



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission September Meeting
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Date: September 24, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

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

Meeting ID: 844 7245 6965

Passcode: 340817

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10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of August minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05 – 10:20	Committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	
10:20 – 10:30	Business Updates Existing County Support to MRCs (Lucas) Green Crab update (Allie)	Staff
10:30 – 10:35	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/ Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
10:35 – 10:40	Puget Sound Partnership update	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
10:40 – 10:45	NWS Foundation update	Caroline Gibson, NWS Foundation
10:45 – 11:45	Communications Audit + Plan	Kate Elliott, MFA
11:45 – 12:05	MRC Reports	MRC Representatives



agenda

12:05 – 12:20	Emerging Issues Breakout Session	All
12:20 – 12:25	Round table	All
12:25 – 12:30	Public comment	All

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



August 28, 2020 • 10:00 AM-1:00 PM
Zoom – 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, Sarah Brown (Snohomish), Christina Koons (San Juan), Nan McKay, Ron Thom, Jenn Grimm (Puget Sound Partnership- Alternate), Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Chris Castner

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

Others in Attendance: Kate Elliott (Maul Foster and Alongi), Sidney Counts (Maul Foster and Alongi), Nicole Naar (NOAA), Emily Buckner, Monica Montgomery (Jefferson MRC), Kristin Hayman (Puget Sound Partnership), Alexandra Doty (Puget Sound Partnership), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC)

Absent: Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership)

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Approval of Minutes

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

NW Straits Commission Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Elsa presented the Draft Match Policy for Commission approval. This policy addresses the steps MRCs should take when considering the use of Commission funds for match on third-party grants. The Commission approved the policy by consensus.

External Relations Committee

Tom Cowan reported that the committee did not meet in August. Commission staff continue to identify opportunities to partner with NOAA.

Science Advisory Committee

Ron Thom reported that the Committee is focused on developing a framework for Actions to Impacts that can be scalable to the MRC level. Ron reported that the committee discussed possible association with the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification, and how the MRCs work ties into the Alliance's work. The Committee prepared a memo that they will send to the Executive Committee in September. Ron is also working with the Washington State Academy of Sciences panel regarding noise and killer whales.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) update



Cecilia Gobin reported that she and Lucas are working on getting speakers from NWIFC about hatcheries and pinnipeds. Cecilia reported that the updated [State of Our Watersheds Report](#) is scheduled to be released in November or December. Cecilia is responding to a proposed rule that would add a new definition of “habitat” to the Endangered Species Act. Comment period closes September 4, 2020.

Business Updates

MRC Symposium feedback

Dana Oster explained that there were 150 people who attended and participated in the Symposium series and gave very positive overall feedback from the sessions. Dana is leading upcoming staff discussions on collaboration between the MRCs as we continue to work from home.

County budgets discussion

Clallam: Alan reported that the lodging tax revenue is down 90%. They are looking at a “major hole” in terms of county budgets. Businesses are struggling in Clallam County.

Island: Elsa shared that Island County does not know what their budget situation will be next year.

San Juan: Christina reported that the funding for the county marine program is fine for the next year, but they don’t know for the following year.

Skagit: Pete explained that most of the county support they receive is from the clean water tax. It is small per parcel and usually renewed without much push back.

Snohomish: Sarah said that the surface water county budget is not impacted. However, there is a hiring freeze, which has affected the staff support to the MRC.

Jefferson: Jeff said that there are no current threats to the funding, but they will continue to look into it.

Whatcom: Bob reported that MRC staffing budget is stable through 2021.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Jenn Grimm reported that the Action Agenda update is in progress, and she encouraged people to participate in the Partnership’s virtual workshops related to the update.

Kristin Hayman and Alexandra Doty presented about the Partnership’s approach to social approaches. The Partnership is trying to determine how they can help their partners, including MRCs, in social approaches (including how to change people’s behaviors and attitudes). They are looking for the barriers and challenges that partners are facing as they implement projects or campaigns designed to change attitudes and behaviors. Kristin will send a questionnaire intended for the MRCs, through the Commission, on September 10.

Environmental Benefits and Risks of Kelp Aquaculture

Nicole Naar and Emily Buckner from NOAA presented NOAA’s recent research about kelp aquaculture.



Communications Audit + Plan

Kate Elliott from Maul, Foster and Alongi (MFA) shared the elevator pitch:

Key Messages

Kate walked the Commissioners through the concept of key messages, which should answer the question “If there is one thing I want my audience to know, what would that be?” There should be no more than three or four key messages and they should be clear and concise.

Messages should be relevant to all arms of the organization and all MRCs. Commissioners broke into small groups to discuss: What concepts do we want to get across in our key messages? What are your top priorities?

Example concepts:

- Bottom up approach
- Regional environmental health
- Impact within the conservation effort
- Uniquely positioned within county governments to help inform decision-making

Tools

How are you going to learn these messages, and be able to communicate them effectively? What has worked for you in the past to learn about the Initiative? Examples include:

- Onboarding
- Communications matrix
- Communications plan fact sheet
- MRC Symposium sessions
- NW Straits Initiative Conference
- Monthly Commission meetings
- MRC Lead Staff Meeting
- Newsletter

MRC Reports

Clallam –

Alan Clark reported that the MRC had an online intern celebration on August 17. Alan said the MRC is doing educational outreach to Boys & Girls Club in Port Angeles. MRC members met with Commissioner Randy Johnson on August 14.

Island –



minutes

Elsa reported that the MRC announced the winners of the Design Your Own Salish Sea Creature art contest, in partnership with Sound Water Stewards. The winning entries are posted on the MRC website. MRC volunteers documented Pacific sand lance feeding in a kelp bed. This video and many more are available on the MRC's kelp webpage. The MRC is planning an outreach needs assessment to understand how the MRC can help address the needs of the community in regards to outreach about marine resources.

Jefferson –

Jeff Taylor reported that five MRC members did Olympia oyster monitoring at Discovery Bay and five members did reconnaissance at Dabob Bay. The MRC concluded that the Dabob site visited has plenty of oysters and won't need any restoration efforts. Four MRC volunteers did a third kelp survey in August. They're finding the kelp bed taking a different shape this year. A masters student focusing his project on doing drone surveys for kelp monitoring has been tagging along and taking videos and photos and can georeference the perimeter to compare with the volunteers' data. The MRC is finalizing edits on Olympia oyster and eelgrass videos with the local videographer.

San Juan-

Christina reported that the MRC continued efforts to spread the Be Whale Wise messaging through signage installation. The MRC has started community value data collection regarding human use and management of Southern Resident Killer Whale foraging habitat. Christina reported that progress continues for the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) biodiversity conservation targets. Abigail Ames is leading the MSA Plan update efforts. Abigail will be presenting her work at the September MRC meeting. County staff have been working to address progress of the strategies identified in the original plan.

Skagit-

Pete Haase reported that forage fish surveys started up again in August. MRC members are conducting more extensive surveys at Bowman Bay. Pete said that Skagit Valley College is working on a forage fish survey video with the help of the forage fish survey crew. Pete reported that Fidalgo Bay Day has gone virtual as a scavenger hunt! Event organizers will launch the Scavenger Hunt on September 1.

Snohomish-

Sarah Brown reported the MRC received feedback from partners and made edits to the draft Snohomish Prioritization of Pilings for Removal report. The final report will be made available in September and a press release is planned for the project in September. The MRC will focus on high-priority areas and additional conversations with stakeholders in Phase 2 of the project. The MRC has partnered with DNR to do marine vegetation mapping of the Snohomish Estuary. The MRC collected data in late July, and will complete a report later this fall. The MRC continues to support derelict vessel work around the county and assist other agencies who have derelict vessels on their property. Snohomish County is working on a contract to remove four vessels from the estuary this fall.

Whatcom-



minutes

Bob Cecile reported that the MRC hosted a [virtual European green crab forum](#) on August 12. The webinar was targeted to Drayton Harbor residents but suitable for anyone in the region to learn about green crabs. The goal of the forum was to inform the public on why green crabs are an issue, how to identify and report them, and how green crabs are being managed in Drayton Harbor. The MRC is planning to hold a virtual retreat in early 2021. The goals of the retreat are project planning (considering COVID-19), addressing member engagement and capacity, and alignment of MRC activities with goals and mission.

Round table

There were no items for round table.

Public comment

There was an inquiry about how Commission meetings are publicized. Commission staff reported that agendas and materials are published to the website in advance.

* The next regular Commission meeting will be on [Thursday, September 24](#).*



Executive Committee Meeting
September 14, 2020 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference Call

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

Commission Staff/Support: Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart

Joint Executive Committee meeting debrief

Elsa opened it up for anyone on the committee to share feedback on the meeting. Lucas expressed appreciation that everyone is willing to come together for meetings. Ron said that he always learns a lot from these meetings. The next joint meeting will be scheduled for February 2021.

Foundation + Commission Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Elsa asked whether the committee has any changes or revisions to suggest for the Memorandum of Understanding before it goes to the full Commission for review at the next meeting. Tom suggested that Lucas include a cover memo to provide more of the context around why the MOU was prepared. Lucas agreed to prepare the cover memo for distribution with the MOU.

Eelgrass No-Anchor Zone project

Restore America's Estuaries has invited us to submit a full proposal for our Eelgrass No-Anchor Zone project. Elsa reassured the committee that she is not involved in any way in the RAE proposal review or selection process, though she did note that it was very competitive. Lucas shared that this was a project that he has always felt was a good opportunity for expansion elsewhere in the Northwest Straits.

Lucas mentioned that the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) funding is another opportunity that he is looking into for seeking funding for green crab efforts. The letter of intent prepared for RAE on that project was not invited for a full proposal.

Communications plan next steps

Commission staff are evaluating how the contractor, Maul Foster and Alongi (MFA) may be able to help initiate communications actions from the plan. Staff shared a few options, including a deeper dive into the newsletter to increase effectiveness and readership, as well as advancing efforts to create baseline knowledge throughout the Initiative that can be monitored over time.

Tom asked whether there would be a draft version of the plan to review from MFA. Sasha said that a draft plan is anticipated at the end of the week, and that it will be shared at the Commission meeting.

Elsa asked what staff thought about whether this has been a useful endeavor. Lucas said it has been helpful, and that the process has revealed some of our main communications challenges, and also that he is now looking at more things through the lens of communications. Elsa suggested sharing some of our key "a-ha moments" from the process at the upcoming Commission meeting, and clarify what will be changing going forward with the new communications plan, and how this effort has helped us.

Ron noted that the Science Advisory Committee is working on a diagram to communicate actions to impacts, and wants to ensure that it is reflected in the elevator pitch. Lucas confirmed that the concept is part of the key messages that support the elevator pitch statement.



Update on Hatcheries Presentation

Ken Currens and Adrian Spidel from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will be presenting to the Commission in October. Lucas reported that they are going to send him a draft presentation so that he can understand more about what they'll be presenting, and that we'll include time for a breakout discussion on this topic during the meeting.

Memo: International Ocean Acidification Alliance Recommendations

Elsa pointed to the memo from the Science Advisory Committee recommending the Commission join the Ocean Acidification Alliance. She noted that she thinks it's a good opportunity to join the Alliance. Ron shared that getting Terrie Klinger's perspective was very helpful, given her familiarity and connections to the Commission.

Jude noted that he read about the Alliance to ensure that it's a non-political affiliation, but based on what he has seen it is neutral.

Elsa suggested that the next step is to take this recommendation to the full Commission, which the committee agreed to by consensus.

Lucas mentioned that the affiliate membership is straightforward, but he is looking ahead at how to implement actions. Initial actions are likely to revolve around messaging.

Upcoming Commission Meetings

Elsa reminded everyone to check their calendars for the meeting dates, since both September 24 and October 29 meeting dates are on Thursdays.

The committee recommended planning for October to be a virtual meeting, unless new information comes up around recommendations for COVID-19.

The committee discussed membership and Ron's term ending, which happens at the end of October. Lucas reported that there are several people interested in applying for the position, and expressed appreciation for Ron's willingness to continue to engage through the Science Advisory Committee.



partners in marine conservation

County Marine
Resource
Committees

Clallam
Island
Jefferson
San Juan
Skagit
Snohomish
Whatcom

in cooperation
with participating
tribal co-managers

September 15, 2020

TO: Northwest Straits Commissioners

FROM: Lucas Hart, Director, Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission

SUBJECT: NWS Commission-NWS Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

The NWS Foundation was founded in 2002. When established, significant cross-over existed between the NWS Foundation and NWS Commission. Cross-over included a shared board of directors, shared director, and shared staff. In 2010, at the direction of the WA Office of Financial Management, the NWS Foundation established independent staff, an interim director and governance. The NWS Foundation hired its first director in 2012.

Since separating, the NWS Commission and NWS Foundation have lacked clear understanding about their respective roles within the NWS Initiative. The lack of clarity, at times, has also resulted in confusion among NWS Initiative constituents about the NWS Commission and NWS Foundation purpose.

The attached memorandum of understanding was drafted in partnership between the NWS Commission and NWS Foundation directors to build a common understanding of our collaborative relationship, to describe areas of collaboration between the two organizations, and to provide a reference for those seeking to learn more about how these NWS Initiative entities operate together. The document was reviewed and edited by staff and Executive Committee members of each organization. Board approval will be sought in September, 2020.

Memorandum of Understanding

Northwest Straits Foundation and Northwest Straits Commission

Partners in Marine Conservation

This Memorandum of Understanding is made by and between the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation, a Washington non-profit corporation with its principal place of business at 1155 North State Street, Suite 402, Bellingham, WA 98225, (“the Foundation”) and the Northwest Straits Commission, 10441 Bayview Edison Rd. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (“the Commission”), who collectively may be referred to, for the purposes of this MOU, as the “Parties.”

The purpose of this MOU is to formalize and detail the working partnership between the Foundation and Commission. It explicitly lists and defines areas where the Parties collaborate. It is a reference for Foundation board members, Commission members, staff members, Marine Resources Committee members and partners to understand easily the relationship between the Parties in marine conservation.

The mechanisms by which the Parties collaborate and their respective responsibilities are not stipulated in this MOU. Instead, they are addressed through planning instruments identified in this MOU (e.g. Strategic Plan, Operating Plan, and Partnership Project Plan). This MOU and all related instruments are non-binding.

I. STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION AND ROLES

The Foundation’s mission is to raise funds to conduct and support locally-driven marine restoration, stewardship and education programs. It was incorporated for the following purposes:

- A. To undertake activities which are exclusively scientific and educational within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be amended from time to time, for the purpose of fostering understanding, preservation, and restoration of Marine Resources of the Northwest Straits region.
- B. In furtherance, but not limitation, of the foregoing scientific and education purposes, the Foundation shall:
 - 1. Support research, monitoring, restoration, stewardship and education programs and activities to protect the marine resources of the Northwest Straits region, both at a local and ecosystem level;
 - 2. Promote coordination of research, restoration and education activities undertaken by the Foundation with other organizations that promote similar activities, including but not limited to the Commission and the seven County Marine Resources Committees (MRCs), Tribes, and federal/state/local agencies and

- universities;
- 3. Receive by gift, device, bequest or otherwise, money, grants, contracts or other property, or any estate therein, legal or equitable, and to hold the same and distribute it, or the income therefrom, for the promotion of the foregoing purposes;
- 4. Solicit grants and contributions; and
- 5. Do any other act incidental to or connected with the foregoing purposes or in advancement thereof, but not for the pecuniary profit or financial gain of its members, directors, or officers, except as permitted under Article 6 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

The Commission's mission is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats and species of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use. The Commission shall:

- A. Provide funding, training and support to the seven county-based MRCs;
- B. Facilitate regional coordination among the MRCs and connect MRCs' work to regional planning processes such as, but not limited to, the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda and Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program; and,
- C. Manage regional projects that are of interest to all MRCs as funding and staff capacity allows.

Northwest Straits Initiative ("the Initiative") is the umbrella name that encompasses the Commission, the Foundation and MRCs, collectively.

The Foundation and the Commission seek to collaborate with each other (hereafter referred to as "Partnership"), and with other public and private partners, to implement marine conservation and restoration, monitoring, education and advisory work. The Parties agree to advance this Partnership through the following shared goals and strategies, to the extent that each Party's respective resources, funding and authorities permit.

II. PARTNERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Areas of Collaboration

Through this Partnership, the Parties will collaborate toward the goal of supporting stewardship through conservation and restoration, monitoring, education and advisory work in the Northwest Straits region of the Salish Sea by:

- A. Developing and coordinating the Initiative's strategic plan;
- B. Developing and implementing an Annual Operating Plan
- C. Planning, coordinating and implementing select programs;
- D. Collaborating with MRCs;
- E. Researching and assessing collaborative funding opportunities;
- F. Planning and hosting conferences, workshops or events;
- G. Developing relationships with relevant agencies and units of government;

- H. Coordinating public and internal communications; and,
- I. Sharing organizational resources.

Each of these areas of collaboration is described more fully below.

Developing and Coordinating the Initiative's Strategic Plan

The Parties will create an Initiative strategic plan, on a five-year cycle. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that its goals remain paramount for the Initiative in light of current financial, ecological, political and social drivers. No changes will be made to the plan unless a majority of both Commission members and Foundation board members deem it warranted to sustain our work.

This MOU does not preclude either party from creating its own strategic plan, independent of the Initiative strategic plan.

Developing and Implementing an Annual Operating Plan

The operating plan is an administrative tool that enables each organization to establish goals, tasks and outcomes based on the Initiative's strategic plan so that progress can be tracked and measured. Operating Plan tasks are detailed under the following themes in the 2019-2024 strategic plan: Stewardship; Structural Support to MRCs; Measuring Progress; Engagement and Partnership; Messaging; and Long-Term Stable Funding.

The Parties agree to work collaboratively to:

- Create an annual operating plan that implements the strategic plan and reflects joint and independent programs and projects of the Commission, Foundation, and MRCs toward achieving its goals;
- Implement the operating plan and update achievements on a quarterly basis; and,
- Report biannually on progress to the Foundation, Commission and MRCs.

Planning, Coordinating and Implementing Select Programs

The Foundation and Commission will evaluate and develop collaborative opportunities in support of Initiative priorities listed in the Strategic Plan, through the development of an annual Operating Plan. These opportunities may include:

- A. Protection and restoration projects for nearshore and marine habitat;
- B. Monitoring of and reporting on restoration sites and projects;
- C. Community projects that connect people to local marine ecosystems for environmental, cultural and economic benefit;
- D. Education programs that increase awareness, skills and knowledge to support marine stewardship;
- E. Exploring partnerships with other organizations, including public agencies, schools, businesses, and community-based groups, to expand opportunities in marine conservation; and,

- F. Work on emerging issues highlighted in grant opportunities or local, state, or federal plans.

Implementation of any specific program or work related to this MOU is contingent upon sufficient funding commitments, and shall require the execution of a separate written agreement that is signed by all relevant parties.

Collaborating with Marine Resources Committees

Marine Resources Committees are county-based committees of local volunteers appointed by their local elected officials to: identify priorities and implement projects to protect local marine resources; advise their county governments on issues and policies affecting marine resources; conduct scientific and data gathering projects to inform local management of marine resources; and engage their communities and build improved stewardship of the local marine environment.

The Parties' relationships with MRCs are different, collaborative, and complementary, due to their establishment and structure as outlined in Section I of this MOU. The Commission will provide funding, training and support to the MRCs. The Foundation will raise funds to conduct and support its marine restoration, stewardship and education programs, collaborating with MRCs on local projects. Collaborative relationships may be monetary or non-monetary. As organizational capacity and funds allow, the Parties agree to:

- A. Provide support to MRCs for project research, planning and implementation;
- B. Support MRC projects that promote stewardship and make measurable improvements in our marine environment;
- C. Collaborate in raising public and private funding for projects and programs as allowed under the authority of the Initiative; and,
- D. Connect scientists from around the region with local projects to integrate scientific practices and standards in the Initiative's work.

Researching and Assessing Collaborative Funding Opportunities

Both Parties may work collaboratively to expand funding sources for marine conservation programs and projects conducted in partnership by the Parties. The purpose is to increase public and private sector awareness, engagement and support for this work.

When pursuing these opportunities, each party will commit an agreed upon amount of staff and resources toward such joint development efforts.

The Parties may also work to identify and form additional partnerships with MRCs, other organizations or agencies, in a manner that enables and encourages high levels of "opportunistic" collaboration and support for environmental stewardship. Partnerships might be with public agencies, other non-profit entities, educational institutions, businesses, funders and/or community-based organizations.

Any or all such collaborative programs or projects shall be non-exclusive and shall not limit either party from independently pursuing partnerships, funding, programs, or other opportunities at each Party's sole discretion. The Parties will keep each other informed on programs and projects they are carrying out or pursuing independently.

Planning and Hosting Conferences, Workshops or Events

The Parties may work collaboratively on activities and events for audiences either internal or external to the Initiative. This includes MRCs, public agencies, elected officials, educational institutions, business partners, non-profit organizations, financial supporters and the public.

This does not convey nor imply that either Party is obligated to support an event or activity promoted by the other. The Parties may collaborate, if so choosing, to the extent that each Party's respective resources, funding and authorities permit.

Organization of any specific conference, workshop or event related to this MOU is contingent upon sufficient funding, and shall require the execution of a separate written agreement that is signed by all relevant parties.

Developing Relationships with Agencies and Units of Government

Both Parties will work collaboratively to inform and educate select governmental agencies, state legislators and Congressional and tribal representatives, and local government officials about this Partnership. The Parties will also work collaboratively to further the shared mission of expanding opportunities for marine conservation within the Initiative framework. The current mechanism for this work is the External Relations Committee comprised of members representing both Parties.

The Parties' activities may include meetings to educate and inform officials about our work, submitting letters of support or concern regarding legislation related to the Salish Sea, providing field trips highlighting restoration needs and outcomes, and strengthening awareness about the Initiative.

Coordinating Public and Internal Communications

The Parties agree to collaborate in the development of outreach materials describing this Partnership, their mutual program goals, and the funding and program opportunities that are available from potential funders and agency partners. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the development of:

- A. Informational brochures
- B. Web and internet-based communications;
- C. Public presentations;
- D. Articles in the media, newsletters for professional organizations, and e-communications

The Parties agree to collaborate on an annual report summarizing the collective outcomes and impacts of the Initiative on Puget Sound recovery and demonstrating how federal and state base funds that support the Initiative have been leveraged.

The Parties agree to designate one or more staff members from each organization to meet monthly to review current communications activities and emerging opportunities.

The Parties may choose to work together to publicly launch and conduct public outreach about this Partnership, through press releases, media outreach, web-based promotions, and other strategies.

The Parties may also collaborate to publicize and promote the Initiative through outreach events and opportunities such as volunteer service days, education programs, and other opportunities mutually agreed to by the Parties.

Sharing Organizational Resources

Both Parties will make good faith efforts to commit such staff and resources to the Partnership as are necessary and feasible, and to ensure that workload is equitably shared. Specific resources committed under this MOU may include:

- A. Provision of match to the other Party in support of third-party grant applications;
- B. Communication to the public through channels such as Twitter and Facebook;
- C. Technical support on joint and individual projects; and,
- D. Work on projects of shared interest.

III. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

In carrying out this Partnership, both Parties agree that:

Term and Termination: This MOU shall commence as of the date upon which it is executed by both Parties, and shall continue in effect for three (3) years thereafter, which term may be renewed by a written statement signed by both Parties.

Amendments: The Parties reserve the right to amend this MOU from time to time, in writing as may be mutually agreed. No amendment hereto shall be effective unless written and signed by authorized representatives of both Parties.

Relationship of Parties: This MOU shall in no way constitute or give rise to a legal partnership between the Parties. All operations by each party under the terms of this MOU shall be carried on by it as independent contractor and not as an agent for the other. Each Party will be responsible for its own acts and the results thereof, and neither party shall be responsible for the acts of the other parties or the results thereof, incident to performance of the work under this MOU. This MOU in no way restricts either Party from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

Volunteer Insurance: The Foundation shall insure volunteers through its current general liability insurance, which provides not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage, subject to the usual and customary policy conditions. At its request, the Commission may be added as a named insured to the extent its interests may appear.

The Commission may elect to insure volunteers through the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve for specific projects coordinated by Commission staff. Volunteers entered into the volunteer pool can qualify for L & I coverage through the Washington State Department of Ecology. Projects must first be vetted to meet the Department of Ecology's criteria. In order to qualify for coverage, volunteers must be properly trained and they must report their hours.

Confidentiality: During and after the performance of this MOU, each Party shall regard as confidential and proprietary any information which, when provided, is designated as confidential by the disclosing Party ("Confidential Information") or which reasonably appears to be confidential. Confidential Information shall not include information that is within the public domain. The Party receiving such Confidential Information shall not, without the disclosing Party's prior written consent, at any time (i) use Confidential Information for any purpose other than in connection with the performance of its obligations under this MOU or (ii) disclose any portion of Confidential Information to any third party or parties.

Compliance with Laws: Each Party shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Assignment: Neither Party may assign this MOU without the prior written consent of the other Party.

The Parties agree that electronic signatures of this MOU, if executed by a designated signatory of each respective party who has authority to sign agreements, shall be deemed a valid and binding execution of this MOU.

Terms: This MOU becomes active for a period of three (3) years starting the day it is approved and signed by the board of the Northwest Straits Foundation and by the Northwest Straits Commission.

Principal Contacts for implementing this Agreement are:

Don Hunger, Executive Director
Northwest Straits Foundation
1155 North State St. #402 Bellingham, WA 98225
don@nwstraitsfoundation.org Office: 360-733-1725

Lucas Hart, Director
Northwest Straits Commission
431 Water Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368
hart@nwstraits.org Office: 360-391-7190

Anne Murphy, Chair
Northwest Straits Foundation

Date

Alan Clark, Chair
Northwest Straits Commission

Date



This document summarizes each MRC's seat within their respective county, champions and budget processes. Summarizing this information was an action item in the 2019 NWSC operations plan. Summaries were compiled by MRC staff.

Note, MRCs may wish to apply for third party grants. However, since the MRC is not a fiscal agent, it does not apply directly for additional grants. The MRC may recommend applying for funding for grant opportunities, but the fiscal agent would either have to be the county (requiring Department and Commissioner approval, and dedicated staff time) or a partnering organization (such as NWSF or NWSC).

Jefferson MRC in Jefferson County:

Current MRC Champions in WSU Jefferson County Extension

- WSU Jefferson County Extension Director – Cliff Moore
- WSU Extension Regional Water Resources Faculty – Bob Simmons
- MRC Staff – Monica Montgomery (Lucas note: Monica is unclear how much of her time is MRC vs. Beach Watchers/Beach Naturalists. But it sounds like she has about 180 hours/yr designated for the latter programs)
- WSU Jefferson County Extension Financial Coordinator – Su Tipton

Current MRC Champions in Jefferson County

- Jefferson County Commissioner – Greg Brotherton (current county representative to the MRC)
- Jefferson County Commissioner – Kate Dean (former county representative to the MRC)
- Jefferson County Administrator – Philip Morley

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe – Hansi Hals (Natural Resource Program Director), Neil Harrington (Environmental Biologist and rep to the MRC)
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council – Scott Brewer (Director)
- Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network – John Cambalik
- WDFW – Chris Eardley (WDFW Shellfish Program Policy lead), Nam Siu (also an MRC member), Roy Clark (also an MRC member)
- UW Sea Grant – Sarah Fisker (also an MRC member)
- UW School of Aquatic Fishery Sciences – Brent Vadopalas (also an MRC member)
- DOE – Northwest Straits Commission
- North Olympic Salmon Coalition – Rebecca Benjamin, Sarah Doyle, Kevin Long
- City of Port Townsend – Judy Surber (previously an MRC member)
- Port of Port Townsend – Pam Petranek (Port of PT Commissioner and rep to the MRC)
- Port Townsend Marine Science Center – Betsy Carlson (also an MRC member)
- DNR – Solenne Walker (also an MRC member)

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Jefferson MRC is housed in WSU Jefferson County (a county department).

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC grants, indirect charges on the NWSC grant cover office space, meeting space and office support that is housed at WSU Jefferson County Extension.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants – the MRC may apply for additional grants which happens from time to time.

County Budget Process

- Jefferson County begins budget planning in July of each year. Project managers submit draft budget proposals for their programs to the director of WSU Jefferson County Extension. After director review and consultation, draft budget proposals are submitted to County Central Services on September 1st. Budget meetings between County Departments, Central Services and the County Administrator occur in early October for discussion and adjustment. Final budgets are then submitted mid-November to the County Administrator and the Central Services Manager. The budget proposal is then formally submitted by the County Administrator to the Board of County Commissioners, who approve the final budget in late November or December.

Island County MRC in Island County:

Current MRC Champions in Island County Public Health

- Health Services Director Keith Higman
- Environmental Health Director Jill Wood
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Manager and Island Local Integrating Organization Coordinator Lori Clark
- Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator Dawn Spilsbury Pucci
- MRC Lead Staff Anna Toledo
- Environmental Health Technician (Support for MRC and DNR Programs) Ann Prusha

Current MRC Champions in Island County

- All three Island County Commissioners are supportive of the MRC. Commissioner Janet St. Clair currently sits on the MRC in an ex-officio position.

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Tulalip Tribes- Terry Williams, Todd Zackey
- Skagit River System Cooperative (Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community)- Stan Walsh
- DNR- Chris Robertson
- DFW- Jay Krienitz, Paul Marczin
- UW- Terrie Klinger, Meghan Dethier, Jason Toft, Ian Miller, Nicole Faghin
- DOE- Northwest Straits Commission
- Naval Air Station Whidbey Island – Mike Bianchi
- Sound Water Stewards – Linda Ade Ridder, Allie Hudec, Joan Schrammeck, Kelly Zupich
- WSU Extension Island County – Tim Lawrence

- Whidbey Island Conservation District – Matt Zupich

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Island County MRC is housed in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) within Environmental Health, within Public Health.

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC grants. Anna receives 20 hrs/week to MRC. Ann receives about 11 hrs/week to MRC. Anna's other 20 hrs/week are for other county projects that are complementary to MRC goals, such as the Shore Friendly program and project management for the Oak Harbor Marina restoration feasibility study, which the MRC helped identify and prioritize.

County Budget Process

- Department Heads provide budget requests for their departments to the County Commissioners in September. The final budget is adopted in December.

Clallam MRC in Clallam County:

Current MRC Champions in DCD

- Mary Ellen Winborn DCD Director
- MRC Coordinator (staff) Cathy Lear
- MRC Project Coordinator (staff) Helle Andersen

Current MRC Champions in Clallam County

- Commissioner Mark Ozias
- Clallam County Environmental Health – Heather Watts (new fall 2019 CCEH employee working on the biotoxin monitoring project)

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe – Robert Knapp, Chris Burns (MRC member and alternate), Liz Tobin
- Feiro Marine Life Center – Melissa Williams
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary – Nicole Harris
- Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society – Bob Phreaner, Bob Boekelheide (pigeon guillemot project)
- Dungeness river Audubon Center – Powell Jones (Dungeness River Festival)
- DOH – Liz Maier (biotoxin monitoring project)
- DNR – Helen Berry (kelp monitoring project)
- WDFW – Lisa Hillier (forage fish monitoring project)
- DOE- Northwest Straits Commission
- Northwest Strait Foundation



Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Clallam MRC is housed in the Department of Community Development (DCD)

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC Grants. Some of Cathy Lear and Lori Kennedy's time is charged to the NWSC grant, and occasionally some of their hours on MRC work is covered by their county funding.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants - the MRC may apply for additional grants, which happens from time to time. The MRC does need DCD management approval to apply for other grants.

County Budget Process

- Clallam County begins budget planning in April of each year with updating the existing payrolls. The budgets from the different departments are submitted to the County Budget Director between July and August. The budgets then go to the County Commissioners and several different steps are taken including a public hearing between August and late November/December when the overall County budget is adopted.

Current Hurdles

The three lists above focus on who/what entity is championing the Clallam MRC. To get a more complete picture I think information about who/what entity is backing away from the MRC is also important.

- City of Port Angeles. Sissi Bruch, the former mayor, was an active member of the Clallam MRC and greatly appreciated by all. Unfortunately she didn't run again for the council and at the meeting in December she informed the members that the council is thinking of dropping participation in the MRC in an effort to place their efforts with entities they deem more important.
- Port of Port Angeles. Jesse Waknitz has been the port representative since 2015 and in the last year he only came to one meeting.
- The Makah Tribe. Because of the distance to Port Angeles the tribal representative, Greig Arnold, has not participated in the meetings for years. In 2017 and 2018 one meeting was held in Neah Bay. As far as we know Greig retired in 2019; no replacement has stepped up.
- The Lower Elwha Tribe. Mike McHenry resigned in October 2019. No replacement has stepped up.

San Juan County MRC in San Juan County:

Current MRC Champions in Public Works

- PW Director Russ Harvey



- PW Environmental Resources Manager Kendra Smith
- MRC Lead Staff Frances Robertson
- Lead Entity Coordinator Sam Whitridge
- LIO Coordinator Marta Green

Current MRC Champions in San Juan County

- San Juan County Manager – Mike Thomas
- San Juan County Council – Commissioner Jamie Stephens, Commissioner Bill Watson, Commissioner Rick Hughes

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Tulalip Tribes- Terry Williams, Patti Gobin, Colin Wahl
- Swinomish Tribe- Debra Lekanoff
- DFW- Marcus Reeves, Penny Becker, Hank Carson
- UW- Meghan Dethier, UW Friday Harbor Labs
- DOE- Northwest Straits Commission

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- San Juan MRC is housed with the Environmental Division of Public Works Department as part of the Marine Program.

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC grants.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants- the MRC may apply for additional grants, which happens from time to time. The MRC does not need County management approval to apply for other grants unless they are to exceed \$100,000.

County Budget Process

- San Juan County begins budget planning in July of each year. Project managers are asked to submit draft budget requests for their programs to their managers. Budgets are finalized and then submitted to County Executive and then County Executive works with Council. Budget proposal is formally submitted by Exec to Council in September and Council adopts budget in November.

Skagit MRC Champions in Skagit County:

Current MRC Champions in Skagit County Public Works/ Natural Resources Division

- Public Works Director - Dan Berentson



- NRD Division Manager - Michael See
- MRC Staff (0.6 FTE) - Tracy Alker

Current MRC Champions – Elected Officials in Skagit County

- Commissioner Ron Wesen (current Chair)
- Commissioner Kenneth A. Dahlstedt
- Commissioner Lisa Janicki

Current MRC Champions- Other Elected Officials

- Washington State Senator Liz Lovelett
- Congressman Rick Larsen

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Skagit MRC is housed in Natural Resources Division (NRD) of Skagit County Public Works Department.

MRC Funding

- MRC is primarily funded by NWSC Grants and County Clean Water Program funds. The relative percentage of each funding source has not been shared.
- The County Clean Water Program funds are special assessments collected under Skagit County's Shellfish Protection District, RCW 90.7 to address and deal with non-point pollution and to enhance Skagit County's water quality.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants - the MRC may apply for additional grants through the Northwest Straits Foundation.

County Budget Process

- Skagit County begins budget planning in July of each year. NRD Project Managers are asked to submit draft budget requests for their programs to the NRD Division Manager. Budgets are finalized and then submitted to the Public Works Director and then the County Commissioners. Budget proposal is formally submitted by Public Works in August and the Board of County Commissioners adopts budget sometime in November or December.

Snohomish MRC in Snohomish County:

Current MRC Champions in SWM

- SWM Director Gregg Farris
- SWM Planning Manager Erik Stockdale
- SWM Planning Supervisor Ann Bylin



- MRC Lead Staff Kathleen Pozarycki
- MRC Staff Elisa Dawson

Current MRC Champions in Snohomish County

- Snohomish County Exec Dave Somers

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Tulalip Tribes- Terry Williams, Cathy Stanley
- Stillaguamish Tribe- Franchesca Perez
- DNR- Troy Wood, Amalia Walton, Hilary Franz
- DFW- Jay Krienitz
- UW- Terrie Klinger, Meghan Dethier, Jason Toft
- DOE- Northwest Straits Commission

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Snohomish MRC is housed in Surface Water Management (SWM) Division of Public Works Department
- SWM is a utility that charges customers a yearly charge to support stormwater and watershed management services in unincorporated county

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC Grants and SWM Utility Charges. The relative percentage of each funding source has not been shared.
- Snohomish County also does not charge any indirect on the grant from NWSC, which is contributed County support.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants - the MRC may apply for additional grants, which happens from time to time. The MRC does need SWM management approval to apply for other grants.

County Budget Process

- Snohomish County begins budget planning in March of each year. Project managers are asked to submit draft budget requests for their programs to their managers. SWM Managers work together to balance PM's requests with SWM Priorities and projected revenues. Budgets are finalized and then submitted to County Executive and then County Executive works with Council. Budget proposal is formally submitted by Exec to Council in September and Council adopts budget in November.

Whatcom MRC in Whatcom County:



Current MRC Champions in Whatcom County Public Works – Natural Resources

- Natural Resources Manager Gary Stoyka
- MRC Lead Staff – Austin Rose, Marine Planner
- Natural Resources Division Secretary – Robin Klein

Current MRC Champions in Whatcom County

- Whatcom County Exec Satpal Sidhu

Current MRC Champions in partner organizations

- Port of Bellingham – Kurt Baumgarten
- City of Bellingham – Clare Fogelsong, Sara Brooke Benjamin, Renee LaCroix
- WSU Extension – Cheryl Lovato Niles
- RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
- WWU - Ginny Broadhurst, Dr. Brooke Love

Overview of County Department in which our MRC is housed

- Whatcom MRC is housed in the Natural Resources Division of Public Works Department

MRC Funding

- MRC is funded by NWSC Grants and Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District. (approximately 85/15%)
- Whatcom County does not charge indirect on the NWSC grant, which is contributed County support.
- Opportunistic/Project Grants - the MRC may apply for additional grants which happens from time to time. The MRC does need Whatcom County Council approval to apply for other grants.

County Budget Process

- Whatcom County begins budget planning in March of each year. Project managers are asked to submit draft budget requests for their programs to their managers. Budgets are finalized and then submitted to County Executive and then County Executive works with Council. Budget proposal is formally submitted by Exec to Council in September and Council adopts budget in November.



Commission staff highlights- [Sept. 2020]

Communications Audit and Plan: Lucas, Sasha and Katie met with the consultants on Sept. 8 and debriefed the exercises and outcomes from the August Commission meeting. The consultants will present the one-pager fact sheet and summary of the communications plan at the September Commission meeting.

MRC grants: The final two MRC grant amendments have now been completed, so all MRCs are ready to begin year two of the two-year award period. Final reporting for year one projects is due in early October.

Project database: Commission staff is wrapping up data entry for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 projects, just in time to begin entering information for a third year with the 2019-2020 project reporting coming in. Volunteer Richard Austin added a new reporting field to the project reporting form so that data entry will now include tracking outcomes over time.

Kelp: Volunteers are wrapping up kelp surveys. September is typically the last month most sites are surveyed. NWSC staff are beginning data processing and coordinating with kelp teams to verify data.

Newsletter: Katie and Sasha shifted the newsletter timeline from the end of each month to the beginning of each month. The newsletter is sent monthly to an audience of nearly 2,000 people.

Meetings Attended:

Dana attended: Island MRC 9/1, San Juan MRC 9/3, Skagit MRC 9/10, OA Alliance webinar 9/16, Statewide European Green Crab call 9/23, PSEMP Nearshore call 9/30, PSRF kelp research coordination meeting 9/30

Sasha attended: Clallam MRC 9/21

**Puget Sound Partnership
Monthly Report**

Month/Year: September 2020

Opportunities to Engage with Partnership Products:

- 2022-2026 Action Agenda Update: Currently the priority outcomes are being developed. Click [here](#) to learn more about priority outcomes and the process.
 - Upcoming workshops: attend one or both workshops to discuss desired recovery outcomes. Click [here](#) to register.
 - October 1, 12:30pm-3pm
 - October 7, 2:30pm-4:30pm

Announcements:

- Open position:
 - [Monitoring Network Coordinator](#), closing date September 24th
 - [Adaptive Systems and Accountability Program Manager](#), closing date September 30th
- [Toxics in Fish Implementation Strategy Public Comment](#), closes October 16th

Foundation Monthly Update

September 15, 2020

D. Hunger and C. Gibson

Programs

1. Shore Friendly program update:
 - a. Working with Jefferson MRC on plans for a late fall shoreline landowner workshop/webinar
 - b. Been assisting Swinomish Tribe with their Shore Friendly program development. Several virtual site visits completed. Planning underway for in-person site visits.
 - c. Final cut of first video expected 9/16. Expect release to the public next week.
2. Derelict Gear
 - a. 104 crab pots removed from Port Townsend and Dungeness Bay as of end of August. They were out there yesterday and again today getting the last pots.
 - b. Continuing monthly forage fish surveys.
 - c. We've wrapped up the monitoring season surveying Bowman Bay, Similk Bay, Cornet Bay, and Kukutali Preserve in August and September.
 - d. This fall/winter we'll be working with UW on data summaries and analysis for a gray literature report to be produced in March.
3. The USFWS grant (\$75,000) that was originally for the Discovery Bay project has been approved for the Polnell Point project. Now we just need the salmon funding agreement so we can get started on feasibility and design.
4. Seahorse Siesta: Tentative start date for construction: October 5.

Advancement Activities Promoting NWSI

1. We're working on a fun outdoor adventure activity for friends and families. Tentatively called "Passport to Marine Adventure." It's a fun on-line game encouraging people to visit coastal project sites across the NW Straits. As they visit sites in each county, they'll earn electronic badges to be redeemed for prizes such as ball cap, t-shirt and hoody. We'll list three sites in each county with input from each MRC. Goal is to learn about NWSI work, explore new places and have fun.
2. We're developing a set of "Story Cards" to give to partners and supporters. These are playing card size with a photo and heading on one side, and a brief project description on the other. They're prompts for asking questions and telling stories. They're soft "touches" connecting people to places and environmental benefits of marine restoration.
3. Salish Sea Strings is a musical voyage of artists and conservationists making the Northwest Straits a vibrant, healthy and fun place to live. In this series, we'll be showcasing local artists with a passion for restoring and conserving the Salish

- Sea. They'll be playing their own songs in an intimate setting, so you'll learn about the band and their music. We'll also meet scientists, educators and leaders working on exciting marine projects. Salish Sea Strings is a fun respite from daily distractions and reminder that we are making a difference. We are sustaining community. And, we're all committed to a healthy world.
4. Orca Forum Trivia Night is October 15.

Board

1. Board recruiting is underway. The board member development team is talking with prospects for current board openings. We plan to fill two or three seats in December. New board members start January 1, 2021. They serve three-year terms. Contact Jerry Masters, Nan McKay or Don Hunger if you have someone to recommend.

Communications Plan Fact Sheet

Use this fact sheet to learn the key messages about Northwest Straits!

Elevator Pitch

The Northwest Straits Initiative is a community-led collaboration working to protect and restore the marine environment of northwest Washington.

Key Messages

Cooperative Structure



The Northwest Straits Initiative carries out our work through the Commission, the Marine Resources Committees and the Foundation.

Community-Led Projects



We bring together scientists and community members to implement on-the-ground projects through a bottom-up approach.

Government Advisors



Marine Resources Committees are the cornerstone of the Initiative, serving as advisors to local government and leading projects that make positive regional impacts.

Collaborative Mission



We are a collaborative group that convenes a broad spectrum of community interests, including economic, recreational, conservation, and scientific.

Collective Partnerships



The Northwest Straits Initiative complements the work of agencies and tribal co-managers, fostering partnerships for greater collective impact.

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) are locally-based advisory groups comprised of volunteers with an interest in protecting their local marine waters. MRCs receive base funding through grant agreements with the NWS Commission to accomplish priority restoration and protection work in their local areas.

The Northwest Straits Commission provides funding, training and support to seven county-based Marine Resources Committees. It facilitates regional coordination among the MRCs and connects the MRC work to regional planning efforts.

The Northwest Straits Foundation is the nonprofit arm of the organization established to leverage additional financial resources to accomplish the work of the Initiative. The



Communications Plan Fact Sheet

Northwest Straits Foundation raises private and public funds and also manages large regional projects such as the removal of derelict fishing gear.

DRAFT

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Clallam MRC

Month/Year: September 2020

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- MRC video completed and posted on Facebook (by Monday Sept. 14th)
- Climate change subcommittee met with Commissioner Bill Peach
- Field season winding down – only forage fish sampling will continue after Sept.

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):

The Clallam MRC meeting will be held Monday Sept. 21st. Topics include Member Discussion of the Clallam MRC 2020-21 Budget and Clallam MRC Educational Outreach Plan 2020-21.

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 Sampling: Planned for Sept 14th at Cline Spit and Sept. 28th at Ediz Hook.

Climate Change Subcommittee – see attached notes.

Pigeon Guillemot: I think they are done (will know on Sept. 21st).

Shellfish Biotoxin: same as pigeon guillemot project

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): None

Meeting Notes with Commissioner Bill Peach September 4, 2020

Also In attendance: Jeff Ward, Ed Bowlby, Alan Clark, Lyn Muench

The meeting was conducted by conference telephone call

Summary and key information: Overall it was a positive conversation. Commissioner Peach expressed interest in the topic and our views.

- He thanked us for our work with youth. He suggested we work with the younger community, and appeal to their emotion but focus on science. He noted the changes in youth education due to Covid-19. He said the Lions Club (Forks?) members are looking for projects and might be able to help. (Mike Dukes 360-963-32867) He suggested we see if high school seniors do a Senior project.
- He is happy to work with us on climate change in the West End, and could help us with contacts their and with the Tribes. He said CMRC member Mike Doherty also knows the West End.
- He likes the scientific approach of “what do we know and how can we build” in contrast to starting with the end game.
- He hosted a Franklin (aka Jefferson) Dinner, and had provided brief summary notes to Commissioner Ozias. Asked how the three dinners compared he said “There is a lot of culture going on.” A common theme was natural resources, trees.
- He is Vice Chair of the Board of Dept of Natural Resources, and they will review the (Governor’s?) Climate Change proposal. It is available on-line on their September Agenda, but not discussed due to time.
- The County needs a clearer baseline – it is not consolidated – on which to base County policy. He said science is needed.
- He does not like the EPA model they are working with; it includes correlation factors he does not support.
- Transportation is a big issue for West End residents; it is required but generates Co2.
- He said he would try to listen to the Sound IQ presentation
- He asked CMRC to give an annual presentation at a Work Session.

The conversation included many specifics of CMRC projects relevant in District Three: shellfish biotoxin monitoring, kelp surveys, forage fish monitoring, oil spill preparedness; Clallam Bay student project, and the links between these and the economy. Commissioner Peach noted the importance of kelp beds. He asked if anyone is doing work with alga aquaculture.

Meeting process: After each participant introduced themselves, Jeff noted that the CMRC is one of the few County advisory committees which brings in money, from the Northwest Straits Commission and the Northwest Straits Foundation. He noted our activities must appeal to the interests and passions of the volunteer members, and briefly reviewed the results of our November CMRC Retreat, with Climate Change emerging as the # 1 priority. He talked about the threats to marine species and the impacts to the local economy. He referenced the 2015 Climate Change preparedness meetings. Commissioner Peach said he attended those meetings. We all contributed examples of CMRC activities in District Three and the conversation flowed from there. It lasted one hour. I have pretty detailed notes with more information if you have any questions.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Island

Month/Year: September 2020

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- **Orca Recovery Day:** The MRC is partnering with Whidbey Island Conservation District, NWSF, and other partners to celebrate Orca Recovery Day, October 17. Events will include an orca forum, trivia night, art contest, and online eco-challenge.
- **Podcast:** Anna was interviewed on the [Northwest Fish Passage podcast](#), where she highlighted the work of the MRC, including bull kelp and forage fish monitoring, as well as outreach and restoration work.
- **Seahorse Siesta restoration:** Construction will take place next month at this restoration site, where the MRC has been partnering with the NWSF. The restoration at this private community will involve the removal of a barge and bulkhead at the toe of a feeder bluff.

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:

- September 1: MRC meeting via WebEx. Topic: Ecosystem Services Valuation.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- October 6: MRC meeting via Zoom. Topics: Community Litter Cleanup Program, Voluntary No-Anchor Zones
- October 17: Orca Recovery Day. Tentative events listed below. More details will be posted on MRC website and social media:
 - o October 14: Orca forum hosted by NWSF
 - o October 15: Trivia night
 - o Month of October: Art contest
 - o Month of October: Eco-challenge

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): The amendment to the 2-year MRC grant is in process in EAGL. Projects include: ongoing bull kelp and forage fish monitoring, outreach needs assessment, eelgrass story map, and Cornet Bay stewardship.

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

Forage Fish: Monitoring continues at Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Glendale. Staff member Ann Prusha will be taking a WDFW forage fish training at the end of September. She will be helping coordinate and support the forage fish volunteers. We are exploring options with WDFW to provide training to new volunteers.

Bull Kelp: Volunteers are wrapping up surveys at Possession Point, Ebey's Landing, and Polnell Point. Tyler Cowdrey, a graduate student interning with Washington Department of Natural Resources, visited

the Possession Point kelp bed to take some aerial images with a drone. As part of his Master's thesis, he is testing the ability to use drone-based imagery as an effective tool for mapping kelp canopy extent.

Outreach: Anna was interviewed on the Northwest Fish Passage podcast, where she highlighted the work of the MRC, including bull kelp and forage fish monitoring, as well as outreach and restoration work. Listen to the episode here: <https://nwfishpassage.libsyn.com/>

Outreach – Schools: The MRC, Sound Water Stewards (SWS), and Orca Network are seeking opportunities to collaborate with local schools. The three organizations will be meeting with teachers from the South Whidbey School District at the end of September to understand how they can help support teachers and develop or identify resources to engage students in learning about marine resources.

Outreach – Needs Assessment: The needs assessment subcommittee has been meeting to plan and prepare for interviews with County Department heads, staff, and elected officials, as well as partner organizations. The needs assessment will help the MRC understand the needs of the community in regards to outreach about marine resources, and help the MRC plan on how to focus its work over the next 3-5 years. The Island Local Integrating Organization will be conducting a survey of community members this fall, asking about their priorities regarding natural resources. The MRC plans to use the results from this survey to inform a couple additional questions to the needs assessment questionnaire.

Outreach – Orca Recovery Day: The MRC is partnering with Whidbey Island Conservation District, NWSF, and several additional partners to plan events on and around Orca Recovery Day, October 17. Events will include an online eco-challenge, trivia night, orca forum, and art contest.

Restoration:

Oak Harbor Marina (collaboration with City of Oak Harbor): Anna presented the results of the Oak Harbor Marina restoration feasibility study to the Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee, as well as to the Oak Harbor Marina Advisory Committee. She will also present to the Oak Harbor Parks Board and to the Oak Harbor City Council. The Council will decide how to move forward.

Seahorse Siesta (collaboration with NWSF): Construction at this site will take place in October, which will involve the removal of a barge and bulkhead at the toe of a feeder bluff. MRC volunteers monitor this site for forage fish spawning in the winter months.

Hoypus Point (collaboration with NWSF): The NWSF has received funds to develop permitting and design at this site, where the MRC helped fund the feasibility study for armor removal. The MRC will continue to stay involved through monitoring and technical expertise.

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.): Island County Commissioner Janet St. Clair asked the MRC to present a proclamation to the Board of County Commissioners declaring 10/17/2020 Orca Recovery Day, and highlighting relevant events.

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: September 2020

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- Education & outreach – [Olympia oyster](#) and [eelgrass/no-anchor zones](#) videos are up on the NWSC Vimeo and YouTube pages, available to view and share widely!
- Rain gardens – We'll be finishing completion of our second rain garden installed this year, on September 23, in Uptown Port Townsend (corner of Benton and Clay Streets).

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

- August 28 – NWSC Meeting
- Sept 1 – MRC Monthly Meeting
- Sept 9 – Leadership Council & NPO Meeting re: oil spill prevention, etc.
- Sept 11 – Strait ERN LIO quarterly
- Sept 12 – Forage Fish Survey at Adelma
- Sept 17 – Executive Committee Meeting
- Sept 17 – E&O Subcommittee Meeting: MRC messaging

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Sept 21 – MRC presentation to the BoCC
- Sept 23 – Rain garden installation @ Clay & Benton Streets in Uptown PT
- Sept 25 – NWSC Meeting
- Sept 29 – Forage Fish Survey at Dabob
- Oct 6 – MRC Monthly Meeting
- Oct 20 – Executive Committee Meeting
- Oct – Forage Fish Survey at Adelma
- Oct – Forage Fish Survey at Fort Townsend

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 (Index):** The property owner/MRC member surveyed on September 12th.
 - c. **Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index):** The property owner/MRC member will be surveying on September 29th.
 - d. **Kelp:** Plans for a 4th and final survey were canceled due to the wildfire smoke. The project lead hopes to connect with two very interested newer MRC members later this month to review equipment usage, but not a full survey.
- 2. **Rain Gardens:**
 - a. The MRC has worked with WSU Extension and the City of Port Townsend to excavate the site at the NW corner of Benton and Clay streets in Uptown Port Townsend. WSU staff along with the MRC coordinator and volunteers will complete the installation on September 23rd, cycling through people physically working on the site so that only 5 people are working at a time. Others have been welcomed to observe the installation from a distance.
- 3. **Education & Outreach:**
 - a. The subcommittee met on September 17th to discuss MRC messaging.
- 4. **Olympia Oysters:**
 - a. Nothing to report.
- 5. **Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:**
 - a. The MRC Coordinator and one MRC member monitored all three sites on Tuesday, September 8th. Port Townsend – 8 of the 10 buoys are upright and functioning well (2 are still missing and will need to be replaced once volunteers are able to get back to diving). All boaters were in compliance except for one derelict vessel still inside the eelgrass habitat south of Boat Haven, first noted on August 4th. An MRC member who is also a DNR employee has reported the vessel of concern. Port Hadlock – all 4 buoys are upright and functioning well and all boaters are in compliance (one was previously reported on September 1st to be anchored inside the buoy markers). Mystery Bay – 5 of the 7 buoys were visible from the shore/dock. Someone will need to take a boat or kayak out as it's difficult to discern which buoys belong to the MRC vs. State Parks. Smoke from the wildfires have delayed this effort. The MRC Coordinator has been working with L&I and WSU Extension to identify diving regulation requirements and a way forward for volunteers to resume the dive work. We'll be putting together a diving safety manual and safety procedures, in compliance with L&I / DOSH regulations.

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.

Jefferson County SMP Update: Ongoing. Nothing to report.

City of Port Townsend SMP Update: Ongoing. Nothing to report.

Photos (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info): None to share this month.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: September 2020

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- The MRC will be participating in the Fall Great Islands Clean-up, all details can be found at www.plasticfreesalishsea.org/events
- The first phase of the MSA Plan update is nearing completion with the drafting of the updated Conservation Biodiversity Targets
- The MRC has begun an outreach effort within the local community through a series of news articles written by MRC members.

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

New MRC member Beth Tate was approved by Council on August 25th.

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

The September MRC meeting saw a presentation from MRC Research Assistant Abigail Ames who provided an excellent overview of the efforts to date on the MSA Plan update. County Council candidates also attended the meeting and had the opportunity to learn and ask questions about the MSA Plan.

The San Juan Island Fall Great Islands Cleanup is running from September 28-Oct 4th with a focus on cleaning up the county's roads and public beaches.

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

The coordinator continues to seek funding to support the marine projects of the MRC and County. No new funding awards to report this month.

County support of the Marine Program remains at risk for 2021.

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

SRKW: The boater safety and Be Whale Wise kiosk at the San Juan County Park has been completed, a socially distant "opening" of the kiosk is planned for the end of the month. Dock signage has continued to be put out Friday-Monday at the Port of Friday Harbor and has been placed out at Roche Harbor since mid-August.

Acoustic data collection wrapped up on the 8 September, but the community values data collection is underway. Surveys for the whale watching and kayaking industry are closing at the end of the month and the final reminder postcard was mailed out to residents and property owners for the west side of San Juan Island in mid-September. A survey for the recreational boating community is being made available with the help of the Waggoners Cruising Guide who are sharing the link via their newsletters in late September with a reminder in mid October, and we continue efforts to garner participation from the recreational fishing community. A series of focus groups, to be held via zoom are being planned for the whale advocate and whale outreach and education groups and interviews are being planned with local commercial fishermen. We expect to complete this aspect of the social user group data collection by the end of October.

County staff are continuing to pursue grant opportunities to support the County and MRC's broader efforts related to continuing the whale warning flag and Be Whales Wise efforts and the associated outreach and education, including continued presence at regional boat shows, dock talks etc.

PFSS: The Plastic Free Salish Sea website has continued to bring in interest and the monthly beach clean-ups on San Juan Island led by community member and PFSS steering committee member Amy Cadwell have continued, though the September beach clean-up was cancelled due to wildfire smoke. The MRC will be participating in the fall Great Islands' Clean-up and piloting a fun project to document and quantify what is being collected along our beaches. Planning continues to implement phase III of the website to add an adopt a beach and adopt a road option. This is being made possible by funds available through the County's Solid Waste Program –a partner in PFSS.

MSA: This year's phase of the MSA Plan update is wrapping up. The MRC Research Assistant Abigail Ames provided the MRC with an excellent presentation at the September monthly meetings. A copy of this presentation will be made available on the MRC website and will be included in the final grant report for 2020. Ms. Ames is completing her final time with the MRC through helping to draft the updated conservation biodiversity targets, these along with an assessment of the status of progress on the MSA Plan strategies and targets will be presented in the final 2020 MRC report and will lay the ground work for the upcoming years' efforts that will take a closer look at the socio-cultural economic targets, how these intersect with the biodiversity targets and identification of objectives and strategies that will help the MRC, County, and partners further prioritize efforts for marine resources in the County.

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 has kicked off a series of news articles about the MRC with the first, by MRC member Jeff Dyer, to be published in island papers in September.

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

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Skagit

Month/Year: Sept/2020

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- Upcoming virtual presentation by Paul Dinnel on Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay- October 7, 4pm-5pm.
- Planning is now underway for the 2021 Salish Sea Stewards training.
- Fidalgo Bay Day 2020 Scavenger Hunt article in the Skagit Valley Herald!

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): The MRC voted to make the recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to appoint Darla Gay Smith to the MRC to replace Rachel Best. Rachel will continue to serve as Darla's Alternate.

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

- **MRC Monthly Meeting- September 10:** 12 people attended the Skagit MRC virtual meeting on September 10. Amy Eberling presented an update on The [Salish Sea School](#).
- **Fidalgo Bay Day Scavenger Hunt (Sept 1 – Sept 30, 2020):** www.fidalgobayday.com
- **Next MRC Monthly Meeting- September 10, 9am-11:00am** (GoToMeeting)

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** We held the first virtual Sea Stewards Advisory Committee meeting on August 26, to start planning for the 2021 SSS training which will begin mid Feb/early March. Sara Brostrom, the Coastal Training Program Coordinator for Padilla Bay and SSS Training Coordinator, reported on the 2020 Salish Sea Stewards training survey results. 100% of the participants agreed that the virtual training went well overall. Most of the new SSS graduates expressed concerned about meeting their 40 hour volunteer obligation because of a lack of opportunities due to Covid-19. The Advisory Committee recognized there is a need to have one person who is dedicated in the role of the volunteer coordinator to continue to keep the volunteers engaged and connected. The Advisory Committee will try to fill that role for now. SSS Advisory Committee meetings will continue to be held once a month to help plan and promote the 2021 SSS training and recruit speakers and new class participants. The 2021 training will likely be virtual.
- **Fidalgo Bay Day Scavenger Hunt Activity Guide:** The Fidalgo Bay Day 2020 Scavenger Hunt finally launched! 14 organizations that have participated in the past contributed to the scavenger hunt activity guide book that can be downloaded from the event website: www.fidalgobayday.com. Hard copies are available at the new Skagit Valley YMCA in Mount

Vernon, the Burlington Library, the Boys and Girls Club, and in the front entryway of the Skagit County Administrative Building in Mount Vernon. The YMCA said the activity guide has been pretty popular and they even posted it on their Facebook page. Flyers with the QR Code have been posted at Washington Park, at the food Co-op and at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort kiosk. There was a recent article in the Skagit Valley Herald.

- Bowman Bay Restoration: Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group staff hosted a volunteer plant maintenance work party on August 21 with a small number of volunteers. They also conducted the year-end walk-through of the site with Tracy and several new Americorps two weeks ago. The site is looking great! Watering might not even be necessary next year and weeding parties can be reduced to just two or three.
- Forage Fish Surveys: Forage fish surveys continue at all of our restoration sites and Index sites with a smaller number of volunteers. More extensive surveys are taking place at Bowman Bay. Four surf smelt eggs were found at Bowman Bay but they did not appear to be viable. There has been a lot of spawning activity in Fidalgo Bay with good survival rates. Two new Salish Sea Stewards are helping with the forage fish surveys this year.
- Kids on the Beach: A final report for the 2019/2020 Kids on the Beach program will be available before the end of this grant period in September. Planning is underway for the 2020/2021 Kids on the Beach program.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Field work is done for the season. Hatchery work and data analysis continues. A final report will be completed before the end of this grant period in September.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul Dinnel will be giving a free virtual presentation on Native Olympia Oyster Restoration in Fidalgo Bay hosted by the Padilla Bay Foundation on October 7, 2020 at 4pm -5pm. To register for this FREE event, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/PBFOlympicOysterTalk>.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Kelp surveys took place in July, August, and September at Shannon Point, Coffin Rocks, and Biz Point. A few new Salish Sea Stewards were able to participate in the surveys. John Freeto has been working on a few short video narratives at the Biz Point kelp beds that will be included in social media posts about kelp.

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 to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: September 2020

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- MRC Piling Grant: The MRC finalized the Snohomish Estuary Pilings Report and it is available on our website: <https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/creosote-pilings/> Phase 2 will start in October.
- MRC Kelp Lead Tom Doerge joined DNR staff at Edmonds kelp beds to take health data on kelp.
- The MRC continues has posted 4 derelict vessels in the Snohomish Estuary for removal. Removal is planned for late October 2020. Work is being done in partnership with DNR.

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

No changes at this time.

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

Elisa Dawson met with the Stillaguamish Lead Entity Coordinator, Kit Crump, to discuss Port Susan Report Card updates on August 25.

Elisa Dawson hosted a contractor tour of the 4 derelict vessels in the Snohomish Estuary proposed for removal on August 26.

Tim Ellis and Elisa Dawson attended the LIO Implementation Committee Meeting for the Snohomish Basin on August 27.

Elisa Dawson met with SWM management on September 2 to discuss the MRC pilings grant Phase 1 report and grant amendment on Phase 2.

Elisa Dawson attended the webinar “Engaging Local Municipalities on Ocean Acidification and Climate-Ocean Impacts” on September 16.

The MRC has their monthly meeting on September 16. This month there was a presentation by the City of Edmonds on their Marina Beach and Willow Creek Restoration Project. Tom Doerge also presented the kelp data results.

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):

MRC Grant 2019-2020 Task 2: The MRC finalized the Snohomish Estuary Pilings Report and it is available on our website: <https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/creosote-pilings/> Phase 2 will start in October.

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: Crabber Education ended in late August. No additional outreach is planned for this winter at this time.

MyCoast: Reports continue to come in.

Derelict Vessels: Elisa Dawson hosted a contractor tour of the 4 derelict vessels in the Snohomish Estuary proposed for removal on August 26. Derelict vessels were posted from removal on September 10th. A contractor has been hired through the Department of Enterprise Services Contract and removal is planned for late October.

The four vessels planned to be removed:

<https://mycoast.org/reports/58693>

<https://mycoast.org/reports/58690>

<https://mycoast.org/reports/58625>

<https://mycoast.org/reports/56296>

MRC Outreach Subcommittee: No updates at this time.

Oil Spill: WSU Beach Watchers will host a model oil spill group training on September 19 and 26. MRC Members Susan Tarpley, Mike Sadler, and Julie Schlenger will attend the training along with MRC Staff Elisa Dawson.

Meadowdale: Elisa Dawson is participating on a cross-agency effort to do pre-project monitoring at Meadowdale Beach in anticipation of the restoration work there. The MRC will monitor for forage fish and do grain size analysis.

Forage Fish: forage fish samples will be taken at Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park once per month. The first sample date is September 17.

Kelp Project: MRC Kelp Lead Tom Doerge joined DNR staff at Edmonds kelp beds to take health data on kelp on September 1.

Mussel Watch: No updates currently.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area: The next Snohomish County-Island County Port Susan joint subcommittee meeting will be Thursday September 24.

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.):

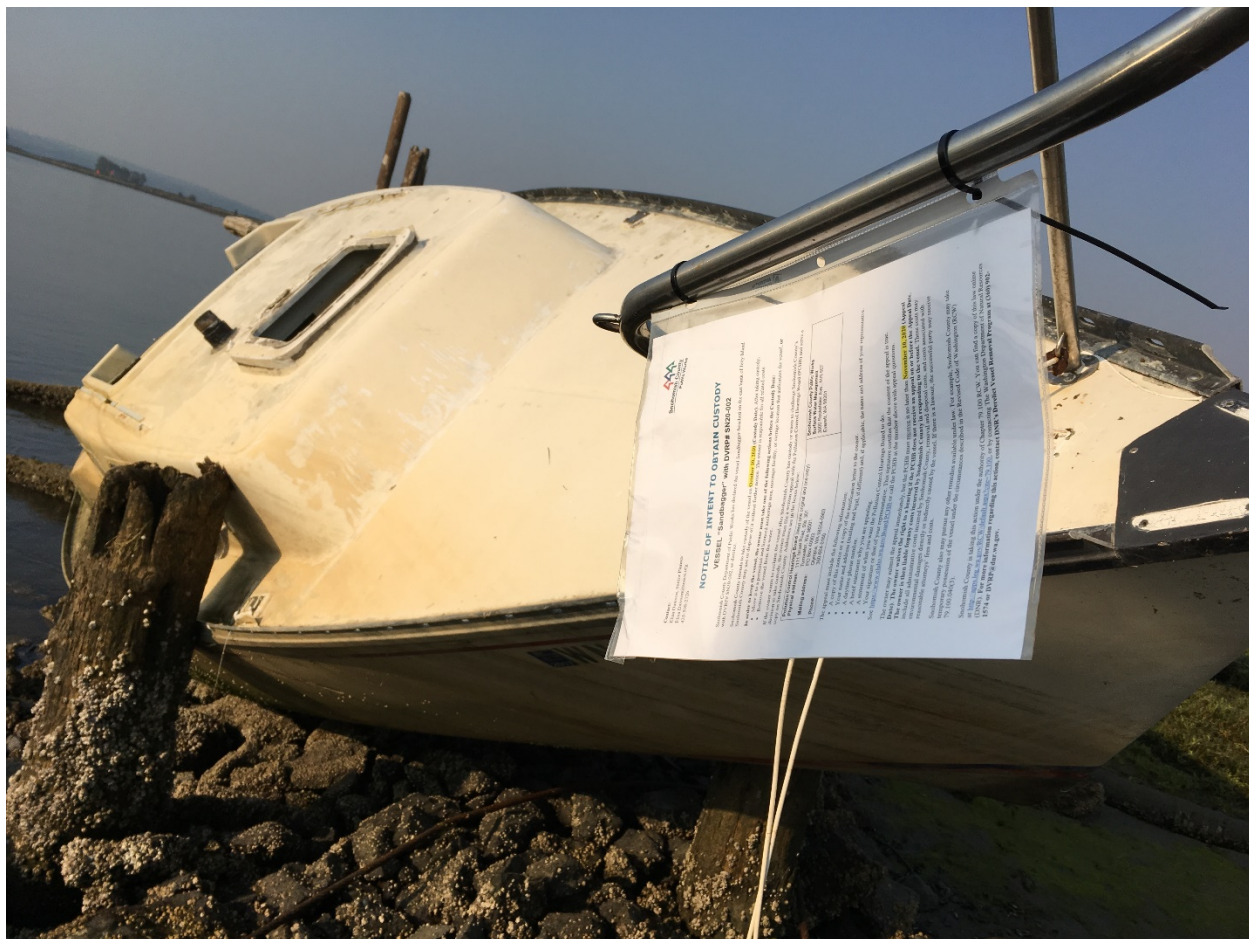
Upcoming Events:

- Forage Fish sample October 14
- Next MRC Meeting is October 21

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







Photos of the 4 derelict vessels with legal notices posted. Photos by Elisa Dawson.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: September 2020

Submitted by: Austin Rose

Key items (two or three) for verbal report-out by MRC rep:

- The MRC received 62 applications for two their two internship opportunities (Forage Fish Survey Intern and North Sound Stewards Volunteer Coordinator Intern). Applications are currently under review by MRC members. Candidates will be chosen by September 23.
- The Public Speakers Series continues to need more MRC member support – particularly by way of subject ideas. Moving forward, the group would like to communicate marine related issues to a more diverse audience and thus expand the expertise of speakers (i.e. professors, artists, activists, historians, performers, journalists)

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

- The MRC received 62 applications for two their two internship opportunities (Forage Fish Survey Intern and North Sound Stewards Volunteer Coordinator Intern). Applications are currently under review by MRC members. Candidates will be chosen by September 23.

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

- The MRC held their general meeting on September 3.
 - MRC members ranked priority topics for their upcoming virtual retreat. Some members indicated the still need a better understanding of the role of a MRC member.
 - Bridget Moran, provided a presentation summarizing her work as the MRC Forage Fish intern. Bridget is now working as a Conservation Associate with American Rivers, Puget Sound-Columbia Basin.
- Whatcom Water Week occurred September 12-19. The MRC partnered with RE Sources, Surfrider, and the Ocean Conservancy to host beach cleanups at three different locations in Whatcom County: Locust Beach, Gulf Rd./Cherry Pt, Semiahmoo. Summaries and stats from each location are still being gathered.

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):

- Kelp surveys have occurred at the Cherry Pt/Gulf Rd and Point Whitehorn.
- Eleanor is working to put together a small video for the North Sound Stewards, highlighting the 2020 year.
- Water quality in N. Chuckanut Bay continues to have very low fecal coliform counts. The MRC will continue sampling twice a month in the marine and fresh water and providing data to Washington Department of Health, to hopefully encourage their consideration of next steps to removing the pollution related closure of the area.

- The Public Speakers Series continues to need more MRC member support – particularly by way of subject ideas. Moving forward, the group would like to communicate marine related issues to a more diverse audience and thus expand the expertise of speakers (i.e. professors, artists, activists, historians, performers, journalists)

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):

Photo below taken by Alex, MRC Member “beach cleanup sign”

