



What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine
Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

January 2013

SNOHOMISH COUNTY MRC AND KIT RAWSON HONORED AS PUGET SOUND CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Snohomish County MRC and to Kit Rawson for being recognized as 2012 Puget Sound Champions by the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council! The Champion Awards were presented on January 7th by Leadership Council member Steve Sakuma at a ceremony in Everett.



The Snohomish MRC received a Champion Award in recognition of its leadership in developing a Conservation Action Plan for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. Partners in the project include the Island County MRC, Tulalip Tribes, the Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, WSU Extension of Snohomish and Island Counties, and Washington Sea Grant. More information is available on the [Snohomish MRC web site](#). (Group photo: At awards ceremony, left front is Kathleen Herrmann-Snohomish MRC lead staff. Kit Rawson is pictured at far right.)

Kit Rawson



Kit Rawson, a member of the [San Juan MRC](#), received a Champion Award in recognition of his individual achievement toward protecting and restoring salmon runs and Puget Sound. Since 1998 Kit has been developing the technical basis for the Chinook recovery plan for Puget Sound, especially focusing on the integrated effects of habitat, harvest and hatchery management. Kit is chair of the Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team and serves on the technical committee of the San Juan Watershed Group.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION EVENT IN EVERETT

The Northwest Straits Commission, in partnership with Snohomish County MRC, and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, is sponsoring an [Ocean Acidification Seminar in Everett](#) on January 24 from 6-8pm. The seminar will feature presentations from Dr. Terrie Klinger, Dr. Shallin Busch, and Brad Warren, all members of the state's [Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification](#). This is a great opportunity for anyone who is interested to learn about ocean acidification and what local communities can do. [Click here for agenda](#). The event is free and open to the public.

CLALLAM MRC OFFERS OILED WILDLIFE CITIZEN RESPONDERS TRAINING

When an oil spill occurs, many people are anxious to do whatever they can to help. However, spill areas present many hazards to responders, particularly volunteers. To minimize risks, federal and state laws require that responders be trained, something that must be done in advance of any spill event. Since 2009, the [Clallam MRC](#) has sponsored

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)



ongoing community education, training, and organization to maintain readiness to respond to a spill or other event that impacts marine wildlife. This includes oiled wildlife and spill response training, and refresher courses to keep volunteers' certificates current. Since the program started, more than 650 participants have taken the courses, which are offered free to interested citizens. The next class will be held Saturday, February 2. [Click here](#) to learn more or register for the class. The registration deadline is January 25.

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION RECEIVES NEW GRANT FUNDING

The Northwest Straits Foundation's Derelict Gear Removal Program was selected as a recipient of a \$10,000 grant from [Santa Monica Seafood's Responsible Sourcing Vendor Partner Program](#) (RSVP). The RSVP applies a percentage of seafood purchases toward projects that further sustainable practices and awareness in the seafood community, specifically fisheries management, gear improvement, stock enhancement and sourcing qualification. Grants are administered through [FishWise](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to market-based approaches to marine conservation.

The Northwest Straits Foundation also received a \$10,500 unrestricted grant from the Lucky Seven Foundation. Lucky Seven has been an ongoing supporter of the Derelict Gear Removal Program and the Foundation appreciates this most recent contribution. In 2012, the Foundation received grants from several private foundations, tribal entities, government, and corporate grant making programs. We send a big fishy thank you to these funders who are investing in the work of the Foundation and the MRCs.

THANKS TO 2012 NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS

The Northwest Straits Foundation received end-of-year donations from many individuals and businesses. As a result, the Foundation was able to meet a generous donor's matching funds challenge: all donations totaling up to \$15,000 will be matched dollar for dollar! These funds will help the Foundation build capacity to continue to support our shared work with the Marine Resources Committees and the Northwest Straits Commission to protect and restore our marine resources. A big thank you to all who donated in 2012! For more information about the Foundation, visit www.nwstraitsfoundation.org.

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION

The Northwest Straits Commission did not meet in December. The next meeting will be held January 25, 2013 at the Department of Ecology Field Office in Bellingham (1440 - 10th Street, Suite 102) beginning at 10am. Meetings of the Northwest Straits Commission are generally held monthly and are open to the public. [Click here for more information](#) about past and upcoming meetings.

At the December 2012 meeting of the Clallam County MRC, Jeff Ward was elected as the MRC's representative to the Northwest Straits Commission and Lyn Muench was elected as the alternate representative. Many thanks to Bob Vreeland for his past participation as Clallam MRC Commission representative!

EVENTS

January 24, 2013 – [Ocean Acidification Seminar](#). Everett, WA. Everett Station, Weyerhaeuser Room. 6-8pm. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, and City of Everett. [Click here for agenda](#). Free and open to the public.

February 2, 2013 - [WSU Extension, Island County Beach Watchers Sound Waters 2013](#). Oak Harbor High School, 8am-4pm. Featuring keynote presentation by Cliff Mass, University of Washington.

February 2, 2013 - [HAZWOPER Training](#). Port Angeles City Council Chambers. 8am-5pm. The free Oiled

Wildlife and Oil Spill Response Training is sponsored by Clallam County MRC. Registration deadline is January 25, 2013.

February 7, 2013 – *Sound and Vision film presentation.* Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2333 San Juan Avenue, Port Townsend, 7-9pm. The **Jefferson County MRC**, in partnership with the Washington Environmental Council, is screening Sound and Vision, produced by Seattle filmmaker Eric Becker. Sound and Vision is about our waters, told through the stories of people working to clean up, protect and restore habitat in Puget Sound and beyond. Suggested donation is \$10. All proceeds go to support the **Northwest Straits Foundation**. Call 360-344-4112 for more information.

February 27, 2013 - *Ocean Acidification Seminar.* UW Friday Harbor Laboratories on San Juan Island. 6:30pm-8pm. Co-sponsored by the **San Juan County MRC**, Northwest Straits Commission, and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. This seminar will feature Dr. Shallin Busch, member of the state’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, award-winning journalist Eric Scigliano, and Eric Swenson of Sustainable Fisheries partnership. Contact Linda Lyshall at lindal@sanjuanco.com for more information.

March 25-28, 2013 – *National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium.* Tacoma, WA. Washington Sea Grant, in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant, will sponsor the third national symposium on issues faced by working waterfronts throughout the United States.

ARTICLES

Clallam County MRC members present to County Commissioners – Peninsula Daily News, December 11, 2012.

Cities, groups to be honored for river, Puget Sound stewardship – Everett Herald, January 7, 2013.

Where We Are

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Contact the Northwest Straits Foundation

Who We Are



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Volunteers from seven county-based Marine Resources Committees select restoration and conservation projects

that meet performance benchmarks, attract diverse partners, and engage large numbers of community members in the process.

The Northwest Straits Commission coordinates these efforts and conducts regional projects. The Commission also brings together scientists and marine managers to help improve everyone's efforts to save Puget Sound.

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NEWSLETTER

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What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine
Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

February 2013

MRCs ASSIST WITH MUSSEL WATCH EXPANSION: THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers with four MRCs (San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom) have completed the cold, dark, and wet field portion of the Mussel Watch Pilot Expansion Study led by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Using native Pacific blue mussels deployed for two months in predator exclusion cages, the study aims to evaluate the level of exposure to pollutants from stormwater and other sources. MRCs were among 38 groups around Puget Sound that helped measure and bag 9,040 live mussels for this project, deploying and retrieving cages at 108 sites. The mussels were cultured and donated by Penn Cove Shellfish; samples will be analyzed for organic contaminants and metals. This study supports NOAA's national [Mussel Watch program](#). For more information please contact Jennifer.Lanksbury@dfw.wa.gov.

VOLUNTEERS FOR MUSSEL WATCH PROGRAM, ORCAS ISLAND.

MRC SCREENS SOUND AND VISION

The Jefferson MRC reports a good turnout on February 7 for the public screening of filmmaker Eric Becker's "*Sound and Vision*". The MRC co-hosted this event with Washington Environmental Council, and Al Bergstein, Chair, has kindly offered to help other MRCs and interested groups arrange future showings around the Sound. Contact Al at mountainstoneproductions@gmail.com, and check out the latest [Olympic Peninsula environmental news](#) on his blog.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SEMINAR A SUCCESS

On January 24th, over 120 people attended a free Ocean Acidification seminar Everett Ocean Acidification seminar held in Everett.

Hosted in Snohomish County by the MRC, the seminar was held to inform the public about what is ocean acidification, how it impacts the marine ecosystem, and what the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel recommends to mitigate the impacts of an increasingly acidic ocean. The event was well received and generated several questions and requests for more information. The following sponsors joined together to make this seminar a success: Northwest Straits Commission, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, National Fisheries Conservation Center, Puget Sound

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

Partnership, Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee and the City of Everett. Additional seminars are scheduled in Friday Harbor and Anacortes and additional dates are planned for Bellingham and Port Angeles.

STARLIGHT BEACH WALK

Michelle LaForge, Snohomish MRC

During the Starlight Beach Walk in Edmonds on Thursday, February 7, 2013, people of all ages combed the beach to discover starfish, anemones, limpets, crabs, squid, sea slugs and many other intertidal organisms exposed by the low-tide. Individuals from the following hosting organizations were on site to teach the public about each organism found: Snohomish County MRC, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, City of Edmonds Parks & Recreation and WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers.



OIL SPILL RESPONSE COURSE TRAINS 75 VOLUNTEERS

Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC

Seventy five volunteers and four instructors packed the Port Angeles City Council Chambers on Saturday, February 2nd, for an 8-hour HAZWOPER refresher course. Volunteers reviewed the basics of oil spill response, how to manage personal protective equipment, and the fundamentals of oiled wildlife search, capture, and rehabilitation. Editorial note: Volunteers and instructors responded to a loud and wet venue plumbing failure with grace and humor!

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION RECEIVES OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS FUNDING



The Northwest Straits Foundation, in collaboration with San Juan MRC, has been successful in attaining a \$60,000 grant from the state Department of Natural Resources to support a regional oil spill outreach, education, and preparedness program. MRCs from Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Clallam, San Juan and Jefferson counties will benefit from the project and will assist with coordination of various tasks as they pertain to their communities.

The purpose of this project is to facilitate community engagement in oil spill response in the six county target region. Target audiences include local government and Tribal officials and local communities. The Foundation will work with local and Tribal officials to deepen local preparedness through participation in drills and the development of robust incident notification systems in each county.

The project will have a focus on engaging local citizens in spill response and will include a series of Community Engagement Workshops through which local communities can learn about what happens during an oil spill and how local people can be involved in spill response.

To help local volunteers be most effective in spill response, a series of classes will be offered focusing on oiled wildlife response and care. This class will include species characteristics and identification and effects of oiling. The second part of the class will include a field exercise to include wildlife field assessment, search and capture, and primary care training.

GOODBYE TO NORTHWEST STRAITS STAFF

After almost three years of service to the Northwest Straits Initiative, we bid a fond farewell to Programs Manager, Tracie Johannessen. With a strong background in environmental education and program evaluation and assessment, Tracie has played an important role in community outreach programs, most notably the development of the landowner outreach and education component of the Port Susan shoreline armor prevention and removal project. We are deeply grateful to Tracie for her wonderful work and wish her every success in her future endeavors.

In January we regretfully also said goodbye to our Northwest Straits Commission staff member Andrea Hood. Although she was with us only for a short time, she was invaluable in making our annual conference a success as well as the forage fish symposium held last September at Friday Harbor Labs. She's moved on to a new position with the state Department of Health, but will be based in the Department of Ecology's Bellingham Field Office, so we are sure to cross paths again.

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

The January 25 meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission was held in Bellingham at the Department of Ecology field office. In addition to regular business and updates, Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham City Council member and Whatcom MRC member, provided a welcome to the group and shared information about the outcomes of the plastic bag ban enacted last year in Bellingham. The minutes from this meeting will be posted after their approval at the next meeting of the Commission.

The next meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission will be a brief business meeting by conference call on February 22, 2013. An agenda will be posted the week of the meeting. Interested members of the public are welcome to join the call with Commission staff at Padilla Bay Reserve. Contact Sasha Horst for additional information.

MRC HELLOS AND GOODBYES

Marine Resources Committees also said farewell to a few members. In Whatcom County, long time member Chris Fairbanks' term ended in December. In Clallam County, member Don Hatler is stepping down from the MRC. He led the MRC's efforts to provide outreach to recreational crabbers to reduce crab pot losses. In Skagit County, MRC member Kurt Buchanan joined as a representative of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and is departing from the MRC this month. In San Juan County, former chair Steve Revella has resigned the MRC due to health issues. We thank these volunteers for contributing their time and wish them the best for the future!

While we're sorry to see old members go, we're always happy to hear of new members joining the organization. Island County MRC welcomes two new members, Christine Goodwin and Dan Matlock. In Whatcom County, Carl Weimer joins the MRC as their County Council representative, and Elizabeth Kilanowski has been appointed to the MRC.

EVENTS

February 27, 2013 - Ocean Acidification Seminar. UW Friday Harbor Laboratories on San Juan Island. 6:30pm-8:30pm. Co-sponsored by the [San Juan County MRC](#), Northwest Straits Commission, and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. This seminar will feature Dr. Shalin Busch, member of the state's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, award-winning journalist Eric Scigliano, and Eric Swenson of Sustainable Fisheries partnership. [Click here](#) for more information.

March 13, 2013 – Ocean Acidification Seminar. Anacortes, WA. Seafarers Memorial Park, 6:00pm-8:00pm. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission, Skagit County Marine Resources Committee and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership. Free and open to the public.

March 25-28, 2013 – National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium. Tacoma, WA. Washington Sea Grant, in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant, will sponsor the third national symposium on issues faced by working waterfronts throughout the United States.

June 25-28, 2013 - Science of Oil Spills. Seattle, WA. Hosted by NOAA's Emergency Response Division. Application deadline: May 10, 2013. Notification to applicants will be done by May 24, 2013. The class will be limited to 40 participants. [Click here for more information and an application](#), or contact the training coordinator, Nicolle Rutherford, at 206-526-4913 or nicolle.r.rutherford@noaa.gov.

Where We Are

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More Information

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

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NEWSLETTER

[Click here](#) to see the current edition of the Northwest Straits Initiative's monthly newsletter. [Sign up.](#)



What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

March 2013

OCTOPUS ADVISORY GROUP ESTABLISHED

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Phil Anderson appointed Caroline Gibson, Marine Program Manager for the Northwest Straits Commission to the new Giant Pacific Octopus Advisory Group. The group is tasked with developing recommendations to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding harvest of giant Pacific octopus. For a glimpse of the regional distribution of this extraordinary creature, [click here](#). Link (and photo at right) provided by advisory group member and REEF outreach coordinator Janna Nichols.



FORAGE FISH PUBLICATION ONLINE

Proceedings of the 2012 Forage Fish Symposium co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Initiative are now available online through publication by the U.S. Geological Survey. The document is an important addition to a growing body of published literature on forage fish in Puget Sound, and outlines science and policy needs identified by symposium participants hailing from along the U.S. and Canada west coast, Alaska, and New England. Resulting actions include a new study on the potential link between eelgrass abundance and herring populations in Puget Sound. [Click here to read the proceedings.](#)

SKAGIT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SEMINAR DRAWS A CROWD

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

The third in the ongoing series of public seminars on Ocean Acidification co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Initiative and Sustainable Fisheries Partnership drew more than 80 people to Seafarers' Memorial Park on the evening of March 13. Locally hosted by the Skagit MRC, this event featured a great lineup of invited experts presenting recommendations from the [WA state Blue Ribbon Panel](#), and new studies underway at Shannon Point Marine Center. Samish tribal chair Rosie Cayou James, Skagit County Commissioner Sharon Dillon, and Skagit MRC member Erica Pickett all welcomed the group. (Photo at right: Bill Dewey presenting at seminar)



MARINE MANAGERS' WORKSHOP

The 10th annual Marine Managers' Workshop on February 27-March 1 at Friday Harbor Labs drew more than 50 participants who are working to address climate change impacts in the Salish Sea. Invited presentations included oil spill preparedness, salmon recovery, sea level rise, marine spatial planning, and

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)



ocean acidification. Presentations from the workshop will be posted to the [San Juan MRC web site](#). (photo at left: Barbara Marrett and Kit Rawson)

FOUNDATION AWARDED GRANTS FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS

The Northwest Straits Foundation recently received funding to complete feasibility reports, designs and permitting for two shoreline restoration projects at state parks. One is a project at Fort Townsend State Park (photo at right), conceived by the Jefferson MRC and State Parks. The project concept is to remove riprap and part or all of a small apron of fill on the Park's shoreline. This apron is located at the toe of a feeder bluff and is heavily riprapped. This project will serve a number of purposes, including improving nearshore habitat, restoring sediment sources to two drift cells, and improving access to and from the water.



The second project involves removal of armoring at Bowman Bay in Deception Pass State Park (photo at left) and is a partnership with Skagit MRC and State Parks. Bowman Bay is an important pocket beach which provides refuge for salmon and bull trout. The project will improve the nearshore habitat for these species and for forage fish and will improve access to and from the water.

Funding for both these projects comes through the [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program](#) from the Environmental Protection Agency. They were chosen for funding both because of their ecological value and for their potential to serve as demonstration sites for armoring removal in Puget Sound. For more information please contact Joan Drinkwin, 360-733-1725, Gabrielle LaRoche 360-385-2559, or Tracy Alker 360-224-9600.

GOODBYES

This month we said goodbye to Colonel Anthony Wright as he left his position as executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership. We thank Tony for his commitment and dedication to protect Puget Sound.

We also say goodbye to a long-time San Juan MRC member and former MRC chair Kit Rawson, who retired from his position with Tulalip Tribes this month after 26 years. Kit provided steady leadership for the MRC and was a regional expert on salmon recovery. Kit provided a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm to the Northwest Straits Initiative – we will miss him.

DR. PHYLLIS KIND EARNS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to former Island County MRC member and Northwest Straits Commissioner Phyllis Kind, Ph.D. who was presented with the **2013 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year** award at this year's Sound Waters event in Oak Harbor. Dr. Kind served on the MRC from 2001 through 2009, and as the MRC representative to the Commission she also served as vice chair and chair of the Commission. A scientist and avid birder, Dr. Kind's legacy continues with the MRC's work to survey nesting [Pigeon Guillemots](#).



NORTHWEST COMMISSION MEETING

The Northwest Straits Commission held a brief meeting by conference call on February 22. Minutes from the

January 25 meeting were approved and are now [available online](#). All Northwest Straits Commission meetings are open to the public, please let us know if you'd like additional information on our meeting schedules or agendas.

NO DISCHARGE ZONE CONSIDERED

The Washington State Department of Ecology is dedicated to improving water quality in Puget Sound. Ecology is working on multiple fronts to address a wide variety of pollutant sources. As one part of this effort, the Department of Ecology is evaluating a "No Discharge Zone" for all (or portions) of the Sound. A "No Discharge Zone" is a designated body of water where the discharge of sewage from boats is prohibited. No decisions have been made to proceed with a petition for a No Discharge Zone. However, Ecology has begun gathering information to evaluate whether to proceed with developing a petition. [Click here to view the web site with additional information.](#)

EVENTS

March 16, 2013 - *Beneath the Salish Sea: An Underwater Odyssey in Puget Sound*. The Clyde Theatre, Langley. 1:00pm. Question and answer period with Florian Graner, the filmmaker, follows.

March 17, 2013 - *Beneath the Salish Sea: An Underwater Odyssey in Puget Sound*. The Clyde Theatre, Langley. 1:00pm. Question and answer period with Florian Graner, the filmmaker, follows.

March 19, 2013 - *Evening Program on Japanese Tsunami Debris*. 6:30 PM at the Olympic Natural Resources Center, 1455 S. Forks Avenue, Forks. Open to the public. Contact Ellen Matheny for more information at (360)374-4556 or ematheny@uw.edu.

March 28, 2013 - *Ocean Acidification Seminar*. Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Dome Room. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC.

March 25-28, 2013 – *National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium*. Tacoma, WA. Washington Sea Grant, in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant, will sponsor the third national symposium on issues faced by working waterfronts throughout the United States.

April 27, 2013 – *Cornet Bay Volunteer Planting Event*. Deception Pass State Park. 10:00am-1:00pm. Please RSVP to ldegrace@skagitfisheries.org or 360-336-0172 ext. 301. Dress for the weather. Tools and snacks will be provided.



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What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

April 2013

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SEMINAR COMES TO BELLINGHAM



Over 130 people attended the Ocean Acidification seminar in Bellingham on March 28. The event, hosted by the Whatcom Marine Resources Committee, featured Brady Olson from Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center, Brad Warren of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Betsy Peabody from Puget Sound Restoration Fund. Both Brad and Betsy served on Governor Gregoire's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification. Speakers provided an overview of the issue

as well as some ideas for local solutions. Many thanks to our speakers and all who helped make this event successful.

WELCOME, JODY KENNEDY

This month we're pleased to announce the appointment of Jody Kennedy to the Northwest Straits Commission by Governor Inslee. Jody is the Washington policy manager for the Surfrider Foundation. She earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs and previously worked as the lead staff for the San Juan Marine Resources Committee.



JEFFERSON MRC WELCOMES NEW STAFF

A warm welcome to Cheryl Lowe, Jefferson County MRC's newest staff member, county representative, and WSU Beach Watcher Program Coordinator. A resident of Island County, Cheryl commutes to Port Townsend by ferry, bringing extensive expertise in habitat restoration projects from her previous work with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, North Cascades National Park, and the New England Wild Flower Society.

NORTHWEST COMMISSION MEETING

The Northwest Straits Commission will hold a brief meeting by conference call on April 19. Following that meeting, the minutes from the February 22 will be available online. [See our web site for meeting minutes.](#)

ARTICLES

April 14, 2013 - [Effects of ocean acidification — and what to do about it — topic of Port Angeles forum.](#)

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

Peninsula Daily News

March 30, 2013 - *Peninsula Profile: Couple have private refuge for waterfowl.* Peninsula Daily News

March 26, 2013 - *Your Ocean on Acid.* Cascadia Weekly (19mb pdf)

March 27, 2013 - *Threatened Puget Sound marine life shows global threat of ocean acidification.* Bellingham Herald

EVENTS

April 15, 2013 - *Community Forum on Ocean Acidification.* Port Angeles Senior Center. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Clallam MRC.

April 23, 2013 – *Public Workshop on Giant Pacific Octopus Recreational Harvest Management.* City of Port Townsend Cotton Building, 407 Water Street. 6:00pm-8:00pm.

April 24, 2013 - *Public Workshop on Giant Pacific Octopus Recreational Harvest Management.* Seattle Aquarium, 1483 Alaska Way, Pier 59 Seattle. 6:00pm-8:00pm

May 1, 2013 – *Padilla Bay Research Symposium.* Padilla Bay Reserve, Bayview.

September 14, 2013 - *Fidalgo Bay Day.* Seafarer's Memorial Park, Anacortes. 11:00am-3:00pm Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

November 22-23, 2013 - *15th Annual MRC Conference.* Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. For MRC members from all seven Northwest Straits counties and other invited guests.

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info@nwstraits.org

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NEWSLETTER

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What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

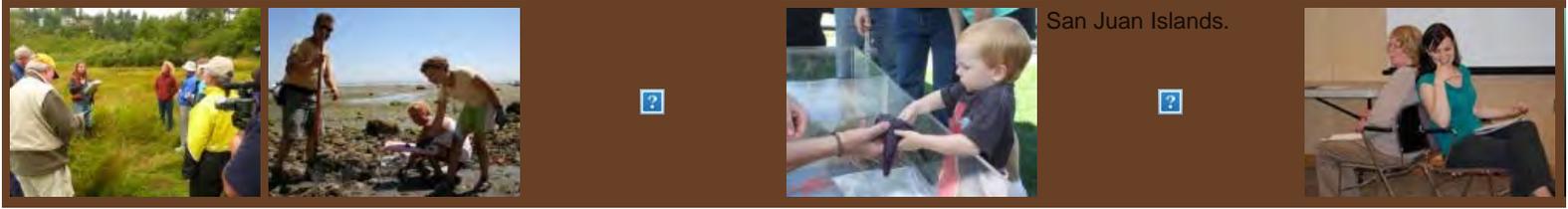
- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.

Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

May 2013

LIVING WITH THE COAST: IS YOUR LAND SLIP SLIDING AWAY?

Shoreline landowners on the Port Susan shoreline are invited to attend a FREE workshop on coastal process and shoreline erosion management on Saturday, June 1 from 1:00-5:00pm. A limited number of free site visits by coastal erosion specialists will also be offered to qualifying property owners. This is a project of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation in partnership with the Snohomish and Island County Marine Resources Committees. Workshop topics include:

- Improved slope stability and habitat
- How and why beaches and bluffs change over time
- Shoreline permitting and regulations
- Educational beach walk

Click here to register online. For more information, call 360-756-5024 or contact the Foundation at foundation@nwstraits.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR OLYMPIA OYSTER SURVEY IN DRAYTON HARBOR

Join the Whatcom MRC and Puget Sound Restoration Fund to scour Drayton Harbor for remnant Olympia oyster populations. Volunteers are encouraged to come out on Tuesday, May 28 from 12-4:30pm to look for these small native oysters, and help identify appropriate locations to do future restoration "seedings" of the native Olympia oyster. This work is part of the **Washington Shellfish Initiative**, an agreement among federal and state governments, tribes and the shellfish industry to restore and expand Washington's shellfish resources to promote clean-water industries and create family-wage jobs.

OLYMPIA OYSTERS

For more information about the survey, contact edouglas@co.whatcom.wa.us or betsy@restorationfund.org.

CLALLAM MRC HOSTS PORT ANGELES OCEAN ACIDIFICATION BRIEFING AND COMMUNITY FORUM

Five expert panelists briefed Clallam County Commissioners on ocean acidification on April 15. Brad Warren and Betsy Peabody highlighted salient points of the recently-released report from the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification and highlighted a local Olympia oyster restoration effort underway in Sequim Bay. Nina Bednarsek, Eric Swenson



and John Forster also joined the panel to offer expertise on ocean acidification, including ideas about using seaweeds and grasses to sequester carbon.

Following an interview with KONP, the local radio station, and Peninsula Daily News, the local newspaper, panel members held an evening community forum at the Port Angeles Senior Center, with about 50 people attending. Clallam MRC Chair Andrew Shogren opened the forum, and County Commissioner Mike Doherty welcomed forum participants and panel members of the Blue Ribbon panel.

Forum participants were intrigued by the information and asked many follow up questions. Panel members made good connections with the community, and forum participants are eager to learn more about ocean acidification.

PIGEON GUILLEMOT RESEARCH IN ISLAND COUNTY

The Island County Marine Resources Committee and Whidbey Audubon Society sponsor an ongoing study of breeding Pigeon Guillemots conducted by the Guillemot Research Group. This year, the Whidbey Island Guillemot Research Group launched its ninth summer breeding survey with a training on May 14. Each year over 50 trained citizen scientists monitor the approximately 1,000 pigeon guillemots that breed in 25 colonies around the island. At the training, conducted by project leaders Frances Wood, Phyllis Kind and Govinda Rosling, volunteers learned about the life cycle of these birds, the protocol for the breeding survey and the importance of guillemots as an indicator species for the health of the Salish Sea. The group's new intern/contractor, Kelly Zupich, will provide in-depth monitoring of selected colonies.



A unique new partnership has proven profitable for the Whidbey Island Guillemot Research Group. Ott & Murphy, an island boutique winery, has agreed to promote the guillemot summer breeding survey with a special bottling of red wine. Called Mutiny Bay Red, the landmark series includes a guillemot image and a description of the birds and the research project on the label. In addition to promoting interest in the birds, the winery will donate \$1 of each bottle sold to the Guillemot Research Group. Recently David Ott, co-owner of the winery presented the group with a check for \$1,000, as the first installment of donations. "When we realized that the birds' black and red colors exactly matched our winery colors, we knew it would be a great partnership," Ott joked at the presentation. "Now we can have our birds and drink wine, too," said Ann Casey accepting the check for the Guillemot Research Group.

The wine is available at PCC stores on the mainland. Several locations on Whidbey Island carry the wine, including Local Grown in Coupeville, the Ott & Murphy Tasting Room, the Star Store and The Goose at Bayview, all located in Langley. [More information about the survey program can be found on the Island MRC web site.](#)

WELCOME DR. GREG AYERS

San Juan MRC welcomes a new member this month. Dr. Greg Ayers is an engineer, cardiologist and medical device inventory. He is a serial entrepreneur and venture capitalist in biotech industry. He and his wife Patricia live on Orcas Island, San Juan County Washington.

"I joined the MRC to apply my skills and decision-making processes to help our County,

• [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)



our marine environment and the relationship between the two. I believe through this service I can help preserve our rural island culture while assuring the environmental impact of people living in our County is carefully considered by County Council in any decisions they need to make. I want to make sure that Council is provided with accurate, un-biased data data and its interpretation by the MRC to make such decisions. I am a scientist and a strong believer in protecting our marine environment; through my service I want to make sure that future generations can have the same opportunities for enjoying our marine resources and all they have to give us for recreation.”

CORNET BAY RESTORATION PLANTING

More than 60 volunteers turned out for a post-Earth Day planting at Cornet Bay on April 27. The work was part of an Island MRC/Northwest Straits Foundation collaborative project that will restore 800 linear feet of shoreline and 1.1 acres of beach at the day use area of Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park. The planting was organized by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, one of the project partners. Volunteering their time were representatives from the Oak Harbor High School, Anacortes High School, Northwest Indian College, and the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group.



“We planted 5,000 plants in a few hours,” said Joan Drinkwin, Foundation Programs Director, who brought along her twelve year-old son. “And it didn’t even feel like hard work!” Kudos to Sue Madsen, from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and her crew from the Washington Conservation Corps for making the whole event run like clockwork!

Photo: Volunteers plant intertidal grasses and sedges (credit Joan Drinkwin)

BEACH CLEANUP IN CLALLAM BAY

For Coast Cleanup Day on April 20, Clallam MRC partnered with the Clallam Bay-Seki Chamber of Commerce and the Clallam Bay Lion’s Club to host a beach cleanup event. Fifty-one volunteers cleaned beaches from Pillar Point to Bullman Beach.

DERELICT FISHING GEAR PROGRAM



The Northwest Straits Foundation derelict fishing gear program hosted two days of removal observations early in May. The first day, Ashley Ahearn, reporter for KUOW Public Radio, came on board to see our work. Her **story aired on May 21**, and Ashley has also been doing some promotion on the Earthfix Facebook page. Other observers that day were Megan Baker and Leah Thorpe, from the Cetus Society out of British Columbia. This is the group that does Sound Watch, educating boaters on the water about responsible Orca whale watching. Cetus Society is currently looking at the feasibility of starting a derelict gear removal program and wanted to see our work. Because of this international technical transfer, Ashley has pitched the story for Public Radio International.

The second day of observations included Nir Barnea, NOAA Marine Debris Program, and Michael Monroe, Oregon Sea Grant Program. Nir helped hook us up with Michael, who is filming a documentary about derelict fishing gear on the West Coast.

Both days removals were conducted at Point Roberts, where we have

already removed over 700 derelict nets. During those two days we removed about five more, finding more than 60 Dungeness crab entangled in gear as well as flounder, red Irish lord, and other fish bones and invertebrates.”

Above: Ashley Ahearn with her mike listening to the diver (Photo: Joan Drinkwin)

At right: Joan Drinkwin cutting crabs out of netting and Michael Monroe videoing crabs (Photo: Nir Barnea)

GIANT PACIFIC OCTOPUS ADVISORY GROUP

On May 9 the final meeting of the Washington State Giant Pacific Octopus (GPO) Advisory Group was held at the Seattle Aquarium. Members, including Caroline Gibson from the Northwest Straits Commission, presented a range of knowledge and opinions, much of it premised on personal underwater experience throughout Puget Sound. Although the group did not come to agreement on a specific recommendation, there was clear consensus that it's of primary importance to make it easy for the dive community to find and observe giant pacific octopuses. We encourage MRC members and anyone interested in the potential for increased protection of GPO to comment online by the May 31 deadline. [Click here for more information and to comment.](#)

[Click here to watch a giant in this YouTube video clip!](#)

MONSTER SEMINAR JAM SPOTLIGHTS SNOHOMISH MRC

Congratulations to Kathleen Herrmann, lead staff with the Snohomish MRC, for a great presentation on May 9 at the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center Monster Seminar Jam series. With a focus on the highly collaborative and evolving Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project, Kathleen described the interface between marine science, government, and community members in preserving Puget Sound, and in the context of a model known as collective impact.

Noting the variety of interests and activities that keep this remarkable effort moving forward, Kathleen generated new appreciation for the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative and its ability to leverage partnerships on so many levels. The Monster Seminar Jam Series was so named by a fisheries statistician inspired by monster truck sporting events - to differentiate it from other technical seminar series by NOAA. The presentation was recorded and can be streamed online. [Click here to watch the presentation.](#)

GOODBYE MELISSA ROBERTS AND LINDA LYSHALL

We wish a fond farewell to two of our beloved MRC staff this month. Melissa Roberts has served as staff for the Whatcom MRC since 2008 and departs for adventures in a new career. We also wish Melissa and her husband congratulations on their new baby! Linda Lyshall, staff for the San Juan MRC, will serve as the District Manager for the San Juan Islands Conservation District. We're sure to cross paths with her again in her new role. Many thanks to both for their hard work and dedication!

SPOTLIGHT: ARNOLD SCHOUTEN, CLALLAM MRC MEMBER

Northwest Straits Foundation and Commission staff Joan Drinkwin and Caroline Gibson recently had the pleasure of touring the extraordinary Dry Creek Waterfowl Sanctuary created by Clallam MRC member Arnold Schouten and his wife Debbie. The Schoutens have spent 34 years transforming 50 acres of Olympic wilderness into their home and that of threatened and endangered northern sea ducks; establishing international recognition for their successful



captive breeding program. King and speckled eiders, scaly-sided mergansers, smews, longtails and other species are nurtured to adulthood for zoos and scientific research around the world. A lifelong natural history buff and passionate waterman, Arnold has participated in wildlife rehabilitation following three major oil spills. In addition to serving on the MRC he is an active member of the Surfrider Foundation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28, 2013 - Olympia oyster survey. Drayton Harbor, Semiahmoo Marina. 12:00pm-4:30pm.

May 31, 2013 - Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville, Island County. 10:00am-1:00pm.

May 31, 2013 - Northwest Straits Foundation meeting. Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville, Island County. 1:00pm-3:00pm.

June 1, 2013 - Living with the Coast. Free workshop for Port Susan marine shoreline landowners. 1:00-5:00pm.

[Click here to register.](#)

June 19, 2013 - Community Beach Seining. Ship Harbor, Anacortes. 2:00 pm. More information coming soon.

September 14, 2013 - Fidalgo Bay Day. Seafarer's Memorial Park, Anacortes. 11:00am-3:00pm Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

November 22-23, 2013 - 15th Annual MRC Conference. Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. For MRC members from all seven Northwest Straits counties and other invited guests

April 30-May 2, 2014 - Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Seattle, WA.

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More Information

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NEWSLETTER

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What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

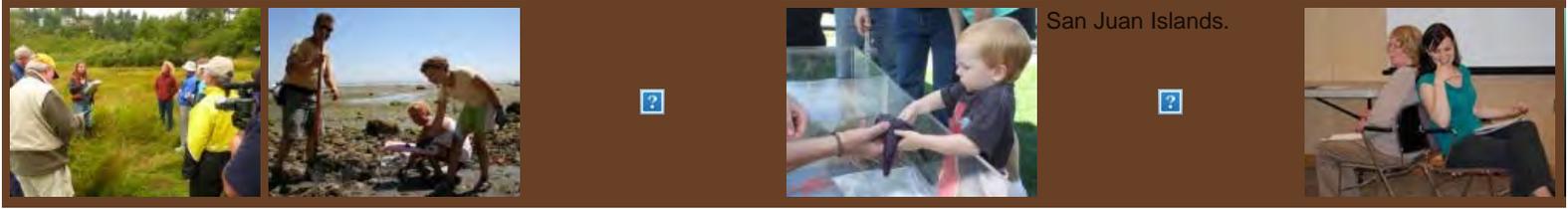
- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

June 2013

NORTHWEST STRAITS INITIATIVE REPRESENTED AT CAPITOL HILL OCEAN WEEK

Northwest Straits Commission staff member Caroline Gibson traveled to Washington, DC earlier this month, joining marine policy experts from around the country for **Capitol Hill Ocean Week**. Pressing issues of habitat protection, ocean acidification, and climate change adaptation featured prominently in many discussions. Caroline had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, the new Acting Administrator of NOAA, as well as visiting staff with our federal delegation.



INITIATIVE INVITED TO OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

Foundation Programs Director Joan Drinkwin and Northwest Straits Commission Director Ginny Broadhurst represented the derelict fishing gear program in May at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute at a workshop



hosted by the International Whaling Commission. The workshop was designed to elicit recommendations to the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission regarding whale entanglements in and ingestion of marine debris, specifically plastics. Workshop participants included representatives from Japan, Italy, South Africa, Brazil, Australia, and the United Kingdom. Recommendations

developed during the workshop included providing support for developing derelict fishing gear removal programs in other countries.

Photo: Participants in the International Whaling Commission Marine Debris Workshop at Woods Hole.

GOODBYES!

Jim Slocomb



At the June 5 meeting of the San Juan MRC, the group recognized Jim Slocomb's long and significant service to the MRC. Jim joined the MRC in 1998 and was elected chair of the MRC the following year, serving for six years. A live aboard boater and long-time San Juan resident, Jim spends more time on the water than just about anyone. His tremendous knowledge, perspective and GIS expertise have been a great benefit to the work of the MRC and the Commission.

Skagit County MRC is also losing a long-term member. Ivar Dolph is stepping down from the MRC. Ivar, who is also a Beach Watcher volunteer, worked on a wide range of projects, including a

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

three year pigeon guillemot survey, leading public meetings on rockfish reserves, walking local beaches as part of their Rapid Shoreline Inventory, coordinating volunteers and serving as one in documenting forage fish spawning beaches, counting and measuring oysters and editing the MRC's report to the community.



We will sorely miss both of these avid volunteers!

SNOHOMISH MRC PRESENTATION TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Snohomish County MRC Members Tom Hoban and Paul Schlenger recently gave the 2012 MRC Annual Report Presentation to the Snohomish County Council Public Works Subcommittee. They did a great job representing the Marine Resources Program! Thank you to all our amazing volunteers!

If you are interested in watching/listening online, [click here for the webcast](#).

SHORELINE LANDOWNERS WORKSHOP

Approximately 60 Snohomish County and Island County residents learned how they can protect and maintain their shoreline property in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area at the Stillaguamish Grange Hall on Saturday, June 1. Workshop topics included slope stability and habitat along with how and why beaches and bluffs change over time. Participants received information on how to sign up for free site visits by a private, shoreline management professional to learn how to protect their property.

The event, hosted by the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee in partnership with Island County Shore Stewards, featured a presentation by Jim Johannessen, a coastal processes expert. The workshop ended with an educational beach walk at Kayak Point Park.

CORNET BAY NEARSHORE RESTORATION PROJECT FEATURED AT SALMON RECOVERY CONFERENCE

Joan Drinkwin presented the Cornet Bay Nearshore Restoration project at the 2013 Salmon Recovery Conference held in Vancouver, Washington in May. The conference focused on research, policy and projects related to salmon recovery throughout Washington State. The Cornet Bay project was featured in a session on small-scale nearshore and estuarine restoration projects.



Photo: Cornet Bay Nearshore Restoration Project

MONITORING CONSORTIUM

Staff and volunteers with Jefferson, Snohomish, and San Juan MRCs as well as Northwest Straits staff members attended a Shoreline Restoration Monitoring Consortium hosted by the Suquamish Tribe on June 13. Recognizing the broad array of small-scale shoreline restoration projects around Puget Sound, the West Sound Watersheds lead entity convened this meeting to begin a group discussion about how to more effectively share monitoring protocols, methods, and tools – as well as capitalize on lessons learned, among the restoration community. One outcome is a 'living' bibliography of protocol and restoration plans that will be submitted to the new online [Encyclopedia of Puget Sound](#). Contact Kathlene Barnhart at KBarnhar@co.kitsap.wa.us.

UPCOMING PROJECTS: DERELICT CRAB POT REMOVAL OPERATIONS

The Northwest Straits Foundation with NRC are conducting another round of derelict crab pot removal efforts at specific locations within the Puget Sound. With input from shellfish managers we have identified Dungeness Bay as one of these locations this year, based on the previously observed concentration of derelict crab pots and that

last removal operations were conducted in 2008.

We have conducted surveys and are now in progress with five days of dive removals.

EVENTS

June 19, 2013 - Community Beach Seining. Ship Harbor, Anacortes. 2:00-4:00 pm. Hosted by the Skagit MRC and Shannon Point Marine Center

June 28, 2013 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Join conference call at Padilla Bay Reserve, 10am-12pm. More information at www.nwstraits.org.

September 14, 2013 - Fidalgo Bay Day. Seafarer's Memorial Park, Anacortes. 11:00am-3:00pm Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

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ARTICLES

Whatcom County Part of State Study - Bellingham Herald, June 3, 2013

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What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine
Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

July 2013

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANTS TO EXPAND LANDOWNER OUTREACH PROGRAM



The Foundation is pleased to announce the receipt of grants from Sustainable Path Foundation and Burning Foundation for the expansion of our successful Landowner Outreach to Reduce the Negative Effects of Shoreline Hardening program. The program, which has also received sponsorship support from the Northwest Straits Commission, combines targeted workshops on basic shoreline geology and how management choices affect the dynamic process of the nearshore with free site visits to shoreline properties. The site visits are conducted by professionals with expertise in shoreline geology, nearshore

restoration, and vegetation management. These experts visit with property owners, assess the erosion and restoration potential of their properties, and then provide the property owner with a free report containing management recommendations. This new grant funding will allow the Foundation to offer the program in targeted shoreline areas of Whatcom, Island, and Jefferson Counties over the coming year. We are grateful for the support of Sustainable Path Foundation, Burning Foundation, and the Northwest Straits Commission for this program!

WHATCOM MRC BOULEVARD PARK MONITORING

The Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee recently began a survey at Boulevard Park beach to identify and count intertidal species, before concrete riprap is removed by the city of Bellingham. The City's project will restore a section of beach to a natural shoreline of sand and gravel. By this time next year, we expect there will be an increase in sea life found on the beach. Whatcom MRC provided training for the volunteers who were out on the beach, and will share information with the City to help determine the success of the restoration work. The Bellingham Herald recently ran a story about the project. [Read the story here.](#)

JEFFERSON COUNTY 2013 SMART COMMUNITIES AWARD

Jefferson County was recently awarded a 2013 Smart Communities award, recognizing outstanding achievement in creating livable and vibrant communities, for the Mystery Bay and South Port Townsend Bay Management Plans. Jefferson MRC was instrumental in the project, which allowed conditional approval of commercial shellfish harvest in an area popular with recreational boaters.



Photo: 2013 Jefferson MRC members

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

FORAGE FISH AND FOOD WEBS MONITORING WORK GROUP

A group of fisheries scientists, managers, and other technical experts has been established by the [Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program](#) to help identify ways of more accurately monitoring changes in herring and other prey populations. Meeting agendas and other materials will be posted online. For more information contact Northwest Straits Commission staff member Caroline Gibson, coordinator of the work group at gibson@nwstraits.org.

DERELICT CRAB POTS REMOVED

The Northwest Straits Foundation surveyed and removed derelict crab pots in Dungeness Bay (Clallam County) and in Boundary Bay (Whatcom County) in June with funding from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Derelict crab pots

Surveys found 103 derelict crab pots in Dungeness Bay and subsequent removals retrieved all 103 pots. A number of pots showed extensive impacts to Dungeness crab and one pot found had been 'suitcased,' meaning the pot had been sabotaged by someone who had pulled it up and then threw it back in the water with the line and buoys shut into the pot. This removal operation was highlighted in a [story by the Peninsula Daily News](#).



Surveys in Boundary Bay found 1,671 targets, 979 of which cast little to no shadow in the sonar image, exhibiting characteristics of a pot that is possibly buried in the mud or almost fully dilapidated. A total of 6.2 square kilometers were covered by the survey, yielding an astounding density of 270 derelict pots per kilometer. So far, 155 of the pots located were removed. More removals at Boundary Bay are planned for July.

The Foundation's derelict gear work was also highlighted in another great story that ran June 8 on Public Radio International's program, The World. [Click here to hear the story](#).

Photo: Paul Rudell, of NRC, counting live Dungeness crab found in one pot removed from Dungeness Bay.

SNOHOMISH MRC LAUNCHES OCEAN ACIDIFICATION WEB PAGE

Snohomish MRC has recently launched a new page on their web site to provide information about ocean acidification, along with useful links to more information. [Click here to check it out](#).

WELCOME NEW COMMISSION LEADERSHIP



The Northwest Straits Commission recently elected new leadership, with Christine Woodward of the Skagit MRC elected as chair and Ken Carrasco of the Whatcom MRC as vice chair. Christine is the Director of Natural Resources for the Samish Indian Nation where she works on projects ranging from environmental assessments, renewable energy projects, and air and water quality-monitoring programs, to fish and shellfish related projects such as stream restoration, soft shore armoring and bank stabilization. The Samish Tribe has been an active member on the Skagit MRC for 10 years. Ken served in the Coast Guard and spent time on an icebreaker north of Alaska and in soviet Siberia and south to Antarctica. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University and a Master's degree from the University of Washington in Dungeness crab ecology. Ken also serves on the Board of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and chairs its Education Committee.

At the May 31 meeting, the Commission thanked outgoing chair Jerry Masters, a Governor's appointee, for his two years of service with the presentation of a custom paddle carved by Swinomish carver Kevin Paul. Many thanks, Jerry!



Photo: NW Straits Foundation director Robyn du Pre and NW Straits Commission director Ginny Broadhurst present outgoing board president and commission chair Jerry Masters with a paddle.

WELCOME NEW FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

For the first time since it was established in 2001, the Northwest Straits Foundation held elections for a board president and vice president separately from the Commission elections.

This month Jeff Ward takes the helm as board president. Jeff is Senior Research Scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Sequim. He brings thirty years' experience in leading teams and conducting research on a variety of topics in the realm of environmental toxicology and conducting environmental assessment. Throughout his career, he has worked closely with federal, state and local regulatory agencies; industry; and other stakeholder groups to develop collaborative solutions to complex problems and challenges. Jeff represents the Clallam County MRC on the Northwest Straits Commission. Shannon Davis will serve as the Foundation board vice-president. As a long-time staff member of Friends of the San Juans, Shannon brings excellent non-profit management acumen to the board. Shannon holds a master's degree in Urban Planning with an emphasis on natural resource management from the University of Washington.

The Foundation is growing and changing and will face a variety of challenges in the future. Foundation staff are so pleased to be working with these strong and insightful leaders as we move the organization forward.



ISLAND MRC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

After several terms serving as the chair of the Island MRC, Ian Jefferts of Penn Cove Shellfish has completed his final term, as has as vice chair Joe Hillers, PhD. Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers, and we are happy they will remain on the MRC as active members. The MRC welcomes new leadership, with Frances Wood elected to serve as chair and Linda Rhodes, PhD as vice chair. Both bring a wealth of skills to the MRC.

GOODBYE, JOHN ASCHOFF

John Aschoff from the San Juan MRC has completed a term that began in January 2010. John brought great energy to the MRC, and served as chair and Northwest Straits Commission representative during his tenure. Thank you for your service, John, and we wish you all the best!

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT: SKAGIT BEACH WATCHERS COORDINATOR

A part-time position is now open for a Beach Watchers Extension Coordinator, Skagit County Extension in Burlington WA. Responsible for developing curriculum and conducting training on marine, intertidal, nearshore and terrestrial ecology. Lead and supervise the development, implementation, and annual evaluation of the Beach Watcher marine stewardship education volunteer programs. To apply visit: <http://www.wsujobs.com>. [Click here to view a position description.](#)

SALISH SEA ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The first call for papers, posters and organized sessions for the 2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference was issued this month. General themes that are particularly welcome include conservation biology, policy planning, toxicology, communication, social science and climate change. Submissions for pre-formed sessions are due September 1, and submissions for papers and posters are due October 1. [Click here for more information and](#)

how to submit: <http://www.wvu.edu/salishseaconference/call-for-proposals.shtml>

APPLY NOW FOR CITIZEN ACTION TRAINING SCHOOL

The new Citizen Action Training School (CATS) is accepting applications for a Bellingham program that begins September 18. CATS participants will be future community leaders who are aware, educated, and active stewards and advocates for our local watersheds and the greater Puget Sound. Participants will receive 50 hours of training over 3 months, and will give back by volunteering at least 50 hours to plan and complete a service project in their community. Check out the program website at www.rfeg.org/cats for more information.

EVENTS

July 26, 2013 - Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Padilla Bay Reserve. 10:00am - 3:00pm.

September 7-21, 2013 - Whatcom Water Weeks Events. [Click here for more information.](#)

September 14, 2013 - Fidalgo Bay Day. Seafarer's Memorial Park, Anacortes. 11:00am-3:00pm Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

November 22-23, 2013 - 15th Annual MRC Conference. Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. For MRC members from all seven Northwest Straits counties and other invited guests

April 30-May 2, 2014 - Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Seattle, WA.

NEW IN THE NORTHWEST STRAITS ONLINE LIBRARY

[Restoration of the Native Oyster in Fidalgo Bay Year Ten Report - Skagit Marine Resources Committee /](#) Kailey Gabrian-Voorhees, Paul Dinnel and Nam Siu

[Olympia Oyster Field Guide 2013 - Identifying Washington State's Native Oyster and its Habitat /](#) Betsy Peabody and Hannah Davis

[Promoting ISO Metadata Standards Through Application to Puget Sound Nearshore Data /](#) Suzanne Shull and Caroline Gibson

[Proceedings of the 8th Annual Elwha Nearshore Consortium Workshop /](#) Anne Shaffer

ARTICLES

[Global effort seeks to clean-up discarded fishing nets from sea floors](#) - Public Radio International, July 11, 2013

[Johannes Krieger nets a "finee" for FH raingarden project](#) - San Juan Islander, July 10, 2013

[Ghost Net Busters Dive to Remove Deadly Lost Fishing Nets](#) - PRI, The World, July 8, 2013

[Surveys underway to track animals, plants at Whatcom County shorelines](#) - Bellingham Herald, June 29, 2013

[Cleaning up the bay: divers dig deep for derelict crab pots](#) - Peninsula Daily News, June 29, 2013

Where We Are

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10441 Bayview Edison Road
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info@nwstraits.org

Contact the Northwest Straits Foundation

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More Information

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NEWSLETTER

[Click here](#) to see the current edition of the Northwest Straits Initiative's monthly newsletter. [Sign up.](#)



What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.

Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

August 2013

LEGISLATURE FUNDS FINAL PUSH TO RID PUGET SOUND OF DERELICT FISHING NETS

Derelict Gear Underwater

The final push in our decade-long effort to clear Puget Sound of derelict fishing nets in shallow water will get under way later this year with funding approved by the Washington State Legislature. The state budget adopted last month provides \$3.5 million for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to work in partnership with the Northwest Straits Foundation to complete the work.

State Rep. Norma Smith of Whidbey Island led the legislative effort to fund the net-removal initiative. "I am deeply grateful to my colleagues who helped achieve the goal of a \$3.5 million appropriation for the Northwest Straits Foundation to remove the last of the legacy nets from the Puget Sound," Smith said. "Lost in previous decades, they have had a devastating impact on harvestable natural resources and marine life. Once removed, because of the reporting requirements now in place, this challenge comes to an end. What an achievement!" For the full press release, [click here](#). Current project status is posted regularly at www.derelictgear.org.

SKAGIT COMMUNITY BEACH SEINE SAMPLING

BeachSeine

The Skagit Marine Resources Committee, Shannon Point Marine Center, and WSU Beach Watchers co-sponsored another Community Beach Seine sampling effort on August 15th at Ship Harbor in Anacortes. This event brought together students, community members, and interested community members to learn about local marine life. Volunteers assisted with seining and identifying and measuring fish caught in the net. The data collected during beach seines will be recorded and added to the fish database maintained by the Skagit River Systems Cooperative for future research to determine if there are any changes in species density and size.

To find out more information or to volunteer for future beach seine events, contact Paul Dinnel by e-mail at PADinnel@aol.com.

WHATCOM MRC WELCOMES NEW STAFF

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)



A warm welcome to Austin Rose as Whatcom County MRC's new lead staff and county representative. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Austin has lived in the Pacific Northwest for over 18 years. She earned her Masters in Geography from Western Washington University with a focus on natural resource management and has experience supervising and working with volunteers on restoration projects from the mountains to shorelines of Whatcom County. Austin previously worked as a Program Coordinator for the Northwest Straits Commission and GIS Specialist with The Nature Conservancy.

JEFFERSON MRC CELEBRATE SUMMER AND SHELLFISH

The Jefferson MRC held its annual picnic at the Taylor Shellfish hatchery in Quilcene on August 11. Taylor is the largest producer of shellfish in the U.S., and a leader in pioneering efforts to combat ocean acidification in Washington state. Subtidal Division Manager Gordon King, who serves on the MRC, led a great tour of the facility, and cooked a pile of delicious mussels and clams. Thank you Gordon!

SKAGIT MRC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Skagit MRC welcomes new member Morty Cohen. Morty Cohen is a retired pharmacist from Seattle Children's Hospital where he worked as a clinical research scientist in the development of drugs for rare diseases. Morty is actively engaged in the local community as a WSU Beach Watcher, a Friends of Skagit Beaches board member, and a member of the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Advisory Committee. He will be a great addition to the Skagit MRC.

EARTH CORPS COASTAL BLUE CARBON PROJECT

Keeley O'Connell, member of the Snohomish MRC and staff member at Earth Corps, shared information about the Restore America's Estuaries Coastal Blue Carbon project at the Northwest Straits Commission meeting in July. EarthCorps' Coastal Blue Carbon project in the Snohomish River delta and estuary is the first in a nationwide effort to develop protocols for greenhouse gas sequestration through tidal wetland habitat restoration.



In the Spring of 2013, EarthCorps staff and university students began collecting core samples from Snohomish wetland soils to be analyzed for soil bulk density and organic carbon concentration. An estimate of the rates of carbon storage will be determined by quantifying long-term (100 yr) rates of accretion at "carbon equilibrium", providing baseline data on how much carbon is stored in the soil and the historic rate of carbon storage, which can then be used to extrapolate how much carbon can be sequestered and stored through wetland restoration.

The ultimate goal is to implement wetland restoration projects that provide substantial carbon and other greenhouse gas storage. A copy of Keeley's presentation (pdf) is [available online](#).

OCTOPUS PROTECTION IN PUGET SOUND

Giant Pacific Octopus



On August 2nd, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission voted unanimously to ban the recreational harvest of Giant Pacific Octopus at seven popular dive sites in Puget Sound. This species is the largest in the world; the record specimen measured 30' across and weighed 600 lbs. The new management decision results from recommendations made by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, working with a 12-member citizen advisory committee on which Northwest Straits Commission staff member Caroline Gibson served. The agency

received over 5,000 comments from members of the public on this issue.

PUGET SOUND MARINE WATERS 2012 OVERVIEW

The joint NOAA/PSEMP "Puget Sound Marine Waters 2012 Overview" report was officially released and can be found at this link: http://www.psp.wa.gov/downloads/psemp/PSmarinewaters_2012_overview.pdf. The objective of the report is to collate and distribute the valuable physical, chemical, and biological information obtained from various marine monitoring and observing programs in Puget Sound, and includes contributions from 41 individual authors.

ROCKFISH CRITICAL HABITAT PROPOSED BY NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

yellow rockfish

On August 6th, The National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to designate almost 1,200 square miles of Puget Sound as critical habitat for three species of rockfish listed under the Endangered Species Act, including the yelloweye rockfish, canary rockfish, and bocaccio. The Fisheries Service says the rockfish are vulnerable to overfishing because they have long lives and mature slowly with sporadic reproduction.



Public comment period runs through November 4th, 2013. Click [here](#) for the Federal Register link to the proposal.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND WASHINGTON STATE

Dr. Jan Newton recently updated the California Current Ocean Acidification Network (C-CAN) on Washington state's progress in implementing recommendations of its Blue Ribbon Panel. The new state budget includes funding for the formation of an Ocean Acidification Center at the University of Washington to be co-directed by Dr. Newton and Dr. Terrie Klinger who is also on the Northwest Straits Commission. A portion of funds are also allocated for implementation of five early actions described by the panel. Read about C-CAN at <http://c-can.msi.ucsb.edu/>

WDFW BOTTOMFISH WEB PAGE

Over the past several months the staff of the Marine Fish Science Unit at WDFW has been hard at work updating and revising the portion of our webpage dedicated to bottomfish. Yesterday the new version of the page posted and it can be accessed from <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> by selecting "Fishing" from the ribbon and then "Saltwater" from the dropdown, or directly at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/saltwater.html> and then <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/bottomfish/>

NEW IN THE NORTHWEST STRAITS ONLINE LIBRARY

Deepwater Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Protocols - Identifying and Assessing the Feasibility of Removal of Deepwater Derelict Fishing Nets from Puget Sound, Washington/Prepared for NOAA and Northwest Straits Foundation

Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2013: Summary Report/June 4-6, 2013, Washington, DC

ARTICLES

Native Oysters Make a Comeback - Islands Weekly, August 6, 2013

EVENTS

Shellfest 2013 Saturday, August 17th, 10:30am-3:00pm at Fort Flagler State Park. Join Jefferson MRC and fellow event sponsors for great food, guided beach walks, and special presentations by members of the Makah Nation. This event is free and in celebration of the State Parks' centennial. For more information [click here](#).

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting, August 23, 2013 10:00-12:00, Northwest Straits Foundation Meeting 1:00-3:00 at the Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve

37th Annual Wooden Boat Festival, September 6-8, Port Townsend. Don't miss the new Jefferson MRC display! For more information [click here](#).

Whatcom Water Weeks Events, September 7-21, 2013. [Click here](#) for more information.

Fidalgo Bay Day, Saturday, September 14th at the Fidalgo Bay Resort and RV Park. Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

Climate Change Workshop, hosted by the Whatcom MRC, Thursday, October 31st at the St. Luke's Community Health and Education Center.

15th Annual MRC Conference, November 22-23, 2013, Lakeway Inn, Bellingham. For MRC members from all seven Northwest Straits counties and other invited guests

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More Information

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

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NEWSLETTER

[Click here](#) to see the current edition of the Northwest Straits Initiative's monthly newsletter. Sign up.



What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine
Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

September 2013



REP. LARSEN TOURS SNOHOMISH RESTORATION SITES

On Thursday, August 29th, Snohomish MRC staff Kathleen Herrmann, along with Snohomish Surface Water Management Director Debbie Terwilleger, led a tour with Congressman Rick Larsen. The tour was also attended by Marc Daily Interim Director of Puget Sound Partnership, Jen Steger with NOAA's restoration program, Curtis Tanner with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ginny Broadhurst Executive Director of Northwest Straits Commission, and Snohomish County staff Brett Gaddis.

The tour was focused on habitat restoration efforts in and near densely populated urban centers. The tour included a visit to Howarth Park, site of the Snohomish MRC's Nearshore Restoration Project, and a boat trip in the Snohomish Estuary to visit Smith Island and learn about other restoration projects in progress. The last stop of the day was to visit to the new City of Everett rain gardens near 14th and Lombard that were developed in partnership with WSU Extension and Snohomish County Conservation District. *Photo at left: Snohomish MRC staff Kathleen Herrmann and Rep. Rick Larsen*

WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONERS: DIANA BOB AND NAN MCKAY

We are delighted to have two new members of the Northwest Straits Commission appointed by Governor Inslee. Nan McKay of Seattle and Diana Bob of Bellingham attended their first Commission meeting on August 23rd and impressed the group with their credentials and passion for the Northwest Straits Commission's mission. We welcome Nan and Diana to the Northwest Straits Commission.

Nan McKay currently works for 501 Commons, an organization that supports the capacity of non-profits throughout the state. Nan has deep experience working on Puget Sound issues as the former Director of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, then Chair of the Puget Sound Action Team serving three different Washington Governors. She is a past president of the Environmental Education Association of Washington and currently chairs the boards of Western Rivers Conservancy, North Cascades Institute and Sustainable Path Foundation.



Diana Bob is an environmental law attorney with a focus on Indian law. She grew up in Whatcom County, went to Pitzer College in California for college and then to Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland for her JD. She is active in the Washington State Bar Association, the Northwest Indian Bar Association and volunteers for many organizations in Whatcom County.

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

JEFFERSON MRC HOSTS BOOTH AT WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL

The Jefferson MRC booth at the 37th annual Wooden Boat Festival in Port Townsend was a sure hit, and drew hundreds of curious visitors to learn about why boaters should 'anchor out for eelgrass' and other signature projects of the Jefferson MRC. Enthusiastic MRC volunteers staffed the booth for three days in the midst of festivities that engaged over 20,000 boaters and festival fans.

Special thanks to the MRC members who crafted a fun MRC photo-op display, shown at right with MRC members Judy D'Amore (rockfish), Gordon King (bull kelp) and Shannon Davis (crab). [Click here to learn more about the Jefferson MRC.](#)



NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION LAUNCHES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND READINESS PROJECT

The communities of the Northwest Straits region are keenly interested in planning for the potential of an oil spill in our marine waters. Industry groups, tribes, state, local, and federal agencies regularly conduct oil spill response drills. But the average citizen is not aware of what happens during an oil spill, who makes spill response decisions, how those decisions are made, and how volunteers can become involved in spill response. The Northwest Straits Foundation and six Marine Resources Committees will help community members understand the world of oil spill planning and response through a series of workshops to be held this fall and winter around the region. Through these day long workshops, spill responders will help community members understand oil spill contingency planning, the fate and effects of oil in the marine environment, and the unique challenges posed by local geography for spill response. Community engagement and volunteer opportunities will also be discussed.

Following the day long workshops, the Foundation will offer volunteer trainings so that community members are prepared should a spill occur. Volunteer trainings will include an oiled wildlife training offered in partnership with the Islands Oil Spill Association. This two-part class will include species characteristics and identification and effects of oiling along with a field exercise to include wildlife field assessment, search and capture, and primary care training. The Foundation and their MRC partners will also offer hazardous materials handling training which is required for anyone who might come in contact with oil during a spill response.

Join us for a workshop in your community:

San Juan County: September 28, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Friday Harbor Labs Lecture Hall

Island County: October 26, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Coupeville Recreation Hall

Jefferson County: November 9, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Location to be announced

Skagit County: January 18, 2014, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Location to be announced

Clallam County: January 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Location to be announced

Whatcom County: Date and location to be announced

OLYMPIA OYSTER RESTORATION IN WHATCOM AND CLALLAM COUNTIES

In coordination with Puget Sound Restoration Fund, the Northwest Straits Commission is wrapping up the Olympia Oyster Restoration project supported by a grant from NOAA through the Washington Shellfish Initiative. Last month, the last of the outplantings of Olympia oyster seed was completed in Drayton Harbor, Whatcom County. Forty bags of seed were outplanted in the area. Those bags, along with another 200 bags of seed outplanted in Sequim Bay earlier this summer by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe on tribal tidelands, bring the total restoration area to 1.25 acres. Whatcom and Clallam Marine Resources Committees were also project partners in this effort to restore native shellfish in the region.



[Click here](#) for more information about this project. An [Olympia Oyster Field Guide](#) is also available online.

SOUNDIQ

SoundIQ is a web application developed and launched in 2011 at the request of Island MRC to share nearshore data that the MRC generated, along with other useful data about shoreline areas. The SoundIQ system enables users to overlay forage fish spawning beaches, eelgrass beds and shoreline hardening features, among many other datasets.

This tool is continuing to expand in the Northwest Straits region, with the recent addition of San Juan County and some of their local data to the system. Efforts are now underway to add Jefferson MRC data to the system as well. [Click here to explore SoundIQ.](#)

FORAGE FISH STUDY PANEL

On August 26 Caroline Gibson attended a Forage Fish Study Panel at Friday Harbor Labs, convened by the Puget Sound Institute. An outcome of the 2012 symposium on forage fish that was co-hosted by the Northwest Straits Commission, this 8-member panel aims to synthesize and review existing data on forage fish in Puget Sound, and report back to the Puget Sound Science Panel. Findings of the group will also inform the ongoing regional effort to develop practical ways of monitoring and evaluating herring recovery. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Northwest Straits Commission's Forage Fish Program.

WELCOME NEW MRC MEMBERS!

In the last month, several MRCs have welcomed new members and staff. In San Juan County, new staff member Marta Branch is joined by new members Phil Green and Chuck Schietinger. In Jefferson County, the MRC welcomed new members Lucas Hart and Maureen Goff. The Clallam MRC has filled a previously vacant seat for the Makah Tribe, with Greig Arnold joining the group. Welcome to all of our new members and we look forward to getting to know you!

EVENTS

September 15, 2013 - Locust Beach Cleanup. 11am-1pm. Co-hosted by Surfrider and the Whatcom MRC as part of the [Whatcom Water Weeks](#) events.

September 15, 2013 - Bay to Belly. 11am-6pm, Squalicum Boathouse. [Click here for the event flyer.](#)

September 20-21, 2013 - Citizen Science Workshop. Contact Marta Branch at the San Juan MRC for more information: (360) 370-7592 or martab@sanjuanco.com

September 21, 2013 - Port Susan Open House. 9am-12pm. South Camano Grange, 2227 S Camano Drive. Look for the Snohomish MRC booth.

September 27-28, 2013 - Dungeness River Festival. 10am-4pm, Railroad Bridge Park, Sequim. Look for the Clallam MRC booth and their "kiss the geoduck" photo-op!

September 30, 2013 - Salish Sea Shoreline Forum: How to Incentivize Alternative Green Shoreline Techniques. Tukwila, 8:30am-3:30pm. [Click here for registration and other information.](#)

October 11, 2013 - Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship. 5:30pm reception, film starts at 6pm. Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

October 31, 2013 - Climate Change and the Future of Food. 8:30am-4:30pm, St. Luke's Community Center. Sponsored by the Whatcom MRC.

November 22-23 - Celebrating the Collective Impact of Local Stewardship: 15th Annual MRC Conference. For MRC members and invited guests. Contact [Michelle Lim](#) for more information.

ARTICLES & REPORTS

Murray Secures \$200,000 for Northwest Straits Commission - News Release, US Senator Patty Murray, September 11, 2013

Federal Funding to Remove Marine Debris from Puget Sound - San Juan Islander September 6, 2013

Preventing the Loss of Gillnets in Puget Sound Salmon Fisheries - August 31, 2013

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What's New

- Recent News
- Meetings & Events
- Emerging Issues
- Press Room

MRCs

- About Marine Resources Committees
- MRC Info & Meetings
- Member Spotlight

Foundation

- About
- Donate
- Current Projects
- Completed Projects
- Foundation Board

Commission

- Regional Projects
- About the Commission
- Meet the Commission
- Contact Us

Resources

- Library
- Past Newsletters
- Background / History
- Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.

Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

October 2013



NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION CHAIR APPOINTED TO MARINE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Governor Inslee appointed Christine Woodward, Chair of the Northwest Straits Commission, to the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council. The Council was created by the Washington legislature last session: to maintain a sustainable coordinated focus on ocean acidification; to advise and work with the University of Washington on the effects and sources of ocean acidification; to deliver recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on ocean acidification; to seek public and private funding resources to support the

Advisory Council's recommendations; and to assist in conducting public education activities regarding ocean acidification. The Marine Resources Advisory Council will be chaired by Martha Kongsgaard, Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council. We look forward to participating in this important work.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FUTURE OF FOOD

The climate in the Pacific Northwest is changing. The Whatcom MRC will co-sponsor a symposium to examine how climate change may impact our regional food system, and explore how we are - or could be - preparing for these changes. This symposium will examine how climate change may impact our regional food system, and explore how we are - or could be - preparing for these changes. The symposium will be held on October 31 at St. Luke's Community Center in Bellingham, WA.



The symposium will bring local and regional experts and stakeholders including keynote speakers Craig Welch and Dr. Chad Kruger. Craig Welch is the author of 'Sea Change', the recent three-part special series in the Seattle Times. Dr. Kruger is Director of the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources. Representatives from businesses including fisheries, shellfish, dairy, small fruit, grocery stores, food distributors, and processors will provide their perspective on the challenges we face.

Registration and Website Link: <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/r4t>

15TH ANNUAL MRC CONFERENCE

The Northwest Straits Initiative will host the 15th Annual Marine Resources Committee conference on November 22-23, 2013. The theme is ***Celebrating the Collective Impact of Local Stewardship***. Friday's agenda includes a field trip to restoration project sites of the Whatcom MRC; featured speakers are Will Stelle, Northwest Region Administrator for NOAA/NMFS and Thor Hanson, author of ***Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle***.

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

Registration for this event is by invitation only. [More information can be found on our web site.](#)

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Northwest Straits Commission met on Friday, September 27 at Everett Community College in Snohomish County. Thank you to Dr. John Stein, NOAA/NW Fisheries Science Center Director and chair of the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel, for providing an update on the work of the Science Panel. Thanks also to Meg Chadsey of Washington Sea Grant for describing recent advances in Ocean Acidification communications. Meg recommended background documents "[20 Facts about Ocean Acidification](#)" and [Frequently Asked Questions](#); excellent resources for anyone engaged in education and outreach.



DIVING WITH OCTOPUSES

Puget Sound is a prime destination for divers of all levels of experience to explore a diversity of sea life and marine environments. One of the Sound's major attractions is the Giant Pacific Octopus, thought to be the largest species on earth. Effective October 6th, seven popular dive sites in the Sound offer protection of these amazing creatures, through new restrictions to recreational harvest announced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Click [here](#) to view the map of the octopus protection areas.

SNOHOMISH MRC SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Snohomish County is seeking two motivated members to serve as citizen advisors on the MRC. Interested parties need not be experts in marine management issues, but are expected to have a willingness to learn about marine conservation, participate in research founded on sound science, and participate in collaborative planning on marine issues. [Click here for more information and an application form.](#)

FIDALGO BAY MONITORING WORKSHOP

The Skagit MRC and the Northwest Straits Foundation are hosting a Fidalgo Bay Monitoring Workshop on October 24 to bring together organizations working in Fidalgo Bay and to assist in coordinating additional monitoring. As part of the Skagit Restoration Initiative, the MRC and the Foundation committed to developing and implementing a long-term monitoring program to understand the status and trends in health of the nearshore in Fidalgo Bay, as well as the effectiveness of recently completed and planned habitat restoration projects.



The objectives of the workshop include:

- Clarify who is monitoring what in Fidalgo Bay and what questions are being answered;
- Identify what questions remain about the health of the nearshore in Fidalgo Bay; and
- Determine what additional monitoring or data analysis may be able to answer those questions.

Results of the workshop will be used to integrate currently collected data and develop additional monitoring programs in Fidalgo Bay.

WELCOME NEW CLALLAM MRC MEMBER

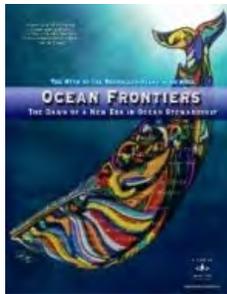
The MRC extends a warm welcome to Bob Campbell, the new sport fishing representative. Bob is the facility coordinator at Port Angeles Feiro Marine Life Center, which features displays and touch-tanks with native marine creatures and plants that inhabit the Strait of Juan de Fuca, classroom space for marine science programs, and a small laboratory.

WDFW SEEKING COMMENTS ON HPA RULE CHANGE

WDFW is accepting public comments through Nov. 15 on proposed updates to the Hydraulic Code, which governs construction work in and around state waters. This is the regulation through which forage fish spawning habitat can be protected, and the basis for longtime MRC documentation of eggs on beaches in all seven counties of the Northwest Straits.

Seven public meetings are scheduled over the next two weeks to discuss the proposed rule changes which would update the requirements to stay current with fish science and design technology, streamline the review process for Hydraulic Permit Applications (HPA), and remain consistent with state law.

The proposed rules – as well as information for submitting comments via mail, email, and online submission – are available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/hpa/rulemaking/>.

**"OCEAN FRONTIERS: THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN OCEAN STEWARDSHIP"**

The Skagit MRC and Friends of Skagit Beaches co-hosted a screening of the Film "Ocean Frontiers" in Anacortes on October 11th. A large group gathered for this event to begin a conversation about the challenges facing the health of Puget Sound, and what the community can do to address those challenges. A panel of local scientists, educators, farmers and tribal representatives related the film to marine resource issues in Skagit County and emphasized the importance of working from a bottom-up approach, using community driven solutions as a first step of action.

Click [here](#) to read more from the Skagit Valley Herald.

EVENTS

October 24, 2013 - Fidalgo Bay Nearshore Monitoring Workshop 9:00am-1:00pm. Fidalgo Bay RV Resort, Anacortes, WA.

October 25, 2013 - Northwest Straits Commission Conference Call Meeting 10:00am-Noon. Contact Sasha Horst at horst@nwstraits.org for more information.

October 26, 2013 - National Make A Difference Day. 9:00am-Noon, Whatcom County Event at Canyon Creek: Help the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association improve salmon habitat by planting native trees and shrubs. Glacier Springs Dr. Deming, WA.

October 31, 2013 - Climate Change and the Future of Food Symposium 8:00am-5:00pm. St. Luke's Community Center in Bellingham, WA.

November 9, 2013 - 3rd Annual Sound Living – A One Day Communiversity. For more information [Click here](#).

November 22-23 - Celebrating the Collective Impact of Local Stewardship: 15th Annual MRC Conference. For MRC members and invited guests. Contact [Michelle Lim](#) for more information.

A Special Tribute - Congratulations to Drew Baglino and Lacy Caruthers on their wedding. To honor the happy couple, Rebecca Deutsch made a special tribute gift to the Northwest Straits Foundation. Thank you, and congratulations!

[Where We Are](#)

[Who We Are](#)

[More Information](#)

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What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

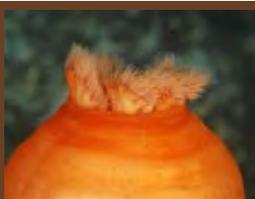
About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

November 2013



KATHLEEN HERRMANN DESIGNATED ROCK STAR!

Snohomish MRC staff coordinator Kathleen Herrmann was recently honored with a Rock Star Employee of the Month award, presented by County Executive John Lovick. This award is designed to spotlight stellar performance and public service by a member of the Snohomish County workforce. Commenting on Kathleen's achievement, county Surface Water Management (SWM) Director Debbie Terwilliger thanked her for being "such a proactive member and leader", and doing a wonderful job of

coordinating with SWM staff and county family. Congratulations, Kathleen!

STATE OF THE SOUND

The Puget Sound Partnership recently issued its 2013 State of the Sound report, a biennial report on the recovery of Puget Sound. [Click here to download the report.](#)

CLALLAM MRC AT DUNGENESS RIVER FESTIVAL

Clallam MRC members recently hosted a booth at the annual Dungeness River Festival in Sequim, a fast-paced opportunity to connect with local school students and their families to talk about shellfish habitat and marine debris. More than 2,500 people attended the event, including students from the Sequim School District. The MRC's kiss a geoduck booth was a popular stop for many students.



JOINT MRC MEETING

Clallam MRC, Jefferson MRC, and the North Pacific Coast MRC held a picnic on September 30, enjoying salmon and other delicacies while discussing some issues in common - marine debris and ocean acidification. The North Pacific Coast MRC is tackling the issue of how to remove debris from remote coastal beaches, and has written a letter to the Superintendent of Olympic National Park requesting a meeting to discuss solutions.

WHATCOM MRC - CLIMATE CHANGE SYMPOSIUM

Over 100 people representing the food industry, government, non-profit organizations, tribes, concerned citizens and academia attended "The Future of Food- A Recipe for Tomorrow" on Halloween Day in Bellingham. The symposium highlighted the disparity between the impacts of climate change on marine and agricultural environments, particularly in Whatcom County. Congratulations to the planning committee and all the speakers who made the day such a success!

- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)



ISLAND COUNTY PIGEON GUILLEMOTS

Island MRC recently hosted a presentation by coordinator Kelly Zupich on the Pigeon Guillemot survey project. The work that began in Island County in 2002 has expanded to the south sound area, using the same methodologies and protocols. The Island County group helped launch volunteer surveys this spring at the Nisqually Aquatic Reserve and around Anderson Island, and a smaller-scale survey was conducted by a student at the University of Puget Sound in the Tacoma-Gig Harbor area. *Photo credit:*

Celia Bartram.

FOUNDATION HIRES NEW STAFF

The Northwest Straits Foundation is very pleased to welcome two highly experienced individuals to the staff:

Nearshore Program Manager: Lisa Kaufman is the new Nearshore Program Manager at the Northwest Straits Foundation. Formerly the Restoration Manager for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Lisa has worked on restoration projects around the region. She was key to successful implementation of the Northwest Straits Initiative creosote debris removal program and an important partner on many nearshore projects. Lisa will be a great asset as the Foundation sets restoration targets and helps MRCs prioritize and develop their projects.

Director of Outreach and Development: Jill Clark is the first Director of Outreach and Development at the Northwest Straits Foundation. Jill has many years' experience, including serving as the first president of the Bellingham Technical College Foundation and, more recently, as development director for the Kulshan Community Land Trust, in Bellingham. She has deep experience with crafting messages that resonate with key audiences, overseeing organizational communications, and helping donors find the best way to express the philanthropic spirit.

MRC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

San Juan MRC warmly welcomes five new members this month: Kathleen Dolson of San Juan Island; Wesley Heinmiller of Orcas Island; Thomas Temple of Crane Island; Terrence Turner of Orcas Island; and Robert Wilson of San Juan Island. Many thanks to departing members Michael Durland and Tina Whitman for your outstanding contributions to the MRC. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Helen Venada, who became ill in the spring of 2013 and passed away this fall. Helen was a tireless and excellent contributor to both the MRC and San Juan County.

Jefferson MRC warmly welcomes Ralph Riccio, Shellfish Biologist for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

Skagit MRC hosted a celebration honoring departing long-time members Charlie O'Hara, Ivar Dolph and Rachel Benbrook. Their work on behalf of the MRC over the years has been considerable, and they will be missed. *Photo at right: Skagit MRC member Kari Odden and Ivar Dolph.*

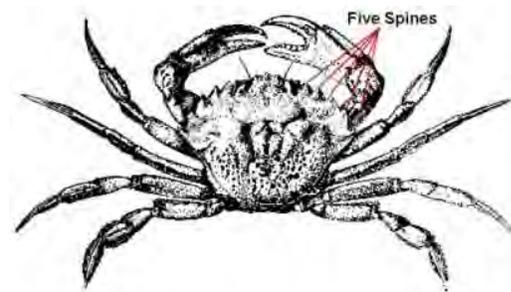


GREEN CRAB UPDATE

The European green crab is an invasive species which preys on native clams and other creatures. Since the 1990s it has rapidly reproduced in some estuaries and bays along the west coast. Several MRCs have expressed interest in working with WDFW and Washington Sea Grant to expand routine monitoring in northern Puget Sound, and limited funding may be made available in 2014. The Northwest Straits Commission will continue to track this.

Recent surveys for green crabs around the region found none in the San Juan Islands, Padilla Bay, Protect

ion Island, or Dungeness Spit. None were caught in a 'great circle tour' of Vancouver Island, nor at sites along the Strait of Georgia, northern Oregon and Southeast Alaska. However, 16,000 were found in Pipestem Inlet, BC (Barkley Sound), and a small population exists in Sooke. In the Tomales/Bolinas area north of San Francisco Bay, continued monitoring and removal of green crabs has resulted in a dramatic reduction of that population - fewer than 10,000 in 2013 - down from 100,000 in 2009. [More information can be found here.](#)



SALISH SEA ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

The 2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference will be held in Seattle on April 30 - May 2, with the theme "***The Salish Sea: Our Shared Responsibility.***" This is always an interesting and informative gathering, and we encourage all interested MRC members to attend. Application for presentation (oral and poster) is now open, information is available at www.salishseaconference.org.

EVENTS

November 22-23 - Celebrating the Collective Impact of Local Stewardship: 15th Annual MRC Conference. For MRC members and invited guests.

December 5, 2013 - John Incardona (NOAA- Northwest Fisheries Science Center) will be providing a presentation on "Frankenfish" during the regularly scheduled Whatcom MRC meeting. More information will be available on the [Whatcom MRC website](#).

ARTICLES & REPORTS

Stemming the Tide of Plastic Marine Litter: A Global Action Agenda - Pritzker Environmental Law and Policy Brief No. 5, October 2013.

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More Information

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NEWSLETTER

[Click here](#) to see the current edition of the Northwest Straits Initiative's monthly newsletter. Sign up.



What's New

Recent News
Meetings & Events
Emerging Issues
Press Room

MRCs

About Marine Resources Committees
MRC Info & Meetings
Member Spotlight

Foundation

About
Donate
Current Projects
Completed Projects
Foundation Board

Commission

Regional Projects
About the Commission
Meet the Commission
Contact Us

Resources

Library
Past Newsletters
Background / History
Reference Materials



San Juan Islands.



Archives

Library

- [Minutes & Event Archives](#)
- [Media Archives](#)

Past Newsletters

- [January 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [March 2013](#)
- [April 2013](#)
- [May 2013](#)
- [June 2013](#)
- [July 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [September 2013](#)
- [October 2013](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [December 2013](#)
- [January 2014](#)
- [February 2014](#)

Background / History

- [Performance Benchmarks](#)
- [2004 Program Evaluation](#)
- [Where is the NW Straits?](#)

December 2013

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation offices!

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference



The Northwest Straits Initiative hosted the 15th Annual Marine Resources Committee conference on November 22-23 in Bellingham. The theme of the conference was ***Celebrating the Collective Impact of Local Stewardship***. Participants included members from the seven Northwest Straits Marine Resources Committees, project and agency partners, sponsors, and other interested friends of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

Many thanks to all of our speakers and presenters, including Washington State Senator Kevin Ranker, Congressman Rick Larsen, West Coast Regional Administrator for NMFS Will Stelle, and author Thor

Hanson. Many of the presentations are available on our web site, as well as several audio files. [Click here for more information.](#)

Photo: Rachel Benbrook from Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and Shannon Davis of the Jefferson MRC.

FOUNDATION MERCHANDISE SALE

The Northwest Straits Foundation is holding a winter sale on merchandise, including hats and beanies with the new Northwest Straits Initiative logo. [Click here to go to the Foundation web site for ordering details.](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jeff June, of Natural Resources Consultants, was awarded the Northwest Straits Initiative's Environmental Leadership Award for his many years of leadership as Field Project Manager of the Initiative's Derelict Fishing Gear program. Jeff was instrumental in developing our program. He assisted with developing the removal protocols that have served as a model all across the United States. He worked with agencies and tribes to ensure that our program was well respected by scientists and policy-makers alike.



- [Straits or Straights](#)

[Reference Materials](#)

[« Return Home](#)

He led the data collection and documentation work on board our vessels that has put our program at the forefront of derelict fishing gear programs worldwide. In 2009, Jeff led the program through the removal of over 2,400 derelict fishing nets in just 18 and oversaw the growth of the field program from just two vessels working part time to four vessels working on the water. An avid spokesman, Jeff was always ready to talk to elected officials, the press, and policy makers about the impacts of derelict gear and the need to remove it. In addition, you could often find him giving presentations to anglers groups on weekday evenings, from Tacoma to Anacortes. Jeff's infectious enthusiasm, deep understanding of fisheries and marine biology, and his gift of storytelling has inspired many people over the years.

NEW GRANTS AWARDED

West Beach Creek



The Northwest Straits Foundation was recently awarded two Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants. One grant is for removing a fish passage barrier at West Beach Creek on Orcas Island. Removing this barrier will open up this small perennial creek for use by juvenile salmon currently using the nearshore waters of President's Channel. The second grant is for design and construction of further shoreline restoration at Cornet Bay day use area in Deception Pass State Park. The grant will pay for fill removal, shoreline reshaping, beach nourishment, and native planting along 350 feet of shoreline adjacent to a previous restoration project completed in 2012.

Photo: Impassable culvert that will be removed and replaced with a wider, improved culvert at West Beach Creek.

NEW SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

It was a blustery day when Jefferson MRC members, Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Straits Foundation staff, and others recently toured the site of beach restoration planned at Fort Townsend State Park. The MRC is partnering with Washington State Parks and the Foundation to restore shoreline that has been dramatically altered by rip rap, decommissioned military wharves, and related construction. Spawning herring and surf smelt have been documented close by. The project design is now out for bid; work will restore forage fish habitat and improve access to the beach for kayakers and other visitors.



Photo: Jefferson MRC Coordinator Cheryl Lowe and Northwest Straits Foundation Nearshore Program Manager Lisa Kaufman at Fort Townsend

20 FACTS ABOUT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Washington Sea Grant, in partnership with NOAA and other project partners, recently published "20 Facts about Ocean Acidification" which presents the highlights of the Frequently Asked Questions about Ocean Acidification, a detailed summary of the state of ocean acidification research and understanding. [Click here to view the fact sheet.](#)

MRC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Island: The Island County MRC says goodbye this month to their former chair and long-time member Ian Jefferds of Coupeville. Jefferds is general manager of Penn Cove Shellfish LLC and represented commercial marine interests and aquaculture. His focus on the MRC has been on marine water quality, shellfish and data archiving and access.

Skagit: The Skagit MRC presented departing member Lori Kyle with a Certificate of Appreciation for her twelve years of service on the MRC, representing the Skagit Conservation District. Lori was the project lead for several projects including: Low Impact Development workshops, Fidalgo Bay forage fish shade project, Lone Tree pocket estuary restoration, and car wash kits. She also served as the Skagit MRC Chair for two years.

Whatcom: In Whatcom County, Wendy Steffensen has completed her term on the MRC, serving ten years with the group. Wendy served as Chair for several years and came to the MRC representing conservation interests. Steffensen is the North Sound Baykeeper and brought expertise in toxicology and water quality to the group.

Many thanks to these dedicated volunteers for their service to the MRCs - they will be greatly missed!

RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES AND THE COASTAL SOCIETY

A new collaboration will bring together the coastal restoration and management communities for an integrated discussion to explore issues, solutions and lessons learned in their work. The Summit will provide timely and much-needed attention to the challenges and opportunities for coastal and estuarine restoration and management and will bring together a unique blend of people who are involved in policy, science, strategy, business, and on-the-ground restoration and management. For more on the Summit, please visit <http://www.estuaries.org/summit>. Call for proposals: sessions, presentations and posters due February 28, 2014.

MARINE DEBRIS HOTLINE WILL BE SHUT DOWN AT END OF DECEMBER

The state hotline set up for reporting marine debris will be taken off-line at 5 p.m. Dec. 31, 2013. People will still be able to report hazardous marine debris – such as gas cans, cylinders and oil drums – 24 hours a day to 1-800-OILS-911. People are urged to continue reporting nonhazardous marine debris that's suspected to be from the tragic 2011 Japan tsunami via email to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov. NOAA requests people include photographs and any identifying information, when possible, as well as the specific location of the debris.

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