



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: WebEx Conference Call
Date: June 26, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

[To join the Zoom meeting, click here.](#)

Meeting ID: 823 3773 1200

Password: 196240

Dial in: 253-215-8782

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of May minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05 – 10:20	Committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	
10:20 – 10:30	Budget review and year two MRC projects	Lucas Hart
10:30 – 10:45	Director's Report	Lucas Hart
10:45 – 10:50	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/ Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
10:50 – 10:55	Puget Sound Partnership update	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
10:55 – 11:00	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
11:00 – 11:45	MRC Project Presentations Jefferson – Olympia oyster restoration Island – MRC communications and needs assessment San Juan – Community based efforts for southern resident killer whale conservation	Neil Harrington Barbara Bennett Frances Robertson



agenda

11:45 – 11:50	*Stretch and bathroom break*	
11:50 – 12:50	Communications Audit + Plan	Consultant team from Maul, Foster and Alongi
12:50 – 12:55	Round table	All
12:55 – 1:00	Public comment	All

30 minute post-meeting open discussion – join if you'd like.



May 29, 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, Chris Castner, Sarah Brown (Snohomish), Nan McKay, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

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

Others in Attendance: Caroline Gibson (Northwest Straits Foundation), Jennifer Grimm (Puget Sound Partnership – Alternate), Anna Toledo (Island), Glen (Alex) Alexander (Whatcom), Austin Rose (Whatcom), Kaylene Riehle (Whatcom), Phil Green (San Juan), Elisa Dawson, Laura Gurley (Snohomish), Paul Dinnel (Skagit)

Absent: Ron Thom, Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership), Christina Koons (San Juan)

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Approval of Minutes

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

NWS Commission - committee reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee postponed the joint executive committee meeting until August. The Committee recommended making the June Commission meeting WebEx, not in person, and will be three hours. The Commission approved by consensus the extension of all meetings that were previously planned to be in-person, but are held via WebEx due to COVID-19 guidance, to be three hours long. The first meeting this change will impact is the June Commission Meeting, which will be on June 26 from 10 am – 1 pm. The Executive Committee recommended edits to Section 13 of the NWSC Rules of Procedure. The Commission approved the proposed changes by consensus.

External Relations Committee

Tom Cowan reported that the Committee will meet in June to discuss near-term priorities. Tom reported that the Executive Committee is tracking Washington Senate races. Lucas and Chris Castner met with Department of Ecology Director Laura Watson and Deputy Director Heather Bartlett.

Science Advisory Committee

The Science Advisory Committee continues to advance the Actions to Impacts strategies and methods, including incorporating impacts from the full process of carrying out a project and feedback loops of the project as a whole. The Committee's next meeting is June 3rd.

Ad hoc Communications Committee



The Communications Committee reported that the interviews that are part of the communications audit and plan are completed. The consultants will attend and present during the June Commission meeting.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC)/Tribal update

Cecilia Gobin reported that the NWIFC signed onto the Puget Sound Kelp Recovery and Conservation Plan vision statement. Cecilia reported that the NWIFC is updating the State of the Watersheds report to reflect what has happened since 2016. Cecilia explained that she and Lucas are exploring the idea of reinstating the Tribal Committee of the Northwest Straits Commission and hosting presentations on hatcheries and pinnipeds.

Puget Sound Partnership update

Jenn Grimm reported that the Puget Sound Day on the Hill has been converted to a virtual event. She encouraged Commissioners to register before the June 4 deadline:

<https://www.psp.wa.gov/psdoth2020.php>

Jenn announced that the Leadership Council will meet on June 10 via Zoom. Jenn reported that the Puget Sound Partnership was able to absorb the 15% budget cut required of all state agencies. Funding for the Northwest Straits Commission will not be impacted.

Northwest Straits Foundation update

Caroline Gibson reported that the Foundation secured funding to continue their shoreline monitoring work for the next two years. Caroline announced that the Orca Forum will be held online. Don Hunger is hosting phone calls with MRC lead staff to hear project ideas from MRC for potential future funding.

MRC Project Presentations

Snohomish- Snohomish Estuary pilings project

Laura Gurley presented on the MRC's project to inventory pilings in the Snohomish Estuary. They have inventoried over 10,000 to date. The MRC has developed a prioritization framework to guide removal of the highest priority creosote pilings.

Whatcom – North Sounds Stewards

Glen (Alex) Alexander presented on North Sound Stewards. This was a project born out of the need for well-trained and knowledgeable volunteers for MRC projects. North Sound Stewards volunteers logged more than 1,500 hours at 119 events in 2019. Kaylene Riehle explained the software that Whatcom MRC uses for volunteers to track hours and that North Sound Stewards are launching an iNaturalist program for summer 2020.

Clallam – Internship program



minutes

Alan Clark presented on the MRCs Internship program. 34 students have completed paid internships with Clallam MRC since 2014. Interns are paired with mentors who work with one of Clallam MRC's partners. Alan explained that the projects that interns help with include kelp bed monitoring, crabber outreach, green crab capture and removal, video projects, Olympia oyster restoration, and smolt trap monitoring.

Skagit – Pinto abalone restoration

Paul Dinnel presented on pinto abalone restoration, which began in 2009. He explained the site selection criteria and juvenile abalone preparation, and described the out plant modules, release, and follow-up surveys. Paul reported that a total of 15,000+ seed abalone have been added to the eight Skagit County sites.

Round table

There were no round table items.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next regular Commission meeting will be on June 26 by WebEx.*



**Executive Committee Meeting
June 1, 2020 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference Call**

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

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

Stimulus funding –

Lucas reported that in preparation for possible stimulus funding during the current economic downturn, Commission staff would like to have ideas for projects that would be eligible and appealing for possible stimulus funding.

Considerations:

- Jude reported that stimulus projects are often prioritized by how many jobs are created per unit spent.
- Ron urged Commission staff to mention Actions-to-Impacts in any stimulus funding proposal

Initial ideas for shovel-ready, job-creating project ideas:

- Internships:
 - Commission could launch an internship program that provides a stipend for interns to engage with MRCs modeled after WA Conservation Corps (WCC) Interns could be obtained through:
 - Ecology HR has an internship process that allows appointments rather than going through the entire hiring process.
 - WCC positions or Washington Service Corps (WSC). Service Corp members are focused on a specific program and is outcome-oriented. Work can be field or education based.
- European Green Crab management: Funding for Drayton Harbor coordination and/or hire an additional field assistant. Green crab trapping is seasonal, but outreach work could be done year round.
- Creosote piling removal: Commission could expand the Snohomish County creosote piling project into a regional effort. Earth Corps works with the Samish Indian Nation on creosote removal. These organizations may be good contacts.

Liability coverage for MRCs –

Lucas explained the kelp monitoring project liability challenges. He reported that NWS Foundation has provided liability insurance to volunteers for the last five years, and they will continue to do so. The current liability waiver asks the signatory to attest that they will not hold the NWS Foundation or partners liable in the event of an injury. Is this sufficient liability coverage?

Jude described how Padilla Bay tracks volunteer hours and how that process covers volunteers through the state's insurance. He explained that kayaking is not an official work activity of staff at Padilla Bay, therefore it is not an authorized activity for their insurance coverage. To qualify for insurance, we would need to approach Ecology with a solid plan and ask for approval. This would not guarantee approval due to risk aversion of agencies in general.

For reference, WA Administrative Code defines volunteers: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=51.12.035>

Other organizations who use volunteers to kayak to monitor or do other tasks:

- ReSources in Whatcom County. They hire a training for their volunteers to have a safety program.
- Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources. Dana is following up with them.
- Anacortes Hole in the Wall Paddling Club. They do monitoring projects. Dana spoke to Todd Woodward.

Next steps:

- Lucas will reach out to more people for research on waivers and liability.
- Katie will put on the Executive Committee agenda for next month.

**MRC field re-entry procedures –**

MRCs are beginning to discuss entering the field to initiate summer projects. Commission staff have been asked to provide guidance on COVID procedures. Commission staff have informed MRCs to follow their county's guidelines and if procedures are not available, to draft their own procedures and have them approved by their parent county agency/department.

Climate change retreat topic –

Climate change was a priority topic identified by the retreat planning committee. The committee discussed the intended goals, audience, and outcomes from a session about climate change.

Next steps:

Dana and Lucas will review the following questions and consider what format and outcomes are desired:

- How does the work of the NWSC / MRCs currently address the challenges associated with climate change?
- Is there a stronger identity that we could forge going forward regarding building resiliency in marine and nearshore ecosystems? What does resiliency mean in this context?
- What can we do / should we do to provide some positive impact to help mitigate and or adapt to the challenges posed?

Foundation cooperative agreement –

Don and Lucas are exploring the possibility of creating a Foundation-Commission cooperative agreement that more clearly articulates the relationship between the two organizations. We have not moved beyond the "this might be a good idea" phase. Lucas and Don will discuss further in July/August.



**Northwest Straits Foundation
Monthly Report to Commission**

Month/Year: June, 2020

Funding updates:

ESRP Grant Proposals – submitted by Lisa

- Hoypus Point – small grants program
- Polnell Point armor removal: full ESRP proposal for 1400 linear feet of removal at NAS Whidbey along the tombolo; and
- ESRP Learning Grant proposal: “Building sea level rise resilience through education, adaptation, restoration and conservation.” In partnership with Andrea MacLennan at Herrera Environmental. We are proposing a GIS study and outreach to identify higher risk sites on feeder bluffs and beaches where armor removal has previously been determined to be infeasible due to limited setbacks of homes, septic, etc.

The Foundation’s new fiscal year starts July 1. A focus this year is on growing donor support. Grants will be part of the mix.

Project updates:

Catch More Crab: Rack cards and posters have been distributed to MRCs. No dockside outreach this year, all materials will be distributed at marine stores, kiosks, etc. Facebook video ad campaign to launch mid-June and run through the season. Virtual crabber workshop featuring WDFW biologists scheduled for 6/25/2020, 6 – 7PM.

Crab Pot Removals: Surveys in progress for Port Townsend and Dungeness Bay. Very unlikely we will have time for removals before the start of the season. Identified targets will be pegged for removals next spring.

Shrimp Pot Video: Possible video shoot for derelict shrimp pot educational video. Working on details to determine if feasible during COVID restrictions.

Bowman Bay: Video shoot at Bowman Bay on 7/7/2020 with Puget Sound Partnership for their upcoming piece on Bowman Bay.

Monitoring: No beach seining or intertidal surveys will be completed this year. All other surveys should continue as planned utilizing staff resources rather than volunteer resources due to COVID safety measures.

The following are related to the Shore Friendly program:



- Producing new materials for outreach: trifold for general information to land owners;
- Letters to new property owners will be sent soon to recruit for outreach and technical assistance;
- Lisa and Mel have been conducting a few virtual site visits as a preliminary step while waiting to get back out in the field with “no contact” site visits;
- Lisa and Mel have been assisting the Swinomish Tribe with their development of a new Shore Friendly program. This includes a communication and outreach plan and steps to take for site visits and beach walks when we are able;
- Development of a Shore Friendly video series to augment workshops. The first segment will feature Hugh Shipman, retired state coastal geologist, discussing beaches and bluffs; and,
- We will need to find future funding for the outreach elements of Shore Friendly. NEP funds to the ESRP program are going away after this biennium and ESRP is a capital program that does not fund outreach.

Seahorse Siesta bulkhead removal may finally happen. We received three qualified bids. One of which is close to our budget. Construction is on track for the fall.

Hoypus/Possession Point Feasibility Study is completed in partnership with Island MRC and State Parks. The draft is done and the final should be completed with a conceptual design for Hoypus Point armor removal by the end of the month. We are currently applying for an ESRP small grant for construction.

Lummi Quarry (Aiston Preserve) restoration is still waiting on permitting process. Funding has been secured for removal of the overwater structures, but we need grants for the armor removal and restoration.

Staff updates/changes:

None to report.

Event updates:

COVID-19 continues to prohibit holding in-person community events or activities. The second episode of Salish SeaFresh is scheduled for release before July 4th.



Commission staff highlights- [June 2020]

Communications Audit and Plan: Sasha and Katie met with the consultants on June 10 and debriefed the informational interviews with Commissioners, MRC members, and other important stakeholders that the consultants completed.

Virtual MRC Symposium: Two virtual symposiums were held in June, with Clallam MRC presenting on June 4 and Snohomish MRC on June 18. All materials, presentations and recordings from the symposiums are in a Box.com folder. Anyone who registered for a symposium has access to that folder. If you or someone from your MRC would like access, email Sasha with the request (horst@nwstraits.org).

Kelp monitoring: Most MRCs have received confirmation from their counties that they can resume field work. Some are planning initial early season surveys and trainings in June.

Kelp Plan: The kelp plan was published on June 5, and was shared widely by project partners to a substantial distribution list, and through social media. The plan is available here: <https://nwstraits.org/our-work/kelp/>

Green Crab: NWSC Staff have been approved for field work and are working closely with WDFW and WSG on trapping efforts in Drayton Harbor. NWSC and WSG held a joint training session for the Puget Sound Corps crew on green crab trapping procedures. As of June 23rd, nearly 80 green crabs have been trapped.

Annual report: The 2019 Annual Report was published in early June. You can read the annual report online here: <https://bit.ly/2019NWS>. Please share widely with your MRC and other interested audiences.

MRC lead staff meeting: The Commission hosted a meeting of MRC lead staff by WebEx on June 18.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP): NWSC Staff continue to work 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.

Project database: Commission staff continued to beta test the database, adding test data, fine tuning the forms, and making notes that will lead to an eventual user guide for the system. With the additional test data in the system, our volunteer developer's next steps are to generate test queries and reports for review.

MRC grants: This quarter is the end of the fiscal year of state funding in MRC grants, and any unspent funds will expire as of June 30. Amendments to provide the full amount of available year two funding for



Commission staff highlights- [June 2020]

MRC grants are underway. A full summary of the MRC's year two projects and budgets will be shared with the Commission as part of the June meeting materials.

Meetings Attended:

Dana attended: Island MRC on 6/2, San Juan MRC on 6/4, MRAC on 6/10, European Green Crab Regional Call 6/16, and Virtual MRC symposium on 6/4 and 6/18

Lucas attended: Jefferson MRC on 6/2, San Juan MRC on 6/4, MRC symposium on 6/4 and 6/18, Puget Sound Days on the Hill on 6/5, 6/19, Leadership Council meeting on 6/10, Statewide Green Crab workgroup on 6/16, Statement of Cooperation Working Group meeting on 6/22

Sasha attended: Jefferson MRC on 6/2 and Whatcom MRC on 6/4

Katie attended: Jefferson MRC on 6/2, and Virtual MRC symposium on 6/4 and 6/18

Allie attended: Whatcom MRC ad hoc Green Crab meeting on 6/2, MRC symposium on 6/4, PSC Green Crab training on 6/11, Statewide Green Crab workgroup on 6/16



Communications Audit and Plan- Discussion Document
June 26 Northwest Straits Commission Meeting

Organization Structure: We have used the Venn diagram below to show the Initiative structure. Note that MRCs are at the center of this- they are the heart of the Initiative.

- The **Commission** is a regional coordinating entity and works within state government.
- **MRCs** are locally based and administered through county government.
- The **Foundation** is a nonprofit organization.

The diagram below shows the Northwest Straits **Initiative** as the collective effort of all of the groups - MRCs, Commission and Foundation.



Different parts of the Initiative work on different projects together. It is natural and strategic that collaboration happens between different portions of the Initiative.



Here are some examples of where the different “arms” of the Initiative collaborate:

- The Commission and MRCs partner on projects funded by Commission grants, regional monitoring projects like forage fish and kelp, and MRC promotion, recruitment, and operations.
- The Foundation and MRCs partner on projects like crabber outreach workshops and nearshore restoration projects, like Bowman Bay.
- The Commission, MRCs, and Foundation work together on projects like the annual conference.
- The Commission and Foundation work together on strategic planning and external relations.
- The MRCs do work “unassociated” that doesn’t involve the Commission or Foundation, like derelict vessel removal in Snohomish.

Communications challenges: One of the communications challenges that has become evident through the audit and interviews is lack of internal shared baseline knowledge about the Northwest Straits initiative and confusion between the parts of the organization.

Another challenge is communicating clearly about the different collaborative efforts within the Initiative itself, and roles and responsibilities of entities within the Initiative.

Why this is important: Clearing up how we talk about internal collaboration will enable us to more clearly communicate with external parties (elected officials, members of the press, etc.).

What we’re asking from the Commission: Recommendations from the Commission in regards to improving understanding and clarifying communication about roles and responsibilities within the Initiative.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Clallam

Month/Year: June, 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 June meeting was held June 15th as a Zoom meeting with a reduced agenda because of COVID-19. Topics on the agenda included: Clallam MRC virtual symposium June 4th, 2020 Fellowship program, video internships, Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan, NWSC updates, decision regarding meetings under phase-2, 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):

Clallam MRC Symposium: The symposium was a success with 49 participants. Of a score between 0 and 5, 17 participants scored the symposium 4.4 for usefulness and fun; 4.6 for attending other symposiums, and 2.7 for featuring their MRC at a future symposium.

Forage Fish: Sampling was conducted June 10th at Cline Spit and June 24th at Ediz Hook.

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

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys: The surveys started 2 weeks ago with about 30 volunteers. New volunteers have been teamed up with old volunteers. All sites have been visited. Ed is catching up with Alisa, the Fellow, who is going to help out with data entry.

2020 Internship Program: The smolt trap effort on Tumwater Creek is over and the trap has been removed. Next tasks for the interns are QA/QC of the data, selecting their projects for the Intern Celebration; perform an outfall survey on the lower 1 mile of the creek.

The two video interns have revised the draft topic list and the members reviewed the list at the June MRC meeting. It was decided to go forward with the topic list. Next will be to write a draft script and continue filming field efforts.

Climate Change Subcommittee: The subcommittee had a good meeting with Mark Ozias and several action items came out of it including meeting with the other two commissioners and reaching out to DCD staff.

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:



McKenzie Taylor showing Alissa Lofstrom the screw trap before they start counting the smolts.



The trap on Tumwater Creek is now gone! A team from Lower Elwha Tribe, Washington Conservation Corps and Clallam MRC met in the morning and in about one hour the trap was dismantled.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Island

Month/Year: June 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:

- June 2: MRC meeting via WebEx. Topics: Hoypus Point and Possession Point feasibility study, project planning.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- June 26: Presentation at NWSC meeting.
- July 7: MRC meeting via WebEx.
- July 9: MRC Virtual Symposium – Island MRC.

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

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

Forage Fish: Monitoring has restarted as of June. We are looking for 2-3 additional volunteers at Hidden Beach to assist the existing team.

Bull Kelp: Bull kelp team members are preparing to start kayak surveys this month. The sites include: Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, Polnell Point, and Lowell Point.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Restoration Feasibility: Blue Coast Engineering has developed the draft feasibility study, and provided a presentation at the June MRC meeting. The project partners decided to move forward with conceptual design at Hoypus Point at this time. The feasibility report will also outline the potential for restoration opportunities at Possession Point in the future. The final feasibility study will be ready at the end of June. The NWSF has applied for the next phases of restoration (design, permitting, and implementation) at Hoypus Point.

Outreach – Art Contest: The MRC and Sound Water Stewards (SWS) announced the winner of the "Discover Our Island Shores" art and essay contest, Inari. Inari's artwork and essay answers can be seen [here](#).

The MRC and SWS have [launched a summer art contest](#) open to all Island County students entering grades 2-7 in the fall. The theme of the art contest is "Design Your Own Salish Sea Creature." Entries are due Friday, July 17th. Top entries will be displayed on the MRC website and the public will be invited to vote on their favorites for the People's Choice awards.

Outreach – Discover Our Island Shores: The MRC has worked with Florian Graner to offer a password-protected version of “Discover Our Island Shores” on the [MRC website](#) for local students. Teachers may contact Anna for the password for their students.

Crabber Outreach: The MRC will be offering free crab gauges, rot cord, and “Catch More Crab” handouts to interested crabbers. While volunteers will not be stationed at boat launches as in past years, Camano crabbers can contact Scott Chase, and Whidbey crabbers can visit the Island County Department of Natural Resources office during certain hours to pick up the materials. Details will be posted via social media, MRC website, and the Crab Cracker newsletter on Camano.

Communications Plan: The communications plan is now available on the [MRC website](#). The communications subcommittee, led by Barb Bennett, put a lot of work into this plan, which will help guide MRC outreach and communications for the upcoming years.

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):



Artwork by "Discover Our Island Shores" art and essay contest winner, Inari. Artwork depicts Inari's imagined creature, a "coyphin."

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: June 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

- May 29 – NWSC Meeting
- June 2 – MRC monthly meeting
- June 2 – Chumsortium
- June 4 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #4 (Clallam MRC)
- June 8 – Forage fish sample at Adelma
- June 9 – Rain garden virtual workshop part 1
- June 12 – Dabob Bay forage fish site assessment w/ WDFW
- June 16 – Rain garden virtual workshop part 2
- June 18 – Virtual MRC Symposium meeting #5 (Snohomish MRC)
- June 22 & 23 – Rain garden installation at Cape George
- June 23 – MRC Executive Committee Meeting
- June 23 – Oly oyster workday (spread clean cultch)

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- June 26 – NWSC meeting
- June 26 – Kelp survey (tentative)
- June 30 – Strait ERN LIO working group: Oil spill prevention
- July 9 – Virtual MRC Symposium (Island MRC)
- July 21 – MRC Executive Committee Meeting
- July 23 – Virtual MRC Symposium (San Juan MRC)
- August 4 – MRC monthly 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. **Forage fish - Fort Townsend:** Nothing to report till October.
 - b. **Forage fish - Adelma Beach:** Took a sample on June 8.
 - c. **Forage fish - Dabob Bay:** Added a new forage fish index site. Took first sample on June 12.
 - d. **Kelp:** First survey date tentatively scheduled for June 26. Placed order for safety equipment, including VHF radio, tow line, first aid kit, etc.
2. Rain Gardens:
 - a. The first rain garden installation of the year occurred on 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. The in-person installation was limited to staff out of COVID-19 safety precautions.
3. Education & Outreach:
 - a. Ads – Ads focused on individual actions to improve water quality continue to be featured in the Rose Theatre’s newsletter. Placed a boater targeted ad to protect eelgrass from anchor damage in NW Yachting magazine (See pg. 31 of [June issue](#)).
 - b. Videos – Secured contract approval for videographer (Plumb Productions) and completed pre-production and most of the production stages for two videos, one focused on the no-anchor zones project (and eelgrass habitat education) and the other on our Olympia oysters project in Discovery Bay.
 - c. Informational materials – Placed orders for shoreline stabilization rack cards and greeting cards with Olympia oyster and eelgrass art and information included. Working on finalizing updated design for a rain garden rack card.
4. Olympia Oysters:
 - a. Delivered clean cultch to Powerline and Lagoon sites in Discovery Bay on June 22, and spread shell at the Lagoon site on June 23.
5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Marine Surveys and Assessments installed summer buoys in Port Townsend Bay and replaced deteriorated underwater hardware for buoys in Port Townsend Bay and off Port Hadlock.

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): Nothing to report.

Crabber Outreach: Crabber team working on distributing informational posters, virtual workshop fliers and informational rack cards, as well as promoting the Virtual Crabbing Workshop (on June 25) digitally.

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

Education & Outreach: Screenshot of boater ad on pg. 31 of NW Yachting’s June issue:

Business Notes

The Latest Marine Industry Dispatches



Small Craft Advisory may Become Small Craft Warning

By Scott Smith

Anyone who checks the weather and sea conditions before heading out on a boat is (hopefully) aware of the various marine weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service to help guide whether it's safe to be on the water.

As a part of those marine advisories, the National Weather Service is set to change the term of the familiar "Small Craft Advisory" to a new term: "Small Craft Warning." The move comes amid a proposed major overhaul of the

current NWS Watch/Warning/Advisory system after researchers found that "Advisory" was "widely misunderstood" and confused with a "Watch" while even the "Watch" vs. "Warning" terms were confusing. The proposal will remove all "advisory" headings

and instead those events will just come with an appropriate but more general headline. For example, a "Winter Weather Advisory" for Seattle would just become "1-3 inches of snow is expected in the Seattle area." The exception is the Small Craft Advisory since that is, in essence, a call to action near for mariners and thus would be renamed "Small Craft Warning."

However, while the name changes, the criteria will remain the same. For the Pacific Northwest and California, it's for sustained winds or frequent gusts of 21-33 knots (24-38 mph) and/or wave heights reaching 10 feet or higher. Small craft warnings can also be issued for rough bar conditions, such as those frequently occurring near the mouth of the Columbia River. Neither the National Weather Service nor the Coast Guard defines what size boat qualifies as a "small craft."

"Any vessel that may be adversely affected by Small Craft Advisory criteria should be considered a small craft," NOAA says on their Small Craft Advisory/Warning definition page. "Other considerations include the experience of the vessel operator, and the type, overall size, and sea worthiness of the vessel."

30 NORTHWEST YACHTING | JUNE 2020

West Marine and Ocean Reef Help Out During Pandemic

By Kathleen Hartman

In the search for innovative and impactful ways to support communities nationwide, West Marine is working with multiple researchers to transform Ocean Reef snorkel masks into respirators for hospitals and health care systems. "The company is also working at a local level to make donations that meet hospital-specific needs."

West Marine, a leading retailer for the boating and outdoor industry, sent several masks to Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, Sutter Medical Group, and Milwaukee School of Engineering for their teams to determine what adaptations are necessary to transform the masks into respirators. After several weeks of testing and coordination with Ocean Reef, the manufacturer of

the snorkel masks, the masks are ready to be distributed to hospitals and health care systems around the country.

"We kept seeing reports of being adapted into respirators and we realized this was a real possibility to do our part during this pandemic," said Ken Siegel, CEO of West Marine. "We've worked closely with all of these organizations to develop the appropriate adaptor for the masks and as the masks continue to be deemed acceptable PPE, we are ready to begin distributing."

West Marine plans on distributing approximately 1,200 masks to hospitals able to utilize respirators. After several weeks of testing and coordination with Ocean Reef, the manufacturer of



Ocean Reef's Adip mask and the "Air Protection Adaptor" kit built by Ocean Reef and West Marine are working on distributing the kit.

hospitals will receive the full kit.

Testing has completed at Alta Bates Summit Medical Foundation in Oakland, California, and 200 masks have been sent for use in the ICU and emergency departments. Partnerships with additional hospitals are in the process and masks will be sent once testing is complete.

"We are thankful for the long retail partnership with West Marine and are thrilled to support their efforts by donating 1,400 APA-RD40/20 adaptors to this project," said Ocean Reef in a statement.

JUNE 2020 | NORTHWEST YACHTING 31

Forage Fish Monitoring: Dabob Bay site assessment with Lisa Hilier (WDFW). Pictured: Jeff Taylor, Sarah Fisksen, Annie Chandler, Lisa Hilier. Photo credit: Monica Montgomery



Rain Gardens: Installation at Cape George. Photo credit: Monica Montgomery



MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: June 2020

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

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

During the June monthly meeting elections for officers occurred. The leadership now stands as:

Chair: Christina Koons

Vice-chair: Karin Roemers-Kleven

NWSC representative: Christina Koons/Phil Green

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

The monthly June meeting was held virtually on Thursday 4th June. Monthly MRC meetings will be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future.

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

No new funding updates to report.

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

PFSS:

The PFSS website and toolkits continue in their development and are due to be launched in early July.

The PFSS steering committee also published an article and bright infographic providing options to reduce our waste footprints during COVID times where restrictions on re-useable grocery bags have occurred along with increases in take-out food. The infographic is included below and a link to the article is here: https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/life/how-to-reduce-your-waste-impact-duiring-covid-19-times/?fbclid=IwAR0juVGe83BR4gjYIN-P2CLGdoRxxbgH_3yqHu3n0UIZNfG3yRU7a0ulcFY

MSA Plan update:

Work continues with MRC research assistant Abigail Ames assisting with the research needed to update the MSA Plan. Interviews with seabird ecologists and rockfish biologists have been productive and Conservation biodiversity targets are being drafted. The MSA Plan subcommittee is due to meet towards the end of June.

SKRW:

With increasing boating activity in the County outreach has begun again for the whale warning flag.

Signage at Ports and marinas is being put out for busy holiday weekends and more permanent signage

developed for some locations, such as the Port of Friday Harbor. In addition, the boater safety information kiosk is under production for installation at the County Park on San Juan Island.

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.):

MRC members engage in a variety of efforts outside of the formal MRC projects. This month saw MRC members conduct outreach efforts at the False Bay Biological Preserve on San Juan Island during a weekend of extreme low tides in efforts to protect exposed eelgrass beds. Further efforts, in collaboration with the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Labs are planned for the July 4th weekend.

MRC Members also took part in a newly launched beach cleanup effort on San Juan Island. This saw 19 members of the community gather on a cloudy Saturday morning at South Beach to collect marine debris and plastics. Many small plastic items were picked up. Beach meet ups are planned to occur monthly at different beaches around San Juan Island.

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



MRC Vice-Chair, Karin Roemers-Kleven and MRC lead staff, Frances Robertson spent time at False Bay interacting visitors to highlight the importance of the exposed eelgrass beds and the need to have dogs on leash.



Karin Roemers-Kleven taking a closer look at the exposed eelgrass beds during an extreme low tide.



Even the smallest “MRC members” help (MRC lead staff Frances Robertson’s son “helping” Byron Rot (San Juan County Environmental Resources Project Manager) during a beach cleanup at South Beach.



Receiving instructions from organizer Amy Cadwell.



MRC members Phil Green and Cathleen Burns with some of the materials removed from the beach.

Photo: Amy Cadwell.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Skagit

Month/Year: June/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 Monthly Meeting- June 11:** 12 people attended the Skagit MRC Webex meeting on June 11. In addition to the NWSC and NWSF reports and MRC project updates, the Committee discussed the possibility of establishing a no anchor zone in Skagit County and expressed interest in spending more time exploring this potential opportunity.
- **Next MRC Monthly Meeting- July 9, 9am-10:30am** (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:** The last class was held June 9th. 21 participants completed the virtual Salish Sea Stewards training and will each receive a Salish Sea Stewards t-shirt, name badge, and certificate in the mail. A survey went out to class participants to help evaluate the program. The new Salish Sea Stewards were provided with a list of potential volunteer opportunities and are learning how to log their hours in Volgistics. Unfortunately, volunteer opportunities are very limited this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee is looking for other ways to keep the volunteers engaged. The volunteers are all very eager to start volunteer work as soon as possible. Kudos to the Padilla Bay NERR education staff for their ability to quickly modify the Salish Sea Stewards program into a virtual training program. The training was a huge success despite all of the challenges.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day:** This year's event that was originally scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2020 at the Fidalgo Bay Resort was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an alternative, we plan to create a Fidalgo Bay Day Activity Guide similar to [Trek for Treasure](#), to help get families outside and engaged in hands-on activities that focus on the marine environment at different locations. Partner organizations will be invited to sponsor a specific activity. We will create an online event page where participants can post pictures and share their experiences (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.).
- **Bowman Bay Restoration:** Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Staff was originally planning on watering the plantings at the site on June 12th but decided to cancel due to all of the rain we've had recently. They still plan on watering on June 26th and again in July and August. They are currently working on the Volunteer Guide for plant maintenance at the site. The Puget Sound Partnership is going to produce a video about the Bowman Bay restoration for their new online

magazine called Making Waves. They are interviewing NWSF Staff and volunteers who worked on the project.

- Forage Fish Surveys: Forage fish surveys have mostly been put on hold until volunteers get the “go ahead” from the various agencies to resume field work. State Parks are not currently allowing any volunteer work or research in their parks until after July 15th. The Northwest Straits Foundation is also waiting on permits for monitoring at Bowman Bay and the Kukutali Reserve. Volunteers will need approval from the Washington Department of Natural Resource to resume sampling at the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve and will also need approval from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to resume sampling at the Index sites. Volunteers have been given permission to start sampling at Marchs Point as long as they follow the COVID-19 safety guidelines approved by the County and Northwest Straits Foundation. The Foundation recommends no more than two volunteers for forage fish surveys.
- Kids on the Beach: There was a recent article about the program in the Skagit Valley Herald. Annie England with Padilla Bay NERR, did an excellent job developing the KOTB curriculum which includes 30 minutes of virtual activities online and 30 minutes of activities offline. There is a mix of videos, games, coloring pages, science journals, and questions and answers. Nine classes with over 200 elementary and middle school students are currently participating in the program from Sedro Woolley, Concrete, and La Conner Schools in Skagit County as well as Friday Harbor, Mukilteo and Everett! We’ve had lots of great feedback from teachers and parents and other users of that material. There will be a meeting soon to determine the next steps for planning next year’s program.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Paul gave a presentation on the Pinto Abalone Recovery project at the May 29 NWSC meeting. Puget Sound Restoration Fund drafted a detailed QAPP. They recently started limited field work again which includes outplants of 3200 juvenile abalone at six sites, and collecting new broodstock for hatchery production. They are currently raising about 5000 abalone in the hatchery for future outplanting this upcoming year. There was an interesting article about pinto abalone in the Salish Sea Currents online magazine that was shared with MRC members: <https://www.eopugetsound.org/magazine/IS/pinto-abalone>
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul Dinnel and his son retrieved all of the oyster cultch bags from 20 sites around Fidalgo Bay. Preliminary results indicate there was excellent oyster spawning/settlement last year especially around the Sharpes Corner area. It was the second highest settlement ever recorded in Fidalgo Bay. Oyster larvae are also finally starting to settle in the western area of the Bay near Weaverling and around the marinas, which is very encouraging. Paul put up shell strings around Weaverling Spit and the trestle with Puget Sound Restoration Fund and Samish Indian Nation. Paul also deployed shell tiles to monitor oyster settlement at two week intervals throughout the summer with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Paul worked with the NWSF on a video that highlights Olympia oyster restoration as part of their Salish Sea Fresh video series.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: The County approved the COVID-19 guidelines for volunteers to resume field work. One of the lead volunteers, Brad Smith, scheduled a kelp survey at Shannon Point on June 18th or 19th with a small team of volunteers. Five new Salish Sea Stewards volunteers have expressed interest in helping with the kelp surveys, but they will need to have some additional

training out on the water before they can participate. A special field training for the new volunteers will be organized sometime this summer.

- North March Point Beach Nourishment: Coastal Geologic Services recently completed the Feasibility and Technical Specifications for the NWS Foundation's North March Point Beach Nourishment project. The project site is located on the north shore of March Point between the two refinery piers on Fidalgo Bay.

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

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

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: June 2020

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson

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

Paul Clampitt has requested a 6 month leave of absence as he is dealing with COVID-19 impacts to his business.

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

Bob Hillmann, Susan Tarpley, Paul Clampitt and Elisa Dawson had a crabber subcommittee call on May 28th to discuss crabber education for 2020 and COVID-19 impacts.

Elisa Dawson conducted pilings grant fieldwork June 1st and 3rd.

MRC Members and MRC Staff attended the MRC Symposium on June 4th.

Elisa Dawson, Susan Tarpley, Mike Ehlebracht, and Kip Killebrew attended the Department of Ecology's Webinar on Oil Model Development on June 4th.

Elisa Dawson had a call with Northwest Straits staff on June 8th to discuss kelp data in Sound IQ.

Elisa Dawson attended Coastal Wetland Restoration and Planning: Tools for Tidal Restriction Avoidance and Removal webinar on June 11th.

Elisa Dawson met with WSU Beach Watchers staff on June 12th to discuss coordinating Crabber Education efforts between the MRC and Beach Watchers.

Elisa Dawson conducted pilings grant fieldwork June 15th and 16th.

The MRC had their monthly meeting June 17th via Zoom virtual conference call. MRC Members Susan Tarpley, Bob Hillmann, Tom Doerge, Laura Gurley, Mike Sadler, Tim Ellis, Kip Killebrew, Julie Schlenger, Sarah Brown and Mike Ehlebracht attended the meeting. Members Natasha Coumou, Sara Maxwell, and Paul Clampitt were absent. Staff Elisa Dawson attended. The MRC has a presentation from Laura Gurley on Port of Everett habitat projects, discussed the current pilings grant and future work, and had a report from the crabber subcommittee.

Elisa Dawson attended the Lead Staff Meeting on June 18th.

The MRC hosted the Snohomish MRC Symposium with the NWSI on June 18th. Susan Tarpley gave the overview of the Snohomish MRC, Mike Ehlebracht discussed the pilings project, and Bob Hillmann discussed the Pigeon Creek #2 restoration feasibility study.

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 and conducted field work. ESA is taking this data to analyze and create a draft report. The draft report will be shared with the MRC at the July meeting. The MRC will review the draft and give feedback after the meeting. A final report is expected to be complete in August.

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



Conducted Pilings field work on June 15th. Taking data on ipads using ARCGIS collector.

Nearshore Beach Restoration at Howarth Park and Everett Nearshore Project (Opportunity Fund Project): Bob Hillmann is working on getting the signs from this project installed. After signs are installed, the grant will be closed out.

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

Crabber Education: The crabber subcommittee plans to post posters in lieu of in-person outreach this year at 9 boat launch locations. Additionally, rack cards will be given to local rangers and appropriate locations for crabber to pick up on their own. Snohomish County Communications will be doing a press release, and sharing educational videos on social media. All in-person outreach has been cancelled.

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. Elisa Dawson is meeting with SWM Management on June 23rd to discuss removal of derelict vessels in 2020.

DNR aquatic lands. Travailier: <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: Susan is waiting to hear from WSU Beach Watchers for the final chosen date for the proposed September model oil spill group training.

Meadowdale: Logan Daniels reported that the project has received \$300,000 in additional funding from NOAA. The team continues to look for approximately \$8million more in funding.

Kelp Project: 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 Marine Stewardship Area: The Port Susan Subcommittee will be meeting with the Island County Port Susan Subcommittee on June 22nd to discuss a 10 year update to the 2012 Port Susan Conservation Action Plan. The collaborative team will also discuss the need for updated outreach items for the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area.

Upcoming Events:

- MRC Meeting July 15th

Bold items are noted for staff recommendations for priority items to discuss with the NWSC.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: WHATCOM

Month/Year: JUNE 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 Governor's new proclamation re the OPMA (attached), effective 6/1/2020 through 6/17/20, no longer includes the requirement for a limited agenda. Committees are free to have remote meetings for at least the next 2+ weeks. Therefore, the MRC held a meeting on June 4. The meeting featured two presentations on Tsunami hazards in Whatcom County: 1) Dr. Carrie Garrison-Laney, Tsunami Hazards Specialist and PMEL Liaison, Washington Sea Grant; and 2) John Gargett, Deputy Director, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office. The Zoom recording of both presentations can be found [HERE](#). There was 72 people on Zoom viewing the presentations.
 - The presentations were also hosted on Facebook LIVE on the Whatcom Watershed Information Network Facebook page. There have been 121 views of the video on Facebook as of 6/9.
- At the June meeting the MRC voted to be a signatory on the Drayton Harbor European Green Crab MOU being developed by WDFW. The MRC will provide education and outreach to the community about European Green Crab i.e. what they look like and what to do when you find one.
- The MRC will not hold a July meeting due to the July 4 holiday.

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.
- Members involved in the Olympia oyster restoration project are planning to conduct a Oly oyster population count within the test plots in N. Chuckanut Bay. The Whatcom MRC Olympia Oyster Monitoring QAPP was approved by Ecology in early June.
- The N. Chuckanut PIC QAPP was approved by Ecology in early June. Monitoring will continue twice a month.
- Forage fish monitoring is continuing monthly only with the help of MRC intern Bridget Moran.
- The North Sound Stewards Program launched a summer bioblitz via iNaturalist > [Whatcom Marine Shoreline Summer Observation](#). This project is open now through September 7.
- The North Sound Stewards are planning other ways of community science engagement during COVID. Ideas include:
 - Collaboration with the Salish Sea Stewards and Sound Water Stewards to cross promote events.
 - Guided beach walks (limited participants) along the Cherry Point Reach where participants could use the MyCoast app to log large marine debris or creosote. Naturalists would share information about the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve and how to use the MyCoast app.

- Virtual beach walk to engage those interested in learning about intertidal organisms and ecosystem functions in a different way than physically getting out on the beach. This would be done with a combination of videos and photos.

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.):

- Eleanor Hines and North Sound Steward volunteers found a live female European Green Crab (EGC) in their fukui trap in Drayton Harbor. The crab was 53mm, which puts it in the 2018 year class. This was the 100th EGC found in inland WA waters in 2020.
- Whatcom County determined that it would be beneficial to have the MRC be a signatory on a Drayton Harbor EGC Management Plan Memorandum of Understanding – which is being developed by WDFW. The MRC voted to have Eleanor Hines (MRC Chair) be the signatory on the MOU on behalf of the MRC. The MRC is anticipating being involved in the EGC Management beyond providing trained volunteers for fieldwork. Some ideas that have been discussed include:
 - mailers to residents in the Drayton Harbor area. This would be done collaboration with WDFW and WA SeaGrant
 - signage--> temporary or permanent (yet to be determined) with information on EGC identification and what to do if you find one.
 - review of the draft emergency management plan - once it is ready for review
 - host an informational webinar

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



Photo credit: Eleanor Hines. *Live female European Green Crab (EGC) found in Drayton Harbor. The 100th EGC found in inland Washington waters in 2020.*

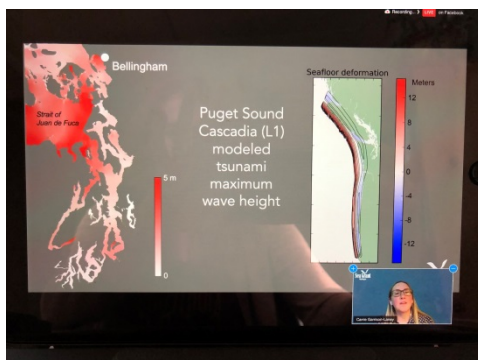


Photo credit: Austin Rose. *Screen shot of Zoom presentation from Dr. Carrie Garrison-Laney*