



agenda

Location: Camano Island Library - 848 N Sunrise Blvd, Camano Island, WA 98282

Date/Time: January 25, 2019–10:30 AM-3:00 PM

10:30-10:40	Opening and introductions Approval of December meeting minutes	Paul Clampitt, Chair
10:40-10:50	Welcome to Island County	Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner
10:50-11:15	MRC Diaries: Protecting and Preserving Our Island Waters	Elsa Schwartz, Island MRC
11:15-11:30	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee Science Advisory Committee	Alan Clark Dana Oster
11:30-11:40	Director's report	Lucas Hart
11:40-11:50	Northwest Straits Foundation update	Anne Murphy, President of NWS Foundation
11:50-12:00	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
12:00-1:00	Working lunch	All
1:00-1:10	Public Comment	
1:10-2:00	MRC Reports	All
2:00-2:20	Business items MRC grants (Sasha) Kelp project update (Dana) February 22 Commission meeting (Lucas) Pinto Abalone support letter–motion (Dana)	Staff



agenda

2:20-2:55	Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program presentation	Jay Krienitz, WDFW
2:55-3:00	Roundtable	All
3:00	Adjourn	



Executive Committee Meeting
January 7, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference Call

Committee Members: Tom Cowan, Alan Clark, Paul Clampitt, Jude Apple

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart

Not in attendance: Ron Thom

February Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting

The committee agreed to recommend to the full NWS Commission holding a February 22 Commission meeting over WebEx.

Brief overview of January Commission agenda

The committee reviewed the January NWS Commission meeting agenda. Ron Thom and Tom Cowan cannot attend the meeting.

Pinto abalone support letter

The state is seeking input on adding pinto abalone to the state endangered species list. The Science Advisory Committee recommended the NWS Commission provide a letter of support. The committee discussed curiosity in how the Science Advisory Committee came to the recommendation and requested more information.

- Action: Dana will provide a summary on how the listing will impact shoreline and marine activities at the January Commission meeting.

Retreat update

Lucas said staff are working on logistical planning of the March 21-22 NWS Initiative Joint Retreat at Padilla Bay Reserve.

Strategic plan next step

Lucas said the plan is in an editing phase with the Strategic Planning Committee. The next step is to outline benchmarks or metrics that support the objectives that have been identified. Lucas hopes to begin that discussion at the March Initiative retreat.

Communications plan update

Sasha said the Communications Plan is being developed to complement the Strategic Plan. A draft will be shared at a later meeting.

Federal funding strategy update

The committee reviewed the target budget justification Lucas sent to Representative Rick Larsen's office. There is no update at this time.

State funding strategy update

The External Relations Committee is working to update state legislators on the NWS Initiative's projects and budget.

- Action: Tom, Alan, Paul and Lucas are coordinating to schedule meetings with the state representatives from their districts.

Contingency planning for loss of funding

The committee discussed next steps in the event of a loss of funding. Lucas will come up with a few examples outlining effects of possible cut backs on NWS Commission operations to present to the committee.

Support for Caroline

Lucas continues to work with Caroline to explore ways in which individuals can support her. Lucas will keep everyone updated as he learns more.

The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet over conference call on February 4 from 11:00-12:00 PM.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: January, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The MRC meeting will be held Jan. 28th in the large Commissioners conference room. Topics on the agenda include: Strait of Juan De Fuca GRP Update By Susan Vezeau, Department of Ecology; approval of the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan; approval the letter requesting state funding; and the 2019 internship program.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit Monday 1/14/19 by Alan, Jeff, and Helle.

Oil Spill Preparedness: Jeff, Ed, Arnold and Helle participated in a conference call with Focus Wildlife. The oiled wildlife training will be held April 27th in the Sequim area. The HAZWOPER training will be held March 2nd. Clallam MRC is planning to have a proclamation designating March 2019 as Oil Spill Preparedness Month similar to last year.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): The Clallam MRC is in the process of having the County Commissioners declaring March the “Oil Spill Preparedness Month” similar to last year. We hope they will sign a proclamation and hand it over to us February 26th.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info): Alan Clark and Ed Bowlby processing forage fish sample in the dark.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: December 2018-January 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): We have two new members: Jodi Crimmins and Randy Berthold. We held elections at our December meeting and Elsa Schwartz remains as Chair and Barb Bennett as Vice-Chair.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Meetings:

- At the December 4th MRC meeting, Linda Rhodes presented an update on net pens and fish health. The MRC discussed highlights of the conference, the MyCoast app, and the pinto abalone status review.
- At the January 8th MRC meeting, the MRC discussed project plans for 2019, elected officers, reviewed beach sites to add to the MyCoast app, and discussed how to respond to the Commissioners' request for additional information on the pinto abalone status review.
- At the February 4th MRC meeting, Phill Dionne will present on smelt fisheries.
- Anna attended the MRC staff meeting.
- Barb Bennett will attend the January ILIO Technical Committee meeting.

Events:

- The MRC will have a booth at the Habitat Restoration Demystified workshop hosted by the Whidbey Island Conservation District on Thursday, January 24.
- The MRC will have a booth at Sound Waters University on Saturday, February 2.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: We are looking for project volunteers, and will likely need to schedule a training with WDFW once we have a sufficient number of confirmed volunteers.

Outreach: We developed our first quarterly newsletter:

<https://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/18544/ic-mrc-newsletter-fall-2018.pdf>. We have scheduled quarterly updates with the Board of County Commissioners to facilitate our connection, and provide updates on the work of the MRC as well as regional issues and priorities. At the first quarterly update, we presented the quarterly newsletter, annual report, and new film produced by Florian Graner.

Restoration: We have been partnering with the Northwest Straits Foundation on two restoration projects:

- At Maylor Point on North Whidbey, a series of test installations of hard armoring installed in the 1970's had been blocking natural sediment processes on this feeder bluff. The failed armor has now been removed, which has restored 1,500 feet of shoreline back to a natural condition.
- At the Sunlight Shores community on South Whidbey, a failing bulkhead comprised of creosote-treated wood, large rock, and debris, was removed to restore 350 feet of shoreline. The community and MRC will participate in native vegetation planting in the upcoming months.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- The Board of County Commissioners requested additional information on the pinto abalone status review. The MRC will discuss the best approach and report back to the County Commissioners.
- The MRC is discussing how to celebrate our 20 year anniversary, likely to include a film screening and possibly additional elements.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Maylor Point tire wall (one of several types of hard armoring) before and after removal. Credit: Lisa Kaufman



Sunlight Shores armor removal. Top left: before (credit Lisa Kaufman). Top right: during (credit Anna Toledo). Bottom: after (credit Anna Toledo).

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: January 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- Correction to Executive Committee titles: Gordon King is MRC Chair and Emily Bishop is MRC Vice-Chair.
- Greg Brotherton is the new BOCC commissioner assigned to the Jefferson MRC. His email is GBrotherton@co.jefferson.wa.us

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- January 8th MRC monthly meeting (17 members/staff & 5 guests) No guest presenters. MRC business included review of plans for coming year by each project lead and discussion of advisory or letters of support for various topics.
- MRC Executive Committee meets on Jan. 22.
- Jeff Taylor plans to attend NWSC January 25th mtg

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Brief presentation to PT City Council scheduled for January 22, 2019
- Feb 4th MRC presentation to BOCC
- Feb 5th MRC monthly meeting will be held at Jefferson Public Library
- Strait ERN meeting scheduled for Feb 22

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*
Nothing to report.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring: a) **Fort Townsend:** Jan 14th Forage fish monitoring with 5 regular volunteers. b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** Jan 13th sampling with 3 regular volunteers. The Adelma Beach team found about a dozen eggs in their December samples. WDFW will do QAQC. c) **Kelp:** Planning to send an MRC member to the NWSC kelp recovery mtg in February.
2. Rain Gardens: Planning has begun. MRC is planning to again partner with WSU Extension to co-sponsor 2 rain gardens in 2019:
 - a. Uptown PT site (Lincoln & Adams Streets) with City of PT in spring 2019. This is one of their priority drainages.
 - b. Quilcene site in fall 2019, associated with a Jefferson County Public Works road project, helping to filter road run-off into Cemetery Drain which flows directly into Quilcene Bay.

3. Education & Outreach:

- a. 2019 Outreach Plan completed.
 - b. Work on next year's shellfish aquaculture forum continues.
 - c. Preview ads still running at the Rose Theatre, featuring simple messages about personal actions to help keep clean water. See last month's report.
4. Olympia Oyster: Corrections made to 2018 Olympia Oyster data Discovery Bay Report after a mistake was found in a formula calculation. Corrected version submitted to NWSC in January.
5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: Eelgrass buoy ad appeared in the January issue of 48° North regional boating magazine, which will be distributed free at the Seattle Boat Show in late January. See image below.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- Jefferson MRC is developing a draft letter of support for WDFW's proposed pinto abalone listing.
- Jefferson MRC has also organized a sub-committee to assist with compiling habitat info/research related to a proposed upgrade to a City of Port Townsend wastewater treatment plant outfall pipe that is near important kelp and eelgrass beds.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and other info):
Photo of volunteers collecting sediment samples for forage fish monitoring in January 2019 at Fort Townsend shoreline restoration site. Photo by Shelley Patton.



Voluntary No Anchor Zone ad in regional boating magazine. Image from January issue of 48° North magazine.

Anchor Out For EELGRASS



Look for Voluntary
No-anchor Zones in Port
Townsend, Port Hadlock
& Mystery Bay.

Help protect eelgrass habitats
from anchor damage.



Jefferson County
**Marine
Resources
Committee**

www.jeffersonmrc.org

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MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: January 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

There have been no changes to membership or leadership this month. The MRC has established a membership subcommittee to address the current vacancies.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC hosted a successful second Community Workshop for SRKW on December, 6th. All MRC members were present. The daylong event was attended by ~63 community members and comprised of 11 presentations and a series of facilitated breakout sessions. The report will be made available on the MRC website this month.
- MRC lead staff attended the Marine Resources Committee Lead Staff meeting in Padilla Bay on Tuesday, December 18th.
- Three MRC members and County support staff attended workshop to evaluate the decline of Pacific herring, regionally and in the San Juan Islands, at FHL on Wednesday, December 19th.
- Monthly MRC meeting was held on Thursday January 3rd, 2019
- MRC members will be volunteering at the Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show. The booth is an opportunity to educate recreational boaters on the best boating practices in and around Puget Sound and the NW Straits where they are likely to encounter whales while boating.
- The MRC annual retreat will be held February, 15th at the FHL

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No new funding to report. This winter the San Juan MRC will be moving forward with the County on their NFWF grant work as well as assessing the first year of the whale warning flag project that has been supported with grants from both the NWSF and the Marine Mammal Commission.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW Recovery:

Whale Warning Flag: Data collected during the 2018 pilot season is being analysed and prepared for presentation in an interim report. Additional flags were ordered by San Juan County and will be made available to purchase at the Seattle Boat Show in an effort to increase the numbers of flags in use on the water during the 2019 season. The education and outreach component of the project will continue through the winter and spring of 2019.

Boater Education: In addition to the Whale Warning Flag the MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales. The MRC is participating in the Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show in late January and continues to engage with the core Be Whale Wise team members as efforts progress to update the current education material with new (and expected) regulations and guidelines.

Community Workshop: The MRC host a second successful community workshop in early December 2018. The facilitated workshop (supported in part by the NWSF) provided the community with key updates on progress since the initial workshop held in October 2017. In addition, new research efforts were shared with the participants regarding whale foraging hotspot analysis, acoustic sound budgets in critical SRKW habitat, and updates on the recent economic evaluation of SRKW, oil spill risk consequences analysis (a Near Term Action proposal put forth by the MRC in 2016 and selected to move forward by San Juan County LIO), and assessment to evaluate the cost of an ERTV to be stationed in the San Juans. The workshop report is due to published in mid-January 2019.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee met via conference on January 9th. The subcommittee is planning a “Talking Trash” community forum to coincide with Earth Day celebrations in April. The forum will follow the approach taken by the community forum hosted on Orcas Island in fall, 2018.

Also, in addition to the PFSS docu-video released in fall 2018, a series of shorter videos are also in production.

Marine Stewardship Area Plan Review:

A subcommittee has been formed to perform an initial review of the MSA plan and work on a wider scope of work to establish what needs to be revised and how that revision shall be performed, including what resources might be necessary to perform revisions identified in the review. The first subcommittee meeting was held on January 7th, 2019.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

The MRC passed a motion to send a letter to the Legislator regarding support for MRCs. The County Council subsequently approved and sent the letter.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Christina Koons, MRC Vice-Chair introducing the MRC at the SRKW Community Workshop, Dec 6th, 2018. Photo: F. Robertson



Karin Roemers-Kleven, MRC Chair presenting the Plastic Free Salish Project to the SRKW Community workshop Participants

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Jan/2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): MRC Officer Elections were held at our January 10 MRC meeting. Election results are as follows: Sarah Tchang- MRC Chair; Betsy Stevenson- MRC Vice-Chair; Pete Haase- NWSC Rep; Phyllis Bravinder- NWSC Alternate.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- MRC Meeting Highlights- January 10: Lisa Kaufman provided an update on the Andeaver Anacortes Refinery grant (now called Marathon Anacortes Refinery). The Northwest Straits Foundation recently received \$35,000 to do a beach nourishment project at March's Point in Anacortes. The funds will be used to help support baseline monitoring, a feasibility assessment, and/or some design work. Pete Haase will be the MRC Project Lead for this project. The MRC is also considering forming a subcommittee to help oversee this project.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Salish Sea Stewards: Applications are now being accepted for the SSS training and are available on the Skagit MRC website. The application deadline is March 1. The training will be approximately 40 hours spanning ten weeks, starting March 19 – May 21, 2019. In return, volunteers will be asked to commit 40 hours of volunteer time towards MRC or related projects. Classes will be held every Tuesday from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Padilla Bay Reserve Facility which has been reserved. The SSS Planning Subcommittee met with Joan Drinkwin, the Volunteer Program Coordinator, on January 10 at Padilla Bay to work on the training curriculum and schedule. The curriculum will be very similar to what it was last year. The program is being widely promoted. There was a nice article in the [Skagit Valley Herald](#). Volunteers started placing flyers around town and at special events. The Friends of Skagit Beaches has agreed to cover some of the costs the MRC Grant cannot cover. Our budget was reduced this year, so the participants are being asked to pay a \$12 fee to cover the costs of the background checks. The Friends of Skagit Beaches will be handling the checks. So far we have received five applications.
- Fidalgo Bay Day: Fidalgo Bay Resort has been reserved for Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24th, 2019. Jay will be working with Pete and Gina to plan and coordinate the event. The Friends of Skagit Beaches will once again host the very popular Discovery Passport Station activity with other sources of funding for the prizes. This year's event will be part of the Skagit MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration. We will also have the beach seining activity and the Shannon Point Marine Center touch tank. Save the Date cards are being widely distributed at special events to help promote this event.
- Forage Fish Surveys: The index site surveys continue at Similk Bay, Ship Harbor along Guemes Channel and Samish Island. Several trained volunteers and WDNR staff started looking at the six

years of forage fish data collected from Fidalgo Bay and figuring out the best way to analyze it. There are over 200,000 data points! We are considering picking up a few more index sites to survey if sampling is scaled back in Fidalgo Bay. Volunteers have also been collecting forage fish survey data at the Kukatali Reserve restoration site twice a month. MRC members and volunteers took equipment and egg samples to the Skagit River Interpretive Center on December 29 for a talk and demonstration as part of the Bald Eagle Festival. They also took microscopes and egg samples for an activity at the Sedro-Woolley Evergreen Elementary “STEM” night for about 300 families on Jan. 16. And on Friday, January 18, they set up the forage Fish gear and a poster at the Friends of Skagit Beach’s lecture series on forage fish for a crowd of 150 people!!!

- Kids on the Beach Project: Last year we contracted with Mira Lutz to develop and implement this pilot project. Mira recently got hired with the SeaDoc Society/UC Davis as their new Education Coordinator. We are currently working on contract negotiations with UC Davis to continue to expand the program to other schools in 2019. If we cannot get a contract in place soon, we will need to start working on another alternative.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: We now have a contract in place with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to continue plant maintenance activities in 2019. Large woody debris have been accumulating along the shoreline and the plants are really filling in nicely, particularly the dune grass and coastal strawberry. The shrubs are still struggling a little bit because of the harsh conditions. We will likely be planting a few evergreen trees donated by SFEG in 2019. Plant maintenance work parties will be scheduled sometime this spring and summer.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Diver surveys were conducted in October at the Young Abalone Outplant experiment site near Allan Island. They investigated post-outplant survival and growth of two different age groups of hatchery-reared juvenile abalone; 9 months old and 15 months old. Survivorship between the two age groups tested the same. PSRF will conduct one last survey at this Allan Island experiment in February before making final conclusions. PSRF also helped support a WWU graduate student’s research investigating the effectiveness of outplanting an even younger life stage, mature larvae competent for settlement near Burrows Bay and Washington Park. Analysis, results, and conclusions for this project will be available in the summer of 2019. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is currently seeking public comment on a proposal to change the status of pinto abalone from a Species of Concern to a State Endangered Species. WDFW recently held public meetings in Port Townsend and Anacortes to present background information, answer questions, and receive comments. Paul will be drafting a letter of support on behalf of the MRC for changing the status of pinto abalone to a State Endangered Species.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul recently completed a report on Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay and Cypress Island which is currently being reviewed. The report summarizes all of the work that has been done over the last 16 years. Information from the report will be included in the online Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. A new book on Goods and Services of Marine Bivalves just came out. Paul worked with Betsy Peabody on one of the sections in the book that highlighted the value of citizen scientists in oyster restoration and included a photo of Sarah Tchang. The book is available for free online: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319967752>. Paul recently attended a seminar on Olympia oysters at WWU. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund applied additional oyster seed across a half acre of shell along Weaverling Spit in early November. Additional shell was also distributed across half an acre near the trestle to improve substrate for oyster settlement. Field work will start up again in April or May.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Phyllis will be attending the Kelp Recovery Workshop at Padilla Bay on February 28.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: December 2018

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

No changes at this time

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

The MRC completed their monthly forage fish survey on December 4th. Elisa Dawson, Kathleen Pozarycki, Cathy Stanley, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, and Paul Clampitt took 18 samples from different nearshore sites in Snohomish County. The samples have been dropped off with consultants for analysis.

Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson met with Snohomish County Public Works Communications staff to discuss the MRC Grant and the potential to hire an on-call consultant on December 6th. In order to use the on-call consultant list, the MRC needs approval from Public Works Management. Communications Manager, Fay Lim, will assist the MRC in getting approval to hire an on-call consultant.

MRC staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson met with Snohomish County Surface Water Management staff Luke Hanna, Frank Leonetti, and Melody Ovord to discuss the analysis and story map of the nearshore analysis data on December 12th. A story map draft is expected to be complete in mid-January 2019. The story map will convey data on forage fish, sediment grain size, photographic changes, and nearshore drift along the 4.5 mile of restored beach in Everett.

The MRC hosted their annual Holiday Party on December 17th. Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown, Mike Ehlebracht, Bob Hillmann, Debbie Hopkins, Craig Wollam, Tom Doerge, Paul Clampitt, Cathy Stanley, and Susan Tarpley attended the party.

MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson attended the MRC Lead Staff meeting on December 18th at the Padilla Bay Reserve. MRC Staff discussed communications, budget updates, the Northwest Straits Strategic Plan, upcoming MRC Grants, and more.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates at this time

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. NRC Inc. completed their analysis of forage fish egg and sediment data from the nearshore restoration project. MRC Staff, MRC members, and SWM staff reviewed the final draft. The MRC is working on creating an online story board to convey this information to the public. As well as show pictures before and after restoration and to show how sediment has moved throughout the nearshore.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish sampling schedule has been set for the August 2018-February 2019 monitoring season. The MRC continues to use the opportunity fund grant contract with Salish Sea Biological to complete forage fish egg analysis. Snohomish County will continue monthly monitoring at the 14 Nearshore Restoration sites, two sites at Meadowdale Beach, and two sites at Picnic Point Beach as match for the ESRP grant. December sampling occurred December 4th, and January sampling is scheduled for January 14th.

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: Kathleen has been working with folks around the region to add more beaches to the app to encourage more users. Two push notifications to app users to alert them of upcoming King Tides and an email to all app users were sent in December. DNR sent out a press release announcing the app and several news articles were published recently which referenced the MyCoast App:

- In the Monroe Monitor: [New App Enlists Smart Phone Users in Keeping Puget Sound Clean](#)
- In the Tacoma Weekly: [App lets smartphone users keep Puget Sound Clean](#)
- Route Fifty National News: [Crowdsourcing King Tides to Better Understand Rising Sea Levels](#)
- Everett Herald Front Porch: [Clean up the Sound? There's an app for that](#)

Interviews of consulting firms to lead the marketing plan for the app will be conducted in January of 2019.

Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project: Snohomish County has partnered with the Department of Natural Resources to utilize local agency authority to remove and prevent derelict boats in local waters. This new program accomplished two major removal projects which resulted in the removal of five derelict boats in 2018. Four boats were removed from the Snohomish Estuary and one was removed from the shoreline along the Puget Sound near the Mt. Baker Terminal. Removal of these abandoned and derelict boats improves habitat for salmon, prevents water pollution, and improves public safety and navigation. Grant funds from the Local Integrating Organization and Department of Natural Resources were matched by SWM Utility fees to fund this project.

Kelp Project: The MRC received a call from the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) who recently received a grant to study commercial kelp harvesting in the northern Puget Sound area. The MRC connected SCD to Suzanne Shull and Helen Berry (WA Department of Natural Resources) to discuss the grant further. The Snohomish MRC also sent their data for kelp monitoring in Snohomish County to SCD.

Upcoming Events:

Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk January 17th, 2019

Join Discovery Programs staff and the WSU Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers for a low tide beach walk under the stars. We'll explore the beach as the tide goes out, then return to the Visitor Station for some hot beverages to take the chill off. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Meet at the Olympic Beach Visitor Station. Co-sponsored by the Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee and City of Edmonds.

★ **STARLIGHT BEACH WALK** ★

January 17, 2019

7:00— 8:30 pm

Olympic Beach Visitor Station



FREE

- . **Beach and tidepool exploration**
- . **Hot chocolate warm-up**
- . **Families welcome!**
- . **Bring a flashlight, dress for the weather**

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: January 2018

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

No changes at this time

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Franchesca Perez and Sarah Brown interviewed consultants to help with the MRC 2018-2019 Grant on January 10th. The committee chose a consultant and is working through the county contracting office to hire the consultant.

The MRC completed their monthly forage fish survey on January 15th. Elisa Dawson, Cathy Stanley, Bob Hillmann, Craig Wollam, and Paul Clampitt took 17 samples from different nearshore sites in Snohomish County. The samples have been dropped off with consultants for analysis.

MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson met with other Snohomish County Surface Water Management Staff to discuss the Nearshore Beach Nourishment Project Story Map. The Story Map is being created as a tool to share information about the project to the public. The group also discussed submitting an abstract for the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference.

The monthly MRC meeting was held on January 16th. Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown, Mike Ehlebracht, Bob Hillmann, Debbie Hopkins, Craig Wollam, Tom Doerge, Paul Clampitt, Cathy Stanley, and Susan Tarpley were present. The MRC discussed their forage fish project, annual work plan, and had a presentation from Sharon Swan, Snohomish County Parks staff, on the Kayak Point Beach Park renovation plans.

Susan Tarpley, Craig Wollam, and Tom Doerge attended the Starlight Beach Walk in Edmonds on January 17th, 2019. The event is a collaboration between WSU Beach Watchers, the City of Edmonds, and the MRC. Guests enjoy hot chocolate and learn about their local marine environment. Susan Tarpley gave a plug for folks to download the MyCoast Smartphone App.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates at this time

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. The MRC is working on creating an online story board to convey this information to the public. The MRC hopes to work with SWM staff to submit an abstract on this project to the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish sampling schedule has been set for the August 2018-February 2019 monitoring season. The MRC continues to use the opportunity fund grant contract with Salish Sea Biological to complete forage fish egg analysis. Snohomish County will continue monthly monitoring at the 14 Nearshore Restoration sites, two sites at Meadowdale Beach, and two sites at Picnic Point Beach as match for the ESRP grant. January sampling occurred January 14th, and February sampling is scheduled for February 21st.

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: After interviewing consultants on January 10th, the MRC Grant Subcommittee chose a consultant who will develop the Communications Plan and Marketing Campaign for the MyCoast App.

Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project: An additional two derelict boats were removed from the Snohomish Estuary in January of 2019 (vessels #2 and #3 from work order 42181).



Kelp Project: The MRC continues to collaborate with the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) who recently received a grant to study commercial kelp harvesting in the northern Puget Sound area. The MRC connected SCD to Suzanne Shull and Helen Berry (WA Department of Natural Resources) to discuss the grant further. The group plans to schedule a conference call to discuss ideas on collaboration for February.

Upcoming Events:

Sound Waters University 2019, February 2, 2019 at South Whidbey High School. A number of Snohomish MRC members are attending and bringing a booth.

February Forage Fish Sampling. February 21st at Howarth Park in Everett. Sampling from 12PM-1:30PM.

MRC Meeting. February 20th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: January 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Two applications to the MRC were received on January 15, for the Conservation/Environmental interest position. The MRC Executive Subcommittee will be reviewing the applications and scheduling an in person meeting with applicants. A recommendation should be made by February 2019.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The general MRC meeting is scheduled for February 7. This meeting will be facilitated by NWSC, Director Lucas Hart, as the MRC is re-evaluating its policies and procedures, and making updates to their strategic plan. There will be an update from the Port of Bellingham on the waterfront redevelopment work.
- MRC staff, Eleanor Hines, and Alex attended a planning meeting for upcoming intertidal surveys. Participants included staff from DNR aquatic reserves, Skagit MRC, RE Sources, aquatic reserve citizen science committees, and lead naturalists. The purpose of the meeting was to review and update the survey protocols being used by various programs in Whatcom and Skagit counties.
- The March MRC meeting will feature guest speaker Henry Carson, WDFW, who will share information on the pinto abalone status review.
- Five MRC members and MRC staff provided presentations to a marine conservation class at Western Washington University. Presentation included information on the pilot Olympia oyster restoration project and the forage fish surveys. Students are required to develop project ideas as part of their course. MRC members will be available to work with students as they are brainstorming ideas for projects around the topics presented. Stormwater was another topic that was discussed.
- A Public Speaker Series planning meeting was held with representatives from the Salish Sea Institute, and Bellingham Technical College. The Orca forum originally planned for Jan 8 had to be postponed due to the government shutdown.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- An MRC member brought forth a project idea around Cherry Point Herring and artificial spawning nets. A conference call was held with interested members, Dana Oster, and WDFW staff to discuss ideas and possible way the MRC could get involved with herring survival experiments/test plots/etc. The group is still brainstorming ideas.

- MRC intern Amanda Weiss is still leading the forage fish surveys on behalf of the MRC. Both locations are now active in the MyCoast app under the “take a beach photo” as one location will be under restoration starting June 2018. Lisa Hillier, WDFW, will join the surveys in February and will help determine a new site for Whatcom to take on – potentially up in Birch Bay as the County’s softshore protection berm is on track so monitoring before and after construction would provide really useful information. The MRC will be trying to take on the staging component of the survey, and Lisa will be available to assist with questions related to that.
- A North Sound Stewards advisory committee is scheduled to meet on Jan 22 to discuss logistics for the 2019 season. A volunteer recruitment message was sent out through several list serves in early January. 10 people have signed up to participate since the recruitment message was sent.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Commission staff highlights – January 2019

Marine Program Manager –Dana and the Science Advisory Committee are distributing the volunteer position description for a social scientist on the committee. NWSC and NOAA will collaborate the summer of 2019 to advise a Hollings Scholar. The project will focus on documenting historic kelp distributions and trends from local knowledge and grey literature in East San Juan Island, and support initial data collection of historical kelp distribution in North Puget Sound.

MRC Grants –Commission staff are preparing for the next round of awards and developing the request for proposals that will be issued in the spring of 2019, and coordinating with Dept of Ecology administrators of the online grant management system (EAGL). The 2017-18 sub-awards are now closed.

Actions to Impacts –The NWS Commission staff and Science Advisory Committee are currently reviewing and revising the 2019-2020 Request for Proposals (RFPs) to support Actions to Impacts. A discussion is being planned on metrics at the NWSI Retreat to support the Strategic Plan will be coordinated with Actions to Impacts.

Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan –Invitations were sent out for the February 28th workshop. A survey was created and sent out to people in the kelp community to prioritize data gaps relating to kelp and kelp management. If you are interested in taking the survey or know people who work with kelp that should participate in the survey please contact Dana oster@nwstraits.org.

Strategic planning – Lucas is working with the Strategic Planning Committee to edit the “themes document.” The next step is to outline metrics that support some of the objectives that have been identified. This will occur in the spring of 2019.

2019 Northwest Straits Initiative Retreat

The Northwest Straits Initiative is holding a joint retreat on March 21-22 at Padilla Bay Reserve. The retreat will be facilitated by Hilary Wilkinson.

Meeting attendance

Sasha attended the Whatcom MRC meeting on December 6. Dana and Lucas attended the Whatcom MRC meeting on January 3.

Dana attended San Juan MRC’s Southern Resident Killer Whale community workshop on December 6

Dana attended the Skagit MRC meeting on December 11.

Lucas attended the Maritime Blue role out on January 8.



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: February 22, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[To join the WebEx meeting, click here.](#) Enter your name and email address and click "Join."
 For audio conference, dial: 1-240-454-0887, access code: 809 473 907

10:00-10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of January minutes Welcome Chris Castner	Lucas Hart
10:05-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	Lucas Hart Tom Cowan Ron Thom
10:20-11:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
11:00-11:20	Business items Chair/ Vice Chair Nominations Committee (Lucas) Kelp recovery plan workshop (Dana) Kelp monitoring workshop (Dana) Pinto abalone comment letter (Dana) MRC request for proposals (Sasha) Sound Waters University report out (Nicole) NWSC Infographics (Nicole)	Staff
11:20-11:30	NWIFC/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
11:30-11:40	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
11:40-11:45	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation Interim Director
11:45-11:55	Round table	All
11:55-12:00	Public comment	All



minutes

January 25, 2019 • 10:30 AM-3:00 PM

Camano Island Library, 848 N Sunrise Blvd, Camano Island, WA 98282

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 – phone), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Pete Haase (Skagit), ~~Nan McKay~~, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Jerry Masters

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

Others in Attendance: Anne Murphy (Northwest Straits Foundation), Janet St. Clair (Island County Commissioner), Phyllis Bravinder (Skagit Alternate), Austin Rose (Whatcom staff), Chris Castner, Jay Krienitz (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife), Tish Conway-Cranos (WA Department of Fish and Wildlife), Florian Graner, Mark Stamey, Russell Calendar (WA Sea Grant)

Absent: Tom Cowan, Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Ron Thom, Nan McKay

Opening and Introductions

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the December Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved by consensus.

Welcome to Island County

Janet St. Clair, Island County Commissioner, welcomed the group to Island County and expressed appreciation for the work of the Island MRC and the NWS Commission.

MRC Diaries: Protecting and Preserving Our Island Waters

Elsa introduced a film by Florian Graner, Island MRC technical advisor, called [MRC Diaries: Protecting and Preserving Our Island Waters](#). The film provides an overview of the work of the Island MRC and highlights MRC members and partners as they share their connection to our local marine environment. The film will be used throughout Island County to create awareness of Island MRC.

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

Alan said the committee discussed the upcoming NWS Initiative joint retreat scheduled for March 21-22. Commission staff will develop a Communications Plan to complement the Strategic Plan.

Science Advisory Committee

Dana said the committee is working with Dana to find a social scientist to join the committee. The committee drafted a volunteer job description and circulated to the Puget Sound Partnership's Social Science Advisory Committee.

- Action: Those with candidate recommendations should contact Dana at oster@nwstraits.org.



Director's Report

Lucas said The External Relations committee is working on educating legislators about the NWS Commission. Securing state funding is a priority this session. MRCs are working to obtain letters from their county commissioners/councils that express the importance of MRCs to their counties. Letters are being sent to state legislators.

Lucas encouraged Commissioners to take advantage of the Partnership's legislative update calls which are open to anyone interested in the current state legislative session.

- Action: Those interested in joining the weekly Partnership legislative calls can dial 1-855-929-3239, access code 807 543 663 each Friday at 11:30. The hour-long calls will take place through the end of session.

Lucas thanked Jerry Masters for serving as governor appointee to the NWS Commission. Jerry's term on the NWS Commission expired in October 2018, he graciously stayed on until January while a replacement was being confirmed.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Anne said the NWS Foundation hired Don Hunger as the interim director for six months in Caroline Gibson's absence. The NWS Foundation is shifting focus to private donors including private businesses and corporations. The NWS Foundation board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties.

- Action: Don can be reached at don@nwstraitsfoundation.org.
- Action: NWS Foundation Staff will be in contact with the MRCs on submissions to the MRC Opportunity Fund.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin said the Partnership secured funding to pursue a Mobilizing Funding Strategy, having a strategy is a requirement of all National Estuary Programs and is an element of the agency's strategic plan. an element of the agency's strategic plan. The current effort will assess the feasibility of activating the foundation, which is authorized in the authorizing legislation for the Partnership. Initially, the partnership is looking to support Near Term Actions in the Action Agenda by developing relationships and seeking private sector support. The Partnership is considering adding a foundation to their organization. The medium term (3-5 year) goal is to fund the Action Agenda by developing relationships with private sector organizations interested in specific Vital Signs, the Near Term Actions in the Action Agenda.

Public comment

There was no public comment.



MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://www.nwstraits.org/archive/>

Clallam

Alan said Kathy Cooper resigned in December 2018 and the MRC has a vacancy. Forage fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit in January. The Clallam MRC is in the process of having the County Commissioners declaring March the “Oil Spill Preparedness Month”.

Island

Elsa said the MRC has two new members; Jodi Crimmins and Randy Berthold. The MRC is now producing a quarterly newsletter to the Board of County Commissioners. The MRC will be participating in vegetation plantings at the newly-restored beaches at Sunlight shores.

Jefferson

Jeff said Kate Dean was replaced by Greg Brotherton as the new BOCC commissioner assigned to the MRC. The MRC’s eelgrass buoy ad appeared in the January issue of 48° North regional boating magazine, which will be distributed free at the Seattle Boat Show. Planning has begun for 2019 rain gardens.

San Juan

Christina said the MRC established a membership subcommittee to address the current vacancies. 25 people will be volunteering at the Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show including MRC members and partners. A subcommittee has been formed to perform an initial review of the Marine Stewardship Area Plan.

Skagit

Pete said applications are now being accepted for the Salish Sea Stewards training and are available on the Skagit MRC website. The application deadline is March 1. Fidalgo Bay Day is scheduled for August 24, 2019. Paul Dinnel recently completed a report on Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay.

Snohomish

Paul said the MRC continues to collaborate with the Snohomish Conservation District, who recently received a grant to study commercial kelp harvesting in the northern Puget Sound area. The MRC plans to have a booth at Sound Waters University 2019.

Whatcom



**Northwest
Straits**
COMMISSION

minutes

Austin said the MRC has two vacancies, an economic and conservation seat. The February MRC meeting will be a retreat. MRC intern Amanda Weiss is continuing to lead the forage fish surveys on behalf of the MRC. The MRC is brainstorming possible projects and consulting with Dana Oster.

Business items

MRC grants

Sasha thanked MRCs for getting quarterly reports in on time and said Commission staff are preparing for the next round of awards and developing the request for proposals that will be issued in the spring of 2019, and coordinating with Dept. of Ecology administrators of the online grant management system (EAGL).

Kelp project update

Dana said a survey was created and sent out to people in the kelp community to prioritize data gaps relating to kelp and kelp management.

- Action: Those interested in taking the survey or know people who work with kelp that should participate in the survey please contact Dana at oster@nwstraits.org.

February 22 Commission meeting

Lucas said due to the NWS Initiative Retreat moving to March, there will be a NWS Commission meeting on February 22 over WebEx.

Pinto Abalone support letter

The Science Advisory Committee recommended the Commission write a letter to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife supporting the state listing of pinto abalone as endangered.

- Motion: Alan motioned to have the NWS Commission write the letter, Jeff seconded and the NWS Commission agreed by consensus.

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) presentation

Jay Krienitz and Tish Conway-Cranos, 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 grant programs.

Round table

There was no discussion.

* The next Commission meeting will be on February 22, 2019 over WebEx.



**Executive Committee Meeting
February 4, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference Call**

Committee Members: Alan Clark, Paul Clampitt, Ron Thom, Jude Apple

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart

Absent: Tom Cowan

Funding update

Lucas said the External Relations Committee members are continuing to meet with legislators to update them on the NWS Commission and discuss funding. The committee will continue to work on coordinating future meetings with key officials.

Contingency planning for loss of funding

The committee agreed that the Commission should think about how we would respond to reduced funding.

Retreat planning update

NWS Commission staff are moving forward on coordinating the March 21-22 NWS Initiative Joint Retreat at Padilla Bay Reserve. A retreat planning committee call is being scheduled for mid-February.

Joint Executive Committee meeting scheduled?

The committee agreed to hold a joint meeting after the retreat in April/May. Proposed topics include shared messaging and future coordination with the NWS Foundation.

NWS Commission supporting bills and funding requests

The committee reviewed a request from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) asking for the Commission's support on items this legislative session. The committee agreed Lucas can support SB 5404 and the funding requests.

Our link to the Coastal MRCs/Joint Conference

Tami Pokorny with the North Pacific Coastal MRC reached out to the NWS Commission regarding coordinating a joint conference between the Coastal MRCs and the NWS Initiative. The committee expressed some concern about holding a joint conference and agreed more information is needed.

***The next Executive Committee meeting will be March 4 at 11:00 AM over conference call. ***

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: February, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The MRC meeting will be held Feb. 25th in the large Commissioners conference room. Topics on the agenda include: application for the 2019 Fellowship Grant, update on the Elwha Beach Stewardship project, projects for 2019-2020 grant cycle, updates on the NOAA Marine Debris Grant meeting and the NWSC, and a discussion of how to fill the Marine Trade position.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Clallam MRC submitted an application for the Lodging Tax Grant to cover some of the costs of the upcoming Orca forum.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage fish sampling will be conducted at Cline Spit Feb. 26th.

Oil Spill Preparedness: A second planning conference call with Focus Wildlife is planned for Feb. 27th. Registration for the oiled wildlife training is now up on Clallam MRC website.

Internship Program: A planning meeting for the 2019 internship program is scheduled for Feb. 15th. Members on the subcommittee include Jeff Ward, Ed Bowlby, Alan Clark, Arnold Schouten, Bob Vreeland and Peggy McClure.

Marine Debris: Helle Andersen will participate in the annual Washington CoastSavers meeting in Port Angeles Feb. 27th

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): The County Commissioners will hand over a proclamation declaring March the "Oil Spill Preparedness Month" on Feb. 26th.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info): None.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: February 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Our representative from the Board of Island County Commissioners is Janet St. Clair (non-voting, ex-officio seat).

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- The February 5th MRC meeting was cancelled due to poor road conditions. We will reschedule Phill Dionne's presentation on forage fish for a future meeting.
- The MRC had a booth at the Habitat Restoration Demystified workshop hosted by the Whidbey Island Conservation District on January 24.
- The MRC had a booth at Sound Waters University on February 2.
- The MRC cosponsored with Sound Water Stewards and WSU Extension the awarding of the 2019 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year to Craig and Joy Johnson.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Feb 19, 3-5pm: Special MRC meeting, primarily for project planning, as well as discussion of a comment letter on the pinto abalone status review.
- Mar 5, 3-5pm: MRC meeting – project planning and business items
- Quarterly update to Board of County Commissioners in March.
- Mar 19, 9:30am-12:00pm: Sunlight Shores planting party. In collaboration with NWSF, we are cohosting a planting party at this newly restored shoreline.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: We are in the process of transitioning the forage fish project lead to Barb. We are also recruiting additional project volunteers, and will be coordinating with WDFW to schedule a training for interested volunteers.

Eelgrass: The eelgrass team has been analyzing the data from 2018, and is discussing plans for summer 2019. Current plans are to conduct aerial photography of both islands. Underwater videography may be conducted at Cornet Bay. There are no immediate plans to conduct sonar. Plans will continue to be discussed and refined in the upcoming months.

Outreach: We will be launching the "Discover Our Island Shores" film and curriculum in Island County schools by the end of February. We will be hosting an art contest to accompany the project, and will display the art at venues on Whidbey and Camano through the month of April, Earth and Ocean month.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: Feb 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

- No new updates

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings & Events:

- Feb 5, 2019 MRC monthly meeting (16 members/staff & 6 guests) held at Port Hadlock library. Guest presenters: (1) Rich Childers, who gave a presentation on how WDFW and other state/federal resource managers are addressing changing ocean conditions and (2) Dana Oster, NWSC, with an update on several NWSC projects she is working on. MRC business included a discussion of advisory letter for pinto abalone status proposal.
- Brief presentation to PT City Council took place on January 22, 2019
- Feb 4th MRC annual presentation to BOCC by MRC staff and Chair, with Lucas Hart and Bob Simmons also respectively providing information about MRC funding and rain garden partnerships.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Jeff Taylor plans to attend NWSC Feb. 22 Web-Ex
- Strait ERN meeting scheduled for Feb 22
- MRC Executive Committee meets on Feb. 25.
- March 5 MRC monthly meeting

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):
Nothing to report.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):

1. Monitoring: a) **Fort Townsend:** Forage fish monitoring scheduled for Feb 15. No report yet from PNPTC on egg counts from December and January. b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** Feb sampling scheduled for later in Feb. No report from WDFW yet on January egg counts. c) **Kelp:** Project team is coordinating with the MRC's PT Outfall Pipe group to coordinate data collection for the East North Beach kelp bed this coming year. MRC members Judy D'Amore (representing the MRC), Nam Siu (representing DFW) and Emily Bishop (various professional connections) are planning to attend the NWSC kelp recovery mtg in February.
2. Rain Gardens: No updates since last month. Still on track for uptown PT site (Lincoln & Adams Streets) with City of PT in spring 2019 working with the PT School District OCEAN

program and Quilcene site in fall 2019, in partnership with a Jefferson County Public Works road project.

3. Education & Outreach:

- a. Planning for shellfish aquaculture forum continues. Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Maritime Center will be listed as co-sponsors.
- b. MRC's 2018 annual report and summary version are available on our website home page <http://www.jeffersonmrc.org>

4. Olympia Oyster: No updates to report.

5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: No updates to report.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- Jefferson MRC has asked the BOCC to submit a letter of support for WDFW's proposed pinto abalone listing.
- MRC staff Cheryl Lowe and member Sarah Fiskien met with new County Commissioner serving on MRC for an orientation to the MRC's structure and projects.
- Jeff Taylor and Anne Murphy met with County Commissioners to encourage a letter of support for state funding of NWSC and MRCs in the new biennium budget

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and other info):

Dana Oster met with Jefferson MRC members to talk kelp and other project ideas in early February. Photo by Cheryl Lowe



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: February 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

There have been no changes to membership or leadership this month. The MRC has established a membership subcommittee to address the current vacancies.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- Monthly MRC meeting was held on Thursday January 3rd, 2019
- MRC members partnered with Be Whale Wise and volunteered at a dedicated booth at the Seattle Boat Show. We talked to over 3,000 people, distributed at least 2000 Be Whale Wise leaflets, handed out hundreds of stickers to the kids, sold over 100 whale warning flags, were interviewed by Green Boater (we will share the footage when we get it) and Q13 Fox, and the Be Whale Wise logo that was seen by >50,000 people! With legislation currently in front of both the House and the Senate regarding approach distances and go-slow zones the need for education and outreach to the boating community is even greater. The MRC are pleased to continue to partner with the transboundary Be Whale Wise program to promote best boating practices and wildlife viewing in the Salish Sea.
- The MRC annual retreat will be held February, 15th at the Friday Harbor Labs.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No new funding to report.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW Recovery:

Community Workshop: The second SRKW Community workshop report was published and is available online through the MRC website <https://www.sjcmrc.org/projects/southern-resident-killer-whales/>

Whale Warning Flag: The WWF interim report is in preparation. MRC members and Lead Staff will be presenting on the project to the Pacific Whale Watch Association's annual gear up meeting in March –all PWWA vessels will be required to fly the flag this year. The MRC and Lead Staff are also working to arrange a time to present the flag program to the NW Indian Fisheries Commission at the invitation of Terry Williams during the 20th Annual MRC Conference. In addition the County now have two sizes of flags available and will be making these available to purchase on line through the County website. In the meantime please contact the San Juan MRC for flags. The education and outreach component of the project will continue through the winter and spring of 2019.

Boater Education: In addition to the Whale Warning Flag the MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales. The MRC participated in the Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show in late January and continues to engage with the core Be Whale Wise team members as efforts progress to update the current education material with new (and expected) regulations and guidelines.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee met via conference on February 6th. The subcommittee is planning a “Talking Trash” community forum to coincide with Earth Day celebrations in April.

Marine Stewardship Area Plan Review:

A subcommittee has been formed to perform an initial review of the MSA plan and work on a wider scope of work to establish what needs to be revised and how that revision shall be performed, including what resources might be necessary to perform revisions identified in the review. Since the first subcommittee meeting in January members of the subcommittee have produced a summary table detailing where we are and what we should be working on going forward.

All projects will be discussed in further detail at the retreat where a clear workplan for 2019 will be established.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



San Juan County Puget Sound Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, Marta Green, MRC member and San Juan County Environmental Resource Manager Kendra Smith, and Soundwatch Coordinator Taylor Shedd at the Be Whale Wise booth.



MRC members Kendra Smith and Christina Koons (Vice-Chair) at the Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show.



SRKW biologist and whale warning flag Co-PI Dr. Deborah Giles, SRKW Task Force Co-Chair and member of the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council Stephanie Solien, and MRC Lead Staff Dr. Frances Robertson at the Be Whale Wise booth.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Feb/2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): No changes.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- MRC Meeting Highlights- February 14: The MRC meeting was canceled due to unsafe weather conditions.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): No updates.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Salish Sea Stewards: So far we have ten applications for this year's training. The application deadline is March 1. The training will be approximately 40 hours spanning ten weeks, starting March 19 – May 21, 2019. Invitations have been sent out to speakers for the training and now Joan is working on finalizing the speaker schedule. April 19 will be a joint training with the Snohomish County WSU Beach Watcher program covering climate change, ocean change, and eelgrass. April 30 will be held at Camp Kirby and will feature talks by Hugh Shipman and Lisa Kaufman on nearshore processes and restoration. The next meeting with the SSS Advisory Committee will take place February 26.
- Fidalgo Bay Day: Fidalgo Bay Resort has been reserved for Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24th, 2019. Jay is working with Pete and Gina to plan and coordinate the event. Save the Date cards are being widely distributed at special events to help promote this event.
- Forage Fish Surveys: The index site surveys continue at Similk Bay, Ship Harbor along Guemes Channel and Samish Island. Volunteers have also been collecting forage fish survey data at the Bowman Bay, March's Point, and Kukatali Reserve restoration sites each month.
- Kids on the Beach Project: We now have a contract in place with the SeaDoc Society/UC Davis. Padilla Bay is also interested in partnering with us on this project. We will schedule a meeting sometime soon to starting working out the details.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Plant maintenance work parties will start up again this spring.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Diver surveys are taking place this month.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: The 16 year report on Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay is now complete and available on the MRC website. Information from the report will also be included in the online Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. Field work will start up again in April or May.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Phyllis will be attending the Kelp Recovery Workshop at Padilla Bay on February 28.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: February 2018

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

No changes at this time

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Elisa Dawson and Debbie Hopkins attended Sound Waters 2019 was on February 2nd at South Whidbey High School. The MRC hosted a booth featuring MyCoast. There were over 600 attendees total at the event. Elisa and Debbie has conversations with approximately 50 participants about MyCoast during the event.

Craig, Laura, Paul, and Tom represented the Snohomish County MRC at the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum at the Port of Everett on Feb. 7. All of the usual public and private organizations with interest in Salish Sea ecology were represented including WDFW, Ecology, Snohomish County SWM, City and Port of Everett, WSU Extension and the Tulalip Tribe. The focus of the session was water quality as it affects the health of salmon and related species within the Snohomish Basin. Much work is currently underway within the many agencies with overlapping interests in fresh and marine water quality, including TMDL implementation, WQ assessment and improvement, rain garden installation, other Low Impact Development and Public Service Announcements. Sandi O'Neill of WDFW presented research on the origin, fate and toxicology of PBDE's, PCB's and DDT in the Snohomish Estuary. Her research revealed the often-times ambiguous results obtained in contaminant behavior in complex aquatic environments. The research found that that PBDE's seem to be especially damaging to juvenile salmon. Excellent engagement and participation by a wide variety of stakeholders.

Elisa Dawson participated in the Shoreline Landowner conference call with the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) February 8th. The purpose of this call was to discuss the joint strategy between the MRCs and the NWSF for the request for proposals for the "Shore Friendly" program. Representatives from all 7 MRCs attended the call, and Lisa Kaufman (NWSF) facilitated the discussion. Grants will be awarded to local "Shore Friendly" eligible organizations in order to initiate new programs or continue existing programs that provide incentives and support to Puget Sound marine shoreline residential landowners. The NWSF plans to apply for grants through this program. They will use a similar strategy to their Near Term Action proposal that they submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership. These programs will incentivize landowners to voluntarily remove armoring, forgo armoring, build new homes back further than required, and/or use soft shore alternatives. Programs must target on-the-ground projects with landowners to remove or forgo hard armoring, and strive to produce measurable results in terms of a reduction in armoring.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates at this time

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. The MRC is working on creating an online story board to convey this information to the public.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish sampling schedule has been set for the August 2018-February 2019 monitoring season. The MRC continues to use the opportunity fund grant contract with Salish Sea Biological to complete forage fish egg analysis. Snohomish County will continue monthly monitoring at the 14 Nearshore Restoration sites, two sites at Meadowdale Beach, and two sites at Picnic Point Beach as match for the ESRP grant. February sampling is scheduled for February 21st.

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The County has hired Envirolssues to develop the Communications Plan and Marketing Campaign for the MyCoast App. A notice to proceed will be issued once all the contract paperwork is signed.

Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project: Staff is working on a final report and grant paperwork to close out the NTA Grant that was provided by the Puget Sound Partnership. A total of five derelict vessels were removed with these grant funds and an additional two derelict vessels were removed using County funds. Staff is working with DNR to obtain 90% reimbursement of these costs.

Crabber Education: A Crabber Education Subcommittee meeting is being scheduled for the week of February 25th. The subcommittee will discuss ideas for outreach in summer 2019, as well as ideas for packaging the materials. The MRC is interested in looking at plastic free alternatives for packaging.

Kelp Project: No updates at this time.

Upcoming Events:

MRC Meeting. February 20th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.

February Forage Fish Sampling. February 21st at Howarth Park in Everett. Sampling from 12PM-1:30PM.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: February 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

The MRC interviewed the top applicant, Ms. Rachel Arnold for the Conservation/Environmental vacancy on the MRC, and recommended her for an appointment. Ms. Arnold is the Associate Director of the Salish Sea Research Center at Northwest Indian College and conducts research on population dynamics of forage fishes of the Salish Sea. The Salish Sea Research Center does many outreach activities with the local community, especially the area tribes, related to marine conservation. Ms. Arnold appointment recommendation will go to Whatcom County Council on February 26.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- A general MRC meeting was held February 7 and was facilitated by NWSC, Director Lucas Hart, as the MRC is re-evaluating its policies and procedures, and making updates to their strategic plan. The meeting also featured a presentation from Port of Bellingham on the MTCA cleanup site along the Bellingham waterfront.
- The March MRC meeting will feature guest speaker Henry Carson, WDFW, who will share information on the pinto abalone status review. In addition, students from the Western Washington University marine conservation class will be presenting project proposals to the MRC related to forage fish and Olympia oyster restoration monitoring.
- A Public Speaker Series planning meeting was held. The Orca forum originally planned for Jan 8 continues to be postponed due to the first government shutdown and lack of commitment from speakers. The MRC will host the Executive Assistant of the Million Waves Project at their April meeting. The Million Waves Project is based out of Anacortes and working to turn ocean plastic into prosthetic limbs.
- MRC staff will be providing a presentation to the County Council on Feb 19 about the MRCs pilot Olympia oyster restoration project.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

n/a

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Lisa Hillier, WDFW, will join the forage fish surveys on February 25 and will help determine a new site for Whatcom to take on – potentially up in Birch Bay as the County's softshore protection berm is on track so monitoring before and after construction would provide really useful information. The MRC will be trying to take on the staging component of the survey, and Lisa will be available to assist with questions related to that.

- A North Sound Stewards advisory committee is scheduled to meet on Feb 21 to discuss logistics for the orientation evening for volunteers that is scheduled for Feb 26. 47 people have signed up to participate in the program.
- Bob Cecile or Eleanor Hines (MRC Chair) will be attending the Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan meeting at Padilla Bay on February 28.
- MRC Staff attended a conference call hosted by Lisa Kaufman, Northwest Straits Foundation about the future of the SHARP program and how MRCs can continue to be involved. Shoreline armoring surveys are needed for this program and MRC staff suggested a way MRC could help with boat based shoreline surveys – even by kayak.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



MRC February Meeting/Retreat. Photo by: Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission



Commission staff highlights – February 2019

Marine Program Manager – Dana is planning for the Kelp Conservation and Recovery plan upcoming workshop, planning a spring MRC kelp-monitoring workshop, and helping revise the 2019-2020 MRC RFPs to emphasize measurable outcomes. Dana has not received any recommendations or volunteer social scientists interested in joining the Science Advisory Committee.

Changing position

Nicole received reclassification and is now the Communication and Outreach Specialist at the NWS Commission. She will be working on supporting communication and outreach efforts for the NWS Initiative and is excited to work more closely with MRCs and the NWS Foundation on outreach materials, facilitation support and more!

MRC Grants – Commission staff are developing the request for proposals that will be issued in the spring of 2019. Quarterly deliverables and payment requests for the current subawards were reviewed, and final payment approvals completed by Ecology fiscal staff.

Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan – February 28 workshop final preparations are underway. The workshop will focus on high priority data gaps and discussing actions organizations can take to address data gaps.

Strategic planning – Lucas is working with the Strategic Planning Committee to edit the “themes document.” The next step is to outline metrics that support some of the objectives that have been identified. This will occur in the spring of 2019.

2019 Northwest Straits Initiative Retreat – The Northwest Straits Initiative is holding a joint retreat with the Northwest Straits Foundation on March 21-22 at Padilla Bay Reserve. The retreat will be facilitated by Hilary Wilkinson.

Meeting attendance

Dana attended the Jefferson MRC meeting (2/5) and the Snohomish MRC meeting (2/20)

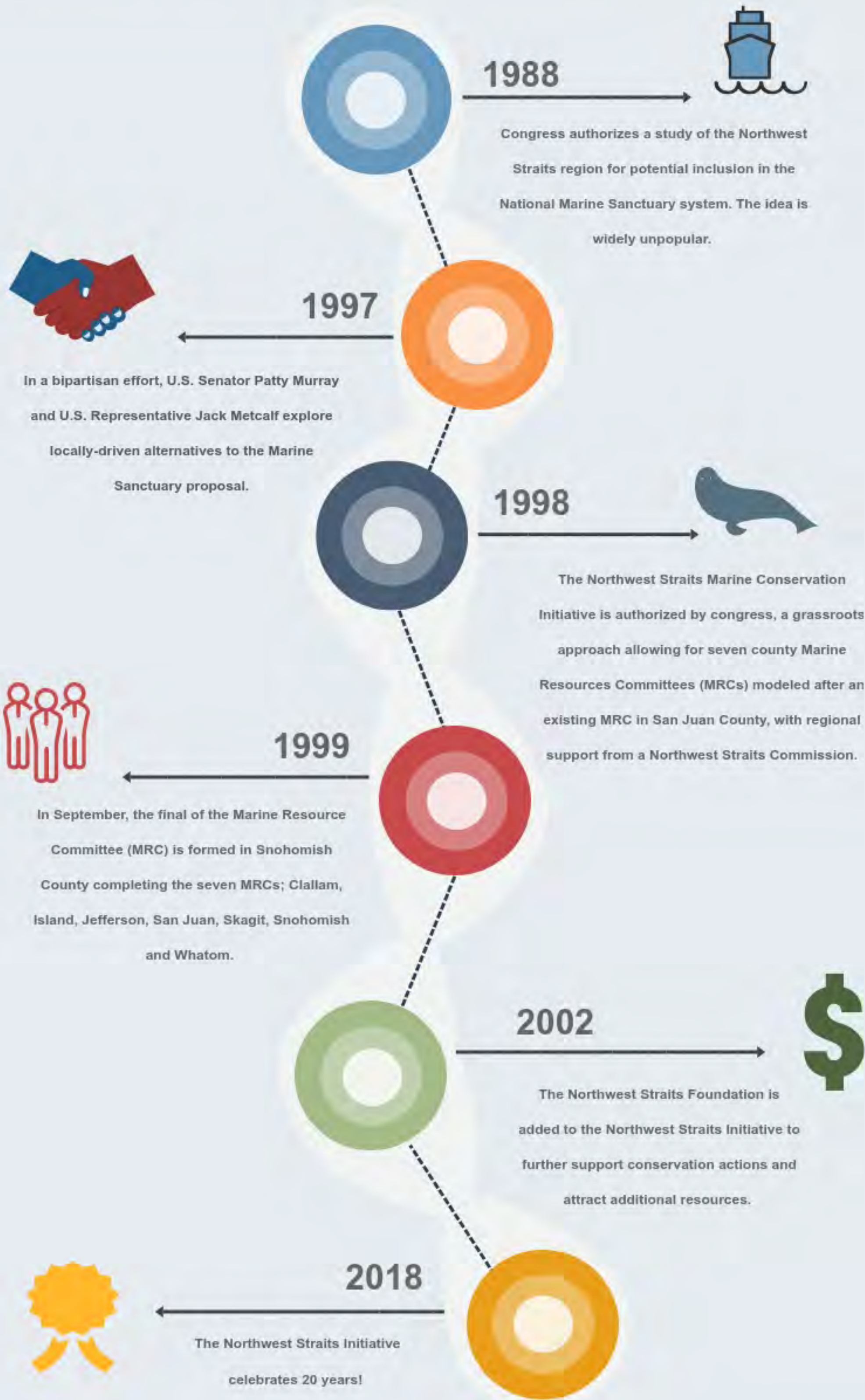
Sasha and Dana attended the San Juan MRC Retreat (2/15)

Lucas and Dana facilitated a discussion at the Whatcom MRC meeting (2/7)

Annual Report – Commission and Foundation staff are collaborating on a 2018 annual report, with draft text now nearly complete. Content review and editing and formatting will be happening over the next month. A web-based version is anticipated along with a limited print run.

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative

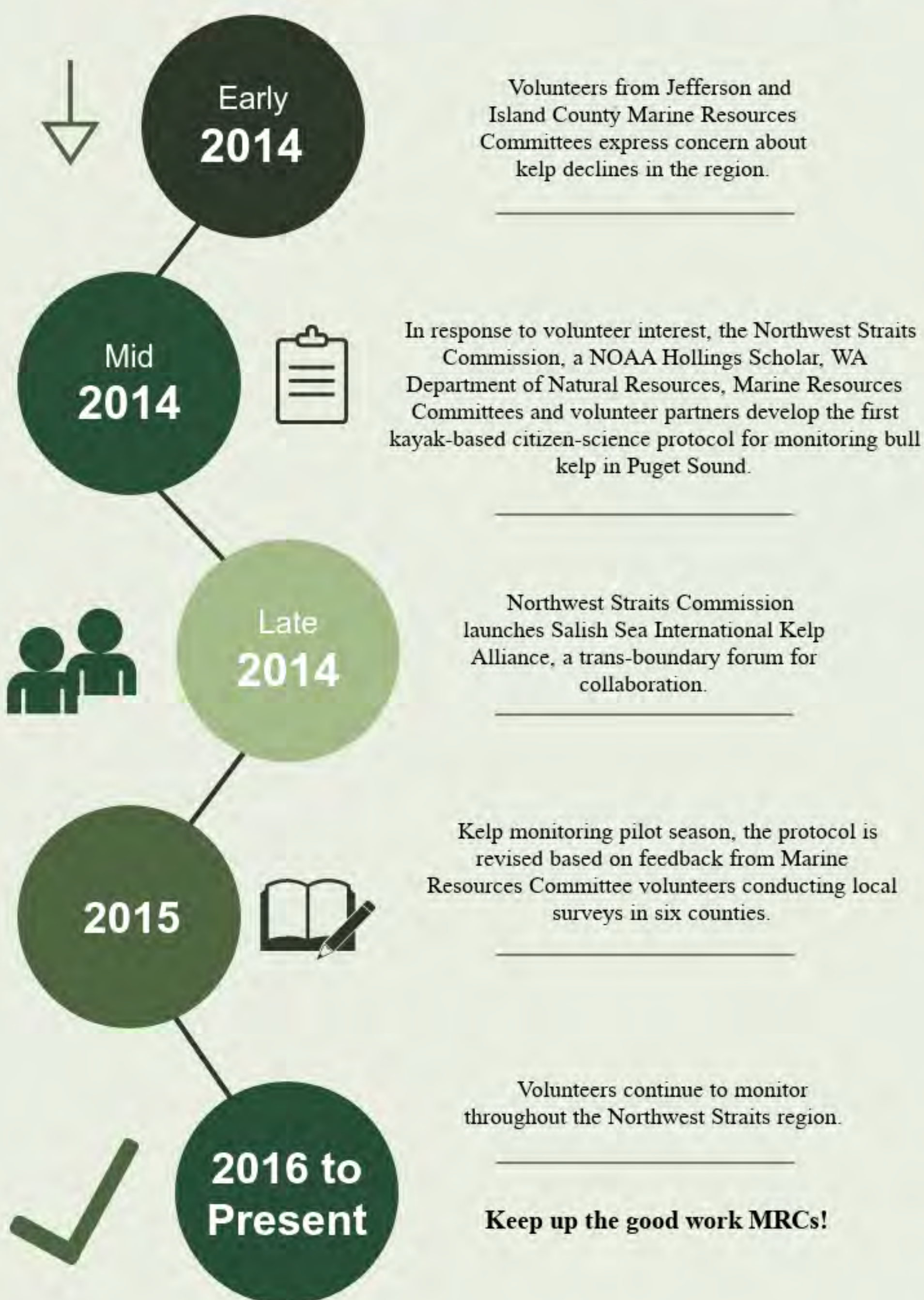
A Historical Timeline





Northwest Straits Initiative KELP PROGRAM

A Historical Timeline





agenda

Location: Northwest Maritime Center, 431 Water St, Port Townsend, WA 98368

Date/Time: April 26, 2019 from 9:45 AM to 2:30 PM

9:45-9:50	Opening and introductions Approval of February minutes	Paul Clampitt, Chair
9:50-10:00	Welcome to Jefferson	Greg Brotherton, Jefferson County Commissioner
10:00-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee Science Advisory Committee External Relations	Alan Clark Dana Oster Tom Cowan
10:20-10:30	Director's report	Lucas
10:30-10:45	Business items MRC Conference planning committee (Sasha) Communications ad hoc committee (Sasha) MRC project collaboration event (Dana) Meeting highlights (Nicole)	Staff
10:45-11:00	Retreat debrief	All
11:00-11:15	Supplementing kelp surveys with satellite images	Jeff Taylor, Jefferson MRC
11:15-12:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
12:00-1:00	Working lunch	All
1:00-1:20	Developing an external communications strategy -- igniting the network	Jon Bridgman, Puget Sound Partnership



agenda

1:20-1:30	NWIFC/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
1:30-1:40	Northwest Straits Foundation update	Anne Murphy, President of NWS Foundation
1:40-1:50	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
1:50-2:00	Elections	All
2:00-2:15	Roundtable	All
2:15-2:30	Public comment	
2:30	Adjourn	



February 22, 2019 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WebEx – Conference call

Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Tom Cowan, Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Christina Koons (San Juan), Ron Thom, Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Pete Haase (Skagit), Nan McKay, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner, Sissi Bruch (Clallam Alternate)

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

Others in Attendance: Don Hunger (Northwest Straits Foundation), Phyllis Bravinder (Skagit Alternate)

Absent: Alan Clark (Clallam-Vice Chair)

Opening and Introductions

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the January Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved by consensus.

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

Lucas said the committee reviewed and approved a request from the Puget Sound Restoration Fund asking for the Commission's support on [Senate Bill 5404](#) and the funding requests. A joint NWS Foundation and Commission Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled after the retreat.

External Relations Committee

Tom said Christina Koons and Don Hunger joined the committee. External Relations Committee members continue to meet with state legislators to update them on the NWS Commission and discuss funding. The committee will continue to work on coordinating future meetings with key officials.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron Thom said the committee provided guidance to NWS Commission staff on streamlining the Request for Proposals for the 2019-20 NWS Commission grants. The committee will be scheduling a follow up meeting soon.

MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://www.nwstraits.org/archive/>



Clallam

Sissi said the MRC is working on winter forage fish sampling and planning their 2019 internship program. The MRC submitted an application for the Lodging Tax Grant to cover some of the costs of the upcoming Orca forum.

Island

Elsa said the MRC had to cancel their February meeting due to weather. The MRC recently hosted booths at the Habitat Restoration Demystified Workshop and at Sound Waters University. The MRC is considering ways to celebrate their 20th anniversary as a public relations opportunity.

Jefferson

Jeff said the MRC is planning their shellfish forum for June and is working on winter forage fish surveys. The MRC's 2018 annual report and summary version are available on our website home page <http://www.jeffersonmrc.org>.

San Juan

Christina said the MRC hosted a Be Whale Wise booth at the Seattle Boat Show. The MRC talked to over 3,000 people, distributed at least 2,000 Be Whale Wise leaflets, sold over 100 whale warning flags and estimated that >50,000 people saw the Be Whale Wise logo. The MRC has two vacancies.

Skagit

Pete said the MRC had to cancel their February meeting due to weather. The MRC is accepting applications for the Salish Sea Stewards training. The MRC is working on winter forage fish surveys. Fidalgo Bay Day is now scheduled for August 24, 2019.

Snohomish

Paul said the MRC hosted a booth at Sound Waters University 2019. The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after restorations. The nearshore data will be used to create an online story board to convey this information to the public.

Whatcom

Bob said the orca forum originally planned for January was postponed due to the federal government shutdown leaving speakers unable to commit. A North Sound Stewards advisory committee is planning an orientation evening for volunteers—47 people have signed up to participate in the program.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)/Tribal update

Cecilia said she is reviewing information collected by NWS Commission staff on tribal partnerships throughout the NWS Initiative. Cecilia is working on possible ways to strengthen collaboration with tribes.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update



Don Hunger introduced himself as the interim director for six months in Caroline Gibson's absence. The NWS Foundation is continuing work to attract support from the private sector. NWS Foundation staff will be in contact with the MRCs on submissions to the MRC Opportunity Fund. The NWS Foundation board is seeking candidates with non-profit experience for board membership from Island, Whatcom and San Juan counties.

- Action: Don can be reached at don@nwstraitsfoundation.org.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin said Sheida Sahandy is leaving the Partnership May 3 after five years of leadership. Her prospective replacement is Laura Blackmore. The EPA approved the 2018 Action Agenda without condition, concurrently lifting the conditions on the 2016 Action Agenda. The Partnership is seeking collaboration points between the NWS Initiative and the implementation of the Action Agenda, specifically Chapter 2 in the Implementation Plan. Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for May 14-16.

Business items

Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations Committee

Nan agreed to serve as the Nominations Committee for NWS Commission elections in April.

Kelp recovery plan workshop update

Dana said the February 28 Kelp Conservation and Recovery Workshop will focus on high-priority data gaps and discussing actions organizations can take to address data gaps.

Pinto Abalone support letter

Dana said a letter was submitted to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife supporting the state listing of pinto abalone as endangered.

MRC grants request for proposals

Commission staff are developing the request for proposals that will be issued in the spring of 2019. Quarterly deliverables and payment requests for the current sub-awards were reviewed, and final payment approvals completed by Ecology fiscal staff.

Sound Water University report out

Several members of the NWS Initiative attended the recent Sound Waters University event on Whidbey Island in early February including Snohomish MRC, Island MRC and NWS Initiative staff.



minutes

Nicole's position was reclassified as Communication and Outreach Specialist and she will be full-time in March. This will allow for expanded support on NWS Initiative-wide communication and outreach efforts, facilitation support, infographic creation and more.

- Action: Contact Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org with questions.

Round table

The Commission discussed various bills in the current legislative session. Commissioners are encouraged to take advantage of the Partnership's legislative update calls which are open to anyone interested in the current state legislative session.

- Action: Those interested in joining the weekly Partnership legislative calls can dial 1-855-929-3239, access code 807 543 663 each Friday at 11:30. The hour-long calls will take place through the end of session.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

- * The next Commission meeting will be on April 26, 2019 at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend, WA.



Executive Committee Meeting
April 1, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference call

Committee Members: Alan Clark, Ron Thom, Tom Cowan, Paul Clampitt

Commission Staff/Support: Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart

Absent: Jude Apple

Retreat follow up

In follow up from the retreat, Lucas said he is working on a Northwest Straits (NWS) Initiative Operations Plan to support the NWS Initiative's Strategic Plan with Don Hunger and Caroline Gibson. The Strategic Plan will be taken to the lead staff meeting in April to discuss metrics that can be applied to the strategic plan.

Making the retreat an "Initiative" retreat

The committee agreed it would be advantageous to hold the retreat as an annual Northwest Straits (NWS) Initiative event. This would allow for continual collaboration and would not preclude the NWS Commission and NWS Foundation from holding their own retreats.

Nan's term on Commission

Nan McKay's original appointment on the NWS Commission was for a partial term and the committee agreed that we should explore extending Nan's appointment so she can serve two full terms. Ron suggested having a NWS Commissioner emeritus position—the committee will discuss the emeritus position once more information is provided.

- Action: Lucas will research the details on creating a NWS Commissioner emeritus position.

Conflict of Interest discussion (attachment)

The committee discussed the NWS Commission's Conflict of Interest Policy and the process of dealing with concerns when they arise. Concerns should be brought to the Executive Committee who will follow up on addressing the issue.

- Action: Ron will work with Dana on putting together a Conflict of Interest Policy for Science Advisory Committee members.
- Action: A signature line will be added to the current Conflict of Interest Policy for NWS Commissioners.
- Action: All Commissioners and Science Advisory Committee members will be asked to sign the respective forms.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) director

Sheida Sahandy is resigning from the Partnership. The committee agreed to provide a letter of support for the current candidate, Laura Blackmore.

Puget Sound Day on the Hill – planned attendance and registration

Lucas and Christina Koons plan to attend Puget Sound Day on the Hill.

- Action: Lucas will continue setting up meetings with key contacts in Washington DC.

State funding update/2019-2020 budget

Lucas said NWS Commission funding was included in the draft Senate ways and means budget but did not include the some of the requested language. Lucas has asked legislative staff if an amendment can be made to the language.

- Action: Lucas will continue to follow the legislative session and provide updates to the Executive Committee.

Fun fact on leveraged funds (3:1) (attachment)

Lucas said the NWS Commission provides a 3:1 leveraging on federal funds.

***The next Executive Committee Meeting will be a conference call on May 1 at 11:00 AM ***



Commission staff highlights – April 2019

Annual Report – the 2018 Northwest Straits Initiative’s Annual Report is complete. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2JT6llm>

MRC Grants – The second quarter is now complete for the current MRC awards, with reporting due in mid-April and payment requests now in process.

Kelp – The Northwest Straits Initiative hosted the 3rd Kelp Conservation and Recovery Workshop at Padilla Bay on February 28. There were 44 participants representing local, state, and federal agencies, tribes, NGOs, researchers, and MRCs all in the room to discuss actions needed to fill knowledge gaps around Puget Sound kelp. Dana and Suzanne are working to organize and update the MRC kelp data, datasheets, and photos to be uploaded to Sound IQ. Members from all 7 MRCs attended the Kelp Workshop April 18 at the Maritime Center in Port Townsend to review the regional project, and discuss methods and strategies going forward. Dana will work on reviewing data and plans to put together a report or story map of the 2015-2018 data.

Forage Fish – Lisa Hillier of WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife is working on joining every MRC for a forage fish sampling to provide tips and answer questions. Dana and Lisa are planning to organize a training on forage fish spawning surveys for June or July. Please email Dana if you or your know someone interested in taking the training.

Strategic planning – Lucas is working with Commission, MRC and Foundation staff to create an operations plan to complete the strategic planning process. The goal is to have the full draft strategic plan ready for review by the Commission in June at the latest.

2019 Northwest Straits Initiative Retreat – The Northwest Straits Initiative held a joint retreat on March 21-22 on Camano Island facilitated by Hilary Wilkinson.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended:
 - Island MRC meeting 3/5, Whatcom MRC meeting 3/7 & 4/4, Skagit MRC meeting 3/14, Jefferson MRC meeting 4/2
 - Meeting with NOAA and Hollings Scholar 3/25
 - UW Capstone Meet and Greet 4/15
 - Shoreline Armor in Puget Sound Workshop 4/23
 - Kelp Conservation and Recovery Workshop 2/28, MRC Kelp Monitoring Workshop 4/18
- Nicole attended: Whatcom MRC meeting on 4/4, Skagit MRC meeting on 4/11.
- Lucas attended Jefferson and Clallam MRC meetings on 4/2 and 4/15, respectively.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: March and April, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open. At the April 15 meeting it was decided to submit a resolution to the Commissioners requesting to change the position representing the Marine Trade to an At-Large position.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC held their monthly meetings March 18 and April 15. At the March meeting Craig Cornell, Area Response Manager for MSRC, gave a presentation on their current oil spill preparedness efforts in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Other topics at the meetings included the 2019 Opportunity Fund, the 2019 Fellowship, projects selection for the 2019-20 NWSC grant cycle, the upcoming Orca forum and filling the Marine Trade position. Participation in other meetings includes Alan Clark's participation in the NWSC executive meeting February 4th, the in-person meeting January 25th in Camano Island Library, and the NWSC Webex executive meeting March 13th; and Jeff Ward's participation in the quarterly LIO/ERN meeting February 22nd. Jeff Ward and Alan Clark participated in the kelp workshop April 18th.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Clallam MRC was awarded the Lodging Tax Grant to cover the costs of advertising for the upcoming Orca forum May 10th. Clallam MRC applied for the WDFW grant through the NWSF is over other expenses associated with the forum. NWSF has provided positive feedback but we have not received the funds yet. Clallam MRC will be applying for the 2019 MRC Opportunity Grant with a proposal of purchasing substrate for the new Olympia oyster restoration site in Blyn. We will also submit a proposal for the 2019 Fellowship for a video intern creating 2-3 videos about what Clallam MRC is all about and some of our projects. The deadline for both of these proposals is May 1st.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit March 27th and the April sampling is planned for April 24th.

Oil Spill Preparedness: The oiled wildlife training with Focus Wildlife is planned for April 27th. So far 53 volunteers have signed up for the class. An article about the training was published in Sequim Gazette <https://www.sequimgazette.com/news/get-training-to-help-in-oiled-wildlife-emergencies/>

Internship Program: Advertising for the 2019 summer internships commenced in end of March with sending the attached brochures to contacts at different educational institutes, list servers, mailchimp email to about 110 recipients, posting it on Clallam MRC website and getting a small article in the Peninsula Daily News <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/clallam-marine-resources-committee-offers-internships/>. In addition Helle Andersen went up to the Peninsula College visiting three classes and handing the brochure out to about 65 students.

Marine Debris: Helle Andersen in partnership with CoastSavers coordinated the Earth Day cleanup efforts between Dungeness Spit and Clallam Bay. The cleanup effort will take place April 20th.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): On March 11th Jeff Ward presented for the Clallam County Commissioners and Ann Soule and Peggy McClure for the Sequim City Council. The presentations focused on the current work of the Clallam MRC and a little about the history of the Initiative.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info): None

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: March 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- Feb 19: Special MRC meeting, primarily on project planning, as well as discussion of a comment letter on the pinto abalone status review.
- Mar 5: MRC meeting: project planning
- Mar 6: Quarterly update to Board of County Commissioners
- Mar 19: Sunlight Shores planting party in collaboration with NWSF. 18 volunteers planted 1,500 pieces of dunegrass, and several other species of native plants: coastal strawberries, coast gumweed, beach pea, seashore lupine, sea plantain, ocean spray, red flowering currant, Nootka rose, and snowberry.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- During the month of April, the MRC will have a display on marine food webs at the Coupeville Library.
- Apr 2: MRC meeting: Presentation on Plastic Free Salish Sea and discussion on funding opportunities.
- Apr 18: Kelp workshop organized by NWSC.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: The forage fish team is discussing site prioritization, and structuring the project in a way to engage and maintain volunteers. We will be working with the NWSC, NWSF, and WDFW to schedule a training for new volunteers.

Eelgrass: The eelgrass team met in early March, and decided this summer to conduct underwater video monitoring at Cornet Bay. Aerial photography will be conducted for both islands. The team will be accepting new volunteers interested in observing and learning more about the project.

Bull Kelp: Linda Rhodes and Randy Berthold will attend the MRC kelp workshop hosted by the NWSC in April.

Outreach: The "Discover Our Island Shores" film and classroom activity was distributed to schools in Island County's four school districts. We are hosting an art contest to accompany the project. Artwork from finalists will be displayed on the MRC website, and winners will be chosen in May. A display on marine food webs will be displayed at the Coupeville library during the month of April. The film was also submitted to the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society's Reno Film Festival: Renovating Habitat for Fish and Wildlife.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): The Board of Island County Commissioners decided not to submit a comment letter on the pinto abalone status, as drafted by the MRC, but rather to have County Commissioners submit comment on an individual basis.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Volunteers planting native vegetation at Sunlight Shores nearshore restoration site. Photos: Anna Toledo.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: April 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): We welcomed Gwendolyn Hannam as a new MRC member. She has a background in water quality and works for the Whidbey Island Conservation District.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- Apr 2: MRC meeting: Presentation on Plastic Free Salish Sea and discussion on funding opportunities.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- During the month of April, the MRC has a display on marine food webs at the Coupeville Library.
- May 7: MRC meeting on Camano: Phill Dionne (WDFW) will be presenting on forage fish and smelt fishing practices and regulations.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: The forage fish team met with staff from the NWSC, NWSF, and WDFW to discuss site prioritization and project structure. We will be focusing on restoration sites: Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. We will discontinue monitoring at Camano Island State Park, as the feasibility study determined restoration would not be feasible. Sampling will continue at Maple Grove on Camano, and there is capacity to add an additional Camano site. We are recruiting volunteers for a training to be held by WDFW, likely this summer.

Eelgrass: Underwater videography is planned for Cornet Bay this summer. Aerial photography will be conducted for both islands.

Bull Kelp: Linda Rhodes and Randy Berthold attended the MRC kelp workshop hosted by the NWSC.

Outreach: We are hosting an art contest to accompany the "Discover Our Island Shores" video and classroom activity. Artwork from finalists will be displayed on the MRC website in May. Kelly Zupich designed a display on marine food webs and the MRC, which can be seen at the Coupeville library during the month of April.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Example marine food web on display at Coupeville Library. Photo: Anna Toledo.



Display on the MRC, highlighting the "Discover Our Island Shores" project at the Coupeville Library. Photo: Kelly Zupich.

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: March 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- No new updates

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- March 5, 2019 MRC monthly meeting (18 members/staff & 3 guests) held at Port Commissioner's building. Guest Jim Pivarnik, Interim Port of PT Director, gave an update on some of the major facility projects of interest to the MRC, including a new approach for the Point Hudson jetty and mitigation, Boat Haven jetty repairs, and meeting environmental standards in the PT Boatyard
- Exec Committee March 20 – Gordon, Emily, Sarah, Jeff
- PSEMP nearshore meeting on March 29 with Cheryl Lowe attending by web-ex
- Strait ERN mtg Feb 22 with Cheryl representing the MRC
- Jeff Taylor attended NWSC retreat March 21-22
- NWSC Kelp workshop-attended by Judy D'Amore, Emily Bishop, Nam Siu
-

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- April 2 MRC mtg
- April 10 Oly baseline field work in Disco Bay lagoon site.
- Apr 22. Oly shell distribution in Disco Bay lagoon site.
- Apr 28-29 rain garden installation
- June 28 Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum
- TBD—two June crabber outreach programs

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*
Nothing to report.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. **Monitoring:** a) **Fort Townsend:** Forage fish monitoring completed for season. No report yet from PNPTC on egg counts from December and January, Feb. b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** March 25th sampling. No eggs found for Jan or March. c) **Kelp:** Project teams convening on April 18th by NWSC. MRC's PT Outfall Pipe group to coordinate data collection for the East North Beach kelp bed this coming year. MRC members Judy D'Amore (representing the MRC), Nam Siu (representing DFW) and Emily

Bishop (various professional connections) attended the NWSC kelp recovery planning meeting on February 28th.

2. Rain Gardens: First rain garden installation scheduled for Apr 28-29th at an uptown PT site (Lincoln & Adams Streets) with City of PT & PT School District OCEAN program. Quilcene site in fall 2019, in partnership with a Jefferson County Public Works road project.
3. Education & Outreach:
 - a. Planning for shellfish aquaculture forum continues. Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Maritime Center will be listed as co-sponsors.
 - b. MRC's 2018 annual report and summary version are available on our website home page <http://www.jeffersonmrc.org>
4. Olympia Oyster: March co-managers planning meeting. Dates set for DB lagoon site work.
5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: No updates to report.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- Jefferson MRC assisted BOCC on a letter of support for WDFW's proposed pinto abalone listing. Submitted at the end of March, with the Coastal MRC also signing on.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and other info):

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: April 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- No new updates

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- April 2, 2019 MRC monthly meeting (15 members/staff & 4 guests) held at Port Commissioner's building. Business included discussion of potential 2019-20 MRC projects and current project updates.
- Exec Committee April 15 – Gordon, Emily, Sarah, Jeff, Cheryl
- Apr 18 Kelp teams training attended by Judy D'Amore, Emily Bishop, Jeff Taylor and Nam Siu
- Jeff, Sarah and Cheryl are planning to attend the NWSC Apr 26th meeting in PT

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Apr 25 - MRC Discovery Bay project site visit as part of WSU Beach Naturalists class
- Apr 29 - rain garden installation
- May 10 - Digging for Dinner in Quilcene
- June 23 - Crabbing 101 (NWS Foundation)
- June 26 - Crabbing 101 (NWS Foundation)
- June 28 - Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*
Nothing new to report.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring: a) **Fort Townsend:** Forage fish monitoring completed for season. PNPTC lab results for the season (sites 2, 3 and 5 are adjacent to restored area. Sites 1 and 4 are reference sites):
 - Oct - No eggs found
 - Nov - smelt eggs present in sites 3 & 4
 - Dec – smelt eggs present in sites 2 & 4
 - Jan – smelt eggs present in sites 1 and 4
 - Feb - sand lance eggs present in site 4

b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** April sampling scheduled for end of month, with Commissioner Brotherton hoping to attend.

c) **Kelp:** Project teams training on April 18th with 4 Jefferson MRC members attending. No new activity from Outfall group.

2. **Rain Gardens:** First rain garden installation underway with WSU Extension, City of PT and PT School District OCEAN program as partners. Planting is scheduled for Apr 29th at the uptown PT site (Lincoln & Adams Streets). Site was prepped on April 17th with City of PT Public Works crew providing backhoe work and proper soil mix.
3. **Education & Outreach:** Digging for Dinner registration now open for May 10th event. Partners include WDFW and WSU Extension. Planning for shellfish aquaculture forum and Crabber outreach (NWSF) continues.
4. **Olympia Oyster:** Initial work for Discovery Bay lagoon site will be completed by the end of the month. Shell transfer permit obtained. (All other agency permits completed last year.) On April 10th, 3 MRC volunteers joined 2 WDFW, 1 tribal rep and 1 MRC staff to collect baseline data on areas where cultch would be placed. WDFW will input/process this data and share info. On April 22, 5 MRC volunteers with 2 WDFW, 1 tribal rep and 1 MRC staff will spread 100 bags of clean cultch in this same area to provide substrate for oyster larvae to land on. Cultch was delivered by boat on an earlier high tide to minimize impact to site.
5. **Voluntary No Anchor Zones:** No new activity to report.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and other info):

See next page.

Olympia Oyster Baseline Work:



Glenn and Kathy Hartmann collecting data.



Glenn and Kathy Hartmann (volunteers), Neil Harrington (MRC project lead and JSK tribal rep) and Chris Eardley (WDFW) were part of the monitoring team.



This is where some of the new cultch will be placed.



Here's why we think placement of clean cultch should be successful (Olympia oyster currently growing nearby.)

MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: April 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

There have been no changes to membership or leadership this month. The MRC has established a membership subcommittee to address the current vacancies.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- Monthly MRC meeting was held on April 4th, 2019
- The MRC hosted a community forum Talking Trash on April 25th during Earth Week, members of the MRC also participated in the Great Islands Clean-up on April 20th.
- The MRC provided 50 whale warning flags to the County's Auditor's office to give to the first 50 individuals that renew or purchase a boat license this year and are willing to be whale stewards.
- The MRC Lead staff will be attending the spring Lead Staff meeting on April 29th and will also be presenting to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission about the whale flags in May.
- MRC Vice-Chair will be a member of the delegation traveling to Washington DC to attend Puget Sound Day on the hill.
- Events coming up include the Friday Harbor Labs open House on May 11th, and the Anacortes Boat Show in mid-May where the MRC will be participating with the Be Whale Wise booth to continue to spread awareness of better boating behavior in whale waters.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC will be submitting an application to the NWSF Opportunity Fund, due May 1.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW Recovery:

Whale Warning Flag: The WWF interim report is being finalized and will be submitted to the Marine Mammal Commission for May 15th. This will also be made available to the Northwest Straits Foundation. The MRC and Lead Staff will also present the flag program to the NW Indian Fisheries Commission in May. In addition the County now have two sizes of flags available and will be making these available to purchase on line through the County website. In the meantime please contact the San Juan MRC for flags. The education and outreach component of the project will continue through the winter and spring of 2019.

Boater Education: In addition to the Whale Warning Flag the MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales. The MRC continues to engage with the core Be Whale Wise team members as efforts progress to update the current

education material with new (and expected) regulations and guidelines. Be Whale Wise will have booth space at the Anacortes Boat Show in mid-May and the MRC, along with Skagit and Whatcom MRC members will volunteer with Soundwatch to share information on boater behavior with members of the public.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee has continued to meet through April in the lead up to the Talking Trash Community Forum. This event is being held in Friday Harbor on April 25th. The event, hosted by the MRC will see speakers from different groups throughout the islands come together to educate the public on waste reduction, recycling, and plastic free alternatives. A temporary website has been produced to provide a platform to share information on both the workshop and the Great Islands Clean up. This website will allow for PFSS the space to share current community efforts while the subcommittee works on the scope and plan for the planned umbrella site. Please see the site at www.plasticfreesalishsea.org

Marine Stewardship Area Plan Review:

The subcommittee continues to work through an initial review of the MSA plan that will allow them, and the MRC as a whole to work on a wider scope of work to establish what needs to be revised and how that revision shall be performed, including what resources might be necessary to perform revisions identified in the review. Once the initial review is complete the subcommittee participants will come together to determine the next steps in this review.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

The MRC also sent a letter to the Council requesting that they ask Ecology consider the findings and recommendations of the 2015 San Juan County Oil Spill Response Capacity in their draft rule making that is currently underway. County Council Chairman Jamie Stephens is addressing this and sending the requested letter. The MRC web page and facebook page continue to undergo updates.

Talking Trash!

A Community Forum:
Imagining the future of solid waste in the San Juan Islands.



April 25, 2019
Brickworks, 152 Nichols St.,
Friday Harbor
5 – 7 PM

The workshop is part of the Plastic Free Salish Sea campaign which aims to share ideas about how to reduce waste and reuse what you already have. It will be fun, educational, and positive!

More info: www.plasticfreesalishsea.org/events



**Friends of the
San Juans**

CELEBRATING
**40
YEARS**



**LOPEZ SOLID WASTE
DISPOSAL DISTRICT**
WORKING TOWARD ZERO WASTE

The Talking Trash Community Forum poster.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: March-April /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Skagit MRC voted by consensus to make the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to appoint Diane Hennebert to the MRC. Diane will represent the City of Anacortes. Diane has a strong background in stormwater and water quality issues and currently oversees the NPDES permit for the City of Anacortes.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- MRC Meeting Highlights- March 14 and April 11: MRC members provided an update on their recent visit with Camp Kirby on Samish Island to explore ideas for collaboration. One of the Salish Sea Stewards classes will be held at Camp Kirby on April 30. Two potential forage fish index sites were also identified. The MRC discussed project proposal ideas for the 2019-2020 MRC Grant. The MRC will likely continue the same projects under the new MRC grant. The Committee also discussed proposal ideas for the NWSF's Orca Recovery Outreach and Education Grant and the MRC Opportunity Stormwater Grant. Amy Eberling shared information about a new program for 9-12 graders that she is currently developing called "Guardians of the Sea." Each session is a 4-day long/6hrs per day boat-based, hands on education in marine conservation and participation in citizen science projects.
- MRC 20th Anniversary Celebration: Planning is currently underway for three special events to help celebrate Skagit MRC's 20th Anniversary. The first event will be held on June 18th at 3:00pm at the Skagit County Administration Building in the Commissioner's Hearing Room that will be kicked off with a proclamation, special guest speakers, a slide show, and a cake. The second event will be a community picnic in partnership with the Friends of Skagit Beaches sometime in June. The third event will be part of Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24th, where the MRC will host a virtual reality diving experience with diver Laura Hanson.
- Bowman Bay Plant Maintenance Work Parties: The 2019 plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will take place from 10:00am to 1pm on the following dates: May 17, June 21, July 12, August 16, and September 20.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

- Skagit MRC was awarded \$6,000 from the MRC Opportunity Funds to implement a needs assessment and long-range planning workshop for the Salish Sea Stewards Program. We now have a contract in place with Joan Drinkwin at NRC to facilitate the workshop and to draft a restructuring plan for the Salish Sea Stewards program. Joan will be meeting with the MRC's SSS long-range planning team on April 25 to start planning the workshop.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Fidalgo Bay Day: Fidalgo Bay Resort has been reserved for next year's Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24th, 2019. An ad will be placed in the Skagit Valley Recreation & Activity Guide insert in the Skagit Valley Herald that will be published on April 17 and run through August. The Friends of Skagit Beaches will

once again host the very popular Discovery Passport Station activity with other sources of funding for the prizes. We will also have the beach seining activity and the Shannon Point Marine Center touch tank. This year's event will be part of the Skagit MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Skagit MRC will host diver Laura Hanson's virtual reality diving experience called "Virtual Salish Sea and Beyond."

- Forage Fish Surveys: Surveys continue at our restoration sites and index sites. One was canceled in February due to the weather. Pete is looking into two other potential index sites at Camp Kirby.
- Kids on the Beach Project: We now have a contract in place with UC Davis/ Mira Lutz, The SeaDoc Society. Conway and La Conner 8th grades are participating in the Kids on the Beach program this year. Padilla Bay NERR's Education Department has joined forces and will accompany Mira during the classroom sessions and will be in charge of the beach activities on May 1 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort and May 2 at Lone Tree Point. Both groups will conduct surf smelt surveys and beach seining like we did last year. 50 Conway students will perform beach activities at the Fidalgo Bay Resort site and 50 La Conner students will perform beach activities at Lone Tree Point. Both schools will participate in the science symposium on May 10 at Padilla Bay.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Monthly plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will start May 17 and continue each month through September 20.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Skagit MRC sent a letter in support of changing the Washington State listing of pinto abalone to "Endangered." A copy of the letter was shared with the County Commissioners. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) and WDFW divers completed site surveys and genetic sampling at three abalone outplant sites in Skagit County over the last 3 months. They collected tissue samples to get a better understanding of the genetic diversity as it relates to hatchery and wild populations. Final surveys were conducted on the Young Abalone Module experiment. There appears to be no difference in survival rates between cohorts outplanted at 9 months and 15 months. The abalone outplants appear to be increasing in size and density, but it is a very slow process. There were two sites that had low survival rates. We will no longer be doing outplanting at those sites. Divers set up two new outplant sites that will be seeded with approximately 1000 abalone of two year classes.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul recently completed a report on Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay and Cypress Island which has been shared with the MRC and NWSC and posted on both websites. The report summarizes all of the work that has been done over the last 16 years. Information from the report was included in the online Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. Field season will start up in a couple of months. Volunteers will collect around 20 cultch bags to monitor oyster settlement and will deploy new cultch bags to monitor next year. After 20 years of monitoring, we now have really good population estimates and can start scaling back monitoring to 3 -5 year intervals. This year Paul will work with Jude to look for other potential locations for native oyster restoration in Padilla Bay, particularly in the southern channels near Bay View State Park where there is a Pacific oyster bed.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Skagit MRC member Phyllis Bravinder attended the Kelp Recovery Workshop on February 28. The focus of the workshop was on high-priority data gaps and identifying actions to address data gaps. An MRC kelp monitoring workshop was held April 18 at the Maritime Center in Port Townsend. Two Skagit MRC kelp monitoring volunteers attended the workshop. Surveys will start up again in June. Kelp beds appear to be increasing at the Shannon Point site and kelp beds at the Coffin Rocks site appear to be pretty stable.
- Salish Sea Stewards: We currently have 23 people registered for the class. The application deadline was extended to March 15. Classes started March 19 and will continue through May 21, 2019. Classes are going really well so far. The speaker schedule is posted on the MRC website. The public is

welcome to come and listen to the speakers. The Friends of Skagit Beaches provided funding to purchase tote bags with the Salish Sea Logo for the presenters.

- Crabber Outreach: Susie George, a Salish Sea Steward volunteer, will coordinate our 2019 Crabber Outreach effort.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Above: 2019 Salish Sea Stewards – Crabber Outreach Training

Photo Credit: Pete Haase



2019 Salish Sea Stewards – Intertidal Monitoring Training

Photo Credit: Joan Drinkwin



MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: March 2018

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Franchesca Perez is taking over as the Northwest Straits Commission Representative starting in March of 2019.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

The MRC had their monthly meeting on February 20th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members Mike Ehlebracht, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Traci Sanderson, Cathy Stanley, Franchesca Perez, Susan Tarpley, Craig Wollam, and Debbie Hopkins were at the meeting. MRC Members Paul Clampitt and Sarah Brown were unable to attend. Dana Oster from the Northwest Straits Commission attended the meeting and gave an update on projects she is working on. Kathleen shared photos of the derelict boats which have been removed. Elisa gave an update on shoreline landowner outreach, and the MRC approved the 2019 Annual Work Plan.

Elisa Dawson, Craig Wollam, Cathy Stanley, Bob Hillmann, and Tom Doerge attended the Forage Fish Survey on February 21. Samples were taken from the 14 nearshore restoration sites and were sent to the consultant for processing.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Franchesca Perez, and Sarah Brown attended the MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project Kick-Off on February 26th. EnviroIssues is the consultant working on the MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project. Staff from EnviroIssues led a conversation around project planning and goals. EnviroIssues is working on a draft Marketing Plan for the grant. The team will meet again in late March to discuss progress.

Elisa Dawson, Kathleen Pozarycki, Bob Hillmann, Paul Clampitt, and Craig Wollam met on February 27th for a MRC Crabber Subcommittee Meeting. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the crabber education and outreach plan for 2019. This year, the MRC did not allocate funds to work with WSU Extension Beach Watchers for outreach. Therefore, the MRC has decided to scale down their effort to focus on the Everett Boat Launch and Edmonds Fishing Pier for 2019, removing the Kayak Point location. The MRC is reaching out to Don Valasquez from WDFW to obtain educational packets and crab gauges.

On February 28, Franchesca Perez and Tom Doerge attended the 3rd of 4 Kelp Conservation and Restoration Workshops, this one at Padilla Bay Reserve. There is very high interest and engagement in this topic as evidenced by the attendance of 45 leaders in kelp science, management and citizen involvement. The goal of this workshop was to prioritize data gaps in

our knowledge of the following: kelp distribution, priority study-area identification, human impacts, environmental stressors and restoration. The top five rated data gaps identified were,

1. Water quality and nutrient monitoring tied to land practices,
2. Development of protocols to better assess kelp distribution, including remote methods,
3. Better understanding of kelp habitat related to the Food Web,
4. Expanded kelp area monitoring efforts, and
5. Ecology of understory species (in addition to bull kelp)

The fourth kelp workshop will seek to link these priorities to attainable management strategies.

Elisa Dawson conducted the March forage fish sample for the Howarth Park index site on March 18th. The sample was processed using the blue vortex method, and will be sent to WDFW for further processing. The Snohomish MRC plans to continue monthly sampling at the index site throughout the summer months.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown, and Mike Ehlebracht met for an MRC Executive Subcommittee meeting on March 18th. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the MRC Grant for 2019-2020. The MRC Executive Committee discussed ideas, and narrowed down a list which were brought to the MRC meeting on March 20th.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Paul Clampitt, and Mike Ehlebracht attended the Mukilteo NOAA Night on March 18th at the Rose Hill Community Center. The event showcases the work being done at the Mukilteo NOAA Marine Science Center.

Elisa Dawson and Kathleen Pozarycki met with SWM staff on March 20th to discuss the MRC Booth at the Snohomish County Earth Day Event. The Snohomish County Earth Day Event is scheduled for April 23rd at the Snohomish County Campus. The MRC MyCoast Booth will be at the event, and Elisa Dawson will staff the Booth.

The MRC had their monthly meeting on March 20th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members Mike Ehlebracht, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Franchesca Perez, Susan Tarpley, Craig Wollam, and Paul Clampitt were at the meeting. MRC Members Debbie Hopkins, Traci Sanderson, Cathy Stanley and Sarah Brown were unable to attend. Kathleen led the MRC in a discussion of the 2019-2020 grant ideas. The MRC chose to move forward on a creosote piling prioritization project idea for their grant pending input from the MRC Members not in attendance. The MRC reviewed the draft 2018 Annual Report and made suggestions. Finally, the MRC Members gave project updates on their subcommittees.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates at this time

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. The MRC continues to work on creating an online story board to convey this information to the public.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish has been completed for the August 2018-February 2019 monitoring season. The MRC used the opportunity fund grant to contract with Salish Sea Biological to complete forage fish egg analysis. Salish Sea Biological also completed a summary of the year for the MRC. The MRC is working with Salish Sea Biological to access forage fish monitoring schedule plans for 2019-2020.

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The County has hired EnviroIssues to develop the Communications Plan and Marketing Campaign for the MyCoast App. A notice to proceed was issued on February 14, 2019.

Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project: Staff completed a final report and grant factsheet to close out the NTA Grant that was provided by the Puget Sound Partnership. A total of five derelict vessels were removed with these grant funds and an additional two derelict vessels were removed using County funds. Staff is working with DNR to obtain 90% reimbursement of the remaining costs.

Crabber Education: There was a MRC Crabber Subcommittee Meeting on February 27th. The MRC plan for 2019 is to focus efforts on the Everett Boat Launch and Edmonds Fishing Pier for 2019, removing the Kayak Point location. The MRC is reaching out to Don Valasquez from WDFW to obtain educational packets and crab gauges.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and MRC Alumni Lincoln Loehr plan to attend the Kelp Workshop in Port Townsend on April 18. Franchesca Perez may attend if she is able to. This workshop is to help prepare MRCs for the 2019 monitoring season.

Upcoming Events:

MRC Meeting is April 17th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.

MRC Members will be attending the Kelp Workshop in Port Townsend on April 18th.

MRC will table at Snohomish County Earth Day April 23rd at the Snohomish County Offices.

MRC will table at the University of Washington Bothell Campus for Earth Day Event April 24th.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: April 2018

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Elisa Dawson and Kathleen Pozarycki met with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources on March 26th. The team went out on a boat to investigate if pilings in the Snohomish Estuary near the Mid-Spencer Restoration Project were creosote. Chris taught Elisa and Kathleen how to identify if pilings are creosote or not. The team also discussed the upcoming MRC Grant, which the MRC hopes to focus on prioritizing pilings in the estuary for removal.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Franchesca Perez, and Sarah Brown attended the MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project meeting on March 27th. EnviroIssues Inc. is the consultant working on the MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project. Staff from EnviroIssues led a conversation around the draft Marketing Plan for the grant. The near final plan was completed early April and called version 2. The final version will be completed prior to the beginning of the summer media campaign.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown, Bob Hillmann, and Paul Clampitt met with Northwest Straits Commission Staff and Snohomish County SWM Management on April 10th to discuss the MRC Grant for 2019-2020. The MRC is proposing a project to identify and prioritize Snohomish estuary pilings for removal. The idea is supported by Snohomish County SWM management and the Northwest Straits Commission.

Elisa Dawson took the monthly forage fish index site sample on April 11th. The sample was processed using the blue vortex method, and will be sent to WDFW for further processing. The Snohomish MRC plans to continue monthly sampling at the index site throughout the summer months.

The MRC had their annual report to Snohomish County Council Public Works Committee on Tuesday, March 16th. Chair Sarah Brown and staff Kathleen Pozarycki gave the presentation. Staff Elisa Dawson and MRC members Tom Doerge, Mike Ehlebracht and Bob Hillmann were present. County Council members were engaged in the presentation, and asked questions on MRC projects. Watch the presentation online here:

http://snohomish.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=6760

The MRC had their monthly meeting on April 17th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Debbie Hopkins, Traci Sanderson, Cathy Stanley, Sarah Brown Susan Tarpley, Craig Wollam, and Paul Clampitt were at the meeting. MRC Members Mike Ehlebracht and Franchesca Perez were unable to attend. The MRC discussed the MyCoast Marketing Plan progress so far. Additionally, the MRC discussed the multiple grant opportunities coming up, including the MRC 2019-2020 grant, the Northwest straits Foundation Orca Grant, the general Opportunity Fund grant, and the Boeing stormwater grant opportunity. The meeting ended with updates from the subcommittees as well as general announcements.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates at this time

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. The MRC continues to work on creating an online story board to convey this information to the public.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish has been completed for the August 2018-February 2019 monitoring season. Salish Sea Biological has completed the summary of the season as well as guidance and recommendations for future sampling efforts.

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: A final draft of the MyCoast Marketing and Communications Plan developed by Envirolssues Inc. was submitted on April 11, 2019 to the Northwest Straits Commission. An excerpt of the plan below highlights the approach, timeline and goals.

Overview of approach

The MyCoast app marketing campaign will focus on engaging priority audiences using digital tactics, traditional media ad buys, and physical collateral, in addition to leveraging project partner networks through a partner toolkit. The campaign will target residents and visitors of Snohomish County (see ranked audiences below), however will be transferable and scalable to other coastal counties, MRCs, and conservation partners across Washington State.

Given their cost effectiveness and the ease of directing app downloads, digital ads (social media posts and in-app ads) will be a primary focus in the strategy, with traditional media ads (online and print) and physical collateral (outreach rack cards and site signs) used as complementary tactics to reach beach goers and water users who may not be as digitally engaged.

Timeframe

Ad runs will occur between Memorial Day (May 25, 2019) and Labor Day (September 2, 2019) to take advantage of seasonal increases in coastal recreation. Strategic ad placements will be made based on knowledge of local events; for example, a pulse in late June/early July will take advantage of the release of public school, the July 4 holiday, and recreational crabbing opening day. See marketing schedule for more details.

Marketing goals

The primary goals of the marketing campaign are to:

- Create awareness about the MyCoast smartphone app among Snohomish County residents
- Bring understanding to county citizens about their role in marine conservation, particularly those that are not otherwise engaged in marine stewardship
- Engage those familiar with the coastal environment to report marine conditions
- Increase app installation and use/user retention during the period of performance:
 - 100 new users from Snohomish County
 - 200 new reports within Snohomish County

Snohomish Estuary Derelict Boat Removal Project: Kathleen Pozarycki has submitted reimbursement requests to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for all seven derelict vessels removed in late 2018 and early 2019 to obtain 90% reimbursement of the remaining costs after the LIO Grant funding is received by the County. Eligible costs include staff time managing the project, cost of removal and disposal, cost of asbestos testing, and cost of recycling.

Crabber Education: Elisa Dawson has reached out to Don Velasquez with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate education supplies for the 2019 season. Don believes he can supply the MRC their education materials, and Elisa will follow up with Don again in late April. The MRC Crabber Subcommittee will meet again on May 8th to discuss direction for the 2019 crabber season.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, Franchesca Perez, and MRC Alumni Lincoln Loehr attended the Kelp Workshop in Port Townsend on April 18. This workshop discussed direction and priorities for the upcoming kelp monitoring season.

Upcoming Events:

MRC will table at Snohomish County Earth Day April 23rd at the Snohomish County Offices.

MRC will table at the University of Washington Bothell Campus for Earth Day Event April 24th.

MRC Meeting is May 15th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: March/April 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The March MRC meeting featured guest speaker Henry Carson, WDFW, who shared information on the pinto abalone status review. In addition, students from the Western Washington University marine conservation class presented project proposals to the MRC related to forage fish and Olympia oyster restoration monitoring.
- The April MRC meeting featured the Executive Assistant of the Million Waves Project, a program based out of Anacortes working to turn cleaned ocean plastic into prosthetic limbs for children. The MRC used the rest of their meeting time to rank projects for inclusion in the 2019/2020 grant round.
- The Public Speaker Series subcommittee met on April 4. The MRC confirmed two more guest speakers to be hosted at an MRC meeting – Todd Sandal will speak about the local status of forage fish in June, and Alejandro Acevedo-Guitierrez (WWU) will speak about the harbor seal research that has been done in Bellingham Bay in November. The MRC is currently working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Friends of the San Juans to hold an SRKW Forum at the Bellingham Yacht Club in June.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

n/a

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- The MRC is scoping a new forage fish survey index site up in Birch Bay within the County's softshore protection berm. This site would replace the Little Squalicum Beach site in Bellingham as it will be under construction potentially starting in June.
- The MRC has put out a volunteer internship announcement with Bellingham Technical College. Amanda Weiss, the MRC's current intern from BTC is set to graduate in June and will be moving on to other job opportunities.
- There is an extensive amount of garbage that has accumulated on the shoreline of Drayton Harbor between California and Dakota Creek. The garbage includes: construction materials (linoleum floor scraps, shingle scraps, caulking materials, etc.), metals, plastic, tires (that extend into the tidelands), and creosote logs. Much of this trash is on private property. MRC Staff has been in contact with DNR who has agreed to come up and scope the site in late April and will most likely handle the cleanup and disposal in July/August. DNR has provided MRC staff with the right of entry document that will be tailored to each property. MRC members and

community volunteers will go door-to-door to obtain physical signatures on the right of entry to allow DNR to access properties.

- The Whatcom Conservation District is conducting a project to test whether the DNA of bacteria in our waterways can be used to accurately identify sources of fecal coliform pollution. This work will build a catalog of DNA “fingerprints” representing potential fecal sources (i.e. humans, deer, dogs, geese, horses, etc.) in Whatcom County. This can then be used to evaluate water samples from areas with historically elevated bacteria levels with the intention of identifying which fecal sources are contributing bacteria to water. Two sites from N. Chuckanut Bay have been included with this project in effort to help the MRC’s Chuckanut PIC work.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Photos above by Austin Rose: Whatcom MRC intern Amanda Weiss and RE Sources Americorps Lilya Jaeren piloting the forage fish staging protocol at the BTC Perry Center – School of Fisheries and Aquaculture.



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: May 31, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[To join the WebEx meeting, click here.](#) Enter your name and email address and click "Join."
 For audio conference, dial: 1-415-655-0001, access code: 802 309 141

10:00-10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of April minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	Elsa Schwartz Tom Cowan Ron Thom
10:20-11:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
11:00-11:20	Business items MRC Conference survey (Sasha) Communications committee (Sasha) June presentations (Nicole) Strategic and operations plan summary (Lucas) Day on the Hill briefing (Lucas) Kelp Workshop update (Dana)	Staff
11:20-11:35	High density rural housing growth across Puget Sound counties from 2011-2016	Tanya Roberts, Puget Sound Institute
11:35-11:40	NWIFC/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
11:40-11:45	Puget Sound Partnership update	Laura Blackmore and Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
11:45-11:50	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation Interim Director
11:50-11:55	Round table	All
11:55-12:00	Public comment	All



April 26, 2019 • 9:45 AM-2:30 PM
Northwest Maritime Center
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Paul Clampitt (Snohomish-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam-Vice Chair), Tom Cowan, Elsa Schwartz (Island), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Christina Koons (San Juan), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Pete Haase (Skagit), Nan McKay

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

Others in Attendance: Greg Brotherton (Jefferson County Commissioner), Jon Bridgman, Cheryl Lowe, Caroline Gibson, Anne Murphy

Absent: Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Ron Thom, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner

Opening and Introductions

Paul opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the February Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved by consensus.

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

Alan said the committee agreed extending Nan's appointment so she can serve two full terms is a good idea. The committee recommended the annual Northwest Straits (NWS) Initiative Retreat be held as a joint retreat with the NWS Foundation. The committee recommended the NWS commissioners sign a Conflict of Interest Policy.

- Motion: Elsa motioned, Christina Koons seconded to hold a joint retreat. The NWS Commission agreed by consensus.
- Motion: Paul motioned, Alan seconded to require NWS commissioners sign a Conflict of Interest Policy. The NWS Commission agreed by consensus.

Science Advisory Committee

Dana said the committee is still seeking social science guidance on effectiveness of education and outreach projects. The committee reached out to the Social Science Advisory Committee with the Puget Sound Partnership. NWS Commission is on the agenda to present to the Social Science Advisory Committee in September.

External Relations Committee

Tom said the committee is focused on the state budget and preparing for 2019 Puget Sound Day on the Hill. The committee agreed to hold an in-person meeting in May at Padilla Bay to discuss expanding their focus to other audiences and explore new external relation possibilities.

Director report



The 2018 Northwest Straits Initiative's Annual Report is complete. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2JT6llm>

Lucas said the state budget is final and will be released April 27. He plans to attend Puget Sound Day on the Hill with Christina Koons. Nan McKay and Jerry Masters also plan to attend part of Puget Sound Day on the Hill to support the NWS Initiative.

Lucas is working with Commission, MRCs and Foundation staff to create an operations plan to complete the strategic planning process with a goal of adopting a final strategic plan in June.

Business items

MRC Conference planning committee

An MRC Conference planning committee is being formed. A survey will be circulated to NWS Initiative members to solicit possible conference topics.

- Action: Those interested in joining the 2019 MRC Conference planning committee or contributing suggestions for speakers/sessions can contact Sasha Horst at horst@nwstraits.org.

Communication ad hoc committee

A communication ad hoc committee is being formed to support the creation of a communication plan. The chair will need to be a member of the NWS Commission.

- Action: Those interested in joining the communication ad hoc committee should contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

MRC project collaboration event

There is interest in holding a project collaboration event. Commissioners discussed the advantage of holding it separate from the MRC conference. Web-based meetings were suggested as a possible solution for ongoing topics and engaging broader NWS Initiative members/partners.

- Action: Those with input on creating a project collaboration event should contact Dana at oster@nwstraits.org.

Meeting highlights

The NWS Commission discussed the meeting highlights document circulated after Commission meetings. The group agreed the document is worth continuing and most useful when it is simple and straight forward.

April Kelp Workshop

Members from all seven MRCs attended the Kelp Workshop on April 18 at the Maritime Center in Port Townsend to review the regional project, and discuss methods and strategies going forward.

Retreat debrief



The NWS Commission discussed the retreat and thanked Elsa for the use of her home. Commissioners agreed the event is useful in building relationships and fostering collaboration across the NWS Initiative.

Supplementing kelp surveys with satellite images

Jeff Taylor, Jefferson MRC Representative, presented on supplementing kayak-based kelp surveys with satellite images. Possible uses of the images include supplementing aerial images for eelgrass, kelp and shoreline restoration projects.

MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <http://www.nwstraits.org/archive/>

Clallam

Alan said forage fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit March 27 and the April sampling is planned for April 24. The oiled wildlife training in partnership with Focus Wildlife is planned for April 27 with 53 volunteers signed up for the class. The MRC is seeking interns and advertised with different educational institutes, posted on Clallam MRC website and submitted an article in the [Peninsula Daily News](#).

Island

Elsa said the MRC welcomed Gwendolyn Hannam as a new MRC member. The MRC will continue forage fish monitoring at restoration sites: Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. They will discontinue monitoring at Camano Island State Park. Underwater eelgrass videography is planned for Cornet Bay this summer with aerial photography conducted for both islands.

Jefferson

Jeff said the MRC is installing new rain gardens in uptown Port Townsend in April and Quilcene in fall 2019, in partnership with a Jefferson County Public Works road project. The MRC is planning a shellfish aquaculture forum with Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Maritime Center as co-sponsors. The MRC is also planning two crabber 101 outreach events.

San Juan

Christina said she attended a luncheon with Senator Patty Murray and emphasized the work of the NWS Initiative. The MRC provided 50 whale warning flags to the counties auditor's office to give to the first 50 individuals that renew or purchase a boat license this year and are willing to be whale stewards. In addition to the Whale Warning Flag the MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales.

Skagit

Pete said the MRC has a new member, Diane Hennebert with the [Board of County Commissioners City of Anacortes](#). Planning is currently underway for three special events to help celebrate Skagit MRC's 20



year anniversary. Fidalgo Bay Resort is reserved for Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24. The 2019 plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will take place from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on May 17, June 21, July 12, August 16, and September 20.

Snohomish

Paul said the MRC is working on creosote piling removals—Kathleen and Elisa met with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources to investigate piling removal in the Snohomish Estuary. The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration and will continue creating an online story board to educate the public.

Whatcom

Whatcom submitted a written report. The MRC is scoping a new forage fish survey index site in Birch Bay. The MRC has put out a volunteer internship announcement with Bellingham Technical College. The Whatcom Conservation District is conducting a project to test whether the DNA of bacteria in waterways can be used to identify sources of fecal coliform pollution—two MRC sites were included in the study.

Developing an external communications strategy – igniting the network

Jon Bridgman, Visual Communication Lead with the Puget Sound Partnership, presented on communication efforts at the Partnership. Jon said the Partnership is working on a communication plan amplifying the voice of the work being done in the Puget Sound region.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Anne Murphy said the NWS Foundation is continuing to work with MRCs on Opportunity Fund submissions. The NWS Foundation welcomes Nan McKay as the newest board member.

- Action: Those with questions on the MRC Opportunity Fund should contact Don Hunger at don@nwstraitsfoundation.org.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin said Sheida Sahandy is resigning from her position as executive director of the Partnership as of May 3. Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington DC is scheduled for May 14-16. The NWS Initiative will be well represented.

- Action: Those interested in Puget Sound Day on the Hill can follow along and show support via social media, look for #PSDOTH19.
- Action: May is Puget Sound Starts Here month with the theme Orca Health Starts Here. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/2IQRRGz>

Elections



minutes

Nan nominated the candidates for the chair and vice-chair. The commission held elections; Alan Clark of the Clallam MRC will serve as chair, and Elsa Schwartz of the Island MRC as vice-chair for the one-year term.

Round table

There was no round table.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next Commission meeting will be on May 31 over WebEx.



**Executive Committee Meeting
May 6, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference call**

Committee Members: Alan Clark, Tom Cowan, Elsa Schwartz

Commission Staff/Support: Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst

Absent: Ron Thom, Jude Apple (ex-officio)

NWSC leadership changes (Chair and Vice-Chair)

Lucas welcomed the Executive Committee's new leadership. Elsa Schwartz as the new committee chair, and Alan Clark as the Commission chair is a member of the committee.

Day on the Hill sign-on letter

Lucas asked for approval from the committee to sign onto the Puget Sound Day on the Hill letter, which highlights key areas of needed support for Puget Sound recovery. The committee agreed to support the letter. Lucas will add the NWS Commission as a signatory.

Conflict of Interest Policy – Science Advisory Committee – review

The committee reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy specifically for the Science Advisory Committee members and agreed it is worthwhile. Elsa noted that Island MRC is adding a signed conflict of interest policy as a requirement for their members.

NWSC procedure on adopting policy

Lucas asked if the procedure for commenting on state legislation falls under the NWS Commission procedure on adopting policy. If so, should wording be added to the existing procedures that allows the Executive Committee to provide approval for legislative comment under short timelines? The committee agreed the existing procedure on adopting policy does not apply to commenting on legislation. The committee agreed that a separate procedure should be written that addresses how the NWSC should comment on legislation.

- Action: Lucas will work with the committee to draft a few options for discussion.

State funding/Budget discussion

The NWS Commission's state funding was increased from \$227,000/year to \$455,000/year for the 2019-2021 biennium. Since this allows for a clearer forecast of the funding for the next two years, MRCs will be moving to a two-year grant cycle. Staff prepared a draft budget for committee review, which included an award to MRCs for 2019-20 in the amount of \$91,000. Additional funds in the budget were recommended to be used to provide support at the Commission level. One option discussed was to conduct an assessment of the NWS Initiative. The committee agreed more information would be needed, including clarifying goals of the assessment. The committee recommended approval of the amount budgeted to MRCs for the 2019-2020 cycle so that staff can proceed on working with MRCs on the 2019-2020 Request for Proposals.

- Action: Lucas and Sasha will prepare a budget that compares the current year's funding with the increased amount for next year to clearly identify areas of increased/decreased funding.

**Review of Draft Operations Plan**

Lucas shared a draft of the NWS Initiative Operations Plan, a supplement to the NWS Initiative Strategic Plan. The committee agreed that the format of the Operations Plan is appropriate and clear and that staff should continue to work on filling in the content.

Joint Executive Committee meeting agenda discussion

The committee reviewed the agenda. Once a date is chosen, the agenda will be finalized.

***The next Executive Committee Meeting will be a conference call on June 3 from 11:00am-12:00pm ***

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: March and April, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open. The Marine Trade position has been changed to an At-Large position. Clallam County has received one applicant for the position and the candidate is under review. The following officers were appointed at the May meeting: Chair –Jeff Ward, Vice-Chair – Ed Bowlby, NWSC representative – Alan Clark, NWSC Alternate – Sissi Bruch.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC held their monthly meeting May 20th. At the meeting Melissa Williams, Executive Director for Feiro Marine Life Center, and Carol Bernthal, Superintendent of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, presented the plans for the new Marine Discovery Center on the waterfront in Port Angeles. Other topics at the meetings included election of Clallam MRC officers, the NWSC proposal, the 2019 Internship Program, the 2019 Opportunity Fund, the 2019 Fellowship, NWSC Updates, and project updates.

Participation in other meetings: Helle Andersen participated in the quarterly LIO/ERN meeting May 3rd.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Waiting to hear back from the 2019 MRC Opportunity Grant and the 2019 Fellowship applications.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit May 7th and at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook May 9th.

Oil Spill Preparedness: The oiled wildlife training with Focus Wildlife was held April 27th. A total of 45 volunteers participated in the training and received a certificate. Based on a post-training survey the participants liked the training. I have already email 10 pictures to Sasha.

Internship Program: 10 students from Port Angeles High School and Peninsula College applied for the five internship positions. Seven of these applicants were selected for interview. Five applicants were selected and we are currently waiting on two students accepting the positions.

Orca Forum: More than 50 residents participated in the Orca Forum held at Lower Elwha Heritage Center. The four speakers were Dr. Rich Osborne, Olympic Natural Resources Center, Dr. Scott Veirs, Orcasound Hydrophone Network, Dr. Todd Hass, Puget Sound Partnership and Donna Sandstrom, The Whale Trail. The forum was facilitated by Anne Murphy, President of NWSF. Have attached three photos from the event.

Celebration of Science & Technology: The event was very poorly attended and the MRC staffing the booth closed down the booth around 2 pm. Have attached one photo of the booth.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): Jeff Ward participated in an oil spill drill at Freshwater Bay May 23rd. The drill was part of the CANUSPAC efforts.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: May 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- May 7: MRC meeting on Camano: Phill Dionne (WDFW) presented on forage fish and smelt fishing practices and regulations.
- May 22: The MRC participated in the Sound Water Stewards Volunteer Fair to provide information on volunteer opportunities and recruit new volunteers. Seven new volunteers signed up for projects.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- We will announce the winners of our art contest that accompanied the “Discover Our Island Shores” video and classroom activity.
- June 4 MRC meeting: Business items, including Opportunity Fund and project updates.
- Several new forage fish volunteers will participate in the forage fish training on June 24.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): The MRC and Island County Public Health leadership discussed the increase in state funding, and support utilizing it for increased staff capacity.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: We are recruiting volunteers to form teams which will be assigned to specific beaches. We are focusing on restoration sites (pre and/or post monitoring): Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta, as well as the Camano index site Maple Grove. Volunteers will participate in the WDFW training scheduled for June 24.

Eelgrass: Underwater videography is planned for Cornet Bay this summer. One new volunteer is interested in shadowing the existing team to learn the underwater videography skills. Aerial photography will be conducted for both islands.

Bull Kelp: We have acquired HOBO temperature loggers to track temperature with increased accuracy and response time. The loggers will be rigged up to measure surface, midwater, and bottom temperatures simultaneously.

Outreach:

- Art contest: We are wrapping up our art contest that accompanied the “Discover Our Island Shores” video and classroom activity. Winners will be announced the last week of May.

- Crabber outreach: We are planning to conduct opening day outreach at the Captain Coupe boat launch in Coupeville. We will also provide informational cards to hardware stores where fishing licenses are sold.
- Movie screenings: We are coordinating with the Navy base and Sno-Isle Libraries to host screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” geared towards families.
- Forums: We will be conducting a follow-up survey with participants of last year’s forums to help hone our plans for this year’s forums.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): The MRC will have a spot on the County’s Technical Advisory Group for the SMP update. The group will convene in the summer.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Barbara Bennett engages volunteers at Sound Waters Stewards Volunteer Opportunity Fair. Credit: Anna Toledo.

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: May 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- No new updates

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- April 29 – Cheryl attended MRC Coordinators meeting at Padilla Bay
- Apr 30 - rain garden installation (see below)
- May 3 Cheryl Lowe represented the MRC at the Strait ERN LIO meeting.
- May 4, 2019 MRC monthly meeting (16 members/staff & 2 guests). Included presentations by Emily Bishop on how the Hood Canal Bridge is impacting salmon migration, Jeff Taylor's research into satellite imaging for kelp monitoring, approval of 2019-20 MRC operating grant & budget, and update on PT outfall pipe studies.
- May 10 Digging for Dinner event very successful. See report below.
- Exec Committee May 21 – Gordon, Emily, Jeff, Cheryl
- Jeff is planning to attend the NWSC May Web-Ex meeting

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- June 4 - MRC monthly meeting
- June 6 - Chumsortium meeting
- June 23 - Crabbing 101 (NWS Foundation)
- June 26 - Crabbing 101 (NWS Foundation)
- June 28 - Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*

Nothing new to report.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring: a) **Fort Townsend:** Forage fish monitoring completed for season.
b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** May sampling date not yet scheduled.
c) **Kelp:** Will be scheduling June survey soon.
PT Outfall group: gathering info, but nothing new to report.
2. Rain Gardens: First 2019 rain garden installation completed on April 30th in uptown PT (Lincoln & Adams Streets) with partners WSU Extension (design & logistics) and City of PT Public Works (site preparation & soil amendments). The elementary school teacher from the PT School District's OCEAN program used this project as a place-based learning

tool; kids helped measure site, calculate drainage area, study how rain gardens work and helped plant on April 30th.

3. Education & Outreach: Digging for Dinner event on May 10 was a great success. See some photos below. Feedback from participants was very positive.

- 38 attendees (over 50 registered, but not all showed up)
- 4 MRC volunteers
- 6 staff (4 WDFW, 1 MRC, 1 Jefferson Co Public Health)

Planning for Crabber Outreach (NWSF) continues. Two Crabbing 101 classes scheduled for June in Jefferson County (and coordination with Clallam MRC for 2 more there), PR developed and distributed, and invitations sent to elected officials to observe derelict gear removal operations in Port Townsend Bay in May.

Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum planning continues. Agenda and set-up finalized. PR effort is planned for early June, with registration to open by June 1.

4. Olympia Oyster: April monthly report included baseline monitoring work on April 10 (that report was submitted before the second phase.) On April 22, 5 MRC volunteers with 1 WDFW, 1 tribal rep and 1 MRC staff spread 112 bags of clean cultch in the Lagoon Area of Discovery Bay to provide substrate for oyster larvae to land on. Cultch was delivered by boat on an earlier high tide by Taylor Shellfish staff to minimize impact to site. After years of talking about doing this, it was very satisfying for everyone to see it come to fruition. See photos below.

5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: No new activity to report.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—all photos by Cheryl Lowe):

Digging for Dinner: WDFW staff demonstrating how to dig steamer clams



Olympia Oyster Spreading New Cultch at Lagoon Site:

Preferred technique for spreading shell.



Bags ready to open and spread.



Cultch spread on spit and ready to receive Olympia oyster larvae.



Rain Garden Installation April 30, 2019



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: May 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

There have been no changes to membership or leadership this month. The MRC has interviewed candidates and made recommendations to Council, new members and membership renewals are planned for June.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The monthly MRC meeting was dedicated to salmon recovery efforts as the MRC took part in SFBRD grant presentations and site visits in their role as the Citizens Advisory Group. These took place on May 1st and 2nd.
- Frances Robertson attended the MRC lead staff meeting in Padilla Bay on April 29th.
- Phil Green took part in the NWSC kelp workshop in Port Townsend on April 18th.
- The MRC took part in the Anacortes Boat Show (May 16-19) to help with boater education efforts as part of Be Whale Wise and also to promote the whale warning flag, Volunteers from Whatcom and Skagit also helped.
- MRC Vice-Chair, Christina Koons attended Puget Sound Day on the hill in Washington DC.
- A community meeting (May 8) and webinar (May 15) were held to share the results of the Oil Spill Consequences Assessment and ERTV Cost Evaluation reports.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC submitted applications to the NWSF Opportunity Fund for both a fellowship and for the innovation fund.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW Recovery:

Whale Warning Flag: The WWF interim report was finalized and submitted to the Marine Mammal Commission. The report was also made available to the Northwest Straits Foundation. In addition the County now have two sizes of flags available and will be making these available to purchase on line through the County website. In the meantime please contact the San Juan MRC for flags. The education and outreach component of the project will continue through the winter and spring of 2019 in coordination with our boater education efforts as part of the Be Whale Wise Team. We are still hoping to present the flag program to the NW Indian Fisheries Commission.

Boater Education: In addition to the Whale Warning Flag the MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales. The MRC continues to engage with the core Be Whale Wise team members as efforts progress to update the current education material with new regulations and guidelines (both for WA waters and BC waters). We organized the Be Whale Wise booth space at the Anacortes Boat Show May 16-19, and the MRC, along

with Whatcom and Skagit MRC members and Salish Sea Setweard volunteers and Soundwatch volunteered to share information on best boating practices, the new regulations and the whale warning flag with members of the public. Representative Lekanoff attended the boat show to show her support for our efforts with Be Whale Wise and the Whale Warning Flag and Lead staff Frances Robertson accompanied Sen. Lovelett, Komo 4 news and Soundwatch in a meet and greet organized by SRKW Southern Resident Orca Task Force member and head of the NW Marine Trade Association, George Harris to talk about the new vessel regulations and the whale warning flag.

We also brought on a dedicated communications and outreach intern for the summer, this was made possible by funds from the NWSF's NFWF grant. Hillary Eggers Shedd started with us in mid-May and will continue to help through to October, she will take on the MRC Facebook page and help with local press releases, the news blasts and in our outreach efforts to educate boaters about whales, best boating practices and the whale warning flag.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee has continued to meet through April in the lead up to the Talking Trash Community Forum. This event was held in Friday Harbor on April 25th. The event attracted ~40 members of the community. A temporary website has been produced to provide a working platform for the Plastic Free Salish Sea Campaign as the subcommittee works on the scope and plan for the planned umbrella site. Please see the site at www.plasticfreesalishsea.org

Marine Stewardship Area Plan Review:

The subcommittee continues to work through an initial review of the MSA plan that will allow them, and the MRC as a whole to work on a wider scope of work to establish what needs to be revised and how that revision shall be performed, including what resources might be necessary to perform revisions identified in the review. Once the initial review is complete the subcommittee participants will come together to determine the next steps in this review.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

A public meeting and additional webinar occurred to share the results of the oil spill consequences work that was conducted on behalf of the MRC. The public meeting took place on May 8th in Friday Harbor and the webinar was held on May 15. Notices of these meetings were to staff of Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray, and Representative Larsen. The notice also was sent to Representative Lekanof and Senator Lovelett. Senator Cantwell's NW Washington Outreach Director Cameron Caldwell contacted the NTA lead, Marta Green, on May 7th stating that he was not able to attend the community meeting. He requested an in-person meeting to discuss the issue to be attended by the state-wide Outreach Director Tommy Bauer, tentatively scheduled in late May.

The MRC web page and facebook page continue to undergo updates.



Photo 1: Sen. Lovelett, Komo 4 News report Abby Acone, and Lopez Island resident Tim Slattery with the Whale Warning Flag.



Photo 2. San Juan County MRC members Kendra Smith and Jeff Dyer, and Lead Staff Frances Robertson



Photo 3. From Left to Right: George Harris (SRKW Task Force Member), Frances Robertson (SJC MRC lead staff and County Marine Program Coordinator), Taylor Shedd (SoundWatch Director), Representative Lekanoff, Erin Casellas (Soundwatch Intern).



Photo 3. San Juan MRC-CAG and TAG members visit the field sites for this year's salmon recovery projects in San Juan County.



Photo 4. One of the proposed salmon recovery sites visited during the CAG-TAG project site visits in May. San Juan Island.



Photo 5. MRC members Terry Turner and Christina Koons with San Juan County Environmental Recourses Project Manager, Byron Rot listening to a presentation for a salmon recovery project on Lopez Island.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: May /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): No Changes.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- **MRC Meeting Highlights- May 9:** Jason Quigley presented on Skagit County's NPDES/Stormwater Management Program. Diane and Pete provided an update on the proposal submitted to the Northwest Straits Foundation for the Boeing stormwater grant. The next MRC meeting date, time, and place has been changed to June 18th, 1:30pm – 2:30pm at the Skagit County Administration Building in Mount Vernon. The MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration will take place shortly after the meeting at 3:00pm in the Commissioner's Hearing Room.
- **Salish Sea Stewards Planning Workshop-** June 13, 9am to 4pm at Padilla Bay
- **Skagit MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration** – June 18th, 3:00pm at the Skagit County Administration Building in the Commissioner's Hearing Room
- **Bowman Bay Plant Maintenance Work Party-** June 21, 10am-1pm
- **Fidalgo Bay Day-** August 24, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):
No Updates.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Fidalgo Bay Day: Fidalgo Bay Resort has been reserved for next year's Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24th, 2019. Past participants with displays have been contacted. Unfortunately, the Shannon Point Marine Center will not be able to bring their portable aquariums this year.
- Forage Fish Surveys: Surveys continue at our restoration sites and index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel, and Samish Island). A school group will be visiting Camp Kirby in October and has expressed interest in science related activities. Pete offered to assist the school group with conducting a forage fish survey if they are interested. Pete and several other volunteers will also be working with Island View Elementary School to conduct a forage fish survey at Fidalgo Bay on June 14. It will be the school's third year participating in forage fish surveys at Fidalgo Bay.
- Kids on the Beach Project: 50 Conway students, with the help of 25 volunteers, performed research activities at the Fidalgo Bay Resort beach on May 1. And on May 2, 50 La Conner students, with the help of 25 volunteers, performed research activities at the Lone Tree Point beach. Both schools participated in the science symposium on May 10 at Padilla Bay. Mira will be preparing a final report that will be used to help expand the program to other schools next year. The Northwest Straits Foundation applied for and will likely receive funding from Shell Puget Sound Refinery to help support and expand the Kids on the Beach program from September 2019-2020.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Monthly plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group started May 17 and will continue each month through September 20. Monthly

beach seining and forage fish surveys continue. The Friends of Skagit Beaches will be hosting a volunteer appreciation picnic at Bowman Bay on June 4.

- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Surveys have been completed for the season. Paul went out in the field with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund and WDFW dive crews to set up two new outplant sites in the western Fidalgo Bay area which were seeded with approximately 1000 abalone of two year classes. They also installed new underwater camera setups to see what kind of predators are interested in the abalone. So far they have observed a lot of interest from kelp greenling, but no smoking guns. They are looking into installing some bait traps with abalone to see what kind of predators they attract.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Sampling season is starting up again. Paul retrieved two of the 20 cultch bags in Fidalgo Bay to monitor. So far the results indicate there was low to moderately low native oyster settlement last year. Volunteers will collect the rest of the cultch bags to monitor oyster settlement in Fidalgo Bay soon and will deploy 20 new cultch bags that will be monitored next year. Paul gave a presentation on the Olympia Oyster Restoration and Pinto Abalone Restoration projects as part of the Salish Sea Stewards training program. Paul went out with Whatcom MRC to help with their native oyster restoration project in Chuckanut Bay. So far it looks like the Olympia oysters have had good recruitment and survival rates.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Surveys will likely start up again in June. Several new Salish Sea Stewards have expressed interest in participating in the kelp surveys this year. The new volunteers will be connected with more experienced volunteers to learn the monitoring protocols.
- Salish Sea Stewards: 22 volunteers completed the 2019 Salish Sea Stewards training and graduated on May 21. A Volunteer Program Fair was held during the culminating class to give the new Salish Sea Stewards a chance to sign up for different volunteer opportunities. Many of the new volunteers have already started volunteering. The graduating class was asked to complete an evaluation of the Salish Sea Stewards training program. The results of the evaluation will be compiled into the final report and will be taken into consideration for developing next year's training program. The Salish Sea Stewards Planning Workshop will be held June 13 at Padilla Bay from 9am to 4pm. Salish Sea Stewards volunteers, volunteer program coordinators from various organizations, Skagit MRC members, and NWSI staff will all be invited to attend the workshop. Joan worked with the Salish Sea Stewards Planning Committee to draft the agenda for the workshop and develop the Volunteer Needs Assessment Survey questions that went out to all of the volunteers through Survey Monkey. The Friends of Skagit Beaches will be hosting a volunteer appreciation picnic on June 4 at Bowman Bay.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc)

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: May 2019

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Elisa Dawson and MRC Members Tom Doerge, Traci Sanderson, and Cathy Stanley attended a tour of the Picnic Point Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 19. The Picnic Point Wastewater Treatment employees discussed the role wastewater treatment plants play in marine water quality.

Elisa Dawson and Susan Tarpley tabled at the Earth Day Celebration at the Snohomish County Campus on April 23. Approximately 50 people visited the MyCoast booth.



Tom Doerge and Mike Ehlebracht tabled at the Earth Day celebration at the UW Bothell Campus on April 24th. Approximately 40 people visited the MyCoast booth.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown attended a MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project update conference call on April 25th. EnviroIssues Inc. is the consultant working on the MyCoast App Marketing Campaign Project, and their staff shared updated graphics with the MyCoast team.

Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson attended the MRC Lead Staff meeting on April 29th at Padilla Bay. Staff discussed the upcoming 2019-2020 grant applications, and other MRC business.

Elisa Dawson, Kathleen Pozarycki, Bob Hillmann, Paul Clampitt, and Laura Gurley attended a Crabber Ed Subcommittee meeting on May 8th to discuss the upcoming crab season. Chrys Bertolotto from WSU Extension Snohomish County called into the meeting to coordinate WSU crabber education efforts with the Snohomish MRC. The team created a draft plan for 2019, which will be finalized after crabber opening day is set by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and Traci Sanderson met for a Kelp Subcommittee meeting on May 9th to discuss the 2019 kelp monitoring season. The team is working to finalize dates and logistics for kayak surveys, as well as plans for a boat survey of Hat Island.

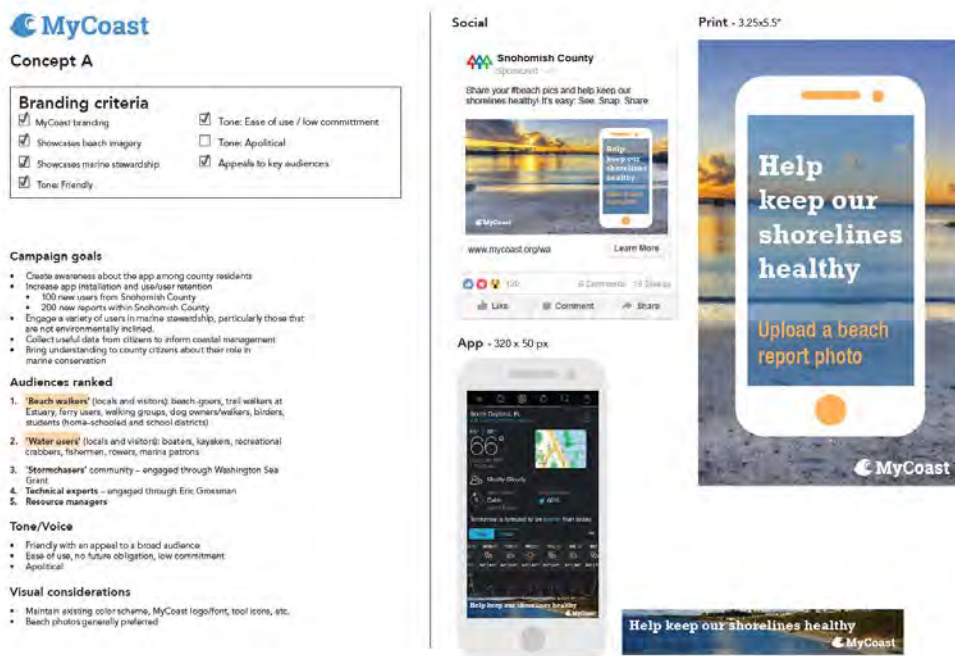
Elisa Dawson took the monthly forage fish index sample on May 14th at Howarth Park. The sample was processed using the blue vortex method and will be delivered to WDFW.

Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson attended a call on the MyCoast app on May 15th. The call brought together the different partners who are participating with the MyCoast app, including Blue Urchin LLC, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Sea Grant, and the Northwest Straits Initiative. The group discussed some potential changes and upgrades to the app and website in preparation for a summer marketing campaign being put on my Snohomish County.

Tom Doerge attended a conference call on motorized boat surveys for kelp on May 15th. Northwest Straits Commission staff Dana Oster conducted the conference call for all the MRC kelp survey teams to discuss, the use of motorized boats to complement kayak surveys, and quantifying kelp beds using a “linear extent” method versus the traditional perimeter mapping method. These two approaches to kelp surveying can be used singly or in tandem and are probably best suited for counties with numerous kelp beds and extensive shorelines. Protocol modifications were discussed and will be sent out to all MRC kelp teams.

The MRC had their monthly meeting on May 15th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Debbie Hopkins, Traci Sanderson, Sarah Brown, Craig Wollam, Mike Ehlebracht Franchesca and Paul Clampitt were at the meeting. MRC Members Susan Tarpley, Cathy Stanley, and Bob Hillmann were unable to attend. The MRC has a presentation from Snohomish Conversation District Staff Cindy Dittbrenner on a recent report she’s completed on groundwater and sea level rise. Additionally the MRC discussed the MyCoast Marketing Plan, the MRC 2019-2020 Grant application, and approved an application for the MRC opportunity Fund grant. The meeting ended with updates from the subcommittees as well as general announcements.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):





Concept B

Branding criteria

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MyCoast branding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tone: Easy of use / low commitment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Showcases beach imagery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tone: Apolitical |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Showcases marine stewardship | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeals to key audiences |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tone: Friendly | |

Campaign goals

- Create awareness about the app among county residents
- Increase app installation and user/user retention
 - 100 new users from Snohomish County
 - 200 new reports within Snohomish County
- Engage a variety of users in marine stewardship, particularly those that are not environmentally inclined.
- Collect useful data from citizens to inform coastal management
- Bring understanding to county citizens about their role in marine conservation

Audiences ranked

1. "Beach walkers" (locals and visitors): beach-goers, trail walkers at: Estuary, ferry users, walking groups, dog owners/walkers, birders, students (home-schooled and school districts)
2. "Water users" (locals and visitors): boaters, kayakers, recreational crabbers, fishermen, rowers, marina patrons
3. "Stormchasers" community – engaged through Washington Sea Grant
4. Technical experts – engaged through Eric Grossman
5. Resource managers

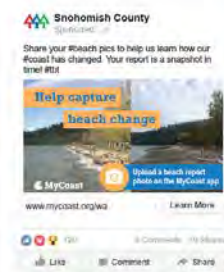
Tone/Voice

- Friendly with an appeal to a broad audience
- Easy of use, no future obligation, low commitment
- Apolitical

Visual considerations

- Maintain existing color scheme, MyCoast logo/font, tool icons, etc.
- Beach photos generally preferred

Social



App – 320 x 50 px



Print – 3.25x5.5"



Crabber Education: The Snohomish MRC is coordinating crabber education supplies with WSU Extension Snohomish County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The team has requested 1200 educational packets and gauges. The MRC will lead crabber education at the 10th street boat launch and the Edmonds pier around opening day. WSU Extension will lead crabber education at Kayak Point Boat Launch and Pier for 2019.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and Traci Sanderson are working on finalizing the kelp monitoring plan for 2019. The team plans to survey Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds in July and August. Hat Island will be done by motor boat once in August.

Upcoming Events:

UW Estuary Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Monitoring at Snohomish County Beach Locations June 13, 14, and 18-20th.

Crabber Education Training hosted by WSU Snohomish County Saturday June 22nd.

MRC Meeting is June 19th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.

Forage Fish spawning training June 24th at Padilla Bay.

Northwest Straits Commission meeting at the Snohomish County campus, June 28th.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: May 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- On May 30, MRC Chair Eleanor Hines, and Dana Oster will provide a presentation as part of the WWU – Huxley Speaker Series focusing on the NWSI and the Whatcom MRC kelp monitoring work.
- Todd Sandell, PhD., Senior Forage Fish Biologist, Puget Sound Marine Fish Science Unit will be the guest speaker at the June MRC meeting. Todd will provide an overview of the “big 3” forage fish and their importance to the current trends in Pacific herring, and the latest news on Cherry Point herring and their recovery challenges.
- Darcy Bird, Oil Spill Preparedness Planner with Ecology’s Spill Program will be the guest speaker at the August 1 MRC meeting. Darcy will provide an update on the North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan Update.
- The MRC will not be meeting in July due to the July 4 holiday.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

n/a

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Eleanor Hines provided a forage fish bulk sediment survey lesson to a BTC Fisheries and Aquaculture class. The lesson took place just north of where the MRC usually surveys at Little Squalicum beach in Bellingham. The class walked through the protocols on how to obtain the sediment grab from the beach, processed the samples using the blue bowl technique, and assessed presence of eggs in the processed samples. 205 eggs were found. WDFW was notified of the number of eggs found at that specific location.
- There is an extensive amount of garbage that has accumulated on the shoreline of Drayton Harbor between California and Dakota Creek. The garbage includes: construction materials (linoleum floor scraps, shingle scraps, caulking materials, etc.), metals, plastic, tires (that extend into the tidelands), and creosote logs. Much of this trash is on private property. MRC Staff met with DNR staff who will assist with the cleanup and disposal in July/August. MRC staff is developing a right of entry to obtain permission to work on private properties along the shoreline. MRC members and community volunteers will go door-to-door to obtain physical signatures on the right of entry to allow DNR to access properties.

- Dr. Paul Dinnel visited the MRC's Olympia oyster test plots in N. Chuckanut Bay and provided suggestions on the monitoring that should occur over the next couple of years. Dr. Dinnel also reviewed the MRC's draft monitoring plan and provided edits and suggestions.
- 12 BTC students assisted 5 MRC members with a year one (post deployment of seeded cultch) population count at the Olympia oyster test plots. Students collected data on number of spat shell, number of LIVE Olympia oysters, number of dead Olympia oysters, LIVE Olympia oyster size, and any additional observations.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Photos above: Eleanor Hines providing forage fish survey lesson to Bellingham Technical College students. *Photo by: Austin Rose*



Photo left: Site visit to Oly oyster plots in N. Chuckanut Bay with Dr. Paul Dinnel. *Photo by: Austin Rose*



Photo left: BTC students assessing quadrat for Oly oyster presence and size. *Photo by: Austin Rose*



Commission staff highlights – May 2019

Annual Report – the 2018 Northwest Straits Initiative’s Annual Report is complete. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2JT6llm>

MRC Grants – Following the passing of the state budget, which includes \$910,000 for MRCs over the two year biennium, Commission staff conducted conference call meetings with each MRC staff to discuss the upcoming grant proposals. An updated Request for Proposals was sent by Commission staff to MRCs on May 9 based on the new funding. The agreements will be written for a two-year period with a streamlined proposal process next spring for the second year of projects. Commission staff worked with Ecology staff to create and test the online application form, which is now open for proposals and will close on June 7. The 2018-19 grants that are currently underway are in the final quarter for spending current state funds. Commission staff is working with MRC staff to ensure those funds are fully expended. Any questions related to the current or upcoming grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp – Commission staff hosted a webinar on May 6 where volunteer Richard Austin demonstrated the online KoBoToolbox webform to streamline data ingestion for kelp surveys. There are MRC volunteers currently beta testing the system. To watch the demo visit: <https://vimeo.com/user862642/review/334546598/7174906d14>. If you are interested in joining the beta testing team, please contact Dana. Interested MRC members participated in a call on May 15 about motorized boat kelp surveys. This call was to coordinate methods for volunteers to survey linear extent of kelp along their county shorelines to supplement kayak-based perimeter measurements. There is a kelp management workshop scheduled for June 13 in Olympia as part of the Puget Sound kelp conservation and recovery plan effort being led by the NW Straits.

Forage Fish – There is a forage fish spawning survey training scheduled at Padilla Bay for Monday, June 24 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are 16 spaces, with priority given to MRC members or volunteers for MRC sites who have not taken the training. The training is also open to those interested in a refresher. If interested, please contact Dana (oster@nwstraits.org) to sign up.

Strategic planning – Lucas is working with Commission, MRC and Foundation staff to create an operations plan to complete the strategic planning process. The goal is to have the full draft strategic plan ready for review by the Commission in June.

MyCoast – Sasha and Nicole are participating with the Snohomish MRC marketing plan development, which will result in a toolbox for other MRCs to use if interested in promoting MyCoast in their counties. Sasha worked with a community organization in Pacific County to add an outer coast site to one of the app reporting tools. Data collected from that site will be shared with Dept of Ecology as they hope to map changes in the shoreline, the dynamic revetment and sand levels along the revetment over time.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended: Whatcom MRC meeting 5/2, Kids on the beach 5/2, Salish Sea Stewards 5/7, Kids on the Beach Science Symposium 5/10, Digging for Dinner 5/10, PSEMP Forage Fish and Marine Birds Workgroup 5/16



Commission staff highlights – May 2019

- Nicole attended: Kids on the Beach 5/1, Whatcom MRC meeting on 5/2, Digging for Dinner 5/10, MyCoast advisory team 5/15, Salish Sea Stewards graduation 5/21
- Lucas: Puget Sound Day on the Hill in DC 5/13-5/17, presented at Puget Sound Partnership all staff meeting 5/6, attended Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting 5/29.
- Sasha attended: MRC staff meeting 4/29, Action Agenda Tracker Training webinar 5/3, Kids on the Beach 5/2, Kids on the Beach Science Symposium 5/10, MyCoast advisory team 5/15, Salish Sea Stewards graduation 5/21



Northwest Straits Commission Meeting and Work Session Agenda
Skykomish Conf. Room, Snohomish County Campus Room 1F03, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA
June 28, 2019 • 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

10:00 am – 10:10 am	Opening: Approval of May minutes, Alan Clark, Chair Welcome - Cameron Caldwell, Outreach Director for Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell		
	Affiliation	Presenters	Project
10:10 am - 10:30 am	Clallam MRC	Alan Clark	Kelp Monitoring Project
10:30 am – 10:50 am	San Juan MRC	Christina Koons	San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area Plan Update
10:50 am – 11:00 am	Break		
11:00 am – 11:10pm	NOAA Hollings scholar	Maddie Beaudry	Local ecological knowledge of kelp in the San Juan Islands
11:10 am – 11:30 am	Whatcom MRC volunteer	Crystal Schmalz	North Sound Stewards
11:30 am – 11:50 pm	Snohomish MRC	Laura Gurley	Prioritizing Pilings in the Snohomish Estuary
11:50 am – 12:00 pm	Snohomish County Executive	Dave Somers	Special address from Snohomish County Executive to NWS Commission
12:00 pm – 12:40 pm	Working Lunch		
12:40 pm – 1:00 pm	Skagit MRC	Pete Haase	Salish Sea Stewards
1:00 pm – 1:20 pm	Island MRC	Gwendolyn Hannam	Community Engagement Through Creosote Identification
1:20pm-1:35 pm	NWIFC/Tribal	Cecilia Gobin	Tribal update
1:35 pm – 3:00 pm	Other business, Public comment		
3:00pm	Adjourn		

Northwest Straits Commission
Work Session Agenda from 1:40-3:00 PM

Skykomish Conference Room, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA
June 28, 2019 • 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

1:35-2:00 Budget discussion (Lucas)

2:00-2:40 Strategic/Operations Plan (Lucas)

2:40-2:50 Other business

Joint Executive Committee Meeting – update (Elsa)

NWS Foundation – update (Caroline)

2:50-3:00 Public comment



May 31, 2019 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
WebEx – Conference call
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Alan Clark (Clallam-Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island -Vice Chair), Tom Cowan, Christina Koons (San Juan), Phyllis Bravinder (Skagit-alternate), Franchesca Perez (Snohomish), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Ron Thom, Chris Castner, Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership) , Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

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

Others in Attendance: Tanya Roberts (Puget Sound Institute), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate)

Absent: Nan McKay, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson)

Opening and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

The minutes from the April Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved by consensus.

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommended approval of the amount budgeted to MRCs for the 2019-2020 grant cycle in the amount of \$91,000, the Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission approved by consensus. A joint meeting of the NWS Commission and NWS Foundation Executive Committees will be held June 7 in Port Townsend.

- Motion: Ron made a motion to approve \$91,000 to each MRC in the 2019-20 Commission budget, Alan seconded and the NWS Commission agreed by consensus.

External Relations Committee

Tom said the committee met in person on May 24 at Padilla Bay. The committee discussed Lucas and Christina's recent trip to Washington DC for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. They also discussed key areas to focus on over the next year, which included communication strategies.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron said the committee is working on finding a replacement for Hugh Shipman who will be leaving the committee upon his retirement from the Department of Ecology. Science Advisory Committee members will be signing their own Conflict of Interest forms. The vital sign refresh will be implemented in the 2022 Action Agenda.



MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2W7ST9L>

Clallam

Alan said the MRC's marine trades' position changed to a citizen at large position. The MRC held elections and had no leadership changes, but will be assessing recruitment for future leadership roles. Five students from Port Angeles High School and Peninsula College were selected for their summer internship program. Forage fish sampling was conducted at Cline Spit May 7 and at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook May 9.

Island

Elsa said Phill Dionne (WA Department Fish Wildlife) presented at the May 7 MRC meeting on forage fish and smelt fishing practices and regulations. The MRC is wrapping up their classroom-based art contest that accompanied the *Discover Our Island Shores* video by Florian Graner. The MRC is recruiting volunteers to form teams which will be assigned to specific beaches for forage fish monitoring.

Jefferson

Jefferson submitted a written report. The MRC installed their first 2019 rain garden on April 30 in uptown Port Townsend. Their Digging for Dinner event on May 10 was a great success and 38 attendees. On April 22, volunteers and staff spread 112 bags of clean Olympia oyster cultch in the lagoon area of Discovery Bay to provide substrate for oyster larvae.

San Juan

Christina said the MRC took part in the Anacortes Boat Show (May 16-19) to help with boater education efforts as part of Be Whale Wise and also to promote the whale warning flag. Volunteers from Whatcom and Skagit MRCs also helped. The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee continued to meet through April in the lead up to the Talking Trash Community Forum.

Skagit

Phyllis said Fidalgo Bay Resort is reserved for Fidalgo Bay Day on August 24, 2019. The MRC successfully completed the 2019 Kids of the Beach Program: 50 Conway students with 25 volunteers performed research activities at Fidalgo Bay Resort beach on May 1, and on May 2, 50 La Conner students with 25 volunteers performed research activities at the Lone Tree Point.

Snohomish

Franchesca said the MRC is working on the roll out of their [MyCoast](#) marketing effort. A final draft of the MyCoast marketing and communications graphics developed by EnviroIssues Inc. was completed in early May. The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. The MRC will lead another year of crabber education.



Whatcom

Bob said an extensive amount of garbage was found on the shoreline of Drayton Harbor. MRC staff met with Department of Natural Resources staff who will assist with the cleanup and disposal in July/August. Dr. Paul Dinnel visited the MRC's Olympia oyster test plots in North Chuckanut Bay and provided suggestions on the monitoring that should occur over the next couple of years.

Business items

MRC Conference

The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 in Snohomish County at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. The reception and dinner will be held down the street at the Angel of the Winds Arena in downtown Everett. More information will be available here: <http://nwstraits.org/2019-mrc-conference>.

A survey was emailed to NWS Initiative members to gauge interest in topics and solicit additional conference topics.

- Action: Those interested in contributing suggestions for speakers/sessions can contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

Communication ad hoc committee

An ad hoc Communications Committee is needed to provide input on a communication plan and develop some common messaging for the NWS Initiative. Pete Haase and Christina Koons have agreed to co-chair.

- Motion: Alan made a motion to create an ad hoc Communications Committee with Pete and Christina to serve as co-chairs, Tom seconded and the NWS Commission approved by consensus.
- Action: Those interested in joining the Communications Committee should contact Sasha at horst@nwstraits.org.

June presentations

At the June 28 NWS Commission meeting, MRCs will each make a 15-minute presentation on a project in their 2019-20 Commission grant proposal.

- Action: Those with questions should contact Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Strategic and operations plan summary

Lucas plans to have the NWS Initiative Strategic and Operations Plans ready for approval at the June NWS Commission meeting.

Puget Sound Day on the Hill



Lucas is working on follow up from his recent trip to Washington DC for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Lucas encouraged MRCs to continue doing their work and keep telling stories about their projects.

Kelp Workshop update

There is a kelp management workshop scheduled for June 13 in Olympia as part of the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan effort being led by the NWS Commission (funded by NOAA).

- Action: Those with questions on kelp should contact Dana at oster@nwstraits.org.

High density rural housing growth across Puget Sound counties from 2011-2016

Tanya Roberts, Puget Sound Institute, presented on a study regarding housing growth in Puget Sound. The study concluded that smaller counties are expanding outside of urban growth areas at a higher rate—this urban sprawl may have significant ecological impacts. Across all counties, most growth is occurring in urban growth areas. The NWS Commission discussed possible uses for the data in informing decision makers on where urban sprawl may impact conservation efforts in their counties.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)/Tribal update

Cecilia is working with San Juan MRC on scheduling a presentation on the Be Whale Wise flag project to the NWIFC. She is also discussing with Lucas how the NWS Commission and Tribes can continue to collaborate.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Laura said the Orca Task Force will meet June 3 to talk about climate change, how population growth will affect orca recovery and topics for the Partnership's Year Two report. The Partnership is incorporating more than six years of feedback about the Vital Signs and indicators to strengthen them in advance of the 2022 Action Agenda. The Partnership recently underwent several staffing changes through promotions and new hires. Learn more about the changes here:

<https://www.psp.wa.gov/staff.php>.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Lucas updated the group on behalf of the NWS Foundation. Tarrell Kullaway, Director of Philanthropy, is leaving the NWS Foundation—her last day will be June 11. Don is working closely with Lucas on the NWS Initiative Operations Plan.

Round table

There were no announcements for the round table.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next Commission meeting will be on June 28 in Snohomish County.*

Draft NWS Commission budget, October 1, 2019 - September

	2018-19		
	Units (FTE)	NOAA Funding	EPA** Funding
Personnel			
Total personnel (Salary + Benefits)	4.29	\$ 23,792	\$ 357,452
Indirect charges			
Total indirect		\$ 7,066	\$ 106,163
Supplies			
Office supplies, cell phones, and related supplies, Port Townsend office rent, training, MRC conference		\$ 700	\$ 23,200
Total supplies		\$ 700	\$ 23,200
Contractual			
MRCs in Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Whatcom			\$ 298,000
City of Bellingham (SoundIQ)			\$ 4,000
MRC project database			
retreat facilitation			
Total contractual			\$ 245,248
Travel			
Mileage per diem, meeting space, lodging, ferry and other associated travel		\$ 442	\$ 13,400
Total travel		\$ 442	\$ 13,400
TOTAL		\$ 32,000	\$ 800,000

**Matching funds provided by WA State funding, NWS Foundation, local government contributions, volu

number 30, 2021

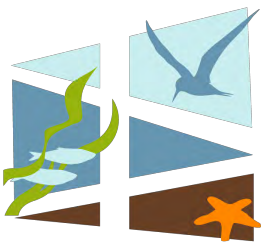
		2019-2020			
State Funding	Total NWSC Budget	Units (FTE)	NOAA Funding	EPA** Funding	State Funding
\$ -	\$ 381,244	4.29	0	\$ 396,564	\$ -
\$ -	\$ 113,229			\$ 117,780	\$ -
\$ -	\$ 23,200		0	\$ 23,200	\$ -
\$ -	\$ 23,900			\$ 23,200	\$ -
\$ 228,000	\$ 526,000		0	\$ 182,000	\$ 455,000
\$ -	\$ 4,000			\$ 1,600	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -			\$ 56,748	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -			\$ 4,900	\$ -
\$ 228,000	\$ 473,248			\$ 245,248	\$ 455,000
	\$ -				
\$ -	\$ 13,842		0	\$ 17,208	\$ -
\$ -	\$ 13,842			\$ 17,208	\$ -
\$ 228,000	\$ 1,028,000		0	\$ 800,000	\$ 455,000

Volunteer hours and in-kind services/contributions.

Total NWSC Budget	2019-2020 Difference	Notes	Units (FTE)
\$ 396,564	\$ 15,320	Slight decrease in Padilla Bay Director's time, cost of living adjustments for all staff, step increases as required, benefits rate increase from 36% to 37.1%	4.29
\$ 117,780	\$ 4,551	Indirect rate stayed the same, charged on salaries+benefits so slight increase based on above.	
\$ 23,200			
\$ 23,200	\$ (700)	Slight adjustment just to balance the numbers.	
\$ 637,000	\$ 111,000	\$91,000/MRC: 21% increase to MRC awards.	
\$ 1,600	\$ (2,400)	Decrease based on actual hours being charged by City of Bellingham annually plus hosting fee.	
\$ 56,748	\$ 56,748	Database creation	
\$ 4,900	\$ 4,900	Not specifically called out in last year's budget, so including to be more clear.	
\$ 700,248			
\$ 17,208			
\$ 17,208	\$ 3,366	Increase based on cost to attend Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (not held in 2019)	
\$ 1,255,000	\$ 192,785	NOAA funding expires 2019	

2020-2021				
NOAA funding	EPA** Funding	State Funding	Total NWSC Budget	2020-2021 Difference
0	\$ 414,976	\$ -	\$ 414,976.42	\$ 18,412
	\$ 123,248		\$ 123,248	\$ 5,468
0	\$ 22,276	\$ -	\$ 20,000	
	\$ 22,276	\$ -	\$ 22,276	\$ (924)
0	\$ 196,000	\$ 455,000	\$ 651,000	\$ 14,000
	\$ 1,600	\$ -	\$ 1,600	
	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ (36,748)
	\$ 4,900	\$ -	\$ 4,900	
	\$ 222,500	\$ 455,000	\$ 677,500	
0	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 17,000	
	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ (208)
0	\$ 800,000	\$ 455,000	\$ 1,255,000	\$ 0

Notes
Cost of living adjustments for all staff, step increases as required. Benefits rate may change.
Estimating indirect rate the same (may change), charged on salaries+benefits so slight increase based on above.
Slight adjustment just to balance the numbers.
\$93,000/MRC: 2% increase to MRC awards.
Reduced from previous year to cover MRC increase and cover increased Commission expenses. Will need additional funds to continue database build-out.
Slight adjustment to balance the numbers.



Northwest Straits Initiative

Five-Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Local people. Local solutions.

Mission: To protect and restore the marine waters, habitats and species of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use.

Vision: We envision a thriving, resilient, and healthy Salish sea, where individuals are engaged in the health of their local ecosystems.

The Northwest Straits (NWS) Initiative carried out a strategic planning process over a one-year period. The plan is made up of insights from Marine Resources Committees (MRCs), NWS Initiative boards, staff, and partners. Six themes were identified. Each theme is supported by goals and objectives that guide us toward desired results. The objectives are broad to accommodate the grass-roots nature of the NWS Initiative. An accompanying operations plan provides details on the outcomes we aim to achieve.

This plan serves as a framework for the creation of MRC, NWS Commission, and NWS Foundation programs, projects and work plans.

Theme: Stewardship

Goal
Forge new paths to advance Northwest Straits recovery and complement the work of regional planning efforts.

- Objectives**
- Contribute to nearshore and marine habitat and species protection and restoration projects.
 - Encourage communities within the Northwest Straits and Salish Sea to be stewards in their public and private activities.
 - Protect and improve water quality.
 - Exhort local decision makers to act on emerging and urgent issues related to the health of the region’s marine waters and habitat.
 - Review, anticipate, and comment promptly on local, and when appropriate, state policy development and revisions as they relate to nearshore and marine protection.
 - Provide learning opportunities to the public in partnership with subject matter experts.

Result
The Initiative inspires action.



Theme: Long-Term Stable Funding

Goal
Provide organizational stability that allows the Initiative to focus more on advancing its mission.



- Objectives**
- Pursue and secure stable funding that supports Initiative goals without compromising the organizational mission.
 - Obtain sustained funding for the Commission in a federal/state/local agency budget.
 - Leverage Commission funding through the Foundation to supplement Initiative funding sources.
 - Increase funding support for MRCs through counties.



Result
The Initiative completes and documents more projects to improve the health and resiliency of the Northwest Straits. More locals are actively engaged in stewardship activities. People are connected and invested to the ecosystem in which they live.

Theme: Structural support to MRCs

Goal
The NWS Initiative strengthens MRC capacity and presence within counties and across the Northwest Straits region and ensures the NWS are protected and restored.

- Objectives**
- Obtain one full-time equivalent staff for each MRC.
 - Add one full-time MRC Liaison to NWS Commission staff.
 - Assist MRCs during project development and with long-term, large-project planning.
 - Sponsor interns at the MRC level to support projects.
 - Emphasize work with county councils and commissions to assure MRCs are recognized as a valuable resource.
 - Support training and community member involvement as project volunteers, build an army of community scientists.
 - Foster strong communications among MRCs for cross-pollination of ideas and resources.

Result
The Initiative achieves conservation gains and impacts at the local level.

Theme: Engagement and Partnerships

Goal
Represent a broad range of interests in the Northwest Straits.



- Objectives**
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with tribes by identifying shared interests and priorities.
 - Develop general tools for outreach that resonate with communities throughout the Northwest Straits and Salish Sea.
 - Engage local, state, and federal elected officials and decision makers.
 - Engage partners that are representative of regional communities to foster collective action, including educational institutions and transboundary partners.

Result
The Initiative serves everyone who inhabits the Northwest Straits.

Theme: Measuring progress

Goal
Quantify Initiative progress to support communications.

- Objectives**
- Create and carry out a project assessment program that applies to every project, every time.
 - Document the Initiative’s influence on and related changes to local and regional policy.
 - Document funding that is leveraged by volunteer activities.

Result
The Initiative measures what matters to provide clarity to communities.

Theme: Messaging

Goal
Clearly distinguish the Initiative from the work of other organizations.

- Objectives**
- Develop clear Initiative-wide messages that promote the vision of the Initiative and articulate the Initiative’s role and progress within the larger recovery system.
 - Carry out Initiative communications.
 - Maintain internal communication to assure streamlined and cohesive messaging.



Result
The Initiative is recognized for its unique contributions to Northwest Straits recovery and sought by other organizations for support and advice within its areas of expertise.

Operations plan review cycle

Timeline

Daily
Weekly
Monthly
Semi-annual
Annual
Seasonal
Opportunistic
as needed

Status

Planning
Implementing
Reviewing
Complete

NWSF/NWSC/MRC/Staff

Name

The 2020 operations plan covers the months January 2019 - March 2020. This aligns with annual reporting, which allows the most timely annual MRC project updates to be integrated under respective objectives of the plan. This plan begins in January 2019 to capture projects that began implementation during development of this operations plan.

Task occurs on a daily basis

Task occurs on a weekly basis

Task occurs on a monthly basis

Task occurs on a semi-annual basis

Task occurs on an annual basis

Task occurs on a seasonal basis

The task is carried out when opportunities present themselves

The task is carried out as needed to support specific projects

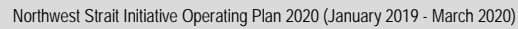
The task is currently being discussed among staff and partners.

The task is actively being pursued.

Task outcomes are being reviewed for effectiveness.

The task has been completed.

Contact person for listed task

[illegible]

2.2a	Evaluate feasibility of obtaining staff position.	annual		Commission staff	MRC Staff	Not Started	Written report outlining feasibility.	
2.3	Assist MRCs during project development and with long-term, large-project planning.							
2.3a	Create a long term large project planning tool or template that includes funding needs, staffing needs etc.	annual	Jason, Lisa	Dana	MRC staff and Members	Implementing	Draft project planning tool developed and submitted to Science Advisory Committee for review.	With support from all MRCs. Dana to lead.
2.4	Sponsor interns at the MRC level to support projects.							
2.4a	Provide funding opportunities to support interns	annual	Foundation	Commission		Implementing	Number of Interns supported through Commission grants and Number of interns supported by Foundation.	
2.4b	Provide supervisory assistance to assure successful internships	annual			Interested MRCs	Implementing	Identify MRC member supervisors.	Doesn't currently fit the Foundation model. MRCs provide leadership to interns
2.5	Emphasize work with county councils and commissions to assure MRCs are recognized as a valuable resource							
2.5a	Educate local leaders on MRC work through presentations	annual			MRC staff and Members	Implementing	Number of presentations given in each county.	Progress tracking should include the target audience.
2.5b	Invite county elected officials to annual conference	annual	Don, board	Lucas, Sasha, Nicole	MRC staff provide recommendations	Implementing	County leader attendees.	
2.5c	Provide time on conference and Commission meeting agendas for electeds to speak.	monthly	board	All staff, Commission		Implementing	Elected attendees. Number of attendees. Number of meetings attended by electeds.	Foundation board actively engaging with selected officials to learn about our mission and work
2.5d	Recruit county elected officials to sit on or attend MRC meetings.	monthly			MRC staff and members	Implementing	County elected officials added to MRCs.	In addition, document county elected officials attending MRC meetings.
2.6	Support training and community member involvement as project volunteers, build an army of community scientists							
2.6a	Provide on-the-ground training opportunities	as needed	Jason	Dana	MRC staff and members	Implementing	Number and type of training opportunities provided.	Examples include HAZWOPER, Forage fish monitoring, forage fish ID, kelp monitoring etc.
2.6b	Recruit non-MRC project volunteers.	as needed	Jason	All staff, Commission	MRC staff and members	Implementing	Number of volunteers and associated projects.	
2.6c	Scope a guidance document for recruiting MRC members	annual		All staff	MRC staff	Not Started	Draft document describing ways in which MRC members can be successfully recruited.	Schedule discussion for all MRC staff meeting.
2.7	Foster strong communications among MRCs for cross-pollination of ideas and resources.							
2.7a	Hold annual NWSI conference	annual	Foundation	Commission	MRC staff and members	Implementing	Annual conference is completed.	
2.7b	Hold lead MRC staff meetings	semi-annual		Nicole	MRC staff	Implementing	Lead staff meetings held.	
2.7c	MRC members present at NWS Commission meetings and Foundation meetings	annual	Don, board		MRC members	Implementing	Projects presented at Commission meetings.	
2.7d	Create an MRC network for communications among volunteers	annual		Sasha	MRC members	Planning	self-supporting systematic approach to organize volunteer communications network is created.	
2.7e	Hold MRC joint meetings	annual			MRC staff and members	Implementing	Number of joint meetings held.	
2.7f	Hold MRC summit	annual	Lisa/Jason/Don	Dana Oster	MRC members	Planning	One summit held for MRC members to present and share project information and ideas	Target date of late January or early February 2020. Need to include Foundation to identify funding needs. Dana to lead.
Result: The Initiative achieves conservation gains and impacts at the local level.								
Theme: Measuring Progress								
Goal 3: Quantify Initiative progress to support communications to funders and maintain volunteer engagement.								
3.1	Create and carryout a project assessment program that applies to every project, every time. <i>2019-2020 priority</i>							
3.1a	Create project final reporting section, form, or excel tracking sheet for each county to identify desired outcomes of projects, if outcomes were reached	annual		Dana Oster		Planning	Reporting form is drafted and MRC input is sought.	With coordination and assistance from Sasha Horst. Outcome of this task will also be provided to the NWS Foundation to consider if it will work for their purposes. Desired outcomes from 3.1c can be used to fill out the form in this task.

	3.1b	Review if a toolkit for simple project assessment methods would be useful for MRCs or project database.	annual		Dana Oster		Implementing	Example toolkit ideas are compiled and reviewed with MRCs and the Science Advisory Committee.	
	3.1c	Revise RFP process to emphasize and encourage MRCs to plan for measurable outcomes and assessing project success/effectiveness	annual		Dana Oster		Reviewing	MRCs include clear, measurable outcomes as part of project planning.	Share with NWS Foundation to build opportunity for uniformity and collaboration among all three parties.
3.2 Document the Initiative's influence on and related changes to local and regional policy.									
	3.2a	Create a "news clipping" repository that documents NWSI impacts.	annual	Kenny	Nicole		Planning	Easily navigated repository created.	
3.3 Document funding that is leveraged by volunteer activities.									
	3.3a	Create a template for reporting non-commission, non-foundation funded projects.	annual	Kenny	Sasha		Planning	Template is completed and reviewed by MRC staff.	Explore existing reporting forms that might serve this purpose as well.
Result: The Initiative measures what matters to provide clarity to communities									
Theme: Engagement and Partnership									
Goal 4: Represent a broad range of interests in the Northwest Straits									
	4.1	Continue to strengthen partnerships with tribes by identifying shared interests and priorities. <i>2019-2020 priority</i>							
	4.1a	Explore reinstatement of Tribal committee	annual		Cecilia		Planning	Written summary of opportunities and challenges.	
	4.1b	Incorporate Tribal perspectives in conference planning.	annual		Sasha		Planning	Conference agenda with list of participating tribes.	
	4.1c	Support Tribal participation in MRCs.	annual			MRC staff and members	Implementing	List of MRC members or advisors representing tribes.	
	4.1d	Maintain regular opportunities for updates to the Commission from Tribes and tribal representatives.	monthly		Commission		Implementing	NWSC agendas and highlights reflect opportunities.	
	4.1e	Seek opportunities to work with Tribes on projects of mutual interest.	annual	Jason	Commission	MRC staff and members	Implementing	List of projects or programs done in collaboration with tribes.	
4.2 Develop general tools for outreach that resonate with communities throughout the Northwest Straits and Salish Sea.									
	4.2a	MRCs conduct outreach to their local communities.	annual			MRC staff and members	Implementing	Summarize successful approaches from MRC projects and the audience reached.	
4.3 Engage local, state, and federal elected officials/ decision makers.									
	4.3a	Provide conference invitations.	annual	Staff, board	Staff, Commission		Planning	List of invited attendees.	
	4.3b	Recruit from objective 4.3 sources for subcommittees and projects	annual		Staff, Commission	MRC staff and members	Implementing	List of participants.	
	4.3c	Arrange field trips.	annual	Staff, board	Staff	MRC staff and members	Implementing	List of field trips. Number of participants.	Example: NWS Foundation crab pot removals may have participants.
	4.3d	Provide invitations to participate in field monitoring.	annual	Staff, board		MRC staff andmembers	Implementing	List of participants.	
4.4 Engage partners that are representative of regional communities to foster collective action including educational institutions and transboundary partners.									
	4.4a	Invite partners to present at Commission and MRC meetings	monthly		Staff, Commission		Implementing	List of presentations given.	
	4.4b	Create a reference list outlining partnerships	annual	Staff, board	Nicole		Planning	Reference document completed.	
	4.4c	Explore partnerships with Salish Sea Institute and UW programs.	annual	Staff, board	Staff	MRC staff and members	Implementing	Description of partnerships.	
	4.4d	Recruit representatives from a variety of interests to fill MRC seats.	annual			MRC staff and members	Implementing	MRCs have balanced representation from various sectors of the community	This will depend upon available seats on each MRC.
Result: The Initiative serves everyone who inhabits the NW Straits									
Theme: Messaging									
Goal 5: Clearly distinguish the Initiative from the work of other organizations.									
	5.1	Develop clear Initiative-wide messages that promote the vision of the Initiative and articulate the Initiative's role and progress within the larger recovery system. <i>2019-2020 priority</i>							

5.1a	Form a subcommittee to create common messaging.	annual	Kenny	Sasha		Implementing	Subcommittee formed.	Kenny is listed in this goal to acknowledge the Foundation's participation in external marketing and communications. All MRCs will be approached to be a part of subcommittee. Committee will help identify where help is needed, for example: is a marketing firm needed?
5.1b	Create a toolkit for all Initiative partners to use.	annual		Sasha		Implementing	Copies of materials and tracking summary of use.	
5.2	Maintain internal communication to assure streamlined and cohesive messaging.							
5.2a	Complete a NWSI communications plan	annual	Kenny	Sasha		Implementing	Copy of communications plan.	Input will be solicited from MRCs on draft plan.
5.2b	Coordinate regular meetings of communications staff.	monthly	Kenny	Nicole		Planning	Maintain notes and action items.	
5.2c	Plan and implement MRC conference	annual		Staff		Implementing	Post conference evaluation.	
5.3	Carry out Initiative communications							
5.3a	Promote the Initiative through social media, website and regular newsletters.	weekly	Kenny	Nicole, Sasha		Implementing	Analytics tracking and audience growth.	
5.3b	Utilize messaging tools in education and outreach.	weekly	Kenny	Staff	MRC staff and members	Implementing	Compile messaging resources.	
5.3c	Complete NWSI annual report	annual		Sasha		Planning	Creation of annual report.	
Result: The initiative is recognized for its unique contributions to NW Straits recovery and sought by other organizations for support and advice within its areas of expertise								
Theme: Long-Term Stable Funding								
Goal 6: Provide organizational stability that allows the Initiative to focus more on advancing its mission.								
6.1	Pursue and secure stable funding that supports Initiative goals without compromising the organizational mission.							
6.1a	Research cooperative opportunities/ cost share agreements with agencies	annual	Don	Lucas		Planning	Summary of opportunities.	Goal is to determine feasibility, opportunities and benefits.
6.1b	Increase Opportunity fund	annual	Tarrell, Board			Implementing	Adequate funding available.	Explore how opportunity fund can be used to support MRC staff capacity to plan and implement opportunity fund projects.
6.1c	Seek Commission funding in statute	annual		Lucas, External Relations Committee		Implementing	Summary of strategies pursued.	
6.2	Obtain sustained funding for the Commission in a federal/state/local agency budget.							
6.2a	Research agency programs that align with NWSC mission.	annual	Don	Lucas, External Relations Committee		Planning	Summary of programs pursued.	
6.3	Leverage Commission funding through the Foundation to supplement Initiative funding sources.							
6.3a	Engage donors	weekly	Tarrell, Board			Implementing	Annual growth of donor database and support.	
6.3b	Apply for grants	opportunistic	Don, Tarrell, Staff	All staff		Implementing	Annual revenue goals reached.	Commission staff may apply for grants when opportunities arise.
6.3c	Create planned giving plan	annual	Tarrell Kullaway			Implementing	Annual revenue goals reached.	
6.4	Increase funding support for MRCs through counties.							
6.4a	Identify county agency/ department staff champions	annual		Commission staff	MRC staff and members	Planning	List of champions in each county.	Where does the MRC sit within each county structure, what department? And who in that department is the person that could include the MRC in a county budget as a line item or advocate for specific project funding? Example: Snohomish gets project funding from the County Stormwater Utility by writing funding into stormwater Strategic Initiative. Discussions should include what MRC services are most important to each County and whether indirect services or general staff support can be provided. It's more than just the money!
6.4b	Identify county budget timelines and due dates	annual		Commission staff	MRC staff	Planning	Create file of county budget timelines	
Result: The Initiative completes and documents more projects to improve the health and resiliency of the NWS. More locals are actively engaged in stewardship activities. People are connected and invested to the ecosystem in which they live.								



Commission staff highlights – June 2019

MRC Grants – The 2018-19 awards to MRCs are now complete through the third quarter, and any state funding from the 2017-19 biennium must be expended and invoiced in the April-June payment requests. Commission staff will work with MRC staff to ensure those payment requests fully expend state funds. MRC proposals for the 2019-21 award period have all been submitted by MRC staff and are now being reviewed by Commission staff and the Science Advisory Committee. Responses to MRCs and any requests for additional information or revisions will be sent to MRCs by early July to allow time for modifications. Any questions related to the current or upcoming grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp – There was a kelp management workshop June 13 in Olympia as part of the Puget Sound kelp conservation and recovery plan effort being led by the NW Straits. 35 participants attended representing state, federal, and tribal entities to discuss the current management framework for kelp, critical research needs to improve kelp protections and policy opportunities.

Forage Fish – There was a forage fish spawning survey training scheduled at Padilla Bay for Monday, June 24.

Strategic planning – The strategic plan and operations plan have been vetted by the Executive Committee and will be discussed at the June Commission meeting.

MRC Conference – The first meeting of the conference planning committee was held on June 21. The committee reviewed the results of the pre-conference survey to identify areas of interest for sessions and presentations. Staff prepared save the date cards and sent or handed them off to a representative from each MRC for distribution to MRC members in each county.

MyCoast – Sasha worked with the developer to resolve a few issues around display of photos on the website and app. An update on the marketing plan now underway will be included in the report from Snohomish MRC.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended: Whatcom MRC 6/6, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council on 6/12, Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Workshop 6/13, Skagit MRC 20th anniversary celebration 6/18
- Nicole attended: Whatcom MRC 6/6
- Lucas presented to the Dept. of Ecology Coastal Zone Management Team on 6/10, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council on 6/12 and WDFW Commission on 6/15. Lucas attended the Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting on 6/29 and attended the NWS Foundation Board meeting on 6/27.
- Sasha attended: Salish Sea Stewards workshop 6/13, Skagit MRC 20th anniversary celebration 6/18

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: June, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open. In May the Marine Trade position was changed to an At-Large position.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC held their monthly meeting June 17th. At the meeting Whitney Fleming, Oregon State University presented on the project titled "Integrating Human Health and Wellbeing with Ecosystem Services". Her presentation also included Strait Action Area – specific results from their initial survey of local residents. Other topics at the meetings included the 2019 Internship Program – introduction of the interns, the presentation to be given to the NWSC June 28th, the 2019 Opportunity Fund, the 2019 Fellowship, NWSC Updates, and project updates.

Participation in other meetings: None

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): At the MRC meeting Jeff Ward informed the members that Clallam MRC has withdrawn its video fellowship application for this year and hope to resubmit it in 2020. The reason for the withdraw is that as the high school year is ending soon the Clallam MRC will not be able to contact and select the video intern for the fellowship. Jeff has written an email to Don Hunger and expects to hear back once Don is back from vacation. Jeff received better news from Caroline Gibson about the MRC Opportunity Fund. The Clallam MRC application has been reviewed and ranked high for funding. Caroline just needs some clarification on the details, to ensure that there are no overlaps with the tasks being carried out under the NWSC funding.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Internship Program: The five selected applicants have accepted the positions and the first joint meeting will be held June 25th. Two of the interns have already started working on the crabber outreach project (funded by NWSF). One intern participated in the crab pot removal in Dungeness Bay June 10th and both interns helped out with the crabber outreach workshop June 20th in Port Angeles.

Forage Fish sampling will be conducted at Cline Spit June 21st and at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook June 24th.

Shellfish Biotoxin: The Bob Vreeland and Coleman continued the sampling every other week in June.

Crabbing 101 Workshops: The first crabber outreach workshop held June 10th at the John Wayne Marina was well received by the 52 attending recreational crabbers. Jeff provided a brief introduction to the derelict pot removal effort and crabber outreach program. Then Rich Childers, WDFW, and Liz Tobin, shellfish biologist at Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, co-presented about State and tribal regulations including size limits, females. Finally Dave Croonquist and Bob Keck, members of the Puget Sound Anglers Society and seasoned crabbers, talked about the tricks of the trade while showing crab pots, bait, rope and many more items. A similar workshop was held June 20th between 6 – 8 pm at Port Angeles Library. A total of 30 people participated in the workshop. Don Hatler presented as the seasoned crabber instead of Dave and Bob.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None

Photos: Attached are a couple of photos from the first workshop.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: June 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Hannah Liss and Scott Chase were approved as new MRC members.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- June 4 MRC meeting: Business items, including Opportunity Fund and project updates.
- Twelve MRC members, volunteers, and staff attended the WDFW forage fish training hosted by the NWSC.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- July 2 MRC meeting: Presentation on 2018 eelgrass survey, discussion of opportunities for membership engagement
- July 6: Crabber outreach at Coupeville and Camano boat launches

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: Twelve MRC members, volunteers, and staff attended the WDFW forage fish training. The new volunteers are energized and excited to get onto the beach. Volunteers will be grouped in teams of 2-3 and assigned to specific beaches. We are focusing on restoration sites (pre and/or post monitoring): Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta, as well as the Camano index site Maple Grove.

Eelgrass: Volunteers completed the underwater videography at Cornet Bay on June 21. Gregg Ridder will be presenting on the 2018 eelgrass data at the July 2 MRC meeting.

Bull Kelp: Volunteers are monitoring three sites: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point. Electronic temperature loggers are being tested to improve accuracy and extent of temperature measurements. Linda Rhodes will be participating in a kelp kayak survey with the Skagit MRC and Representative Rick Larsen.

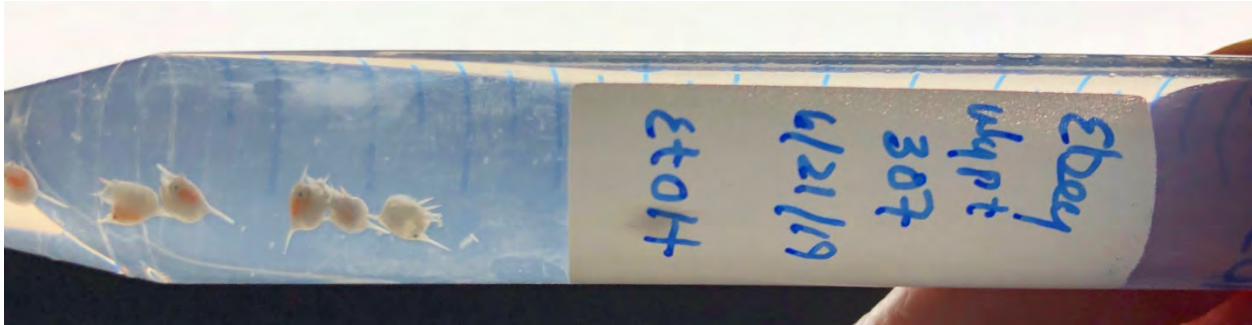
Outreach:

- Art contest: Winners of the "Discover Our Island Shores" art contest received certificates and a copy of the book "Explore the Salish Sea." The winning entries will be displayed in the Island County Commissioners' office in Coupeville.
- Crabber outreach: We are planning to conduct crabber outreach at the Captain Coupe boat launch in Coupeville and at one or more boat launches on Camano. We will also provide informational cards to hardware stores where fishing licenses are sold.

- Movie screenings: We have scheduled screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” at two Sno-Isle Libraries: September 14 at the Coupeville Library and September 28 at the Oak Harbor Library.
- Forums: We are planning a forum on Whidbey and Camano in September focused on sea level rise.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Crab zoea (larval stage of its life cycle) found in the Ebey's Landing last week! Credit: Linda Rhodes



MRC volunteers participate in forage fish training. Credit: Anna Toledo

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: June 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- Al Bergstein has resigned.
- Anna Bachmann will leave at the end of June (start a new job in Seattle next month)

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- June 4, MRC monthly meeting (19 members/staff & 3 guests). Presentation by Brad Stone and Michael Dawson about Jefferson County Environmental Health Dept progress on their water quality monitoring efforts in the Strait Priority Project Area (including Discovery Bay). Also discussed upcoming Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum and including shoreline landowner concerns in the program and other MRC project updates.
- June 6 - Chumsortium meeting. Cheryl represented the MRC.
- June 17 Exec Committee – Gordon, Emily, Jeff, Sarah & Cheryl attending
- (No one will be attending the June NWSC meeting due to a scheduling conflict).

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- June 23 – The first Crabbing 101 will be held in Port Townsend. 33 people are registered as of June 21. Jackie Gardner has done a great job organizing the program. NWS Commission funded MRC staff to assist with PR and logistics for this NWSI effort. NWS Foundation helped produce flyers and additional promotion.
- June 26 – A second, duplicate Crabbing 101 program will be held in Port Hadlock to reach south county residents. 18 people are currently registered.
- June 28 - Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum.
- July 2nd meeting is cancelled. Next meeting is in August.
- Aug 1-2 – Olympia oyster monitoring in Quilcene and Discovery Bays

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*

NWSF has confirmed award of an Opportunity Fund grant to Jefferson MRC to support engaging Master Gardeners and local landscapers in our collaborative rain garden work.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring: a) **Fort Townsend:** no new info.
b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** no new info.

c) **Kelp:** Team did a pre-monitoring test run in early June. Full monitoring will start in late June or July.

2. **Rain Gardens:** nothing new to report.
3. **Education & Outreach:** Planning for Crabber outreach (2 programs, inserts in crab pots and presence at local boat ramps) continues. Two Crabbing 101 classes scheduled for late June in Jefferson County (and coordination with Clallam MRC for 2 more there). PR effort in June included press releases, on-line newsletter notices, rack cards at retail outlets and inserts in crab pots. As part of NWSF grant, elected officials and local reporters were invited to observe derelict gear removal operations in Port Townsend Bay in May. No officials, but we did get a great story in the Port Townsend Leader.

Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum planning continues. Should be interesting. Agenda finalized and last-minute logistics coordination underway. As of June 21, we have 65 registrants. See website for final agenda. Kudos to the MRC planning team, who have been fabulous: Jackie Gardner, Neil Harrington, Frank Handler, Jeff Taylor and Sarah Fiskien.

4. **Olympia Oyster:** Annual monitoring for both Quilcene and Discovery Bay sites is scheduled for early August. Work continues on renewing our agency permits for another 5 years of monitoring in the Discovery Bay project area.
5. **Voluntary No Anchor Zones:** Port Townsend eelgrass summer buoys went in without a hitch. Our well-coordinated team installed the 11 summer buoys in 3 hours on Sat. June 1, 2019. Special thanks to Troy McKelvey, Gordon King, Dale Moses and Steve Tucker for all their work and to the Port for donating a boat and boat cleaning services.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects):
see next page.

Derelict Crab Pot removal from Port Townsend Bay in late May

Reporter Lily Haight learning about derelict crab pots for PT Leader article. Photo by Cheryl Lowe:



One of crab pot retrievals with 13 live crab still trapped.



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: June 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Two new members were confirmed by Council on June 4th. These were Cathleen Burns and Kailey Genther, both San Juan Island residents.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The monthly MRC meeting took place on June 6th and included a presentation on the NWSF derelict gear removal project that is set to occur in San Juan County during July with collaboration from the Army's 569th Engineer Dive Detachment from Ft. Eustis, Virginia.
- MRC Vice-Chair, Christina Koons attended the NWSC webex meeting on May 31st.
- The MRC is hosting screenings of the new Patagonia documentary Artfishal on Orcas, Lopez, and San Juan Island during the last week of June as part of Orca Action Month.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC submitted their application for the next biennium.

The MRC NWSF Opportunity Fund grants for both the Innovation Fund and the Internship were both successful.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW Recovery:

Boater Education & Whale Warning Flag: The MRC has continued to participate in education and outreach surrounding best boating practices in the vicinity of whales. Dockside outreach efforts began in early June on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan with MRC members leading these efforts. The remaining flags purchased with a grant from the NWSF in 2018 are being distributed during these efforts. The MRC continues to look for volunteers to assist with these efforts. The MRC continues to engage with the core Be Whale Wise team members as efforts progress to update the current education material with new regulations and guidelines (both for WA waters and BC waters). Additional flags bought by the County have been made available for purchase, in addition we are still hoping to present the flag program to the NW Indian Fisheries Commission.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

The Plastic Free Salish Sea subcommittee met in mid-May and determined the key activities required to help the effort grow over the next year. These ideas were subsequently built into the 2019-2021 MRC grant application.

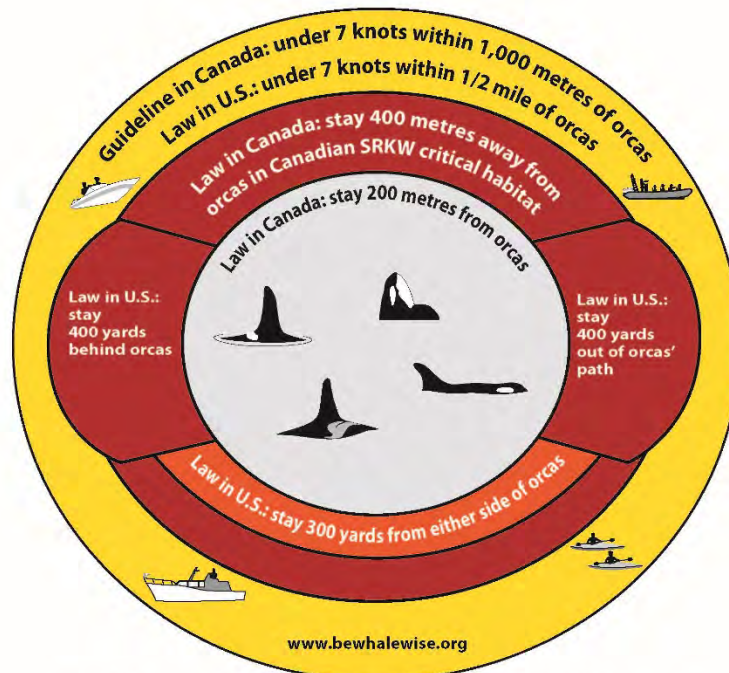
Marine Stewardship Area Plan Review:

The subcommittee continues to work through an initial review of the MSA plan that will allow them, and the MRC as a whole to work on a wider scope of work to establish what needs to be revised and how

that revision shall be performed, including what resources might be necessary to perform revisions identified in the review. Once the initial review is complete the subcommittee participants will come together to determine the next steps in this review.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

The MRC web page and facebook page continue to undergo updates.



100 metres/yards no approach zone for all other marine mammals in US & Canada;
and keeping 200 metres away from whales, dolphins or porpoises if they are resting or with their calf.

Figure 1. The updated Be Whale Wise graphic.

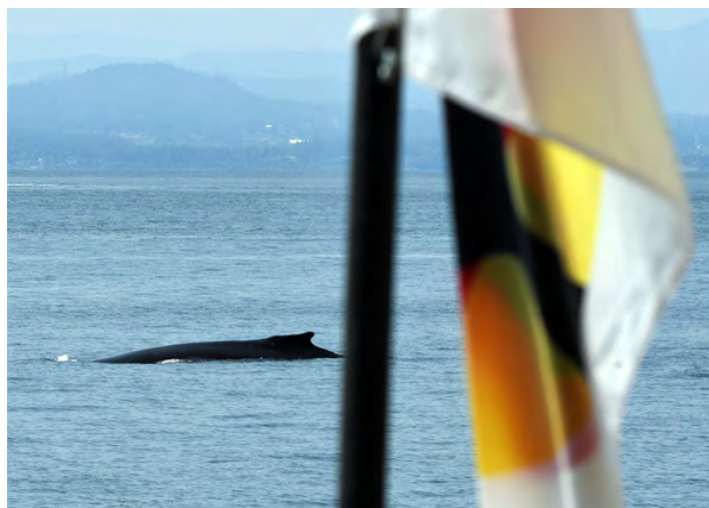


Figure 2. Image of a humpback whale surfacing off Lime Kiln Point State Park with the whale warning flag in the foreground.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: June /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Nate Biletnikoff recently resigned his seat on the MRC as the representative for Shell Puget Sound Refinery. Lynne Jordan also recently resigned her seat on the MRC as the representative of the Skagit Land Trust. Kari Odden, Lynne's Alternate on the MRC, will temporarily take Lynne's place until she can find a new replacement to represent the Skagit Land Trust.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- **MRC Meeting Highlights- June 18:** This was a very short meeting because it was held just before the MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration. The only items on the agenda were project updates and the Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation reports. There were no guest speakers.
- **Skagit MRC's 20th Anniversary Celebration – June 18th:** Over 30 people attended! The event was well received by the County Commissioners. Sarah Tchang, MRC Chair, gave a brief overview of the MRC and introduced the other speakers including: Michael See (*Natural Resources Division Manager, Skagit County Public Works*); Terry Stevens (*Former Director, Padilla Bay NERR*); Nan McKay (*Gubernatorial Appointee to NWSC*); State Senator Liz Lovelett (*Former MRC member*); Jack Hartt (*Former Park Manager, Deception Pass State Park*); Ron Haywood (*Science Teacher, Conway School*); Susan George (*Salish Sea Stewards Volunteer*); and Diane Hennebert (*Stormwater Manager with the City of Anacortes and newest member of the Skagit MRC*). The Commissioners signed a proclamation in recognition of Skagit MRC's 20 year anniversary, followed by a reception in the lobby with cake, the MRC display and photo slideshow on the big screen.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

Skagit MRC's proposal to the NWSF's MRC Opportunity Fund-Boeing Stormwater Category was recently approved for full funding.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** The event will be held August 24, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. Some of the supplies have been ordered. We've been promoting the event for several months now. The local papers will be contacted soon. The Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee is currently considering the possibility of funding a portion of their AmeriCorps staff person's time to help plan and coordinate Fidalgo Bay Day next year.
- **Forage Fish Surveys:** Surveys continue at our restoration sites and index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel, and Samish Island).
- **Kids on the Beach Project:** The program is now complete. The program details and recommendations will be compiled into a final report that will be used to help expand the program to other schools next year. Pete along with at least twelve other volunteers worked with Island View Elementary School to conduct a forage fish survey at Fidalgo Bay on June 13. A ton of eggs were

found on the beach! It was the school's third year participating in forage fish surveys at Fidalgo Bay. Todd Woodard talked to the school group about the Samish Tribe and Fidalgo Bay which was totally unplanned and a wonderful treat for the kids.

- Bowman Bay Restoration: Monthly plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group started May 17 and will continue each month through September 20. The next one is scheduled for June 21. Monthly beach seining and forage fish surveys continue.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Field work is now complete for the season. The results will be compiled into a final report that will be finalized in September. We are still looking for evidence of successful natural spawning in the wild. Pinto abalone were recently listed as Endangered in Washington State. The state legislature set aside some funding to help support the pinto abalone recovery effort. A fundraising event for abalone was held on Bainbridge Island.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Sampling season is now in full swing again. Field activities have been reduced this year. Cultch bags were retrieved from 20 different locations around Fidalgo Bay to get an index of oyster settlement quantity and distribution. So far the results indicated a relatively low recruitment of oysters last year. Results also show that oysters are still not making it over to the west side of Fidalgo Bay. This is likely due to the north-south flow of water in Fidalgo Bay and not much mixing so the currents tend to keep the larvae being spawned on the east side of Fidalgo Bay. It is anticipated that the oyster shell and seed oysters distributed in Weaverling Spit on the western side of Fidalgo Bay last year will start spawning this summer. Paul helped Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) place oyster shell string samplers in Fidalgo Bay and Padilla Bay, and all over Puget Sound to get a good index of oyster larval settlement at the different locations. Paul also worked with PSRF and WDFW to distribute tile plates for oyster larvae settlement. The plates are collected at two week intervals. Paul will be working with Jude at Padilla Bay NERR to look for potential oyster restoration sites at the south end of Padilla Bay.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Our lead kelp monitoring volunteers will be conducting a short paddle and protocol review at the Shannon Point kelp site on June 27. The plan is to meet at Sunset Beach in Washington Park, Anacortes at 9:00am. A kelp monitoring planning meeting will be held July 1 from 3-4:30pm in the Padilla Bay upper conference room. Surveys will start up again in July. Some of our volunteers will be taking Congressman Rick Larsen out on a kelp survey at Shannon Point on June 30th. They will be launching out of Washington Park.
- Salish Sea Stewards: A Volunteer Needs Assessment Survey went out to all of the volunteers through Survey Monkey. We received 38 responses to the survey (about a 20% response rate). Preliminary results indicated that volunteers were not really interested in helping with the administrative tasks of the Salish Sea Stewards program. The Salish Sea Stewards Planning Workshop was held June 13 at Padilla Bay from 9am to 4pm. Around 30 people attended. A lot of good ideas were discussed. Joan will compile the results of the survey and the workshop into a report for the MRC. The Friends of Skagit Beaches hosted a volunteer appreciation picnic on June 4 at Bowman Bay.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc)

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Island View Elementary School Forage Fish Survey at Fidalgo Bay - June 13 2019
Photo Credit: Pete Haase



MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: June 2019

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Pozarycki and Paul Clampitt attending the May 29 meeting of the Snohomish Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization. Paul provided input on prioritization of projects for consideration for the 2019-2020 \$100,000 provided to the LIO.

Elisa Dawson met with Dana Oster and the new NOAA Hollings Scholar, Maddie Beaudry on June 5th in Mukilteo to discuss historical kelp trends in Snohomish County, and the 2019 kelp monitoring season.

Elisa Dawson took the monthly forage fish index sample on June 13th at Howarth Park. The sample was processed using the blue vortex method and will be delivered to WDFW.

The MRC had their monthly meeting on June 19th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Debbie Hopkins, Traci Sanderson, Sarah Brown, Craig Wollam, Mike Ehlebracht, Franchesca Perez, Paul Clampitt, Susan Tarpley, Cathy Stanley, and Bob Hillmann were all in attendance. The MRC had a presentation from Snohomish Parks Engineer, Logan Daniels, on the current status of the Meadowdale Beach Restoration Project. Additionally the MRC discussed the Edmonds Waterfront Connector overturn by the City of Edmonds, the MyCoast Marketing Plan and materials, recognition of the two funded MRC opportunity Fund grants, and a decision to let the LIO know that the MRC NTAs are not scalable. The meeting ended with updates from the subcommittees as well as general announcements.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

\$3.5M Grant Awarded to Snohomish County for Meadowdale Beach County Park – The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) program at the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) today announced an award to Snohomish County of a \$3.5M grant for construction of a new railroad bridge at Meadowdale Beach County Park (6026 156th SW, Edmonds, WA 98026). The new bridge will address multiple issues associated with the narrow culvert under the embankment that have impacted the park for nearly two decades. The bridge will improve beach access while also enabling restoration of a historic estuary in the same location. The estuary will provide critical rearing habitat for threatened Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed juvenile Chinook and other salmonids.

Two Opportunity Fund grants from the Northwest Straits Foundation were approved for funding. The Forage Fish MRC Opportunity Fund Grant Application has been approved for \$10,000. The MRC Opportunity Fund – Boeing Stormwater grant application has been funded at \$25,000.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: The MRC is working on analyzing nearshore restoration project data from before and after the restoration. Progress has been made on creating a simpler excel spreadsheet for data entry for the sediment grain size analysis which will help us streamline data entry.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Elisa Dawson has been assisting the University of Washington team conducting field work for the ESRP Grant on June 13, 14, and 18-20th as part of the annual monitoring work.

Nereididae found on the Everett shoreline:



MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The A/B testing phase is complete and the team is moving forward to print the rack card, site signs, and posters for distribution this summer. The most productive in-app ad placements were Tides Near Me (iOS & Android), Tide Charts (iOS & Android), and Best Weather App (Android). A total of 15 app downloads and 13 reports since our campaign began. We're not concerned about this smaller initial splash because we have ample time and budget to make up for it with the next digital ad run. These numbers reflect our underspending, which totals \$348.31 at this time. The next goal is to have everything distributed by the last week of June in time for the July 4th holiday. 15 land-based locations have agreed to host the rack cards, with another 11 as strong maybes. Our team will begin placing ads in the last week of June in the print/online publications listed in our marketing plan and will have the partner toolkit ready by then as well with information and ad/materials files.

Crabber Education: The Snohomish MRC is coordinating crabber education supplies with WSU Extension Snohomish County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The team has requested 1200 educational packets and gauges. The MRC will lead crabber education at the 10th street boat launch and the Edmonds pier July 4th and 6th. WSU Extension will lead crabber education at Kayak Point Boat Launch and Pier for 2019.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and Traci Sanderson have finalized the kelp monitoring plan for 2019. The team plans to survey Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds in July and August. July dates are scheduled for July 1-3, and August dates are scheduled for August 1-3. Hat Island will be done by motor boat once in August, which is planned for August 12 or back up days August 13 or 14.

Discover the Salish Sea Film: Over the last several months, about 40 DVDs of the Discover the Salish Sea Film and curriculum have been distributed to Snohomish County K-5 Schools. Initial response has been fantastic and one classroom did a stop-motion video project inspired by the film that can be viewed here: <http://mrsdevora18-19.weebly.com/salish-sea-project.html>

Upcoming Events:

Crabber Education Training hosted by WSU Snohomish County Saturday June 22nd.

Forage Fish spawning training June 24th at Padilla Bay.

Northwest Straits Commission meeting at the Snohomish County campus, June 28th.

Next MRC Meeting is July 17th at 6:30PM at the Snohomish County Offices. 3000 Rockefeller Ave. Everett WA 98201. Admin East building in room 6A02.



MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: June 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- On May 30, MRC Chair Eleanor Hines, and Dana Oster provided a presentation as part of the WWU – Huxley Speaker Series focusing on the NWSI and the Whatcom MRC kelp monitoring work. 14 people signed up to receive information from the MRC.
- Todd Sandell, PhD., Senior Forage Fish Biologist, Puget Sound Marine Fish Science Unit was the guest speaker at the June MRC meeting. Todd provided an overview of the “big 3” forage fish and their importance to the current trends in Pacific herring, and the latest news on Cherry Point herring and their recovery challenges.
- Darcy Bird, Oil Spill Preparedness Planner with Ecology’s Spill Program will be the guest speaker at the August 1 MRC meeting. Darcy will provide an update on the North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan Update.
- The MRC will not be meeting in July due to the July 4 holiday.
- On June 15, the MRC participated in What’s the Point at the Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve. This was a free family friendly event of beach discovery and learning sponsored by the Whatcom Land Trust and the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee. Approx. 200 people participated in the event. The MRC has a good level of activity at their booth and shared information about MRC projects.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC was awarded \$6099.00 from the Northwest Straits Foundation Opportunity Fund to conduct remote beach clean ups on Lummi Island and Sucia Island (which will occur in partnership with the Northwest Straits Surfrider Foundation and the San Juan MRC). The MRC will be partnering with the Lummi Island Heritage Trust to conduct a beach cleanup on the SW portion of Lummi Island including Lummi Rocks. Volunteers will reach the island via charter boat.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- On May 20th at Birch Bay State Park, two MRC members assisted MRC intern Amy Keiper for her Blaine “Kids on the Beach” project sponsored by the MRC, Blaine Elementary school (BES), Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum (GSSC), Friends of Birch Bay State Park (FOBBSP), and other generous community volunteers. Students conducted a forage fish survey, clam survey, and intertidal organism survey. Students learned about the watershed and microscopic wildlife of the intertidal zone.

- The Boulevard Park intertidal survey was conducted on June 3-4.
- The Whatcom Watershed Information Network hosted an Education and Outreach Coordination meeting on June 13. 20 organizations participated (including the MRC). The purpose of the meeting was to bring everyone together that is involved with water resources or ecosystem outreach, engagement, and public information to share what they are working on and trouble shoot challenging outreach topics. This was also an opportunity to update the 2018 Outreach Directory – which is a resource for organizations, schools, etc. to use to find information on what different education and outreach efforts organizations are taking on.
- BP is hoping to partner with the MRC to conduct beach clean ups from Pt. Whitehorn to Neptune Beach with help from Alcoa/Intalco, Petrogas, and Philips 66. BP will supply the cleanup equipment (gloves, buckets, bags, grabbers, etc.) and is taking the lead on figuring out how to dispose of the garbage. The cleanup is tentatively planned for Friday, Aug 2.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Photo left: Volunteers assisting with the Boulevard Park intertidal survey. Photo credit: Austin Rose



Photo above: Eleanor Hines and Dana Oster presenting at WWU- Huxley College Speaker Series. Photo credit: Nicole Jordan



Photo left: Alex speaking with students at Blaine "Kids on the Beach" event. Photo credit: unknown



Photo left: WWIN Outreach Network Event Photo credit: Austin Rose



Executive Committee Meeting
June 3, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference call

Committee Members: Alan Clark, Ron Thom, Tom Cowan, Elsa Schwartz

Commission Staff/Support: Nicole Jordan, Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst

Absent: Jude Apple (ex-officio)

Role of the Executive Committee

The group reviewed the purpose of the committee which is to provide support and guidance for the staff and to make recommendations to the NWS Commission.

- Action: Lucas will review the language in the handbook and bring any potential changes to the next Executive Committee call.

Budget review

The committee reviewed a budget comparison provided by staff which identified line item changes between the current year budget and the proposed 2019-20 and 2020-21 budgets.

- Action: the committee will recommend approval of the budget as proposed at the June NWS Commission meeting.

Proposed use of NWSC additional capacity funds

The committee discussed a staff proposal to use 2019-20 funds to support the development of a Northwest Straits Initiative project database. The committee supported recommending the proposal and suggested exploring the pros and cons of contracting for the work vs. hiring temporary staff.

- Action: Staff will consider hiring options for the work (contracting versus staffing) and research anticipated costs of database development.

NWSC procedure on providing comments on legislation

The committee agreed that the full NWS Commission should be consulted when providing comments on legislation. The committee recommended editing the draft procedure to include Commission approval. An email or telephone option can also be outlined for time sensitive situations.

- Action: Lucas will revise the language changes and bring it to the committee for review.

NWSI strategic and operations plan

The committee reviewed the draft strategic and operation plans. Progress check-ins will be part of the implementation process of the plans. A quarterly Commission check in was suggested. The retreat and Joint Executive Committee meetings were also identified as possible occasions for regular check-ins.

- Action: Lucas will bring the plans to the June NWS Commission meeting for discussion and approval after further discussion at the June 7th Joint Executive Committee meeting.

MRC Conference planning update

Sasha said the MRC Conference Planning Committee is now formed and the first meeting will be held after the survey results are in from the survey sent to all MRC, Commission and Foundation board members. Sasha will continue to provide updates.



Puget Sound Day on the Hill recap

Lucas reported that he and Christina Koons met with the Washington State delegation in Washington DC. Meetings were held to describe the NWS Initiative and example projects. Overall, everyone expressed interest and support.

The next Executive Committee will be July 1 at 11:00 AM



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: July 26, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

[To join the WebEx meeting, click here.](#) Enter your name and email address and click “Join.”
 For audio conference, dial: +1-415-655-0001 or +1-855-929-3239 access code: 802 161 908

10:00-10:10	Welcome and introductions Approval of June minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:10-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	Elsa Schwartz Tom Cowan Ron Thom
10:20-11:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
11:00-11:20	Business items Kelp update (Dana) Olympia oyster call (Dana) Hollings Scholar update (Dana) SoundIQ (Nicole) Governor Inslee visit (Lucas) MRC Conference update (Nicole, Sasha) SSEC (Lucas, Nicole)	Staff
11:20-11:30	MRC grant proposals—review and approval	All
11:30-11:35	NWS Foundation update	NWS Foundation
11:35-11:40	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
11:40-11:45	NWIFC/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
11:45-11:55	Round table	All
11:55-12:00	Public comment	All



June 28, 2018 • 10:00am-3:00pm
Snohomish County Campus Room 1F03, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett, WA
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Alan Clark (Clallam, Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island, Vice-Chair), Ron Thom, Christina Koons (San Juan), Pete Haase (Skagit), Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Nan McKay, Chris Castner, Franchesca Perez (Snohomish)

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

Others in Attendance: Dave Somers (Snohomish County Executive), Barbara Bennett (Island-alternate), Don Hunger (Northwest Straits Foundation), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Kathleen Pozarycki (Snohomish MRC staff), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC staff), Phyllis Bravinder (Skagit MRC member), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership alternate), Elisa Dawson (Snohomish MRC staff), Anna Toledo (Island MRC staff), Paul Clampitt (Snohomish MRC member), Maddie Beaudry (NOAA Hollings scholar), Gwendolyn Hannam (Island MRC member), Laura Gurley (Snohomish MRC member), Crystal Schmalz (Whatcom MRC volunteer), Cameron Caldwell (Outreach Director for Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell)

Absent: Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Tom Cowan, Bob Cecile (Whatcom)

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and introduced Cameron Caldwell, NW WA Outreach Director for Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell. Cameron confirmed Senator Cantwell's support for the Northwest Straits Initiative.

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

Presentations

Each MRC presented a project for the upcoming year that was submitted in their grant proposal to the NWS Commission. The NWS Commission and other attendees provided feedback during a question and answer period following each presentation. In addition, there was a presentation from a NOAA Hollings Scholar working on a project in collaboration with NOAA and the NWS Commission.

1. **Clallam MRC, Alan Clark – Kelp Monitoring Project**
 - a. Alan presented on the MRCs kelp monitoring project, which aims to provide the Salish Sea International Kelp Alliance with useful spatial trend data. The monitoring efforts are expected to continue for at least a decade. The goals are to use the science in support of decision-making and to promote environmental stewardship.
 - b. The group discussed the importance of the surveys and agreed the recent kelp workshops organized by the NWS Commission are very useful. Continued collaboration is important.
2. **San Juan MRC, Christina Koons – San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area Plan Update**



minutes

- a. Christina presented on the San Juan MRC's Marine Stewardship Area Plan which consists of six top strategies: reduce toxins entering the food web, foster a stewardship ethic in residents and visitors, manage activities to reduce harm to marine habitat and water quality, reduce the risk of large oil spills, recover bottomfish species and preserve marine access and views.
 - b. The group discussed next steps of updating the Marine Stewardship Area Plan and potential communication and outreach opportunities throughout the San Juan Islands.
3. **NOAA Hollings scholar, Maddie Beaudry-Local ecological knowledge of kelp in the San Juan Islands**
 - a. Maddie introduced her project to harvest local ecological knowledge on bull kelp to illustrate distribution in Puget Sound. Goals of the project include identifying factors contributing to bull kelp loss and informing future kelp conservation and recovery planning.
 - b. The audience praised Maddie's efforts and offered to send her potential contacts to interview with those familiar with historical kelp beds in the Salish Sea. Those with any historical knowledge or a potential contact, should email Maddie at madeline.beaudry@noaa.gov.
4. **Island MRC, Gwendolyn Hannam-Community Engagement Through Creosote Identification**
 - a. Gwendolyn presented on the MRC's project on identifying creosote debris on private property in Island County as a way to engage the community in shoreline protection. The MRC intends to use MyCoast, a citizen science application, to increase community understanding of the impacts of creosote, how to identify it, and how to report it.
 - b. The audience noted that several MRCs are involved in creosote-related projects and encouraged MRCs to work together on similar projects to share lessons learned and techniques.
5. **Snohomish MRC, Laura Gurley-Prioritizing Pilings in the Snohomish Estuary**
 - a. Laura presented on the MRC's project to identify and prioritize creosote pilings in the Snohomish Estuary. The project aims to map the location of the pilings on public land through desktop GIS analysis and develop a prioritization process, gather data, and prioritize pilings.
 - b. The group discussed benefits of having a toolkit for creosote prioritization projects that could be used by other MRCs.
6. **Skagit MRC, Pete Haase - Salish Sea Stewards**
 - a. Pete presented on the Salish Sea Stewards, a program to train volunteers to support Skagit MRC and other local marine projects. The program was derived from WSU Beach Watchers and began with a pilot season in 2014. Each year the program provides at least 50 hours of training to volunteers. Volunteers then contribute at least 40 hours each to projects in return.
 - b. The Commission discussed the value of training volunteers specifically for MRC project support and issues in maintaining similar programs, including capacity to administer the programs, which differ by county.



minutes

7. **Whatcom MRC, Crystal Schmalz-North Sound Stewards**

- a. Crystal, Whatcom MRC volunteer, 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 benefits of the program and how the program differs from other volunteer training programs.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Business Items

- The 2019-2020 NWS Commission budget was approved by consensus. This decision included allowing flexibility in the contractual budget line item to accommodate varying options in creating a NWS Initiative project database, populating the database and for use on other needs, such as communications.
- The NWS Commission 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and 2020 Operations Plan were approved by consensus.
- The NWS Commission and Foundation Executive Committees held a joint meeting in June where they discussed how to better collaborate and coordinate in support of the NWS Initiative. The group agreed the joint meetings are essential and should be held regularly.
- NWS Foundation update: Don Hunger will serve as the Foundation's new director as of July 1 and Caroline Gibson is now the Director of Partnerships for the NWS Foundation. The 2019 MRC Opportunity Fund and Boeing Storm water grants were awarded.
- The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. Ideas for conference topics or presenters can be forwarded to Sasha Horst at horst@nwstraits.org. Questions on lodging, registration and logistics can be forwarded to Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

The next Commission meeting will be on July 26, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM by WebEx Conference Call

Executive Committee description from NWSC handbook
For Executive Committee review

5. Committee Structure

To streamline effectiveness the Commission uses a standing Executive committee.

The Executive Committee will be comprised of the Commission Chair, the Commission Vice-Chair, the chairs of any other committee, the Director of the Northwest Straits Commission and the Director of the Padilla Bay NERR (ex officio). The Executive Committee shall have no fewer than two MRC representatives. In the event that the Executive Committee has only one MRC representative, an at-large MRC representative will be appointed by the chair of the Commission. The committee provides advice and guidance to NWSC staff, makes decisions as delegated in the NWSC Rules of Procedure, and provides recommendations to the NWSC for further discussion.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: July, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open. In May the Marine Trade position was changed to an At-Large position.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC held their monthly meeting July 15th. At the meeting Phil Dionne, WDFW, presented on the forage fish program that Clallam MRC has participated in for the last 3 years. Other topics at the meetings included training on the Open Public Meeting Act by Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Attorney, the MRC Opportunity Fund and Olympia oyster restoration, current status of the Jamestown Tribe's shellfish lease in Dungeness Bay, NWSC updates, and project updates.

Participation in other meetings: None

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Funding was awarded to the Clallam MRC's application to the MRC Opportunity Fund. Chris Burns from Jamestown S'Klallam tribe is currently looking to purchase the 850 bags of shells.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Internship Program: The internship program is now in full swing. The two crabber outreach interns have been placing educational outreach kits in local stores and, along with Don Hatler, handed them out to recreational crabbers at John Wayne and Boat Haven Marina boat ramps. The Olympia oyster restoration and green crab intern has been working with Jamestown tribe to conduct green crab surveys and a population survey on the large Olympia oyster restoration site. The kelp monitoring intern has received the safety training and will be conducting kelp monitoring surveys at freshwater Bay July 18th and at Clallam Bay July 19th.

Forage Fish: sampling was conducted at Cline Spit July 18th and will be conducted at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook July 23rd.

Pigeon Guillemot: The monitoring efforts of the pigeon guillemot breeding colonies started in the week of June 9. Volunteers are surveying 12 sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Miller Peninsula west to Freshwater Bay.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland and Coleman continued the sampling every other week in July.

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Ed Bowlby, Lyn Muench and Ali Baccus (the summer intern) joined Jamestown S'Klallam shellfish biologist and crew to help out with the annual population survey at the large restoration site.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None

Photos: None

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: July 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- July 2 MRC meeting: Presentation on 2018 eelgrass survey, discussion of opportunities for membership engagement
- July 6: Crabber outreach at Coupeville and Camano boat launches

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- August 3: Participate in Family Outdoor Discovery Day hosted by Sound Water Stewards and WA State Parks.
- August 6 MRC meeting: discussions on creosote identification and removal, forage fish outreach, and collaborative projects
- September 14, 1-2pm: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Coupeville Library
- September 28, 2-3pm: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Oak Harbor Library
- September 21 & 28: Sea Level Rise forum (times and locations TBD)

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

Newly awarded:

Opportunity Fund: Communications plan - \$9,350. Community Engagement through Great Northwest Glass Quest - \$650

Boeing Stormwater Grant: Rain Garden Demonstration Sites - \$5,000

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: The nine newly trained forage fish volunteers on Whidbey met to discuss site locations, surveying logistics, equipment needs, and outreach opportunities. The volunteers are excited to start collecting samples!

Eelgrass: Gregg Ridder presented on the 2018 eelgrass data at the July 2 MRC meeting. The Cornet Bay site, which had been showing a slow, but steady decline in eelgrass for several years, showed a leveling off in 2018-2019.

Bull Kelp: Volunteers are monitoring three sites: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point. A volunteer recently attended a survey to take photos to add to the MRC website and outreach materials.

Outreach:

- Crabber outreach: We conducted crabber outreach at the Captain Coupe boat launch in Coupeville and the Camano Island State Park boat launch. Five volunteers on Camano and four volunteers and one staff on Whidbey interacted with 87 crabbers.
- Movie screenings: We have scheduled screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” at two Sno-Isle Libraries: September 14 at the Coupeville Library and September 28 at the Oak Harbor Library.
- Forums: We are planning a forum on sea level rise for September 21 and 28 (one forum on Whidbey; one on Camano). We are partnering with Washington Sea Grant to plan and implement the forums.
- Governor’s visit: Governor Jay Inslee visited Cornet Bay on July 17. Several project partners and MRC volunteers attended. The Governor was engaged and asked lots of great questions. He was impressed by and appreciative of all the volunteer work that’s gone into this project. This is the article about the visit from the Governor’s office: <https://medium.com/wagovernor/salmon-and-recovery-efforts-grow-through-natural-shorelines-restoration-land-based-whale-watching-b417f18f14fa>.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Left: Carol Swain explains the importance of rot cord to a crabber. Photo credit: Scott Chase.

Right: Deborah Stilwell, Kelly Zupich, Vance Willsey, and Anna Toledo show off crabber education materials. Photo credit: Jack Buchard.



Dawn Spilsbury Pucci and Kes Tautvydas explain juvenile salmon trends at Cornet Bay to Governor Jay Inslee and his grandson. Photo credit: Anna Toledo



Ruth Richards demonstrates a forage fish survey to Governor Jay Inslee and his grandson. Photo credit: Anna Toledo

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: July 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

- Shannon Davis resigned (family & health-related reasons).
- Anna Bachmann resigned (new job in Seattle).

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- July MRC monthly meeting was cancelled.
- Crabbing 101 workshops (June 23 and June 26)--see below for info not included in June monthly report.
- Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum (June 28) --see below for info not included in June monthly report.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- July 23 - Exec Committee scheduled
- July 27 – kelp survey
- Aug 1-2 – Olympia oyster monitoring in Quilcene and Discovery Bays
- Aug 18 – Now planning a guided kelp beach walk sponsored by Jefferson MRC

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):* N.A.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring:
 - a) **Fort Townsend:** no new info.
 - b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** no new info.
 - c) **Kelp:** June 29—first bull kelp survey completed, with Jeff Taylor, Judy D’Amore, Emily Bishop and Greg Brotherton. Second bull kelp survey is scheduled for July 27th.
2. Rain Gardens: nothing new to report.
3. Education & Outreach: **Crabbing 101 workshops** in late June were well received. PR effort in June included press releases, on-line newsletter notices, rack cards at retail outlets and inserts in crab pots. Jackie Gardner is MRC project lead for this and the overall Catch More Crab campaign.
 - a. **June 23:** 24 people attended (36 registered, 3 walk-ins and 17 no-shows) and 10 filled out evaluation forms.

- b. **June 26:** 35 people attended (35 registered, 4 walk-in and 4 no-shows). 24 people filled out surveys (more reminders done before presentations). Representative from NOAA attended and wrote a brief article for their website (<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/catch-more-crabs-lose-less-pots-crabbing-outreach-workshop>)

Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum (June 28). Well attended, with 76 attendees, 8 speakers and 2 staff attending (85 registered, 8 walk-ins and 17 no-shows). The final selection of speakers created some controversy within the MRC. We are still compiling notes, but overall, we felt it was a good start. People were respectful and asked some really good questions. The MRC is planning to write up a summary report to share with the BOCC and the NWSC.

MRC member Ashley Mackenzie is working on details for an MRC-sponsored, guided kelp-on-the-beach tour for August.

- 4. **Olympia Oyster:** Work continues on renewing our agency permits for another 5 years of monitoring for the Discovery Bay Powerline site. Permit status report:
 - a. DNR Right of Entry: DNR has combined the two sites in Discovery Bay into one ROE permit, amending the 2018 Lagoon site permit to include the Powerline site as well. Other permitting agencies are still treating them separately.
 - b. WDFW HPA permit submitted and approved.
 - c. Jefferson County Shoreline Exemption application submitted and approved.
 - d. US Army Corps of Engineers has requested an updated eelgrass boundary survey for the Powerline site. On July 2, 2019, 2 volunteers (one of whom was a new MRC volunteer) and MRC coordinator conducted an eelgrass boundary survey (GPS & photo info). Data now being entered to create a map and report.

Annual monitoring for both Quilcene and Discovery Bay sites is scheduled for August 1 & 2. We are continuing to stay in touch with PSRF about their initial studies of Quilcene Bay shorelines areas for Olympia oyster.

- 5. **Voluntary No Anchor Zones:** On July 14th the project team reattached one of the buoys in the PT waterfront no-anchor zone after a sailboat got tangled in it. The boat owners dropped the detached buoy off at the Port office for the MRC to retrieve and reinstall. On July 20th, the team is planning to do maintenance/remove fouling (macro-algae, etc) from the Port Hadlock buoys.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects):
see next page.

Photos from Crabber Outreach and Shellfish Forum

Shellfish Forum Speakers' Panel. Photo by Cheryl Lowe.



Troy McKelvey showing how to rig a crab pot. Photo by Nir Barnea.



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: July 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

There were no changes this month, the MRC membership is at its capacity.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC meeting was held on Wednesday July 10th due to the normal meeting time falling on July 4th.
- MRC members and staff will be attending public meetings on proposed whale sanctuary sites July 21-23rd.
- During the last week of June the MRC hosted screenings of the new Patagonia film “Artifishal” on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Island. These collectively attracted around 150 members of the community.
- San Juan MRC Vice-Chair, Christina Koons attended and presented at the June 28th NWSC meeting.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No new funding updates to report.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SRKW: The MRC has engaged the greatest effort in their SRKW efforts this month. Dock-talks were completed through June, there are some additional efforts with the help of the local youth conservation corps occurring through July and August. Members of the MRC participated in the local San Juan Island Fourth of July parade with groups dedicated to SRKW recovery under the message ‘Protect what you love’, members of this group, carrying fins of the SRKW also carried the whale warning flag.

The pre-season survey effort closed on July 15th, 161 surveys were completed over a period of 5 weeks. These data will be added to the whale warning flag survey database. The post-season survey will be pushed out in mid-September and is due to run until mid-October.

During June, the MRC also hosted screenings of the new documentary Artifishal as part of Orca Action Motion. The screenings on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Islands attracted nearly 150 members of the community. The screenings also allowed for discussion, led by MRC member and County Environmental Resources Manager, Kendra Smith.

All efforts related to the MRC’s SRKW outreach work have been assisted by a dedicated communications intern.

PFSS: This month the PFSS team is working with a design team to develop the PFSS campaign brand and website design. This will involve a series of meetings with the group to help guide the designers as to how the PFSS concept will be developed. This is the final core task for this project and represents the first step of two in the development of the overall PFSS website and related toolkit. In addition we have been invited to present on the project in February 2020 at the next Sound Waters University.

MSA Plan Review: The MSA Plan review subcommittee are meeting this month to discuss where the MRC are with the review and what is remaining to be done before progressing onto the update task of this project (scheduled to begin during the 2020 grant year). The MRC were successful in their application for an intern to assist with this effort through the Northwest Strait Foundation's opportunity fund and in addition to finalizing the review will be drafting a work-plan for the intern.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- The Whale Sanctuary Project is holding community meetings in Island and San Juan County. If anyone would like further insights into the group's proposals please contact San Juan County MRC Staff Frances Robertson.
- New Be Whale Wise material will be available soon –the updated leaflets have been sent to print this week.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Photo 1: Whale Warning Flag and Be Whale Wise outreach efforts at the Port of Friday Harbor

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: July /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): No changes.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- **MRC Meeting Highlights- July 11:** Darcy Bird shared an update of the Department of Ecology's North Central Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** The event will be held August 24, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. Skagit MRC is currently seeking volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks and activities for this event.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):
No updates.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Forage Fish Surveys: Bi-monthly surveys continue at the Bowman Bay, NW March's Point, and Kukatali Preserve restoration sites, and the three index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel at Ship Harbor, and Samish Island). The forage fish survey crews also make it a point to clean up any trash they find on the beach while they are out there doing the surveys. Two new Salish Sea Stewards volunteers have been helping with the surveys. The forage fish monitoring team agreed to survey the beach along the Guemes Channel trail once a month to look for forage fish spawning activity at five different sites at the request of the City of Anacortes Parks Department.
- Kids on the Beach Project: This year's program is now complete. The program details and recommendations will be compiled into a final report that will be used to help expand the program to other schools next year. It was pretty evident that the program was having a positive impact on the students because they were able to take what they learned in the classroom and apply it to the field activities they were tasked with on the beach. Shell Puget Sound Refinery has offered to provide \$10,000 to support the program next year.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Monthly plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group started May 17 and will continue each month through September 20. The next one is scheduled for August 16. Bi-monthly beach seining and forage fish surveys continue. Intertidal monitoring, led by Jason Morgan, took place at Bowman Bay on July 17. Jason Toft with University of Washington was also there conducting large woody debris and beach wrack surveys.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: This year's field work is now complete. Paul Dinnel is working with Josh Bouma on the final report which will be complete before the end of this grant period.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Most of the field work for this year has been completed. Monitoring was reduced compared to previous years. The more intensive surveys will now only occur every 3-5 years. 20 recruitment bags were collected and monitored for oyster settlement and 20 new recruitment bags will be distributed in Fidalgo Bay. Preliminary data shows that minor settlement occurred last year compared to previous years. Post larval recruitment has yet to occur on the sampling ceramic tiles that are being collected every two weeks, but it's still early in the season. Paul

will be working with Puget Sound Restoration Fund and volunteers to get measurements of the seed oysters placed at the Weaverling Spit site last fall along with some shell. He'll also be working with Jude Apple to check habitat suitability in the south channels of Padilla Bay for oyster seeding.

- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Seven new Salish Sea Steward volunteers expressed interest in helping with the kelp surveys this year. A short refresher paddle and protocol review occurred on June 27th at Washington Park with volunteers Brad and Dale taking the lead. On July 1st there was a meeting to discuss the kelp monitoring program in Skagit County to plan out the summer surveys. A land-based GPS training was held on July 16 at Bayview State Park. The training also covered how to take photos and record data correctly on the forms. Congressman Rick Larsen joined volunteers for the first bull kelp monitoring trip of the season on June 30th. Lead volunteers have been assigned to each kelp survey site at Coffin Rocks, Shannon Point, and Biz Point. The lead volunteers are responsible for scheduling the surveys and coordinating with the new volunteers who have expressed interest in helping with the surveys. Kelp surveys will take place at Coffin Rocks on July 20th and at Shannon Point on July 28th.
- Salish Sea Stewards: Salish Sea Stewards have been putting in a lot of volunteer hours this summer! We are currently waiting for the report from the Salish Sea Stewards Planning Workshop to be finalized to help determine the best option for administering the program in the future.
- Crabber Outreach: Three volunteers conducted crabber outreach on the opening day of crabbing season on July 4th at the Twin Bridges/Swinomish Channel Boat Launch. They engaged with over 100 recreational crabbers and handed out 50 measuring devices.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc)

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: July 2019

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Elisa Dawson attended the forage fish spawning training held by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on June 24th at Padilla Bay.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Laura Gurley, Franchesca Perez, Paul Clampitt, Bob Hillmann, and Traci Sanderson attended the Northwest Straits Commission meeting at the Snohomish County campus, June 28th. Laura Gurley gave the MRC Grant presentation for the Snohomish MRC.

Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Sarah Brown, Tom Doerge, and Susan Tarpley met with City of Mukilteo Staff on July 11th to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

The MRC had their monthly meeting on July 17th. MRC Staff Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson were in attendance. MRC Members Tom Doerge, Sarah Brown, Craig Wollam, Mike Ehlebracht, Franchesca Perez, Paul Clampitt, Susan Tarpley, and Bob Hillmann were all in attendance. MRC members Traci Sanderson, Debbie Hopkins, Cathy Stanley, and Laura Gurley were unable to attend the meeting. The MRC had a presentation from Washington Department of Wildlife Staff, Mariko Langness, on the Mussel Watch program. Additionally the MRC discussed the North Sound Geographic Response Plans, the MyCoast Marketing Plan and materials, and the opportunity to have an Orca Presentation for Orca Recovery Day in October 2019. The meeting ended with updates from the subcommittees as well as general announcements.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): No updates at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: Bob Hillmann and Kathleen Pozarycki are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation to develop the Scope of Work (SOW) and contract with Anchor QEA to conduct a feasibility study of the replacement of the culvert at Howarth Park. This project is being funded by the Northwest Straits Foundation through an Opportunity Fund Grant.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish monitoring dates have been scheduled for the 2019-2020 season and are listed below. Elisa is working on completing the SOW for forage fish analysis by a consultant using the NWSF Opportunity Fund Grant.

2019-2020 forage fish dates:

- September 17th, 2019 (September 19th held as back up date).
- October 10th, 2019 (October 14th held as back up date).
- November 7th, 2019 (November 25th held as back up date).
- December 18th, 2019 (December 19th held as back up date).
- January 15th, 2020 (January 30th held as back up date).
- February 25th, 2020 (February 26th held as back up date).

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The A/B testing phase of the marketing campaign has been completed and the preferred marketing materials have been selected and will continue to run throughout the summer. Rack cards and posters for the marketing campaign were finalized on June 21, 2019 and 4,000 were distributed to nearly 20 organizations in Snohomish County, including Washington State Ferries. MRC members also took materials to distribute throughout the county. The consultant has developed a draft Partner Toolkit, submitted on June 26, to amplify app awareness by leveraging the Snohomish County MRC's partner network. The draft partner toolkit included digital collateral and draft content for use by partner agencies. MRC members and staff have reviewed the partner toolkit, and are waiting feedback from the other MyCoast partner agencies. The MRC will complete the toolkit this summer and distribute to the other MRCs and partners.

Crabber Education: Bob Hillmann, Paul Clampitt, and Laura Gurley participated in crabber outreach on July 4th and 6th at the 10th street boat launch. Altogether they spoke with approximately 550 crabbers. Susan has been doing outreach on crabber education at the Edmonds pier. WSU Extension conducted crabber education at Kayak Point Boat Launch and Pier on July 4th and 6th as well.



Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and Traci Sanderson surveyed Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds on July 1-3. Data from the July surveying has been submitted to the Northwest Straits Commission. The August survey dates are scheduled for August 1-3. Hat Island will be surveyed by motor boat in partnership with the Tulalip Tribes once in August, which is planned for August 12 with back up days set for August 13 or 14.



Discover the Salish Sea Film: At the July 11th meeting with City of Mukilteo staff, Susan suggested partnering with the City of Mukilteo to reach all Mukilteo Schools with the video. City staff also suggested reaching out to Senior Centers with the video.

Upcoming Events:

MRC Kelp Monitoring for Mukilteo, Edmonds, and Meadowdale will be August 1-3rd.

The August MRC meeting is cancelled and instead the MRC will host their annual summer picnic on August 21st.

MRC Annual Boards and Commission Appreciation Event August 26th at the Evergreen State Fair.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: July 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- Darcy Bird, Oil Spill Preparedness Planner with Ecology's Spill Program will be the guest speaker at the August 1 MRC meeting. Darcy will provide an update on the North Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan Update.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC was awarded \$6099.00 from the Northwest Straits Foundation Opportunity Fund to conduct remote beach clean ups on Lummi Island and Sucia Island (which will occur in partnership with the Northwest Straits Surfrider Foundation and the San Juan MRC). The MRC will be partnering with the Lummi Island Heritage Trust to conduct a beach cleanup on the SW portion of Lummi Island including Lummi Rocks. Volunteers will reach the island via charter boat.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- BP will be partnering with the MRC to conduct beach clean ups from Pt. Whitehorn to Neptune Beach on Friday, Aug. 2 with help from Alcoa/Intalco, Petrogas, and Philips 66. BP will supply the cleanup equipment (gloves, buckets, bags, grabbers, etc.) and is taking the lead on figuring out how to dispose of the garbage. The MRC has shared the announcement through its listserv and it is advertised on the MRC website. MRC staff will put an announcement through the County's Facebook page as well as the Nextdoor application which will be sent to the whole County.
- Signatures for right of entry have been obtained to conduct the marine debris cleanup in Drayton Harbor between California and Dakota Creek. DNR has yet to set a date for this work, but it will most likely happen in August.
- With funding awarded from the NWSF Opportunity Fund, the MRC will be conducting beach cleanups at SW Lummi Island on July 31 in partnership with the Lummi Island Heritage Trust. A cleanup will also occur on Sucia Island in partnership with the San Juan MRC and the NWS Surfrider Foundation – this is tentatively scheduled for August 17.
- Public Works staff and MRC staff have been taking bracket water quality samples in Chuckanut Creek near the hotpot area for high fecal coliform counts. Staff have been piloting Coliscan testing for these samples. Coliscan can be done in house with an incubator, and provides a quantitative way to identify and differentiate coliforms and *E. Coli* from other bacteria. Samples

were taken in June, and the results were insignificant. More samples were taken in July and another batch will be taken in August. This samples will be shared with DOH, to show the cost effective source tracking technique being used to try to understand what is happening in the system.

- A newsletter was sent out to the Chuckanut watershed with information about the water quality sampling being conducted by the MRC, along with information on wildlife tracking, rebates for small farm improvements and septic system evaluations.
- Kelp Surveys have been scheduled. The first survey will take place on August 1 at the Aiston Preserve on Lummi Island.
- 2019 Whatcom Water Week is scheduled to occur from September 14-22. The Whatcom MRC will have a booth at the culminating event – Bellingham SeaFeast on September 21. The group is discussing other possible events to host or co-host during WaterWeek. The WaterWeek photo contest will occur again this year. Photos in one of five categoris will be accepted between August 1 and September 30.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- The MRC provided a letter of support for the Whatcom Land Trust's US Fish & Wildlife Service's Coastal Wetlands grant application to acquire 60 acres of estuarine habitat around Drayton Harbor – roughly 40 % would be nationally declining wetlands – for restoration, recreation, and educational opportunities. This project would help with ongoing efforts to improve water quality in Drayton Harbor and improve salmon habitat.
- Amanda Weiss, the MRC volunteer forage fish intern from Bellingham Technical College (BTC) graduated from the Fisheries and Aquaculture program this June and is now working with the Skagit River System Cooperative. Amanda did a fantastic job helping the MRC with the forage fish project. She will be missed. A new internship call is being developed and will be shared with BTC late summer for the internship to start by October 1.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Amanda Weiss counting forage fish eggs from Little Squalicum Beach sediment survey. Photo credit: Austin Rose



Commission staff highlights – July 2019

MRC Grants – The 2018-19 awards to MRCs are now complete through the third quarter, and April-June payment requests and deliverables are being reviewed by Commission and Ecology staff. MRC proposals for the 2019-21 award period have all been submitted and reviewed by Commission staff and the Science Advisory Committee, and MRCs have all received reviewer comments and any requested revisions are now underway. Any questions related to the current or upcoming grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp – The 2019 kelp monitoring season is in full swing. Most MRCs have conducted their late June or early July surveys. The online webform (Kobo ToolBox) for data ingestion is live and receiving kelp survey data. The kelp recovery core team proposed three kelp focused sessions for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference. Maddie Beaudry, the NOAA Hollings Scholar, is wrapping up her last 2 weeks of the project at Padilla Bay. She will be giving a presentation of her work on Thursday July 25 at 12:00 pm. You can join in person at Padilla Bay, or by webex. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

Strategic planning – The strategic plan is now posted to the Northwest Straits website at nwstraits.org, in the top upper right of the home page.

MRC Conference – The second conference planning committee is July 24 to discuss topics of interest for sessions and presentations. The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. Ideas for conference topics or presenters can be forwarded to Sasha Horst at horst@nwstraits.org. Questions on lodging, registration and logistics can be forwarded to Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference – Commission staff prepared and submitted session proposals for the July 12 deadline. The Commission is submitting two sessions; *Innovative approaches to advance citizen science communications* by Nicole Jordan and Suzanne Shull and *Bridging the border with citizen science* by Lucas Hart. Lucas has also offered to present in the Puget Sound Partnership Session *Local networks generate innovative recovery actions*. Dana Oster will be presenting in one of three kelp sessions proposed on the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan. Lucas is working with a group of individuals to scope the possibility of holding a citizen science networking event during the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended: Olympia Oyster core team meeting 7/11 , Snohomish MRC meeting July 17
- Nicole attended: Whatcom MRC meeting June 6, Skagit MRC celebration June 18 and Snohomish MRC meeting June 19.
- Lucas attended Jay Inslee's visit to the Cornet Bay restoration site on July 17.



agenda

Location: Red Cedar Room, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Center, Clallam County

Date/Time: 10:15 AM-2:45 PM on August 23, 2019

10:15-10:20	Opening and introductions Approval of July minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:20-10:40	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee Science Advisory Committee External Relations Committee Communication Committee	Elsa Schwartz Dana Oster Tom Cowan Christina Koons, Pete Haase
10:40-10:50	Director’s report	Lucas Hart
10:50-11:00	Business items Kelp (Dana) MRC Symposium (Dana) MRC Conference (Sasha, Nicole)	Staff
11:00-11:15	Northwest Straits Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
11:15-12:00	Oil Spill Consequences to San Juan County and Emergency Response Towing Vessels to Mitigate Risk	Marta Green, Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator for San Juan County
12:00-1:00	Working lunch	All
1:00-1:10	Afternoon welcome	Robert Knapp, Environmental Planning Program Manager for Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
1:10-2:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
2:00-2:10	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership



agenda

2:10-2:30	Life and Times of a Clallam Intern Presentation and Panel	Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Intern
2:30-2:40	Roundtable	
2:40-2:45	Public comment	All
2:45	Adjourn	



Executive Committee Meeting
August 5, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference call

Committee Members: Elsa Schwartz, Ron Tom, Jude Apple

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Nicole Jordan

Not in attendance: Alan Clark, Tom Cowan

Update on database research

Lucas said the Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission is waiting for the Department of Ecology's Shorelands program IT steering committee to assess whether they have capacity to build the NWS Commission database. They will also provide further guidance on contracting the work if they do not have capacity. Staff will keep the committee updated as the more develops.

NWS Commission procedure on providing comments on legislation

The committee reviewed the edited procedure and agreed the changes are appropriate. The committee agreed that with approval of the absent committee members, the procedure be brought to the full Commission for discussion and adoption. Lucas will reach out to the absent members.

Request for Commission to sign support letter for PUGET-SOS Act

The committee agreed that with approval of the absent members, the Commission should add its name to the sign on letter. Lucas will work with the Committee on next steps.

Northwest Straits Commission model expansion

Lucas said he recently spoke with Nikki Wright from Sea Change Marine Conservation Society in British Columbia who is interested in replicating the NWS Commission model in British Columbia. Lucas will continue working with Nikki and has offered to provide information as needed.

Legislative outreach

Lucas said he had meetings with Laura Gelwicks from Representative Rick Larsen's office and with Cameron Caldwell from Senator Maria Cantwell's office. Lucas provided updates on projects. Laura and Cameron each expressed their continued support for the Initiative.

Governor Inslee visit to Cornet Bay

Several MRC members, NWS Commission, and NWS Foundation representatives attended Governor Jay Inslee's visit to the Cornet Bay restoration site on July 17. Governor Inslee learned about the restoration site and viewed a demonstration of the forage fish monitoring project from local volunteers.

Snohomish Estuary Tour scoping

Don and Lucas are planning a tour of the Snohomish Estuary for agency partners, local leadership, decision makers and others to highlight the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative.. The site visit is scheduled for September 25.

**Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference update**

Commission staff plan to be involved in the 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in a variety of ways, including chairing and speaking at sessions and volunteering at the event.

MRC conference planning update

Sasha is working with conference planning committee to develop a draft agenda on topics of interest for sessions and presentations.

The September 2 Executive Committee meeting falls on a holiday. Nicole will work with the committee to reschedule it.



minutes

July 26, 2019 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
WebEx – Conference call
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Alan Clark (Clallam-Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island -Vice Chair), Tom Cowan, Christina Koons (San Juan), Pete Haase (Skagit), Ron Thom, Chris Castner, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Mike Ehlebracht (Snohomish Alternate)

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

Absent: Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Franchesca Perez (Snohomish), Nan McKay, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

Opening and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommended a change to the committee description to clarify their role in providing advice, guidance and recommendations to the Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission .

- Motion: Tom motioned to approve the changes to the committee description, Elsa seconded and the NWS Commission approved by consensus.

External Relations Committee

Tom said the committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in September. The committee would like see continued project site visits for local elected officials and has recommended several action items to reach local and regional media, larger local audiences, and audiences outside the NWS area.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron said the committee is seeking a replacement for Hugh Shipman, who has retired from the Department of Ecology. The committee recommended a contact for Commission staff to consult with about databases as they explore the creation of a project database. They also recently worked with Dana to review the 2019-2020 MRC grant project proposals.

MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2ZnSP8b>

Clallam

Alan said volunteers conducted forage fish sampling at Cline Spit, Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook. In May the Marine Trades position on the MRC was changed to an At-Large position. The monitoring efforts of the pigeon



minutes

guillemot breeding colonies started at 12 sites. The internship program is now in full swing. The MRC continued the sampling of shellfish biotoxins every other week in July.

Island

Elsa said volunteers are conducting kelp surveys at three sites: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point. Gregg Ridder presented on the 2018 eelgrass data at the July 2 MRC meeting. Governor Jay Inslee visited Cornet Bay on July 17. Several project partners and MRC volunteers attended. Click this link for the article about the visit from the Governor's office: <https://bit.ly/2LVBfVr>.

Jefferson

Jeff said Shannon Davis, Anna Bachmann and Al Bergstein resigned from the MRC. The MRC held a Shellfish Aquaculture Educational Forum on June 28. The event had 76 attendees, 8 speakers and 2 staff attending. The MRC is planning to write up a summary report to share with the Board of County Commissioners and the NWS Commission.

San Juan

Christina said the MRC hosted screenings of the new Patagonia film "Artifishal" on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Island. These collectively attracted around 150 members of the community and the MRC included time for discussion after the film, including information about the value of hatchery fish in salmon recovery. New Be Whale Wise material will be available soon.

Skagit

Pete said the Kids on the Beach program is now complete. The program details and recommendations will be compiled into a final report that will be used to help expand the program to other schools next year. The MRC is getting ready for their popular Fidalgo Bay Day event on August 24 and are seeking volunteers to help with a wide variety of tasks and activities for the event.

Snohomish

Mike said the MRC is working on outreach for the MyCoast App project. Rack cards and posters for the marketing campaign were finalized on June 21 and 4,000 were distributed to nearly 20 organizations in the county. The MRC is providing comments on the Geographic Response Plan for the Department of Ecology.

Whatcom

Bob said Darcy Bird, Oil Spill Preparedness Planner with Ecology's Spill Program will be the guest speaker at the August 1 MRC meeting. BP will be partnering with the MRC to conduct beach clean ups from Point Whitehorn to Neptune Beach on August 2. The MRC will have a booth at Bellingham SeaFeast on September 21.



minutes

Business items

Kelp update

Kelp monitoring season is in full swing. Most MRCs have conducted their late June or early July surveys. [KoBo ToolBox](#), a web platform for data ingestion developed for the MRC project by a volunteer in Clallam County, is live and receiving kelp survey data. The Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan should be ready for public comment in October.

Olympia oyster call

Dana said she participated in the Olympia oyster call coordinated by Puget Sound Restoration Fund and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife. An Olympia oyster story map featuring several MRC projects is available at <http://tijuana.river.trnerr.org/oystermapp/>.

Hollings Scholar update

Maddie Beaudry, the NOAA Hollings Scholar, wrapped up her project, concluding with a presentation at Padilla Bay of her work. The presentation can be accessed by this link (start at minute 12): <https://vimeo.com/350200005/2e81098399>

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

Commission staff plan to be involved in the 2020 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in a variety of ways, including chairing and speaking at sessions and volunteering at the event.

Governor Inslee visit

Governor Inslee visited the Island MRC restoration site at Cornet Bay on July 17. Several Island MRC members, NWS Commission and Foundation staff attended.

SoundIQ

Nicole and Dana met with Ann Stark, staff for City of Bellingham, and Suzanne Shull to assess the features of SoundIQ and learn options in incorporating possible new features to the application. They are now working on assessing the layer menu and rewording content to make the MRCs role in SoundIQ clearer.

MRC Conference

The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 in Snohomish County at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. The reception and dinner will be held nearby at Angel of the Winds Arena. A conference planning committee is developing the agenda. More information will be available here: <http://nwstraits.org/2019-mrc-conference>. For information on logistics contact Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

MRC grant proposals—review and approval

Lucas presented the list of MRC proposals and requested approval to move forward while allowing flexibility to make amendments as needed. The Commissioners reviewed and discussed the MRC project list.



minutes

- Motion: Pete moved to approve the MRC grant proposals. Elsa seconded and the NWS Commission approved by consensus.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin shared at the following updates:

- [National Estuaries Week](#) is September 14-21. A toolkit is available that provides social media and event planning resources, and you can register local events online.
- Larry Epstein started as the Partnership's new Deputy Director.
- The Partnership launched an online platform for sharing information and stories called [Puget Sound Info](#). The platform includes: a revitalized, interactive [Vital Sign website](#), the new [Action Agenda Tracker](#), a revitalized [National Estuary Program \(NEP\) Atlas](#), and a [common Data Center](#).
- The Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act, a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Program ([HR 4044](#)) was introduced in the US House of Representatives in July.
- The Partnership's [support letter](#) for the PUGET SOS Act ([HR 2247](#)) is available. Those interested in signing on to the letter of support can contact Denise Ross at denise.ross@psp.wa.gov to provide an electronic signature.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Lucas updated the group on behalf of the NWS Foundation.

- The NWS Foundation is soliciting sponsorships for the MRC Conference. If you know of a business/individual who might be interested in sponsoring, please contact Caroline at gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org.
- The NWS Foundation is seeking long-term investment from the maritime industry, specifically businesses headquartered in Puget Sound. Suggestions can be directed to Caroline at gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org.
- Contracts are being developed for the new MRC Opportunity Fund awards. Questions should be directed to MRC staff.

Round table

The group discussed interest in having each MRC represented on the NWS Foundation board.

The group discussed expanding the Plastic Free Salish Sea materials for use for all MRCs. Those interested should contact Frances Robertson at francesr@sanjuanico.com.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next Commission meeting will be on August 23 at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center in Clallam County.*



Commission staff highlights – August 2019

MRC Grants – Any questions related to the current or upcoming grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp – The kelp conservation and recovery team presented to the Department of Ecology on the progress of the plan and led a discussion on what Ecology's role can be in kelp conservation and recovery. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC Symposium – Dana and Lisa Kaufman prepared a draft agenda and plan for the one-day MRC Symposium. The date is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2020 at Padilla Bay. The goal of the symposium is to bring together members and staff from all 7 MRCs to share near and long-term project ideas, share nuts and bolts of how specific projects were started and funded, how they are run, challenges they found, lessons learned, develop cross MRC collaboration, MRC networking, and regional project development. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

Strategic planning – The strategic plan is now posted to the Northwest Straits website at nwstraits.org, in the top upper right of the home page.

MRC Conference – The planning committee met July 24 to discuss topics of interest for sessions and presentations. The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. Ideas for conference topics or presenters can be forwarded to Sasha Horst at horst@nwstraits.org. Questions on lodging, registration and logistics can be forwarded to Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference – Commission staff prepared and submitted session proposals. Lucas is working with a group of individuals to scope the possibility of holding a citizen science networking event during the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Collaborative Conservation – Lucas is working with the NWS Foundation and Snohomish MRC to plan a Snohomish Estuary tour to highlight the work of the NWS Initiative and the partnerships that move our projects forward.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended: Whatcom MRC meeting 8/1, Island MRC meeting 8/6, Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting 8/15, Kelp and Ecology meeting 8/20
- Nicole attended: Whatcom MRC meeting August 1

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: August, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kathy Cooper resigned in December, 2018. The position is still open. In May the Marine Trade position was changed to an At-Large position.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC monthly meeting will be held August 19th. The main event at the meeting is the intern celebration where Alisa Taylor will present her poster on the kelp monitoring project and Alisandra Baccus will present her poster on Olympia oyster restoration and green crab monitoring. Raven Sharpe will introduce the newly developed crabber outreach game. Jeff Ward will summarize the pigeon guillemot effort on behalf of intern Shae Pozarzycki. Topics on the regular meeting agenda include: approval of purchases for the 2018-19 NWSC budget, approval of Streamkeepers support letter, MRC Opportunity Fund and Olympia oyster restoration, NWSC updates, and project updates.

Participation in other meetings: Alan Clark, Alisa Taylor and Helle Andersen will present at the NWSC meeting in Blyn August 23rd.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Funding was awarded to the Clallam MRC's application to the MRC Opportunity Fund. Chris Burns from Jamestown S'Klallam tribe has purchased the 850 bags of shells and the shells were spread at the new restoration site in the week of August 12th.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Internship Program: The internship program will end with the Intern Celebration August 19th.

Forage Fish: Clallam MRC helped WDFW conduct their annual intensive sampling for forage fish August 13 and 14. Samples were collected at a total of 14 beaches by two MRC members, staff and Lower Elwha crew and four volunteers.

Pigeon Guillemot: The monitoring efforts of the pigeon guillemot breeding colonies continued at the 12 sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Miller Peninsula west to Freshwater Bay.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland and Coleman continued the sampling every other week in July.

Olympia Oyster Restoration: Alisandra Baccus (the summer intern) helped Jamestown S'Klallam crew spreading the shells at the new restoration site.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None

Photos: Three pictures of intern Ali Baccus in the field and the flyer for the Intern Celebration.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: August 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- August 3: Participated in Family Outdoor Discovery Day hosted by Sound Water Stewards and WA State Parks. Interacted with 89 kids and 62 adults.
- August 6 MRC meeting: Discussed SMP update, MRC symposium, and collaborative project ideas.
- August 7-8: Jodi Crimmins participated in OA teacher training hosted by Port Townsend School District and Jefferson MRC. Shared about Island MRC activities.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- August 29: Oak Harbor School District STEM teacher training: Kelly Zupich and Anna Toledo will present about the "Discover Our Island Shores" film and classroom activity.
- September 3 MRC meeting: Communications planning
- September 6, 10am-1pm: Work party at Cornet Bay
- September 13, 10am-1pm: Work party at Cornet Bay
- September 14, 1-2pm: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Coupeville Library
- September 28, 2-3pm: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Oak Harbor Library
- September 28: Sea Level Rise forums (morning on Camano, afternoon on Whidbey – exact locations TBD)
- October 12: Creosote identification workshops (9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid on Camano, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute on Camano)

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: Matt Kukuk has been conducting surveys at Hidden Beach since May. We are waiting on analysis from WDFW for the results. The newly trained volunteers are completing the required county volunteer training, and plan to start collecting samples in September.

Bull Kelp: Volunteers are in prime summer monitoring mode at our three sites: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point.

Outreach:

- Art work: Artwork and written answers from the winners of the "Discover Our Island Shores" art contest are on display in the Island County Commissioners' office.

- Family Outdoor Discovery Day: Gwendolyn Hannam developed a felt board of a marine ecosystem to engage children during Family Outdoor Discovery Day on Saturday, August 3. Gwendolyn and Anna interacted with over 150 individuals.
- Communications plan: The MRC has received funding through the NWSF Opportunity Fund to develop a communications plan. The MRC will conduct an audit of existing communications tools and strategies and identify gaps in the upcoming months. Following the audit, the MRC will work with a professional to develop a communications plan.
- Film screenings: Film screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” are scheduled for:
 - Saturday, September 14, 1-2pm at Coupeville Library
 - Saturday, September 28, 2-3pm at Oak Harbor Library
- Sea level rise forums: We have decided to hold the Camano and Whidbey sea level rise forums on the same day to consolidate travel and planning logistics. The forums will be held on Saturday, September 28, 9am-12pm on Camano and 2:30-5:30pm on Whidbey. We are partnering with Washington Sea Grant and Island County Planning to plan and implement the forums.
- Creosote identification workshops: We have scheduled the creosote identification workshops with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources for:
 - Saturday, October 12, 9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid
 - Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute
- Rain garden signage: The MRC has received funding through the NWSF Opportunity Fund – Boeing Stormwater Category to develop or update signage for two demonstration rain gardens and hold field trips to the sites. The MRC identified two existing rain garden sites in need of signage: Crescent Harbor Elementary School and Greenbank Farm. The sign development is scheduled for later this year, and the field trips will be planned for spring 2020.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): The MRC recommended that the Board of Island County Commissioners add their signature to the letter supporting the PUGET SOS Act. The Board did not sign, due to the short timeframe to review and gather additional information about the Act, but two individual Commissioners did add their signatures.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Gwendolyn Hannam invites children to learn about the marine food web at Family Outdoor Discovery Day. Photo credit: Anna Toledo.

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: Aug 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- Aug 6 MRC monthly meeting (18 members/staff & 4 guests). Discussion items included project updates and how to fill the 4 MRC member vacancies (types of skills and experience that would be particularly useful and how to get the word out to the right audiences).
- Aug 1-2 – Olympia oyster monitoring in Quilcene and Discovery Bays

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Sept 1 – ‘Searching for Seaweed’ guided beach walk.

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):* N.A.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring:

- a) **Fort Townsend:** WDFW will be conducting their annual monitoring of this shoreline restoration site in mid-August. MRC is helping to recruit volunteers to assist. MRC also put in a little time removing invasive species in the upland planted area.
- b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** no new info.
- c) **Kelp:** July 27th—North Beach kelp survey completed, with Jeff Taylor, Judy D’Amore, Nam Siu and Cheryl Lowe. Also, Jeff Taylor met with NWSC staff and a colleague to strategize effective approaches for kelp bed monitoring with satellite image technology.

2. Rain Gardens: Quilcene rain garden installation is now scheduled for Sept 24th, with initial preparations underway.

3. Education & Outreach:

- a) MRC member Ashley Mackenzie led the effort to develop a guided ‘Searching for Seaweed’ beach walk on Sept 1. Registration is open and publicity has gone out.
- b) OA Teacher Workshop: Cheryl represented the Jefferson MRC at a 2-day professional development workshop funded by NOAA for teachers on ocean

acidification. The workshop is organized by the Port Townsend School District, but this year Oak Harbor and North Kitsap School District teachers also participated. It's a place-based curriculum development training, with Jefferson and Island County MRCs advising. Island MRC was represented by MRC member Jodi Crimmons, who also works with the Oak Harbor School District.

- c) Plans are underway for the MRC booth at Wooden Boat Festival.
4. Olympia Oyster: On August 1 & 2, Jefferson MRC conducted annual monitoring of the Quilcene Bay test plots and the Discovery Bay Powerline habitat enhancement site. WDFW and Jamestown S'Klallam biologists assisted with the monitoring. We're still processing the data, but have two preliminary general conclusions:
- a) Our native oyster is doing well in Discovery Bay and we should continue enhancement efforts there.
 - b) This year brought confirmation that the particular location of our Quilcene Bay test plots is not suitable for Olympia oyster efforts. Probable factors included presence of oyster drills from adjacent shellfish farming areas and warmer water temperatures at the head of the bay. This year, we also found some of the test plots buried under a 6" mat of a fine red macro-algae (*Ahnfeltia plicata* or *fastigiata*, Landlady's Wig), probably brought by recent southerly winds. We'll start looking for other options in that area.

Many thanks to dedicated Beach Naturalist volunteers who helped MRC members with this monitoring!

5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: On July 20th, Gordon King and Troy McKelvey successfully removed fouling (accumulation of barnacles, clams, macro-algae, etc) from the Port Hadlock buoys and lines so the buoys were more visible. It was determined that new buoys (or at least new labels) are needed for 2 of the 4 buoys there.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects):
See next page.

Buoy maintenance work



Olympia oyster monitoring in Quilcene Bay



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: August 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

- Karin Roemers-Kleven was re-elected to serve as Chair for another year.
- Christina Koons was re-elected to serve as Vice-Chair and NWSC representative for another year.
- Laura Jo Severson was elected to serve as the NWSC alternate representative.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC meeting was held on August 1st and included a presentation from Skagit MRC member and Director of Samish Natural Resource, Todd Woodard.
- Christina Koons attended the monthly NWSC meeting via webex.
- Christina Koons also attended the presentation by Madeline Beaudry on Local Ecological Knowledge of Kelp.
- Subcommittee meetings for the MSA plan update (July 24th) and for PFSS (August 6th) were held to establish the tasks needed to move the projects along.
- Phil Green, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith and Frances Robertson attended the LIO quarterly meeting on August 1st.
- The MRC will be hosting a booth at the San Juan County Fair August 14-17th.
- Christina Koons, Phil Green, Cathleen Burns and Kailey Genther plan to take part in Whatcom MRC's beach clean-up on Sucia Island on August 17th.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The PFSS subcommittee is partnering with the County to submit an LTAC grant to support the installation of water refill stations around the county to encourage use of refillable water bottles and promote the Leave No Trace ethos adopted by the County.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SKRW: The MRC has continued to work with the County to distribute whale warning flags to boaters. The Youth Conservation Corps on San Juan, Orcas and Lopez are conducting dockside outreach reach throughout late July and August on weekends. The MRC will also be hosting a booth at the County Fair providing visitors with information on what they can do as individuals to help reduce the impacts of declining salmon, toxins, and vessel disturbance on Southern Resident killer whales, as well as what the MRC has been doing to help with recovery efforts.

PFSS: The MRC has contracted with Shew Design to produce the PFSS website design and branding for the campaign. The group met with Shew Design to outline their vision and aspirations for the site and the material. Shew will provide a series of drafts over the next few weeks for the group to decide on and guide the overall design task. In addition to this, the group is partnering with the County and the local Rotary clubs to submit an LTAC grant for the installation of year-round water-refill stations and to promote the use of the Tap app by businesses throughout the county. The group will play a core role in the development of and the role out of the outreach and education to tourists, islanders, and the local business community through 2020 to promote the use of refillable water bottles and promote the Leave No Trace ethos embraced by the County.

MSA: The MSA subcommittee met to discuss next steps on the review and plan update. Our new Intern—funded through the NWSF Opportunity fund also joined the group via conference call. Abigail Ames, has already hit the ground running setting up a workspace on the collaboration platform Slack through which the group can collate the work. The key goals, objectives and proposed process will be drafted by Frances Robertson and presented to the MRC at the September MRC meeting. This will lay the ground work for the Abigail and the group to progress with the update. A 2 day Marine Managers Workshop has been scheduled for March 10 and 11th 2020.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- The MRC discussed the proposed Whale Sanctuary project at the August 1st meeting, however no advisory action will be taken until the Council requests it.
- The MRC, in their role as the local Citizens Advisory Group for the San Juan County Lead Entity finalized and approved the final ranked list of projects for the 2019 SRFB grant round.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Local San Juan Island Youth Conservation Corps promoting Be Whale Wise and the Whale Warning Flag at the Port of Friday Harbor.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Aug /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Per consensus, the Committee voted to make the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to appoint Kathy Thornburgh to the MRC to replace Lynne Jordan as the new representative of the Skagit Land Trust and to appoint Brian Robson to replace Nate Biletnikoff as the new representative of Shell Puget Sound Refinery.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- **MRC Meeting Highlights- August 8:** Joan Drinkwin presented the Salish Sea Stewards Planning Workshop Report including recommendations for the future management and coordination of the Salish Sea Stewards program. The final report will be posted on the Skagit MRC website.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** The event will be held August 24, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Forage Fish Surveys: Surveys continue at the Bowman Bay, NW March's Point, and Kukatali Preserve restoration sites, and the three index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel at Ship Harbor, and Samish Island). There was a lot of spawning at the NW March's Point restoration site. Unfortunately, none of the surf smelt eggs were viable in the areas with no shading.
- Kids on the Beach Project: This year's program is now complete. The program details and recommendations will be compiled into a final report. Skagit MRC will be partnering with Padilla Bay NERR to administer and expand the program next year with MRC grant funds and funding from Shell Puget Sound Refinery.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Monthly plant maintenance work parties with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group started May 17. The last one is scheduled for September 20, 10am -1pm. Beach seining and forage fish surveys continue.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: This year's field work is now complete. Paul Dinnel is working with Josh Bouma on the final report which will be complete before the end of this grant period.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul Dinnel and several other volunteers have been collecting WDFW's stacks of tiles to look at post larval recruitment at two week intervals throughout the summer. The last set of tile stacks that were collected indicated a fairly decent settlement this year. This data will be confirmed later next year after the recruitment bags are collected around Fidalgo Bay. Puget Sound Restoration Fund assessed their new shell plot at Weaverling Spit. Their report will be shared with the MRC and Samish Indian Nation.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Kelp surveys took place at Biz Point on July 30 and Coffin Rocks on August 15.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc)

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):
The following photos are of the intertidal monitoring that took place at the Bowman Bowman Bay and March's Point restoration sites in July and August. The photos were taken by Pete Haase.



MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: August 2019

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Elisa Dawson attended the Kelp WebEx for Hollings Scholar Maddie Beaudry on July 25th. Maddie presented her data gathering traditional ecological data on kelp around the San Juan Islands and Puget Sound.

Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson had a conference call with NWSF staff Caroline Gibson on August 8th. The call was to discuss a potential grant opportunity. The team decided they would not apply, but sent the opportunity to partners they thought may be interested.

On August 8th Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson and Sarah Brown had a conference call with NWSF staff Lisa Kaufmann and Snohomish Conservation District staff Kathryn Wells on the Orca Talk event which is being planned for October 16th. The team brainstormed speakers and logistics for the event.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): No updates at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: Bob Hillmann and Kathleen Pozarycki, working with the Northwest Straits Foundation, have completed the Scope of Work (SOW) with Anchor QEA to conduct a feasibility study of the replacement of the culvert at Howarth Park. This project is being funded by the Northwest Straits Foundation through an Opportunity Fund Grant.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish monitoring dates have been scheduled for the 2019-2020 season and are listed below. Elisa completed the SOW and contract for forage fish analysis by a consultant using the NWSF Opportunity Fund Grant. The MRC is preparing for the first monitoring day of the season in September.

2019-2020 forage fish dates:

- September 17th, 2019 (September 19th held as back up date).
- October 10th, 2019 (October 14th held as back up date).
- November 7th, 2019 (November 25th held as back up date).
- December 18th, 2019 (December 19th held as back up date).
- January 15th, 2020 (January 30th held as back up date).
- February 25th, 2020 (February 26th held as back up date).

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The partner toolkit was finalized and included digital collateral and draft content for use by partner agencies. The MRC has distributed the toolkit to other MRCs and partners. The consultant sent out push notifications on July 4 and 27th. The consultant has additional funds and will be doing a third digital ad run starting in mid-August.

Crabber Education: Susan Tarpley continues to do outreach on crabber education at the Edmonds pier throughout the summer. Susan is also expanding her outreach to give tips and support to the City of Mukilteo outreach staff.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson and Tom Doerge completed monitoring at Meadowdale on August 1st, and Mukilteo on August 3rd. The August 2nd kelp monitoring in Edmonds was canceled due to high winds. Edmonds is rescheduled for August 28th. August 29th and 30th are back up days. Elisa Dawson and Traci Sanderson joined Cathy Stanley on the Tulalip Tribes' boat to monitor Hat Island kelp on August 12th.

Hat Island Kelp Bed:



Mussel Watch: Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, and Michael Ehlebracht conducted mussel watch reconnaissance at 3 Edmonds site, one Mukilteo site, and one Everett site for Mussel Watch on July 31st. Information gathered was sent to Mariko with WDFW. The team is working on establishing the sites for the 2019-2020 monitoring season.

Upcoming Events:

MRC Kelp Monitoring for Edmonds is rescheduled for August 28th. August 29th and 30th are back up days.

MRC Annual Summer Picnic August 21st at the Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center.

MRC Annual Boards and Commission Appreciation Event August 26th at the Evergreen State Fair.

MRC September forage fish survey September 17th.

Boat Tour of the Snohomish Estuary with the Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Straits Foundation September 25th.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: August 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC partnered with BP and other Cherry Point Industries to conduct a community beach cleanup from the Point Whitehorn recreation area to Neptune Beach (10 mile stretch of shoreline). 110 people RSVP'd for the event. A little over 100 people showed up the day of to volunteer. Unfortunately, the amount/weight of garbage removed from the shoreline was not recorded by BP staff.
- The MRC partnered with the Northwest Straits Surfrider Foundation Chapter, Lummi Island Heritage Trust, the San Juan MRC, and Northwest Indian College to conduct volunteer led remote beach cleanups on the southwest side of Lummi Island and Sucia Island Marine State Park in San Juan County. 18 volunteers participated in the SW Lummi Island Cleanup on July 31 and removed 440 pounds of garbage. From Lummi Island, garbage included: large chunks of Styrofoam, fishing nets, pieces of plastic, etc. The Sucia Island cleanup is scheduled for August 17. 14 people are currently signed up to participate.
- DNR joined the MRC and Drayton Harbor community members to cleanup a large amount of debris that accumulated along the Drayton Harbor shoreline between Dakota Creek and California Creek. The MRC staff has received the final metrics on the amount of garbage removed. 41 tires were removed from the shoreline and tidelands along with 2 greasy railroad ties. Weight of trash: 2040lbs, Weight of recycled metal 1000 lbs., Volume of debris removed (including tires) 10 cubic yards.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- Public Works staff and MRC staff have been taking bracket water quality samples in Chuckanut Creek near the hotspot area for high fecal coliform counts. Staff have been piloting Coliscan testing for these samples. Coliscan can be done in house with an incubator, and provides a quantitative way to identify and differentiate coliforms and *E. Coli* from other bacteria. Samples were taken in June, and the results were insignificant. More samples were taken in July and another batch will be taken in August. These samples will be shared with DOH, to show the cost effective source tracking technique being used to try to understand what is happening in the system.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- Three European Green Crab (EGC) were found in Chuckanut Bay right at the Whatcom MRC water quality sampling site in the mouth of Chuckanut Creek. Two 80mm males and one 48mm female were all captured in the same spot out of 71 traps WDFW set across the estuary. The males are at least 3 years old, and the female is likely in her second year. WDFW followed up by setting 40 more traps in the area for two nights with the help of MRC member, Chris Brown. The bycatch from these additional traps were typical species, no EGC.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Photos above: SW Lummi Island Cleanup. Top left, Kurt Baumgarten and Alex feeling accomplished from their removal efforts. Top right, Elizabeth Kilanowski going over the plan with volunteers. Bottom: pano shot of all garbage loaded onto the boat. All photos taken by Austin Rose, MRC Staff.

Washington Conservation Corps crew removing tires from the Drayton Harbor tidelands, August 12, 2019. Photos by: Margarette Grant, Drayton Harbor residents.



Above left: Eleanor Hines approaching kelp bed and Alden Bank. Above Right: Beautiful sunrise. Beautiful kelp bed. Alden Bank. Photos by: Austin Rose, MRC staff.

Puget Sound Partnership
Monthly Report

Month/Year: August 2019

Legislative updates (Status of current bills relevant to NWSC, comment periods and action items):

Over 200 signatures to the support letter for the Heck/Kilmer bill: H.R. 2247, the “Promoting United Government Efforts to save our Sound” (Puget SOS) Act. The Act does the following:

1. Authorizes Puget Sound to receive up to \$50 million per year in federal funds, up from \$28 million per year that we’ve received in the past few fiscal years.
2. Codifies the Federal Task Force, which operates now under a Memorandum of Understanding to help implement the Action Agenda. It requires collaboration with the tribes, and regular reporting on progress.
3. Establishes a Program Office in the EPA, placing us on par with Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Click on these hyperlinks: summary of the [Act](#) and the [full text](#).

No policy bills from the Partnership for this upcoming legislative session. Several budget bills, one of which is for [Puget Sound Info](#). (While on this site check out the [Action Agenda Tracker](#) and Puget Sound [Vital Signs](#) portal.)

Funding/Reporting updates:

Both FFY19 awards are under review at EPA. We anticipate both being ready-to-go for contracts effective 1 October 2019.

NEPORT data entries for habitat acres protected and restored and leveraged resources are due to EPA on 9 September. All National Estuary Programs report on these measures annually.

FEATS season is around the corner! Information for the October report is due to the Partnership 30 September.

Staff updates/changes (note changes to Partnership staff which MRCs/NWSI staff coordinate with regularly):

Assistant Science Director: Katherine Wyatt starting 3 September.

Monitoring Network Coordinator: Chrys Bertolotto starting sometime in September

A number of other hiring activities underway: Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, Communications Specialist, Fiscal and Contracts Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant 3.

Additional helpful links:

FYI: QA/QC training for Partnership staff takes place 9 September, available by WebEx.



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: September 27, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

[To join the WebEx meeting, click here.](#) Enter your name and email address and click "Join."
 For audio conference, dial: 415-655-0001, access code: 804 473 051

10:00-10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of August minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee Communication Committee	Lucas Hart Tom Cowan Ron Thom Pete Haase and Christina Koons
10:20-11:00	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
11:00-11:15	Puget Sound Wide Zooplankton Monitoring Program	Phill Dionne and Patrick Biondo, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
11:15-11:25	Business items Operations plan review (Lucas) Snohomish Estuary tour (Lucas) MRC Conference (Nicole)	Staff
11:25-11:30	NWS Foundation update	NWS Foundation
11:30-11:40	Puget Sound Partnership update	Karin Berkholtz, Puget Sound Partnership
11:40-11:50	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
11:50-11:55	Round table	All
11:55-12:00	Public comment	All



minutes

August 23, 2019 • 10:15 AM-2:45 PM

Red Cedar Room, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Clallam County

Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Alan Clark (Clallam-Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island-Vice Chair), Tom Cowan, Christina Koons (San Juan), Pete Haase (Skagit), Ron Thom, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership Alternate), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Nan McKay

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

Absent: Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Franchesca Perez (Snohomish), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner

Others: Marta Green (Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator for San Juan County), John Cambalik (Coordinator for Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network), Mike Doherty (Clallam MRC member), Robert Knapp (Clallam MRC member), Alisa Taylor (Clallam MRC Intern), Helle Andersen (Clallam MRC Staff), Lyn Muench (Clallam MRC member), Cheryl Lowe (Jefferson MRC staff), Carrol Hull

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

Elsa said the committee received an update on the planned project database. Several MRC members, NWS Commission, and NWS Foundation representatives attended Governor Jay Inslee's visit to the Cornet Bay restoration site. The committee agreed the Commission should sign on to the support letter for PUGET-SOS Act.

Science Advisory Committee

Dana said the committee is still seeking social science guidance on effectiveness of education and outreach projects and is also seeking a shellfish biologist to join the committee. On October 1, Dana is presenting to the Puget Sound Partnership's Social Science Advisory Committee on understanding and monitoring social impacts.

External Relations Committee

The committee would like to work with other MRCs in the future to organize project site visits with elected officials and leaders. Contact Lucas if you have ideas.

Communication Committee



Christina said the committee met and discussed communication staff responsibilities across the NWS Initiative. The committee's purpose is to serve as communication advisory role to the NWS Commission. The committee is seeking representatives from other MRCs to participate. Contact Sasha if interested.

Director report

Lucas delivered the following director updates:

- He is tracking updates on the Partnership's proposed Day on the Hill in Olympia, tentatively scheduled for October 8.
- Don and Lucas are working with Snohomish MRC to plan a tour of the Snohomish Estuary for partners, local leadership, decision makers and others. The tour will highlight the work of the NWS Initiative. The site visit is scheduled for September 25. Site visits are part of objective 4.3 in the NWS Initiative's Operations Plan.
- Lucas noted that Puget Sound was designated a [National Maritime Heritage Area](#) and a celebration will be held August 29th in Tacoma.

Business items

Kelp

Dana Oster and other partners developing the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan presented to Department of Ecology staff to discuss what Ecology's role can be in kelp conservation and recovery. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC symposium

An MRC project symposium is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2020 at Padilla Bay. The symposium is intended to bring together members and staff from all seven MRCs to share project ideas, lessons learned, MRC networking, and regional project development. For more information, contact Dana at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC Conference

The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 in Snohomish County at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. The reception and dinner will be held nearby at Angel of the Winds Arena. A conference planning committee is developing the agenda. Conference site: <http://nwstraits.org/2019-mrc-conference>. Registration will be sent in mid-September. For information on logistics contact Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Don provided the following updates:

- The NWS Foundation is focusing on fundraising and is cultivating the maritime industry for sponsorship.



- The NWS Foundation is soliciting sponsorships for the MRC Conference. If you know of a business/individual who might be interested in sponsoring, please contact Caroline at gibson@nwstraitsfoundation.org.
- They are evaluating a restructuring of the MRC Opportunity Fund for 2020 as well as other ways to engage with the Foundation. For more information, contact Don at don@nwstraitsfoundation.org.
- The Seahorse Siesta restoration project, Island County has been postponed until next year, due to lack of adequate bids.

Oil Spill Consequences to San Juan County and Emergency Response Towing Vessels to Mitigate Risk

Marta Green, Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator for San Juan County, presented on an oil spill risk consequences assessment in San Juan County. Marta discussed two studies that evaluated impacts to ecosystems and the economy and the cost of an emergency response towing vessel. To read the full assessment, [click here](#).

Afternoon welcome

Robert Knapp, Environmental Planning Program Manager for Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, welcomed the group to the tribal center and said the tribe appreciates the opportunity to partner with the MRC on projects, particularly the intern program.

MRC reports

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

Clallam

Alan said Clallam MRC helped WA Department of Fish and Wildlife conduct their annual intensive sampling for forage fish at a total of 14 beaches. The MRC continued their pigeon guillemot monitoring efforts at the 12 sites and continued their shellfish biotoxin sampling every other week in July. Their annual intern celebration was held August 19.

Island

Elsa said the MRC continued their forage fish monitoring. The MRC participated in Family Outdoor Discovery Day--MRC member, Gwendolyn Hannam, developed a felt board of a marine ecosystem to engage children. The MRC will host screenings of the "Discover Our Island Shores" film at the Coupeville and Oak Harbor libraries in September.

Jefferson

Jeff said the MRC has five openings. The MRC completed kelp surveys at North Beach. MRC members cleaned the Port Hadlock voluntary no anchor zone buoys and lines so the buoys were more visible. A rain garden installation in Quilcene is now scheduled for September 24, with initial preparations underway. Plans are underway for the MRC booth at Wooden Boat Festival.



San Juan

Christina said Laura Jo Severson was elected to serve as the NWS Commission alternate representative. The MRC has contracted with Shew Design to produce the Plastic Free Salish Sea website design and branding for the whale wise campaign. The MRC hosted a booth at the San Juan County Fair with information on what they can do as individuals to help reduce the negative impacts on Southern Resident killer whales.

Skagit

Pete said the Kids on the Beach pilot program is now complete and the MRC will be partnering with Padilla Bay NERR to administer and expand the program next year. The MRC continued their forage fish surveys at their main sites and index sites. There was a lot of spawning at the NW March's Point restoration site. Unfortunately, none of the surf smelt eggs were viable in the areas with no shading.

Snohomish

The MRC submitted a written report. The MyCoast partner toolkit was finalized with digital collateral and draft content for use by partner agencies. The MRC's kelp team spent much of August completing surveys of Mukilteo, Edmonds and Hat Island. Several dates were identified for their fall and winter forage fish sampling season.

Whatcom

Bob said the MRC conducted several beach clean ups. The MRC found three European green crab in Chuckanut Bay at the Whatcom MRC water quality sampling site. Whatcom Public Works staff and MRC staff took bracket water quality samples in Chuckanut Creek near the hotspot area for high fecal coliform counts.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin delivered the following Partnership updates:

- There were 200 signatures in the support letter for the Heck/Kilmer PUGET SOS bill, H.R. 2247. More information: summary of the [Act](#) and the [full text](#).
- There are several budget bills this session, one of which is for [Puget Sound Info](#). Also check out the [Action Agenda Tracker](#) and Puget Sound [Vital Signs](#) portal.
- The Partnership hired Chrys Bertolotto as Monitoring Network Coordinator and Katherine Wyatt as Assistant Science Director. They are still hiring for several positions, [click here for more information](#).

Life and Times of a Clallam Intern Presentation and Panel

Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Intern, presented on her project surveying kelp forests in Clallam County. A panel discussion followed, with her Clallam MRC mentor Alan Clark and MRC staff Helle Andersen discussing the benefits and challenges of the internship program, lessons learned and how other internships can be incorporated into various projects.



minutes

Roundtable

There were no topics presented for roundtable discussion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The next Commission meeting will be on September 27 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM by WebEx Conference Call

DRAFT

NWSC Rules of Procedure on providing comments on proposed legislation

14. The Commission may, from time to time choose to comment or provide testimony on proposed federal, state or local government legislation.

14.1 Requests for the Commission to comment on legislation should be in writing.

14.2 Requests are referred to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee may recommend alterations to comment language and refer the original comment along with alterations to the Commission for approval.

14.3 If approved by the Commission by consensus, the comment or testimony will be provided to the appropriate legislative body or committee.

14.4 Where time does not allow for Commission consensus, the Executive Committee may waive 14.1-14.3 and provide comment if approved by committee consensus.



Commission staff highlights – September 2019

MRC Grants –Any questions related to the current or upcoming grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp – The kelp monitoring 2019 season is nearly complete. Dana and Suzanne have been processing the data submitted through KoboToolBox. The kelp conservation and recovery plan is in the draft stages and will be available for public comment November 2019. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC Symposium – The first annual MRC Symposium is scheduled for January 8 2020 at Padilla Bay. A save the date announcement will be sent out shortly. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

Strategic planning – The strategic plan is now posted to the Northwest Straits website at nwstraits.org, in the top upper right of the home page.

MRC Conference –The 2019 MRC Conference will be held November 15-16 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Everett. Registration will be sent late September. Questions on lodging, registration and logistics can be forwarded to Nicole at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference – Lucas will be chairing a cross-border citizen science session titled “Bridging the border with citizen science.” A panel will discuss opportunities for cross border BC-WA collaboration.

Snohomish Estuary Tour – Lucas has been working with the NWS Foundation and Commission staff to develop handouts and the draft agenda for the Sept. 25th boat tour. To date, around 40 individuals have RSVP’d.

Database – NWSC staff continue to work with Ecology on creation of a project database. We are currently refining the fields that will be included in the database. The WA Technology Solutions Group will be engaged within the next month to brainstorm paths forward.

Meeting attendance

- Dana attended: Whatcom MRC meeting 9/5, Restoration Toolkit testing 9/5, Nearshore PSEMP 9/17

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: September, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): The At-Large position was filled by Tim Cochnauer a retired fishery biologist.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The Clallam MRC monthly meeting was held September 16th. Topics on the meeting agenda include: Jacob Melly, CCEH, presenting on the BEACH program, Clallam MRC retreat in October, Dungeness River Festival, 2019-20 internship program, Clallam MRC leadership, NWSC updates, and project updates.

Participation in other meetings: Cathy Lear participated in the ERN/LIO meeting Sept. 13th.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: sampling was conducted at Cline Spit Sept. 11th and at Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook Sept. 17th.

Pigeon Guillemot: The monitoring effort of the 12 pigeon guillemot breeding colonies is wrapping up.

Shellfish Biotoxin: Bob Vreeland and Coleman continued the sampling every other week in September.

ICC: Clallam MRC is coordinating the cleanup efforts Sept. 21st at three locations along the Strait – Joyce Depot, Ediz Hook and Dungeness Spit. This is the last time Clallam MRC is involved with the marine debris cleanup efforts led by CoastSavers.

Dungeness River Festival: Clallam MRC will have a booth at the festival Sept. 27th. The theme of the booth will be crabber outreach game under the “how to catch more crab” program.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None

Photos: None – will have some later of the ICC and Dungeness River Festival

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: September 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Past Meetings/Events:

- August 29: Oak Harbor School District STEM teacher training: Kelly Zupich and Anna Toledo presented to 3 teachers on the "Discover Our Island Shores" film and classroom activity.
- August 30: Nearshore monitoring at Hidden Beach with NWSF
- September 3 MRC meeting: Communications planning, outreach events
- September 4: Nearshore monitoring at Cornet Bay with NWSF
- September 6: Work party at Cornet Bay with NWSF and SFEG
- September 13: Work party at Cornet Bay with NWSF and SFEG
- September 14: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Coupeville Library. 45 attendees.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- September 28, 2-3pm: "Discover Our Island Shores" film screening at Oak Harbor Library
- September 28: Sea Level Rise forums (morning on Camano, afternoon on Whidbey): The Whidbey workshop is FULL!
- October 1 MRC meeting: Communications planning, kelp update
- October 12: Creosote identification workshops (9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid on Camano, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute on Camano)
- October 19: Orca Recovery Day events in partnership with Whidbey Island Conservation District and NWSF
 - o 9am-12pm: Native vegetation planting at Sunlight Shores
 - o 9am-12pm: Native vegetation maintenance at Cornet Bay
 - o 1-4pm: Rain garden rehab at Greenbank Farm

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

Forage Fish: Monthly monitoring continues at Maple Grove on Camano and Hidden Beach on Whidbey. Volunteers have re-initiated surveys at Ala Spit, Cornet Bay, and Glendale, and are planning to add Seahorse Siesta starting in November.

Bull Kelp: Volunteers have completed summer monitoring at three sites: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point. Linda Rhodes is working on the end-of-season report, and will provide a presentation at the October MRC meeting.

Outreach:

- Communications plan: The communications sub-committee will be meeting with Thomas Mills, Public Affairs Officer for the Whidbey Naval Air Station. Thomas has offered to help the MRC with our communications planning process. He will meet with the sub-committee and also speak at our October MRC meeting.
- Film screenings: The MRC held its first public screening of the film “Discover Our Island Shores” at the Coupeville Library. There were 45 people in attendance, and the film was well-received. Filmmaker Florian Graner provided a Q&A at the end of the film. Coupeville Library is interested in hosting a screening again next year. A second screening is planned for Saturday, September 28, 2-3pm at Oak Harbor Library.
- Sea level rise workshops: We are partnering with Washington Sea Grant and Island County Planning to hold two workshops on sea level rise on Saturday, September 28 – Camano in the morning and Whidbey in the afternoon. As of September 18, our Whidbey workshop is full at 65 RSVPs and our Camano workshop has 22 RSVPs. Given the level of interest in these workshops, we may consider offering them again in the future.
- Creosote identification workshops: We have scheduled the creosote identification workshops with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources for:
 - Saturday, October 12, 9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid
 - Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute
- Rain garden signage: The rain garden signage subcommittee met with Crescent Harbor Elementary School to discuss placement and content of the sign to be installed at their rain garden. The subcommittee is working with signage artist Larry Eifert to design signs for the rain gardens at Crescent Harbor Elementary School and Greenbank Farm.
- Orca Recovery Day: The MRC is working with Whidbey Island Conservation District, NWSF, and WSU Master Gardeners on three events for Orca Recovery Day on Saturday, October 19th:
 - o 9am-12pm: Native vegetation planting at Sunlight Shores
 - o 9am-12pm: Native vegetation maintenance at Cornet Bay
 - o 1-4pm: Rain garden rehab at Greenbank Farm

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc): None.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Left: Florian Graner speaks with audience at screening of “Discover Our Island Shores.” Right: A tiny volunteer helps with nearshore monitoring at Hidden Beach. Credit: Anna Toledo

JCMRC Monthly Report

County: Jefferson
Month/Year: Sept 2019
Submitted by: Cheryl Lowe

Membership/Leadership Changes *(including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):*

Jefferson MRC currently has 5 MRC vacancies. In addition to previous departures, Wade Crouch and Ashley Mackenzie are finishing up their terms this month and will not be renewing. We are actively seeking applications at this time.

Cliff Moore is the new Jefferson County Extension Department Director (Jefferson MRC is within County Extension).

Events/Meetings *(including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):*

Past Meetings & Events:

- Sept 3: MRC monthly meeting (16 members/staff & 10 guests). Discussion items included project updates, WBF update, other meeting reports, MRC member recruitment and presentations/Q&A by the 2 candidates running for Port of PT Commission. Commissioner Greg Brotherton also led a discussion about the issue of herbicide use in upland forests and possible consequences to streams and marine waters.
- Sept 1: 'Searching for Seaweed' guided beach walk
- Sept 6-8: MRC booth at the 2019 Wooden Boat Festival
- Sept 13: Strait ERN LIO meeting
- Sept 17: Exec Committee meeting
- Sept 19: MRC staff meeting (Padilla Bay)

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- Sept 24: Rain Garden installation in Quilcene
- Oct 1: Next MRC meeting
- Oct 2: WSP Fort Worden pier & boat ramp open house (proposed shoreline revisions)
- Oct 3: Chumsortium meeting

Funding updates *(newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):*

County has now signed a new NW Straits Foundation agreement supporting 3 MRC tasks: Opportunity Fund (strengthening partnership & capacity for long-term support of community rain garden projects); local coordination to assist NWSF Shore Friendly outreach; and coordinating pre-restoration nearshore monitoring for one site in Discovery Bay.

Project Updates *(progress from past month on existing projects or any new projects identified):*

1. Monitoring:
 - a) **Fort Townsend:** no new info this month
 - b) **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach):** Sampling done on Aug 14, 2019 and Sept 18, 2019. No eggs observed in the field. WDFW's QC not yet completed.
 - c) **Kelp:** September North Beach kelp survey completed on 9/2/19 (Jeff Taylor, Judy D'Amore and Emily Bishop participating). Jeff continues to work on strategies for kelp bed monitoring using satellite imagery technology.
2. Rain Gardens: Quilcene rain garden installation is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept 24th, with initial preparations and volunteer recruitment underway. As of Sept 20th, the site work has been completed (digging basin and drainage channel to basin; amended soil added and ready for plants) and volunteers lined up (including one County Commissioner).
3. Education & Outreach:
 - a) **'Searching for Seaweed' beach walk** was held Sept 1 (the Sunday of Labor Day weekend): this walk highlighted marine habitats and ecological connections through an educational program about seaweeds, sea grasses and other things we find on the beach. We filled the class (31 attendees). This program gave us a chance to introduce the Jefferson MRC to a new audience, teach people a little bit about which species are edible and also review WDFW seaweed harvesting regulations. The Jefferson MRC's Resources webpage has links to a couple of the handouts.
 - b) **2019 Wooden Boat Festival:** 290 total direct contacts (90 on Friday, 143 on Saturday, 57 on Sunday (rain that day). Booth was co-sponsored by WA Sea Grant and WSU Extension with a focus on water & boating topics. Activities included a bean bag "fish toss" (salmon and other animals need forage fish) and a display about "what's wrong with this anchor?" (it's in the eelgrass!) Our volunteers had some great conversations with attendees about our various projects, classes & programs, etc. There seemed to be more local shoreline landowners questions this year, but we have no data to support that.
4. Olympia Oyster: Shell stacks have been pulled from Quilcene and Discovery Bay sites, but we have not yet collected data about what was found on them. Discovery Bay Permit status: We had some delays putting together a GIS map of the eelgrass boundary, which was requested by Corps of Engineers. We should be able to submit that report to them by the end of September and expect a response later in the fall.
5. Voluntary No Anchor Zones: Random checks of boater compliance along the PT waterfront were done on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Wooden Boat Festival at various times of the day. Full compliance was observed. Someone also checked boat positions on Monday (Sept 9) from the ferry. They saw one boat inside the line of buoys, but because it was a low tide at the time, it's difficult to tell if it had been anchored outside during a higher tide, with the extra line from lower water allowing the boat to drift more toward shore, or if it was anchored inside the no-anchor zone boundary. It's the only boat we observed inside the voluntary no-anchor zone all weekend. We're

calling it a 99% compliance rate, since there were hundreds of boats anchored along the PT waterfront over the weekend. More details will be included in the end of grant project report.

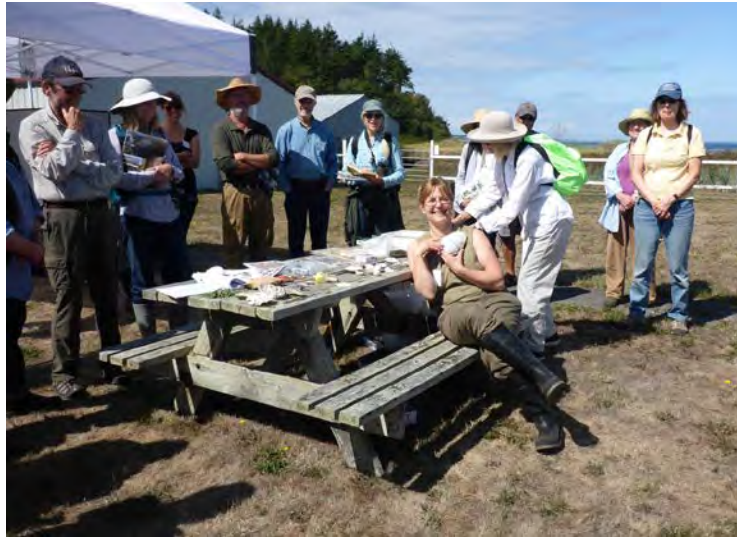
Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Jefferson MRC rep attended the Strait ERN (LIO) Sept meeting. Presentations on oil spill preparedness might be useful for future MRC educational programs, but most of the meeting was focused on administrative issues and not aligned with the Jefferson MRC's projects.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects):

Searching for Seaweed Beach Walk

Instructor showing display of shells and seaweed



Wooden Boat Festival Booth

MRC members Frank Handler and Sarah Fisker at the booth.



WBF Fish Toss Game



WBF monitoring



MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: September 2019

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

- No changes in membership or leadership this month

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC meeting was held on September 5th.
- Christina Koons attended the monthly NWSC on August 23rd at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center in Clallam County. A presentation on the MRC's efforts related to oil spill risk consequences was given by San Juan County LIO Coordinator Marta Green.
- Subcommittee meetings for PFSS took place on September 12 and 20th to establish core areas of focus for the coming months and review the branding and web design provided by Shew Design.
- Christina Koons and Frances Robertson attended a workshop to discuss the locations of Geographic Response Plans in the County on August 19th.
- MRC Staff gave a public presentation on the efforts to identify management options for protecting Southern Resident critical habitat on the west side of San Juan Island at the Whale Museum on August 27th.
- MRC Staff also presented on *Being whale wise in whale waters* to the Friday Harbor Sailing Club on September 10th.
- The MRC will participated in the County wide Fall Great Islands Clean-up on September 28th.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No new funding updates to report.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

SKRW: The MRC is wrapping up its field efforts for the whale warning flag with the final survey of the pilot survey due to be distributed through email lists and social media in mid-September. Following the close of this final survey in mid-October MRC staff will conduct the analysis of the survey data, incorporate vessel data from Soundwatch and draft a final report. This report will be made available to the NWS Commission as well as the NWS foundation early in the New Year. Outreach and education efforts will continue after a review of the 2019 efforts to determine how best the MRC can support the wider Be Whale Wise effort going forward.

PFSS: The MRC has contracted with Shew Design to produce the PFSS website design and branding for the campaign. Shew will be presenting to the group on September 20th for a first review of material. The PFSS subcommittee have identified a number of core areas of interest to focus efforts on locally going

forward and have also received requests to share the Plastic Free Salish Sea Initiative with other groups, both in Washington and in British Columbia.

MSA: The MSA subcommittee presented to the MRC at the September 5th monthly meeting. This allowed them to share the core goals and objectives of the MSA review and update that was initiated this year and is slated to continue through into 2021. The group also shared the process that they expect to follow to achieve their goals. This includes working closely with our NWSF Fellow, Abigail Ames to identify key entities and contacts and send save the dates for the Marine Managers Workshop, slated for March 10-11 2020.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

- The MRC launched MRC Mondays through their Facebook page on Monday 9, September.
- The MRC were approached with a request to have them sign onto a letter by Pacific NW Protectors, a local advocacy group, in support of creating a Mission Blue Hope Spot in the Salish Sea. The MRC declined to sign onto the letter but is looking forward to a presentation by SR3 to learn more about how they are engaging with Mission Blue to highlight the importance of the Salish Sea and the collective efforts of Federal, Tribal, State and local governments, NGOs and all other groups working to restore the region for long-term sustainability for all.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



A GRP site on Sucia Island, taken by Frances Robertson during surveys with the Department of Ecology and IOSA to identify current and additional GRP sites within the San Juans.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Sept /2019

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

- **Membership/Leadership changes** (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Sarah Tchang resigned her seat on the MRC as the representative of the Port of Anacortes. Sarah has been an invaluable part of the MRC over the last four years and has provided great leadership as the current MRC Chair. MRC Vice-Chair, Betsy Stevenson, will take over the role of MRC Chair through the end of the year and Jay Lind will temporarily take over the role of MRC Vice-Chair.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- **MRC Meeting Highlights- September 12:** Jim Johanessen with Coastal Geologic Services gave a presentation on the shoreline restoration assessment and recommendations for Skagit Land Trust's Carstens property on Fidalgo Bay that was recently completed in April, 2019.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

No updates.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- **Salish Sea Stewards:** A Salish Sea Stewards gathering will be held at Padilla Bay NERR on October 8th at noon. The theme is data feedback! Jason Morgan will be presenting on the nearshore monitoring data and Dana Oster will be presenting on the kelp monitoring data. The agenda will also include an update on the Salish Sea Stewards program planning process, and recognition of volunteers who have donated more than 100 hours in the last 12 months.
- **Forage Fish Surveys:** Surveys continue at the Bowman Bay, NW March's Point, and Kukatali Preserve restoration sites, and the three index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel at Ship Harbor, and Samish Island).
- **Kids on the Beach Project:** The report will be finalized the end of this month. Skagit MRC is partnering with Padilla Bay NERR to administer and expand the program under the new MRC grant and with funding from Shell Puget Sound Refinery. The first Kids on the Beach field activity will take place October 3, 9:30am-3pm at Camp Kirby, Samish Island with 22, 5th graders from the John Stanford School in Seattle. They will conduct forage fish surveys on the beach at Camp Kirby and will look for eggs under the microscope. The second Kids on the Beach field activity will take place Wednesday, October 16, between 9:30am-2:30pm at the Samish RV Park with 25 students from Conway School. Students will conduct forage fish surveys and beach seining. Volunteer help is needed for both events.
- **Bowman Bay Restoration:** The last monthly plant maintenance work party took place September 20, 10am -1pm. Tracy and Lisa conducted a quick walk through of the site with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group staff to discuss future planting and plant maintenance plans at Bowman Bay. Monthly weeding and watering with the help of volunteers will start up again next spring. Beach seining and forage fish surveys will continue for at least one more year.
- **Pinto Abalone Recovery:** The report will be finalized the end of this month.

- Olympia Oyster Restoration: No update.
- Fidalgo Bay Day: The event took place August 24, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. An estimated 400 people attended the event. 50 volunteers and 30 organizations and businesses helped make this year's event a huge success! Over 200 volunteer hours were contributed. Skagit MRC and the NWSC shared an educational booth and passport station that focused on kelp. Jason Morgan and Dan Pentilla led the beach seining activity. Diver Laura hosted a virtual reality experience "Virtual Salish Sea and Beyond". A final report will be available by the end of the month and will be posted on the MRC website. The 2020 Fidalgo Bay Day planning committee will be meeting right after the MRC meeting next month.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: The surveys will be finished up for the season later this month.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc)

- Skagit MRC member, Pete Haase, will be giving a presentation on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 7:00pm at the Burlington Public Library. Pete's presentation will highlight the importance of citizen science and the different ways that folks can contribute to protecting the Salish Sea.

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):

2019 Fidalgo Bay Day Photos:



MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: September 2019

Submitted by: Kathleen Pozarycki and Elisa Dawson

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

On August 21st the MRC held their annual Summer Picnic at the Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center. Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Traci Sanderson, Craig Wollam, Mike Ehlebracht, Franchesca Perez, Bob Hillmann, Susan Tarpley, and Paul Clampitt attended the picnic.

The MRC met with Department of Ecology staff on the Geographic Response Plans in Snohomish County on September 11, 2019. Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Susan Tarpley, Mike Ehlebracht, and Craig Wollam attended the meeting.

On September 18, 2019 the MRC had their monthly meeting. The MRC discussed the upcoming Orca Talk on October 16, the North Sound Geographic Response Plan update and meeting, Mussel Watch, the upcoming September 25th Snohomish County Boat Tour, and other project updates. Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Susan Tarpley, Cathy Stanley, Sarah Brown, Paul Clampitt, Tom Doerge, Mike Ehlebracht, Laura Gurley, Bob Hillmann, and Franchesca Perez.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): No updates at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project: Bob Hillmann and Kathleen Pozarycki are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Anchor QEA to conduct a feasibility study of the replacement of the culvert at Howarth Park. Additionally, signage is being designed for the project site. This project is being funded by the Northwest Straits Foundation through an Opportunity Fund Grant.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish monitoring dates have been scheduled for the 2019-2020 season and are listed below. The MRC had their first monitoring day of the season on September 17th. Kathleen Pozarycki, Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, Cathy Stanley, and Bob Hillmann completed sampling. The MRC was joined by WDFW staff Kate Olson.

Below are the rest of the 2019-2020 forage fish dates:

- October 8th, 2019 (October 14th held as back up date).
- November 7th, 2019 (November 25th held as back up date).
- December 18th, 2019 (December 19th held as back up date).

- January 15th, 2020 (January 30th held as back up date).
- February 25th, 2020 (February 26th held as back up date).

MRC Grant 2018-2019 MyCoast Communications Plan: The final digital ad run which ran from August 12- September 2 is complete. There were 113,887 impressions with a reach of 42,776. 903 people clicked on the ad. Since the campaign began, 129 new users are using the MyCoast app and 364 reports have been submitted. Additionally, there is a lessons learned webinar scheduled for Tuesday September 24th at 10 a.m.

Crabber Education: Crabber education has been completed for the season.

Kelp Project: The final date for kelp monitoring was completed on August 29th at Edmonds. All data has been sent to Dana and Suzanne. Suzanne is working on getting the data into SoundIQ and the MRC looks forward to showing maps of the data to partners.

Edmonds Kelp Monitoring of August 29th:



Mussel Watch: Michael Ehlebracht has been working to finalize sites for 2019-2020 mussel watch. At this time, the MRC sites are Meadowdale, Mukilteo, Everett Harbor, Edmonds Marina on Olympic Beach, Edmonds Marina Beach Park, and Edmonds Brackett's Landing. The MRC may need to recruit additional volunteer to help with all of these sites. There are three other sites in Snohomish County (Naketa Beach, Kayak Point, Tulalip Bay), but they will be covered by Lincoln Loehr/WDFW staff, Franchesca Perez, and Cathy Stanley, respectively. Cage deployment will be scheduled for the week on October 27- November 2. Back up dates are November 11-19 and November 24- December 1.

Upcoming Events:

- Boat Tour of the Snohomish Estuary with the Northwest Straits Commission and Northwest Straits Foundation September 25th.
- MRC September forage fish survey October 8th.
- Orca Talk Mukilteo Rosehill Community Center October 16th

Southern Resident Killer Whales: *Will the Next Generation Survive?*

Southern Resident Killer Whales, also known as Orcas, have had a special place in Puget Sound for many generations. However, their current status is endangered due to lack of food, toxic pollution and noise levels.

Come learn from a panel of scientists and managers about their place in our ecosystem and what's being done to protect them.

**Learn how you can play
a role in their recovery.**

Speakers:

- Dr. Richard Osborne, *Whale Museum/Soundwatch/UW*
- Jacques White, *Executive Director, Long Live the Kings*



6:30 p.m. | Wednesday | October 16

**Mukilteo Rosehill Community Center, Point Elliot Room
304 Lincoln Ave, Mukilteo, WA 98275**

**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Presentations begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.
Light refreshments will be served.**

Event sponsored by:



MRC Monthly Report

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: September 2019

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Four members will term out in January 2020, leaving potentially 5 vacancies on the MRC representing recreational, scientific, citizen-at-large, and two economic interest positions. Members have been asked to begin thinking about potential replacements and pursue recruitment.

MRC staff will be on maternity leave October 1 – January 1, but could be working part time in December. Administrative support will be provided through the Whatcom County Public Works Natural Resources Division secretary and the current MRC Chair and Vice-Chair.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

- The MRC held their general meeting on September 5. Members gave a thorough project development update, and discussed upcoming MRC hosted events as part of Whatcom Water Week Sept 14-22, which includes Bellingham SeaFeast. There was also discussion on providing an end of the year presentation to Council and ways to celebrate the Whatcom MRC's 20th anniversary. MRC Staff encourage the group to present at the Whatcom County Council Surface Water Work Session on November 12. Members also had the idea of developing an op ed piece for a local newspaper such as the Cascadia Weekly. MRC staff are preparing final reports from this grant period and will help prepare a presentation as much as possible before maternity leave.
- The MRC will no longer be participating in Bellingham SeaFeast due to limited staff and volunteer capacity. The MRC will participate in Whatcom Water Week in partnership with the Surfrider Foundation to host a beach cleanup at Semiahmoo Spit in honor of International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 14.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

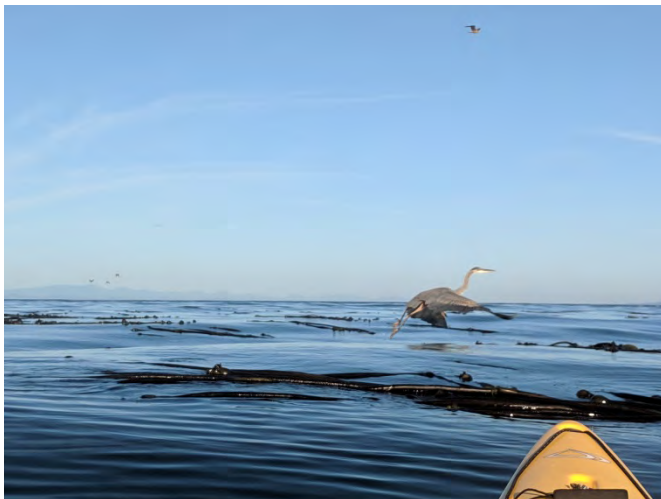
Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project, any new projects identified, project activities):

- An announcement was developed for two MRC internships, a forage fish survey intern and a North Sound Stewards coordinator intern. It is anticipated these internship will begin on October 1 and will end on September 30, 2020. The announcement was shared through Whatcom County Human Resources, WWU- Huxley College, BTC – Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the MRC listserv. The announcement closed on September 9 and applications were reviewed by MRC members and RESources staff.

- The North Sound Stewards Advisory Committee met in early September to review applications and identify a candidate for the North Sound Stewards volunteer coordinator intern that will work for the MRC October 1, 2019- September 30, 2020. The group also began developing a workplan for 2019-2020, including timing for recruiting program participants and any additional support needed given MRC staff maternity leave.
- An intern was chosen to work as the MRC Forage Fish survey coordinator to act as the point person for the monthly forage fish surveys. This intern will work approx. 5 hours per month October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020.
- An additional kelp survey took place up at Point Whitehorn. This area was surveyed 4 years ago but the data was lost during transition of the MRC member who led the survey. The kelp bed was found to be a decent size and in health condition. The MRC would like to continue surveying in that location, which would make a total of five locations the Whatcom MRC is surveying bull kelp.
- MRC staff and Whatcom County Public Works PIC program staff submitted a thorough report to WA Department of Health on water quality efforts led by the Whatcom MRC in N. Chuckanut Bay. A conference call is scheduled for September 16 to discuss the possibility of a partial reclassification of the bay to support recreational shellfish harvest.
- The Public Speaker Series Subcommittee met on September 12 to discuss 2020 planning given MRC staff maternity leave and the retirement of Sue Blake – a long standing representative with WWIN. The group reviewed the status and needs associated with upcoming events and discussed the fate of topics that were considered but not held in 2019.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, advisory actions the MRC is taking, questions to the Commission, etc):

Photos (share a few photos of recent projects—include project, photo credit and additional info):



Hello Heron! Photo by: Eleanor Hines at Point Whitehorn kelp survey



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: December 6, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

[To join the WebEx meeting, click here.](#) Enter your name and email address and click "Join."
 For audio conference, dial: 415-655-0001, access code: 804 752 299

10:00-10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of September minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05-10:20	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee Communication Committee	Elsa Schwartz Tom Cowan Ron Thom Pete Haase
10:20-10:25	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
10:25-11:10	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
11:10-11:25	Business items Conference debrief (Sasha) Retreat facilitator and planning committee volunteers (Lucas) Short term hire (Lucas) Database update (Lucas) Puget Sound Day on the Hill (Lucas) Kelp update (Dana) 2020 meeting calendar (Nicole) Nicole leaving (Lucas, Nicole)	Staff
11:25-11:30	Puget Sound Partnership update	Laura Blackmore, Puget Sound Partnership
11:30-11:35	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin
11:35-11:50	Student Research in Action: Harbor Seal Impacts on Salmon in the Salish Sea	Dr. Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez, Western Washington University



agenda

11:50-11:55

Round table

All

11:55-12:00

Public comment

All



September 27, 2019 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

WebEx – Conference call

Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Tom Cowan, Ron Thom, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Karin Berkholtz (Puget Sound Partnership – alternate), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner, Barbara Bennett (Island – alternate), Franchesca Perez (Snohomish)

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

Absent: Alan Clark (Clallam-Chair), Elsa Schwartz (Island-Vice Chair), Nan McKay, Christina Koons (San Juan), Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Pete Haase (Skagit)

Others: Phil Green (San Juan member), Claire Cook (Swinomish Indian Tribal Community staff), Neil Harrington (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff), Angela Cruz (WA Sea Grant Hershman Fellow)

Welcome and Introductions

Both the chair and vice-chair were unable to attend. Lucas opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

The committee recommended the NWS Commission adopt the newly-developed procedure for providing comments on proposed legislation. The committee agreed that Lucas should nominate Dr. Ron Thom for the 2020 Seattle Aquarium Conservation Research Award on behalf of the NWS Commission.

- Motion: Franchesca motioned to approve the new rules of procedure on providing comments on proposed legislation. Jeff seconded. The NWS Commission approved by consensus.

External Relations Committee

The committee provided feedback to Lucas on his upcoming presentation on the NWS Initiative at the WA Association of Counties Conference. The committee also discussed their legislative strategy for the upcoming session which begins in January.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron said the committee recently discussed adding a social scientist to the committee and agreed on extending an invite to Dr. Kathleen Wolf, Research Social Scientist at the University of Washington. Dana is going to present an overview of the NWS Initiative and the Actions to Impact program to the Puget Sound Partnership’s Social Science Advisory Committee.

Communication Committee



Sasha said the committee met twice and is working on messaging in support of the Strategic Plan objectives. The committee also helped reveal a need for clarification in the roles of NWS Initiative communication staff and where support can be provided to MRCs.

MRC reports

Monthly reports for each MRC are available by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/2VtYqJ1>

Clallam

Clallam submitted a written report. A new member joined the MRC, Tim Cochnauer, a retired fishery biologist. The MRC hosted a booth at Dungeness River Festival on September 27 with a theme of crabber outreach. Forage fish volunteers monitored three locations in September: Cline Spit, Elwha Beach and Ediz Hook. The MRC will hold a retreat in October.

Island

Barbara said there are two upcoming Sea Level Rise Forums. The MRC is working on their own communication plan. Forage fish monitoring was re-initiated at Ala Spit, Cornet Bay, and Glendale, and is planned to start at Seahorse Siesta in November. Volunteers have completed summer bull kelp monitoring.

Jefferson

Jeff said the MRC has five openings. The MRC installed a new raingarden in Quilcene on September 24. The MRC held a 'Searching for Seaweed' beach walk September 1 highlighting marine habitats and ecological connections through an educational program about seaweeds and sea grasses.

San Juan

Phil provided the update for the MRC. The MRC is finishing up their outreach season for the Be Whale Wise Project. The MRC has contracted with Shew Design to produce the Plastic Free Salish Sea website design and branding for the campaign. Christina Koons and Frances Robertson attended a workshop to discuss the locations of Geographic Response Plans in San Juan County.

Skagit

Skagit submitted a written report. The Kids on the Beach program completed its second year and the MRC will be partnering with Padilla Bay NERR to administer and expand the program next year. The MRC continued their forage fish surveys at their main sites and index sites. They found significant forage fish spawning at the Northwest March's Point restoration site.

Snohomish

Francesca said forage fish monitoring dates are set for their fall and winter forage fish sampling season. The MRC held their annual Summer Picnic at the Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center on August 21. The MRC completed their MyCoast marketing campaign. Since the campaign began, 129 new users are



using the MyCoast app and 364 reports were submitted. The MRC's kelp team wrapped up the monitoring season.

Whatcom

Bob said the MRC will have several openings coming up in January. Austin Rose, Whatcom MRC staff, will be on maternity leave starting in October. The MRC is presenting to their county council's Surface Water Work Session on November 20 for their 20th Anniversary. An intern was chosen to work as the MRC Forage Fish survey coordinator and act as the point person for the monthly forage fish surveys.

Zooplankton Monitoring

Claire Cook presented the Swinomish Indian Tribal Communities' Crab Abundance Monitoring Program (CAMP) which seeks to fill extensive gaps in knowledge of early life history phases of Dungeness crab in Puget Sound. Floating light traps are used to attract the larval crab (zooplankton) to the monitoring traps. Deployment of the light traps are supported by citizen science. [Click here for the method manual.](#)

Business items

Operations Plan review

Lucas said NWS Commission staff reviewed progress on the Operations Plan. The plan is intended to be a working document which will assist in tracking implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Snohomish Estuary tour

Lucas said the Snohomish MRC hosted a boat tour with the NWS Foundation and NWS Commission. The tour showcased the MRCs restoration projects and was a celebration of their 20th anniversary.

MRC Conference

The conference will be held on November 15-16, 2019 at the [Courtyard by Marriott](#) in downtown Everett, with the Friday evening dinner and reception nearby at the [Edward H. Hansen Conference Center](#) (adjacent to Angel of the Winds Arena). Registration deadline is [October 21](#). Contact Nicole with any questions on logistics at jordan@nwstraits.org.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Lucas provided an update on behalf of the NWS Foundation:

- Caroline is working on MRC conference sponsorships.
- The Opportunity Fund getting a makeover in 2020. Guidelines and grant amounts will be based on donations raised and funding available at time of solicitation. Don and Caroline will visit the MRCs this winter.
- Caroline is the primary contact to the NWS Foundation for MRC matters.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Karin delivered the following Partnership updates:



minutes

- Puget Sound Day on the Sound (a mini-Puget Sound Day on the Hill) is scheduled for October 8 at the Puyallup Tribal Youth Center in Tacoma. See the [save the date](#) from the Puget Sound Partnership.
- Discussions about the EPA funding model are starting. Expect more on this over the coming months.
- The NWS Commission's base award was approved by EPA and will go into effect October 1.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/Tribal update

Cecilia provided the following tribal updates:

- Comments on the EPA proposed repeal of WA Water Quality Standards were being accepted through October 7, 2019. More information can be [found here](#).
- The Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force is scheduled to meet on October 7 at UW Longhouse, Seattle WA. [More information here](#).
- Save the date for [Billy Frank Jr. Pacific Salmon Summit](#): November 5, 2019. Squaxin Island Tribe, Shelton, WA.

Roundtable

There were no topics presented for roundtable discussion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The next Commission meeting will be on December 6 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM by WebEx Conference Call



Executive Committee Meeting
November 4, 2019 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference call

Committee Members: Alan Clark, Tom Cowan, Jude Apple, Elsa Schwartz

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Nicole Jordan

Absent: Ron Thom

Budget update

The 2018-19 EPA/Puget Sound Partnership budget is on track to be fully expended by the time it expires at the end of December.

Database update

Ecology recently confirmed that they will be unable to complete the project database request to meet the needs and budget of the Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission, and the alternative route through Technology Solutions Group was also determined not to be a viable path. Richard Austin, Clallam volunteer and developer of KoBoToolbox for the kelp project, will be volunteering his time to create a basic project database.

Short term NWS Commission position

The NWS Commission has available funds to hire a short-term position from approximately April through August 2020 to manage the kelp monitoring project and other tasks. The committee supported the NWS Commission hiring someone to serve as kelp coordinator, compile data for the NWS Commission's new database, and develop Story Maps for the Initiative.

MRC Conference check in

Staff are working to organize the final pieces of the MRC Conference. Details for a few sessions are still being worked out. More information, including the agenda, can be found here: <https://nwstraits.org/2019-mrc-conference>.

MRC assistance

NWS Commission staff are engaging with MRCs to provide volunteer recruitment support. A press release was sent out for Whatcom MRC to assist recruitment for filling the six open seats emerging in January. Clallam MRC has filled their open seats and Jefferson MRC is receiving applicants.

A facilitator for the retreat

The committee agreed it is beneficial to hire a facilitator at the 2020 NWS Initiative retreat. Lucas will follow up with Hilary Wilkinson with Veda Environmental.

NWS Commission communications/marketing

A new short [film by SeaDoc](#) was recently released sparking a conversation about an overall marketing strategy for the NWS Commission. The committee agreed it is valuable to recruit staff with communication skills and focus the position Nicole is vacating more towards that effort, including building messaging, strategy and boosting the communication support capacity for the NWS Initiative.

**Nicole's last day**

Nicole is relocating with her husband to Eastern Washington, her last day with the Commission will be December 11, 2019. Lucas is working with Ecology's Human Resources Department to fill the position. A position announcement will be shared when available.

Tribal Habitat Conference

Lucas was invited by Cecilia Gobin to attend the Tribal Habitat Conference in October. This was the first year it was open to non-tribal participants. Lucas also plans to attend the Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Summit, November 5.

Senator Murray Staff Meeting

Lucas met with Ann Larson, Northwest Regional Director Senator Murray, to provide an update on the NWS Commission's work.

Kelp Recovery Plan

The Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan was released for peer review. Once peer review is complete, the plan will move to a public comment period. Funding for this project will end in 2019, the plan should be complete in January 2020.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on December 2 from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM over conference call



Commission staff highlights – December 2019

2020 Retreat – Preliminary planning is now underway for a 2020 NWS Initiative retreat, scheduled for March 26-27. Commission staff completed paperwork to begin the process of hiring a facilitator.

MRC Grants – The 2019-21 MRC grants are now underway, with the first quarterly reporting due in early January. Any questions related to the current grants can be directed to Sasha (360-428-1084 or horst@nwstraits.org). The 2018-19 MRC grants are in the process of being closed by Commission, MRC and Ecology staff.

Kelp – The Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan draft is complete and available for public comment through the end of the month. The comments will be incorporated into a final plan to be available January 2020. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org. A post kelp survey season WebEx is scheduled December 11 for all MRC members and volunteers who participated in the program. We will review preliminary data, discuss how the season went, share methods, and ideas for the next year.

Forage Fish – A forage fish call was held October 2 for MRCs to discuss the project with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff. The call had 12 participants representing six MRCs. The call included a review of how the forage fish projects were going in each county, volunteer engagement, sampling frequency, transferring samples to WDFW, WDFW's new iForm for electronic datasheets, and an update on WDFW's forage fish program. For call notes contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC Symposium – The MRC Symposium is scheduled for January 8, 2020 at Padilla Bay. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

MRC Conference – The 2019 conference wrapped up and post-event survey results are available. Additional information from the conference was posted to the webpage at www.nwstraits.org/2019-mrc-conference. This includes a gallery of photos, presentations and audio/video as it is available. Check back again as more information is being added.

Snohomish Estuary Tour – The Snohomish Estuary tour occurred on September 25 and highlighted several projects of the Snohomish MRC. Over 50 partners and supporters attended the event, which was held on the Hat Island Ferry.

Database – The NWS Commission project database is moving forward with support from Richard Austin, a volunteer recruited through Clallam MRC. Commission staff will be working with Richard over the next several months to take the next steps to creating the database. The outcome of this endeavor will provide the foundation to build a fully functional database with reporting tools.

Meeting attendance

- Dana presented to the Puget Sound Partnership Social Science Advisory Committee 10/1, and attended: Puget Sound Partnership Vital Sign Workshop 10/10, MRCs and nearshore restoration workshop (NWSF) 11/1, Jefferson



Commission staff highlights – December 2019

MRC Meeting 11/5, presented at the San Juan MRC Retreat 11/7, Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum 11/14, Pew Charitable Trust learning session 11/18.

- Nicole attended Whatcom MRCs meetings on 10/3 and 11/7
- Lucas attended the Tribal Habitat Conference on 10/23, 24; Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Summit 11/5; Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting 11/13; and presented to the WA Coastal Counties Caucus 11/20.
- Sasha attended three meetings of the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference volunteer committee (10/3, 11/8, 11/26); and the Whatcom County Surface Water Work Session (11/12).



Meeting Dates 2020

Unless otherwise noted or scheduled, WebEx meetings will be held from 10:00am-12:00pm

In-person meetings will be held from 10:00am-3:00pm

DATE	COUNTY	LOCATION	SCHEDULED TASK/EVENT
January 31	Island	Camano Island	
Feb 28	-	WebEx conference call	
March 26-27	Skagit	Padilla Bay Reserve	NWSI Retreat/ Chair nominations
April 24	WebEx	WebEx conference call	Election of officers
May 29	San Juan	Friday Harbor	
June 26	Whatcom		Approve MRC grant proposals, adopt NWSC budget and workplan
July 31	-	WebEx conference call	
August 28	Snohomish	Snohomish County Admin Building	
September 25	-	WebEx conference call	
October	-	No meeting	
November 6-7	Clallam/Jefferson	MRC Conference	
December 11	-	WebEx conference call	