



## minutes

January 26, 2018 • 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Skykomish Conference Room, Snohomish County Campus, Everett, WA  
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

### Attendees:

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice-Chair), Jerry Masters, Alan Clark (Clallam), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Ron Thom, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ken Carrasco (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership-Alternate), Terry Williams (Tribal-Alternate)

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

**Others in Attendance:** Kathleen Pozarycki (Snohomish MRC staff), Sarah Brown (Snohomish MRC member), Nate Biletnikoff (Skagit–Alternate), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Terry Stevens (Director, Padilla Bay Reserve), Jay Krienitz (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife–phone), Theresa Mitchell (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife–phone)

**Absent:** Tom Cowan, Sheida Sahandy (Puget Sound Partnership), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

### Welcome and Introductions

Nan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

### Our Coast Community Film Series

Sarah Brown, Snohomish MRC Chair, presented on the MRC's Our Coast Community Film Series. The project includes the showing of three ocean themed films, local school outreach and the promotion of the MyCoast app for ongoing engagement.

- Action: For more information check here: <http://www.snocomrc.org/>

### Northwest Straits Commission - committee reports

#### **Executive Committee**

Terry Stevens updated on the hiring process for the Northwest Straits Commission Director position. The position announcement for Commission director is available here: <https://goo.gl/zqP9rQ>. The first review of applications will begin after February 16.

- Action: Those with questions or suggestions on places to post the job announcement can forward it on or contact Terry Stevens at [terry.stevens@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:terry.stevens@ecy.wa.gov) and 360-428-1045.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

The Science Advisory Committee is working on the next steps of the Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Two informational WebEx meetings are open to anyone interested in the project. The first ran on January 24 and the next will be February 7 from 2:00-3:00 PM. A temporary part-time Ecosystem Coordinator will be hired in the spring to support the Net Ecosystem Improvement project in 2018.



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- Action: Those interested in attending the Net Ecosystem Improvement informational WebEx should contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://bit.ly/2EnE8Zo>

### **Clallam**

Alan Clark said Robert Knapp and Chris Burns from Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will share the role of representing the Jamestown Tribe. Bob Campbell resigned and the MRC now has one vacancy. The annual HAZWOPER training will be held February 10 in Port Angeles City Council Chambers. The new portable toilet and dog waste disposal bin were installed at the West Elwha Beach December 29.

### **Island**

Elsa Schwartz was appointed as the Commission representative, replacing Ed Adams. Barbara Bennett was appointed as Commission alternate and Matt Kukuk was appointed as a new member. Linda Rhodes will present at Sound Waters University in February on the kelp project. The MRC is planning a forum for spring 2018 to focus on failing shoreline infrastructure.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff Taylor updated on member changes including Ashley Mackenzie and Jackie Gardner (Co-Chairs), Jeff Taylor (NWSC Representative) and Sarah Fisker (NWSC Alternate). MRC member Jeff Taylor organized an informal webinar on satellite technology for nearshore monitoring to help develop broader collaborations for kelp and other image-based monitoring.

### **San Juan**

Ken Carrasco said San Juan County Council appointed several new members; Jeff Friedman, Elise DuFour, Carl Davis, Christina Koons, Ivan Reiff, and Karin Roemers-Kleven. The MRC is working on an educational video to air on the Washington State Ferries which will advertise proper whale watching etiquette. The two Orcas Landing exhibit drafts are now being circulated among MRC members for review and comment.

### **Skagit**

Jamey Selleck said the MRC recommended to the Board of County Commissioners to appoint Pete Haase to the MRC and Lynne Jordan to replace Kit Rawson as the Skagit Land Trust representative on the MRC. Monthly surveys continue at Skagit MRC's three forage fish index sites: Ship Harbor, Similk Bay on the Swinomish Reservation, and Samish Island.

### **Snohomish**

Paul Clampitt said the MRC held elections. The results were; Sarah Brown (MRC Chair), Bob Hillmann and Mike Ehlebracht (Co-Vice Chairs). The MRC is working on the next steps on the Snohomish Estuary Project which include posting the derelict boats in order to attain possession, and writing a scope of work which will be used to attain a contractor.



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### **Whatcom**

Bob Cecile said the MRC held elections. The results were: Eleanor Hines (Chair), Kristin Murray (Vice-Chair), Bob Cecile (NWSC Representative), Pete Granger (NWSC Alternate Representative). The MRC deployed a mussel cage near a storm drain in the Whatcom Waterway as part of the regional WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mussel Watch project.

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) update**

The NWSF hired a new Director of Philanthropy, Tarrell Kullaway. The NWSF is accepting applications to the MRC Opportunity Fund through February 28. MRCs should consider generating ideas for future projects which the NWSF can match to funding as it comes available.

- Action: Those with input on potential donors, MRC Conference sponsors and fundraising ideas should contact Tarrell at [kullaway@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:kullaway@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

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

Karin Berkholtz said over 800 Near Term Actions (NTA) were pre-registered in December. For those who pre-registered, a final NTA proposal is due by March 30, 2018. Puget Sound Legislative updates are regularly posted on PSP's website <http://bit.ly/2DJ6PPi>. A [Vital Signs Webinar](#) will be held on Wednesday January 31 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM. The primary audience will be the Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) and Lead Entities, but NWSC and MRC staff are invited to call in.

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

Jay Krienitz, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), presented on the ESRP small grants program designed to support smaller projects, which don't compete well in large scale restoration grants. A Request for Proposals will be put out in mid-February. Theresa Mitchell, WDFW, presented on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP).

- Action: Those interested in learning more can click here: <http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/>

### **Electric Boat Propulsion in the Salish Sea**

Ken Carrasco presented on electric marine propulsion. His presentation can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2GvxctQ>.

### **Business items**

#### **Kelp project update**

Lucas is planning a kelp recovery team workshop on March 20 in Seattle.

- Action: Contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org) if interested in more information.

### **MRC Conference**

2018 is the 20-year anniversary of the Northwest Straits Initiative. The MRC Conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018.



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- Action: Initiative members interested in being involved in generating ideas for showcasing our work and celebrating this milestone year can contact Sasha to participate or submit ideas to [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

### **2018 Retreat**

The 2018 Northwest Straits Initiative retreat for members of the Commission and Foundation board will be March 1-2 at the La Conner Country Inn.

- Action: Attendees needing a room should contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

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



## minutes

**March 30, 2018 • 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**  
**Big Room, Padilla Bay Reserve**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice-Chair), Jerry Masters, Alan Clark (Clallam), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Ron Thom, Sarah Fisken (Jefferson-Alternate), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ken Carrasco (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Terry Williams (Tribal-Alternate)

**Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst

**Others in Attendance:** Kathleen Pozarycki, Simon Geerlofs, Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Terry Stevens (Director, Padilla Bay Reserve), Lucas Hart

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy (Puget Sound Partnership)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

### **MRC updates**

Each MRC provided brief updates on current projects. Full MRC reports and committee reports are available here: <https://bit.ly/2uCvGUK>

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director Candidate interviews**

The Commission reviewed three candidates for the Commission Director position. Each candidate provided a short five minute presentation and was asked a series of questions from Commissioners. After interviews, the Commissioners and hiring committee met to discuss options and make the final recommendation to the Department of Ecology.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on April 27 in San Juan County. \*



## minutes

**April 27, 2018 • 11:00 AM-3:45 PM**  
**Brickworks, 150 Nichols St, Friday Harbor, WA 98250**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Nan McKay (Chair), Jamey Selleck (Skagit, Vice-Chair), Jerry Masters, Elsa Schwartz (Island), Ron Thom, Paul Clampitt (Snohomish), Ken Carrasco (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom)

**Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Dan van Hees

**Others in Attendance:** Suzanna Stoike (Puget Sound Partnership), Jamie Stephens (San Juan County Council), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Terrie Klinger (UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs), Kendra Smith (San Juan County staff), Frances Robertson (San Juan MRC staff), Terry Turner (San Juan MRC member), Laura Jo Severson (San Juan MRC member)

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy (Puget Sound Partnership), Cecelia Gobin (Tribal), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Alan Clark (Clallam)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Nan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the March Northwest Straits Commission meeting were reviewed and revisions requested before approval. The revised minutes will be included in the May Commission meeting materials for approval.

Jamie Stephens, San Juan County Council, welcomed the Commission to San Juan County and affirmed his support in the San Juan MRC and the Northwest Straits Initiative.

### **Director update**

Lucas introduced himself as the new director and provided an update on his priorities for the next few months, which includes filling the now-vacated marine program manager position and preparing for Puget Sound Day on the Hill.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Jamey said the committee discussed the hiring of a new director, planning the 2018 MRC Conference scheduled for this November and the upcoming MRC grants. The Commission and Foundation had a joint executive committee meeting on April 17.

- Action: Those interested in joining the 2018 MRC Conference Planning Committee or contributing suggestions for speakers/sessions can contact Sasha Horst at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the committee's recent meeting was focused on the Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) project and the hiring of the new Ecosystem Coordinator for the Northwest Straits Commission, Dan van Hees.



### **External Relations Committee**

Tom said the committee will be meeting to reestablish priorities for the coming year including securing state funding. He confirmed Senator Ranker was invited to attend the 2018 MRC Conference and has it on his calendar.

### **Commission elections**

Commission elections brought two members into new leadership roles; Paul Clampitt of the Snohomish MRC as chair, and Alan Clark of the Clallam MRC as vice chair.

### **Public comment**

A staff member from Lime Kiln commented on what a great platform it is for education. She invited people to mark their calendars for their centennial celebration on June 30, 2019.

Terry Turner spoke to his interest in electric ferries as someone who works for the power utility in San Juan. He is interested in whether people are thinking more about power generation, including tidal energy.

Jamey Selleck took a moment to acknowledge Susan Williams, a marine ecology researcher with personal and professional ties to San Juan, who died in a car accident in California.

### **Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) update**

The NWSF awarded several MRCs grants through the MRC Opportunity Fund including a \$10,000 award to San Juan MRC for their whale flag boater education project. Foundation staff are working on an application to Boeing for MRC stormwater management projects in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties. Thank you to the MRCs who have used the Northwest Straits Initiative information signup sheets at events. A new communications internship is now available which focuses on coordination and promotion of MRC work that supports the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales.

- Action: Those interested in the communication internship can contact Caroline Gibson for more information at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

### **MRC updates**

Each MRC provided brief updates on current projects. Full MRC reports and committee reports are available here: <https://bit.ly/2JMCWzX>

### **Clallam**

The MRC provided a written report. Two eight-hour oiled wildlife trainings were held for March 24 and 31—a total of 16 volunteers participated in the first training and 13 volunteers in the second training. The MRC will have a booth at the Celebration of Science and Technology event at Port Angeles Pier on April 28.

### **Island**

Elsa said William Bell, Port of Coupeville Commissioner, was approved as a non-voting technical advisor. Linda Rhodes presented on the bull kelp monitoring project to the Board of Island County Commissioners. Ruth Richards is working with two new volunteers on Camano Island to lead the forage fish monitoring work for the Camano sites.



### **Jefferson**

The MRC provided a written report. MRC volunteers will deploy Port Townsend waterfront voluntary no anchor zone buoys on April 21, with donation of boat/skipper by Port of Port Townsend. A subcommittee finalized the location of June raingarden installation, which will be in partnership with City of Port Townsend.

### **San Juan**

Ken introduced the new San Juan MRC lead staff, Dr. Frances Robertson. Two MRC sub-committees met during April to forward their projects, these included the boat-noise subcommittee and the Orcas Landing subcommittee. The MRC is moving forward on a whale-flag project: Moving ahead with the next stages.

### **Skagit**

Jamey said Morty Cohen is stepping down from the MRC in June and that his alternate, Rachel Best, will be taking his place as the MRC Project Lead for the Salish Sea Stewards. Twenty-five volunteers and 50 eighth grade students from Conway Middle School participated in the Kids on the Beach event at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.

### **Snohomish**

Paul said the MRC is working on derelict fishing boat removal. After a contractor is chosen, the eight boats identified for removal can be posted. Traci Sanderson took the monthly forage fish index site sample on April 18, 2018 and completed the sample blue vortexing. The MRC held the last of their ocean literacy evening movie events.

### **Whatcom**

Bob said there is still a vacancy for an economic position on the MRC. An ad hoc meeting was held to finalize the logistics for the seeding Olympia oyster in North Chuckanut Bay in designated test plots. The oysters will be retrieved from Fidalgo Bay on May 16 and deployed in Chuckanut Bay on May 17.

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

Suzanna provided an update behalf of the PSP. The solicitation for Near Term Actions (NTAs) is now closed and proposals are under review. A draft Action Agenda will be available in September. Jenna Judge was hired as the new monitoring lead for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP).

### **San Juan MRC Presentation-Southern Resident Killer Whales**

Kendra Smith, San Juan County staff, presented on the history of Southern Resident Killer Whales in San Juan County. The whales are an integral part of San Juan's identity and bring thousands of dollars in tourism money every year.

Frances Robertson, San Juan MRC staff, presented on an MRC project focused on improving boater education around the whales. The MRC intends to extend their most frequently hit rock outreach map to encompass the whale wise information.





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### **Sea Grant-Director update**

Terrie Klinger, Director of UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, said UW College of the Environment and Washington Sea Grant are conducting a search for a new director to replace retiring director, Penny Dalton. They are currently seeking input from partners on key attributes of a new director.

- Action: Those interested in providing input can [click here](#) to fill out a brief survey.

### **Business items**

#### **MRC Grants**

Sasha sent the 2018-19 Request for Proposals out to MRC staff on March 16. Commission staff are currently coordinating with MRCs on preliminary consultations, and presentations to the Commission are planned for the next in-person meeting in June (Island County).

#### **MRC Kelp Monitoring WebEx May 9**

A WebEx is scheduled for May 9 from 9:00-11:00 AM, focused on where MRC kelp monitoring data is currently. For more information contact Nicole Jordan at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

#### **Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI)**

Dan van Hees, the new Ecosystem Coordinator focusing on the Net Ecosystem Improvement (NEI) Project, will be traveling to the MRCs over the next few months. Learn more about the project here: <https://bit.ly/2roqmQb>.

#### **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference recap**

Nicole sent out a survey to capture feedback from Northwest Straits Initiative members who attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. If you attended, click this link to take the survey: <https://bit.ly/2J7CGve>.

#### **Round table**

The Washington Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification recently updated their report, which outlines strategies for combatting ocean acidification. The Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) contacted Northwest Straits to reach MRCs with a briefing. The meeting will take place on May 22 over WebEx. Contact Nicole Jordan for more information at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on May 25 over WebEx. \*



## minutes

**June 29, 2018 • 9:00am-3:00pm**  
**Pacific Rim Institute**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam - Vice Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Ron Thom, Tom Cowan, Barbara Bennett (Island-alternate), Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership alternate - phone)

**Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Dan van Hees

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Tarrell Kullaway (Northwest Straits Foundation), Kathleen Pozarycki (Snohomish MRC staff), Tracy Alker (Skagit MRC staff), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson MRC staff), Sarah Brown (Snohomish MRC member), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC staff), Phyllis Bravinder (Skagit MRC member), Pete Haase (Skagit MRC member), Sarah Fisker (Jefferson-alternate), Doug Stark (Whatcom MRC member), Dan McCarty (Natural Resources Division Manager at Skagit County Public Works).

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Cecilia Gobin, Jerry Masters, Nan McKay, Bob Cecile, Nate Biletnikoff

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

### **MRC Presentations**

Each MRC presented a proposed project for the upcoming year. The Commission and other attendees provided feedback during a question and answer period following each presentation.

1. **Skagit MRC, Pete Haase – Kids on the Beach**
  - a. Pete presented on the Kids on the Beach program which the Skagit MRC piloted this year. The MRC worked with Conway Middle School to coordinate an educational program for 50 eighth grade students. The students learned how to write research proposals, conduct field research and perform statistical analysis, and then present their research findings at a Science Symposium on May 11 at Fidalgo Bay Resort.
  - b. The Commission discussed the value of collaborating with local schools on MRC projects and the importance of choosing age ranges which complement the project. The audience also expressed interest in updates in how the project progresses in future years.
2. **Snohomish MRC, Sarah Brown – MyCoast**



## minutes

- a. Sarah presented on the 2019 goals for the [MyCoast](#) smartphone app, which included: developing a marketing campaign, creating materials to be shared among all the MRCs and beyond, and placing advertising in various local and regional media outlets. Washington Department of Natural Resources is funding the license that will make the app available statewide. The app will be available to use in other counties starting in September.
  - b. The audience discussed different purposes for the app. Several MRCs are interested in using the app to help engage the public in their work. There was concern about the limited overall engagement for the grant dollars spent, and questions about whether the data is eventually used.
3. **Clallam MRC, Alan Clark – Elwha Beach Stewardship**
  - a. Alan presented on the MRCs efforts to steward the newly-formed Elwha Beach resulting from the removal of dams on the Elwha River, with a focus on reducing pet waste. The MRCs goals are to: continue supporting an intern focused on Elwha Beach stewardship; continue dog waste surveys year round; conduct educational outreach about the impacts of free-running dogs and dog waste, and; continue funding the portable toilet, dog waste bag dispenser and dog waste bins.
  - b. The Commission discussed the challenge of securing a long-term solution for stewardship of the area. Suggestions for outreach at the beach included demonstrating the scale of the pet waste problem by flagging spots where pet waste has been picked up and having volunteers on site during times of high usage. The MRC was encouraged to engage regional stakeholders.
4. **Jefferson MRC, Cheryl Lowe and Sarah Fisker – Public Forum on Shellfish Aquaculture**
  - a. Cheryl and Sarah asked the audience to act as a focus group to help decide on key topic areas for a proposed Shellfish Aquaculture Forum. The forum's goal is to increase public understanding of shellfish aquaculture issues, methods and impacts, emphasizing fact-based, science-based information.
  - b. Commission and audience members discussed each potential topic, provided suggestions, and voted by a show of hands on which topics they thought were important to include in a forum. Input included creating topic stations which people can circulate through, choosing a few key topics to focus on and/or combining topic ideas.
5. **San Juan MRC, Christina Koons – San Juan MRC's Southern Resident Killer Whale Recovery Efforts**
  - a. Christina presented on the San Juan MRC's project to educate boaters on whale conscious boating habits. The project consists of two components: outreach and education addressing boater behavior around Southern Resident Killer Whales and habitat restoration and monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of increasing compliance.
  - b. Commissioners praised the MRC for working on the transboundary issue and utilizing messaging from Canadian efforts for consistency.
6. **Island MRC, Barbara Bennett–Community forum outreach**



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- a. Barbara presented on the MRCs community forums, which focus on building relationships and educating citizens on marine-related issues. Forums are structured with time for a guest speaker, educational presentation, and discussion.
  - b. The audience discussed the minimal costs of hosting the forums and the benefit of having an evaluation at the end of forums and other outreach events. MRCs were interested in how other MRCs coordinate and organize forums.
7. **Whatcom MRC, Doug Stark–North Sound Stewards**
- a. Doug presented on Whatcom MRC’s new volunteer training program, North Sound Stewards. The program was set up to train volunteers specifically in support of MRC and other citizen science projects. The MRC looked at similar programs, such as Skagit MRC’s Salish Sea Stewards volunteer training program.
  - b. The audience discussed the benefit of the exit survey, which evaluates volunteer knowledge and attitude changes. They also discussed the various methods of administering volunteer training programs by MRCs.

### **MRC 2018-2019 Grant Proposals**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the MRC project list by consensus.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Business Items**

June 30 marks the end of the state fiscal year. Travel reimbursement requests should be submitted as soon as possible to MRC or Commission staff.

The 2018 MRC Conference will be held November 16-17 at the Fort Worden State Park and Conference Center in Port Townsend, Washington. Nicole handed out “save the date” cards for MRCs to hand out at their next MRC meeting.

- Action: Ideas for conference topics or presenters can be forwarded to Sasha Horst at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).
- Action: Questions on lodging, registration and logistics can be forwarded to Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

\*The next Commission meeting will be on July 27, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM by WebEx Conference Call\*



## minutes

July 27, 2018 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WebEx Conference Call

Northwest Straits Commission meeting

### Attendees:

**Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam-Vice Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Tom Cowan, , Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Nate Biletnikoff (Skagit), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Nan McKay, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

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

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Amy (Whatcom MRC intern), Karin Roemers-Kleven (San Juan-Alternate), Kirsten Feifel (Department of Natural Resources)

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Jerry Masters, Ron Thom

### Welcome and Introductions

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the June Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved as written.

### NWS Commission - committee reports

#### **Executive Committee**

Alan said the committee reviewed the draft budget for FY2018-19. Two NWS Commission gubernatorial appointees' terms expire in October, leaving vacant positions. Familiarity with government appropriations and the network of environmental interests in Puget Sound are useful skills for nominees to have.

- Action: Suggestions for nominations should be sent to Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

#### **External Relations Committee**

Tom said the committee is working on funding strategies. Paul offered to meet with elected officials if needed.

### Net Ecosystem Improvement name change

The Commission provided input on changing the name of the "Net Ecosystem Improvement" project to "Actions to Impacts". The new name more clearly captures the variety of work MRCs carry out.

- Motion: Tom Cowan motioned to change the name. Christina Koons seconded. The NWS Commission approved by consensus.

### Puget Sound priorities survey results

Kirsten Feifel, Department of Natural Resources, presented on the results of a recent survey sent out to key stakeholders in Puget Sound gauging interest in changes in Washington's marine waters. The goals of the survey were to identify common concerns, inform future priorities based on management and



policy implications, improve linkages and coordination among partners and connect results to broader efforts.

### **MRC reports**

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2M0oCWk>

### **Clallam**

Alan said Pete Schroeder is the new MRC representative for tourism and recreation. The MRC is busy with field work and has six interns working on crabber outreach, pigeon, guillemot surveys, green crab surveys, Elwha Beach stewardship and kelp bed monitoring. The intern program culminates in the Intern Celebration August 20.

### **Island**

Elsa said the MRC recently participated in a joint meeting with Skagit and Whatcom MRCs on July 18 at Padilla Bay—the agenda included presentations and discussions on the NWS Initiative Strategic Plan and marine debris. Forage fish surveys are starting up on Camano Island at Maple Grove and Camano Island State Park. Volunteers have started summer surveys for bull kelp, pigeon guillemot and eelgrass.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff said the MRC completed their first monitoring of North Beach kelp bed on June 23. The MRC's Digging for Dinner event had 43 participants. A rain garden was installed at the corner of Madison and Garfield Streets on June 26, in partnership with WSU Extension and City of Port Townsend.

### **San Juan**

Christina said Jaclyn Fowler resigned from the MRC on July 10. Since the end of June more than 100 whale wise flags have been distributed, including larger flags for land-based sites. The ecology sign is in the final phase of production for the Orcas Landing Project. Installation of the signs is delayed until the fall due to construction delays at the site.

### **Skagit**

Nate said Rachel Best was appointed to the MRC as Morty Cohen's replacement. Volunteers surveyed the kelp bed at Coffin Rocks in July. Surveys will take place again in August and September. The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, on behalf of the Skagit MRC, coordinated a weeding and watering work party at the Bowman Bay restoration site on June 22 and July 13.

### **Snohomish**

Paul said Congressman Rick Larsen and County Executive Dave Somers visited Meadowdale Beach Park to review the proposed restoration plan. The MRC is working with a team to make the MyCoast App available statewide. The Kelp Team completed July kelp monitoring. The first day of monitoring was at Mukilteo, where only one bed of kelp was found of the previously documented six or more kelp beds.



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### **Whatcom**

Bob said the MRC has a new volunteer intern, Amy Keiper, who is completing her Master's Degree in Environmental Education. The MRC plans to conduct their first kelp survey for 2018 on July 31 at Aiston Preserve. A marine special sampling was developed for North Chuckanut Bay which evaluates bacteria results in the shoreline areas immediately adjacent to the mouth of Chuckanut Creek.

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

Karin met with Sasha to discuss the FFY18 work plan—the goal is to have the transition between work plans and federal fiscal years as seamless as possible. The [2018 draft Action Agenda](#) will be released for public comment on 1 September. The PSP is in the process of updating their cooperative agreements with EPA. Under the base award, funding for NWS Commission remains at \$800,000.

### **Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update**

The NWS Foundation Board held elections at the June meeting. Anne Murphy is the new president. \$58,000 is currently contracted out to MRCs in MRC Opportunity Fund grant funds which includes five internships. The Foundation Board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties.

- Action: Suggestions for prospective board members can be sent to Caroline Gibson at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

### **Business items**

#### **Marine program manager update**

There were 41 applicants for the marine program manager position. Lucas is moving forward with career review phone calls followed by in-person interviews mid-August.

#### **20th Anniversary**

Sasha said a subcommittee is working on a legacy member project focused on interviewing past NWS Initiative members. Results from the project will be shared at the MRC Conference in November.

#### **Kelp recovery plan update**

Lucas said the NWS Commission has funding to continue working on the plan through 2019.

#### **Strategic Plan update**

Lucas is working with the Strategic Planning Committee on presenting the plan to each MRC and gathering input. A draft will be shared with the Commission once ready.

#### **MRC Conference**

2018 is the 20-year anniversary of the NWS Initiative. The MRC Conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018.

- Action: Those with questions on logistics can contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).



# minutes

## **Public comment**

There was no public comment

\*The next NWS Commission meeting will be on August 24, 2018 in Bellingham\*





## minutes

**August 24, 2018 • 10:30am-3:30pm**  
**2625 S. Harbor Loop Dr., Bellingham, WA 98225**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam - Vice Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Ron Thom (phone), Tom Cowan, Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership alternate - phone), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Jerry Masters, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Nan McKay

**Commission Staff:** Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Dan van Hees

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC staff), Eleanor Hines

**Absent:** Sheida Sahandy, Nate Biletnikoff (Skagit)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the July Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved as written.

### **Committee reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee reviewed the FY19 budget and recommended it for approval by the NWS Commission. The NWS Commission reviewed and approved the budget by consensus.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the committee is working with staff on quantifying impacts of MRC projects through the Actions to Impacts project. The committee wants to incorporate more social science into their analysis.

#### **External Relations Committee**

Tom said the committee is working with Lucas on investigating funding opportunities.

### **Marine plastics**

Eleanor Hines, Whatcom MRC Chair, presented on marine plastics. The NWS Commission discussed the growing interest in marine plastics and marine debris. A subcommittee was formed to explore potential nexuses with MRCs.

### **Strategic plan**

The Commission reviewed the draft strategic plan presented by Lucas. The plan is designed to provide general structure and guidance with room for MRCs, the NWS Foundation and NWS Commission to develop more specific work plans.

- Action: Those with input on the plan should contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).



### **MRC updates**

Each MRC provided brief updates on current projects. Full MRC reports and committee reports are available here: <https://bit.ly/2LwJC5V>

### **Clallam**

Alan said the intern program culminated in a celebration on August 20 held at Feiro Marine Life Center. On August 13 a crew of volunteers and tribal biologists spread the more than 100 bags of Olympia oyster seed at the new restoration site at the head of Sequim Bay. The MRC continues to lead the Pigeon Guillemot survey effort at 16 monitoring sites between Port Williams and Freshwater Bay.

### **Island**

Elsa said volunteers conducted monthly kayak surveys at 6 kelp beds. Aerial images of the county's shoreline will also be captured to estimate the amount of shoreline with associated kelp beds underwater eelgrass videography surveys. Florian Graner presented a draft of the MRC outreach video he has been working on which will be broadcast as an Island County video kiosk.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff said the MRC was working on forage fish and kelp monitoring. The MRC held their annual Digging for Dinner events, drawing 43 participants to Quilcene Bay on June 30, and another 44 participants to Dosewallips State Park on July 27. The MRC is planning to have a booth focused on stormwater at the Wooden Boat Festival.

### **San Juan**

Christina said the MRC has a new member, Jeff Dyer. More than 200 whale wise flags and nearly 5,000 'Be Whale Wise' and Whale Flag outreach flyers have been distributed in San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Laura Jo Severson continued to conduct green crab monitoring with Washington Sea Grant on the south end of San Juan Island—no date no green crabs were detected at the site.

### **Skagit**

Skagit provided a written report. Paul Dinnel and Nate Biletchnikoff led a tour of the Fidalgo Bay Olympia Oyster restoration project with US Congressman Rick Larsen and Laura Gelwicks (Congressman Larsen's Community Liaison) and attended by Paul Clampitt. The MRC provided an update to the Board of County Commissioners. Volunteers surveyed the kelp beds at Coffin rocks, Biz Point, and Shannon Point in July and August.

### **Snohomish**

Paul said the kelp team completed August kelp monitoring at Mukilteo and Edmonds. US Congressman Rick Larsen, Snohomish County Councilmember Stephanie Wright and staff for US Senator Maria Cantwell, Joe Downes, joined members of the MRC, Snohomish County representatives and project partners to tour the Meadowdale Beach Park site.



## minutes

### **Whatcom**

Bob said the MRC completed August kelp surveys at Aiston Preserve, Lummi Island, Alden Bank, and Cherry Point. Amy Keiper, MRC intern, is looking into ways the 'Kids on the Beach' program could be piloted up in Whatcom. The MRC is working on water quality monitoring in Chuckanut Creek where fecal coliform levels are elevated an estimated four times higher than the standard level.

### **Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update**

The NWS Foundation received \$221,000 from NOAA for derelict gear work with Clallam and Jefferson MRCs; and \$50,000 from Boeing for MRC stormwater projects Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties. The Commission will receive a sub-award from the NWS Foundation for year two of funding from NOAA to continue coordinating development of the Puget Sound Kelp Recovery Plan. Caroline said the Foundation Board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties.

- Action: Suggestions for prospective board members can be sent to Caroline Gibson at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

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

Karin said the 2018 draft Action Agenda will be released for public comment starting August 31 through October 15. Laura Ferguson is the new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator working with the Island and San Juan LIOs and watershed areas. The PSP is in the process of updating their cooperative agreements with EPA. Under the base award, funding for NWS Commission remains at \$800,000.

### **Tribal**

Cecilia Gobin described the role of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and the NWS Commission's relationship with NWIFC. She encourages the NWS Commission to continue working together in the future, including aligning the priorities of the NWS Initiative's Strategic Plan with tribal work plans and continued engagement at the NWS Commission level. MRCs are encouraged to read the [2011 Treaty Rights At Risk Report](#) to familiarize themselves with current efforts of Northwest Treaty Tribes.

### **Commission Handbook**

The Commission reviewed and approved the changes to the Commission Handbook.

### **Business items**

#### **MRC Grants**



## minutes

The 2018-19 MRC awards are now in draft form and have been sent to MRC staff for final input. The anticipated start date for these awards is October 1. The 2017-18 MRC awards are now in the final quarter, and any amendments needed should be requested as soon as possible.

### **Kelp Recovery Plan wrap up**

The Commission will receive a subaward from the NWS Foundation for year two funding from NOAA to continue coordinating development of the Puget Sound Kelp Recovery Plan. Year one of this project will wrap up in September.

### **Marine Program Manager update**

Interviews were conducted for the marine program manager position on August 22. Hiring is expected to be finalized by early September.

### **MyCoast**

All MRCs are invited to participate in the statewide launch of MyCoast by identifying a local beach (or beaches) to include in the “take a beach photo” reporting tool.

➤ Action: Contact Sasha at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org) for more information.

### **MRC Conference**

The MRC Conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018 at Fort Worden, WA. Conference registration will be sent in mid-September. Senator Kevin Ranker is confirmed as the keynote speaker for the 2018 MRC Conference.

➤ Action: Those with questions on logistics can contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

➤ Action: To keep up to date on conference details, check the conference website here: <http://nwstraits.org/2018-mrc-conference>

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

\*The next Commission meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on September 28 over WebEx. \*



## minutes

**September 28, 2018 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**WebEx Conference Call**

**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam-Vice Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Jude Apple (Skagit Alternate), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Ron Thom

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

**Others in Attendance:** Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Karin Roemers-Kleven (San Juan Alternate), Jay Krienitz (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife), Ryan McLaughlin (Whatcom MRC)

**Absent:** Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Sheida Sahandy, Jerry Masters, Nan McKay, Tom Cowan

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the August Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved with one change.

### **NWS Commission - committee reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Alan said the Executive Committee discussed funding strategies, MRC conference planning and exploring potential options to incorporate the NWS Commission into the Puget Sound Partnership's Comprehensive Plan. MRC grants are out for signature with the start date of October 1.

#### **External Relations Committee**

Lucas said the committee is continuing work on funding strategies.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the Science Advisory Committee is working with Dana on next steps of the Kelp Recovery Plan and the Actions to Impacts project. The committee is also seeking a social scientist to join the committee.

### **MRC reports**

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2pE3sn2>

#### **Clallam**

Alan said the MRC found forage fish eggs from the September sampling at Cline Spit and sampling is planned for Ediz Hook and Elwha Beach. Pigeon guillemot survey efforts are winding down at 16 monitoring sites between Port Williams and Freshwater Bay—Ed Bowlby and Jeff Ward are in the process of compiling the data.



## minutes

### **Island**

Elsa said the MRC is working on expanding the forage fish monitoring project to include surf smelt. Monthly kelp kayak surveys are wrapping up for the season with the end-of-the-year summary report being drafted. The MRC is drafting an inventory of nearshore monitoring work being conducted by local partners.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff said the MRC completed forage fish surveys with the August monitoring report completed-the monitoring team has not yet submitted the September report. The MRC had a booth at the Wooden Boat Festival. August kelp surveys were completed with additional collaborative monitoring with Department of Natural Resources in September.

### **San Juan**

Karin said the MRC is working on a project called "Plastic Free Salish Sea". The MRC is working on educating the community of what happens to trash and recycling in the San Juan Islands. The MRC submitted, in collaboration with San Juan County, two grant applications to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to support the ongoing Southern Resident Orca recovery efforts.

### **Skagit**

Jude said the Todd Mitchell will be replacing Julie Barber as the Swinomish Tribal representative. Sarah Brown, a Marine Planner from Scotland, met with the MRC in support of research she's conducting on the different public engagement techniques being used in the United States in marine planning. The MRC held their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Fidalgo Bay Day with an estimated 300 attendees.

### **Snohomish**

Paul presented with Elisa Dawson and Mike Ehlebracht at the City of Snohomish Healthy Homes event on September 11. The MRC handed out 1,700 crabber education packets in Snohomish County during the summer crabbing season. The kelp team completed the 2018 kelp monitoring in July and August at Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds sites.

### **Whatcom**

Bob said Doug Stark is resigning from the MRC as he's taking on a new job. The MRC has two vacancies for the conservation/environmental and economic interest positions. The MRC participated in three events during Whatcom Water Week, including hosting a booth at SeaFeast. The MRC is continuing special water quality sampling in the mouth of Chuckanut Creek through the end of October.

### **Getting molecular – water quality monitoring in Whatcom**

Ryan McLaughlin, Whatcom MRC member, presented on his work using environmental DNA (eDNA) techniques in water quality monitoring efforts. The non-invasive technique allows for tracking of point source pollution. The Whatcom MRC is discussing opportunities to incorporate eDNA techniques in their water quality monitoring project in Chuckanut Bay.



- Action: MRCs interested in learning more can contact Ryan at [mclaughlinr2@gmail.com](mailto:mclaughlinr2@gmail.com).

## **Business items**

### **MRC Conference**

The conference is scheduled for November 16-17, 2018 at Fort Worden Conference Center in Port Townsend, WA. To keep up-to-date on conference details and see the draft agenda, check the conference website here: <http://nwstraits.org/2018-mrc-conference>.

- Action: Please submit registration by October 19. Those with questions on logistics can contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).
- Action: Those with contact information for past MRC members who may like to be invited to the conference should contact Nicole.

### **2019 meeting dates**

2019 draft Commission meeting dates were reviewed and approved by the Commission.

### **Marine Program Manager**

Dana Oster was hired as the new marine program manager. Dana will be spending the next few months getting acquainted with the MRCs and can be reached at [oster@nwstraits.org](mailto:oster@nwstraits.org) and 360-428-1043.

### **Approve Strategic Plan format**

Lucas asked for Commission approval of the format of the Strategic Plan. The content is still in progress and will be brought back to the Commission for review and approval (When?).

- The format of the plan was approved by consensus.

### **Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update**

The NWS Foundation Board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties. The NWS Foundation is also seeking a communications specialist. Click here to see the full job posting: <https://bit.ly/2ImSVp6>.

- Action: Suggestions for prospective board members can be sent to Caroline Gibson at [gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org).
- Action: Those interested in the position should contact Tarrell Kullaway at [kullaway@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:kullaway@nwstraitsfoundation.org).

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

Karin said the [2018 draft Action Agenda](#) for Puget Sound is now available for public review and comment. The comment period on draft work group recommendations to the Southern Resident Orca Task Force is open through midnight on October 7.

- Action: Click here to submit a comment to the Southern Resident Orca Task Force work group: <https://bit.ly/2R30G7E>



## minutes

### **Round table**

There was no round table discussion.

### **Public comment**

Jay Krienitz, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, said the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) team is presenting to various groups across Puget Sound regarding funding opportunities in the Shore Friendly program, ESRP small grants, and other restoration and protection projects.

- Action: Commission staff will follow up with Jay and schedule a time for him to present to the full NWS Commission.

\*There will be no Commission meeting in October. The next Commission meeting will be on December 7 over WebEx.\*





## minutes

**December 7, 2018 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
**WebEx Conference Call**  
**Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

### **Attendees:**

**Commission Members:** Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam-Vice Chair), Barbara Bennett (Island Alternate), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Nate Biletznikoff (Skagit), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Ron Thom, Nan McKay, Tom Cowan

**Commission Staff:** Lucas Hart, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst, Dana Oster

**Others in Attendance:** Anne Murphy (Northwest Straits Foundation), Hank Carson (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife)

**Absent:** Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Jerry Masters

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the September Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved with one change.

### **NWS Commission - committee reports**

#### **Executive Committee**

Alan said the committee recommends the NWS Commission hold a joint retreat with the Northwest Straits Foundation. Commission staff are reviewing how Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are structured to support Actions to Impacts and strategic planning metrics.

- Motion: The Commission agreed by consensus to have a joint retreat on March 21-22 with a hired professional facilitator.
- Action: Those interested in joining the Retreat Planning Committee should contact Lucas at [hart@nwtraits.org](mailto:hart@nwtraits.org).

#### **External Relations Committee**

Tom said the committee met in October to discuss state and federal funding and decided to focus on state funding strategies. MRCs are working to get letters of support from their county commissioners/councils expressing the importance of MRCs to their counties. Letters will be sent to state legislators.

#### **Science Advisory Committee**

Ron said the committee is working with Dana on next steps of the Actions to Impacts project. The committee is seeking a social scientist to join the committee. The committee is drafting a volunteer job description.

- Action: Those with recommendations on candidates should contact Dana at [oster@nwstraits.org](mailto:oster@nwstraits.org).



## minutes

### **MRC reports**

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

#### **Clallam**

Alan said MRC member, Kathy Cooper, is stepping down. The MRC has two vacancies. Forage fish sampling took place November 5 at Cline Spit. On October 5, Ed Bowlby, Alan Clark, Liz Tobin and Helle Andersen established two Olympia oyster test plots at Dawley road. The test plots will be assessed in the spring for survival and growth.

#### **Island**

Barbara said the MRC is holding their retreat in February. The MRC has four vacancies and are seeking new members. The MRC worked with Florian Graner to produce two films about the marine resources of Island County. Forage fish lead, Ruth Richards, is stepping down at the end of the year. The MRC is seeking a new forage fish project lead as well as additional project volunteers.

#### **Jefferson**

Jeff said Hank Carson presented on Pinto Abalone at their recent MRC meeting. Port Townsend waterfront winter buoys in the voluntary no anchor eelgrass protection zone were placed November 3. New raingardens are functioning well with fall/winter rains. The MRC submitted information about Discovery Bay and Quilcene Bay Olympia oyster projects to a Coast-wide Olympia Oyster Restoration Network Database.

#### **San Juan**

Christina said the MRC is working on filling two open seats. The MRC hosted a second Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Workshop on December 6 and is seeking help in staffing a booth at the Seattle Boat Show to support their Be Whale Wise and whale warning flag projects.

- Action: Contact Frances Robertson if interested at [francesr@sanjuanco.com](mailto:francesr@sanjuanco.com).

#### **Skagit**

Nate said he is leaving the MRC and the NWS Commission in 2019 as his position wraps up at Shell. Jude Apple will be stepping down as a NWS Commission representative due to potential conflict of interest as the Interim Director of Padilla Bay Reserve. The 2019 Fidalgo Bay Day is set for Saturday, August 24 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. In 2019 the MRC is expanding the Kids on the Beach project in collaboration with the SeaDoc Society.

#### **Snohomish**

Paul said the Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project is underway to remove five derelict vessels. The MRC will continue monthly monitoring at nearshore restoration sites, two sites at Meadowdale Beach, and two sites at Picnic Point Beach as match for the Estuary and Salmon



## minutes

Restoration Program grant. The kelp team completed the 2018 kelp monitoring at Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds.

### **Whatcom**

Bob said Doug Stark has taken on new employment and will no longer be able to serve on the MRC. The MRC has two vacancies for Conservation/Environmental position and an Economic interest position. The MRC completed water quality sampling in the mouth of Chuckanut Creek at the end of October and will begin monitoring dissolved oxygen and conductivity through the summer of 2019.

### **Business items**

#### **MRC Conference**

Sasha sent out a conference evaluation survey and reported a good response rate. Feedback indicated attendees really enjoyed the conference, including the venue.

- Action: Those with ideas on future venues can contact Nicole at [jordan@nwstraits.org](mailto:jordan@nwstraits.org).

#### **2019 meeting dates**

2019 draft NWS Commission meeting dates were reviewed. The NWS Initiative retreat was rescheduled for March 21-22. Nicole is coordinating the January Commission meeting for Camano Island.

#### **MyCoast**

The MyCoast app launched state-wide and is accessible to anyone through the app store (android or iPhone). Additional information about the app is online at <https://mycoast.org/wa>.

- Action: MRCs that have identified beaches they would like to monitor through beach change photos can contact Sasha at [horst@nwstraits.org](mailto:horst@nwstraits.org).

#### **Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update**

Anne said the NWS Foundation hired Kenny Clarkson as a Communication Specialist, a new position at the Foundation. The NWS Foundation board is working with Caroline on a plan to support the staff while she is out on leave. The board is still seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties.

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

Karin said the Leadership Council adopted the 2018 Action Agenda, adding orca as the 11th Vital Sign. Despite delays in passing a federal budget and the potential threat of a partial government shutdown, the Partnership cooperative agreements with EPA are fully executed so there is no impact to the work of the Partnership and sub-awardees, including NWS Commission and the MRCs.

#### **Pinto Abalone presentation**

Hank Carson, Research Scientist with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, presented on the historical overview, population status and recovery program for Pinto Abalone. He explained how the population



## minutes

is experiencing reproductive failure and is unlikely to recover without intervention. Over 15,000 disease-free juveniles from 76 hatchery families have been placed on 12 sites in the San Juan Islands from 2009-2018.

### **Round table**

The Commission discussed the expiring terms of gubernatorial appointees. Lucas is following up with prospective candidates.

- Action: Those with ideas on prospective gubernatorial candidates should contact Lucas at [hart@nwstraits.org](mailto:hart@nwstraits.org).

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

\* The next Commission meeting will be on January 25, 2019 In Island County.