



agenda

Location: 788 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239-0745

Date/Time: January 31, 2020 from 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

10:30-10:40	Welcome and introductions Approval of December minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:40-11:00	NWSC committee reports Executive Committee Science Advisory Committee External Relations Communications Ad Hoc Committee	
11:00-11:10	Director's report	Lucas Hart
11:10-11:40	Island MRC – Sea Level Rise Workshops	Anna Toledo, Island MRC
11:40-12:00	Sound Water Stewards	Linda Ade Ridder, President
12:00-12:10	Public comment	
12:10-1:10	Working lunch	All
1:10-1:25	Welcome – Island County	Janet St. Clair, Island County Commission
1:25-1:35	Northwest Straits Foundation update	Caroline Gibson
1:35-1:45	Puget Sound Partnership update	Laura Rivas, Puget Sound Partnership
1:45-2:00	Business items NWSI Retreat – March 26-27 (Lucas) Kelp Conservation & Recovery Plan (Dana) Hiring update (Lucas) MRC Symposium (Dana)	Staff
2:00-2:50	MRC reports	MRC Representatives
2:50-3:00	Roundtable	All
3:00	Adjourn	



minutes

December 6, 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, Ron Thom, Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner, Franchesca Perez (Snohomish), Nan McKay, Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Pete Haase (Skagit)

Commission Staff: Lucas Hart, Nicole Jordan, Sasha Horst

Absent: Christina Koons (San Juan), Bob Cecile (Whatcom)

Others: Elizabeth Kilanowski (Whatcom member), Phil Green (San Juan member), Don Hunger (NWS Foundation Director), Dr. Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez (Western Washington University)

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

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

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

The committee recommended the NWS Commission prioritize the following with existing funds; hiring an ecosystem coordinator, contracting for professional communication plan development and reviewing MRC project supply needs.

The committee also recommended the Commission provide comments to the EPA funding model.

- Motion: Nan moved to approve the recommendations on funding. Pete seconded. The NWS Commission approved by consensus.
- Motion: Tom moved to approve the NWS Commission make comments on the EPA funding model with recommendations that EPA fund stewardship and marine habitat, which encompass things such as volunteer training, public and electeds education, native shellfish restoration, marine vegetation restoration etc. An overarching theme of climate resiliency should be stressed. Nan seconded. The NWS Commission approved by consensus.

External Relations Committee

Lucas met with Representative Rick Larsen's staff who articulated their interest in supporting the work of the NWS Commission. Lucas presented to the Washington State Association of Counties' Coastal Caucus and received several positive comments from the audience regarding



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the purpose and structure of the NWS Initiative. MRCs are encouraged to continue engaging with their local elected officials.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron said the committee is reviewing their committee dates for 2020, building in capacity to support MRCs. They are also considering ways to integrate social impacts framework into the Actions to Impacts program.

Communication Committee

Pete said the committee plans to spend time at the MRC Project Symposium considering ways the MRCs interact and communicate regarding their projects.

Northwest Straits (NWS) Foundation update

Don provided an update on the NWS Foundation:

- They have a new board member, Lee Whitford. Those with ideas on board members with experience in administration/non-profit fundraising/communications should contact Don at don@nwstraits.org.
- New staff: Brooke Friesen, Administrative Coordinator; and Melanie del Rasario, Nearshore Restoration Program Outreach Assistant.
- They are working on a grant proposal to fund a Kelp public service announcement campaign in partnership with the NWS Commission.

MRC reports

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

Clallam

Alan said the Clallam MRC held a retreat in October. Jeff Ward participated in the oil spill task force 2019 annual meeting and 2019 Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum in November. Forage fish sampling is continuing into winter.

Island

Elsa said Linda Rhodes is completing her term on the MRC as a member but will continue to be a technical advisor. The MRC is working on their own communication plan. Forage fish monitoring is continuing into the winter at Hidden Beach, Ala Spit, Cornet Bay, and Seahorse Siesta.

Jefferson

Jeff said the MRC has several applicants. The MRC installed a new raingarden in Quilcene. Neil Harrington will give a European Green Crab update at the December MRC meeting. Forage fish



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sampling was conducted at Fort Townsend in November but no eggs were found. MRC continuing study and discussion about recommendations for City of Port Townsend outfall pipe.

San Juan

Phil provided the update for the MRC. The MRC held their annual retreat. Save-the-date notices were distributed for the Marine Managers' Workshop that the MRC will host in March 2020. The MRC is wrapping up the Whale Warning Flag study that aimed to look at the effectiveness of the flag to improve compliance levels of vessels with the Be Whale Wise guidelines and regulations.

Skagit

Pete said Jamey Selleck resigned from the MRC. The MRC partnered with Padilla Bay NERR to administer the Kids on the Beach and Salish Sea Stewards programs—the MRC will still be managed by the MRC. The 2020 Fidalgo Bay Day will be August 29 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort—a subcommittee was formed to help plan and implement the event.

Snohomish

Franchesca said Kathleen Pozarycki accepted a new position at Snohomish County as the Local Integrating Organization lead staff. The MRC held their annual retreat in November where they discussed the 2020 Annual Workplan, MRC Leadership, and connecting with local officials.

Whatcom

Elizabeth said the MRC is recruiting for several positions and had a great turnout at their recent MRC meeting. The MRC held elections, results were Eleanor Hines as chair, Kristen Murray as vice chair, and Bob Cecile as NWS Commission representative.

Business items

Conference debrief

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.

Retreat facilitator and planning committee volunteers

Lucas said preliminary planning is now underway for a 2020 NWS Initiative retreat, scheduled for March 26-27 at Padilla Bay Reserve. Hilary Wilkinson is secured as a facilitator. The planning committee is now Nan, Alan, Chris, Elsa, Lucas, Don and Sasha.

- Action: Those interested in joining the Retreat Planning Committee should contact Lucas at hart@nwtraits.org.



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Database update

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.

Puget Sound Day on the Hill

The planning process has started for Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Lucas plans to attend. Those interested in more should contact Lucas at hart@nwstraits.org.

Kelp update

The Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan draft is being completed and will be available for public comment within the next month. The comments will be incorporated into a final plan to be available in 2020. For more details contact Dana Oster at oster@nwstraits.org.

2020 meeting calendar

The 2020 NWS Commission meetings were finalized and posted on nwstraits.org.

Nicole leaving

Nicole's last day with the NWS Commission is December 11. Nicole expressed her gratitude in working with the NWS Initiative and is moving to Central Washington, where she will be working with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) update

Laura delivered the following Partnership updates:

- State of the Sound report available online at stateofthesound.wa.gov/. The Partnership welcomes comments on the layout of the State of the Sound report.
- Puget Sound Day on the Hill is being planned--once the congressional calendar is released a date will be finalized.
- The Partnership is hiring an EPA Coordinator. For more information [click here](#).

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/Tribal update

Cecilia provided the following tribal updates:

- A recap of the [Billy Frank Jr. Pacific Salmon Summit](#) was sent to the full NWS Commission.
- Lucas attended the Tribal Habitat Conference and Billy Frank Jr. Pacific Salmon Summit in October.

Student Research in Action: Harbor Seal Impacts on Salmon in the Salish Sea

Dr. Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez, professor at Western Washington University, gave an update on a project by biology students to identify the potential impacts of harbor seals on local



minutes

salmon populations. Studies revealed male seals consume more salmon over other available species while females consume less salmon over other species (sculpins, herring, etc. which include some juvenile salmon predators). A published paper documenting this work can be [found here](#).

Roundtable

There were no topics presented for roundtable discussion.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The next Commission meeting will be on January 31 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Coupeville Library in Island County



Executive Committee Meeting
January 6, 2020 • 11:00am-12:00pm

Committee Members: Elsa Schwartz, Ron Thom, Alan Clark, Tom Cowan

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

Billy Frank Jr. Coalition Invite

Cecilia Gobin has invited the NWS Commission to submit a letter of intent to join the Billy Frank Jr. Coalition. The Committee discussed the invitation and recommended that Lucas gather more information for further discussion.

Lucas will follow up with coalition staff and core leadership to gain a stronger understanding of the coalition and member roles. The topic will be brought back to the Executive Committee next month.

Budget update

The Commission is working with Ecology to do the final close out of the 2018-2019 budget. The award will be spent out fully and billing completed to the Puget Sound Partnership this month.

EPA Funding model comments

Lucas reported that he submitted comments on behalf of the Commission submitted to the EPA on the National Estuary Program funding model (as discussed during the December Executive Committee meeting). In late January, EPA will provide a summary report of all comments. Lucas doesn't have information about other comments submitted to EPA at this time.

Retreat

The first Northwest Straits Initiative retreat planning call will be held on January 6. The planning committee includes Nan McKay, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Chris Castner, Alan Clark, Don Hunger, Anne Murphy and Elsa Schwartz. The committee will brainstorm possible retreat topics and move forward to develop an agenda with Hilary Wilkinson of Veda Environmental.

Communications review

In December, the Executive Committee recommended that the NWSC pursue a communications review with the assistance of a third party. The first step was to gain approval from Ecology to move forward with a contract, which has now been accomplished. Staff will review Ecology's contracting process and move forward with a process to solicit bids.

NOAA collaboration

Lucas and Chris Castner will be presenting to a group of NOAA representatives on January 7 to explore overlapping priorities between the NWSC and NOAA. Lucas shared a list of NOAA staff who will be attending the meeting, and noted that this is one of several actions recommended to engage with NOAA. He will report back on the meeting at the next Executive Committee call.

Job vacancy updates

Lucas is conducting phone interviews for the Communications and Outreach position vacated by Nicole. Three or four candidates will then move to in-person interviews later this month. The goal is to have an early February start date if possible.



Lucas noted that Ecology has the paperwork for the Ecosystem Coordinator position (short term position), which should be posted within the next week and open for two weeks.

****Next meeting****

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Monday, February 3 at 11am.



Commission staff highlights- [Date]

2020 Retreat – Veda Environmental, Hilary Wilkinson, is contracted to serve as the facilitator for the retreat, which will be held March 26-27 at Padilla Bay. Commission members are encouraged to save the date and alert your alternate if you cannot attend. A planning committee is now working to develop the agenda.

Kelp – The comment period for the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan closed on January 22. Comments are now being considered and incorporated by the team.

Communications – Commission staff are exploring opportunities to work with a communications consultant to review communications strategies and create a communications plan. A Request for Qualifications and Quotations is now under review by Department of Ecology and posted soon.

Hiring – A Communications and Outreach Specialist has been hired to fill the position formerly held by Nicole Jordan. Planned start date is February 2nd. The posting for a short-term Ecosystem Coordinator closed the week of January 27th. Start date for this position is TBD but is planned to run through September 30th, 2020.

Meeting attendance –

Lucas attended the Snohomish MRC end of year/ holiday celebration on December 11th.

Lucas attended the Statement of Cooperation Working Group meeting on December 12th.

Lucas attended the Northwest Straits Foundation celebration on December 12th in Bellingham.

Lucas attended the Northwest Straits Foundation Board meetings on December 17th and January 21st.

Lucas and Chris Castner met with NOAA representatives on January 7th to discuss collaborative opportunities between the NWS Commission and NOAA.

Lucas attended the Seattle Aquarium Conservation Honors celebration on January 30th.

MRC Symposium- Wednesday January 8, 2020- Padilla Bay 9:30am – 4:30 pm

Goal of MRC Symposium: 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.

Attendance: The symposium is for MRC staff and members, and NWSI staff (and board members). Outside partners will not be included in this event. The goal is to have minimum all MRC staff and at least 2 members from each MRC attend. There is not a limit to the number of MRC members that can attend.

Logistics: Symposium would be 1 full day with a mix of interactive sessions, focused full group sessions, project strategy/idea development. Send pre-survey to determine project topics.

Draft agenda:

9:00 -9:45 am: Coffee and networking

9:45-10:00 am: Introductions, review agenda, symposium goals

10:00-10:15 am: Review goal to protect and restore marine resources, present survey results

10:15 am -10:50 am: Identify current projects, potential actions and projects the MRCs and Initiative can/are doing to address threats to marine resources identified in the survey. Threats/challenges are listed on flip pads around the room for people to walk around and write in projects and discuss with others.

10:50 am -11:00 am: Break. Facilitators review project ideas and prepare area for second session.

11:00 am – 12:15 pm: Current projects- share nuts and bolts of projects, how can we improve on current work. Breakout table top discussions split out using projects identified in the ‘threats to marine resources’ activity and the survey.

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm: Lunch. Keep discussions going!

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm: Review

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm: Project priorities of Initiative. Facilitated full group discussion of current projects (and how to expand and/or improve them) and new actions/project ideas that address the threats to protecting and restoring marine resources. What should priorities be for the Initiative. Think bigger and better, assuming more people, more funding, how to use the unique role of MRCs and Initiative framework.

2:30 pm - 2:45pm: Break

2:45pm - 4:00 pm: How to make the dreams reality. Discuss current barriers to bigger better projects (capacity, funding, knowledge, partnerships, etc) and what short term and long term steps MRCs, staff, Initiative can take to overcome them and tackle some of the priority work identified. Lisa to lead discussion with examples of how regional work can be lead between the Initiative and MRCs (i.e. restoration projects, shoreline landowner outreach). Then open it up for group discussion.

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm: Wrap up, participants share what they are taking back to their MRC. Identify next steps for 1) individual MRCs, 2) MRC staff, 3) Initiative staff, 4) Initiative boards/committees, 5) project partners

Materials needed:

- Project factsheet template/toolkits to share
- Facilitation materials (flip charts, markers, etc.)
- Projector, screen and podium (especially important if the group is offsite from Padilla Bay)
- Lunch
- Coffee, tea, snacks

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: December, 2019

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): In October Mike McHenry resigned from the Clallam MRC and in November Pete Schroeder resigned. None of the positions have been filled.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The December meeting was held at the H2O restaurant in Port Angeles. Topics on the meeting agenda include: recycle plastics in Port Angeles, 2020 Internship Program, 2020 annual workplan, 2020 educational outreach, Oil Spill Preparedness, Climate Change letter to BOCC, NWSC update, and project updates.

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 December 9th.

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: Clallam

Month/Year: January, 2020

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): In October Mike McHenry resigned from the Clallam MRC and in November Pete Schroeder resigned. In December Sissi Bruch retired as the mayor of City of Port Angeles and therefore as the City Representative on the MRC. None of the positions have been filled.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights): The January meeting will be held January 27th. Topics on the meeting agenda include: update by the climate change workgroup and discussion of next steps, finalizing the 2020 Internship Program, review of Clallam MRC vision & mission statements, discussion of a “deep-handshake” partnership workshop, current action items before the BOCC and a discussion of MRC involvement, NWSC update, and project updates.

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 January 7th and at Ediz Hook January 20th.

Oiled Wildlife Preparedness Training: January 13th a subcommittee discussed the 2020 oiled wildlife preparedness/HAZWOPER training to be conducted by Focus Wildlife. The outcome of the discussion was provided to Focus Wildlife with a request for a proposal of the training. Focus Wildlife provide a lot of information in response to the request and this information left the subcommittee members questioning whether the MRC can provide the HAZWOPER training and if not would it make sense to offer the oiled wildlife training in 2020. The topic will be discussed at the upcoming MRC meeting.

2020 Internship Program: January 21st a subcommittee discussed the internship program and came up with a final list of projects to be presented at the MRC meeting January 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.): None

Photos: none

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: December 2019

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Linda Rhodes completed three three-year terms on the MRC and is terming off. Linda has been an integral member of the MRC, contributing her scientific expertise in multiple and varied capacities. We are delighted she will be continuing to stay connected to the MRC as a non-voting technical advisor. We are advertising for the resulting open voting 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:

- December 3: MRC meeting: communications planning, conference debrief
- December 4-31: Marine food web display at Oak Harbor Library
- December 16: Nearshore restoration tour for Island County Commissioners, including stops at Oak Harbor Marina and Sunlight Shores

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- January 7: MRC meeting (Coupeville)
- February 1: MRC will have booth at Sound Waters University
- February 4: MRC meeting (Camano)
- February 14-23: Great Northwest Glass Quest 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: WDFW provided sample results through the month of June. There were a few eggs found in the Hidden Beach samples, both in the proposed restoration area and the adjacent natural area. The eggs were found high on the beach in both spots. The team at Seahorse Siesta started sampling in November. The volunteer for the Glendale site is planning to start in January. We are in discussions with Jason Morgan to initiate sampling at the Sunlight Shores restoration site.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Restoration Feasibility: Island County issued a request for qualifications to solicit a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of armor removal and habitat improvement at Hoypus Point and Possession Point, and a conceptual design for one of the sites. The MRC is working with NWSF and WA State Parks on this project. A consultant is expected to be selected in January.

Communications Planning: A subcommittee is working on developing an MRC communications plan, with support through the NWSF Opportunity Fund. The subcommittee has developed a communications matrix, identifying various audiences, projects, tools, and resources. This document will be further refined, and designed to be utilized for planning purposes and reviewed at least annually.

Nearshore Restoration Tour: Island County Department of Natural Resources organized a tour of nearshore restoration projects for Island County Commissioners. The tour told the story of how a restoration project goes from initial identification to implementation and stewardship. In addition to stops on Camano and Leque Island, the tour stopped at two sites where the MRC has been a partner: Oak Harbor Marina where a feasibility study is in progress and Sunlight Shores, where a community bulkhead removal was completed in 2018. A blog post about the tour can be found at: <https://medium.com/puget-sound-partnership/a-restoration-tour-from-beginning-to-end-2d5dd1a8969f>

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):



County Commissioners learn about Sunlight Shores restoration project. Photo credit: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci



Marine food web display designed by Kelly Zupich, with photos by Florian Graner and Kelly Zupich, on display at Oak Harbor Library. Photo credit: Anna Toledo

MRC Monthly Report

County: Island

Month/Year: January 2020

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Kelly Zupich was elected as Chair. Hannah Liss was elected 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):

Past Meetings/Events:

- January 7: MRC meeting – election of officers, Cornet Bay seining, NWSF collaboration opportunities

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- February 1: MRC will have booth at Sound Waters University. Also, the awardee of the 2020 Jan Holmes Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year award will also be announced at Sound Waters University.
- February 4: MRC meeting (Camano)
- February 14-23: Great Northwest Glass Quest on Camano

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): Applied to be sub-recipient on a grant application by SeaDoc Society to host two beach clean-ups with 5th grade students. The SeaDoc Society grant would also bring materials and training on the Salish Sea to local 5th grade teachers. Award notification will be made in June 2020.

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

Forage Fish: Regular sampling continues at Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. The team is planning a meeting in February to share lessons learned, review results from WDFW, and plan for the spring-summer months.

Kelp: Linda Rhodes provided the content to update the kelp project webpage, including videos, charts, maps, and the report on the 2019 monitoring season. Thanks, Linda! The webpage is available here: <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/projects/bull-kelp-monitoring/>

Seining: The MRC, supported by the Northwest Straits Foundation, is returning to conduct seining at Cornet Bay in 2020 and 2021. The first seining date was January 24. A group of school students attended as well to learn about seining and the restoration project.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Restoration Feasibility: The MRC, Island County, NWSF, and WA State Parks interviewed four consultants for this project, and will be providing their recommendation to the Board of Island County Commissioners in February.

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):



Seining at Cornet Bay. Photo: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci

JCMRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: Dec 2019

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

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

We added 7 new members to the Jefferson MRC:

- Raymond RaLonde, District I
- Solenne Claire Walker, District 1 Alt.
- Brenda Johnson, District 2
- Heather Burns, District 3
- Brent Vadopalas, Marine Sci Alt.
- Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
- Bryan DeCaterina, Envir/Conserv Alt.

We had 3 members leave:

- Judy D'Amore, Marine Science Alt.
- Wade Crouch, District 3
- Jackie Gardner, District 3 Alt.

2020 Officers:

- Instead of having 1 Chair and 1 Vice Chair, we have selected 2 Co-Chairs: Frank Handler (District 2 Alt.) and Neil Harrington (Tribal).
- Jeff Taylor, NWS Rep
- Sarah Fisker, NWSR Alt

Events/Meetings (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events): Nothing to report.

Past Events/Meetings:

- Dec 3 – MRC monthly meeting (20 members/staff, 7 guests). Will Bence (Jefferson County Dept of Emergency Mgmt) and Tim Callister (Emergency Manager, Indian Island Naval Magazine) presented on oil spill preparedness and planning. Discussion items included new members approved by BoCC, project updates, potential funding opportunities, and a new potential foraging fish monitoring site, electing 2020 officers.
- Dec 3 – Adelma Beach forage fish sampling
- Dec 6 – Straits ERN meeting
- Dec 17 – Exec Committee meeting
- Dec 20 – FT forage fish sampling

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Jan 7 – MRC monthly meetings
- Jan 7 – Adelma Beach forage fish sampling
- Jan 17 - FT forage fish sampling

- Jan 21 – Exec Committee meeting

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

Nothing to report.

Project Updates (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

1. Monitoring:
 - a. **Fort Townsend**: Sampling was done Dec 20, 2019.
 - b. **Forage Fish Index Site (Adelma Beach)**: Sampling done on Dec 3, 2019 and found eggs.
 - c. **Kelp**: Nothing to report.
2. Rain Gardens: Quilcene rain garden appears to be functioning well. With NWSF grant, planning trainings for volunteers and landscape contractors on installation and maintenance in April. Will meet with City in January regarding rain gardens within City limits.
3. Education & Outreach:
 - a. PT Outfall: In process of drafting a letter to consider forwarding to BoCC, recapping concerns including how the short SEPA comment period didn't allow for the MRC to comment and that the city materials didn't thoroughly assess alternatives to replacement. There will be a separate SEPA comment letter for project level construction, as it didn't address SMP policies. MRC wants to see if new technologies were considered by the City of Port Townsend. Dave Peterson, City Engineer, offered to present to the MRC, which the MRC is receptive to once the Mitigation Plan is available for review.
 - b. Crabber Outreach: NWSF finalized report on crab pot and derelict gear removal. First year of 3-year project focused on Dungeness and PT Bays. Workshops were held here and in Clallam County.
4. Olympia Oysters: Nothing to report.
5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Nothing 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.):

Potential Federal Funding:

MRC discussed a National Park RFP for areas like PT/Boat Haven, etc. and opportunities to propose a project as a plan is developed, including potential interpretive themes for signage including “protecting our shores” and “harvesting from the sea” to put together along a coast trail. Federal funding of 150k for planning for 3 years administered by National Parks.

Extending Forage Fish Monitoring Sites:

MRC discussed interest in forage fish sampling at Duckabush and need to coordinate with Skokomish Tribe.

European Green Crab Monitoring:

MRC discussed ongoing monitoring (monthly April-September) by WA Sea Grant Crab Team in Puget Sound, detection of new populations in several locations (Dungeness Spit, Kala Point, Sequim Bay, etc.), effectiveness of trapping in several areas and other actions to respond.

Update on NW Straits Foundation projects:

1. NWSF Opportunity Fund: Nothing to report.

2. NWSF Shoreline Grant: Nothing to report. Dec daytime tides too high for forage fish sampling in Lower Discovery Bay.

Photos (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):

JCMRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: Jan 2020

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

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

We had 1 member, Steve Tucker (Port of PT), leave and added 1 new member, Pam Petranek (Port of PT), in his place. We had 16 applicants, interviewed 4 for the Water Programs Coordinator (Jefferson MRC Coordinator) position, and hired Monica Montgomery (start date: January 27, 2020).

Leaders for some of the subcommittees were appointed for 2020:

- No Anchor Zones – Troy McKelvey
- Forage Fish, Adelma Beach – Jeff Taylor
- Shoreline Landowner Outreach – Sarah Fiskien
- Crabber Outreach – Roy Clark
- Kelp – Jeff Taylor
- Olympia Oysters – Neil Harrington
- City of PT Outfall Pipe Replacement – Nam Siu

Events/Meetings (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

Past Events/Meetings:

- Jan 7 – MRC monthly meeting (18 members/staff, 0 guests). Lisa Kaufmann (Nearshore Program Manager for the NWSF) presented to share overview of Shore Friendly – Shoreline Armor Reduction Outreach & Incentives. Discussion items included project updates, Coordinator position update, appointment of leaders for 2020 subcommittees, and Port Townsend outfall issue.
- Jan 7 – Adelma Beach forage fish sampling
- Jan 8 – Padilla Bay workshop on MRC projects
- Jan 17 – FT forage fish sampling
- Jan 19 – Adelma Beach forage fish sampling (resampled in better conditions)
- Jan 21 – Exec Committee meeting
- Jan 31 – NWSC meeting

Upcoming Events/Meetings:

- Feb 4 – MRC monthly meetings
- Feb 6 – Chumsortium
- Feb 18 – Exec Committee meeting
- Feb 28 – Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network Meeting

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

Jefferson MRC was part of the SeaDoc proposal for the EPA Environmental Education grant solicitation. Our portion of the project would be to engage with teachers in the Brinnon and

Quilcene School districts and work with them to educate students about local shellfish ecosystems and water quality issues. As part of this we would engage youth in Olympia Oyster monitoring and assessment and initiate a rain garden installation.

Project Updates (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

1. Monitoring:
 - a. **Fort Townsend**: Forage fish sampling was done Jan 17, 2020.
 - b. **Adelma Beach**: Forage fish sampling done Jan 7, 2020.
 - c. **Forage Fish (Lower Discovery Bay)**: Sampling done on Jan 19, 2020.
 - d. **Kelp**: Nothing new to report.
2. Rain Gardens: Nothing to report for NWSC grant.
3. Education & Outreach: Nothing to report.
4. Olympia Oysters: Conducted a random check on the oyster shells (120 bags) previously spread at the site and found promising results. Planning a more detailed survey in the future.
5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Nothing 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.):

1. PT Outfall: Draft letter distributed among MRC members for comments, to be incorporated before full MRC consideration.

Update on NW Straits Foundation projects:

1. NWSF Opportunity Fund: The Rain Garden training for landscape professionals and high-level volunteers will take place April 28th and 29th at the Cape George Community Center. As part of this, a rain garden will be installed in collaboration with the Cape George community at a nearby site.
2. NWSF: Lower Discovery Bay forage fish sampling was done as part of a regional pre-restoration nearshore monitoring project through the Foundation. However, we just learned there may be discrepancies in land ownership and this site may be abandoned. Samples from 01-19-2020 may not be analyzed (TBD).

Photos (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):

MRC Monthly Report

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: December 2019 and January 2020

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

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

Terry Turner resigned at the December MRC meeting. We currently have one open seat.

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

Past:

December MRC meeting – Friday Harbor, 5th December 2019

January MRC meeting – Friday Harbor, 9th January, 2020

Upcoming:

Sound Waters University – Whidbey Island – 1 February 2020

Seattle Boat Show – Seattle, 24 January – 1 February 2020

February MRC meeting: San Juan Island, 6 February 2020

Marine Managers Workshop – San Juan Island, 10-11 March 2020

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

No new funding to report for either December or January

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

Mussel monitoring: MRC member Carl Davis is assisting WDFW's mussel watch program by deploying and retrieving a mussel cage in Eastsound, Orcas Island. The cage is due to be retrieved in January 2020.

Forage fish spawning monitoring: MRC members are participating in the county-wide forage fish spawning surveys being conducted by Friends of the San Juans. Sampling began in November and is continuing through February.

Southern Resident killer whale:

- In December the whale warning flag final report was completed and submitted to the Marine Mammal Commission. This report will be made available for public release later in February.
- The MRC's communications intern completed a storyboard outlining the role of the County and MRC in SRKW recovery efforts. This will be released once final reviews have been completed.
- In January, the MRC scoped out its outreach plans for 2020; these include participating in the regional boat shows with the Be Whale Wise partners, conducting docktalks –though at a limited capacity throughout the summer, engaging the local youth conservation corps to

conduct dock talks, building a NW Straits wide database of county marine facilities, and continuing to get the flag into boaters hands.

- In addition the whale warning flag project will be shared at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference as part of a panel discussing outreach and education initiatives to reduce vessel impacts on marine mammals.

Plastic Free Salish Sea:

- A subcommittee meeting was held in both December and January.
- The subcommittee gave the final approval on the website and branding designs at the January meeting and the MRC will be working with their contractor to move the project into Phase 2 – production before the end of January.
- In addition the subcommittee is planning the Talking Trash-Lopez workshop to coincide with Earth week.
- MRC Chair, Karin Roemers-kleven will be presenting the PFSS initiative at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in April, and the projects documentary has been accepted for screening at the concurrent film festival.

MSA:

- A subcommittee meeting was held in January.
- Surveys were distributed to partners in mid-January and additional interviews were begun.
- The subcommittee is working to plan out the marine managers meeting that will be held in March at the Friday Harbor labs.
- In addition, the MRC-NWSF intern Abigail Ames will present a poster on the project at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Oil spill prevention:

- The oil spill prevention subcommittee held its first meeting in January

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):

Recommendations were made to County Council for the submission of four comment letters during December and January, these included:

December:

- Expansion of SRKW Critical Habitat,
- NOAA public Scoping for vessel regulations wrt SRKW

January

- Humpback whale Critical habitat rule making,
- Puget Sound kelp recovery plan.

Two final videos for the series *MRC Member in the Spotlight* were produced

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

MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: January/2020

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Skagit MRC voted to make the recommendation to the Board of County to appoint Kevin Anderson as Sarah Tchang's replacement on the MRC as the new representative of the Port 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- January 9:** Lisa Kaufman gave a presentation on the Shore Friendly Program. Diane Hennebert provided an update on the Boeing Stormwater Grant funded project that identified and prioritized five potential bioswale retrofit projects in Anacortes that would benefit Fidalgo Bay.

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: The Salish Sea Stewards training program is being administered in partnership with Padilla Bay this year. The Salish Sea Stewards Planning Committee will be meeting again with Padilla Bay education staff on January 28th. Classes will be held every Tuesday starting March 10th through May 12th from 1pm-5pm at Padilla Bay. The application deadline is March 1, 2020. Applications are already starting to trickle in. We are currently in the process of scheduling speakers. The promotional flyer and application have been posted on the MRC website. The Friends of Skagit Beaches provided a really nice verbal promo during the introduction at their Friday night winter lecture series that started on January 17. The Salish Sea Stewards training promo flyer was also on the pre-talk screen loop. The lecture series event was attended by over 200 people. Several Salish Sea Stewards training flyers and applications were on the table and all applications were taken!
- Fidalgo Bay Day: The date for next year's event has been set for Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. The Fidalgo Bay Planning Subcommittee will likely meet sometime in February to start assigning tasks to volunteer leads. Save the date cards were handed out at the Evergreen STEM Night in Sedro Woolley on January 23.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Volunteers have discovered evidence of surf smelt spawning at the Bowman Bay restoration site just four years after construction! Surf smelt spawning at that site was last documented in 2003 by WDFW. The Grant Sub-award Agreement with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group for plant maintenance has been signed. Plant maintenance will continue at this restoration site later this spring or early summer.
- Forage Fish Surveys: Surveys continue at the Bowman Bay, NW March's Point, and Kukatali Preserve restoration sites, as well as the three index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel at Ship Harbor, and Samish Island). The County just hired a new intern who will be trained to take the lead on the surveys at the three index sites. Forage fish survey volunteers don't just conduct surveys, they also provide a lot of outreach for school groups and special events! They recently hosted a table with microscopes and forage fish eggs at the Evergreen STEM Night in Sedro Woolley on January 23. Over 200 families attended! The age groups ranged from kindergarten to 6th grade.

- Kids on the Beach: No updates until the spring when students from Sedro Woolley, Concrete, and Mount Vernon will be participating in science activities on the beach at Padilla Bay that will focus on invasive species.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: The Grant Sub-Award Agreement with Puget Sound Restoration Fund has been signed. Field work will start up again in February through April 2020.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: No update. Field work will likely start up again in the late spring or early summer of 2020.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: No update. Surveys will likely start up again in June or July 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)

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



MRC Monthly Report

County: Skagit

Month/Year: December /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 to make the recommendation to the Board of County to appoint Matt Castle as Todd Woodard's replacement as the new representative of the Samish Indian Nation on the MRC.

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- December 12:** There was no guest speaker. The Committee primarily discussed project updates and upcoming grant opportunities.

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:** The Salish Sea Stewards Planning Committee met with Padilla Bay education staff on December 4th. The Salish Sea Stewards training program will be administered through Padilla Bay this year. Classes will be held every Tuesday starting March 10th through May 12th from 1pm-5pm at Padilla Bay. The promotional flyer and application are currently being updated and will be posted on the MRC website and widely distributed.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** The date for next year's event has been set for Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. The planning team is working on securing the Shannon Point Marine Center's touch tank, shellfish samples and the virtual reality diving experience for the event. The planning committee will also be looking into new ideas for kids activities. Save the Date Cards have been printed and will be distributed at upcoming events such as the Evergreen STEM Night in Sedro Woolley on January 23 and Storming the Sound on January 30 in La Conner. The Fidalgo Bay Planning Subcommittee will likely meet sometime in January to start assigning tasks to volunteer leads.
- **Bowman Bay Restoration:** The dune grass and ground cover are doing great. However, most of the conifers and shrubs did not survive except for the ones that planted themselves. Jason Morgan took soil samples to see if the soil might need to be amended. Watering more frequently during the hot dry summer months will also likely help increase survival rates. There are a few extra spruce trees at Cornet Bay that were recently transplanted to the Bowman Bay restoration site.
- **Forage Fish Surveys:** Monthly surveys continue at the Bowman Bay, NW March's Point, and Kukatali Preserve restoration sites, as well as the three index sites (Similk Bay, Guemes Channel at Ship Harbor, and Samish Island). Pete and Jack Middleton will give a talk on forage fish at the Skagit Eagle Festival. The forage fish survey crew also received a request to assist with a forage fish training session as part of the boat-based Guardians of the Sea program for high school students.
- **Kids on the Beach:** 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. Conway School is the only school that participated in the program this fall which consisted of three classroom days, one field day, and a science symposium to present their work. In the spring of 2020, students

from Sedro Woolley, Concrete, and Mount Vernon will be participating in science activities on the beach at Padilla Bay. The spring program will focus on invasive species and collecting data on the invasive Batillaria snail with Robert Fueller.

- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Field work will start up again in January through April 2020.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Field work will likely start up again in the summer of 2020.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: No update.

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 2019

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson

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

Elisa Dawson is the MRC Program interim lead staff. Snohomish County Surface Water Management is working on filling the position for the MRC lead staff.

The Snohomish MRC has 6 people who have been recommended by the MRC for appointment to the Snohomish MRC.

1. Mike Sadler
2. Kip Killebrew (Stillaguamish Tribe)
3. Sarah Maxwell (UW Bothell)
4. Natasha Coumou (Tulalip Tribes)
5. Julie Schlenger
6. Tim Ellis (WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers)

MRC Leadership for 2020 was decided at the November 2019 meeting.

Chair: Mike Ehlebracht

Co-Vice Chairs: Bob Hillmann and Susan Tarpley

LIO Representative: Paul Clampitt

Alternate: Laura Gurley

NWSC Representative: Sarah Brown

Alternate: Tom Doerge

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 MRC Member applicant interviews on December 4th and 9th. Elisa Dawson, Kathleen Pozarycki, Bob Hillmann, and Mike Ehlebracht participated in the interviews. There were 7 applicants. Six were chosen for recommendation for open positions on the MRC. The MRC is awaiting appointment of the new MRC members by Snohomish County Executive and Snohomish County Council.

Francesca Perez attend the Northwest Straits Commission meeting via WebEx on December 6th.

Elisa Dawson and Sarah Brown attended a tour of the Meadowdale Beach Restoration Project on December 3rd with Snohomish County Parks staff and the Washington State Governor's office staff. The meeting was to discuss opportunities for state funding for the restoration project.

Meadowdale tour:



The MRC cancelled their monthly meeting for December and instead hosted their MRC Annual Holiday Party on December 11. The MRC honored Cathy Stanley and Franchesca Perez for their 9 years of service to the MRC. 9 years is the maximum amount a person can serve on the MRC. The MRC also congratulated Kathleen Pozarycki on her new position and honored her with an award.



The MRC Piling project subcommittee held MRC Grant consultant interviews on December 18th. Elisa Dawson, Laura Gurley, Paul Clampitt, and Mike Ehlebracht participated in the interviews. Four firms were interviewed, and the MRC chose to move forward with ESA. MRC Staff Elisa Dawson is now working to finalize the contract with ESA.

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 and Elisa have a conference call with Kathy from Anchor QEA to discuss the project on Thursday 1/16. The primary goal for this project is to evaluate the feasibility of replacing the culvert for Pigeon Creek #2 under the BNSF railroad at Howarth Park in Everett with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and restoration of the lower creek and adjacent floodplain. Additionally, signage design for the project site can be printed. 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 conducted their monthly forage fish monitoring on December 18th, 2019. Elisa Dawson, Cathy Stanley, Kip Killebrew and Bob Hillmann completed sampling.

Below are the rest of the 2019-2020 forage fish dates:

- January 30th, 2020
- February 25th, 2020 (February 26th held as back up date)

MRC Grant 2019-2020 Snohomish Pilings Project: MRC interviewed consultants in December and chose ESA. The interview team was Laura, Elisa, Mike and Paul Clampitt. We have agreed on a Scope of Work (Copies provided to MRC Members), and budget, and are waiting for the contract to be finalized.

Crabber Education: MRC staff have ordered 1,500 bait clips to assist with the outreach for next year. The MRC has secured a spot at the county campus to display how to properly rig a crab pot from June 29th – July 11th.

Kelp Project: Kelp monitoring is complete for the 2019 season. Suzanne has entered the data into SoundIQ and the MRC is working on using SoundIQ to make maps for their kelp beds.

Mussel Watch: The MRC deployed mussel cages on October 28th. The MRC has planned to retrieve the mussel cages on January 22nd, with January 23rd held as a backup date.

Shoreline landowners and shoreline armoring: In collaboration with the Northwest Straits Foundation, and Snohomish County PDS, Snohomish MRC helped send shoreline landowner booklets and a letter to all Snohomish County shoreline landowners the last week of December.

Elisa, Lisa (NWSF), and Terry (Snohomish County PDS), and planning a conference call in February to discuss contacts that were made as a result of this effort.

Upcoming Events:

- MRC meeting January 15th
- Starlight Beach Walk January 21st
- Mussel Watch retrieval January 22nd with January 23rd held as a backup date
- Forage Fish Sample January 30th at Howarth Park

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: January 2020

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson

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

Elisa Dawson continues to serve as MRC Program interim lead staff. Snohomish County Surface Water Management is working on filling the position for the MRC lead staff.

The Snohomish MRC has 6 people who have been recommended by the MRC for appointment to the Snohomish MRC. Appointment by the Snohomish County Council is scheduled for January 29th.

1. Mike Sadler
2. Kip Killebrew (Stillaguamish Tribe)
3. Sarah Maxwell (UW Bothell)
4. Natasha Coumou (Tulalip Tribes)
5. Julie Schlenger
6. Tim Ellis (WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers)

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 an interview with the Everett Herald on January 13th on derelict vessels in the Snohomish Estuary. The Everett Herald published a piece which mentioned the MRC's work and the MyCoast app: <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/out-of-sight-illegal-marinas-grow-into-hazard-on-snohomish/>

The MRC had their monthly meeting January 15th. Due to weather, this MRC meeting was held via conference call. MRC Members Mike Ehlebracht, Susan Tarpley, Bob Hillmann, Sarah Brown, Tom Doerge, Paul Clampitt, and Laura Gurley attended the meeting. The six new MRC members who have been recommended for appointment were also able to attend the meeting. The MRC discussed their projects, and helped finalize the annual work plan.

Elisa Dawson and Bob Hillmann met with consultant Kathy Ketteridge to discuss the Howarth Park feasibility Project on Meeting on January 16th. The team agreed to a project timeline.

The MRC partnered with City of Edmonds and WSU Beach Watchers for the Starlight Beach Walk on January 21, 2020. About 50 people attended. Attendance was somewhat lower this year, likely due to lots of rain.

The MRC completed Mussel Watch Retrieval on January 22nd. Edmonds, Meadowdale, Mukilteo, Everett, and Tulalip Tribes' cages were collected and dropped off with WDFW.

Susan Tarpley, MRC Member and Beach Naturalist, shows off a crab at the 2020 Starlight Beach Walk:



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):
MRC Grant 2019-2020 Task 2: The MRC is working to finalize the contract with ESA. We are awaiting signatures and a notice to proceed.

Nearshore Beach Restoration at Howarth Park and Everett Nearshore Project (Opportunity Fund Project): The primary goal for this project is to evaluate the feasibility of replacing the culvert for Pigeon Creek #2 under the BNSF railroad at Howarth Park in Everett with a larger box culvert or small span bridge and restoration of the lower creek and adjacent floodplain. Below is a timeline for this project:

Task	Completion Date
Task 1. Compile Piling Information and Assemble GIS Database	January 31, 2020
Task 2. Develop Draft Prioritization Framework	February 28, 2020
Task 3. Field Verification of Pilings	May 31, 2020

Task 4. Conduct Prioritization and Prepare Project Report	
• Draft report	July 7, 2020
• Presentation of draft findings to Snohomish MRC	July 15, 2020
• Final report	August 31, 2020

Additionally, signage for the grant project site has been printed, and will be installed soon.

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 conducted their next monthly forage fish monitoring on January 30th. These samples are processed for forage fish eggs by Dan Penttila using the Opportunity Fund.

Below are the rest of the 2019-2020 forage fish dates:

- January 30th, 2020
- February 25th, 2020 (February 26th held as back up date)

Below projects are other projects of the MRC funded by SWM fees:

Crabber Education: MRC staff have ordered 1,500 bait clips to assist with the outreach for next year. The MRC has secured a spot at the county campus to display how to properly rig a crab pot from June 29th – July 11th.

MyCoast: MyCoast has had over 2,000 reports since its inception with the Snohomish MRC in 2017. The Snohomish MRC continues to work with project partners DNR, Sea Grant, USGS, and the Northwest straits on this work.

Derelict Vessels: The Everett Herald published an article on the derelict vessels and illegal marinas in the Snohomish Estuary. <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/out-of-sight-illegal-marinas-grow-into-hazard-on-snohomish/> Additionally, Elisa Dawson was alerted that another derelict boat washed up on Tulalip Tribes' land. The MRC is helping facilitate the removal of this boat. <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/out-of-sight-illegal-marinas-grow-into-hazard-on-snohomish/>

MRC Outreach Subcommittee: The MRC is planning for their Earth Day 2020 outreach. The MRC will table at UW Bothell's Earth Day Fair on April 22nd. Additionally, MRC Staff Elisa Dawson is taking part in the preparation for a Snohomish County sponsored Earth Day event.

Oil Spill: There are no updates for the oil spill work at this time.

Meadowdale: Elisa Dawson provided information on forage fish to help with a grant application to help with funding for the Meadowdale Project. At this time, construction for the project is scheduled for 2021.

Kelp Project: Kelp monitoring is complete for the 2019 season. Suzanne has entered the data into SoundIQ and the MRC is working on using SoundIQ to make maps for their kelp beds.

Mussel Watch: The MRC has retrieved the mussel cages on January 22nd. Mike Ehlebracht will ensure that all data and documentation make it to WDFW for analysis.

Port Susan and shoreline landowners: Elisa, Lisa (NWSF), and Terry (Snohomish County PDS), and planning a conference call in February to discuss contacts that were made as a result of the December 2019 mailing.

Upcoming Events:

- Snohomish County Council General Session during which MRC Members will be appointed January 29th
- Forage Fish Sample January 30th at Howarth Park
- Sound Waters University (SnoCo MRC will be hosting a table) February 1st
- MRC Meeting February 19th
- Forage Fish Sample February 25th (26th held as back up)

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: WHATCOM

Month/Year: December 2019 and January 2020

Submitted by: Austin Rose

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

Austin Rose (MRC Staff) is back to work from maternity leave on a part time basis. The MRC submitted a recommendation to the Whatcom County Executive to fill 6 vacancies on the MRC. 14 applications were received. The recommended applicants are expected to be appointed on January 28. The recommendation included:

Mr. Mike MacKay – Scientific Interest

Mr. Paul Troutman – Recreational Interest

Mr. Andrew Gamble – Economic Interest

Mr. Pete Granger – Economic Interest (second term)

Mr. Pete Sim – Economic Interest (partial second term)

Ms. Jackie Bourgault – Economic Interest (voting alternate and will be replacing Pete Sim in 2021)

Mr. Bob Cecile – Citizen at Large Interest (new appointment for a long standing MRC member)

Ms. Heather Spore will be serving as an informational alternate in a Scientific Interest position.

Mr. Jim Hansen resigned from the MRC on January 16 in order to serve on another advisory committee. The MRC is reviewing applicants that were not recommended in early January to identify a candidate to fill Jim's position – which was a Recreational Interest.

Events/Meetings (events/meetings from past month with any noteworthy highlights and information on upcoming events):

The January MRC meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next MRC meeting is scheduled for February 6.

The MRC and ReSources hosted a kickoff event for the 2020 North Sound Steward volunteer program. 25 people attended the event, some of which has not yet registered for the program. All volunteers present signed up for Track It Forward. MRC members presented information about MRC projects and volunteer opportunities.

Two MRC members attended a King Tide Viewing Party of January 15 at Boulevard Park. A representative from Washington Sea Grants talked to the community about king tides, sea level rise and how people can participate using the MyCoast app. A representative from Whatcom County talked about the county efforts to prepare for sea level rise, and MRC members spoke about how the community can get involved locally – specifically through the North Sound Stewards program. 20 people attended the event - which was surprising given the snowfall and inclement weather.

The Public Speaker Series Committee is communicating regularly to outline speakers for 2020. The next speaker series event will be hosted by the MRC at a general meeting on April 2. The MRC will

host representatives from the County and City of Bellingham to share information about the Whatcom County Climate Action Task Force.

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

Project Updates (project activities and highlights from the past month, any new projects identified):

The MRC was invited to work with a Western Washington University (WWU) Marine Conservation class (Dr. Brooke Love) through the WWU winter quarter. The MRC provided a presentation to the class on multiple current MRC topics of interest and worked with students to develop project proposal around their topic of interest.

- Forage Fish – analysis of data, video relating forage fish to the Orca Task Force
- Oysters – relating to the problem of the oysters being buried in sediment
- Invasive European Green Crab (EGC) - impacts on shellfish (Drayton Harbor has commercial shellfish operations), mitigation, education?
- Stormwater - a potential proposal on looking into sources of pollution based on chemical signatures

Interested MRC members are participating in conversations about the management of EGC in Drayton Harbor. A meeting is scheduled for Feb 11 with WDFW and stakeholders. WDFW would like to conduct the management planning with input from some of the larger stakeholders, because it is likely that effective removal trapping would require more resources than either WDFW or WSG has to bring to bear on Drayton specifically. The MRC is interested in participating.

MRC staff have been in contact with Lisa Hillier (WDFW) about transitioning to electronic field data collection using a table. Whatcom has indicated they would like to pilot this transition once the electronic form is approved by WDFW.

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 (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):



King Tide Viewing Party – Photo by: Alex



Alex presenting at the North Sound Stewards kickoff event. Photo by: Eleanor Hines