and Introductions

Nan McKay opened the meeting with introductions.

### Approval of December Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the December Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved with one change.

### Checking in on Strategic Plan

The Commission reviewed progress on the first goal of the Strategic Plan and found a lot of progress is being made. Jerry Masters urged MRCs to not limit their project ideas with assumptions on a lack of funding and to offer authentic ideas so funding can meet the immediate needs of the counties. Ron Thom shared a resource for MRCs from DNR- [Puget Sound Eelgrass Monitoring Data Viewer](#).

### Committee Updates

#### **Executive Committee**

Ginny provided an update on the [Puget SOS bill](#) and shared copies of letters sent to Rep. Derek Kilmer and Rep. Denny Heck expressing the Commission's support for the bill. Nicole Jordan created a calendar guide for all MRC meetings in 2016.



### **Science Advisory Committee**

Lucas Hart reported a safety committee is being created for surveying kelp. Ginny reminded MRCs to call on the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) for guidance and advice on their projects. The role of the SAC in the Commission will be discussed at the upcoming retreat.

### **Retreat Planning Committee**

The retreat will be from 12:00PM on February 25 through 1:00PM on February 26. Information about any advance preparation needed will be sent to attendees before the event. Please confirm with Nicole Jordan on attendance, dietary restrictions, and housing needs.

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) update**

Ginny relayed information that Marc Daily sent in, Near Term Actions (NTAs) were evaluated by the Puget Sound Partnership and feedback was provided, additional review will occur and a draft Action Agenda update will be produced by end of March.

### **MRC Reports**

In addition to the written reports, MRCs provided highlights of their work since the last meeting.

### **Whatcom**

Ken Carrasco confirmed Petur Sim and Bob Cecile are new members of the Whatcom MRC as of January 26, 2016. Doug Stark will be the new Northwest Straits Commission representative. Austin will be on leave until mid-April and Holly Faulstich will fill in until Austin returns to her full time position in May 2016.

### **Clallam**

Jeff Ward shared that Clallam MRC will be presenting to the county on the MRC and their work.

### **San Juan**

Phil Green shared that interviews for the MRC coordinator position are expected to be conducted the first week of February, The position will be open until filled. The MRC will be providing Al Woislegel, from Washington State Parks, a letter with recommended locations for monitoring floating pump out facilities in San Juan County.



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### **Skagit**

Skagit MRC held elections, and Jay Lind will serve a second term as MRC Chair and Jamey Selleck will serve a second term as MRC Vice-Chair and Commission representative. Skagit MRC is looking to expand oyster restoration at Cap Santé with additional seeding this summer. Due to high interest, the MRC is planning another Shoreline Landowners Workshop for spring 2016.

### **Jefferson**

Dale Moses reported that they have new MRC members: Jackie Gardner, District 3 alternate; Jeff Taylor, District 2 representative and Anna Bachman, Environmental alternate. Jefferson MRC held a retreat and Dale reported good turnout. Project Lead Dale Moses is working with WA State Parks, Port of Port Townsend and AmeriCorps volunteers to schedule a removal, cleaning and re-coating of Mystery Bay buoys in February.

### **Snohomish**

Snohomish held elections and changes in leadership include: Franchesca Perez, MRC Chair; Traci Sanderson, Vice-Chair; Paul Clampitt, Northwest Straits Commission representative; and Mike Ehlebracht, Commission alternate.

### **Island**

Island MRC Lenny Corin and Dan Matlock completed their terms in December 2015. New members appointed to the MRC are Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Kes Tautvydas, David Thomson, and Anthony Turpin. The Island MRC retreat is scheduled for March 15.

### **Public Comment**

Barbara Bennett shared information about new marine exhibits at the Coupeville Fisherman's Wharf showcasing marine mammal skeletons and their associated images. Barbara also noted that the former Island County Beach Watchers are independent from WSU and are now called Sound Water Stewards.

### **Updates on the proposed No Discharge Zone and Shoreline Armoring Trends in Puget**

Josh Baldi from the Department of Ecology gave updates on establishing a No Discharge Zone for Vessel Sewage in Puget Sound and Trends in Shoreline Armoring. Both presentations are available by [clicking here \(http://bit.ly/1UM001i\)](http://bit.ly/1UM001i).



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### **Business Items**

- Ginny and Lucas are organizing a meeting on February 10 for the Commission's Ocean Acidification project advisory committee.
- The Commission's NTA called Shoreline segmentation: Citizens improving oil spill response data ranked well along with many MRC and Foundation projects
- Ginny and Jerry Masters will attend Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington DC from February 29-March 2.
- The Commission will receive \$50,000 this year from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to expand the #CatchMoreCrab campaign started in Snohomish County. The campaign will provide information about how to reduce the loss of recreational crab pots.
- Ginny has received names of those interested in the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference from the MRCs and Nicole will be registering people soon.
- The Commission will be making a presentation to the Leadership Council at their April 28 meeting in Port Townsend.

### **Welcome by Representative Norma Smith**

Representative Norma Smith welcomed the Commission to District 10 and expressed gratitude for the ongoing work of the MRCs. She urged MRCs to keep clear, distinct priorities and communicate that to their local leaders. Rep Smith also shared concern about the depletion of the Model Toxic Control Act funding and expressed interest in hearing ideas and solutions from Commission members.

### **Light Monitoring Network**

Ron Thom shared the importance of light vs. depth and eelgrass density. He introduced a proposal for a project that MRCs can collaborate on that will use light sensors to help identify areas where eelgrass will grow and to collect long-term data.



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### **Using Drones to Survey Kelp**

John Githens shared information about his ideas for using drones for kelp monitoring. His presentation is available by [clicking here \(http://bit.ly/1T3O6IN\)](http://bit.ly/1T3O6IN). It will be also forwarded to the Science Advisory Committee for further review.

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be a WebEx conference call on March 25 from 10am-12pm. The regular February meeting is replaced by the retreat on February 25-26.



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**March 25, 2016 • 10:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Jamey Selleck (Skagit), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Phil Green (San Juan), Ed Adams (Island), Nan McKay (Chair), Ron Thom, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Tom Cowan, Marc Daily (Puget Sound Partnership-alt)

**Additional MRC Support:** Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC staff), Holly Faulstich (Whatcom MRC staff), Arnie Klaus (San Juan MRC staff)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), John Githens

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay welcomed everyone to the meeting and did introductions by roll call.

### **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the January Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved with one change.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Executive Committee**

Nan McKay shared a draft letter to the Northwest Straits Foundation Board President containing recommendations on the overlap between Commission and Foundation board members and regular meetings of Commission and Foundation Executive Committees. The Commission approved the letter to be sent to the Foundation. Nan that Stephanie Buffum will present information on the [Particularly Sensitive Sea Area](#) (PSSA) designation at the May Commission meeting.

- Action: Letter from Commission to Foundation will be sent by Nan.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**



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Ron Thom shared recent committee discussion topics including progress on the discussion on drone use in kelp monitoring and the definition of a healthy Straits ecosystem. Ron plans to consider of how the science goals of the Commission align with the science goals of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).

### **Nominations Committee**

Jerry Masters was designated as the chair of the Nominations Committee for election of officers, which will take place at the Commission's April meeting.

- Action item: Nan McKay asked those interested in making nominations for chair and vice-chair for the coming one-year term to send an email to Jerry Masters.

### **Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC)**

Nan McKay briefed the Commission on the February 9 Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) meeting. Both she and Ginny attended.

### **Business Items**

#### **April Commission meeting details**

MRCs will present on upcoming projects at the April Commission meeting and Ginny encouraged people to attend in support of the MRCs.

- Action: Nicole will send out a schedule to get MRCs assigned to their 25 min slots (20 min presentation, with a five-minute question and answer period).

### **Kelp update**

Lucas Hart discussed the decision by the Science Advisory Committee in the use of drones in kelp monitoring. The committee agreed drones are useful but utilization must remain on a voluntarily partnership with individuals volunteering their equipment and time. The Committee was responding to a presentation made to the Commission at its January meeting, there is currently no funding or specific drone use proposed. Lucas said that Alan Clark (Clallam MRC) is planning a kayak safety training for June which will include training in the use of GPS units. Caroline Gibson was successful in finding grant funding for support staff for the 2016 kelp survey season.

### **Light attenuation project follow up**



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Lucas updated everyone on a light attenuation device in prototype stage developed by John Vavrinec (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory) and Jeff Gaeckle (Department of Natural Resources) used to better understand the ideal conditions for eelgrass growth. The prototype will be released in May 2016 followed the designation of separate pilot sites over the 2016 summer. More information will be made available in the coming months.

### **WDFW – NWSC forage fish partnership update**

Lucas met with Phil Dionne (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - WDFW) to talk about the Sound Wide Forage Fish Survey Project and the MRC's role in revisiting established forage fish survey sites. The WDFW is able to sample once per site at multiple locations throughout Puget Sound but will need assistance in continued sampling. The project will last till June 2017. Lucas invited people to contact him with questions.

### **Net pen forum report**

Lucas reported out on his recent attendance at the Net Pen Forum at University of Washington. A key issue discussed at the forum was the lack of net pen data for Puget Sound. Summaries from the forum will be made available to the public by the University of Washington.

- Action: The Department of Ecology will be invited to the August Commission meeting.

### **Leadership Council Brief**

Ginny said that the Commission will be presenting at the April 28 meeting from 11:30-12:15 PM. A field trip will take place after the briefing, showcasing key Jefferson MRC project sites.

### **Puget Sound Day on the Hill update**

Ginny provided highlights from her and Jerry Masters' participation in the event in Washington, DC in early March. Fifty people attended and were met by US Representatives Heck, Kilmer, Larsen, De Fazio, and Del Bene as well as Senators Murray and Cantwell. The event demonstrated strong support for Puget Sound.

### **Retreat follow up**



Ginny said that survey results indicated an overall positive outcome for retreat attendees. Action items from the retreat are currently being followed up on.

- Action: Nicole will send out a summary of the survey results.

### **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)**

Ginny explained that she and Caroline are working with staff from the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), a Washington State grant program to design small grants. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued soon for small grants aimed at projects supporting the MRC's Strategic Plans.

### **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC)**

The Northwest Straits Initiative will be well represented at this event.

- Action: Nicole will send out a list of Initiative representatives who are presenting at SSEC.

### **MRC support**

Ginny invited MRCs to contact Commission staff for information on project proposals.

### **MRC Reports**

In addition to the written reports, MRCs provided highlights of their work since the last Commission meeting.

**Clallam** - Jeff Ward shared information on the recent Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training offered by the MRC. Clallam is working on their internship program for 2016, including the need for an intern to specifically address issues in the Elwha Dam removal beach area. John Cambalik (Coordinator, Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network -SERN) has arranged for Jeff to be a voting member on SERN's technical task force.

**Whatcom** - Holly Faulstich updated the Commission on new members to the MRC including Pete Sim and returning member Bob Cecile. Results from the February elections include; Rachel Benbrook (Chair), Eleanor Hines (Vice Chair), Doug Stark (NWSC Representative), Pete Granger (NWSC Alternate Representative). She also shared information on the upcoming speaker series and the MRCs preparation for the upcoming grant cycle.

**San Juan** - Phil Green noted that San Juan MRC plans to host a reception the night before the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in support on their Marine Managers Workshop. Arnie Klaus introduced himself to



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the Commission as the new lead staff for San Juan MRC and shared information about his background, including work in Puget Sound restoration efforts.

**Jefferson** - Dale Moses shared the MRC's intention of setting more long-term goals and prioritizing their projects on a broader scale. Dale shared the MRC's Fort Townsend State Park outreach initiative is gearing up in the next few months, building interest in the nearshore restoration project there in June.

**Skagit**- Jamey Selleck updated the Commission on Skagit MRC's new members including Kit Rawson and Phyllis Bravinder as new members and Erica Pickett and Jodi Bluhm as new alternate members. He also shared information about the completion of Bowman Bay restoration project.

**Snohomish** - Paul Clampitt shared updates from Snohomish MRC including the acceptance of a bid for nearshore beach restoration at Howarth Park. He also shared information on a new shoreline storm surge monitoring project.

**Island** - Ed Adams shared that the MRC recently hosted their 2016 retreat on Camano Island at a potential restoration site in Camano Island State Park. The area is a possible pre-restoration forage fish spawning survey site due to the presence of surf-smelt eggs.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

### **Round Table:**

Ron Thom shared his involvement in the Blue Carbon Summit hosted by Puget Sound Partnership. He also shared that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reported an increase in eelgrass in Puget Sound, though reasons remain unknown.

Marc Daily shared the release of the [Near Term Actions](#) (NTAs) and provided an update on project proposals from Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs).

\*The next Commission meeting will be on April 29<sup>th</sup> at Padilla Bay Reserve in Mount Vernon.\*



**April 29, 2016 • 9:00am – 3:00pm**  
**Big Room, Padilla Bay Reserve**

**Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jerry Masters (Vice-Chair), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Jamey Selleck (Skagit), Jeff Ward (Clallam), Ed Adams (Island), Dale Moses (Jefferson), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ron Thom, Tom Cowan

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Tracy Alker (Skagit staff), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson staff), Autumn Moore (Snohomish staff), Helle Andersen (Clallam staff) Arnie Klaus (San Juan staff), Franchesca Perez (Snohomish), Elizabeth Kilanowski (Whatcom), Frances Wood (Island), Jay Lind (Skagit)

**Absent:** Phil Green (San Juan), Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams

**Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated introductions. Nan reported that Tom Cowan volunteered to serve as chair of the External Relations Committee.

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

**MRC Presentations**

Each MRC presented a proposed project for the upcoming year. The Commission and other attendees provided feedback.

1. **Skagit MRC - Jamey Selleck - Nearshore Monitoring in Skagit**
  - a. Jamey presented on the continuation of nearshore monitoring in Skagit. The MRC will evaluate beach stabilization and identify potential locations for forage fish spawning at 3 different shoreline restoration sites. Next steps include training project leads, updating protocols and continued data collection and analysis.
  - b. The Commission discussed the role of Skagit MRC and their ownership of the project. Jamey explained how the project depends on the MRC by their pinpointing of sites, training volunteers through the Salish Sea Stewards, and providing funds that leverage other support.
2. **Whatcom MRC - Elizabeth Kilanowski - Aiston Preserve: From a Rock Quarry to a Public/Private Conservation Partnership**



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- a. Elizabeth presented on Aiston Preserve on Lummi Island and the historical use of the rock quarry. The project involves the Lummi Heritage Trust and partners restoring the site to usable parkland area with Whatcom MRC contributing to shoreline monitoring and providing volunteers.
  - b. Commission members asked questions regarding the role of the MRC in the restoration of the site, including specific funding needs the Commission would be supporting. Elizabeth said the amount needed from the Commission is unknown at this time, and that an Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) grant is being sought for restoration work.
    - Action: Ginny will initiate a conversation regarding the logistical side of the MRCs involvement and Commission funding.
3. **Snohomish MRC - Franchesca Perez - Port Susan Shoreline Storm Surge Monitoring**
- a. Franchesca presented on a project to enlist landowners and volunteers to monitor their properties shoreline for effects of storm surge. The MRC will support shoreline armoring removal by providing landowners with the tools to determine the best course of action for their property.
  - b. Commission members asked questions and discussed issues of sea level rise throughout the region. Ginny said Eric Grossman from USGS is interested in expanding storm surge monitoring to the whole region.
    - Action: Ginny will get information on the My Shore app used in North Carolina for shoreline monitoring.
4. **Clallam MRC - Jeff Ward - Oil Spill Preparedness**
- a. Jeff described the projected increase of ship traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the activities planned by Clallam MRC to be prepared for an oil spill. Currently, the MRC is filling in data gaps in the Department of Ecology's Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) in their region using SoundIQ and other sources. The project proposal includes incorporating new GIS data to SoundIQ and other state databases while continuing their education and outreach efforts through oil spill preparedness courses and public workshops.
  - b. Commission members were impressed at the amount of meaningful data that could be contributed to the GRP from looking at existing reports and monitoring efforts. There is interest in sharing this project at the next MRC Conference.
5. **San Juan MRC - Arnie Klaus - 2017 Marine Managers' Workshop**
- a. Arnie presented on planning for the 2017 MRCs Marine Managers' Workshop , which will focus on the implications of increased vessel traffic and potential oil spills while emphasizing the San Juan Islands' unique position at the international border. The Workshop is expected to include Canadian participants.
  - b. Tom Cowan asked why the MRC was not doing a 2016 Marine Managers' Workshop. Arnie explained that it's due to limited staffing.
6. **Jefferson MRC - Cheryl Lowe - Olympia oyster Restoration in Jefferson County**
- a. Cheryl presented on the MRC's expansion of Olympia oyster restoration in Jefferson County. Their proposed work focuses on increasing oyster populations in the previous areas of restoration by adding oyster seed and monitoring populations.



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- b. Commissioners asked questions regarding the future harvesting of Olympia oysters. Cheryl explained the benefits of establishing a strong recovery which supports long-term economic benefits, and several noted their appreciation for tideland owners willing to use tideland areas for restoration rather than harvest, such as the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Clallam County. Commissioners expressed interest in expanding the Olympia oyster discussion to include the entire region; first determining whether there's enough standardization of restoration techniques and monitoring. Commissioners noted that this would be a good topic for the 2016 MRC Conference.
7. **Island MRC - Frances Wood – A Pigeon Guillemot Survey: both monitoring and outreach**
- a. Frances presented on the Pigeon Guillemot monitoring and outreach program that began in 2003. Citizen scientists and a project intern collect data on this Puget Sound indicator species, and their outreach focuses on bluff health and stewardship as well as seabird awareness.
  - b. Commissioners commented on the outreach efforts of Island MRC to local businesses, like the winery, as a unique way to create awareness of the MRCs work. Frances noted that many people who know about the MRC may have had their introduction through this project. It was noted that this project is ripe for transferal to other counties where Pigeon Guillemots nest.

### Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

### Business Items

- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)**

Ginny updated the Commission on the Request for Proposals for 2017 projects. All proposals must be consistent with the MRC's strategic plan, or the Northwest Straits strategic plan if the MRC does not have a current strategic plan.

- Action: Commission staff will set up a lead staff call to discuss next steps in submitting a proposal.

- **MRC Grants – current status**

Ginny invited MRCs to contact the Commission with questions regarding upcoming projects.



- **Forage fish update**

Ginny announced that the Commission has obtained \$50,000 from Washington Department Fish and Wildlife for two years of forage fish work. The first half expires on June 30, 2016.

- Action: Lucas will get details on the June 8 forage fish training.

- **Action Agenda comments**

Ginny said she intended to submit comments on the [Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda](#) by the deadline - midnight, April 29.

- **MRC Conference – Date, location, keynote, planning committee.**

Ginny reminded everyone of the MRC Conference dates and location: November 4 and 5 at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. She also announced that Jonathan White, author and former Commission member, will be the keynote speaker.

- Action: Ideas for theme, sessions, and field trip can be sent to Ginny.

- **Leadership Council Presentation**

Nan and Ginny briefed everyone on the Commission's presentation to the Leadership Council in Port Townsend on April 28, along with a field trip to Jefferson MRC project sites that was well attended.

- **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (SSEC)**

Attendees noted highlights from the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

### **Election of Officers**

Jerry Masters reported from the Nomination Committee that Jamey Selleck had expressed interest to be the vice chair of the Commission and Nan McKay as chair of the Commission. There were no other nominations. The Commission moved and approved by consensus to elect both candidates as nominated.

\*The next Commission meeting will be on May 27, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM by WebEx Conference Call\*



**May 27, 2016 • 10:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Conference Call**

**Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam), Pete Granger (Whatcom-alt), Ed Adams (Island), Phil Green (San Juan), Dale Moses (Jefferson), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ron Thom, Tom Cowan

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Courtney Baxter

**Others in Attendance:** Helen Andersen (Clallam staff), Eric Grossman (USGS), Stephanie Buffum (FRIENDS of the San Juans), Peter Best (Puget Sound Partnership), Brittany Jones (NWS Foundation-contractor)

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams, Jerry Masters

**Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes from the April Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written and are available for download [here](#).

**NWSC Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee**

Jamey Selleck reported out on the May Executive Commission meeting. Ginny provided additional information on the Commission's collaboration with the Puget Sound Partnership and also with Puget Sound Institute on proposals for funding to the EPA in response to their Request For Proposals.

**Science Advisory Committee**

Ron Thom said the committee is compiling information for MRCs on identified topical areas as a resource. Ron also said the committee is reviewing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QUAPP) for the Island County Pigeon Guillemot survey project.

**External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan said the committee is discussing strategies to get matching funds from each of the seven MRC counties. The committee plans to meet again in the next month.



## **Business Items**

### **Forage Fish**

Lucas updated everyone on the forage fish survey training which will be held June 8 at Padilla Bay. Ginny explained how the Commission is supporting MRCs in identifying sites in collaboration with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's work.

- Action: Anyone interested in the forage fish survey training can contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

### **Kelp survey**

Lucas said Emily Bishop is finalizing the kelp protocol which will be available June 6. Lucas introduced Brittany Jones, the new kelp coordinator. She's working for the Northwest Straits Foundation as a contractor.

- Action: Those interesting in contacting Brittany can reach her at [jonebr04@gmail.com](mailto:jonebr04@gmail.com) and 315-212-5015.

### **#CatchMoreCrab**

Ginny introduced Courtney Baxter, the Commission's new #CatchMoreCrab social media project assistant. She's working half time through August to promote best crabbing practices through a social media campaign.

- Action: Those interested in contacting Courtney can reach her at [baxter@nwstraits.org](mailto:baxter@nwstraits.org) and 360-399-8170.

### **MRC Conference – call for advisors**

Ginny updated everyone on the status of conference planning and said session topics are currently being brainstormed. Jonathan White, author and former San Juan MRC and Commission member, is confirmed as the featured speaker on Friday evening.

- Action: Nicole will send out an online survey with proposed session topics in early June to all MRC and Commission members. Submit additional ideas then.
- Action: Those interested in being on the conference advisory committee should contact Ginny.

### **2016-17 MRC Grant Proposals**

Sasha said MRCs are in the process of preparing grant proposals, due May 31.

- Action: Commission staff and the Science Advisory Committee will review proposals.

## **NWSI Strategic Plan Goal 2 review process**

Ginny updated everyone on the progress of the Strategic Plan Goal 2. Lucas spoke on the details of the upcoming ocean acidification workshop in Port Townsend on June 28.



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### MRC Reports

#### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck updated everyone on Bowman Bay Earth Day Celebration which had over 200 volunteers participate in proper planting techniques, beach seining demonstrations and more. Jamey also said the MRC has discussed potential project proposals for the upcoming Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Small Grant Program.

#### **Whatcom**

Pete Granger updated everyone on the return of Austin Rose as lead staff in the June. He said the MRC is looking for a replacement for Ken Carrasco's seat (Conservation) this summer. Pete said the MRC is in process of submitting project proposals to the Commission.

#### **Snohomish**

Paul Clampitt reported Autumn Moore, Snohomish MRC staff, left for another position; the MRC is seeking a replacement. Paul gave further detail on the Nearshore Beach Restoration Project and said that Redside Construction won the bid so the project can now move to the next phase. Paul said he and Kathleen attended the Derelict Crab Pot Prevention Strategy meeting and are excited to see the project expand.

#### **San Juan**

Phil Green said a lot of the MRC's time during this period of year is spent as the citizen advisory group on salmon advisory for the area. Barbara Bentley hosted a public meeting for the San Juan Mobile Pump-out Project with future meetings scheduled for Lopez and San Juan Islands.

#### **Jefferson**

Dale Moses said the MRC's recent events have been successful at appealing to potential volunteers. The MRC has been invited to a joint meeting with Clallam MRC on June 20th for a discussion of Olympia oysters. He also said the no anchor zone buoys are reinstalled for this year.

#### **Island**

Ed Adams said the MRC has hired a Pigeon Guillemot survey intern for the summer season. Ed provided an update on the status of the beach seining progress at Cornet Bay and invited those interested to participate.

- Action: Those interested in weeding parties at Cornet Bay can see Island County MRC's website. Dates are 10:00am – 1:00pm on: June 28, July 26, and August 23.

#### **Clallam**

Alan Clark updated on leadership changes from recent MRC elections including Ed Bowlby, Chair; Jeff Ward; Alan Clark, Commission representative, Bob Campbell, Commission representative-alternate. Alan said the MRC is seeking new interns in kelp, beach debris, education/outreach, and Olympia oysters.



### **PSP Update on Near Term Actions**

Ginny introduced Peter Best with Puget Sound Partnership. Peter gave an update on Near Term Action funding and announced that the draft [Action Agenda](#) is out.

### **Information on Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas Designation for Salish Sea**

Stephanie Buffum, FRIENDS of the San Juans, presented information on [Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas \(PSSAs\)](#). She explained requirements for a PSSA designation, regulatory logistics and the tentative timeline for PSSA nominations for the Salish Sea.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on June 24 at the Snohomish County Administration Building.\*



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**Location: Snohomish County Campus, Public Meeting Room #1, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA**

**Date/Time:** June 24, 2016 – 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit,), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Phil Green (San Juan), Mike Ehlebracht (Snohomish-alt), Ron Thom, Jerry Masters, Tom Cowan, Marc Daily (Puget Sound Partnership-alt)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Courtney Baxter

**Others in Attendance:** Leska Fore (Puget Sound Partnership), Thomas Temple (San Juan-alt), Brittany Jones (Northwest Straits Foundation-contractor), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson MRC staff), Will Hall (Director of Snohomish County Surface Water Management), Terry Stevens, Jay Lind, Thomas Hoban, Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC staff)

**Absent:** Nan McKay (Chair), Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams, Dale Moses (Jefferson)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Jamey Selleck opened the meeting with introductions. Will Hall, Director of Snohomish County Surface Water Management, thanked and welcomed the Commission to Snohomish County.

The minutes from the May Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written and are available [here](#).

### **Snohomish MRC presentation: Howarth Park**

Kathleen Herrmann presented on the Snohomish MRC Nearshore Restoration Project in Howarth Park. [Click here](#) to see her PowerPoint and [supporting videos](#) - <http://bit.ly/2986nh9> . Kathleen explained beach degradation, beach nourishment and how the MRC is working on bulkhead removal to restore salmon habitat on a four-mile stretch of shoreline.

### **Northwest Straits Commission - Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Jamey Selleck reported out on the June Executive Commission meeting. Jamey referenced a letter from Jamie Stephens, chair of the San Juan Local Integrating Organization's Accountability Oversight Committee, on the withdrawal of the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area Near Term Action (NTA) from the



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Action Agenda. Jamey also mentioned that Executive Committees of the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Commission are scheduling a joint meeting.

### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan said the committee has a meeting scheduled on July 8.

### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron Thom said the committee discussed net pens and defining a healthy ecosystem. Ron attended the recent Clallam/Jefferson MRC joint meeting and spoke on an idea for obtaining additional project funding. The committee plans to meet July 25.

### **MRC Reports**

#### **Snohomish**

Mike Ehlebracht welcomed Hannah Spohn as the new MRC program assistant. The MRC is moving forward on outreach for the Storm Surge Monitoring Project in Port Susan as a way to engage with stakeholders.

#### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck reported the MRC identified three projects for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Small Grant program: an expansion of Bowman Bay, Fidalgo Bay shoreline restoration and Kiket Island restoration. The Shannon Point Nearshore Restoration project is on hold due to a potential trail expansion by the city.

#### **San Juan**

Phil Green said the MRC compiled a list of pros and cons on a proposed plastic bag ban and presented it to the County Council. The MRC is waiting on additional information on county funding to do educational outreach at the new Orcas Landing. MRC members are reviewing final proposals for salmon recovery projects and will vote at the July MRC meeting.

#### **Jefferson**

Cheryl Lowe reported the MRC is assisting in providing feedback to the Department of Ecology to update the Geographic Response Plan (GRP) for Admiralty Inlet. Two new raingardens were installed, one at the courthouse and the other at the community center.



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### **Island**

Ed Adams said Leal Dickson submitted his resignation as a MRC member, due to a move out of county. Blain Reeves, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research, presented at the June 7 MRC meeting on the decision to allow limited sand shrimp harvest in the East Whidbey Region after a temporary pause. Ed encouraged those interested to read the [technical report](#).

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark reported the MRC has selected five summer interns who will each have an MRC member mentor. Alan said the kayak skills and rescue course in Mystery Bay was recently completed and that several MRC members attended the forage fish training in Padilla Bay. The Clallam and Jefferson joint meeting allowed for productive discussion on Olympia oyster project updates.

### **Whatcom**

Doug Stark reported the MRC is looking at potential sites for Olympia oyster restoration in Chuckanut Bay. The MRC hopes to launch a citizen science program to support current projects. Doug said Jerry's Journey (trail) has been extended to September 30 in order to create two more signs.

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) update**

Marc Daily, Puget Sound Partnership, gave an update on Near Term Action funding and updated on the response to proposals from the EPA. Marc also announced the 2016 Action Agenda will be ready June 29. Those interested can visit the [PSP website](#).

### **Northwest Straits Initiative Strategic Plan — Goal 2: Measures of Progress**

Ginny led the Commission through discussion on the measures of progress on Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan. Cheryl suggested setting goals for rain gardens by area rather than quantity of sites would be more useful in the future. The Jefferson MRC installed a few gardens that are larger than originally planned but the total number of rain gardens that was envisioned may not be reached. The Commission discussed potential expansion of rain gardens to other MRCs as well as ways to further mitigate ocean acidification and carbon sequestering through expanding on current projects. Marc Daily complemented the group on the discussion of tracking measures of progress.

### **Public Comment:**



## minutes

There was no public comment.

### [Effectiveness Assessment: What's Working to Restore Puget Sound](#)

Leska Fore, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), and Jamey Selleck, Natural Resources Consultants (NRC), presented on the PSP's Effectiveness Assessment Program. [Click here](#) to see their PowerPoint - <http://bit.ly/292UExu>. They also presented fact sheets and project summaries on nearshore habitat restoration occurring at Weaverling Spit, Cornet Bay and Seahurst Park.

### **Business Items**

#### **MRC Conference planning**

Ginny updated on the upcoming MRC conference in Port Townsend on November 4-5, 2016. The online survey for session topics (now closed) provided helpful information and had a good response rate.

- Action: Collected responses to the session topics survey will be reviewed by the conference planning committee.
- Action: Staff will look into field trip suggestions which may include a walking tour of Jefferson rain gardens or a site visit in Island County.
- Action: The conference advisory committee is in need of a few MRC members. Contact Ginny at [broadhurst@nwstraits.org](mailto:broadhurst@nwstraits.org) to participate.

#### **MRC grant review process**

Commission staff and the Science Advisory Committee are currently reviewing MRC project proposals.

#### **Funding Opportunities**

Ginny and Caroline are participating in site visits for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Small Grant program. Ginny updated on a new NOAA funding opportunity — [NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grant Program](#).

- Action: Ginny, Caroline and Lucas will brainstorm ways to create a joint response from the Commission and Foundation to the NOAA Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Grant Program.

#### **Forage fish project update**

Lucas said additional MRC volunteers attended a forage fish training in June. Nicole ordered forage fish survey supplies for MRCs requesting them. Ginny said forage fish data from Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Straits Foundation efforts are being recorded in SoundIQ.

#### **Kelp project update**



## minutes

Brittany Jones provided an update on the kelp protocol progress and the recent meeting with Alan Clark on GPS use and kayak training. She said they are working on getting all seven MRCs updated on protocol for the survey season that is starting in July.

### **#CatchMoreCrab**

Courtney Baxter, #CatchMoreCrab social media project assistant, has outreach cards available for handing out during crabbing season, beginning July 1.

- Action: To participate in the campaign, contact Courtney at [baxter@nwstraits.org](mailto:baxter@nwstraits.org), 360-399-8170.

### **Round Table**

Ed Adams commented on a [CBC article](http://bit.ly/295Znnn) (<http://bit.ly/295Znnn>) on sea star wasting disease. The Commission discussed the relationship between the disease and potential impacts on kelp restoration efforts.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on July 29 over WebEx.\*



## minutes

July 29, 2016 • 10:00am – 12:00pm  
WebEx Conference Call

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Phil Green (San Juan), Mike Ehlebracht (Snohomish-alt), Ron Thom, Jerry Masters, Tom Cowan, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Sheida Sahandy (Puget Sound Partnership)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Terry Stevens, Jay Lind (Skagit MRC Chair), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC staff), Arnie Klaus (San Juan MRC staff), Elisa Dawson (Snohomish MRC staff)

**Absent:** Terry Williams

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay opened the meeting. Ginny Broadhurst did roll call.

The minutes from the June Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved with changes and are available here: <http://nwstraits.org/archive/>.

### **Director's Report**

Ginny said she will be leaving her position as Director of Northwest Straits Commission in the fall. Terry Stevens is working with Nan McKay and the Department of Ecology to create a job description and application which will be widely circulated when ready. Ginny plans to stay with the Commission until the transition is complete.

### **Northwest Straits Commission - Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Jamey Selleck said the Executive Committee discussed ongoing concerns on oil transport within the MRCs. The committee also discussed progress on the planning of the 2016 MRC Conference. Jamey said the Commission and Foundation Executive Committees held a joint meeting on July 26 and will continue to share agendas and meet regularly.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron Thom said the committee discussed the destination of collected data throughout the Northwest Straits Initiative and its inclusion in the SoundIQ database. Ron said Commission staff ordered forage fish supplies and is distributing them as they arrive. The committee cautions against reinventing the definition of a healthy ecosystem and instead encourages adopting a definition which best fits the Northwest Straits



Commission. Ron said the committee is looking into collected data on the topic of scarring from boat moorings and suggested MRCs could use that data in making a case for an anchor out zones.

### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan said the External Relation's meetings generally focus on developing strategies for continuing and increasing funding for the Commission while building relationships with key partners in Puget Sound.

### **Business Items**

#### **Ocean Acidification Forum**

Lucas said the Commission held an Ocean Acidification Forum in Port Townsend this June. The event was targeted to leaders who could affect change in their communities—17 people attended. Betsy Peabody, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, presented on kelp restoration in Jefferson County waters. Nam Sui, Jefferson MRC, presented on eelgrass protection zones and MRC project connections to Ocean Acidification. Brad Warren, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, presented on sea level rise, emphasizing the importance of focusing projects on places which will not be underwater in the future. Ginny provided a closing and led a discussion on ways that everyone can help with ocean acidification.

#### **MRC Conference planning**

Ginny updated everyone on the planning of the upcoming MRC conference in Port Townsend, November 4-5, 2016. The planning committee decided to incorporate a showing of the film Sonic Sea (<http://www.sonicsea.org/>) at the 2016 MRC Conference, followed by a panel discussion from a variety of experts.

- Action: Those interested in becoming more involved with the conference should contact Ginny at [broadhurst@nwstraits.org](mailto:broadhurst@nwstraits.org).

#### **MRC grant approval**

MRC staff are submitting final edits to 2016-2017 grant proposals. The Commission decided to move the proposals to the Executive Committee for final approval.

#### **Kelp survey season underway**

Lucas said Brittany Jones is working closely with MRCs for the current survey season. All seven MRCs started their surveys and are collecting data.

- Action: Please direct your questions to Brittany Jones, Northwest Straits Foundation kelp coordinator, at [jonebr04@gmail.com](mailto:jonebr04@gmail.com) and 315-212-5015.

#### **Northwest Straits Initiative Strategic Plan (Goal 3) review progress**

The Commission discussed the third Environmental Goal of the Northwest Straits Initiative Strategic Plan and are interested in finding a better way to measure progress on Olympia oysters than “acres restored” and will visit that topic at the MRC Conference. The Commission also noted a lot of progress being made and there's interest in updating the Strategic Plan to include additional projects.



### **MRC Reports**

Each MRC reported out on the last month of work. Read the monthly report for each MRC by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2austZl>

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark reported on the work of their three summer interns: Douglas Parks, working on compiling GIS data for Geographic Response Plan updates and inputting the data into SoundIQ; Haley Gray, working on bull kelp surveys in Freshwater Bay; and Anthony Creasey, doing beach surveys in the Elwha Beach area. The MRC is also busy planning their Dungeness River Festival, scheduled for September 23 and 24.

### **Island**

Ed Adams said the MRC is working on an Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) grant proposal. Anna Toledo joined Courtney Baxter to conduct crabber outreach at Cornet Bay on July 1 for the #CatchMoreCrab social marketing campaign. Cornet Bay weeding parties are under way, with the next event scheduled for August 23.

### **Jefferson**

Dale Moses reported the MRC is working with the Department of Ecology on updating the Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) for Admiralty Inlet. An article about the Port Townsend eelgrass buoys appeared in the Northwest Yachting July issue (<http://bit.ly/2aKGAMR>). Also, in late July, local radio station (KPTZ) will air an interview with Cheryl Lowe on the topic of shoreline armoring.

### **San Juan**

Phil Green said the MRC experienced challenges with the GPS unit while conducting recent kelp surveys causing additional surveys to be conducted. The county public facilities funding committee is reviewing the MRC proposal for a design phase to enhance Orcas Landing. Also, the MRC now has a Facebook page, follow this link to take a look: <http://bit.ly/2asUFxZ>.

- Action: Those with feedback on the new Facebook page should contact Arnie Klaus at [arniek@sanjuanco.com](mailto:arniek@sanjuanco.com).

### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said that interpretive signs for the Bowman Bay Nearshore Restoration are almost done and the Shannon Point Nearshore Restoration Project is on hold until the city makes a decision about proposed trail plans. Jamey also said the MRC is busy planning their annual upcoming Fidalgo Bay Day in Anacortes on August 27 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.



## minutes

### **Snohomish**

Mike Ehlebracht reported that Elisa Dawson was hired as the new MRC planner, working part time in support of MRC programs. The MRC also welcomes Hannah Spohn as the new MRC program assistant. Mike said Paul Schlenger and Simon Geerlofs resigned from the MRC and Tom Hoban will leave the MRC in August. Kathleen Herrmann said the beach nourishment site at Howarth Park will be complete by the end of July.

### **Whatcom**

Doug Stark reported that Rachel Benbrook, MRC Chair, stepped down but is still participating as a volunteer in MRC projects. Eleanor Hines stepped in as chair until a replacement is found. Laura Hanna was appointed to the MRC filling Ken Carrasco's seat. Doug said MRC staff, members and volunteers are conducting bi-monthly water quality sampling in the Chuckanut watershed.

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)**

Sheida Sahandy, Executive Director of PSP, said that the Managing Director of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will visit Puget Sound in September. The 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda is now online at [psp.wa.gov/action\\_agenda\\_center.php](http://psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php)

### **Northwest Straits online presence: website, social media and beyond**

Sasha Horst presented on the Northwest Straits involvement in different virtual platforms. Currently the Commission uses an electronic newsletter, website and variety of social media tools to share information about MRC projects and events and is always seeking alternative areas to expand.

- Action: MRC members and staff should send photos, flyers and information on projects and upcoming events to Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org) or Sasha at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on August 26 at the Ecology Bellingham Field Office.\*



## minutes

**Location:** Department of Ecology Field Office, 1440 10th Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

**Date/Time:** August 26, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ron Thom, Jerry Masters, Tom Cowan, Marc Daily (Puget Sound Partnership-alt), Dale Moses (Jefferson)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Courtney Baxter

**Others in Attendance:** Terry Stevens, Amy Jankowiak (Dept. of Ecology), Caroline Gibson (Foundation), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Elizabeth Kilanowski (Whatcom), Bert Rubash (Whatcom), Jay Lind (Skagit), Arnie Klaus (San Juan), Austin Rose (Whatcom staff), Pete Granger (Whatcom-alt), Sue Blake (Whatcom), Ruth Blythen

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Terry Williams, Phil Green (San Juan), Ed Adams (Island)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay opened the meeting with introductions.

The minutes from the July Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved as written and are available here <http://nwstraits.org/archive/>.

### **Director's Report**

Ginny said she is working on documenting processes and history of the Northwest Straits Commission for future reference. Tom Cowan explained the tradition of the paddle which was presented to the NWSC by the Tulalip Tribes and is brought to each Commission meeting. Terry Stevens distributed the job announcement for the NWSC Director position. The soft deadline for application is September 26, 2016. Action: Please circulate the announcement for the Director position found here: <https://t.co/7jiG7Oq1dr>.

- Action: Contact Terry Stevens at (360) 428-1045, [tstevens@padillabay.gov](mailto:tstevens@padillabay.gov) with any questions.

### **Northwest Straits Commission - Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Jamey Selleck reported on the August meeting, at which the committee approved 2016-17 MRC grant proposals and agreed on a mini-update to the Strategic Plan.

#### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan said the committee did not meet since the last Commission meeting. Ginny spoke with Senator Kevin Ranker on the potential for state funding. Tom plans to follow up with Senator Ranker.



## minutes

### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron Thom said the committee discussed ways of incorporating strange happenings in the Salish Sea and ecosystem health into the MRC Conference. The committee is considering a kelp monitoring workshop in October. Caroline said the Foundation can cover the expenses of the kelp workshop.

The Committee also discussed managing data and is interested in pursuing graduate student involvement.

- Action: Anyone with concerns about the Science Advisory Committee sharing MRC data with graduate students should contact Ron Thom.
- Action: Suzanne Shull will be included in the next Science Advisory Committee meeting to demonstrate SoundIQ (<http://nwstraits.org/our-work/soundiq/>) as a data sharing site.

### **Puget Sound No Discharge Zone (NDZ)**

Amy Jankowiak, Department of Ecology (DOE), presented on the proposed No Discharge Zone in Puget Sound. Members of the DOE Water Quality Program submitted a final petition to the US Environmental Protection Agency on July 21, 2016. Ecology is focusing on preparing an implementation strategy with a focus on outreach/education, augmented with enforcement. Amy explained that the policies will only affect black water in vessels and that 700-1000 acres of shellfish harvest areas have the potential to be upgraded due to lower pollution risk factors in the proposed No Discharge Zone. The Commission discussed the potential affects on MRC projects, recreational boaters and ongoing conservation efforts in the Salish Sea.

- Action: To get more information on No Discharge Zones, contact Amy Jankowiak at Dept of Ecology ([amy.jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:amy.jankowiak@ecy.wa.gov)) or visit the Ecology website at <http://bit.ly/1kZA9nW>.
- Action: For information on the relationship of No Discharge Zone to shellfish harvesting, contact Mark Toy, Department of Health, at [mark.toy@doh.wa.gov](mailto:mark.toy@doh.wa.gov).

### **MRC Reports**

MRCs reported out on their last month of work. Read the full reports here: <http://bit.ly/2c8KuxH>.

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark reported the MRC held a celebration for their summer interns: Haley Gray, Anthony Creasey and Douglas Parks. He said the MRC is looking into putting together a climate change workshop. They are also moving Olympia oysters to the Pitship area, preparing for further oyster restoration.

### **Island**

Elsa Schwartz said the eelgrass team completed underwater videography at nine sites and aerial videography around Whidbey and Camano Islands. She said seining in Cornet Bay revealed lower pink salmon numbers than expected. The kelp team is monitoring five sites and is beginning kelp outreach through a new kiosk which will be installed at Libbey Beach.



## minutes

### **Jefferson**

Dale Moses reported that the Fort Townsend beach restoration is complete. Dale said the MRC is working on increasing communication and outreach throughout the MRC and that they will have a booth at the Wooden Boat festival September 9-11, 2016. The ongoing projects are rolling along and the MRC is hosting an annual casual picnic for MRC members.

### **San Juan**

Arnie Klaus said the MRC is continuing the development plans for leading the creation of an interpretive overlook area at the Orcas ferry landing. The MRC is working with San Juan County Public Works to secure funding for site improvements. The MRC is also planning a 20-year anniversary celebration.

### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said their main focus for the past months was preparation for Fidalgo Bay Day. Monitoring results in Fidalgo Bay indicate that native oyster spawning and settlement continues to improve and that the populations are becoming self-sustaining. Also, the MRC conducted their first kelp survey Monday, July 18, near Washington Park and Shannon Point.

### **Snohomish**

Paul Clampitt said 3 members left the MRC; Paul Schlenger, Simon Geerlofs and Tom Hoban. The MRC completed kelp monitoring in July and also completed beach restoration at Howarth Park. MRC members attended the Warm Beach Summerfest on August 13 in Port Susan in an effort to reach out to homeowners about the effects of shoreline armoring.

### **Whatcom**

Doug Stark said Dr. Jude Apple will speaking about hypoxia issues in Bellingham Bay at the next meeting. He also said an intern with the MRC is working on preparing data for SoundIQ. Austin said the MRC is hosting a screening of the film *A Sea Change* (<http://www.aseachange.net/>) at the Pickford Theatre on September 25. Aslan Brewery in Bellingham is hosting an event on September 18 in which 10% of beer sales will be donated to the Northwest Straits Foundation in support of the work of the Whatcom MRC.

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) update**

Marc Daily, Puget Sound Partnership, said Commission funding through the PSP will be reduced by 4% because the EPA reduced funding to the PSP by an additional \$360,000 above what was expected for this fiscal year. The Partnership is continuing to work with Congressmen Derek Kilmer and Denny Heck on the PUGET SOS legislation (<http://bit.ly/2bTSC3P>) and with the Obama Administration to gain recognition for Puget Sound.

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

## minutes

### **Northwest Straits Foundation update**

Caroline Gibson said the primary focus of the Foundation's work is building other sources of funding. She encouraged MRCs to look into the MRC Opportunity Fund which is an optional request up to \$10,000 in support of an MRC project. She reminded everyone that the Foundation staff capacity is limited at only four people.

- Action: Caroline asked for those with ideas on funding supporters to contact her, [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).
- Action: The MRC Opportunity Fund is open. Deadline for applications to the MRC Opportunity Fund is October 31, 2016.

### **Business Items**

#### **MRC Conference planning**

Ginny gave an update on the upcoming MRC conference in Port Townsend on November 4-5, 2016. A draft agenda will be available mid-September. Highlights include:

- Keynote speaker: Jonathan White, Author, on his new book [\*Tides: The Science and Spirit of the Ocean\*](#).
- Screening of award-winning film *Sonic Sea* (<http://www.sonicsea.org/>) followed by expert, Rob Williams, presenting on underwater noise.
- A special presentation from Adam Summers, biomechanist at Friday Harbor Labs and advisor on ichthyology for the movies *Finding Nemo* and *Finding Dory*.
- Action: Questions on registration? Contact Nicole Jordan at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org) or Heidi Lehman at [lehman@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:lehman@nwstraitsfoundation.org).
- Action: MRC members (including Commission representatives and alternates) should contact their county MRC lead staff person for making hotel reservations.

#### **Catch more crab wrap up**

Courtney Baxter, social media project assistant, completed the #CatchMoreCrab outreach campaign and presented highlights from the project.

- Action: Those with feedback on the campaign should contact Sasha Horst at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

#### **Mini update to Strategic Plan**

The Commission is working on a mini-update to the NWSI Strategic Plan. The intent is to capture the progress on goals within the plan and help maintain focus for future work. The topic will be discussed at the MRC lead staff meeting on September 13. Also, the Commission is scheduled to hold a business meeting at the beginning of the MRC Conference to approve the mini-update.

- Action: Commission members should alert Nicole ([jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org)) if they cannot attend the business meeting.



## minutes

### **2017 NWSC meeting dates**

The draft calendar of 2017 Commission meeting dates is ready for review: <http://bit.ly/2bzo5MW>.

- Action: Any suggestions on changes should be directed to Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

### **Shoreline Master Program (SMP) rule changes and Net Pen update**

Michelle Wilcox, Department of Ecology, presented on the SMP rules update. The Department of Ecology is proposing to expand provisions addressing coastal hazards such as sea level rise. Ecology is considering five categories for the review, including: periodic review needs, a potential “joint review” option to streamline SMP amendments, housekeeping issues, sea level rise and water-dependent uses.

Cedar Bouta, Department of Ecology, presented updates on the issue of net pen aquaculture and the preliminary draft rule amendments for addressing net pens.

The Commission discussed issues around net pen expansion in Puget Sound in terms of nutrient input, exacerbating ocean acidification and differences in scales of impact on ecological systems. Ron Thom suggested the issue be forwarded to the Washington State Academy of Science.

- Action: Ginny, Nan, Paul Clampitt and Elsa Schwartz will draft a potential comment letter to the Department of Ecology.

### **Round Table**

Dale commented on the usage of the Puget Sound Starts Here sticker in the Ecology building.

Nan said a subcommittee of the Marine Resources Advisory Committee is looking into legislative budget priorities.

Ron Thom recommended including nearshore stations for water quality sampling for more accurate nearshore water quality samples.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on September 30 over WebEx.\*



**September 30, 2016 • 10:00am – 12:00pm**  
**WebEx Conference Call**

**Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Phil Green (San Juan), Ron Thom, Jerry Masters, Dale Moses (Jefferson), Marc Daily (Puget Sound Partnership-alt)

**Commission Staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

**Others in Attendance:** Terry Stevens, Jay Lind (Skagit MRC Chair), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC staff), Arnie Klaus (San Juan MRC staff), Tom Mumford, Caroline Gibson, Franchesca Perez (Snohomish MRC Chair), Meg Chadsey (Sea Grant)

**Absent:** Terry Williams, Tom Cowan, Sheida Sahandy

**Welcome and Introductions**

Nan McKay opened the meeting and did roll call.

The minutes from the August Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved and are available here: <http://nwstraits.org/archive/>.

Terry Stevens, Director at Padilla Bay Reserve, provided an update on the status of the hiring of a new Commission director. He reminded the Commission of the November 9 special meeting to review finalists.

**Northwest Straits Commission - Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee**

Nan McKay said the Executive Committee discussed the \$15,000 cut in EPA funding to the Commission. The committee discussed the Puget Sound Partnership pursuit of less frequent updates to the Action Agenda. The committee also discussed the comment letter to the Department of Ecology on the Shoreline Management Act rulemaking as well as the tribal seat on the Commission.

**External Relations Committee**

Nan McKay said the committee talked about a legislative strategy involving a proposal for MRC funding. The proposal is for \$450,000 for a 2-year period to provide funding for MRCs to continue involvement in monitoring work for forage fish eggs and to continue outreach related to ocean acidification.



### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron Thom said Suzanne Shull, GIS specialist at Padilla Bay Reserve, presented on SoundIQ at their recent meeting. Suzanne demonstrated how to use SoundIQ as a database management system and how to utilize it to look for long-term trends. They also discussed ecosystem health and how to define, measure and operationalize it in throughout the Northwest Straits Initiative. The committee will have another call to discuss graduate student work in data collection.

### **MRC Reports**

Each MRC reported out on the last month of work. Read the monthly report for each MRC by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2dPQekQ>

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark said the MRC hosted a booth featuring information on clam and oyster health and crabber outreach at the Dungeness River Festival. While they are excited the booth reached over 400 kids, they are looking at ways to engage more adults at future events. Douglas Parks, the intern on the GRP Update project, completed a marine debris data set after the intern Celebration. The data is ready to be uploaded into SoundIQ.

### **Island**

Ed Adams said the MRC is continuing to survey for forage fish eggs at four restoration sites and five WDFW index sites. Several eggs were found at Maple Grove index site on Camano Island, where samples yielded up to 100-200 eggs. The educational kiosk centered on kelp outreach will be installed at Libbey Beach Park by the end of September. Ed said the MRC is wrapping up the beach seining and pigeon guillemot projects.

### **Jefferson**

Dale Moses said the nominations committee is seeking a new chair to replace Al Bergstein, who is stepping down after serving for several years. The MRC is working on kelp and forage fish monitoring projects. The MRC will be removing the voluntary no anchor zone buoys and replacing them with winter buoys. An article will be featured in 48 North (<https://48north.com/>) on their project. He debriefed everyone on the MRC's booth at the Wooden Boat Festival, which featured a popular "poop toss" game to highlight the importance of proper disposal of pet waste.

### **San Juan**

Phil Green said the last MRC meeting featured presentations by Duncan Wilson, Friday Harbor Town Administrator, on stormwater projects and by Mark Herrenkohl, Interim Environmental Resources Manager for San Juan County, on the proposed plastic bag ban in San Juan County. The MRC completed their kayak-based kelp surveys for the year. Arnie Klaus said the MRC is planning its 20th Anniversary event in early November.



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### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said Liz Lovelett resigned her position on the MRC, they are currently looking into a replacement. The last MRC meeting featured a presentation from the Department of Transportation on plans for treating stormwater runoff to Fidalgo Bay. Jamey said Fidalgo Bay Day, sponsored by Skagit MRC, saw over 350 visitors. Skagit MRC also hosted a display at the Skagit River Salmon Festival.

### **Snohomish**

Kathleen Herrmann said the MRC did not get a new Washington Conservation Corp (WCC) position this year. The MRC is recruiting for three new members. She said the MRC completed the project for a data management application called MyCoast (<http://apple.co/2dWaQHK>), usable by citizen scientists and homeowners in Snohomish County. She also said the beach nourishment sites are now complete at Howarth Park.

### **Whatcom**

Doug Stark reported that the MRC is working on recruiting an Environmental/Conservation representative. At the MRC's September meeting, Dr. Jude Apple, Research Coordinator at Padilla Bay Reserve, presented on hypoxia, nutrients, and plankton community dynamics in Bellingham Bay. Doug said the MRC hosted a booth at the Birch Bay Days/Crab Fest on August 27-28 and co-hosted the film *A Sea Change* (<http://www.aseachange.net/>) on ocean acidification for Whatcom Water Weeks.

### **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)**

Marc Daily said the PSP is working on reviewing budget proposals for grants aimed at Puget Sound restoration work. The PSP is opening up their own authorizing legislation to pursue less frequent updates to the Action Agenda. Marc said Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director of the [White House Council on Environmental Quality](#) is visiting Puget Sound on October 17-19.

### **Business Items**

#### **2017 Commission dates calendar**

The calendar of 2017 Commission meeting dates is ready.

- Action: Nicole will change the meeting location for August 2017 and send out a separate email with the calendar.

#### **Follow up on SMP comment letter**

Nan McKay, Linda Rhodes, Elsa Schwartz, Paul Clampitt, Lucas Hart and Ginny Broadhurst drafted a letter to the Department of Ecology about preliminary draft Shoreline Master Program rule amendments and submitted it to Ecology on September 27.

#### **Kelp Workshop in Port Townsend**

The Northwest Straits Initiative is hosting a Kelp Workshop in Port Townsend on October 14 from 11:15 AM–4:00 PM centered on how summer data collection by MRC's will shape the future of the kelp project.



### **NOAA kelp workshop**

Lucas Hart attended a workshop on September 27 organized by NOAA. The intention of the workshop was to discuss kelp projects that can be implemented to contribute to rock fish recovery goals. Caroline said she is looking into funding through NOAA for the Initiative to take the lead on a Puget Sound kelp recovery plan.

- Action: Caroline, Ginny and Lucas will meet to discuss a kelp recovery proposal.

### **Ocean Acidification grant application**

Lucas Hart discussed a collaborative grant opportunity partnering with Ecology and Pacific Northwest National Labs. The grant would assess local vulnerabilities to ocean acidification with an emphasis on socio-economic impacts and contributions to ocean modeling.

### **Ocean Acidification October 7 WebEx event**

The Commission is hosting an Ocean Acidification Forum at Padilla Bay. The forum is available over WebEx.

- Action: Join WebEx forum by clicking here (<http://bit.ly/2dHxGD5>). Meeting number (access code): 924 261 896. Join by phone 1-877-668-4493.

### **Multi-agency forage fish meeting**

Lucas updated on his recent meeting in Portland with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to discuss the integration of volunteers into forage fish spawn site surveys and replicating the Northwest Straits Initiative's work in Oregon.

### **MRC Conference**

Ginny said United States Representative Derek Kilmer will attend the conference and provide a welcome. A draft conference agenda is available. Ginny is looking at a way to incorporate the topic of invasive green crabs into the conference. Commission staff updated on ferry issues during the conference. Due to scheduled work on the Coupeville ferry terminal, there will be no ferry service on the Port Townsend/Coupeville route on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6.

- Action: People are encouraged to check back for additional updates to the agenda. <http://nwstraits.org/media/2229/draft-mrcconf2016-agenda.pdf>
- Action: Visit the following link for WSDOT ferry information: <http://bit.ly/2dMLWX9>. Those traveling to Port Townsend from Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan and Snohomish Counties are encouraged to use the Edmonds/Kingston for travel.

### **October 17-18 Oil Spill preparedness**

The Department of Ecology is hosting an Oil Spill Workshop in Bellingham on October 17-18 focused on practitioners. See the agenda here: <http://bit.ly/2dK7ZN9>.



## minutes

### **Defining Ecosystem Health**

Tom Mumford presented on ecosystem health as it fits within the Initiative's work, stressing that the term "health" appears in several areas throughout the Northwest Straits Initiative, including the Murray-Metcalf Report: <http://bit.ly/2dlkGLZ>. His suggestions included establishing a baseline by compiling existing data throughout the Initiative, then defining objectives on health, indicators and thresholds. The topic will be forwarded to a future Commission meeting for further discussion. See his full presentation here: <http://bit.ly/2dHBleG>.

### **Northwest Straits Foundation update**

Caroline Gibson said the Foundation is currently focused on obtaining philanthropic funding to boost capacity for the MRCs and Foundation. She said they received another year of funding for their derelict gear removal project. The Foundation is planning their retreat for October 8.

### **Public Comment:**

Jay Lind shared an article from National Geographic on ocean heat entitled *The Blob That Cooked the Pacific*: <http://on.natgeo.com/2aStayd>.

Meg Chadsey said the SeaDoc Society is launching their Salish Sea Forever Campaign.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on November 4 at the 2016 MRC Conference in Port Townsend.\*



## minutes

**November 4, 2016 • 10:00am – 11:00am**

**Commission Business Meeting**

**AV Room - Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Alan Clark (Clallam), Doug Stark (Whatcom), Ed Adams (Island), Phil Green (San Juan), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Jerry Masters, Tom Cowan

**Commission staff:** Ginny Broadhurst, Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart

**Others in attendance:** Terry Stevens, Jay Lind (Skagit MRC Chair), Kathleen Herrmann (Snohomish MRC staff), Anna Toledo (Island MRC staff), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Frances Wood (Island MRC Chair), Bob Vreeland and Bob Campbell (Clallam MRC)

**Absent:** Terry Williams, Ron Thom, Sheida Sahandy, Dale Moses (Jefferson)

### **Welcome and introductions**

Nan McKay opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the September Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved and are available here: <http://nwstraits.org/archive/>.

### **Director hiring process**

Terry Stevens, Director at Padilla Bay Reserve, provided an update on the status of the hiring of a new Commission director. The hiring committee narrowed applicants down to three candidates who will present at a special Commission meeting. The November 9 meeting to review finalists is postponed due to multiple scheduling difficulties. Commissioners should expect more information once the meeting is rescheduled.

- Action: Nicole will send out a doodle poll to reschedule the Commission meeting.

### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan presented a letter drafted by the External Relations Committee to legislators regarding a request for biennial state funding. The request of \$455,000 would provide annually \$32,500 to each MRC and would focus on three key project areas: salmon restoration by protecting forage fish; finding and documenting kelp beds; and restoring native Olympia oysters.

- Action: Commission members are encouraged to talk with Tom Cowan about contacting their legislators.

### **Discussion of draft updated Strategic Plan**

Ginny presented the mini-updates to the environmental goals of the Strategic Plan. Ginny added a status column which the Commission thought should stay in place and be used for reference. Commission staff will make changes suggested and make it available for a future Commission meeting.



## minutes

### **Other business items**

#### **MRC website update**

Site upgrades for four MRCs were completed and launched at the end of September including Jefferson, Snohomish, San Juan and Island. New sites remain at the same addresses.

#### **Funding proposals and letters of support**

Lucas wrote a letter of support for Puget Sound Institute for a forage fish project being proposed to SeaDoc Society for funding. He also wrote a letter of intent to apply for a grant to NOAA. Lastly, Lucas worked with Caroline Gibson and Tom Mumford to draft a letter of interest for funding to NOAA for development of a kelp recovery plan.

#### **MRC Reports**

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2fBCfdK>

\*The next Commission meeting is being rescheduled\*