



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

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January 2012

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- **Snohomish and Island MRCs Unanimously Endorse Port Susan MSA**
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In the News



SNOHOMISH AND ISLAND MRCs UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSE PORT SUSAN MSA

Meeting together in Coupeville on December 6, the Island and Snohomish MRCs voted unanimously to recommend leaders of the two counties adopt the draft plan to establish an educational Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. The vote culminated five years of discussions, community meetings, workshops, study and planning in a community process to develop a science-based marine stewardship area for this body of water. Additional partners include the Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Sea Grant with the support of the Northwest Straits Commission, and the WSU Extension offices of Island and Snohomish counties. [Click here for members of the group.](#)

ISLAND COUNTY PROJECTS FUNDED

Congratulations to the Island County MRC and their partners for their success in securing funding for two important [Watershed Protection and Restoration projects](#) on Whidbey Island. The Town of Coupeville will receive nearly \$500,000 for a Penn Cove surface water runoff project, and the Whidbey Island Conservation District will receive \$120,000 for an Ebey's Prairie stormwater remediation project. The Island County MRC is a partner organization on both projects.

WHATCOM COMPLETES CREOSOTE LOG REMOVAL

In a joint effort by the Whatcom MRC, Washington Department of Natural Resources, the Cliffside Community, and the City of Bellingham, the last remaining beach in Whatcom County was cleared of creosote and treated logs in December, 2011. Twelve members of the City's WCC crew hand-hauled 3.35 tons of rogue logs off the beach.

This marks the end of ten years of creosote log cleanup in Whatcom County. The majority of source logs from derelict structures have also been removed in the county, so minimal re-accumulation is expected.



IN MEMORIAM

Two MRCs are mourning the loss of beloved advocates for our marine resources, Dawn Whitehead Lawrence and Jan Holmes. Dawn, a member of the Snohomish MRC, was a devoted educator, coach, and mentor, and her interests centered on the success of her students and athletes. She previously served as chair of the MRC and provided great leadership. Island MRC has also recently lost an important community member. Jan Holmes was a recipient of the 2010 Cox Conserves award, and an active Beach Watcher volunteer on MRC projects. She was a tremendous advocate for our marine resources and environmental education, and she will be greatly missed.

MAYNARD BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT



This month, Jefferson MRC, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and other project partners are completing the design phase of the Maynard Beach Restoration Project, at the head of Discovery Bay. During the past six months, project partners worked closely with many stakeholders to come up with a design plan that will have great ecological benefits, including improved habitat for migrating juvenile salmon, shellfish and shorebirds. Partners also worked through many challenges to accommodate a trail allowance for public access as part of the Olympic Discovery Trail. Next steps include engineering and construction permitting. Congratulations to Jefferson MRC and NOSC for bringing this project to its nearly shovel-ready state!

Northwest Straits Foundation

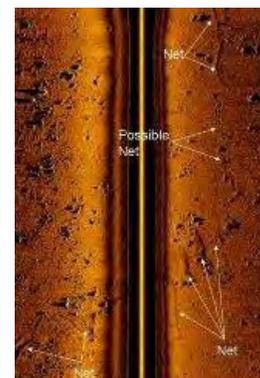
FOUNDATION YEAR END FUNDRAISING

The Foundation extends thanks to all the businesses and individuals that contributed to our year-end fundraising efforts. Many local businesses and individuals contributed items to the silent auction at the MRC conference in December, raising over \$5,000 to support MRC projects and activities. Special thanks to Lincoln and Janet Loehr for donating the top earning auction item. In addition, our year-end direct mail appeal raised \$3,525 and ongoing individual donations for the derelict gear matching fund totaled \$6,880. Special thanks to Florian Graner for donating proceeds from the sale of his film *Beneath the Salish Sea*. For a list of donors visit the Foundation's webpage at nwstraits.org.

GRANT AWARDS

The Northwest Straits Foundation received \$310,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for derelict fishing gear removals in San Juan County (WRIA2) and Island County (WRIA6). These funds will pay for the removal of approximately 190 derelict fishing nets from marine habitats in WRIA2 with concentrations at Hein Bank and along the west side of San Juan Island. In WRIA6 approximately 30 fishing nets will be removed from the west and east sides of Whidbey Island, Lawson Reef, and off the south end of Admiralty Head. The Foundation also received \$25,000 from the Lucky Seven Foundation for derelict gear removal.

Right: An image produced with the newly developed 300mHz sidescan sonar derelict net survey method. Divers verify whether the suspected nets are really nets. Usually they are. (Click to enlarge)



MRC FUNDING UPDATES

Foundation staff continue to work with MRCs to identify priority projects and potential funding sources, and to develop and submit project grant proposals. Two proposals developed through this process were successful in December. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration Grant Program awarded a \$99,000 grant for targeted outreach to county planners and coastal landowners in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area, with a goal of reducing the number of applications received for shore hardening permits. The project is collaboration between Snohomish and Island MRCs and their County Planning Departments. A \$10,000 grant was also awarded by the Burning Foundation, for outreach by MRCs related to forage fish. The grant will help support a speaker series, community events and landowner workshops.

CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

The Executive Committee of the Northwest Straits Foundation appointed Joan Drinkwin as interim director and Ken Carrasco as interim treasurer at their January meeting. Many thanks to Ginny Broadhurst and Terry Stevens for their past leadership. Ginny will continue to work closely with the Foundation in her role as the director of the Northwest Straits Commission.

FOUNDATION SEEKS PART TIME BOOKKEEPER

The Northwest Straits Foundation is seeking a part time, contract bookkeeper, to work in its Bellingham office approximately 2-4 hours per week. [Click here for more information.](#)

Bulletin Board

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Northwest Straits has a new page on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nwstraits. We'll post frequent updates on what's happening, links to relevant information about marine issues, events and more. If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" our page, and reshare it with your friends!



COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

Two Northwest Straits Commissioners are serving new appointments to regional scientific advisory bodies in 2012. Dr. Joseph Gaydos was elected Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel; Dr. Terrie Klinger was elected to the Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

ACTION AGENDA UPDATE AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The Puget Sound Partnership is seeking public comment on the draft Action Agenda Update through February 3. This is the agency's plan for recovering Puget Sound by 2020. The Northwest Straits Initiative, through our seven MRCs, has played an important role in developing and guiding the Action Agenda, which is [available online](#). Comments can be submitted by email to actionagenda@psp.wa.gov, or in hard copy to Puget Sound Partnership, 326 E D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421.

Events and Recent Articles

EVENTS

January 20, 2012 - *Starlight Beach Walk*, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM at *Edmonds Olympic Beach*. Contact Sally Lider at 425-771-0227, lider@ci.edmonds.wa.us. for more information.

January 21, 2012 - *Plastic Ocean & Local Marine Shoreline Health*, with Captian Charles Moore. 6:00pm at the Port of Bellingham. [Click here for more information.](#)

January 21 & 28, 2012 - A two-part environmental film series. 6:30PM at the Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend. More information: *Part I - All Things Salmon* and *Part II - All Things Shellfish*.

February 1, 2012 - *Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Alternative Energy*. 7:00PM, Mukilteo City Hall, common room. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

March 7, 2012 - *Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Bears to Barnacles; Cool Animals of the Salish Sea*. 7:00PM, Mukilteo Rose Hill Center. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

RECENT ARTICLES

San Juan Islander - Koski honored for 18 years of work with Soundwatch

Where We Are

Northwest Straits Initiative
10441 Bayview-Edison Rd
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USA

Tel: 360.428.1084
Fax: 360.428.1491
Email: info@nwstraits.org

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.

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BUDGET UPDATE

The Northwest Straits Commission recently learned that the Puget Sound Partnership will provide capacity funding for the Commission and seven MRCs that will start July 2012 and run through June 2013. This funding will cover operating expenses and support the infrastructure that's needed to for MRCs to continue to serve as their local community advisory on marine issues. The Commission and MRCs, as well as the Northwest Straits Foundation, will continue to pursue opportunities for project funding. "We're happy to be working with the Puget Sound Partnership and greatly appreciate this support." said Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission.

SOUND WATERS 2012

Well over 500 people, including Island and Snohomish county MRC members, turned out on a sunny Saturday for the 17th Sound Waters conference. Hosted by the [WSU Island County Beach Watchers Program](#), this "One-Day University" has earned a reputation for drawing experts from numerous disciplines, and natural history buffs of all ages and interests. The conference featured a record 63 classes covering coastal geology to dragonflies, with a [terrific keynote presentation](#) delivered by SeaDoc Chief Scientist and Northwest Straits Commissioner Dr. Joseph Gaydos.

MARINE DEBRIS DRAWS CROWD TO CLALLAM MRC

More than 80 people attended the January Clallam MRC meeting in Port Angeles to learn about the marine debris resulting from last year's terrible earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The debris is already showing up on some of Washington's coastal beaches and much more is expected. Nir Barnea, regional director for NOAA's Marine Debris Program, showed aerial photographs and oceanographic models to explain what's currently known about this debris and to encourage preparedness. Many agencies and residents showed up to learn about this issue. [Click here to read about Barnea's presentation.](#)



PORT SUSAN MARINE STEWARDSHIP AREA

The Northwest Straits Commission recently received funding to carry out the next phase of conservation planning for the [Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area](#). Project partners representing the Snohomish and Island county MRCs, Washington Sea Grant, Tulalip Tribes, Stillaguamish Tribe, The Nature Conservancy, and WSU Extension of Snohomish and Island counties will develop a monitoring and a work plan for the project.

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

FAREWELL TO CONNIE

This month we regretfully say goodbye to Connie Price, our Office Coordinator. Connie came to the Northwest Straits Commission in 2007 and immediately became indispensable, providing administrative and logistical support to the Commission and MRCs. Connie's participation in all Commission meetings and five annual Northwest Straits conferences was invaluable. She will continue state service in her new position at the Washington Department of Transportation. We will miss her greatly, and wish her all the best for the future!

HELLO...

Ken Carrasco from Whatcom County and Steve Revella from San Juan County were elected to represent their MRCs on the Commission, beginning this month. The Commission welcomes their wealth of knowledge and dedication. 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 right: Steve Revella



The Commission also extends a warm welcome to Linda Lyshall, who will staff the San Juan MRC. In this position she will also staff the Local Integrating Organization in the San Juan Action Area. Many of us know Linda from her work with Puget Sound Action Team and subsequently the Puget Sound Partnership. She can be reached at lindal@sanjuanco.com.

...AND GOODBYE

Jonathan White We regretfully say goodbye to Jonathan White from the San Juan MRC and Bob Cecile from the Whatcom MRC, whose terms ended in January, as well as Connie Thoman of the Skagit MRC, who recently resigned from the MRC. Each represented their MRC on the Commission for several years, and Jonathan served as both vice chair and chair of the Commission. We wish you the very best in your next endeavors!



At left: Jonathan White

Northwest Straits Foundation News

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW STAFF

The Foundation welcomes Cathy Cameron to its staff this month. Cathy will serve as the Foundation Account Manager, taking over bookkeeping and finance management duties. Cathy is a Certified Public Accountant and comes to the Foundation with over 25 years of accounting and financial management experience with non-profits, industry, and higher education. Cathy will be working part time for the Foundation one morning a week.



Bulletin Board

FEEDER BLUFF MAPPING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Department of Ecology has just published an RFP to complete feeder bluff mapping in Puget Sound. Proposals are due March 7 and the work is to be completed by next year. [Click here to read the full RFP on Ecology's contracts web page.](#)

GEOHAB CONFERENCE

Register now for GeoHab, a week-long international conference on Orcas Island that will bring together geologists, biologists and other ocean scientists. Participants will present results of studies associated with seafloor habitats and how they relate to the sustainability of marine life. Deepwater research on forage fish habitats, including studies funded by the Northwest Straits Commission, will be showcased. [Click here for more information.](#)

EVENTS

February 25, 2011 - Hazardous Waste Operations Class for Oiled Wildlife Citizen Responders (8-hour HAZWOPER), Everett Community College 8:00am - 5:00pm. Registration required. [Click here for more information.](#)

March 7, 2012 - Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Bears to Barnacles; Cool Animals of the Salish Sea. 7:00PM, Mukilteo Rose Hill Center. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

March 22, 2012 - Ocean Acidification: An Evening Seminar. 6:00pm, Padilla Bay Reserve. Free and open to the public. RSVP to Caroline Gibson, 360-428-1057 or gibson@nwstraits.org.

April 4, 2012 - Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Puget Sound Whales. Mukilteo City Hall, 7:00PM. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

April 8-13, 2012 - Kelp Workshop, Friday Harbor Labs, led by Dr. Tom Mumford and Dr. Bob Waaland. [Click here for registration information.](#)

May 2, 2012 - Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Inside the New Brightwater Treatment Facility. Mukilteo City Hall, 7:00PM. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

RECENT ARTICLES

[Volunteers gathering mussels not for meals but to gauge health of shoreline waters - Everett Herald](#)

[Agencies Urged to Prepare for Influx of debris - Peninsula Daily News](#)

[Series of forums "The Coal Hard Truth" to discuss nearby proposed coal plant - Islands' Sounder](#)

[Award renamed to honor Jan Holmes - South Whidbey Record](#)

[Discovery Bay Trail to be Rerouted Away from Habitat Restoration Effort – Peninsula Daily News](#)

[State Senate Honors Kosti - San Juan Islander](#)

Where We Are

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In the News

ANNUAL RETREAT A SUCCESS

The Northwest Straits Initiative held its annual two-day retreat on March 1-2 at Padilla Bay in Skagit County. Representatives from all seven MRCs, along with Governor appointees, several MRC staff members, Commission and Foundation staff all participated. Discussion included how to best support the work of MRCs, linkages between local and regional environmental priorities, and coordination between the Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation.

DERELICT VESSEL PROGRAM GETS A BOOST



The San Juan MRC worked with community partners to raise more than \$10,000 as seed money to reinstate the county's Derelict Vessel Program, which was shelved in 2008 due to budget cuts. The County committed to providing at least two years of support, and has contracted Joanruth Baumann, who successfully ran the program when it was housed in the Public Works Department. The Port of Friday Harbor, San Juan Power Squadron, San Juan Island Yacht Club, Common Sense Alliance and several local marinas partnered in this effort, which has been further boosted by a grant from the Puget Sound Partnership, to help identify boats in danger of sinking before they become a problem.

PROPOSED COAL TERMINAL OF INTEREST TO LOCAL MRCs

A proposal to build a new coal terminal at Cherry Point in Whatcom County has sparked the attention of a few MRCs. As proposed, the project would significantly increase the number of trains carrying coal to Cherry Point and would also create an increase in shipping traffic that would serve the terminal. MRC members are asking questions about the potential impacts of train traffic, coal dust and vessel noise, and want to be sure that the required Environmental Impact Statement adequately addresses their questions. [Click here to see San Juan MRC's letter.](#)

SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Snohomish County MRC is seeking a summer intern for 2012. Hiring dates are flexible based on university schedules, and tasks include developing short video clips and working with a variety of project partners on signage for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. [Click here for more information.](#)

The County is also hiring interns for several other environmental projects. [Please follow this link for more information.](#)

HAZWOPER TRAINING

On February 11, the Clallam MRC co-sponsored a Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) class attended by 75 people. Oil spill preparedness is a priority for the MRC, and the training is a prerequisite for oiled wildlife recovery training. Other co-sponsors included the US Coast Guard, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Surfrider, and private contractors.



SKAGIT RESTORATION INITIATIVE FUNDS AWARDED FOR 2012



Two new projects will soon receive funding from the Skagit Restoration Initiative (SRI) in response to a competitive RFP process. SRI funds are administered through the Foundation and are restricted to the implementation of restoration projects or land acquisition that yield ecological benefits to marine, estuarine and anadromous species in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays.

One project will provide funding to the Padilla Bay Reserve in support for the purchase of a 70-acre tidelands parcel, the largest single privately held ownership remaining. Once they are owned and managed by the Reserve, these lands will be protected in perpetuity under a Federal Management Plan for the purposes of resource conservation, research and education.

The other new project will be carried out under contract with the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund \(PSRF\)](#), expanding a native oyster restoration project in Fidalgo Bay. PSRF will work with Skagit MRC, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Samish and Swinomish Tribes to enhance the native oyster population by increasing settlement structure.

Northwest Commission Highlights

The Northwest Straits Commission held a brief business meeting on March 2. The minutes from that meeting will be available after approval on March 30. The Commission approved minutes from the January 27 meeting, which are [available online](#).

Bulletin Board

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



A reminder to those on social media - the Northwest Straits Initiative has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NWStraits. Please take a moment to "like" our page, and help us spread the word by messaging a friend or two who shares your interest in marine issues.

CURIOUS ABOUT THE TSUNAMI DEBRIS?

There's been a lot of talk and speculation lately about whether any of the tsunami debris from Japan's devastating earthquake will reach Washington beaches. The governors of Washington, Oregon and California met recently with the Premier of British Columbia on this topic and [developed a joint work plan in coordination with NOAA](#). NOAA officials are doubtful that tsunami debris will enter into Puget Sound but there are still many caveats associated with the modeling. For additional information see [the news release from the Pacific Coast Collaborative](#).

Events

March 22, 2012 - Ocean Acidification: An Evening Seminar. 6:00pm, Padilla Bay Reserve. Free and open to the public. RSVP to Caroline Gibson, 360-428-1057 or gibson @nwstraits.org.

April 4 , 2012 - Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Puget Sound Whales. Mukilteo City Hall, 7:00PM. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

April 5, 2012 - Citizen Science, Kate Litle of Washington Sea Grant. 5:30pm, Garden Level Conference Room, Civic Center Annex, Bellingham. Contact Melissa Roberts, 360-676-6876.

April 8-13, 2012 - Kelp Workshop, Friday Harbor Labs, led by Dr. Tom Mumford and Dr. Bob Waaland. [Click here for registration information](#).

May 2 , 2012 - Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Inside the New Brightwater Treatment Facility. Mukilteo City Hall, 7:00PM. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

May 14, 2012 – Salmon Farming in Land-Based Closed-Containment Systems, a workshop at the Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, 9:00AM-1:00PM. Sponsored by Jefferson County WSU Beach Watchers, hosted by the Freshwater Institute. Suggested donation: \$10. RSVP to Mary Pitts at mary.pitts@wsu.edu; (360) 379-5610 ext. 230

Articles

[A herring revival spawned from the depths of darkness](#) – The Globe and Mail, March 2, 2012

[Derelict Vessel Program is Back](#) – Islands Weekly, February 21, 2012

[New Shellfish Illness Topic of Bellingham Talk](#) – Bellingham Herald, March 7, 2012

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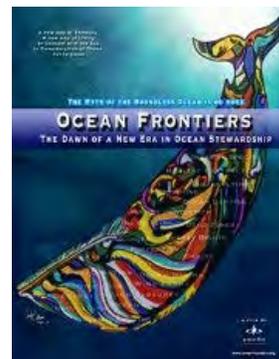
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April 2012

In the News

OCEAN FRONTIERS

The Northwest Straits Commission is co-hosting the Seattle premiere of an important new documentary film, *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship*. Join us on Monday, April 16 at the REI flagship store, 6:30-8:30pm. Commission staff Caroline Gibson will be part of a discussion panel following the screening. [Click here for more information.](#)



This film is an inspiring voyage to seaports and watersheds across the country where we meet industrial shippers and whale biologists, pig farmers and wetland ecologists, commercial and sport fishermen and reef snorkelers—all of them embarking on a new course of cooperation to sustain the sea and our coastal and ocean economies.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION SEMINAR

On March 22 the Northwest Straits Initiative hosted an evening seminar on Ocean Acidification featuring Brad Warren of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and Dr. Terrie Klinger from the University of Washington. Terrie talked about the science of ocean acidification and the implications locally in Puget Sound and Brad shared his enthusiasm for the need to communicate about ocean acidification and taking steps to adapt and mitigate its effects. Following their presentations they spent time answering questions from a highly-interested audience. Thanks to Terrie and Brad for sharing their time and expertise with us. For more information on ocean acidification [please go to our web site.](#)

SAN JUAN MARINE MANAGERS' WORKSHOP

Linda Lyshall

The 2012 Marine Managers' Workshop held on March 26-27 in San Juan County was a huge success with 75 participants - including several from Canada - fascinating presentations, and ample opportunity for networking and collaborating. The focus areas of this year's workshop were *Oil Spill Prevention and Readiness* and *Salmon Recovery Research and Planning in the Shoreline Built Environment*. Participants left with an increased understanding and awareness of the frequency of oil spills in the San Juans, the extensive resources and response strategies in place, and suggestions for engagement for the San Juan marine management community.



A highlight of the workshop was the roll out of the "Pulling it All Together" project, which focused on conducting a science-based analysis of existing conditions in the County in order to to prioritize protection and restoration actions that will support the recovery of wild salmon populations. This project included pocket beach mapping, a refined geomorphic shoreform and stressor geodatabase, a marine riparian inventory, identification of priority salmon recovery regions, identification of top stressors, degradation analysis, a sea level rise risk/resiliency screening tool, and shoreform scale restoration and protection project prioritization.

LITTLE FISH, BIG IMPACT

On April 11, Northwest Straits Commissioner Joe Gaydos and staff member Caroline Gibson were among twenty participants from Washington, Oregon, and California in a meeting on



forage fish protection in the California Current Ecosystem. Central to discussions was the extraordinary importance of forage fishes regionally and worldwide, as demonstrated in the [new report](#) from a national task force that included leading researchers at the University of Washington. Several organizations represented at the meeting are engaged in fisheries policy and management efforts to ensure that herring and other species which are commercially harvested, as well as sand lance and others that are not, will be adequately protected in order to sustain healthy marine ecosystems and coastal economies. It was noted that surveys and monitoring by the MRCs and project partners are engaging local citizens and generating information that is critical to forage fish habitat restoration and protection efforts.

[Click here to watch an impressive video produced by the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force summarizing the recommendations from their report.](#)

Northwest Straits Foundation

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

In order to provide MRCs with up-to-date information about upcoming funding opportunities for their projects and programs, the Northwest Straits Foundation will compile and email information on a regular basis to a distribution list of interested MRC staff and members. The emails will list current funding opportunities, including links to any Requests for Proposals and descriptions of the priorities for the funding. This will allow MRCs to decide whether a project they have in the works might fit with a funding opportunity, and whether they need to reach out to Foundation staff for assistance.

The distribution list already includes all MRC lead staff. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send an email to foundation@nwstraits.org.

Northwest Straits Commission

The Northwest Straits Commission met on March 30 in Coupeville, Island County. Minutes from that meeting will be available following approval by the Commission on April 27. The minutes from the March 2 meeting were approved and are now available on our [web site](#).

MRC Happenings

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This month we welcome three new members to the Snohomish MRC: Bob Hillman from the City of Everett Parks Department, representing local government; Susan Tarpley, a Ranger/Naturalist from the City of Edmonds Discovery Programs, representing environmental interests; and Paul Schlenger from Anchor QEA, representing science/environmental interests. Thanks to all of you for contributing your time and expertise!

Also in Snohomish County, the MRC welcomes a new student coordinator, Audrey Kuklok, to the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project team. Audrey has an undergraduate degree in Marine Science and is in her second year at the UW School of Marine Affairs. She has great experience working on collaborative projects.

Clallam MRC welcomed a returning member last month. Brad Collins of the City of Port Angeles is a former member of the MRC who is now returning to represent the City. Welcome back, Brad!

Bulletin Board

NEW EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER FOR PUGET SOUND

The Northwest Maritime Center, home to the Commission's office in Port Townsend, was recently awarded federal funding to establish an Emergency Operations Center and training facility. In addition to new navigational tools and equipment, the organization is now installing a Spill Management Simulator and PISCES II software for oil spill management/response. At the MRC conference to be held here in November, MRC members will learn firsthand about remarkable new partnerships and upgrades to the Center.



WORKING WATERFRONTS SYMPOSIUM SURVEY

Washington and Oregon Sea Grant are co-hosting the third National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium to be held in Tacoma in March 2013. This symposium will build on previous symposiums (see www.wateraccessus.com), the goals of which have been to "increase awareness of the economic, social, cultural, and environmental values of waterfronts, and the important role of water-dependent uses in sustainable coastal communities." Washington and Oregon Sea Grant programs would like

feedback from you to help plan a great event. [Click here to fill out a survey to provide input.](#) If you have any questions, contact Sea Grant at wwater13@u.washington.edu

Events

April 16, 2012 - Seattle premiere of *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New era in Ocean Stewardship*. REI flagship store, 6:30-8:30pm. Commission staff Caroline Gibson will be part of a discussion panel following the screening. [Click here for more information.](#)

May 1-4, 2012 - *GeoHab, Habitat Characterization and Mapping in Coastal and Inland Seas*, Rosario Resort. [Click here for registration information.](#)

May 2, 2012 - *Our Puget Sound In-Depth: Inside the New Brightwater Treatment Facility*. Mukilteo City Hall, 7:00PM. Contact Chrys Bertolotto, Chrys@wsu.edu or (425) 357-6020, for more information.

May 14, 2012 - *Salmon Farming in Land-Based Closed-Containment Systems*, a workshop at the Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, 9:00AM-1:00PM. Sponsored by Jefferson County WSU Beach Watchers, hosted by the Freshwater Institute. Suggested donation: \$10. RSVP to Mary Pitts at mary.pitts@wsu.edu; (360) 379-5610 ext. 230

June 9, 2012 - *Fidalgo Shoreline Academy: One Day University*, Fidalgo Bay Resort, 8:30am-3:30pm. Registration: \$20. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

June 21, 2012 - *Silver Seas: Ernest H. Brooks II, A Photographer's View of Marine Stewardship*. San Juan Island Community Theatre, 7:00pm-9:00pm. Co-sponsored by San Juan County MRC and San Juan Islands Museum of Art. Contact Barbara Marrett for more information, 360-378-5242 or bmarrett@rockisland.com. For tickets contact the box office: www.sjctheatre.org or 360-378-3210.

November 2-3, 2012 - *14th Annual Conference* for MRC members, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.



Articles

Forage fish could dwindle as harvest increases - Letter to the editor, Seattle Times, March 22, 2012

Turbines explored for Admiralty Inlet placement - Whidbey News-Times, March 30, 2012

Tons of toxic creosote debris to be removed from Indian Island County Park beach, lagoon - Port Townsend Leader, April 3, 2012

Lost fishing gear becoming big threat to Puget Sound marine life - Seattle Times, April 8, 2012

Derelict sport fishing gear claims a well-known victim - San Juan Islander, April 7, 2012

Acidity in ocean killed NW oysters, new study says - Seattle Times, April 11, 2012

Where We Are

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Fax: 360.428.1491
Email: info@nwstraits.org

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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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marine conservation initiative

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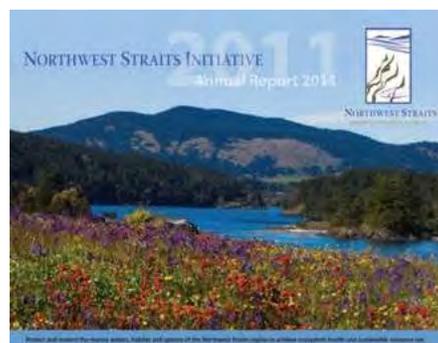
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In the News

ANNUAL REPORT

If you haven't read it yet, check out the Northwest Straits Initiative's 2011 Annual Report, available on our web site. Learn about the local and regional work of the Initiative, including work on forage fish protection, shoreline habitat restoration and eelgrass protection. Projects and people of the local Marine Resources Committees are highlighted.

2011 was a landmark year for the Northwest Straits Initiative. Widely-recognized as a model for engaging diverse interests and strong community involvement, the organization carried out more than 30 restoration, research, and outreach projects despite reduced budgets. [Click here to read the full report \(pdf\)](#).



EELGRASS PROTECTION: A LOCAL MODEL OF EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP



Jefferson MRC's **Anchor Out for Eelgrass** project enters its 9th year with this month's installation of six marker buoys along the Port Townsend waterfront. The East Jefferson Fire and Rescue Department generously provided a diver, captain, and boat to assist commercial diver and MRC volunteer Amy Leitman in launching the buoys on May 3. The buoys are an effective reminder for recreational boaters to anchor away from eelgrass beds.

The MRC welcomes new support this year from the Sheriff's Department, whose divers shadowed recent operations for potential involvement in the project next year.

Northwest Commission Meeting

At its April 27 meeting in Port Townsend, the Northwest Straits Commission held elections, retaining Governor appointee Jerry Masters as chair for a second term and electing Steve Revella of the San Juan MRC as vice-chair. Many thanks to Island MRC representative Lenny Corin, who served as vice-chair for the past year.

The April meeting was a brief business meeting, which included approval of the Commission's minutes from the March 30 meeting. [Click here to view the minutes](#).

Northwest Straits Foundation Update

DERELICT FISHING GEAR REMOVAL PROGRAM

The derelict fishing gear removal program is back in full swing with two removal vessels working in Island and San Juan counties. The F/V BetSea is operating out of Cornet Bay and removing nets off of Lopez Island. The R/V Surveyor II is operating out of Everett and removing nets from



Island County waters.

Both operations are funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, NOAA Marine Debris Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program.

MRC Happenings

PORT SUSAN MARINE STEWARDSHIP AREA

Last week members of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Advisory Team visited The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Bay Preserve. Kat Morgan of the Nature Conservancy led the field trip along the dike that will be breached this summer to restore 150 acres of former tidal marsh. Visitors observed numerous Great Blue Herons, Dunlins, and American Coots from along the dike. [Click here to read more about the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project.](#)



CORNET BAY RESTORATION

In Island County the MRC has been working for several years on a shoreline restoration project in Cornet Bay, a project that has successfully leveraged other grant funding and volunteers.

The project is a multi-partner shoreline restoration with principle grants managed by the Northwest Straits Foundation. WSU Beach Watcher volunteers are in their fourth year of counting critical ESA listed Chinook and other fish at the beach with just a small amount of Island MRC funding. This work generates data analysis and reporting writing that is funded and managed by Island MRC, and made available to the public and the scientific community on the Island MRC web site. [Click here to read the most recent report: Juvenile Salmon and Nearshore Fish Use in SHallow Intertidal Habitat Associated with Cornet Bay.](#)

Bulletin Board



This month is **Puget Sound Starts Here** month, and you can get involved by joining one of the many events around the Sound.

[Click here for a map and list of local events.](#)

Events

May 21-23, 2012 - North Olympic Tsunami Debris Symposium. Co-sponsored by the Clallam MRC. More information on events at tsunamidebrissymposium.wordpress.com.

June 1, 2012 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting, Mullis Center, Friday Harbor.

June 9, 2012 - Fidalgo Shoreline Academy: One Day University, Fidalgo Bay Resort, 8:30am-3:30pm. Registration: \$20. [Click here for the registration form.](#)

June 21, 2012 – Silver Seas: Ernest H. Brooks II, A Photographer's View of Marine Stewardship. San Juan Island Community Theatre, 7:00pm-9:00pm. Co-sponsored by San Juan County MRC and San Juan Islands Museum of Art. Contact Barbara Marrett for more information, 360-378-5242 or bmarrett@rockisland.com. For tickets contact the box office: www.sjctheatre.org or 360-378-3210.

June 21, 2012 - Ocean Frontiers. Pickford Cinema, Bellingham, 7pm-9pm. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC.

June 29, 2012 - Ocean Frontiers, Northwest Maritime Center, Port

Townsend, 6:00pm. Sponsored by the WSU Beach Watchers, NW Maritime Center, Jefferson MRC, Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Local 20/20.

November 2-3, 2012 – 14th Annual Northwest Straits MRC Conference,
Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.



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A MESSAGE FROM NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION CHAIR, JERRY MASTERS

As supporters of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, we are consistently asked - by a variety of people and organizations - (at least!) three questions:

- How do MRCs function?
- How does the Commission work?
- How does the Foundation support the work of the Initiative, the Commission and MRCs?



Great news! There are as many correct answers to those questions as there are individuals involved in the work of the Initiative! It all depends upon your perspective. At every level, the Initiative's success in achieving effective stewardship directly correlates to the multiple perspectives involved in our actions. What is common among us is our "attitude for gratitude". You can measure our gratitude for these gifts by the level to which we shepherd and share the resources of the Northwest Straits. [Read more...](#)

In The News

COMMUNITY BEACH SEINING



Skagit MRC, in partnership with WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center and WSU Beach Watchers, sponsored a community beach seining day on June 14 at Ship Harbor in Anacortes. About 50 people participated, including students from Anacortes High School and local community members. This event increases public awareness of the marine environment and creatures that live in our local waters.

Most notable in the catches were several hundred juvenile pink salmon, surf smelt large and small, a few juvenile sand lance and several larval rockfish. After counting and identifying each species, all were returned to the water alive. Another seining is scheduled for mid-August. Check our web site for more information as the date approaches.

POSITION OPENING

The Northwest Straits Commission will be hiring a Program Coordinator, a 32-hour/week position based at Padilla Bay Reserve in Mount Vernon, to do event planning, office management and provide administrative support for our team. Please check our [web site](#) soon for the official job posting.

TSUNAMI DEBRIS

Clallam MRC recently partnered with Surfrider to sponsor a community symposium and three workshops to learn to identify, and to develop a coordinated community strategy for, tsunami debris. The symposium and workshops were held May 21-23. About 40 people attended each of the workshops, which featured oceanographer Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer. Presentations from the symposium are now available online. [Click here to view](#). The Clallam MRC will continue to track this issue.

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is leading efforts to monitor tsunami

debris on the Washington coast along with many partner organizations. The Northwest Straits Commission is working on a regional seven-county monitoring project to complement the coast monitoring. More to come on this topic – [please check our web site for updates](#).

DERELICT FISHING GEAR REMOVAL

The Northwest Straits Initiative is currently removing derelict nets in north Sound marine waters. Our crew was recently featured on Seattle's Q13 News. [Click here to watch the story online: Puget Sound Clean-Up](#)



WHATCOM SHORELINE LANDOWNER WORKSHOP



The Whatcom MRC continued its successful Coastal Landowner Outreach project from 2011 with a workshop focused on using native vegetation for slope stability. Seventeen people from the Lummi Peninsula, Point Roberts, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor attended the half day workshop which included a low-tide walk at Point Whitehorn.

During the classroom session, bluff processes, planting for slope stability, and regulations/permitting related to bluff management and planting were covered. Coastal geology expert Jim Johannessen led the field trip portion of the workshop and showed examples of proper bluff management as well as places where management could be improved.

SOUNDIQ

GIS Analyst Suzanne Shull will provide a tutorial on [SoundIQ](#) at the San Juan MRC meeting on Wednesday, June 20. This web-based application was initiated in 2011 by Island MRC, to archive local nearshore data and associated reports. The meeting will be held on Orcas Island, in the ferry terminal building on the lower floor, and will begin 9:15 AM. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

CELEBRATED CHEF BECKY SELENGUT TO BE FEATURED AT 2012 MRC CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce a fun twist to tradition at this year's MRC conference dinner on November 2: a seafood sampler showcasing local marine life, including a presentation on sustainability by Seattle chef Becky Selengut, recipient of the 2012 Seafood Ambassador Award from Monterey Bay Aquarium. Selengut is a graduate of William Smith College and the Seattle Culinary Academy, PBS featured guest, private and academic instructor, celebrated author of two cookbooks, and food humorist. Her impressive resume includes three years at the internationally-acclaimed restaurant The Herbfarm in Woodinville. Flag your calendars, this is sure to be a great evening!

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO FINFISH AQUACULTURE IN PUGET SOUND

The Jefferson MRC and WSU Jefferson County Beach Watchers co-sponsored a public workshop on land-based closed containment systems for salmon aquaculture. Closed-containment systems use water recirculation technologies that continuously filter and recycle the water used to produce fish. Hosted by The Freshwater Institute, this informational event featured a series of presentations which were recorded and are available on CD.

Northwest Straits Commission meeting highlights

At its meeting on June 1 in Friday Harbor, the Northwest Straits Commission was joined by Washington Senator Kevin Ranker, a former member of the San Juan MRC and Northwest Straits Commission. The Senator updated the Commission on current efforts to bring West Coast oceans issues to the national level, including marine debris and forage fish.

Lovel Pratt, San Juan County Councilmember, also attended the meeting and provided an overview of the concerns that the County has about increasing vessel traffic and local efforts to prepare for oil spills.

Todd Hass of the Puget Sound Partnership and Chip Boothe of the WA Department of Ecology presented information on local and regional vessel traffic issues. [Click here to view their presentation online](#) (pdf). Their presentation also referenced a Vessel Traffic Risk Analysis, which is [available online](#).

Events

June 21, 2012 – *Silver Seas: Ernest H. Brooks II, A Photographer's View of Marine Stewardship*. San Juan Island Community Theatre, 7:00pm-9:00pm. Co-sponsored by San Juan County MRC and San Juan Islands Museum of Art. Contact Barbara Marrett for more information, 360-378-5242 or bmarrett@rockisland.com. For tickets contact the box office: www.sjctheatre.org or 360-378-3210.

June 21, 2012 - *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Marine Stewardship*. Everett Performing Arts Center, Snohomish County, 6:30-8:30pm. Co-sponsored by the Snohomish MRC.

June 21, 2012 - *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Marine Stewardship*. Pickford Cinema, Bellingham, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC.

June 23, 2012 - *Oiled Wildlife Search, Collection, & Initial Stabilization*. 8:30am-4:30pm. 8-hour Hazwoper certification is required to take this class. Registration deadline: June 19, 2012. Sponsored by the Clallam MRC. [Click here to register](#).

August 3, 2012 - *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Marine Stewardship*. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, 6:00pm. Sponsored by the WSU Beach Watchers, NW Maritime Center, Jefferson MRC, Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Local 20/20.

November 2-3, 2012 – *14th Annual Northwest Straits Conference (for MRC members)*. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.

An Attitude for Gratitude, Jerry Masters

(continued from above...)

As supporters of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, we are consistently asked - by a variety of people and organizations - (at least!) three questions:

- How do MRC's function?
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Great news! There are as many correct answers to those questions as there are individuals involved in the work of the Initiative! It all depends upon your perspective. At every level, the Initiative's success in achieving effective stewardship directly correlates to the multiple perspectives involved in our actions.

What is common among us is our "attitude for gratitude". We recognize the marine waters of the Northwest Straits were here long before any of us. These waters will still be here long after we individually finish using them. This locally-cherished gift is our present from past generations for which an equivalent return is expected...to our present-day neighbors as well as any future generations. It is a gift that cannot be kept, unless the responsibility for it is shared. It is a gift that IS re-gifted...every day. As supporters of the Initiative, we invest our efforts so that our "re-gift" isn't a white elephant without future utility.

You can measure our gratitude for these gifts by the level to which we shepherd and share the resources of the Northwest Straits. Stewardship isn't about regulation, though sometimes regulation is necessary. Stewardship isn't easily quantified by dollars, though measurable outcomes are a result of our collective investment and improved marine commerce is a byproduct. Stewardship, like gratitude, is a labor of the soul.

So...when you answer those three questions above in the future, be sure to include a reference to our "attitude for gratitude". It is the "magic" that checks individual and organizational egos at the door while engaging our combined passion for positive outcomes. Bringing people to the table to solve environmental problems is central to our purpose and the source of our strength. Find your niche. Follow your bliss. Encourage others to join you in doing the same. When we're all at the same table, to paraphrase The Rolling Stones, we get what we need.

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In the News

CLALLAM MRC OILED WILDLIFE TRAINING

Clallam MRC recently sponsored two classes to train volunteers to capture and stabilize oiled wildlife in the event of an oil spill. The first class emphasized stabilizing oiled birds. Students learned about facility layout, basic bird anatomy, how to recognize signs of stress in the bird, and how to handle the birds for data collection and stabilization. Students participated in hands-on practice with live birds.

In the second class, students reviewed anatomy, handling, and intubation, and learned techniques for bird capture in the field. The timely arrival of wind and rain assured a 'real life' scenario as students searched for and captured birds on Ediz Hook!



SOUNDIQ - PHASE II

Island MRC, in coordination with the City of Bellingham and Padilla Bay GIS Analyst Suzanne Shull, recently completed phase two of the SoundIQ web mapping application. The newly-updated application now includes feeds from eight external data sources, including weather feeds, FEMA flood zones, and tsunami inundation areas. Also new is a time-slider feature to view eelgrass data. [Click here to explore SoundIQ.](#)

OCEAN FRONTIERS SCREENING

Snohomish MRC recently partnered with the City of Everett to host a screening of the ocean stewardship film, *Ocean Frontiers*, at the Everett Performing Arts Center. A panel discussion with local and regional experts on ocean stewardship followed the film. Panelists included Kit Rawson of the Tulalip Tribes, Graham Anderson of the Port of Everett, and Andrea Copping of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and former Northwest Straits Commissioner. Attendees shared positive feedback, including the value of collaboration over confrontation, hope, and the goal to become more engaged in efforts to protect our local waters.

MUSSEL WATCH EXPANSION

Snohomish MRC involvement in sampling live mussels for contaminants in the nearshore was showcased in a recent series of Mussel Watch workshops by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The agency is seeking volunteers to help with a pilot project encompassing 60 sites, in Bellingham and Whidbey Basins, and Central and Southern Puget Sound. For information contact Jennifer Lanksbury (Jennifer.Lanksbury@dfw.wa.gov).

Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

The June 29 meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission was held at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center in Blyn, Clallam County. State Representative Steve Tharinger provided a welcome.

Shannon Davis of the Jefferson MRC gave an update on their Port Townsend Voluntary Eelgrass Zone project, and showed a short video about their work to create a Harbor Management Plan to protect Mystery Bay shellfish harvest.

In 2011 Northwest Straits Commission received Washington Shellfish Initiative funding for native Olympia oyster restoration. Chris Kaplan, shellfish biologist from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe gave an update on the Tribes' role in that project. Tribal tidelands in Sequim Bay have been identified for planting oyster seed this summer.

The Commission unanimously agreed to submit comment to federal agencies, requesting the preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement on the proposed coal transport facility at Cherry Point, in Whatcom County. [Click here to view the letter.](#)



Jenna Jewett from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife provided an update on the work of the coastal MRCs. Tsunami debris was identified as a common interest among coastal and Northwest Straits MRCs.

Minutes from the June 29 meeting will be available after they are approved on July 27. Minutes from the April 27 and June 1 meeting were approved and are now [available online.](#)

Northwest Straits Foundation Update

DERELICT FISHING GEAR FUNDING RECEIVED

The Northwest Straits Foundation received \$660,000 to finish the job of removing derelict fishing nets from shallow subtidal waters of Puget Sound. The Foundation estimates there are 500 shallow water derelict nets left to remove. The Foundation is aiming to complete the work by December 31, 2013. Funding comes from the US Environmental Protection Agency through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This funding will be combined with current and pledged funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, NOAA Marine Debris Program, ConocoPhillips Migratory Bird Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program, Lucky Seven Foundation, Tulalip Tribes and private donations.

The new funding also pays for a new response and retrieval program designed to prevent future re-accumulations of derelict nets by responding to reports of newly lost nets immediately. The Foundation will be developing this new program in close coordination with the Puget Sound fisheries co-managers.

SHANNON POINT NEARSHORE RESTORATION FUNDED

The Northwest Straits Foundation received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program to support the Skagit Marine Resources Committee's Shannon Point nearshore restoration project. The project will remove rock riprap from a shoreline at Shannon Point. Funding will move the project forward with feasibility, design, and permitting.



PADILLA BAY TIDELANDS PURCHASED

Seventy acres of tidelands will be added to the Padilla Bay Estuarine Research Reserve and protected in-perpetuity thanks to a grant from the Foundation's Skagit Restoration Initiative, a funding program directed at protecting the marine resources of Padilla Bay and Fidalgo Bay. The Washington State Department of Ecology recently completed the acquisition on behalf of the Reserve. The funding is overseen by the Skagit County Marine Resources Committee.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northwest Straits Foundation is seeking a full-time director, based out of Bellingham, Washington. The position closes at 5:00 pm on Monday, August 6. [Click here to read the full description and how to apply.](#)

Bulletin Board

TSUNAMI DEBRIS HOTLINE

Washington state has a new toll-free reporting and information line – 1-855-WACOAST (1-855-922-6278) – that citizens can call if they spot marine debris on our coastal beaches. Debris is expected to show up intermittently during the next several years as a result of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. [Click here to read more.](#)

PORT OF ANACORTES RECEIVES AWARD

Congratulations to the Port of Anacortes for receiving NOAA's Walter B. Jones award for excellence in local government, in recognition of their innovative approach to restoring the area's waterfront resources. The Skagit MRC worked in partnership with the Port to

incorporate Low Impact Development techniques in the Port's restoration plans.



NEW TOOL FOR TIDAL MARSH MONITORING

Check out TidalMarshMonitoring.org, an online tool for tidal marsh restoration monitoring. This new web site was created out of the growing need for a more standardized monitoring approach among restoration projects throughout the Western United States. Partners included USGS, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, and Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Events

July 18, 2012 - *Ocean Frontiers*. Friday Harbor Labs Commons, Friday Harbor WA. 6:00pm-8:00pm Sponsored by the San Juan MRC.

July 25, 2012 – *Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting*. 9:30am-4:15pm. Port of Everett Blue Heron Room.

July 27, 2012 – *Northwest Straits Commission meeting*, 10:00am-3:00pm. Location TBA, Snohomish County

August 3, 2012 - *Ocean Frontiers*, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, 6:00pm. Sponsored by the WSU Beach Watchers, NW Maritime Center, Jefferson MRC, Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Local 20/20.

September 13-14, 2012 – *Research Symposium on the Conservation and Ecology of Marine Forage Fishes*, for US and Canadian scientists and managers. Friday Harbor Laboratories. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission in collaboration with the University of Washington, WDFW, USGS, and Puget Sound Partnership. [Register online](#).

September 15, 2012 - *Fidalgo Bay Day*. Fidalgo Bay Resort, Anacortes. Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

October 25, 2012 - *Climate Change Symposium: At the Table- Diet for a Changing Climate*. St. Luke's Community Center, Bellingham. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC. Contact Lindsay Taylor for more information: 360-733-8307.

November 2-3, 2012 – *14th Annual Conference for MRC members*, Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.

Where We Are

Northwest Straits Initiative
10441 Bayview-Edison Rd
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USA

Tel: 360.428.1084
Fax: 360.428.1491
Email: info@nwstraits.org

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August 2012

COMMUNITY BEACH SEINING



The Skagit MRC recently held their second community beach seining day of 2012 on August 13, in partnership with Shannon Point Marine Center and WSU Beach Watchers. Project lead Dr. Paul Dinnel reported that more than 60 community members participated in the event, held at Ship Harbor in Anacortes.

Volunteers count and identify each species before returning them to the water alive. This event increases public awareness of the marine environment and creatures that live in our local waters.

LUMMI BEACH CLEANUP AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Wrapping up a project that began last year, Lummi Nation recently completed a beach cleanup and community outreach effort supported in part by the Northwest Straits Commission. During the course of the project, more than 40 volunteers, including high school and Northwest Indian College students, participated in four community cleanup events held on local beaches and the Nooksack River delta. Work completed also included removal of derelict fishing gear from the Nooksack River, with help from the Lummi Dislocated Fishers Program.



WELCOME, ANDREA!



We are pleased to welcome Andrea Hood to our staff as Program Coordinator. Andrea worked most recently for the City of Bellingham in the water conservation program and has a wealth of experience in public outreach and education associated with environmental programs in addition to many other skills. Andrea will be our primary point of contact for Commission meetings in addition to planning events and workshops, managing the newsletter and various databases. Andrea has a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from University of Georgia and a Masters of Environmental Management from Yale. We're very fortunate to have her join our team! You can reach Andrea at 360-428-1064 or hood@nwstraits.org

NORTHWEST COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the July 27 meeting in Everett, Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Gossett welcomed the group and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Commission and Snohomish MRC, emphasizing the value of the over 10,000 volunteer hours contributed in support of MRC projects last year.

Lincoln Loehr, a member of the Snohomish MRC and alternate representative to the Commission, gave an overview of the MRC's Mussel Watch program, a subset of NOAA's national long-term water quality monitoring program that is run by the MRC and uses mussels to determine toxics in the water. A copy of his presentation is [available online](#).

Jim West from the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife provided information about a pilot expansion of the agency's Mussel Watch project to include 60 sites in Puget Sound. He noted that many partnering organizations and volunteers are ready to collect the samples, and that opportunities exist for MRCs to provide support for additional sampling sites. A copy of his presentation is

available online.

Terrie Klinger provided an update regarding the Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification. The science subgroup has prepared a white paper summarizing ocean acidification in state waters, and is now drafting recommendations. [The presentations from the panel meetings are available online.](#) The panel is focusing on four areas for its recommendations: research and monitoring; quantifying local source contributions; adaptations and remediation; and public education and outreach.

MRC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Whatcom MRC member and Northwest Straits Commissioner Ken Carrasco was recently featured in the local Whatcom Watch newspaper, where he wrote about his [Adventures in an Electric Car](#). Motivated in part by his concern about climate change and ocean acidification, Ken purchased an electric Nissan LEAF, putting over 10,000 miles on it in the past year from his home base in rural Acme. Ken has enjoyed learning about the benefits and limitations of an electric car, and is happy to share his experience through presentations or discussion. Contact Ken at acmeleaf@gmail.com.



GOODBYE!

The Snohomish MRC recently accepted the resignation of MRC member and former chairman Jared Bond. A member of the MRC since 2008, Jared served as chair of the MRC in 2011 and represented the City of Lynnwood. Thank you for all of the time and energy you contributed, Jared, and we wish you all the best!

In anticipation of a move out of state, Skagit MRC member Neil Borman has also resigned from the MRC, where he has been an active member since 2006. He served as chair of the committee for two years, was a representative to the Northwest Straits Commission for a year, and served as chair of the Skagit Restoration Initiative subcommittee. His significant contributions of time and energy were greatly appreciated by the MRC and the Commission. Thank you, Neil!

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION - FUNDING OPPORTUNITY LISTSERV

The Foundation manages a funding opportunity email listserv to notify those interested in the latest requests for proposals, training opportunities, and funding trends. Currently the listserv includes MRC staff leads, chairs, Foundation board members and alternates and a variety of individuals who requested to be included. The listserv is open to anyone. Most recently, notices were sent out about funding opportunities for [Oil Spill Preparedness and Response](#) and [Surf Scoter Projects](#).

If you would like to get on the list to receive funding opportunity announcements, just email Joan Drinkwin at foundation@nwstraits.org.

AQUATIC RESERVE CITIZEN STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES NOW FORMING

You are invited to help steward the Northwest Straits and the wonderful wildlife that call it home! Three new Citizen Stewardship Committees are being created to help steward and protect the Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve, the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve and the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve. These committees seek engaged and enthusiastic individuals local to any of these three reserves to become founding members. Work will include planning and performing citizen science projects, education and outreach programs, and technical policy reviews. For more information or questions about the committees' work or for information on how to get involved please contact Maddie Foutch at mfoutch@pugetsound.org or 206-456-3784

EVENTS

August 24, 2012 – Northwest Straits Commission. Padilla Bay Reserve, Mount Vernon. 10am-1:30pm.

September 8-22 – Whatcom Water Weeks. Various dates and locations. [Visit the web site for details.](#)

September 15, 2012 – Locust/Whirlwind Beach Cleanup. Bellingham, 10am-noon. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC. Contact Melissa Roberts for more information: mroberts@co.whatcom.wa.us.

September 15, 2012 - Fidalgo Bay Day. Free admission, 11:00am-3:00pm. Fidalgo Bay Resort, Anacortes. Co-sponsored by the Skagit MRC.

October 20, 2012 - Bears to Barnacles: Incredible Animals of the Salish Sea. Mt. Baker Theatre-Encore Room, 7:00pm. Tickets are \$7 general admission and \$5 students and seniors. Contact Melissa Roberts for more information: mroberts@co.whatcom.wa.us.

October 20, 2012 - Sound Living: A One-Day Communiversity. Everett Community College, 9:00am-4:00pm. [Click here for more information.](#) Registration begins September 1.

October 25, 2012 - Climate Change and the Future of Food: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies. St. Luke's Community Center, Bellingham, all day. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC. Contact Elizabeth Kilanowski for more information: 360-733-5640 or kilaruba@copper.net.

November 2-3, 2012 – 14th Annual Conference for MRC members. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.

ARTICLES

Expert warns of debris deluge to come – Peninsula Daily News

Ecology adds 70 acres to protected Padilla Bay land – Skagit Valley Herald

Whatcom County Public Works tests Terrell Creek – Northern Light

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September 2012

FORAGE FISH SYMPOSIUM

Sixty scientific and policy experts working on forage fish along the West Coast of Canada and the U.S., Alaska, and Great Lakes region convened in a 2-day symposium at Friday Harbor Laboratories organized by the Northwest Straits Initiative.

On behalf of our co-sponsors, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Partnership, and U.S. Geological Survey, thank you to everyone who contributed to this enormously successful gathering. Proceedings are now in preparation and will be available later this fall.



CORNET BAY RESTORATION UPDATE



The Cornet Bay Nearshore Restoration Project started August 31, with a goal to finish by October 15. Through a competitive bidding process, Matia Contractors from Ferndale was selected to do the construction, which consists of removing the creosoted bulkhead in three sections, with beach grading and nourishment happening in each section before the next section is worked. Come out and see the restored beach emerge!

PORT SUSAN MSA OUTREACH PROJECT UNDERWAY

With grant funding from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Marine and Nearshore program, the Northwest Straits Foundation is partnering with the Snohomish and Island MRCs to implement a series of outreach activities to reduce shoreline hardening in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA). Activities include the generation of GIS maps showing coastal processes and marine resources in the MSA, needs assessments of shoreline planners and coastal landowners, educational workshops in the MSA for planners and landowners, and an incentives program.



On September 13, the [Coastal Training Program](#) coordinated a *Coastal Processes, Impacts and Alternatives to Shoreline Hardening* in the Port Susan MSA workshop, led by shoreline geologist and coastal processes expert Jim Johannessen of Coastal Geologic Services. The classroom and field sessions provided an opportunity for 23 planners from Island and Snohomish counties to learn about shoreline management issues, specifically the extent and impacts of shoreline stabilization and current approaches to alternative erosion control and beach restoration.

A workshop for marine shoreline landowners will take place on October 13. Following the workshop, shoreline landowners in the Port Susan MSA can receive free site visits from qualified professionals who will provide property-specific shoreline management recommendations. [Click here to learn more](#) about the project or contact the Foundation at 360-756-5024.

DERELICT FISHING GEAR REMOVAL

Three derelict fishing gear removal vessels are mobilized again to remove the last of the known shallow water derelict nets by December 2013. The F/V Bet-Sea just finished removing nets from piling stubs at Jefferson Head in anticipation of Washington Department



of Natural Resources removing the pilings themselves in October. These piling stubs have snagged literally hundreds of fishing nets over the years, costing fishermen thousands of dollars and killing countless marine animals. We are proud of this collaborative, public-private partnership that is successfully eliminating these underwater hazards.

JEFFERSON MRC'S MYSTERY BAY MANAGEMENT PLAN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The Mystery Bay Management Plan received the national Waterways Management Award from the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA). The award was presented on September 10 in Mobile, Alabama at the NASBLA national conference. Wade Alonzo, Boating Law Administrator with the Washington Parks & Recreation Commission, nominated the team of state and local officials, community members, tribes and others who developed the Mystery Bay Management Plan for the award.

WEAVERLING SPIT RESTORATION BEGINS

Construction started at Weaverling Spit in Fidalgo Bay on September 4. The project will halt shoreline erosion of a beach and archeological site and enhance forage fish spawning habitat along 500 feet of shoreline. The Samish Indian Nation is implementing the project with a grant from the Skagit Restoration Initiative, a funding program managed by the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and administered by the Northwest Straits Foundation.



SKAGIT MRC WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

The Skagit Marine Resources Committee welcomes new member, Jay Lind, who represents recreational fishing. Jay is a third generation seafood processor and belongs to the Puget Sound Anglers/Anacortes chapter. Welcome, Jay!

GOOD-BYE, EMILY!



Emily Whitney has served as the Program Assistant for the Snohomish MRC for the last two year and this month we regretfully say goodbye to her as she completes her second year in the Americorps program. Emily has been an invaluable part of the MRC and has worked with Commission staff on the annual MRC conference, where her tireless assistance helped everything run smoothly. Good bye, Emily, we wish you all the best!

PASS IT FORWARD

Congratulations to Northwest Straits Commission director Ginny Broadhurst, recipient of the **Sustainable Path Foundation's Pass it Forward Award** to recognize her extraordinary accomplishments to protect the overall health of the Northwest Straits marine ecosystem.

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

State Representative Norma Smith from the 10th legislative district opened the Commission meeting at Padilla Bay Reserve on August 28. Representative Smith was Special Assistant to Congressman Jack Metcalf in the 1990s when the Northwest Straits Initiative was launched. The Commission discussed with Representative Smith the community-driven, bottom-up approach that was envisioned when the Northwest Straits Initiative was created through a bi-partisan partnership between Senator Patty Murray and Representative Metcalf.

Representative Smith is now a member of the state's Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel (Panel) and encouraged everyone to view the Panel's materials available on the [Department of Ecology's web site](#). The Panel expects to deliver its final recommendations to the Governor in October, along with a public outreach communication plan that is expected to emphasize use of local resources such as MRCs and extension offices to spread factual, scientific information separate from the global warming issue.

The [minutes from the July 27, 2012](#) Commission meeting were approved and are now available online.

The Commission continued discussions about the draft Northwest Straits Initiative Sustainability Plan and the next steps for the MRCs, the Commission and staff. Commission director Ginny Broadhurst will visit each MRC during September to continue conversations about diversifying funding sources and implementing actions to strengthen support.

The next Commission meeting will take place November 2 at 9:30am in Port Townsend, prior to the start of the MRC conference. The previously scheduled September 28 meeting was canceled.

EVENTS

September 27, 2012 – *Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship*. Orcas Center Madrona Room, Eastsound. 6:30-8:30pm.

September 28-30, 2012 - *Dungeness River Festival*, 9:00am-4:00pm. Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim. Booth hosted by the Clallam MRC.

September 29, 2012 - *Olympic National Park Coastal Marine Debris Cleanup*. Volunteers are needed to supplement Clallam MRC and other participating groups. Advance registration is required, for information see www.coastsavers.org, or contact Heather Stephens, Olympic National Park Volunteer Coordinator, 360-565-3141 or Rosie Perera 360-565-3142.

October 10, 2012 - *Bears to Barnacles: Incredible Animals of the Salish Sea*. Mt. Baker Theatre-Encore Room, 7:00pm. Tickets are \$7 general admission and \$5 students and seniors. Contact Melissa Roberts for more information: mroberts@co.whatcom.wa.us.

October 17-18, 2012 – *Strategic Marketing in the Public Sector*, 8:30am-4:30pm. Hotel Deca, Seattle.

October 20, 2012 - *Sound Living: A One-Day Communitversity*. Everett Community College, 9:00am-4:00pm. Registration begins September 1.

October 25, 2012 - *Climate Change and the Future of Food: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies*. St. Luke's Community Center, Bellingham, 8am-5pm. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC. Event is \$25 and \$10 for students and includes a catered lunch. Questions: joycej@wsu.edu

November 2-3, 2012 – *14th Annual Conference for MRC members*. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend.

March 25-28, 2013 – *National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium*. Tacoma, WA.

ARTICLES

How cities are using nature to cut pollution – The Guardian, August 23, 2012

Celebrate county resource during third annual Whatcom Water Weeks – The News Tribune, September 4, 2012

Bay Shore Returns – Deception Pass State Park Current, September 2012

County moves ahead with PT Bay, Mystery Bay 'no anchor' zone – Port Townsend Leader, September 18, 2012

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STATE-WIDE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION PANEL UPDATE

The Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification had its last meeting October 12 in Seattle to discuss final edits to a list of recommendations for action. The Governor-appointed panel members spent months learning about ocean acidification and debating the most appropriate actions to be taken here in Washington. Information about ocean acidification, panel members, purpose, meetings and documents are [available online](#). A final report will be delivered to the Governor on November 27. Several Blue Ribbon Panel members will report on the recommendations on November 2 at the Northwest Straits Annual MRC Conference.

2012 MRC CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 2-3

Over 85 MRC representatives are registered to attend the 14th Annual Northwest Straits MRC Conference on November 2-3, 2012, including 13 representatives from coastal MRCs! This year's conference will feature a special guest presentation by the legendary Billy Frank Jr., an evening presentation by Chef Becky Selengut, a silent auction, and many opportunities for regional networking, training and project sharing. Topics will include ocean acidification, polluted runoff, treaty rights, forage fish, collaboration with coastal MRCs, funding future projects, and more! [Click here for more information](#). If you or your business or agency is interested in donating an item for the silent auction to raise funds for the Northwest Straits Foundation, please contact Austin Rose.

SEPTEMBER 2012 FORAGE FISH SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE



PowerPoint presentations and abstracts from the September 2012 Forage Fish symposium held at Friday Harbor Laboratories are now available for viewing at the [Northwest Straits Initiative website](#). A full day of information sharing and a second day of work groups resulted in identification of a list of priority science and policy actions for the region.

[Closing remarks](#) on this important gathering were delivered by Dr. Joseph Gaydos, SeaDoc Society Director and Chair, Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel. Proceedings are now in preparation and will be published by USGS in winter 2012/2013. One exciting outcome of the symposium is the [Puget Sound Institute's \(PSI\) formation of a study panel](#) to focus on science priorities for regional fish conservation. Led by PSI research scientist Dr. Tessa Francis, PSI visiting scholar Dr. Marc Mangel of UC Santa Cruz and Dr. Tim

Essington of UW Seattle, the follow-up study panel will convene in summer 2013.

WELCOME TO NEW SNOHOMISH MRC PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Please welcome Michelle LaForge as the new Snohomish County Marine Resources Program Assistant. Michelle graduated from Wheaton College in 2011 with a degree in Biology. Michelle has worked as a research assistant for the AuSable Institute in Michigan and has relocated to Washington State to start her career in Marine Conservation. Michelle has had experience in several research projects in aquatic fisheries and coral reefs in Belize. Say hi to Michelle at the November Conference; the Snohomish MRC is excited to have her on board!

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

In late September the Northwest Straits Foundation Board of Directors' selection committee announced Robyn du Pre` as the new Executive Director for the Foundation. Robyn is an experienced and respected non-profit conservation professional with a background in managing organizations and budgets, developing programs and campaigns, leading strategic planning processes and expanding funding bases. Currently the Director of Outreach and Development for the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, Robyn was Executive Director for RE Sources for Sustainable Communities from 2005-2010, founded the North Sound Baykeeper program, and has served in senior leadership roles in several other non-profit organizations. She has past service in the early days of the San Juan, Island and Whatcom Marine Resources Committees and the Northwest Straits Commission Education Committee.

Robyn holds a Masters Degree in Political Science with emphasis on Environmental Politics and Policy from Western Washington University (WWU). She received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from WWU's Huxley College of Environmental Studies. Robyn will begin her new position in November. Joan Drinkwin will resume her duties as Programs Director when Robyn officially comes on board. We welcome Robyn and look forward to continuing and expanding the great work of the Foundation with our many partners and supporters.

LANDOWNERS IN PORT SUSAN ATTEND *LIVING WITH THE COAST* WORKSHOP

Over 60 marine shoreline landowners from Island and Port Susan landowner workshop Snohomish Counties attended an October workshop on Camano Island to learn about issues impacting the Puget Sound nearshore, shoreline processes and management alternatives. The Northwest Straits Foundation sponsored the workshop through a grant from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and conducted the event in partnership with the Island and Snohomish Marine Resources Committees. During the workshop, Jim Johannessen and Stephanie Williams of Coastal Geologic Services led the a classroom presentation and beach walk. Landowners in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) enthusiastically learned that, through this project, they are eligible to receive a free site visit to gain management recommendations specific to their properties. The goal of the project is to reduce shoreline armoring in the MSA by providing landowners with education and incentives to learn about impacts and alternatives to traditional shore hardening. Thanks to everyone who attended!



FOUNDATION RECEIVES FUNDING FOR JEFFERSON MRC EELGRASS PROTECTION PROJECT

The Northwest Straits Foundation received \$6,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Fish Habitat Partnership grant program. This funding will support the continuation of voluntary eelgrass protection along the Port Townsend waterfront by placing marker buoys that delineate the no anchor-zone, combined with interpretive signs and brochures. The project has had measurable success in preventing boaters from anchoring in critical eelgrass habitat. Eelgrass is a valued marine resource because it provides critical habitat for commercially-, recreationally- and ecologically-important species including salmon, Brandt geese, crab and herring, and it helps reduce shoreline erosion by absorbing wave energy. The state has a "no net loss" policy to help protect this priority habitat. Congratulations to the Jefferson MRC!

EVENTS

October 20, 2012 – *Sound Living: Exploring the Connections between Water, Land and People*. 9am-4pm, Everett Community College

October 24, 2012 – *Encyclopedia of Puget Sound kick-off event*. 3:30pm-5:30pm, UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle

October 25, 2012 - *Climate Change and the Future of Food: Challenges and Adaptation Strategies*. St. Luke's Community Center, Bellingham, 8am-5pm. Co-sponsored by the Whatcom MRC. Event is \$25 and \$10 for students and includes a catered lunch. Questions: joycej@wsu.edu

November 1, 2012 – *Pacific Northwest Oil Spill Response Open House*, Northwest Maritime Center, 431 Water Street, Port Townsend. 9:30am-3:00pm. If you can only attend after work, a shorter evening session will be held at the same location from 6:00pm-9:00pm.

November 2-3 – *Annual MRC Conference*. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend

ARTICLES

Bulkhead torn out, Cornet Bay beach at Deception Pass State Park enhanced - Whidbey News Times, September 28, 2012

PSI to convene study panel for forage fish – Puget Sound Institute blog, September 27, 2012

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NOVEMBER 2012

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO JOE GAYDOS

All involved in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative are extremely grateful to Joe Gaydos for his eight years of excellent participation and leadership as a member of the Northwest Straits Commission. Joe has completed two terms as a Governor's appointee to the Commission, serving as chair of the Science and Technical committee since 2008. Joe helped lead the development of the Commission's forage fish program, provided scientific guidance and expertise on many of our projects and has been a continual source of inspiration for our work. We will miss you, Joe!



2012 MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



(Photo L-R: Ginny Broadhurst, Billy Frank, Jr., and Jerry Masters)

Thanks to the sponsors, speakers, and participants who made the November 2012 MRC conference in Port Townsend a successful and enjoyable event! The conference boasted record MRC member attendance, excellent speakers, delicious food, and timely topics. Elected officials, tribal representatives, scientists, coastal and Northwest Straits MRC members, and staff from various agencies shared information regarding environmental, policy and funding challenges ahead, highlighting the need to face the future newly energized to continue the good work being accomplished by the MRCs.

Conference attendees reported enjoying the opportunity to network and compare notes with other MRC members, especially connecting with members of Washington's coastal MRCs. Others cited their "favorite part of the conference" as sessions on ocean acidification, treaty rights, stormwater pollution, and social marketing. Check out the Northwest Straits Initiative's [conference webpage](#), which contains links to conference audio/video, presentations, and other materials.

CORNET BAY CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED



Construction at Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State park concluded in October. The construction phase of the restoration project included removing 750 feet of creosote bulkhead and associated fill and re-grading the beach to restore natural elevations. Beach gravel suitable for forage fish spawning was placed in the intertidal zone.



Planting of the upland forest fringe area will occur in late November, followed in spring with planting in the lower elevations. An interpretive sign is being developed and project partners are conducting post-project monitoring of forage fish spawning and fish use of the nearshore. WSU Beach Watchers are contributing time to monitor the site. The Cornet Bay project is a close collaboration between the Northwest Straits Foundation, the Island Marine Resources Committee, the Whidbey Island Conservation District and Washington State Parks.

NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION THANKS CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The Northwest Straits Foundation would like to acknowledge the businesses, tribes, agencies and corporations who provided generous sponsorship of the 2012 MRC conference: Puget Sound Partnership, BP, Valley Supply Company,



Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Fenn Enterprises, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resource Consultants, Inc., Samish Indian Nation, Washington Sea Grant, Swinomish Tribal Community, and Tesoro. These sponsorships made this year's conference possible. Thank you!

(Photo L-R: Ocean Acidification panel members Brad Warren, Representative Norma Smith, Bill Dewey, and Jeff Watters)

We also extend our thanks to Taylor Shellfish Farms, Tulalip Tribes, workshop Penn Cove Shellfish, LLC and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe for donating locally-harvested shellfish and salmon that contributed to a fantastic Friday evening feast.



Thanks to all the businesses, individuals, and Marine Resources Committees who donated items to the silent auction at the conference. The auction was a great success, raising \$6,292 to support the work of the Northwest Straits Foundation. Special thanks to all who supported the Foundation through their purchases and to those lovely souls who made generous donations without even buying anything! *(Photo - 2012 MRC conference attendees discuss projects and priorities)*

VIDEO SHOWCASES JEFFERSON COUNTY MRC

Al Bergstein, a cinematographer and member of the Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee, produced a video introducing viewers to the people, purpose, value and accomplishments of the Jefferson County MRC. [Watch the video online.](#)



NORTHWEST COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

At the brief business meeting held on the morning of November 2, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Director Tony Wright announced the recent 2012 release of the PSP's [State of the Sound](#) report, acknowledging that we are not on track to achieve a healthy Puget Sound by 2020. Tony discussed his observations about efficiency and effectiveness of current organizations and agencies involved in managing and restoring resources in and around Puget Sound and strategies he is using to re-organize the PSP to result in action and to better account for money needed or spent.

EVENTS

November 30, 2012 - Northwest Straits Commission meeting. Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Road, Coupeville, WA 98239. The Commission meeting will begin at 1pm, following a Northwest Straits Foundation meeting.

February 2, 2013 - WSU Extension, Island County Beach Watchers SOUND WATERS 2013. Oak Harbor High School. The keynote speaker will be Cliff Mass.

March 25-28, 2013 - National Working Waterfronts and Waterways Symposium. Tacoma, WA. For more information: www.workingwaterfronts2013.org.

Where We Are

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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

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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

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NEWSLETTER

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improve everyone's efforts to save Puget Sound.

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NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

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December 2012

WASHINGTON LEADING THE NATION IN EFFORTS TO ADDRESS OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

On November 27 at the Seattle Aquarium, Governor Gregoire signed [Executive Order 12-07](#), Washington's Response to Ocean Acidification. With this major step and concurrent release of the Governor's [Blue Ribbon Panel report](#), Washington state has taken the first such initiative in the nation on this complex issue. Northwest Straits Commission Director Ginny Broadhurst and members of several MRCs attended the ceremony to hear firsthand the recommendations for meaningful action in this region.

Since 2008, the Northwest Straits Initiative has engaged in regional education efforts around this issue, and is already working on small-scale projects that address ocean acidification locally. [Click here](#) for a fact sheet summarizing relevant work already underway by the Northwest Straits Initiative.

CORNET BAY RESTORATION PROGRESS CONTINUES



In November, 20 volunteers coordinated by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group installed over 500 plants in the upland area adjacent to Cornet Bay's newly restored beach and intertidal zone. Future spring planting will include installation of grasses and plants closer to the water. The Cornet Bay restoration project is a close collaboration between the Northwest Straits Foundation, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, the Whidbey Island Conservation District and Washington State Parks. *(Photo courtesy of Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group)*

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION PROMOTING METADATA STANDARDS

Data collection is a critical component of Northwest Straits Initiative projects to survey eelgrass, forage fish spawning, pigeon guillemots, and more. The details of these data (who collected them, where they were collected, how, when, etc..) are known as 'metadata'. The Commission is currently working on a federal grant from the U.S. Geological Survey's [NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program](#) to create metadata, and transition that metadata to a new [International Standards Organization](#) format, using existing nearshore data on [SoundIQ](#). The report resulting from this project will document - for MRCs, natural resources agencies, and other organizations - the transition strategy, its successes and its challenges.

Suzanne Shull, GIS Specialist at Padilla Bay Reserve, is the project lead working in coordination with Northwest Straits Program Manager Caroline Gibson and City of Bellingham GIS Analyst Ann Stark. Additional project information can be viewed here: [Promoting ISO Metadata Standards Through Application to Puget Sound Nearshore Data](#).

ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL DERELICT FISHING GEAR REMOVAL!

The Northwest Straits Foundation is pleased to report that, as of November 30, contractors have removed 4,354 derelict nets from shallow waters of Puget Sound. Throughout 2012 the Foundation has managed two removal vessels focusing work at Point Roberts, around Whidbey Island, and in the San Juan Islands. During the second weekend of December, the F/V Tenacious crew pulled its last net for the year at Point Roberts and is taking a well deserved winter break. The Foundation's research estimates that the derelict nets were killing 1,263 mammals, 23,179 birds, 82,659 fish and more than 3 million invertebrates every year. Valuable marine habitats are also negatively affected by these nets. The removal of the derelict nets has restored 616 acres of habitat, mostly low-relief rocky substrate and boulders on sand, mud, or gravel.

A big thank you goes out to all the good folks at Natural Resources Consultants and the captains and crews of the removal

vessels. Their excellent work and high level of productivity are what make the Northwest Straits Initiative's Derelict Fishing Gear Removal program world-renowned.

MRC CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Thank you to everyone who attended the 14th annual MRC Conference in November and provided feedback through the follow up survey. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, and many participants commented that they particularly enjoyed networking with fellow MRC members and newcomers from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Coastal MRC Program. Follow up information and presentations from the conference are available on our [web site](#).

MRC HAPPENINGS

[Clallam County MRC](#) - On December 10, Clallam MRC Chair Andrew Shogren and MRC member Ed Bowlby presented to Clallam County Commissioners information about ocean acidification and elements of the recent report issued by the [Washington Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification](#). The MRC members encouraged collaboration on local actions that can be taken to minimize contributions and to monitor effects. Read more [here](#). (Photo: Andrew Shogren and Ed Bowlby present before the Clallam County Board of Commissioners)



[Jefferson County MRC](#) - At the December meeting of the Jefferson County MRC, Al Bergstein was elected MRC Chair, Tony Petrillo Vice Chair, Shannon Davis the representative to the Northwest Straits Commission, and Judy D'Amore the alternate to the Commission. In addition, Maureen Goff now serves as alternate to Dave Robison in District 1. Thanks to these volunteers for their willingness to participate!

[Island County MRC](#) - Please welcome Linda Kast Meehan as the new Communications Manager for the Island County MRC! We look forward to working with Linda. The next time you're visiting Island County, be sure to enjoy the more than [35 interpretive signs](#) installed along shoreline paths and parks of Whidbey and Camano Islands. The signs, created through a partnership between the Island County MRC and City of Oak Harbor, highlight the area's marine environment and natural history.

FAREWELL TO PAT PEARSON



Congratulations and a bittersweet goodbye to Pat Pearson, who is retiring from Washington State University Extension and eight years as the County Coordinator of the Jefferson MRC. For over 20 years, Pat has dedicated her career and endless volunteer hours to natural resources education, overseeing the county Beach Watchers program and serving numerous marine advisory roles in Puget Sound. In 2012 she was named a Puget Sound Champion by the Puget Sound Partnership. On December 4, the Jefferson County MRC thanked Pat with a Coast Salish salmon carving. (Photo: Pat Pearson shows off her Coast Salish salmon carving)

NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The November 30 meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission was held at the Pacific Rim Center in Coupeville. Island County Commissioner Helen Price Johnson welcomed the group and expressed her appreciation for the Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Straits Foundation in supporting local projects such as Cornet Bay restoration and phytoremediation sites.

The 2013 Commission meeting date schedule was introduced; [click here](#) to view.

Terrie Klinger, as a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, provided an overview of the Panel's formation, function, and the final recommendations report. Dr. Klinger noted that information about ocean acidification in Washington state and the Blue Ribbon Panel's report are available on the Department of Ecology's [web site](#).

Minutes from the November 30 Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be available after approval at the next meeting on January 25. Minutes from the November 2 Commission meeting are now [available online](#).

EVENTS

January 24, 2013 – Ocean Acidification Seminar, Everett, WA. Everett Station, Weyerhaeuser Room. 6-8pm. Free and open to the public.

February 2, 2013 - WSU Extension, Island County Beach Watchers Sound Waters 2013. Oak Harbor High School. Featuring keynote presentation by Cliff Mass, University of Washington.

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ARTICLES

Washington state confronts ocean acidification – Washington Post, November 27, 2012

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