



**Meeting:** Northwest Straits Commission  
**Location:** WebEx Conference Call  
**Date:** May 29, 2020  
**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: 1-415-655-0001 or 206-207-1700, access code: 286 835 662

10:00 – 10:05	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Approval of April minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05 – 10:20	<b>NWSC committee reports</b> Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee Ad hoc Communications Committee	
10:20 – 10:25	<b>NWIFC/Tribal update</b>	Cecilia Gobin
10:25 – 10:30	<b>Puget Sound Partnership update</b>	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
10:30 – 10:35	<b>NWS Foundation update</b>	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
10:35 – 10:50	<b>Business items</b> Proposed update to Section 13 of the NWSC Rules of Procedure (Lucas) Virtual MRC Symposium series (Dana) Operations plan update (Lucas) Field work and COVID-19 (Dana) Kelp Monitoring (Dana) Green Crab MOU and Management Plan (Allie)	Staff
10:50 – 11:50	<b>MRC Project Presentations</b> Snohomish – Snohomish Estuary pilings project Whatcom – North Sound Stewards  Clallam – Internship program Skagit – Pinto abalone restoration	Laura Gurley Glen (Alex) Alexander and Kaylene Riehle  Alan Clark Paul Dinnel



## agenda

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11:50 – 11:55

**Round table**

All

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11:55 – 12:00

**Public comment**

All



**April 24, 2020 • 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), Pete Haase (Skagit), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Tom Cowan, Ron Thom, Chris Castner, Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Nan McKay, Christina Koons (San Juan), Sarah Brown (Snohomish)

**Commission Staff:** Lucas Hart, Katie Harris, Sasha Horst, Dana Oster, Allie Simpson

**Others in Attendance:** Senator Liz Lovelett, Don Hunger (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jennifer Grimm (Puget Sound Partnership – Alternate), Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation)

**Absent:** Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

**Legislative Update**

Senator Liz Lovelett gave an update on two bills she sponsored:

- Antifouling paints on recreational water vessels ([SB 6210](#)): This bill creates a path forward for phasing out copper-based boat paints in light of new information showing that non-copper alternatives may be more harmful to the environment. Bill report can be found [here](#).
- Prevention of derelict vessels ([SB 6528](#)): This bill addresses derelict vessels by improving vessel owner accountability, removing the spending limit for the Dept. of Natural Resources' Derelict Vessel Removal Program and clearing DNR to carry out a pilot program for vessel recycling. However, funding for the recycling program was not allocated. Bill report can be found [here](#).

Senator Lovelett is focused on three additional areas:

- Carbon pricing and low carbon fuel standards,
- Hybridize and electrify our ferry system, and
- Land use planning - regional modeling for integrating climate resiliency into land use planning.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the March Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission meeting were approved by consensus, with one edit:

- Jefferson MRC is not having WebEx meetings yet.

**NWS Commission - committee reports**

**Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee would like to hold off on moving forward with joining the Billy Frank Jr. Coalition at this time. The Committee recommended hosting speakers on the topics of hatcheries and pinnipeds, two main focus areas of the coalition, to provide education on their importance to salmon restoration and treaty rights.



### **External Relations Committee**

Tom Cowan noted that due to the restrictions related to COVID-19, scheduling of planned meetings is delayed.

### **Science Advisory Committee**

The Science Advisory Committee has chosen two projects- kelp and forage fish- to use as tests for the Actions to Impacts methodology. The Committee's next meeting is mid-May.

### **Ad hoc Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee secured a contract with Maul Foster & Alongi, the consultant team who will be helping the Commission with the development of a communications plan. The consultants will be attending the retreat webinar on April 30. Katie reported that some Commissioners will be asked for an interview for their input in the Communications Plan.

### **Items for Commission decision**

**Chair and Vice Chair appointments:** Nan McKay presented Alan Clark as the nominee for Chair and Elsa Schwartz the nominee for Vice Chair.

- The recommendations for Chair and co-chair passed by consensus.

**Rules of Procedure:** The Commission previously approved a legislative comment process in late 2019. The Commission was presented with the full rules of procedure document for review and confirmation, which includes the updated legislative comment process.

- The adoption of the rules of procedure passed by consensus.

### **Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)/Tribal update**

No update.

### **Business items**

**Webinar retreat reminder:** Lucas announced that the retreat, which will include Commissioners and members of the board of directors from the NWS Foundation, will be held on April 30.

**European green crab in Drayton Harbor:** Allie explained that she has established four priority sites and drafted a scope of work for Drayton Harbor. She is working on volunteer liability and working on drafting land access permission forms for landowners to approve shoreline access. She is working with WDFW and Washington Sea Grant on this project. The timeline for starting field work is uncertain because of COVID-19. Allie reported that Sea Grant and Lummi Nation have done some monitoring.



**Virtual MRC Symposium series:** Dana reported that the first of the Virtual MRC Symposium took place this week, which featured Jefferson MRC. Presenters from the MRC shared about their MRC structure and highlighted a few key projects that the MRC has done. Dana invited Commissioners to watch the recording of the session, which NWS Commission staff will share via link, and to join for the remaining three sessions.

**MRC project presentations to Commission / WebEx May Commission Meeting:** Lucas reported that the Commission staff is lining up four MRCs to present their projects during the May meeting and three MRCs to present their projects during the June meeting.

**Operations plan update:** Lucas explained that NWS Commission staff did the final quarterly review of the annual operations plan (which is the step-by-step version of the strategic plan). Some highlights include completion of the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan and additional staff support for a few MRCs. NWS Commission staff will be updating the operations plan for the upcoming year, and will continue to do quarterly reviews.

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

Don Hunger provided an update:

- NWS Foundation staff are developing a number of communications pieces, including an Adobe Spark presentation about the Shore Friendly project and the second Salish Sea Fresh video. Staff considering developing a video series for the crabber outreach program.
- The Foundation has closed the Opportunity Fund. Contact Don Hunger (Don@nwstraitsfoundation.org) with questions.
- The Foundation is working with the Commission staff to develop a unified training program for kayak safety training for kelp monitoring. The training workshop will be online.

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

Laura Blackmore and Jenn Grimm provided the following Partnership update:

- The Partnership staff will be teleworking through the end of May, all meetings will be virtual through the end of June.
- The Partnership coordinated a letter to send to Washington State's congressional delegation in regards to a natural resources stimulus package.
- The Partnership sent the Puget Sound Day on the Hill sign-on letter to the Washington congressional delegation. 97 organizations signed onto the letter.

#### **MRC reports**

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



## minutes

### **Whatcom**

Bob said that they have two speakers coming to address the MRC in May who will talk about how COVID-19 has effected the fishing industry, and a speaker who will talk about sea star wasting disease. The MRC is working with the NWS Commission, WDFW and Sea Grant on the European green crab response in Drayton Harbor.

### **Snohomish**

Sarah said the MRC has transitioned to remote meetings. The MRC has completed the creosote pilings prioritization framework. MRC members continue to work on existing projects, including culvert replacement feasibly at Pigeon Creek. MRC members have received many reports of derelict boats through the MyCoast app.

### **Skagit**

Pete and the Skagit MRC are continuing the Salish Sea Stewards class online. Fidalgo Bay Day is still scheduled for late August. Skagit MRC signed up for the May 7 session of the Virtual MRC Symposium.

### **San Juan**

Christina said that two temporary research assistants have been hired. The MRC is compiling information from the Marine Managers' Workshop and are including findings in the Marine Stewardship Area Plan. The MRC is developing toolkits for Plastic Free Salish Sea. The MRC was surprised to learn that Opportunity Fund contracts were being cancelled.

### **Jefferson**

Jeff said that the MRC presented during the first session of the Virtual MRC Symposium series. The MRC has been onboarding new members.

### **Island**

Elsa said that the Island County Commissioners has given the MRC clearance to meet via WebEx.

### **Clallam**

Alan said that the MRC has hired interns for smolt trap internships.

### **Round table**

There were no round table items.

### **Public comment**

There was no public comment.

\* The next regular Commission meeting will be on May 29 by WebEx.\*



**Executive Committee Meeting Notes**  
**May 4, 2020 • 11:00am-12:00pm**  
**Conference Call**

**Committee Members:** Elsa Schwartz, Alan Clark, Tom Cowan, Jude Apple

**Commission Staff/Support:** Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Katie Harris

**Joint Executive Committee meeting –**

We anticipate planning a meeting for early to mid-June. Tentative topics for discussion include 2020 NWSI Conference, operations plan as an Initiative tool and our business response to the pandemic. Any other topics you would like to consider?

- Recommendation: Postpone the joint Executive Committee meeting until August. Encourage the NWSF to keep the Commission updated during the Commission meetings.
- Next step: Lucas will follow up with Don, and ask him if he has “burning issues” to discuss jointly, or if he’s okay postponing until August.

**June Commission meeting –**

Discussion and decision on whether we should hold the meeting in person or virtually.

- Recommendation: Make the June Commission meeting a WebEx meeting.

**Extending the time on the Virtual Commission meeting –**

Virtual meetings are becoming more frequent. We are losing the five hour meetings that we have in person. We have more to discuss with the commission now that we’ve begun the communications plan development.

- Recommendation: Commission staff should discuss which of the upcoming Commission meetings will be lengthened to 3 hours.
- Recommendation: Commission staff should shorten the MRC verbal report outs section on virtual Commission meetings agendas to one or two key points and considering a time limit for MRC verbal report outs.

**Invoking section 13 of the NWSC Rules of Procedure (adopting a policy) –**

The Executive Committee discussed situations where the NWSC would use the procedures under “adopting policy.” It was agreed that it is most beneficial when controversial issues are being considered, but the Executive Committee can recommend the best path forward on a case by case basis. Jude explained that there is a difference between the term “policy” and “position.” The committee agreed that the language in Section 13 of the NWSC Rules of Procedure should be edited to reflect that the Commission will adopt “resolutions” or “position statements,” but not “policy” (which connotes enforcement).

- Recommendation: Commission staff should replace the term “policy” with “resolution/position statement” throughout Section 13. Adopting Policy.
- Recommendation: Commission staff should add the update to Section 13 to a future Commission meeting for review by the full Commission.

**Section 13 of the NWSC Rules of Procedure**

**13. Adopting ~~Policy~~ a Resolution/Position Statement**

The Commission may, from time to time choose to adopt a new ~~policy~~ resolution/position statement, endorse an initiative or comment on an issue of concern.

13.1 Requests for adopting a resolution/position statement must be in writing.



13.2 Requests for adopting a resolution/position statement must be sponsored by a Commissioner or a MRC.

13.3 Sponsored requests are referred to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee may alter the language of the resolution/position statement. If approved by the Committee, the resolution/position statement is introduced to the full Commission at a regular meeting.

13.4 Immediately following introduction, the Commission will send a memorandum to the MRC chairs notifying them of the proposed resolution/position statement. During the two-month period following notification, the MRCs may choose to endorse, oppose or comment upon the proposed resolution/position statement.

13.5 Action by the Commission on the resolution/position statement may be considered at a regular meeting.

13.6 Sections 13.1 through 13.5 above may be waived in whole or in part by a consensus of the Commission

#### **Maritime Blue Membership –**

Lucas explained that [Washington Maritime Blue](#) is “a strategic alliance for maritime innovation and sustainability as an independent cluster organization to implement Washington State’s Strategy for the Blue Economy delivered by Governor Jay Inslee’s Maritime Innovation Advisory Council.” Committee discussed whether we should join as a member organization. The committee discussed the need to start with an educational presentation.

- Recommendation: Commission staff should request someone from Maritime Blue to present at a Commission meeting.

#### **European Green Crab MOU –**

Lucas shared the MOU between Northwest Straits Commission and WDFW, which outlines roles and responsibilities between the groups in regards to European Green Crab response in Drayton Harbor.

- Next Step: Executive committee members to read, review, and send feedback on the MOU to Lucas.

**Next meeting:** June 1, 11 AM.





**Northwest Straits Foundation  
Monthly Report to Commission**

**Month/Year: May 2020**

**Funding updates**

Due to coronavirus, fundraising has been limited the past four months. We're currently working on our FY21 fundraising plan starting July 1. We'll continue talking with MRCs about top shelf projects that we can raise funds for in 2021. Our goal is to be a partner in planning, fundraising and implementation, where needed. This will strengthen our commitment to donors and help promote project outcomes. This field season is unpredictable as far as getting outdoors and getting financial support, therefore we're looking at opportunities on the horizon.

**Project updates:**

We'll finish the next episode of Salish SeaFresh (promoting Olympia oyster restoration) the first week of June. It includes an interview with Neil Harrington, Jefferson MRC and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe biologist. This episode is in partnership with Taylor Shellfish.

The Foundation is hosting an online marine trivia game on Wednesday nights. It's popular and well-attended. Last week's episode was in partnership with the Salish Sea Institute, which provided questions. We're going to partner with other organizations as we continue the series. Any MRC that wants to partner with us should contact Kenny Clarkson.

We're enhancing online Shore Friendly content for shoreline landowner engagement. Ideally, we'd meet people where they live, but if we're unable to get out this summer, we need video and e-tools.

We're waiting for WA State Parks to issue a new study permit for Bowman Bay. Jason is preparing forage fish survey kits and safety practices for when staff and volunteers can resume sampling.

**Staff updates/changes:**

The Foundation received a Payroll Protection Program loan. All staff are maintaining regular work schedules despite our inability to work outdoors and give community presentations.

**Event updates:** The Orca Forum planned with Skagit, Island and Whatcom MRCs will be a 90 minute virtual event in late June. This will be free and open to the public, with simple registration and RSVP. Caroline is organizing; date/time will be announced shortly (dependent on presenter availability).

# Shoreline Restoration Effectiveness in Puget Sound

## Monitoring Program Summary

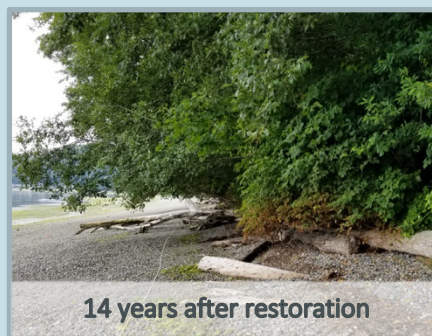
Nearly one third of Puget Sound's shorelines are armored (e.g., seawall, bulkhead, riprap). Armoring has documented negative impacts on the flora and fauna that benefit from healthy intertidal beaches. Recent beach restoration efforts have focused on removing armor to recover natural function. Through regular monitoring, we can determine the effectiveness of these restoration efforts and their value to the nearshore ecosystem, applying what we learn to future management scenarios.



Armor before restoration



1 year after restoration



14 years after restoration

*Armor removal and restoration at Seahurst Park, a site of longer-term monitoring as highlighted in the [press](#).*

**Summary of Monitoring Efforts** The Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) [Nearshore work group](#) recently [compiled a list of sites](#) that have been restored and monitored since 2005. The focus was on sites where shoreline armor has, or will be removed, and also included techniques from the [Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines \(MSDG\)](#) and [Your Marine Waterfront](#): sediment nourishment, log placement, and vegetation planting. The list details 54 sites, of which 38 had armor removed as of February 2020, totaling 21,132 feet of armor removed. 26 different groups helped with monitoring efforts, a striking demonstration of the participation breadth across Puget Sound. Further information on armor removal can be found at the [Shoreline Armoring Puget Sound Vital Sign](#), and [Ecology's web app for soft shore projects](#).



Monitoring at  
Bowman Bay

## Organizations Involved in Funded Near Term Actions (NTA)

Current funding for groups involved with this memo supports coordination of data collection, stewardship, and analysis. These NTAs implement priorities of the [2018 action agenda](#). [NTA 2018-0219](#) has supported data collection at 22 sites, training over 50 volunteers, and recording over 470 volunteer hours. [NTA 2018-0525](#) enables anyone to upload data to a centralized Shoreline Monitoring Database ([shoremonitoring.org](#)), which combines multiple datasets and ensures data longevity and compatibility across groups. Ongoing

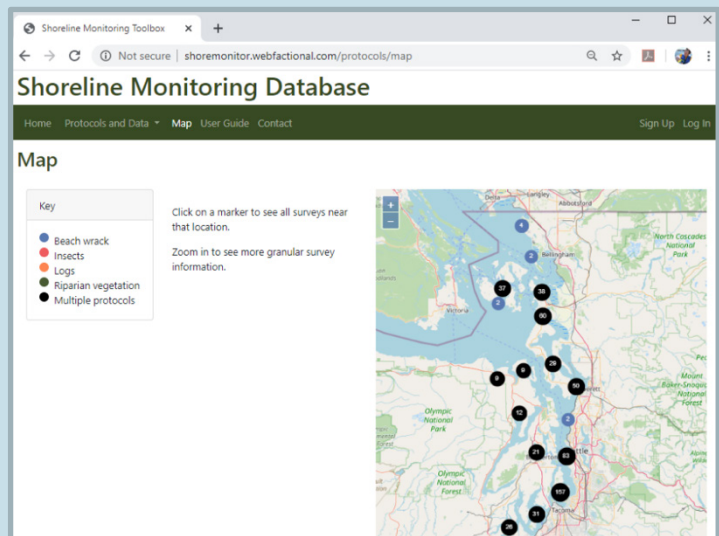
efforts support addition of more protocols to the database, incorporation of historical data, improvement to database features, addition of data visualizations, and analysis of data to evaluate restoration effectiveness. So far, 12 organizations – citizen science groups, agencies, and academics – have uploaded and downloaded data.



## Funding is instrumental for shoreline monitoring,

as successful volunteer and student involvement requires ongoing training, staff time for organizational support, and stewardship and analysis of the data. With continued funding, we will expand efforts to include new sites, and incorporate additional data and protocols to the centralized database. Expansion of data collection and interpretation will provide an adaptive management framework to evaluate restoration project effectiveness, and will generate information that can inform future armor removals. Partners for both of these NTAs include the Northwest Straits Foundation, University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant, Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife, Friends of the San Juans, Sound Data, Salish Sea Stewards, Sound Water Stewards, Vashon Nature Center, and Marine Resources Committees for Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Snohomish, and Jefferson Counties.



**Citizen Science Spotlight** As an example of citizen science engagement, the Northwest Straits Foundation has been leading volunteer surveys at Bowman Bay since 2013, documenting success stories such as forage fish spawning 4 years after restoration. Overall, 87 volunteers have contributed over 1,980 hours monitoring the project. The Vashon Nature Center BeachNET program engaged 177 volunteer hours in 2019, monitoring restoration effectiveness across five sites. These citizen scientists were a mix of community volunteers, students, and land trust interns, and have changed the views of local citizens.



**Current Gaps and Priorities for Future Monitoring** Ongoing funding is vital for continued data collection using consistent protocols. Funding has varied over the years depending on availability, and long-term funding would enable more efficient monitoring efforts, without having to piece together short-term funding opportunities to maintain a consistent monitoring program. Although we have made large strides in recent years in coordinating efforts and standardizing protocols across diverse groups, given the range of organizations and geographic scope involved, continued support would help make levels of effort consistent across regions. Future efforts should focus on maintaining long-term monitoring of before and after restoration data, in order to learn from the temporal trends that can inform management actions. Restoration sites are often unique in their setting and design application. New sites should be incorporated to expand our spatial framework for analysis, and address specific design details from the MSDG. By addressing both physical and ecological functions of beach restoration, we will be able to better plan for restoration actions that will be sustainable, especially when faced with coastal resiliency and sea level rise.

*Funded wholly or in part by EPA under grant #PC-01J22301  
(NEP Habitat Strategic Initiative).*





## Commission staff highlights- [May 2020]

**Communications Audit and Plan:** Sasha and Katie met with the consultants on May 6 and finalized a project plan. Katie scheduled informational interviews with Commissioners, MRC members, and other important stakeholders for conversations with the consultants. Throughout the month, the consultants interviewed individuals, and the results of those interviews will be part of a presentation from them at the June meeting.

**Virtual MRC Symposium:** Two virtual symposiums were held in May. 42 participants attended the May 7 Symposium to hear Skagit MRC present on their pinto abalone restoration and monitoring and kids on the beach. A record 75 participants attended the May 21 Symposium to hear Whatcom MRC present on their North Sound Stewards program and pilot Olympia Oyster restoration work. The next Symposium will be June 4 for a discussion with Clallam MRC on engaging with elected officials.

**Kelp monitoring:** Dana hosted a 2020 season kick off meeting on May 6 on WebEx with 44 participants. DNR staff presented on their 2020 season kelp monitoring plan and the proposed canopy kelp indicator for the new marine vegetation vital sign. Staff from Samish Indian Nation presented on their 2020 kelp monitoring plans and previous kelp monitoring efforts. The Northwest Straits Foundation provided a safety training and discussion on kayak safety while monitoring. The safety and liability steps for 2020 have been sent out to the kelp teams, please send questions to Dana ([oster@nwstraits.org](mailto:oster@nwstraits.org)).

**PSEMP Nearshore Workgroup:** Lucas led the "Bridging the Border with Citizen Science" session during the nearshore workgroup's meeting on 5/21. This session was originally intended for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

**Operations Plan:** Staff updated the NWSC operations plan for the current year through March 2021 and will continue doing quarterly reviews.

**Kelp Plan:** The kelp plan is ready for release. The core team is currently collecting signatures for the vision statement page.

**Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP):** NWSC Staff are working with MRCs and the Ecology Quality Assurance Coordinator to update project QAPPs. These documents outline protocols and historical data for various projects being led by MRCs and the Commission, and are a required element for projects funded by the EPA National Estuary Program funding.

**MRC grants:** All MRCs have submitted payment requests and deliverables for the January through March period, and Commission staff has reviewed them and Ecology has given final approval. MRCs and



## Commission staff highlights- [May 2020]

Commission staff are now working through submitting and processing amendments to their grants. A full summary of the projects will be shared with the Commission as part of the June meeting materials.

**Project database:** Commission staff continue to work on fine-tuning data fields and testing the current prototype with expert support from volunteer Richard Austin. Commission staff is entering sample data and next steps include testing queries and designing reports.

**Annual report:** The long-delayed 2019 Annual Report is still in progress, and will be shared using the Adobe Spark platform sometime in early June.

### **Meetings Attended:**

Dana attended: Island MRC meeting 5/5, State Green Crab Coordination 5/12, Drayton Harbor Green Crab 5/13, Clallam MRC meeting 5/18, PSEMP nearshore 5/21

Lucas attended: Olympia oyster core team meeting on 5/6, Virtual MRC symposium on 5/7 & 5/21, Science Advisory Committee meeting on 5/11, State Green Crab Coordination on 5/12 & 5/26, Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting on 5/13

Sasha attended: Jefferson MRC meeting on 5/5, Skagit MRC meeting 5/14 and Snohomish MRC meeting 5/20, Virtual MRC symposium on 5/7 and 5/21, Puget Sound Partnership communications meeting 5/22

Katie attended: Virtual MRC symposium on 5/7 and 5/21, PSEMP nearshore 5/21, Puget Sound Partnership communications meeting 5/22

## MRC Monthly Report

**County:** Clallam

**Month/Year:** May, 2020

**Submitted by:** Helle Andersen

**Membership/Leadership changes** (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): In October 2019 Mike McHenry resigned from the Clallam MRC and in November 2019 Pete Schroeder resigned. These positions have not 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 May meeting was held May 18<sup>th</sup> as a BlueJeans meeting with a reduced agenda because of COVID-19. Topics on the reduced meeting agenda include: Clallam MRC virtual symposium June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Fellowship program, election of Clallam MRC officials, Coast Guard request about volunteer opportunities, NWSC updates, project updates and good of the order.

**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):

Bob Vreeland was re-elected as chair, Robert Knapp as vice-chair and Alan Clark as NWSC representative.

Forage Fish: Sampling was conducted May 14<sup>th</sup> at Cline Spit and May 11<sup>th</sup> at Ediz Hook.

Shellfish biomonitoring: Bob Vreeland has started the sampling effort May 12<sup>th</sup> and will continue collecting shellfish every other Tuesday through September. The samples will be send to DOH.

2020 Internship Program: The smolt trap interns have jumped into the project and are very enthusiastic. The trapping effort will continue until early to mid-June. They have also had the opportunity to visit other traps on Little River, Siebert Creek and Matriotti Creek.

The two video interns are young and are having a more difficult time getting started on the project. They could not get started with making a story board or outline of the first video to be made (about the MRC), so instead the MRC members have started meeting them in the field to start filming. The met up with the trap crew Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> and they will go out with Ed Bowlby May 20<sup>th</sup> to check out the pigeon guillemot stations at Port Williams. On their own they have to take a trip out west and stop at Elwha River Beach, Freshwater Bay, Pillar Point and Clallam Bay.

The green crab/crabber outreach internship with Jamestown tribe has been cancelled due to COVID-19. It was decided on the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to combine the pigeon guillemot internship and the fellowship so that the fellow will be performing the mostly administrative tasks associated with the project.

Climate Change Subcommittee: The subcommittee will meet with Commissioner Mark Ozias June 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss how to engage the other commissioners in climate change. It will also be an opportunity to point out to Mark that several of the projects currently carried out by Clallam MRC address action items in the 2015 Climate Change report for the North Olympic Peninsula. The subcommittee has also worked on the MRC virtual symposium coming up June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**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 to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Island

**Month/Year:** May 2020

**Submitted by:** Anna Toledo

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

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

Past Meetings/Events:

- April 24: The MRC participated in a virtual town hall to celebrate Earth Day, hosted by Island County Commissioner Janet St. Clair.
- May 5: MRC meeting via WebEx. Topics: project planning, operations updates.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- June 2: MRC meeting via WebEx. Topics: Hoypus Point and Possession Point feasibility study, project planning.
- June 26: Presentation at NWSC meeting.
- July 7: MRC meeting (WebEx or Coupeville, TBD)
- July 9: MRC Virtual Symposium – Island MRC

**Funding updates** (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): The NWSF Opportunity Fund was suspended, including funding for an MRC Communications plan. See below for updates on the communications plan.

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

Forage Fish: MRC monitoring activities have been suspended at this time, due to COVID-19 precautions.

Seining: Seining at Cornet Bay has been suspended, due to COVID-19 precautions, and will not be completed this year. Seining is now planned for 2021 and 2022.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Restoration Feasibility: Blue Coast Engineering has developed the draft feasibility study, and will provide a presentation at the June MRC meeting.

Outreach: The MRC and SWS are modifying the art contest to make it more accessible to all Island County students. Details will be on the MRC and SWS websites in late May. We are also working to offer a password-protected streaming version of “Discover Our Island Shores” for local students.

Communications Plan: While the funds through the NWSF Opportunity Fund for developing a communications plan are no longer available, the work has still been able to be completed by MRC members. The communications subcommittee, led by Barb, has developed a draft communications plan which will be reviewed by the MRC at a future meeting.

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

## **MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission**

**County:** Jefferson

**Month/Year:** May 2020

**Submitted by:** Monica Montgomery

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

Nothing to report.

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

### Past Events/Meetings

- April 20 – Education & Outreach subcommittee meeting #2
- April 21 – MRC Executive Committee monthly meeting
- April 23 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #1
- April 29 – Kelp subcommittee meeting
- May 5 – MRC monthly meeting
- May 6 – Kelp workshop
- May 7 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #2
- May 8 – Strait ERN LIO Spring quarterly meeting
- May 18 – MRC Executive Committee Meeting
- May 21 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #3
- May 22 – Kelp Subcommittee on-the-water training with new MRC members

### Upcoming Events/Meetings

- May 29 – NWSC Meeting
- June 2 – MRC monthly meeting
- June 2 – Chumsortium
- June 4 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #4 (Clallam MRC)
- June 8-9 (or June 22-26) – Oly oyster work day, distributing shell
- June 9 – Rain garden virtual workshop part 1
- June 16 – Rain garden virtual workshop part 2
- June 18 – 3:30 - 5:30pm – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #5 (Snohomish MRC)
- June 22 & 23 – Rain garden installation at Cape George
- June 23 – 8:30 - 9:30am – MRC Executive Committee Meeting
- June 26 – NWSC Meeting
- June 26 – 1st kelp survey of the season (tentative)
- July 7 – 6:00 - 8:00pm – Jefferson County MRC meeting via Zoom (Tentative)

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

Budget amendment for FY 2020-2021 was submitted.

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

1. Monitoring:



- a. **Fort Townsend:** Nothing to report till October.
  - b. **Adelma Beach:** Forage fish sampling continues once per month by the couple who own the property.
  - c. **Kelp:** The kelp subcommittee met on April 29 to provide a project overview for newer MRC members, walk through the protocol, and set plans for 2020 surveys. Jeff provided a Kobo toolbox/Garmin basecamp training for Emily and Monica on May 5. Four subcommittee members and staff attended the May 6 kelp workshop organized by Dana. Four subcommittee members went out on May 22 for on-the-water training for two new members, in prep for the season's first survey tentatively set for June 26. Kelp subcommittee members have been asked to keep 6 ft distancing, keep a clear separation between groups of 5 or less, and to wear masks, following the recommendations of Jefferson County's Public Health Officer.
2. Rain Gardens:
- a. The first rain garden installation of the year is planned for June 22 and 23 in the Cape George community, following a virtual training workshop for professional landscapers and high-level volunteers on June 9 and 16. Strict covid-19 protocols are in place with the in-person installation limited to staff.
  - b. The second rain garden installation of the year is planned for some time late August-early September, in collaboration with the City of Port Townsend.
3. Education & Outreach:
- a. Ads
    - i. Cycling 4 ads targeting individual actions to improve water quality (recycled from previous years) through the local theatre's (The Rose Theatre) weekly newsletter throughout May and June. This newsletter reaches ~4,915 subscribers.
    - ii. Distributed 2 ads (of the 4 ads referenced above) in the local newspaper (PT Leader) on May 13 and May 20, the "PT Saturation" dates, during which every mailbox within Port Townsend city limits receives an issue.
    - iii. Working on submitting boater targeted ads to protect eelgrass from anchor damage in NW Yachting and 48 Degrees North magazines.
  - b. Videos - working on hiring a videographer to create 3 videos focused on Olympia oysters, rain gardens, and no-anchor zones/eelgrass protection projects.
  - c. Informational materials – working on updating and reprinting rack cards on rain gardens, shoreline stabilization, and possibly other projects/topics.
  - d. Outreach materials – investing in microscopes, tv monitor, roll-up poster, and other materials for future in-person tabling events.
  - e. Website – hired previous Coordinator to help update the website with more current information, reports, and overall clarity, aesthetics, and contextualizing our work within the broader scope of the NWSI/marine conservation efforts in the region.
4. Olympia Oysters:
- a. Planning for an upcoming work day to distribute shell at both sites (Powerline and Lagoon) in Discovery Bay some time June 8-9 or June 22-26, depending on the delivery schedule of Taylor Shellfish.
5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Bridget Kaminski-Richardson (DNR) is working on consolidating and updating Right of Entries for all 3 sites. Contracted dive work through Marine Surveys & Assessments to re-install 10 buoys off the Port Townsend waterfront, clean buoys and repair underwater infrastructure off of Port Hadlock and in Mystery Bay, and search for/reinstall missing buoy near boat haven (this may be the one that was recovered in Sekiu, WA this past week).

**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.):

**PT Sewer Outfall (advisory project):** Nam presented an overview of the PT sewer outfall at the previous MRC monthly meeting on May 5, to bring newer members (and staff) up to speed on the issues.

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

Educational Outreach (Task 5)

4 ads distributed through The Rose Theatre's weekly newsletter in May and June:







# CLEAN WATER

Minimize use of lawn chemicals  
Keep our waters clean

Jefferson County  
**Marine Resources Committee**  
JeffersonMRC.org

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Northwest Straits INITIATIVE

FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE EPA

The Rose Theatre



# CLEAN WATER

Rain gardens reduce flooding and pollution  
Find out more at [raingarden.wsu.edu](http://raingarden.wsu.edu)

Jefferson County  
**Marine Resources Committee**  
JeffersonMRC.org

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

Northwest Straits INITIATIVE

FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE EPA

The Rose Theatre

Ad distributed in The Leader on May 13, 2020 (tracking down the May 20 issue):

Call us today!

**caregivers** 360-457-1644 PORT ANGELES  
360-693-7377 SEQUIM  
360-378-6889 PORT TOWNSEND

**CLEAN WATER**

Dog poop pollutes when it washes into the bay.  
**Stoop & Scoop to keep our waters clean.**

Marine Resources Committee  
SOUND  
CLEAN WATER

**Cabled Fiber & Yarn**  
Conveniently located in Downtown Port Angeles since 2011

**NOW Online!**

\$5 off when you spend \$25 with Code **May Yarn Promo**

**Our ONLINE Store is Open for Business**

Visit [www.cablefiber.com](http://www.cablefiber.com) to start your shopping experience—Search by product, brand name, yarn weight, color, and more!

to stay 6 feet apart, but that didn't stop the family, friends and neighbors of Bill and Connie Deckman from throwing the couple a parade for their 50th anniversary. William Frederick Deckman III and Constance Mary Ward were married May 8, 1970, in a candlelight ceremony at the Manette Community Church in Bremerton, and on May 8, 2020, close to a dozen cars, trucks and motorcycles made multiple passes by their front yard on Cedar Drive in Cape George. The couple's daughters Marie, Laura and Elizabeth and grandsons Tanner, Kelby, Logan, Anthony, Owen and Frankie decorated the Deckman's yard with balloons and photographs of their wedding, showing the floor-length brocade wedding gown and veil the bride both made and wore when her grandfather, Lloyd Ward, walked her down the aisle, and her mother, Adele, made a wedding cake decorated with purple rosebuds. It was easy for the couple to recall getting married as high school sweethearts.

Boater targeted ad to be distributed in NW Yachting and 48 Degrees North soon:

**PROTECT EELGRASS**

**Anchor Out for Marine Life**

Jefferson County **Marine Resources Committee**  
[JeffersonMRC.org](http://JeffersonMRC.org)

Northwest Straits Initiative  
PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP  
FUNDED WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE EPA

Citizen Science Monitoring: Task 2



3 photos of Jeff Taylor, and wife, Cindy Jayne who have continued to monitor forage fish spawning on their private beach throughout the Stay Home order (Photos by Monica Montgomery)







Photos of kelp team on-the-water training for new members in kelp monitoring protocol (Photos by Jeff Taylor):







## **MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission**

**County:** San Juan County

**Month/Year:** May 2020

**Submitted by:** Frances Robertson

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

There are no changes to leadership or membership this time.

Two temporary research assistants were engaged: Kelsey Kittleson to produce the market research and tool kits for the Plastic Free Salish Sea project, and Abigail Ames to continue her efforts assisting MRC staff and the MSA Plan revision steering commission.

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

The April MRC meeting involved the annual 2 day Salmon recovery grant review. Due to COVID-19 this year's grant reviews and field trips were conducted virtually over the course of two mornings on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

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

There are no new funding updates to report. The NWSF has managed to secure permission from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to allow some of their grant funds to support the MRC's spatial modelling effort with respect to Southern Resident killer whale foraging habitat. This fills part of the grant cancelled earlier in April by the NWSF. We are continuing to seek the additional funds to make up the difference.

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

*SRKW Outreach:*

The Whale Warning Flag final report was published and distributed to agency and funding partners in both the US and Canada as well as with flag holders for which emails were available. The publication of the report occurred just as Governor Inslee lifted some outdoor recreation activity restrictions and thus initiated our outreach for the season. While much of our outreach will be taking place online this year the MRC will reestablish signage at ports and marinas for the season. An additional outreach effort is the construction of a boater safety kiosk at the San Juan County Park. The construction of this kiosk is underway and signage is under development.

*SRKW foraging habitat marine spatial planning effort:*

Acoustic monitoring is set to begin again Memorial Day weekend for the month of June. Preliminary results of the SRKW foraging habitat spatial analysis is due mid-June and user-group engagement is set to begin in June via a series of surveys to those groups for which survey data is appropriate. Due to Covid-19 user groups where focus groups and individual interviews are more appropriate have been postponed to the fall.

*MSA Plan Revision:*

The Marine Managers Workshop summary report was finalized and distributed to participants and those who were interviewed but could not attend. The MSA Plan revision Steering committee met May 14<sup>th</sup> to approve the final workshop report, provide guidance to the MRC staff on next steps and to review the

first draft of the revised plan structure. The next month will involve a ramped up effort to gather information and data through interviews and literature searches.

*Plastic Free Salish Sea:*

The PFSS research assistant Kelsey Kittleson is on track with her market research and creation of dedicated tool kits. Kelsey is also creating an extensive curated resource list and designing infographics for use in the MRCs outreach. The steering group met on May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss what this outreach strategy could look like for the coming months. In addition the committee responded to requests for guidance with respect to business implementing temporary bans on allowing re-usable grocery bags. A guidance has been produced and will be distributed through the community during the latter half of May. The Plastic Free Salish Sea website is under construction and is due to be finalized in June. The PFSS branding is also now in use and an example of the logo has been shared 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.):

The MRC PFSS steering committee produced a guidance for the local community regarding the temporary bans by local stores on reusable grocery bags. An example of the infographic is included below.

Efforts have also been made to create more engaging Facebook content, examples of which are also included below. Over the last month the MRC Facebook page posts have reached 4,734 people, had 792 engagements and an additional 35 page likes have occurred. The greatest post engagement came from a post highlighting False Bay Biological Preserve. This post was shared to a number of community pages resulting in a much wider reach –and hopefully a better recognition of the sensitive and valuable place that False Bay is.

**Photos** (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info):  
Plastic Free Salish Branding



**PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA**  
PlasticFreeSalishSea.org



## How To Reduce Your Waste Impact During COVID-19 Times

Throughout the Salish Sea, communities have been working hard to prevent and reduce the use of single-use plastics and educate communities about sustainable alternatives. Our story of preventing plastic use in the Salish Sea is actually part of the larger narrative of the Earth's plastic crisis. In the words of activist Shibu K. Nahir,

*"Look at our globe: it's a water world... So if you imagine that we are in a womb filled with water, whatever I do here is going to affect every single life form in this earth... We need to bring in that kind of a spirit of unity across boundaries, because these toxins do not understand political boundaries."*

In March 2019, Washington State passed a reusable bag bill, which will ban single-use plastic bags across the state, following the lead of many local communities, including San Juan County. That was a big step in the right direction and gives businesses the motivation to look for alternative supplies.

Then COVID 19 happened. In a matter of days grocery stores around the country put up signs that re-usable bags were not allowed, and coffee shops refused to refill personal mugs. But the idea that "plastic bags are safer" runs in direct contradiction to the best available science. Earlier this month the New England Journal of Medicine found that the virus that causes COVID19 persists on plastic 300% as long as it does on paper! 72 hours! Plastic showed the longest survival time of all materials the scientists tested. Stainless steel, cardboard, copper and the air itself were all far less hospitable than plastic! Unfortunately, special interests have capitalized on peoples' fears to advance the use of plastic bags and delay implementation of plastic bag bans. Fortunately, countries like Italy, Indonesia, and the Netherlands found no reason to ban the use of reusable bags.



## How To Reduce Your Waste During COVID-19

### Guidance from Plastic Free Salish Sea

Since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, many grocery stores around the country have banned reusable bags and coffee shops have refused to refill personal mugs due to State & Federal guidance. This has undoubtedly increased single-use plastic usage.

What is a concerned world citizen to do? REFUSE to use single-use plastics and keep looking for ways that you can REDUCE your dependence on convenient packaging. Here are some ways to follow tips to still REFUSE, REDUCE and REUSE in the age of COVID-19:

#### REDUCE YOUR USE OF SINGLE USE GROCERY BAGS

**BEST:** Refuse a bag! Don't bag your groceries, return your items to your car's or basket and pack them into your car's reusable bags or boxes at your car or home, or if by foot, just bag them up outside the store!

**GOOD:** Accept a recycled paper bag and bag up your groceries yourself.

**AVOID:** Using the single-use plastic bags offered by the store.

#### REDUCE THE PACKAGING YOUR FOOD IS IN

**BEST:** Buy fresh, less total - coffee, meat, frozen, etc. in CSA boxes, often delivered right to your door.

**GOOD:** Choose locally sourced produce from many farms you go to the store to choose from packaged in plastic or cardboard boxes or other items. Choose compostable types can be recycled.

**AVOID:** Single serving packaged items.

#### REDUCE YOUR TAKE OUT FOOTPRINT

**BEST:** Refuse take-out paper containers, plastic forks or knives. If you plan to eat your take-out at your house or outdoor spot, be sure to have your reusable what you need and supply to the car.

**GOOD:** Avoid single-use containers that are compostable.

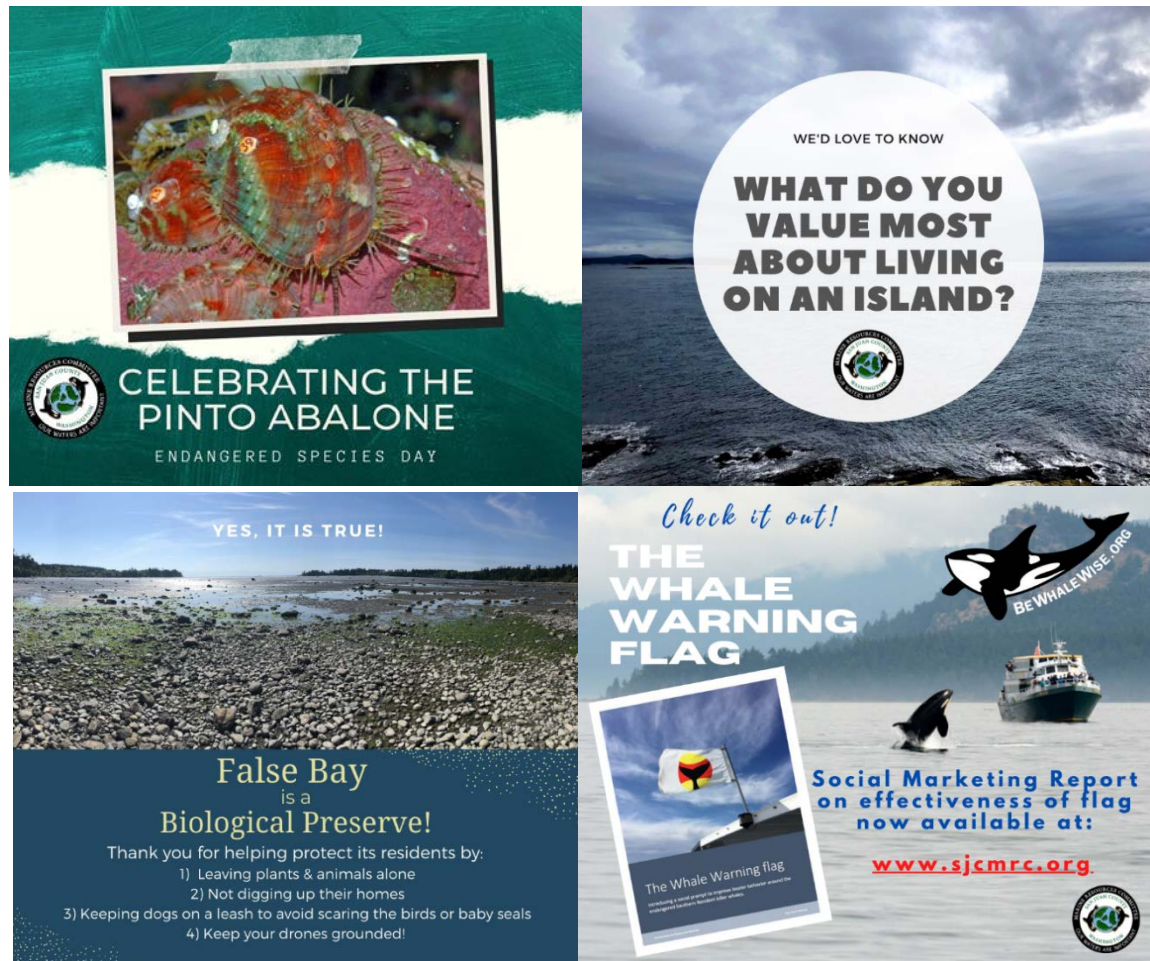
**AVOID:** Single-use plastic containers and paper products.

#### DON'T FORGET! USE REUSABLE, WASHABLE FACEMASKS WHEN OUT IN PUBLIC

Leave the medical grade facemasks for the health professionals and use one yourself or support a local community member who is making them - most are also donating to essential workers as it's a win-win. Masks may feel safer but remember the best is to wash your hands often - use the hand wash stations outside grocery stores and don't touch your face!

**PLASTIC FREE SALISH SEA**  
PlasticFreeSalishSea.org

Examples of recent MRC Facebook posts:





## MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

**County:** Skagit

**Month/Year:** May/2020

**Submitted by:** Tracy/Pete

**Membership/Leadership changes** (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Nothing new to report.

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

- **MRC Symposium- May 7 Featuring Skagit MRC:** Betsy Stevenson presented an overview of Skagit MRC, Paul Dinnel presented the Pinto Abalone Restoration project, and Pete Haase and Annie England presented the Kids on the Beach program.
- **MRC Operations and Monthly Meeting- May 14:** Skagit MRC held a short Webex meeting on May 14. 13 people attended.
- **Next MRC Monthly Meeting- June 11, 9am** (Webex)

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

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

- **Salish Sea Stewards:** 22-23 participants are taking the virtual Salish Sea Stewards training. Sara Brostrom was recently hired as Padilla Bay NERR's new Coastal Training Program Coordinator and has taken over the lead on the Salish Sea Stewards training program. In addition, Skagit MRC member Rachel Best has been hired as the new Office Coordinator at Padilla Bay and will be supporting the Salish Sea Stewards program as well! Some of the presenters were unable to reschedule, so the 40 hour training program was shortened by 6 hours. In order to make up for those hours, the class participants were given task assignments and a list of training resources. The class graduates will each receive a Salish Sea Stewards t-shirt, name badge, and certificate in the mail.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** This year's event was originally scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort. Unfortunately, per the recommendation of the Skagit County Department of Health to cancel all large events this summer, Fidalgo Bay Day has been canceled. The Fidalgo Bay Day planning committee met via Webex on May 19 to discuss potential alternatives. The Committee decided the best alternative would be to create a Fidalgo Bay Day Activity Guide, to help get families outside and engaged in hands-on activities that focus on the marine environment at different locations around Skagit County. Partner organizations will be invited to sponsor a specific location and activities for families to do at that particular site. We will create an online account for this event where participants share their experiences and photos of themselves actually doing the activities (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).
- **Bowman Bay Restoration:** Beach seining and forage fish surveys at the restoration site have been canceled until further notice due to COVID-19. The next plant maintenance party was originally scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> to coincide with Skagit Water Weeks, but has been canceled as well. The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) decided to suspend all volunteer work parties until mid-July. SFEG staff will start providing monthly plant maintenance at the site sometime after June 1.

- Forage Fish Surveys: Forage fish surveys have been canceled until further notice due to COVID-19. Although social distancing could be practiced while doing the forage fish surveys, most of the survey sites have been closed to public access as a result of the statewide Shelter in Place mandate. Now that some of the areas are slowly starting to open again, volunteers are waiting for the green light to start surveys again.
- Kids on the Beach: Annie has been doing great work getting KOTB learning opportunities online. The curriculum includes 30 minutes of activities online and 30 minutes of activities offline. There is a mix of videos, games, coloring pages, science journals, and a list of questions. Annie has also developed a curriculum for students that are unable to access the internet. Nine classes with over 200 elementary and middle school students participating from Sedro Woolley, Concrete, and La Conner Schools in Skagit County as well as Friday Harbor, Mukilteo and Everett!
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Field work has been temporarily put on hold during the statewide stay at home order due to COVID-19 health concerns. PSRF is putting together a work plan for WDFW management stating the essential nature of the work and outlining their approach to reducing COVID risks. Their field schedule will be limited with no overnight trips to avoid hotels, etc. Field work will focus on juvenile outplants (more than 3200) and new broodstock collections (14) for hatchery production. We are currently working with PSRF on a detailed QAPP required by the MRC Grant. Paul Dinnel gave a presentation on the Pinto Abalone Recovery project at the MRC Symposium on May 7 and will also be presenting the project at the May 29 NWSC meeting.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul Dinnel gave a presentation on Olympia Oyster Restoration as part of the Salish Sea Stewards training. Paul and his son retrieved oyster cultch bags in Fidalgo Bay to monitor oyster recruitment. There appears to be strong settlement from last year. Paul will continue collecting and assessing oyster cultch bags over the next couple of months and plans to put out new bags as well as settlement tiles for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: A kelp survey WebEx meeting was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2020 survey season and to discuss safety and volunteer liability coverage through the Northwest Straits Foundation. We will need to confirm county guidelines to start kelp monitoring in light of COVID-19. Before volunteers go out on the water they will be asked to review the safety materials from the NWS Foundation and sign the volunteer agreement form.

**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):

**MRC Monthly Report****County:** Snohomish**Month/Year:** May 2020**Submitted by:** 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):

MRC Members and MRC Staff attended the MRC Symposium for Jefferson MRC on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sarah Brown, Laura Gurley and Elisa Dawson had a conference call on April 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss Northwest Straits Commission business and partnerships with the Port of Everett.

The MRC Pilings Subcommittee met on May 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the current grant and 2020-201 grant ideas.

Elisa Dawson attended a conference call with the Northwest Straits Foundation on May 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss future project collaboration with the Foundation.

MRC Members and MRC Staff attended the MRC Symposium for Skagit MRC on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

MRC Members Susan Tarpley and Tim Ellis presented to the WSU Beach Watchers and Beach Naturalist class on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

The MRC had their monthly meeting 20<sup>th</sup> via Zoom virtual conference call. MRC Members Susan Tarpley, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, Paul Clampitt, Laura Gurley, Mike Sadler, Natasha Coumou Tim Ellis, Kip Killebrew, Julie Schlenger, Sara Maxwell, Sarah Brown and Mike Ehlebracht attended the meeting. Staff Elisa Dawson attended. The MRC has a presentation from Logan Daniels on Meadowdale Beach Restoration, discussed the current pilings grant and future work, talked about the marine vegetation monitoring project, and had a presentation from Tim Ellis on the BEACH program.

**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 and ESA have completed their prioritization framework. Field work is scheduled for the first and third week of June. Field work was delayed due to COVID-19 concerns, and is slightly behind schedule. We do not believe there is a need to change other deadlines at this time.

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 Changed to June 22
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

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. Kathy Ketteridge presented the project at the May MRC meeting. The MRC continues to discuss ways to implement ideas from this project. Bob Hillmann is working on getting the signs from this project installed. After signs are installed, the grant will be closed out.

Nearshore Restoration Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) Learning Grant and Forage Fish Monitoring: Dan completed the final task of this grant to review the data from the year and give feedback on other MRC forage fish work. His final invoice was received the opportunity fund grant has been closed out as of the end of April.

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

Crabber Education: The MRC crabber subcommittee plans to meet to discuss outreach strategy changes due to COVID-19.

MyCoast: Reports continue to come in. Snohomish County has opted not to do outreach about the app during COVID-19 concerns when public land closures are rapidly changing.

Derelict Vessels: The MRC is currently investigating removal of several vessels in the Snohomish Estuary. MyCoast reports are helping with reconnaissance and planning.

DNR aquatic lands. Travalier: <https://mycoast.org/reports/51058>

DNR aquatic lands: WN3697: <https://mycoast.org/reports/56225>

Port of Everett land: Sandbagger on Jetty Island: <https://mycoast.org/reports/56296>

MRC Outreach Subcommittee: The MRC is waiting to hear back from Florian Graner if “Beneath the Salish Sea,” could be made available through online platforms.

Oil Spill: Snohomish County WSU Extension has been working on a model volunteer oil spill response project. Susan Tarpley attended a stakeholder meeting for this project on May 5<sup>th</sup> via conference call/Zoom. The group discussed plans for the proposed September training course (dates, topics, objectives, etc), brainstormed ideas for presenters, and asked for general advice and guidance from stakeholders.

Meadowdale: Logan Daniels presented updates at the May 20<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting. At this time, construction for the project is scheduled for 2021.

Kelp Project: Elisa Dawson, Tom Doerge, and former MRC Member Traci Sanderson attended the May 6<sup>th</sup> conference call on kelp planning for 2020. Tom Doerge, Traci, and Elisa have scheduled monitoring



days for July for Edmonds, Meadowdale, and Mukilteo. The team plans to monitor Edmonds again in August, as well as Hat Island.

Mussel Watch: No updates at this time.

Port Susan and shoreline landowners: No updates at this time.

**Upcoming Events:**

- MRC Symposium (Whatcom MRC) May 21
- MRC Symposium June 4
- MRC Meeting June 17
- MRC Symposium (Snohomish MRC) June 18

## **MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission**

**County:** WHATCOM

**Month/Year:** MAY 2020

**Submitted by:** AUSTIN ROSE

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

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

- The MRC was not able to hold a normal advisory meeting on May 7 due to the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” proclamation from Governor Inslee and the legislative leadership, which imposes prohibitions and waives certain provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. The proclamation calls for suspension of in-person meetings and allows virtual meetings to process only for certain topics, particularly those related to COVID-19. The MRC is able to continue to host public speaking events. It is anticipated that the June MRC meeting will still be held virtually, and will not be held as an advisory meeting.
- The MRC was featured in the Northwest Straits Virtual MRC Symposium on May 21. The North Sound Stewards and Olympia Oyster Restoration project were highlighted. Up to 76 participants joined the WebEx. Eleanor discovered a great tool – padlet.com – an online collaboration tool where folks can share comments or ideas using stickies. Very easy to use and was a hit during the symposium!
- The MRC hosted two public presentations at their regularly scheduled MRC meeting on May 7. Melissa Miner, Researcher, UC Santa Cruz provided a general summary of the status of sea stars in the Salish Sea as well as broader, coast-wide patterns. Recent efforts to better assess sunflower star populations and respond to marine disease events in general was also discussed. Pete Granger, MRC member and representative of the Whatcom Working Waterfront Coalition provided an update on how COVID-19 has affected the local fishing industry.
- The North Sound Stewards Program will be hosting a summer bioblitz using iNaturalist. The intention is to host the bioblitz from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Details are still being developed by the North Sound Stewards Advisory Committee.
- MRC staff and one MRC member have been participating in the Drayton Harbor European Green Crab Emergency Management Plan meetings in order to keep informed on the potential involvement of the County and the MRC in eradication efforts. Some of the ways the MRC could be involved beyond providing volunteers and general outreach/education events, to the effort include:
  - Mailers to residents in the Drayton Harbor area. This would be in collaboration with WDFW and WA Sea Grant.
  - Signage- temporary or permanent? Information about what a European Green Crab looks like, and what to do if you find one.
  - Potentially host an informational webinar about what is happening with regards to EGC in Drayton
  - Review draft emergency management plan once it is ready.

**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 determined kelp bed segment lines in Sound IQ and met with Dana and Suzanne to verify. It is anticipated that the MRC will survey all five kelp bed locations July – September.
- The MRC and Whatcom Watersheds Information Network (WWIN) are still hosting public speaker series events. The next event is scheduled for the next regularly scheduled MRC meeting time. Dr. Carrie Garrison-Laney, WA SeaGrant, will provide information on her research related to Tsunami hazards in Whatcom County. This presentation will be hosted via zoom and will also be shared on Facebook LIVE via the WWIN Facebook page.
- Members involved in the Olympia oyster restoration project are meeting to discuss the possibility of monitoring the test plots in August or September.
- The North Sound Stewards are operating as best they can under the Stay at Home order and social distancing recommendations. European green crab monitoring in Drayton Harbor is the only fieldwork volunteers are participating in at this time.
- Chuckanut PIC water quality monitoring will continue once the QAPP has been approved by Ecology.
- Forage fish monitoring is continuing only with the help of MRC intern Bridget Moran.

**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):



North Sound Stewards Intern, Kaylene Riehle, helping with European Green Crab trapping in Drayton Harbor.