



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Date: January 29, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

To join the Zoom meeting, [click here](#). Meeting ID: 851 0572 4144 Passcode: 845998
 For audio conference, dial: +1 253 215 8782

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and introductions Approval of December minutes	Alan Clark, Chair
10:05 – 10:15	Meeting Welcome	Heidi Eisenhour, Jefferson County Commissioner
10:15 – 10:30	Director’s Report	Lucas Hart
10:30 – 10:45	Business Items Communications Plan Kelp Season Recap	Katie Harris Dana Oster
10:45 – 11:00	Committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	
11:00 – 11:05	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/ Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
11:05 – 11:10	Puget Sound Partnership update	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
11:10 – 11:15	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
11:15 – 11:30	MRC Reports	
11:30 – 11:50	Open discussion breakout groups	All
11:50 – 11:55	Meeting Recap	All
11:55 – 12:00	Public comment	All

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



minutes

December 11, 2020 • 10:00 AM-12:00 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), Sarah Brown (Snohomish), Christina Koons (San Juan), Tom Cowan, Ron Thom, Chris Castner, Nan McKay

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

Others in Attendance: Caroline Gibson (NW Straits Foundation), Don Hunger (NW Straits Foundation), Tom Mumford (Science Advisory Committee), Kathy Wolf (Science Advisory Committee)

Absent: Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Laura Blackmore (Puget Sound Partnership)

Welcome and Introductions

Alan opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the October Northwest Straits Commission meeting were approved by consensus.

Actions to Impacts

Dana Oster and the Science Advisory Committee gave an update on the Actions to Impacts diagram. Dana explained that the diagram is a conceptual model that illustrates the connection between recovery and protection actions and effects on ecosystem elements and functions.

The purpose of the diagram is to improve understanding of our work by:

- Serving as a communication tool for internal and external audiences
- Providing a visual representation of the broad benefits of the NW Straits framework
- Creating a high level qualitative assessment of MRC actions and benefits
- Demonstrating linkages of ecological and social benefits to MRC work

Dana discussed how the Science Advisory Committee will use feedback from the Commission to refine the diagram and then help MRCs apply the model to their work.

NW Straits Commission Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Elsa reported that Commission staff are working on a variety of funding avenues. The committee discussed the Commission-Foundation Memorandum of Understanding, which the Commission approved at the October Commission meeting. Elsa reported that the committee is working with Commission staff on providing support and guidance to MRCs in regard to evaluating outreach and education projects.



minutes

Business Items

Approval of the 2021 Meeting Schedule

Lucas presented the 2021 calendar of Northwest Straits Commission meetings and events. He reported that the Northwest Straits Commission is waiting to make the decision on the NWSI Retreat, which is usually held in March, until staff and Commission have more information in regards to COVID-19. The Commission approved the meeting schedule.

Eelgrass no-anchor zone grant update

Dana reported that the Commission did not receive the Coastal Watershed Grant for expanding the voluntary no-anchor zones into four additional counties. Commission staff are pursuing ways to carry this work forward while also collaborating with a transboundary workgroup to align no-anchor zone messaging and project planning.

Communications plan update

Katie reported that the consultants from Maul, Foster and Alongi delivered the final communications plan at the end of November. Katie explained that some of the first products that have come out of the initial findings are a one-pager fact sheet (with elevator pitch and key messages), the Commission org chart, and NWSI 101 presentations. Katie reported that she will use the findings and recommendations from the communications plan to update Commission communications processes and products.

Org chart

Katie explained that the org chart is intended to provide clarity on the structure of the Commission. It will be included in Northwest Straits Initiative 101 presentations and on-boarding for Commissioners.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion guide

Allie is developing a guide on how to recruit more diverse interns, and best practices for supporting more diversity in marine science.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) update

There was no update from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Ron Thom announced the acceptance of the new vital signs and indicators. He said that the draft report was approved by the Partnership's Leadership Council and expected to be released in January 2021.

Northwest Straits Foundation Update

Don Hunger reported that the Foundation virtual Holiday Party will be December 17. Don reported that the Foundation is planning a meeting for MRC chairs and MRC lead staff. The meeting will focus on strengthening the relationship between the Foundation and MRCs.



minutes

MRC Reports

Whatcom –

Bob Cecile reported that the MRC elected officers for 2021. Leadership will remain the same as 2020. Bob said that Whatcom MRC has two pending vacancies. Whatcom MRC will have a virtual retreat in January or February.

Snohomish –

Sarah Brown reported that Snohomish County hired a new planner, Alex Pittman, to assist the MRC half time. The MRC secured ESA as the consultant for Phase 2 of the Snohomish Estuary Piling Project. Sarah reported that Tim Ellis will be the Northwest Straits Commission representative for Snohomish County.

Skagit –

Pete Haase said that the MRC heard a presentation about seabed mining. Pete reported that there is a call for proposals for Padilla Bay Reserve's Storming the Sound event. Interested individuals should contact Susan Wood (swood@padillabay.gov), who is coordinating the planning committee for the event.

San Juan –

Christina Koons reported:

- The MRC continues to expand their Plastic Free Salish Sea campaign, with new features added to the [website](#).
- The MRC has been working with the Waggoner Guide to add information about Be Whale Wise and other conservation tips into their Boater's Guide.
- The MRC is continuing to engage in the whale watching licensing discussions. Dr. Frances Robertson (MRC lead staff) developed a staff report that received signatures from County Commissioners and was sent as formal comment to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Jefferson –

Jeff Taylor reported that the MRC appointed Brenda Johnson as new vice-chair. Post-restoration monitoring at Fort Townsend State Park will continue.

Island –

Elsa reported:

- Island MRC did an on-the-beach training for nine new forage fish volunteers.
- Seahorse Siesta restoration is continuing.
- Volunteer monitoring activities have been suspended, based on direction from the County (in response to COVID-19).



minutes

Clallam –

Alan reported:

- Clallam MRC approved their 2021 work plan.
- The MRC is planning a “Kelp 101” webinar.
- MRC Lead Staff, Helle Anderson, is retiring at the end of the year.

Round table

Pete provided an update on Skagit MRC’s involvement with restoration of the Tommy Thompson Trail.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next regular Commission meeting will be on **Friday, January 29.***



**Executive Committee Meeting
December 7, 2020 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Conference Call**

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

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

Tribal acknowledgements

Lucas presented the idea of starting Commission meetings with tribal acknowledgements. Committee members provided the following insight:

- Tribal acknowledgements should be substantive and genuine, not performative.
- A boilerplate acknowledgement may not be the right tool, because different messages may need to be tailored to different audiences.
- The statement should align the Commission's stewardship commitments with long-standing tribal stewardship.

Next step:

- Lucas will talk to Cecilia Gobin and Joenne McGerr about tribal acknowledgements.

Internships that support diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) goals

NWSC staff will create a reference guide that provides avenues for posting MRC internship positions. The guide will include a list of organizations that aim to promote DEI by connecting students to paid internships. The guide will be distributed to MRC lead staff.

Tribal Partnerships

Lucas asked the Commission if there are new ways MRCs could approach tribal partnerships beyond filling MRC seats. The committee decided that the best practice for MRCs is to keep tribal members involved and engaged on project development, which is a practice MRCs currently follow.

MRC Project Development

Sasha presented a memo that described the MRC project development process and highlighted project examples. Committee members advised staff to provide the memo to MRCs in order to assist in building measures of success into education and outreach projects. Committee members also advised NWSC staff to strongly encourage MRCs to incorporate long-term results in their grant proposals.

Next step:

- Sasha and Dana will provide MRCs with the information from the memo shared with the Executive Committee.

NW Straits Initiative Retreat

Committee members discussed the annual Initiative Retreat, which is usually held in March. Committee members decided to re-evaluate in mid to late January to determine if the event should be postponed or held virtually.

Org Chart

Lucas presented an organizational chart. Committee members recommended bringing the chart to the Commission for approval.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 19, 2021, 11 am -12 pm



Commission staff highlights- [January 2021]

MRC Grants: MRCs are submitting quarterly reporting for the October-December period, and Commission staff is reviewing deliverables and invoices for payment. Commission staff is updating the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2021-23 cycle and held pre-RFP meetings with MRC staff in January to discuss project ideas and review changes to the RFP.

Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP): Commission staff is working with MRCs on annual updates to the QAPPs approved in 2020 that are required for monitoring projects. The approved QAPPs are valid for five years so the 2021 updates are simple and brief.

Operations plan: Commission staff reviewed and updated the operations plan to track progress on the Northwest Straits strategic plan through the end of December.

Project database: Commission staff have been entering project data from 2020 into the database developed by Richard Austin, which now contains three years of project data. Testing and development of reporting tools is still in progress.

Kelp: Commission staff completed an initial 2020 MRC kelp data synthesis and held a regional MRC kelp workshop virtually. Over 50 different participants joined the call to review 2020 MRC kelp data along with presentations from partners monitoring kelp.

Communications Plan: Commission staff are organizing recommendations from the communications audit and plan and identifying high priority tasks to improve internal and external Commission communications.

Meetings attended:

Dana attended: Island MRC meeting 1/5, San Juan MRC meeting 1/7, Transboundary eelgrass protection meeting 1/12, DNR kelp research workgroup 1/13, Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting 1/21, MRC kelp 2020 review 1/21, Kelp legislative priorities meeting 1/25

Sasha attended: Puget Sound Partnership legislative update 1/8 and 1/22; Clallam MRC meeting on 1/11; Snohomish MRC meeting 1/20; MRC/NW Straits Foundation workshop 1/21; MRC kelp 2020 review 1/21

Lucas attended: Island MRC meeting 1/5, San Juan MRC meeting 1/7, Clallam MRC meeting on 1/11, MRC/NW Straits Foundation workshop 1/21, DNR kelp research workgroup 1/13, Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting 1/21, Kelp legislative priorities meeting 1/25

Katie attended: Transboundary eelgrass protection meeting 1/12, MRC kelp 2020 review 1/21

Allie attended: DNR kelp research workgroup 1/13, Skagit MRC meeting 1/14, MRC kelp 2020 review 1/21



NWSC Communications Plan Executive Summary

Relevance to Strategic Plan: One of the goals of the Strategic Plan is “Clearly distinguish the Initiative from the work of other organizations.” The objectives within that goal are:

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

Purpose of the Communications Plan: To establish essential, baseline information for our current Commission and Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) staff and members to internalize, and outline how and when the Initiative plans to engage with its audiences.

What we’re doing well: The communications audit and plan unearthed many procedures and processes that are beneficial and that the Commission should continue.

- Monthly Commission Meetings
- Regular MRC Lead Staff Meetings
- MRC Symposium
- Monthly newsletter

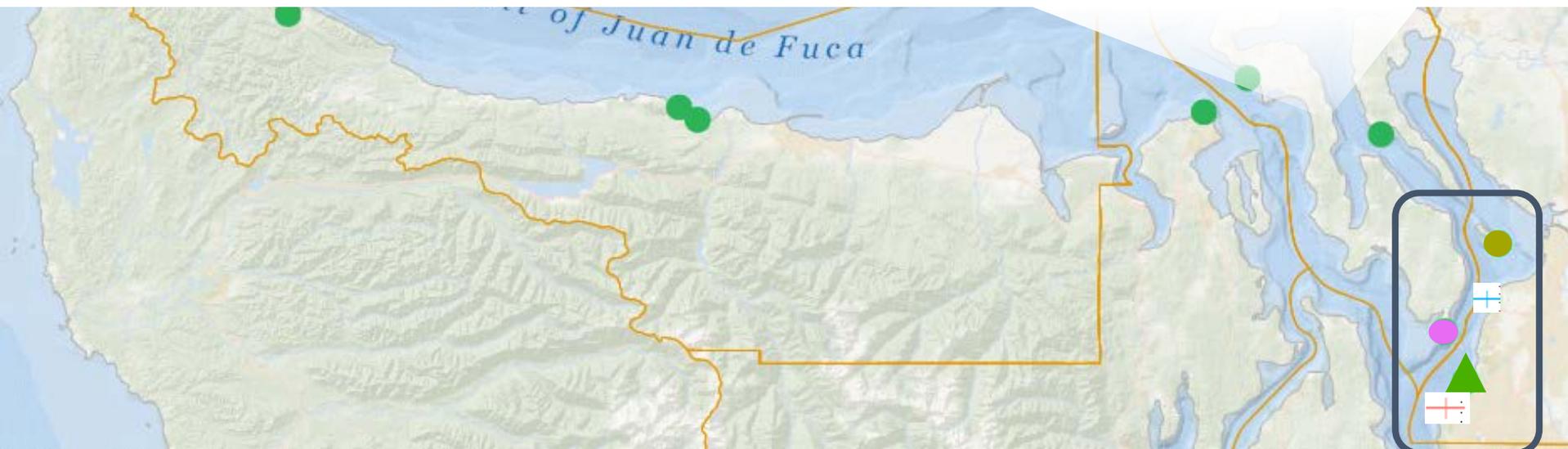
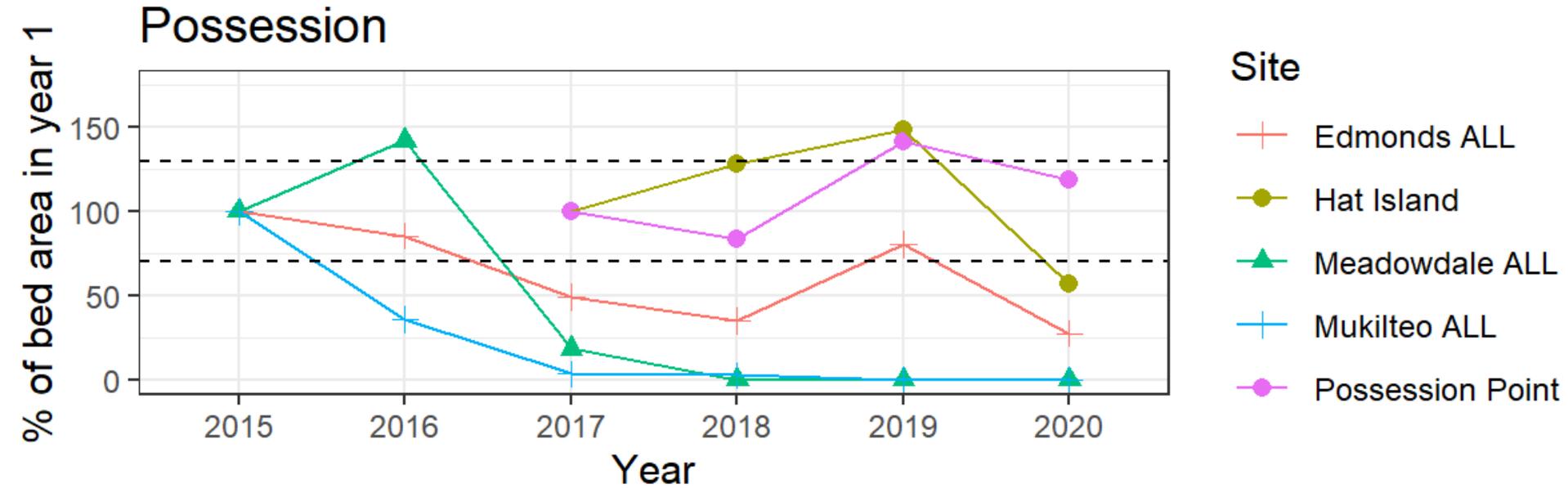
What we should adjust: There were a handful of tools that Commission staff were using that, with a few tweaks, could be more effective.

- NWSI 101 presentation frequency
- Onboarding, including new Commissioners, new MRC members and volunteers
- Newsletter format and audience
- Additional support to MRCs for member recruitment

What we should add to our procedures: The communications plan outlined a few new tools that the Commission has not historically used. Commission staff are actively developing the following.

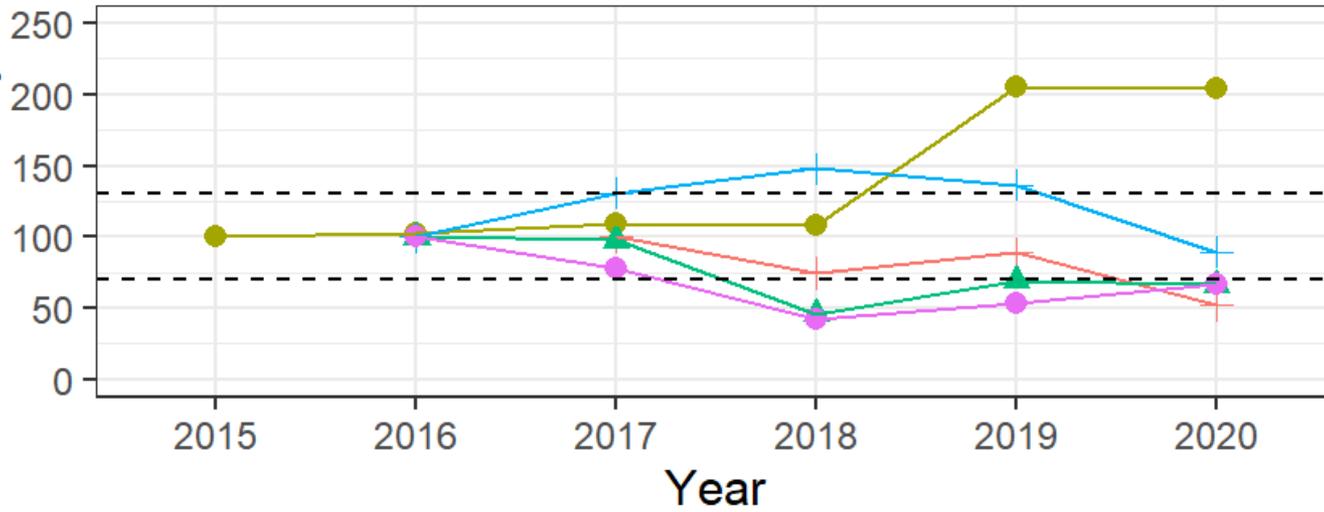
- Elevator pitch
- Key messages
- Fact sheet
- Diagram explaining the relationships between the Commission, Foundation and MRCs
- Variety of opportunities to increase collaboration across MRCs (including and beyond MRC Symposium)

Possession Sound



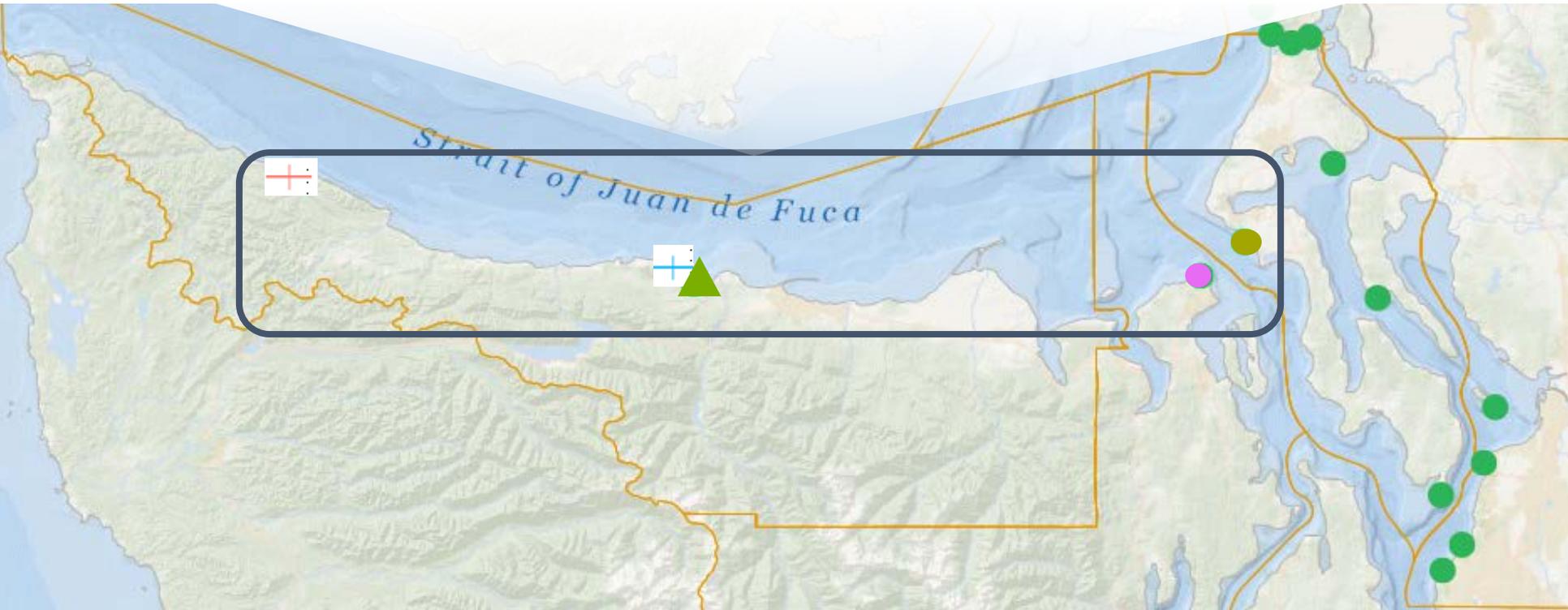
Strait of Juan de Fuca

% of bed area in year 1



Site

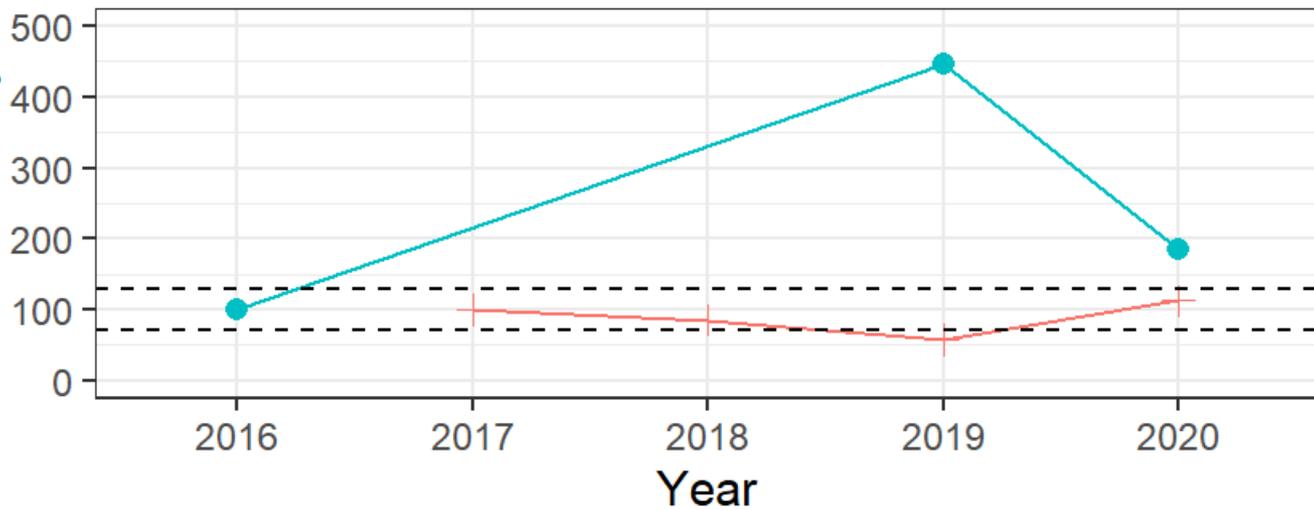
- Clallam Bay
- Ebey's Landing
- Freshwater Bay 1
- Freshwater Bay 2
- North Beach





Strait of Georgia

% of bed area in year 1



Site

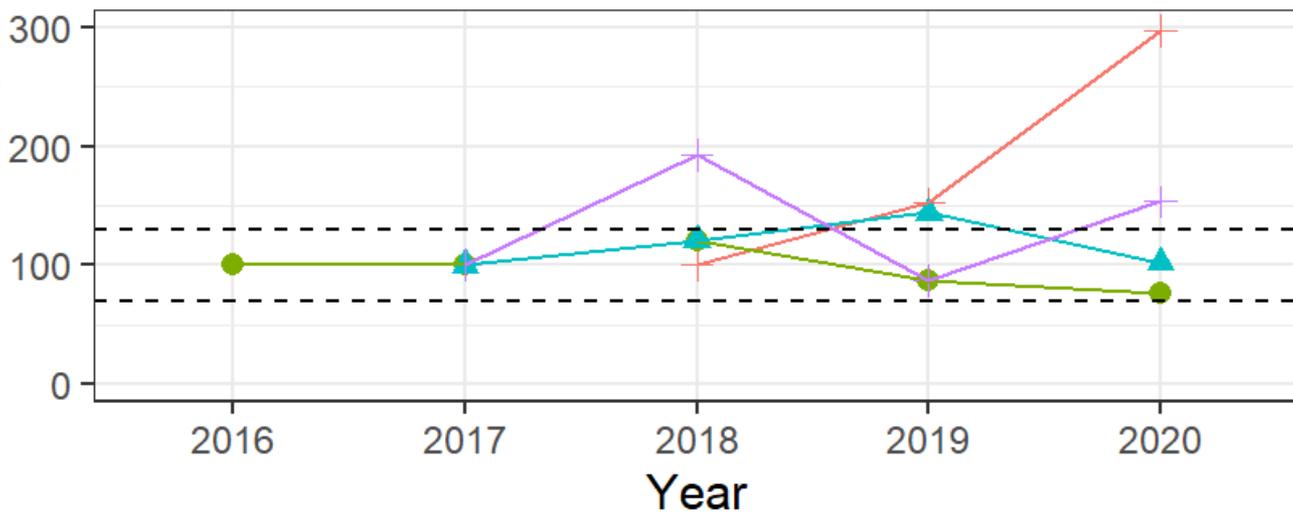
- Cherry Pt-Gulf Rd
- Pt Whitehorn
- Alden Bank- data still being processed





North Puget Sound

% of bed area in year 1

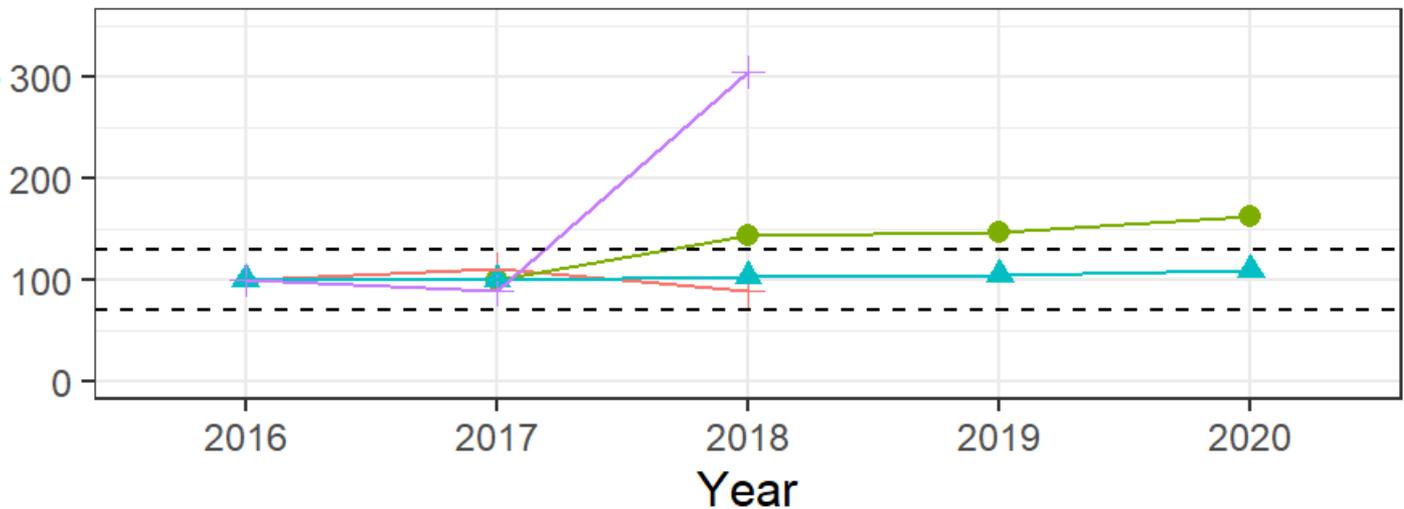


Site

- + Aiston Preserve
- Lummi SW
- ▲ Shannon Point 1&2
- + Shannon Point 3

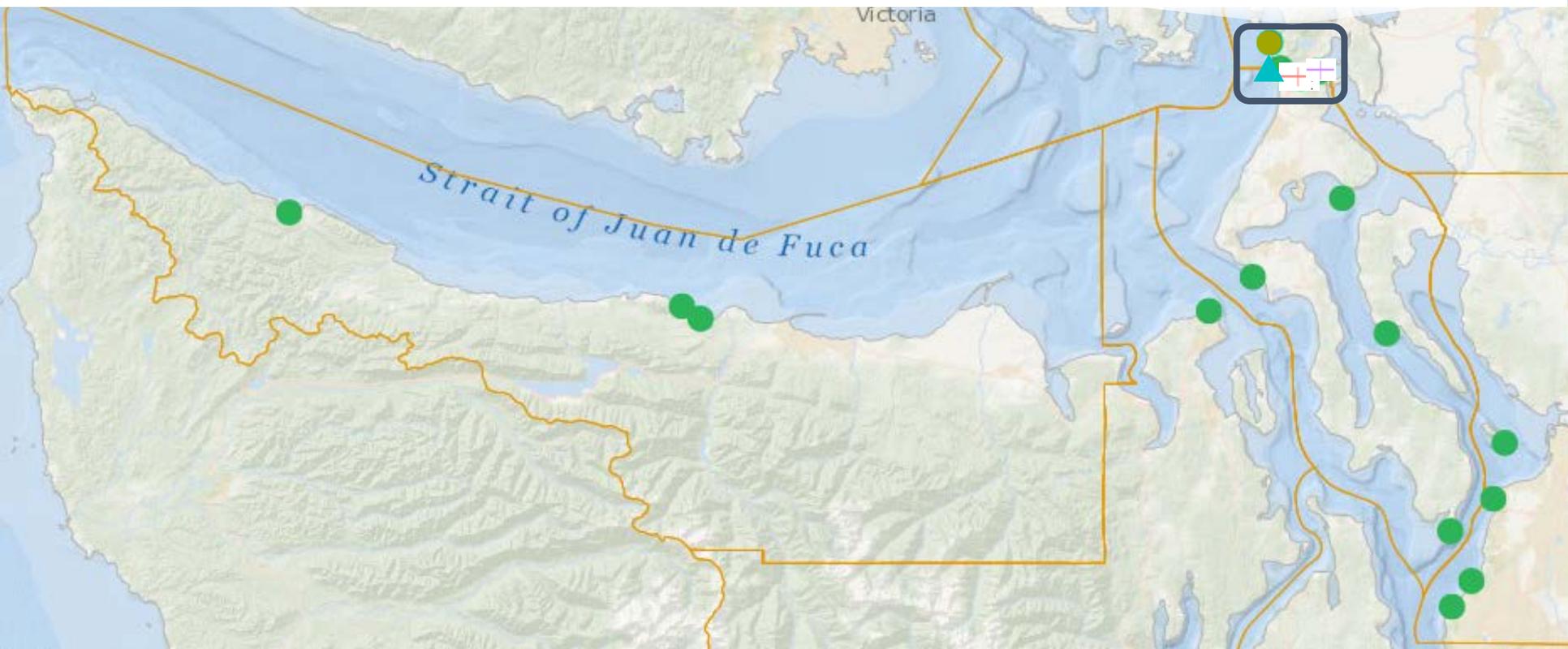
Deception Pass

% of bed area in year 1

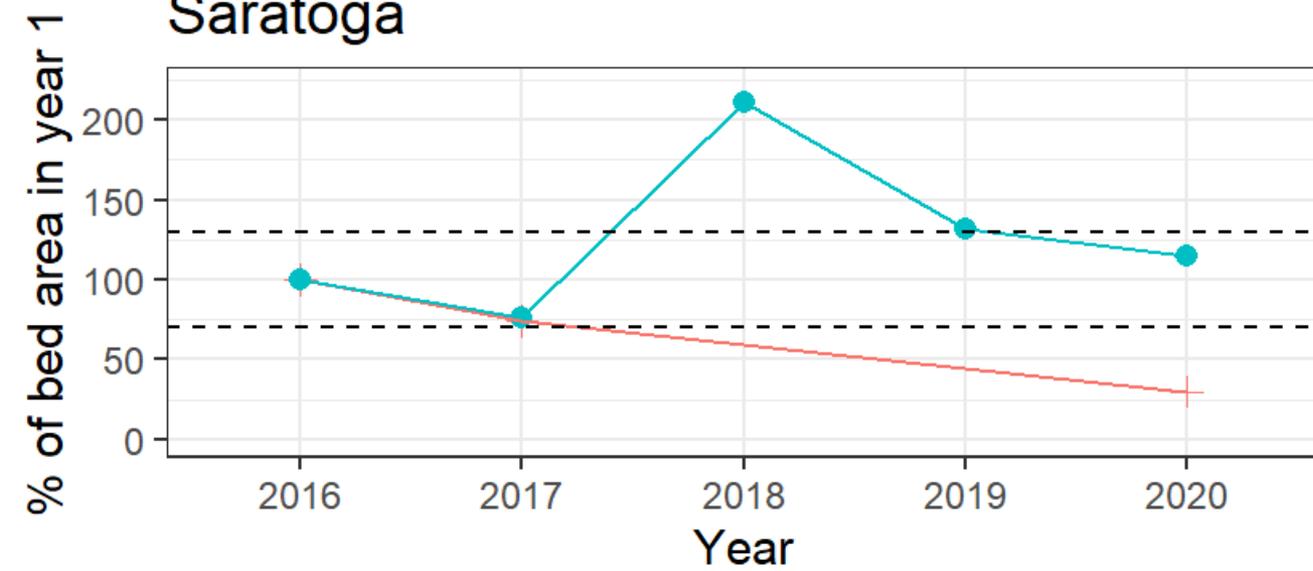


Site

- Ben Ure
- Biz Point
- Coffin Rocks
- Hoypus Point

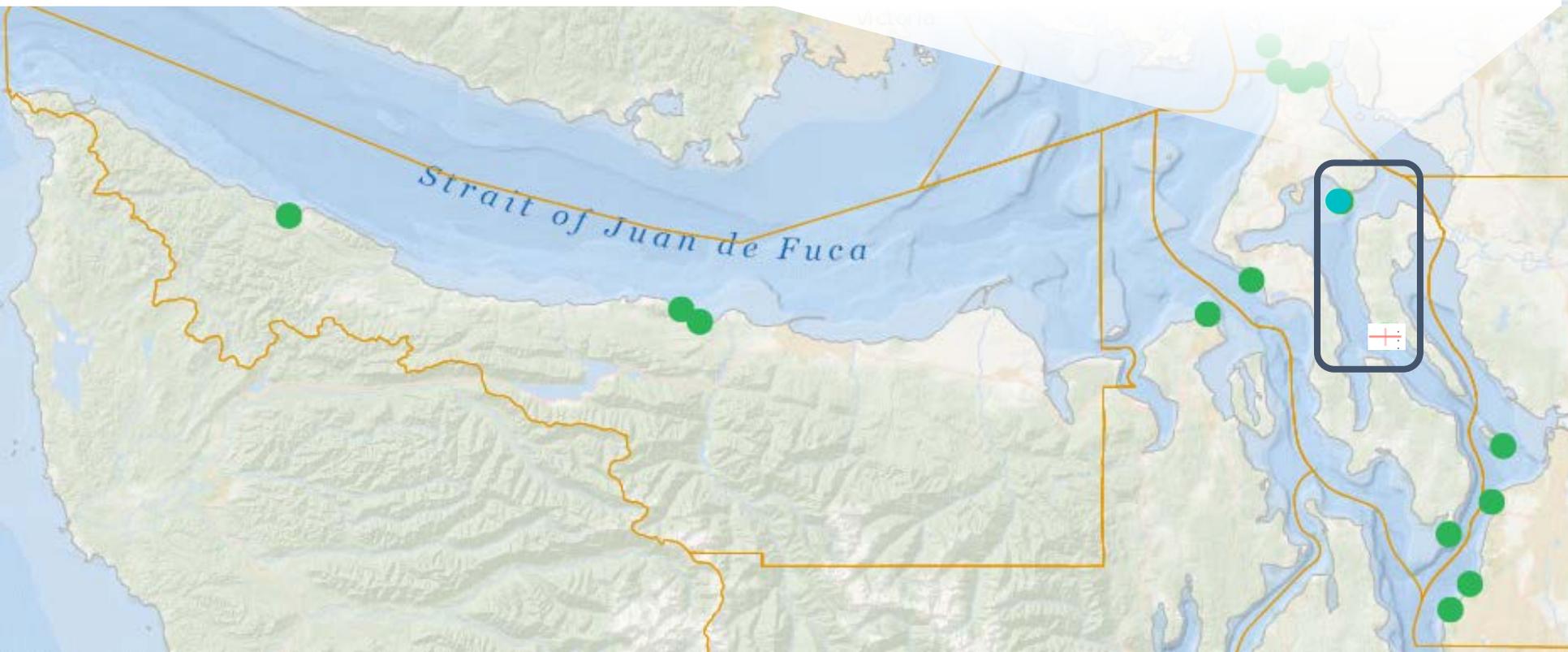


Saratoga



Site

- Camano Is. SP-Lowell
- Polnell Point



Kelp in the news

[As bull kelp declines continue, collaboration is key | Environment | goskagit.com](#)



Our kelp forests are disappearing

Q13's Tim Joyce reports on what this means for our fragile ecosystem.

Posted November 20, 2020

[Our kelp forests are disappearing \(q13fox.com\)](#)

LOCAL NEWS

Puget Sound kelp need your help; kelp beds disappearing throughout area

BY NICOLE JENNINGS
NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AT 5:21 AM

Share ↗



Photo courtesy of Washington State Department of Natural Resources – Nearshore Habitat Program

If you decide to socially distance on a boat, be sure to look down into the water — you could be unknowingly harming kelp beds.

[Puget Sound kelp need your help; kelp beds disappearing throughout area \(mynorthwest.com\)](#)



[Puget Sound is losing its kelp, but there's a plan to save it – makingwaves.psp.wa.gov](#)

Puget Sound is losing its kelp, but there's a plan to save it

November 9, 2020

Did you know that some kelp species are among the largest of all seaweeds? And did you know Washington state is home to 22 species of kelp, which means there are more kelp species here than anywhere in the world except for Japan? Or that kelp not only provides a home for many species of fish and other wildlife, but also forms the basis of their diets

Puget Sound Partnership Monthly Report

Month/Year: January 2021

Federal Updates (budget/priorities/activities):

Puget Sound Day on the Hill will be a virtual series again this spring, likely Fridays in late April and May. Details coming soon but we hope you'll be able to join us and help spread the word.

State Updates (budget or legislative activity):

Opportunities to Engage with Partnership Products:

2022-2026 Action Agenda update: The Partnership has released a draft list of desired outcomes for Puget Sound recovery. The draft desired outcomes, along with helpful background information about the role desired outcomes play and a form for providing input, can be accessed [on our website](#). The Partnership's boards will be hearing presentations on the desired outcomes and providing input in January and February. Pending approval by the Leadership Council on February 18, Partnership staff will work with the recovery community to begin the next phase of work in the Action Agenda update--- identifying strategies for achieving the desired outcomes.

Announcements:

The Leadership Council is seeking [nominations to the Puget Sound Partnership's Science Panel](#). This is your opportunity to join a committee that influences and develops science-based policy for the protection and recovery of Puget Sound. Qualified individuals are invited to nominate themselves for appointment to this board. Nominations are due by March 31, 2021. [Additional information can be found here](#).

The Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan will be presented and discussed at the February 18th Leadership Council meeting (2:45 – 3:30 PM, presented by Dana Oster). View the full [agenda](#).

The Partnership Nearshore Credits program is live. Please see this blog post about the effort: [Puget Sound Partnership credits will fund nearshore conservation | by Puget Sound Partnership | Puget Sound Partnership | Jan, 2021 | Medium](#)).

Northwest Straits Foundation 2021 Work Updates

January, 2021

Programs

- Nearshore Restoration Monitoring. Conduct regional project evaluating ecosystem responses to shoreline restoration efforts. A manuscript is planned for publication in 2022.
- Derelict Crab Pot Removal & Prevention. Locate and remove derelict crab pots from high priority areas and conduct crabber outreach to reduce pot loss. Partners include all MRCs, WDFW, Samish DNR, WA Ferries, Puget Sound Anglers and various ports.
- Derelict vessel removal. Partnership with Snohomish MRC, County and Department of Natural Resources. 1st project funded by private donation of \$50K for Snohomish slough. We'll pursue additional funding to leverage initial donation for more derelict vessels. Launching late summer.
- Complete Seahorse Siesta barge removal, Whidbey Island
- Start Polnell Point armor removal and restoration, Whidbey Island
- Start Hoypus Point armor removal, Cornet Bay, Deception Pass SP, Whidbey Island
- Expand the Shore Friendly program through fundraising, grant writing and public outreach. Build on the program's success in 2020. Present to state officials on the program's benefits and outcomes. Develop public-private partnerships to support new project sites. Ongoing. Multi-year effort.

Advancement

- Launch our Salish Sentinels campaign to grow our supporter base. A year-long effort supported by content launch, newsletters and a fall 2021 event. (Content includes our website, Story Map, Story Cards, Passport to Marine Adventure and volunteer projects.) Launching in February.
- Launch Passport to Marine Adventure, an exploration and educational travel game, prompting people to visit their shorelines, learn about marine habitat, and promote NWSI projects. There are three sites in each MRC county. Participants earn prizes by visiting sites and posting a photo on our Instagram account. Our audience is friends and family members. Launching in March.

- Launch Story Map (GIS) on our website to illustrate and tell the story of our work. Viewers are able to click on maps, drill down through the years, review data, pictures and read about the Foundation's work. Launching in February.
- Grant proposals submitted/pending to Charlotte Martin and Bonnel Cove Foundations, Shell Puget Sound refinery.

Marine Resources Committees

- Hosted MRC workshop titled "Working Together for the Salish Sea" on Thursday, January 21. The virtual presentation included introduction to Foundation staff and board, business structure and administration, project development, fundraising and partnership. It was attended by MRC chairs and lead staff, and Foundation staff and board members.

Governance

- New board members Duane Fagergren, shellfish grower, and Amy Wilcox, fundraising executive.
- Create and implement an annual board member development plan. Member development is a path from recruiting, to onboarding, committee service, community representation, fundraising and culminating with sun setting. It's a deliberate process for all aspects of board development and service.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Clallam MRC

Month/Year: November – December 2020

Submitted by: Helle Andersen

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

- The members approved the 2020-21 workplan
- Clallam MRC will be working with Tom Mumford on a kelp 101 webinar
- The climate change subcommittee plans to meet with DCD Director Winborn, Karen Affeld at NODC, and meet with Rich Meier at the County.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Helle Andersen retired, effective December 31.

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

No meeting was held in December.

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: Sampling in Dec. was conducted Dec. 9th at Ediz Hook and Dec. 11th at Cline Spit.

Climate Change Subcommittee: In the coming months the climate subcommittee plans to 1) Meet with DCD Director Winborn to get her input and ask what else we can do beside the SoundIQ training; 2) Reach out to Karen Affeld at NODC re climate action planning grant; 3) Respond to DNR; and 4) Meet with Rich Meier to clarify GHG inventory tools being considered by County 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 (photos of recent projects or members—include project, photo credit and additional info): None

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Island

Month/Year: December 2020 – January 2021

Submitted by: Anna Toledo

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

- **Bull kelp report:** The full report on the 2020 bull kelp monitoring season is available on the MRC [website](#).
- **MyCoast training:** The MRC partnered with Sound Water Stewards to host a training on the MyCoast app. A recording will be made available on the MRC website.
- **Cornet Bay stewardship:** The Cornet Bay subcommittee is working with NWSF and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group to plan vegetation planting and maintenance at the Cornet Bay restoration area for this year.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Matt Kukuk and Mike Bianchi stepped down from the MRC at the end of their terms on December 31, 2020. Matt will continue to be involved with the forage fish program. Mike will continue to serve as a non-voting technical advisor. Kelly Zupich and Hannah Liss were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

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

Past Meetings/Events:

- December 1: MRC meeting via Zoom. Topics: project brainstorming
- January 5: MRC meeting via Zoom. Topics: Election of officers, project planning
- January 22: MyCoast training in partnership with Sound Water Stewards

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- February 2: MRC meeting via Zoom. Topic: FEMA Door 2 presentation
- February 6: [Sound Waters University](#). MRC will have a virtual exhibit.

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):

Bull Kelp: The full report on the 2020 bull kelp monitoring season is available on the MRC website: <https://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/19647/2020-mrc-bull-kelp-monitoring-full-report-final.pdf>.

Forage Fish: Volunteer monitoring activities have been suspended due to COVID-19 precautions. Jason Morgan from NWSF will be monitoring Hoypus Point and Cornet Bay, and Ann Prusha will be monitoring Hidden Beach and Seahorse Siesta. However, monitoring at Seahorse Siesta is on hold until further notice due to ongoing construction at the restoration site. Once volunteer monitoring is ready to restart, one team will resume monitoring at Maple Grove and another team will begin monitoring at Sunlight Shores.

Outreach – Needs Assessment: The needs assessment subcommittee has started conducting interviews with community partners. Interviews with community partners as well as County leadership will continue into February.

Outreach – MyCoast Training: Kelly Zupich and Anna Toledo held a training on how to use the MyCoast app for Sound Water Stewards and MRC members. The training was recorded and will be made available on the MRC website.

Outreach – Port Susan MSA Update: The Port Susan MSA subcommittee met to discuss the proposed MSA update project. The subcommittee discussed stakeholder engagement, gathering new scientific information, and role of the MRCs, consultant, and possible graduate student(s). MRC staff will explore the idea of working with a graduate student(s) to assist with the project.

Restoration – Cornet Bay Stewardship: The Cornet Bay subcommittee met to discuss plans for the MRC's role with stewardship at Cornet Bay. The subcommittee will meet with Lisa Kaufman and Adam Airoidi (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group) this month to discuss specific planting and maintenance plans for this year and plans for collaboration.

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):



IC MRC group photo over Zoom.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: January 2021

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

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

- The MRC was asked to advise our County and Port Commissioners on the SEPA review for the Navy's proposal to expand special operations training (in-water and on-land) in 28 State Parks, with training events more concentrated in Region 1 which includes Jefferson County. The MRC held an additional Special Meeting in January to discuss potential impacts to marine and nearshore resources and submitted a letter to our Commissioners.
- Continuing discussions on project planning for the 2021-2023 RFP.

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

The MRC is currently reviewing 5 applications for the District 1 Rep and District 3 Alt positions.

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

Past Events/Meetings

- Dec 1 – MRC monthly meeting
- Dec 3 – Chumsortium meeting
- Dec 11 – NWSC Meeting
- Dec 11 – Strait ERN LIO Quarterly Meeting
- Dec 15 – Executive Committee meeting
- Dec 22, Jan 19 – Forage fish sampling at Adelma
- Jan 5 – MRC monthly meeting
- Jan 11 – Kelp subcommittee meeting
- Jan 15 – Special meeting re: Navy SEPA review for WA SP use authorization
- Jan 18 – Forage fish sampling at Dabob
- Jan 19 – Forage fish sampling at Fort Townsend
- Jan 19 – Executive Committee meeting
- Jan 21 – NWSF workshop
- Jan 21 – NWSC kelp workshop

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- Jan 29 – NWSC meeting
- Feb 2-10? – Olympia oyster subcommittee meeting
- Feb 4 – Chumsortium
- Feb 9 – Salish Sea No-Anchor Zones meeting
- Feb 16 – Executive Committee meeting
- Feb 26 – Strait ERN LIO quarterly meeting
- Feb – Forage fish sampling at Adelma, Dabob, and 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:** The MRC Coordinator and 5 volunteers monitored on January 19th.
 - b. **Forage fish - Adelma Beach (Index):** Two MRC volunteers monitored on January 19th.
 - c. **Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index):** Three MRC volunteers monitored on January 18th.
 - d. **Kelp:** The MRC Coordinator and five MRC members met on January 11th to address any transitional needs with the change in Project Leads, in preparation for the upcoming season. Emily Bishop will work on getting the YSI instrument set up and calibrated to train MRC members on using and maintaining it for kelp monitoring this year. The MRC Coordinator and six MRC members attended the NWSC kelp workshop on January 21st.
2. Rain Gardens:
 - a. Bob Simmons did a site visit with a homeowner in Port Townsend who reached out about installing a rain garden near her property.
 - b. The subcommittee is purchasing interpretive signs to place at the rain gardens most recently installed, at Cape George and Clay/Benton Streets (Uptown Port Townsend).
 - c. The rain garden to be installed next, at Quilcene School, is still on hold till in-person learning resumes.
3. Education & Outreach:
 - a. Nothing to report.
4. Olympia Oysters:
 - a. The subcommittee is scheduling a meeting in early February to flesh out this year's plans for spreading cultch and monitoring.
 - b. The Discovery Bay QAPP is circling around for signatures.
 - c. The MRC Coordinator is working on submitting a WDFW shellfish transfer permit for this year (for up to 2 cubic yards of shell) and ACOE permit to increase the amount of shell spread over the next two years (2022-2023).
5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:
 - a. Two MRC members attended the monthly Salish Sea No-Anchor Zones meeting on January 12th.
 - b. Gordon King connected with a contact from Hama Hama Oysters who is willing to help with maintenance at Port Hadlock going forward.
 - c. One MRC member is reviewing drafted dive safety materials. This will then be shared with L&I/DOSH for input and the rest of the subcommittee, then with the WSU Extension Director, County Attorney and BoCC for final approval.
 - d. One MRC member monitored a stretch of the Port Townsend no-anchor zone on January 21st and reported that boats anchored in the area were in compliance.

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.):

Advisory Action - Navy Special Operations Training in Western WA State Parks: The MRC was asked to advise our County and Port Commissioners on the SEPA review for the Navy's proposal to expand special operations training (in-water and on-land) in 28 State Parks, with training events more concentrated in Region 1 which includes Jefferson County. The MRC held an additional Special

Meeting on January 14th to discuss potential impacts to marine and nearshore resources and submitted a letter to our Commissioners on January 15th.

PT Sewer Outfall: Nothing to report.

Jefferson County SMP Review: Ongoing.

City of Port Townsend SMP Review: Ongoing. The City held a public meeting on January 14th.

Shoreline Landowner Outreach (NWSF project): Nothing to report.

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

January 19th forage fish monitoring at Fort Townsend State Park – photo by Monica Montgomery



MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: January 2021

Submitted by: Frances Robertson

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

- Community members will be able to adopt a beach in the County soon.
- The MRC is organizing a symposium to share the recent research results of studies into the acoustic impacts of Navy jet aircraft.

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

MRC member Jeff Friedman resigned his seat on the MRC leaving one vacancy.

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

The monthly MRC meeting occurred on January 7th and the MRC received a presentation on the progress of eelgrass restoration efforts that are occurring in the County with Salmon Recovery funds.

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

The County and MRC have received funds – administered through the NWSF from PEW Charitable Trusts for coordination of eelgrass protection and restoration in the County.

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

The key activities over the past month have been discussing and prioritizing projects for the next grant round as well as deciding which efforts to pilot this year. The results of this have determined that eelgrass boat impact surveys will be piloted spring and summer of 2021 in preparation for a new MRC project during the 2021-2023 grant round.

PFSS: Efforts continue to with phase II of the PFSS website. The Adopt-a-Beach feature is due to be launched by mid-February with the Adopt-a-Road feature before Earth Day in preparation for the spring Great Islands Clean-Up events. Additionally, the PFSS subcommittee is working in partnership with the County's Solid Waste Program to host a series of community workshops in the spring to spread the word on the work of the group, the PFSS website and toolkits.

SRKW: The main tasks for 2021 will be to work in partnership with Killer Whale Tales (KWT) and the local school districts to bring the KWT environmental education program to grade 5 students in the County this year. These sessions are expected to occur in virtual format regardless of whether the schools have returned to in-person learning.

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 is organizing a symposium to share the recent research results of studies into the acoustic impacts of Navy jet aircraft. This symposium is being scheduled for early March and will be run in partnership with the Salish Sea Institute.

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: Jan/2021

Submitted by: Tracy/Pete

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

- Salish Sea Stewards Classes begin- February 23 – June 1. The curriculum is close to being finalized. Deadline to register is February 16. Please help spread the word!!
- The Kids on the Beach program is all ready to go virtual this spring! Four different schools have signed up to participate.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Betsy Stevenson will continue to serve as MRC Chair for a second term. A new NWSC Rep and MRC Vice-Chair will likely be appointed at the February 11 MRC meeting.

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

- MRC Monthly Meeting- **January 14**
- MRC Pre-RFP Check-in Meeting- **January 15**
- Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Meeting- **January 20**
- 2021 NW Straits Foundation/MRC Lead Staff and Chairs Workshop- **January 21**
- Kelp Monitoring Workshop- **January 21**
- Next MRC Monthly Meeting- **February 11**, 9am-11:00am (GoToMeeting)
- Salish Sea Stewards Classes begin- **February 23 – June 1**, 1pm-3:30pm (Zoom, Tuesdays)

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 2021 Salish Sea Stewards training program will commence on Feb 23 – June 1, 2021. 10 virtual classes will be held Tuesdays from 1pm to 3:30pm with two speakers and 2 optional field sessions for small groups from 1pm -5pm. The 2021 SSS Training Program flyer and new Registration Form are posted on the MRC website: www.skagitmrc.org. We sent out flyers and press releases to 19 organizations, newsletters & newspapers with a goal to recruit and train at least 25 new SSS volunteers. Sara Brostrom, SSS Training Coordinator at Padilla Bay, is nearing completion of securing 20 Speakers for the 10 training sessions. MRC & SSS Advisory Committee member Lynne Wenberg has completed a Master SSS Volunteer List and is working on revamping *Volgistics*, an online system for reporting and tracking volunteer hours. We currently have a strong, hard-working, 11-person Advisory Committee that bring many talents to the group. The Committee recently met with the SSS Training Coordinator on December 10 and January 20 to continue planning the 2021 SSS program. In March, the Advisory Committee will focus on the first steps to developing Volunteer SSS Coordination to hopefully implement a future part-time SSS Coordinator. We look forward to keeping all of the Stewards informed, engaged & connected.

- Fidalgo Bay Day: The 2021 event date is tentatively set for Saturday, August 28 (11am-3pm). The Fidalgo Bay Resort facility has been reserved. A FBD Planning Committee meeting will likely be scheduled sometime in February to discuss the different possible scenarios, options, and alternatives depending on COVID-19 safety restrictions for public events. A decision will need to be made soon so that we can start planning and promoting the event.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: Lynne Wenberg-Davidson and Tracy Alker are the new co-lead stewards responsible for maintaining the plants at the site in 2021. Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group recently hired a new Restoration Technician who will provide guidance on properly maintaining the site and will provide a walk-through at the end of the season to assess how the plants are doing and make recommendations for future plantings and maintenance. Paul Dinnel shared recent photos he took at Bowman Bay a few days before and after the big storm/ king tide event in January. The shoreline and boat launch was inundated with large logs. Although the dune grass did a good job of protecting the shoreline, there were a few areas in between the dune grass and along the boat launch that experienced a lot of erosion. The picnic area was also flooded where the dune area was breached to the north of the parking lot. Several huge trees were uprooted and some snapped at the trunk.
- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Surveys will likely start up again at the three different kelp beds in June or July 2021. The kelp beds include: Shannon Point, Biz Point, and Coffin Rock. Brad Smith, one of the kelp survey leads, is interested in possibly adding the kelp bed at Hope Island as a new survey site. Claudia Ross-Kuhn, a Salish Sea Steward volunteer, reported seeing a large kelp bed along the Samish Island shoreline if the MRC is interested in surveying additional locations. She said there is a deep point at the tip of Point Williams just to the north of that kelp bed where there are usually a lot of salmon.
- Forage Fish Surveys: All forage fish survey sites continue to be surveyed as planned with small groups and all COVID-19 safety precautions. Spawning season is pretty much done until spring except in Fidalgo Bay where it is common for light spawning to continue into February. This is typically sand lance spawning season, but we have yet to find any sand lance eggs at any of our sites in Skagit County.
- Kids on the Beach: The Kids on the Beach program will likely be completely virtual this spring, but things could change. The two KOTB spring programs include a beach seine program geared toward Elementary students, and a forage fish program geared toward Middle School students. The KOTB program manager, Annie England, created three videos that will enhance the KOTB virtual field trip experience. These videos include a beach seine at Bayview State Park, a beach seine off of March's Point, and a video of forage fish volunteers taking samples at Fidalgo Bay. Teachers set to participate in the KOTB 2021 spring program include: Charlie Huddleston, Sedro Woolley 6th Grade; Ron Haywood, Conway 8th Grade; Sacha Buller, Concrete 7th and 8th Grades; and Jen Willup and Dean Dan, La Conner/Swinomish 9th Grade 'Between To Worlds' program. The 4 day virtual spring KOTB program will include: Day 1: Virtual intro to forage fish or beach seine. Day 2: Virtual field day via video, kids will collect data. Day 3: Virtual unpacking data and preparing for presentations. Day 4: Symposium. The symposium will hopefully include different schools connecting virtually, but it might not be possible for all schools.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Hatchery work is going on right now to raise the juvenile abalone for outplanting. Field work, including monitoring and outplanting of 2,000 juvenile abalone will begin in February or March 2021 when there is minimal algae cover at the site.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Not much happening right now. Routine field work will start up again in April or May.

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: December 2020

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman

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

- Susan Tarpley and Bob Hillmann have both completed 9 years on the MRC and are “termining out” as Members of the MRC. Sarah Brown has chosen not to renew her next term on the MRC and is leaving the MRC after 6 years of service.
- Elisa Dawson, Alex Pittman, Mike Ehlebracht, and Tom Doerge interviewed for new MRC Members on December 29.
- The new interpretive signage for Howarth Park has been installed.

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

Susan Tarpley and Bob Hillmann have both completed 9 years on the MRC and are “termining out” as Members of the MRC. Sarah Brown has chosen not to renew her next term on the MRC and is leaving the MRC after 6 years of service.

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

- The MRC Pilings Subcommittee met to discuss focus areas for Phase 2 on December 3.
- MRC Members and staff attended NW Straits 101 on December 15.
- Snohomish County MRC Port Susan Subcommittee Members and Island County MRC Members, along with MRC Staff, met on December 15 to continue discussions on Port Susan planning for MRC Grant 2021-2022.
- The MRC held its Annual Holiday Gathering on December 16.
- Elisa Dawson and Mike Sadler attended the Oil Spill Response Webinar on December 16.
- Forage Fish sampling occurred on December 22.
- Elisa Dawson, Alex Pittman, Mike Ehlebracht, and Tom Doerge interviewed for new MRC Members on December 29.

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 has started Phase 2 and has hired ESA consultants to assist with Phase 2 of the MRC Pilings Grant. The team is brainstorming areas to focus on for Phase 2 and conducting reconnaissance. The focus areas for Phase 2 will be finalized at the next subcommittee meeting with the consultant on January 5.

Nearshore Beach Restoration at Howarth Park and Everett Nearshore Project (Opportunity Fund Project): Bob Hillmann has installed the new signs at Howarth Park.

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

Derelict Vessels: The MRC completed removal of 4 derelict boats for a cost of about \$40,000. The MRC is now working with DNR to get 90% reimbursement for the costs.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area: There was a Snohomish County-Island County Port Susan joint subcommittee meeting on December 15. The group continues to discuss the scope of work for the MRC grant for 2021-2022, which will focus on Port Susan.

Meadowdale: The MRC assisted with writing the Utilities Transportation Commission grant to help Logan, the project manager. The Utilities Transportation Commission administers the Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) to provide grants to railroad companies, local governments, and other agencies that propose to make safety improvements at a railroad crossing or along a railroad right-of-way. Funding is also available for safety improvements at passive (no lights and gates) public railroad crossings and for implementing other safety projects. The team is applying for the full \$20,000 available.

Forage Fish: forage fish samples will be taken at Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park once per month.

Oil Spill: The subcommittee attended the Habitat Strategic Initiative Grant Program Webinar: Pilot Program – “Oil Spill Awareness and Response Support” Training on December 16.

Howarth Park: The new interpretive signage for Howarth Park has been installed.

No current updates for

- MRC Outreach Subcommittee
- Kelp Project
- Mussel Watch
- Crabber Education
- MyCoast

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:

- Pilings Subcommittee Meeting January 5
- MRC Meeting January 20
- Forage Fish sampling January 19 and 20
- NWSC kelp season review January 21
- Forage Fish sampling February 16 and 17

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



Snohomish MRC volunteers processing forage fish samples. L-R Traci Sanderson, Ariana Winkler, and Kip Killebrew. Photo Credit: Elisa Dawson

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: January 2021

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman

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

- The MRC has nominated three new members to Snohomish County Council. We are currently waiting formal appointment by the council (expected in February 2021).
- The Meadowdale Restoration Project has secured all \$15 million funds needed and is expected to go to bid within the month. Half of the funds come from grants, the other half with come from an approved councilmanic bond approved by Snohomish County Council.

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

The MRC has nominated three new members to Snohomish County Council. We are currently waiting formal appointment by the council (expected in February 2021). The recommended members are:

1. Brienne Townsend

- Marine Science & IB Marine Biology teacher at Edmonds-Woodway High School
2. Andrew Gobin
Environmental scientist for the Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip Tribes Member
 3. Michael Kundu
Retired Government Affairs with FEMA, Director for Project SeaWolf Coastal Protection

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

- The MRC Pilings Subcommittee met to finalize focus areas for Phase 2 on January 5.
- Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman attended the training “Adaptive Management Workshop 1 - How to Successfully Protect Critical Areas and Shorelines: A Step-by-Step Introduction to Monitoring and Adaptive Management” on January 13
- Tom Doerge attended the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area Info Session on January 19.
- Forage fish sampling at Meadowdale and Picnic Point occurred on January 19.
- Forage fish sampling at Howarth Park occurred on January 20.
- Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman met with WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers Coordinator Jonathan Robinson on January 20 to discuss holding a virtual starlight beach walk in February.
- Elisa Dawson, Alex Pittman, and Mike Ehlebracht attended the 2021 NW Straits Foundation/MRC Lead Staff and Chairs workshop on January 21.
- Elisa Dawson, Alex Pittman, Tom Doerge, Tim Ellis, and Julie Schlenger attended the NWSC 2020 kelp season review on January 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):

MRC Grant 2019-2020 Task 2: The MRC has started Phase 2 and has hired ESA consultants to assist with this project. The focus areas for Phase 2 were finalized at the subcommittee meeting with the consultant on January 5. See map on last page.

Derelict Vessels (NWSF funds): Snohomish County and the NWSF are in the process of finalizing a contract for funding Snohomish County for \$45,000 towards derelict vessel removal. The funds come from a private donor from Everett, who donated to the NWSF specifically for this project. The funds will be used to remove vessels in late summer 2021.

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

Nearshore Beach Restoration at Howarth Park and Everett Nearshore Project: No updates.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area: The team is currently researching opportunities to work with college students in preparation for the 2021-2022 grant application. One possibility is working with UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab <https://evans.uw.edu/employers-partners/student-consulting-lab/>

Meadowdale: The Meadowdale Restoration Project has secured all \$15 million funds needed and is expected to go to bid within the month. Half of the funds come from grants, the other half will come from an approved councilmanic bond approved by Snohomish County Council.

Forage Fish: forage fish samples continue to be taken at Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park once per month.

Oil Spill: No updates.

Marine Vegetation: Snohomish County funded a marine vegetation survey of the Snohomish Estuary completed by DNR in 2020 and the report was just finalized. DNR will present at the February 17 MRC meeting on this topic, and the MRC will brainstorm future areas to complete marine vegetation surveys. Elisa Dawson, Alex Pittman, Tom Doerge, Tim Ellis, and Julie Schlenger attended the NWSC 2020 kelp season review on January 21.

No current updates for

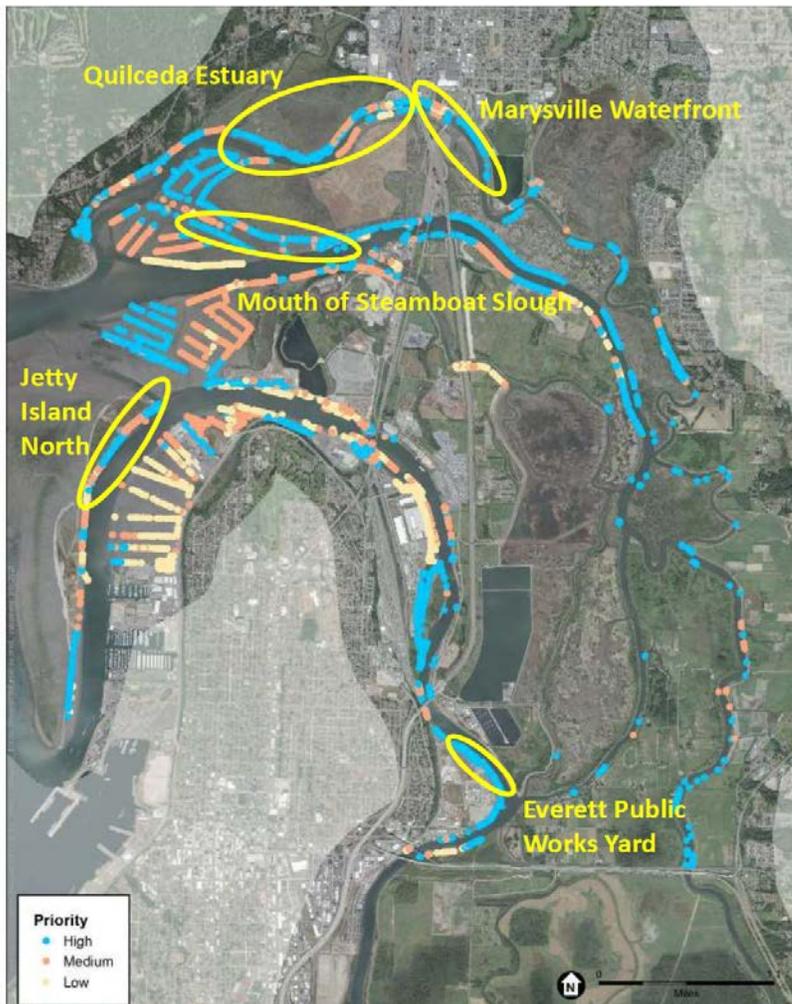
- MRC Outreach Subcommittee
- Mussel Watch
- Crabber Education

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 sampling February 16 and 17
- MRC Meeting February 17

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



Map of 5 focus areas for the MRC Pilings Project Phase 2



MRC forage fish sampling at Howarth Park. L-R Kip Killebrew, Elisa Dawson, Ariana Winkler. Photo: Alex Pittman

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: December 2020 and January 2021

Submitted by: Austin Rose

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

- It is anticipated that four new members will be appointed to the MRC by the Whatcom County Council on January 26. Elizabeth Kilanowski, Pete Granger, and Ryan McLaughlin have all departed the MRC.

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

- As of December 31, 2020 the MRC had four vacancies on the committee (one Scientific, one Economic, and two Conservation/Environmental interest positions). Applications were due to the Whatcom County Executive on January 4. After reviewing applications, the MRC Executive Committee wrote a recommendation to appoint qualified applicants to fill the positions. It is anticipated that four new members will be appointed to the MRC by the Whatcom County Council on January 26.

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

- The MRC held their general meetings on December 3 and January 7.
- At the January meeting, the MRC hosted Liz Schotman, WA Surfrider Foundation, and Lee First, Twin Harbor Waterkeeper, who discussed sea bed mining and the potential impact to coastal communities who depend on these valuable yet vulnerable waters.
- The North Sound Stewards hosted a virtual event on Jan 13 (5:00pm-6:30pm) to wrap up the 2020 season and kick off the 2021 program. The event included presentations on MRC and ReSources projects, including highlights from 2020. 73 people have registered for the 2021 program. The MRC intern will be working with Re Sources staff on developing a virtual tour of Cherry Point, and a new iNaturalist project, to keep NSS volunteers initially engaged in light of the current COVID restrictions.
- The MRC will hold the virtual retreat on February 25 and March 4. This retreat will include project development discussion for the 2021-2023 grant round. Most importantly, the retreat will focus on building relationships across MRC membership; ensure that new board members have an opportunity to learn about and get engaged with MRC projects and programs.
- MRC staff scheduled two meetings to help build the Olympia oyster restoration project and begin gathering input for a rain garden project in Whatcom County.

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):

- Eleanor prepared a small video for the North Sound Stewards, highlighting the 2020 year. This video will be useful for showing MRC accomplishments to County Council in addition to MRC members and volunteers. The video is posted on the MRC homepage.

- The Public Speakers Series Committee plan to send out a survey in mid-January to the community through the WWIN and MRC mailing list to gain input on speaker series topics of interest, format for presentations, and time of day/week preferences.
- Chuckanut sampling is continuing as normal. Bacteria results remain low.
- Forage fish sampling is continuing as normal. The MRC intern is assisting DNR with getting samples in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve as staff have limited capacity to grab samples at this time. In addition, the MRC intern is scoping areas in Birch Bay for a potential new MRC sample site.

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

MRC Staff attended the virtual WA Marine Debris Action Plan update meeting. MRC Staff focused on the Education and Outreach workgroup. MRC's are listed as entities that could help with targeted outreach on marine debris to marinas, yacht clubs, boaters, and ports. There was also discussion on work with students and a marine debris portal for students to log their beach cleanup data and contribute to a larger data set.

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