



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Date: June 25, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

To join the Zoom meeting, [click here](#). Meeting ID: 894 9883 3149
For audio conference, dial: 253 215 8782

Passcode: 771806

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and introductions Approval of May minutes Review of NWS Commission History	Elsa Schwartz, Chair Tom Cowan, Vice Chair
10:10 – 10:25	Ecology Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program introduction	Joenne McGerr, SEA Program Manager
10:25 – 11:10	MRC Presentations Jefferson MRC – Voluntary No-Anchor Zones and ROV Skagit MRC – Kids on the Beach Whatcom MRC – Using a beach seine to observe migrating juvenile salmon in an intertidal corridor	Monica Montgomery, Troy McKelvey, Gordon King, Jeff Taylor Jude Apple, Skagit MRC Mike McKay, Whatcom MRC
11:10 – 11:25	Committee reports Executive Committee External Relations Committee Science Advisory Committee	
11:25 – 11:40	Business items Staffing update (Lucas) In-person meetings (Lucas) Retreat planning (Lucas) Pew kelp project (Dana) Shoreline Master Program workgroup (Dana) Green crab update (Allie)	
11:40 – 11:45	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission/ Tribal update	Cecilia Gobin, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission



agenda

11:45 – 11:50	Puget Sound Partnership update	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
11:50 – 11:55	Public comment	All
11:55 – 12:00	MRC Updates and Action Items Identify key points and action items to report back to MRCs.	All

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



Minutes

May 28, 2021 • 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), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Diane Hennebert (Skagit), Tim Ellis (Snohomish), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Nan McKay, Chris Castner, Jenn Grimm (Puget Sound Partnership-alternate), Tom Cowan, Julia Parrish, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal)

Commission Staff: Lucas Hart, Allie Simpson, Dana Oster, Sasha Horst, Jonathan Hallenbeck

Others in Attendance: Don Hunger (NW Straits Foundation), Frances Robertson (San Juan MRC), Elisa Dawson (Snohomish MRC), Alex Pittman (Snohomish MRC), Sara Maxwell (Snohomish MRC), Anna Toledo (Island MRC), Monica Montgomery (Jefferson MRC), Andrew Gobin (Snohomish MRC)

Absent: Laura Blackmore, Pete Haase (Skagit), Christina Koons (San Juan)

Welcome and Introductions

Elsa opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the [minutes](#) from the April Northwest Straits Commission as amended by consensus.

MRC Presentations

Three MRCs each shared a project that will be included in their proposal to the Northwest Straits Commission. The remaining four will present at the June 25 meeting. The presentations can be viewed [here](#).

- Island MRC – Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Report Card Update. Presented by Scott Chase. This project is a shared effort with Snohomish MRC. Island MRC will be focused on reviewing new science relevant to Conservation Action Plan Conservation Targets and Strategies.
- Snohomish MRC – Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Report Card Update. Presented by Sara Maxwell. As noted above, this is a joint effort with Island MRC. Snohomish MRC will focus on stakeholder engagement and input on objectives and strategic actions.
- San Juan MRC – Eelgrass protection and derelict vessel prevention. Presented by Frances Robertson. The MRC's goal is to reduce the number of derelict vessels in the county and raise awareness of this long-running challenge. The MRC will also maintain voluntary anchor out protection zone at Odlin County Park and determine effectiveness by monitoring vessel compliance.



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Business items

Staffing update – Lucas reported that interviewing is in progress for the Communications and Outreach Specialist position and we hope to have someone starting July 1. A second field technician position is anticipated to be posted soon.

Kelp update – Dana is working to form an advisory team for workshops as part of the scope of work for the Pew-funded project. The kelp monitoring season kickoff meeting was held in May, with over 50 participants attending, including many volunteers, new recruits, and project partners. Also for the meeting, Puget Sound Restoration Fund staff joined to talk about their [Kelp Highway](#) expedition this summer.

Green crab update – Allie reported that they continue to focus on trapping and removal of crabs in Drayton Harbor in Blaine. Trapping has been going on for just over a month, and they have caught 36 so far. She also noted that a recent article about green crab resulted in new shoreline property owners granting access for trapping. Commission staff will also be working with Sea Grant and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife on a grid survey, which will systematically go over the entire area in Drayton Harbor.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – There was no meeting of the Executive Committee this month.

External Relations Committee – Tom reported that the committee is focused exclusively on reauthorization of the Northwest Straits Initiative and is now meeting weekly. Tom thanked the MRCs and other organizations for providing letters of support.

Science Advisory Committee – Julia noted that the committee is deep in planning how they can best assist MRCs in achieving their project goals, and thinking about the MRC conference.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) update

Cecilia noted that recent efforts focused on securing a letter from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in support of the Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization. She also noted that she connected with Dana on the eelgrass and kelp projects, making sure that there are tribal connections and engagement in those.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

Jenn Grimm reported that there is now an opportunity to provide input on the draft strategies for the [Action Agenda](#), and that the Puget Sound Partnership is finalizing the workplan for their next agreement with US EPA, which will begin in the fall.

Jenn also followed up on a question from the April Commission meeting, noting that the Partnership received state funding in the 2021-23 biennium for: environmental justice and an equity task force;



Minutes

funding to support and maintain Puget Sound Info; some funding for kelp conservation; and one-time funding for the [Quiet Sound](#) program.

Northwest Straits Foundation Update

From the written updates in the [pre-meeting materials](#), Don Hunger highlighted a few items, including a link to the Foundation's new [Shore Friendly video](#), the promotion of the Catch more Crab campaign on Washington State ferries, the Foundation's [Passport to Marine Adventure](#), and their [2020 highlights](#).

MRC Updates

MRCs provided full written reports that are available in the [pre-meeting materials](#). Highlights are included below:

Clallam – Alan Clark

- The newly hired MRC Coordinator, Rebecca Paradis, will begin working on June 1.
- 2021 Interns have been selected for the three positions. Vita Olson will work on the Tumwater smolt trap project; McKenzie Ginther will work on the education/outreach project, and a third intern will work on the green crab removal project.
- Elected Tim Cochnauer as chair, and Alan Clark will serve as vice-chair.
- Pigeon guillemot surveys will begin June 1.

Island – Elsa Schwartz

- **Eelgrass Story Map:** The MRC has published a [Story Map](#) on the eelgrass monitoring project! This Story Map covers what eelgrass is and its role in our ecosystem, the research of community science volunteers, the IC MRC, and ways that viewers can help protect this critical habitat.
- **Forage fish presentation:** Ann and Anna provided a presentation on the forage fish monitoring program to the 2021 class of 47 Sound Water Stewards. The participants were engaged and interested in the project and asked great questions.
- **Departing member:** Randy Berthold is stepping down from the MRC to tend to other life obligations. Randy has served on the MRC since 2019, and during that time has assisted with the bull kelp monitoring project, outreach work, and has served on the Executive Committee. He has always provided a calm, steady voice on the committee, helping us stay focused and grounded in scientific rigor. We thank Randy for his service and contributions to the MRC!!

Jefferson – Jeff Taylor

- Rain garden work completed (or near completion) at Chetzemoka Park (maintenance), Maritime Center (rehabilitation), and Quilcene School (new installation). A Maritime Center partner will be presenting about this collaboration at the next MRC monthly meeting.
- The No-Anchor Zones team will be swapping out the Port Townsend floats with buoys on May 23.



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San Juan – Frances Robertson

- San Juan County held an official opening for the Orcas Landing Marine Interpretive Outlook, the MRC was instrumental in the process and production of interpretive material.
- The County and MRC hosted stakeholder engagement sessions regarding efforts to identify protection efforts for Southern Resident killer whales off the westside of San Juan Island.

Skagit – Diane Hennebert

- 39 new volunteers are expected to complete the Salish Sea Stewards training program on June 1.
- 196 students from three different schools, 6th- 8th grades, participated in the hybrid Kids on the Beach Program this spring.
- Skagit MRC member Paul Dinnel, is working with Padilla Bay NERR research staff to expand native oyster restoration to the channels in the southern end of Padilla Bay.

Snohomish – Tim Ellis

- The MRC is finalizing their MRC Grant for 2021-2022. The project work focuses on working with Island County MRC to update the Port Susan Report Card.
- Snohomish County plans to remove three derelict vessels in 2021 for an approximate cost of \$90,000. Posting the vessels will happen this summer, with targeting removal by a contractor in early September. This work will be reimbursed 90% by DNR.
- Mike Sadler has resigned from the MRC because he has been accepted into a Ph.D program at the University of Washington.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile

- The MRC will soon have a vacancy for a Conservation-Environmental seat as Rachel Arnold will be resigning due to new employment out of state.
- It is anticipated that the MRC will provide input on the development of Whatcom County Climate Action Plan, which is currently being drafted by the Whatcom County Climate Impact Advisory Committee. In addition, the MRC will be providing a letter to the City of Bellingham concerning proposed development near the North Chuckanut Bay tidelands.
- Eleanor Hines and MRC Staff (Austin) were interviewed by Annika Fain on her podcast NWFish Passage. The interview is [now LIVE](#) on Spotify and Apple podcasts.

Meeting highlights and action steps for MRCs

The Commission generated a list of key highlights that staff will compile to send to MRC representatives to share with their MRCs. Highlights are compiled on a separate document and sent directly to MRC staff and representatives. Highlights included:

- State of the Salish Sea report
- New video from the Foundation
- Port Susan presentations – provide access to all the presentations.



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Round table

Don mentioned that the Northwest Straits Foundation will be starting their board recruitment process and encouraged people to forward any suggestions for people to join the board.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next regular Commission meeting will be on Friday, June 25 via Zoom.*

Northwest Straits Commission Tribal Acknowledgement

The NWS Commission Tribal Acknowledgement was created through a process that included the following steps:

- NWS Commission staff contacted MRC tribal representatives. These individuals were invited to participate on a committee to draft the acknowledgment. They were also welcomed to extend the invitation to other tribal leaders and representatives.
- Cecilia Gobin, Natasha Coumou, Patti Gobin, Allie Simpson (NWSC Staff) and Lucas Hart (NWSC Staff) comprised the committee. During the first meeting, existing tribal acknowledgements from other organizations were reviewed and a draft acknowledgement was written by the committee using example acknowledgements and new input from committee members.
- The draft acknowledgement was sent directly to tribal councils and/or cultural resource committees to collect edits and comments.
- Edits from tribes were incorporated over the course of several months. The tribal acknowledgement committee communicated by email and held virtual meetings to discuss edits and share contact information for those who may be able to provide additional acknowledgement reviews.
- Tribes that provided feedback included Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Makah, Swinomish, Samish, and Tulalip.
- The acknowledgement may be edited in the future in order to incorporate ongoing thoughts and edits from tribes.

Tribal Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge the lands we’re on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

Northwest Straits Commission MRC Project Funding Policy **DRAFT**

Background

The NWS Commission secures funding to address the environmental goals identified in the Northwest Straits Initiative's [strategic plan](#). Funders provide financial resources to the NWSC in order to support MRC priorities and to allow the NWSC to integrate those priorities into regional initiatives. Funding may come from a variety of sources, primarily federal and state, and are obtained specifically for the purpose of supporting the operations and projects of the Commission and MRCs. Funds are distributed to the MRCs equally as periodic (annual or biennial) grants to each county.

Many valued partners and organizations also carry out projects that benefit the Salish Sea. The NWS Commission and MRCs frequently collaborate with these partners toward common goals. This policy is not intended to prevent projects that result in mutual benefits to project partners. It is meant to 1) assure funds are used to advance MRC-led priorities, 2) allow us to effectively message and integrate MRC impacts and work throughout the Northwest Straits and Puget Sound region, 3) prevent the perception that MRCs are funding entities, which is outside the intended purpose of MRC funds, and 4) prevent the "pass-through" of funds that primarily advance the work of other organizations.

Definitions:

An MRC-led project is a project that has pre-determined goals, measurable results and meets each of the following criteria. These criteria also apply to situations where an MRC is considering taking the lead on a smaller piece of a larger project with partners:

- The project fills a need or gap identified by the MRC, and/or the MRC would pursue the project independent of any project partners.
- The project has been adopted by the full MRC through a majority vote or other mechanism outlined by the MRCs bylaws.
- The project has a clear outcome and project deliverable that can be solely attributed to the MRC.
- A member of the MRC or MRC subcommittee serves as the lead for the project.
 - An MRC lead is a member or a subcommittee that serves as the primary point of contact and organizer/manager of a project. They may also implement the project directly. They assure the project stays on track, assure deliverables attributed to the MRC are achieved, and bring regular updates to the MRC.

Policy

Funding secured and distributed by the Commission to MRCs may only be used for *MRC projects* as defined above. Projects that do not meet *MRC project* criteria are considered pass-through funding.

If a sub-contract is necessary to carry out the project, the sub-contractor must be working under the direction of the MRC or an identified MRC project lead or subcommittee. In some cases, sub-contractors may be project partners that are also contributing funds to the overall project, but the scope of the sub-contract must be directed by the MRC.

Examples:

Examples may apply to both projects and programs, but the term project is used throughout for simplicity.

Examples of projects that do not qualify for NWS Commission funding:

- One MRC member serves as a lead or partner on a project but the full MRC has not formally adopted the project as an MRC effort.
- A proposal is made to support communications (such as signage, brochures, advertising, etc.) related to another organization's project where the MRC is not a project lead or a lead on a project component, as described in the definitions section in this policy.
- A project is proposed by another organization where the MRC would serve as a partner, but the MRC itself does not have a mutual interest in the results. Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.
- A project that does not have an MRC member leading the project as described in the definitions section of this policy.
- The MRC is proposing to be a partner on a large-scale project where there is no distinct role (phase or project component) for the MRC. In other words, there are no outcomes or deliverables that can be solely attributed to the MRC.
- A project is proposed where the MRC's contribution is not essential to the completion of the project or project component. Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.

Examples of projects that do qualify for NWS Commission funding assuming all criteria under the definitions section are met:

- Another entity develops a project and the MRC joins as a partner, where the MRC has a mutual interest in the project results.
- The MRC is a partner on a large-scale or ongoing project, where the MRC has a distinct role (phase or component) and a mutual interest in the results.
- The MRC formally adopts the project and one member serves as champion/lead, and maintains ongoing communication with the full MRC about the project.
- The MRC collaborates with another partner (or partners) to develop and carry out a project. The partner organization serves as administrative lead, while the MRC maintains a key role in managing the project.
- The MRC carries out a distinct phase of a project independently (e.g. feasibility assessments), while another entity completes other phases (e.g. construction).
- An MRC and partners carry out shared communications for a mutual project.



Commission staff highlights- [June 2021]

MRC Support

MRC Grants:

2021-23: MRCs submitted their 2021-23 grant proposals and an initial round of reviews is complete. Next steps include coordination with the Science Advisory Committee and with MRC staff and project leads to refine and finalize projects.

2019-21: MRCs are wrapping up the April-June quarter, which brings the end of the state biennium and the expiration of any unspent state funds in their grant agreements.

Regional Projects

Eelgrass: Dana presented the voluntary no-anchor zone expansion project plan to the Nearshore PSEMP workgroup and solicited input on monitoring strategies. The monthly transboundary workgroup also discussed shared monitoring strategies.

Kelp: MRC bull kelp monitoring kicks off this month with multiple sites being surveyed. Volunteers are following the safety steps and sending in volunteer agreements with the NWSF. Lucas and Dana had a meeting with Jennifer Hennessey, from the Governor's office, to discuss the various kelp projects being led by the Commission, she requested occasional project briefings to be kept up to date on progress. Sasha and Dana are working with several partners on developing contracts using the 2021-23 state funding designated for kelp.

Green Crab: Four green crabs were found in Squalicum Harbor, Bellingham marking the first instance of live green crabs have been found in Bellingham Bay. In Drayton Harbor, 41 green crabs have been captured since April. Commission staff is working with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife on an interagency agreement for green crab funding from the 2021-23 state budget for the Commission.

Operations

Staffing update: Our second Veterans Conservation Corps intern, Antonio Jones, started on June 16. He will be joining Jonathan to work on invasive green crab trapping in Whatcom County. A new Communications and Outreach Specialist is scheduled to start on July 1. Another position is currently posted for an [Ecosystem Project Assistant](#), closing on June 25.

COVID-19 update: The Department of Ecology is working on creating re-opening plans, and Northwest Straits staff is participating in creating a Padilla Bay specific plan.

Base funding: Commission staff is working with Puget Sound Partnership staff to develop the next funding agreement for FY22-23 EPA funding.

Meetings attended:

Lucas attended: Green crab planning meetings 6/2, 6/7; Kelp briefing with Jennifer Hennessey 6/9; Rep. Kilmer staff meeting 6/9; MRC SMP intro meeting 6/10; Kelp management advisory team meeting 6/11; External Relations Committee 6/16; Retreat planning meeting 6/16; Ecology all staff 6/17; Green crab planning meeting 6/21; Clallam MRC grant meeting 6/22; Ecology covid re-entry meeting 6/24

Dana attended: Island MRC meeting 6/1, presented at the Nearshore PSEMP 6/2, Whatcom MRC meeting 6/3, Kelp Expedition Advisory meeting 6/4, Salish Sea Eelgrass Protection Workgroup 6/8, Island and Snohomish MRC Port Susan MSA planning 6/9, Kelp Project briefing with Jennifer Hennessey 6/8, MRC SMP workgroup 6/10, Snohomish MRC and Snohomish SWM check in 6/11, Kelp management advisory team 6/11, and NOAA's Planning effective projects for coastal communities training 6/15-6/17.

Allie attended: Island MRC meeting 6/1, Whatcom MRC meeting 6/3, Salish Sea Eelgrass Protection Workgroup 6/8, Drayton Harbor Green crab mailer planning 6/9, and NOAA's Planning effective projects for coastal communities training 6/15-6/17.

Sasha attended: Snohomish MRC and Snohomish SWM check in 6/11, retreat planning meeting 6/16

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Clallam

Month/Year: June 2021

Submitted by: Cathy Lear

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

- Internships are all up and going.
- Pigeon Guillemot monitoring was started week of June 7th.
- Rebecca Paradis was hired as new CMRC Coordinator.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): In May Tim Cochnauer was elected Chair, and Alan Clark was elected Vice-Chair as well as re-elected to be the NWSC Representative.

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

Monthly MRC Meeting: will be held June 21.

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

CMRC proposal for NWSC funding was submitted.

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

Members and staff of the MRC, and EGC mentor Adrienne Akmajian, marine biologist for the Makah Tribe chose an intern for European Green Crab monitoring.

Three interns have been hired and are up and going. Vita Olsen will be working on Tumwater smolt trap/juvenile fish and is being mentored by Tim Cochnauer. MaKenzie Ginther will be working on the coasters that were outlined in our CMRC educational and outreach plan. McKenzie is being mentored by Ann Soule. Laila is in Neah Bay working on the European Green Crab monitoring with Adrienne Akmajian mentoring.

Forage Fish sampling is going well. The MRC purchased a microscope to identify eggs, and to be used with other projects.

Pigeon Guillemot surveys started the week of June 7th and are now in the 2nd week of the 10 week monitoring period. We have about 30 volunteers covering the various sites as primary monitors or substitutes. The sign at Port Williams to educate the public about the Guillemots, has been installed.

Oil spill preparedness and response efforts continue as MRC member Ann Stafford looks into the feasibility of re-starting oiled wildlife and other training.

The Olympia oyster project has conducted several successful population and heat map surveys.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Island

Month/Year: June 2021

Submitted by: Ann Prusha

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

- **Anna Toledo's Parental Leave:** Anna has gone on maternity leave, and Ann Prusha will be taking on several of her duties while she is away.
- **Cornet Bay Stewardship:** Gwendolyn Hannam and Ann Prusha are going to be watering and weeding bi-weekly throughout the summer months. Anna, Gwendolyn, and Ann visited this site to strategize a watering and maintenance plan for this summer.
- **Bull Kelp:** The monitoring season is starting. Volunteers will be receiving Island County's HR training.
- **Microplastics:** Lyda Harris, Microplastics Fellow at the Seattle Aquarium gave a presentation about their microplastics program and potential ways that Island MRC can be involved. Jill Lipoti has been researching microplastics, and will be presenting at the July MRC meeting.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): Anna Toledo is on maternity leave. Ann Prusha is the temporary point of contact, and will be taking on several of Anna's duties until she comes back.

Jill Lipoti is now serving on the Executive Committee.

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

Past Meetings/Events:

- June 1: MRC meeting. Topics: Microplastics, voluntary no-anchor zones, needs assessment

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- July 6: MRC meeting. Topics: Microplastics

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments): The Northwest Straits Commission may be able to provide an additional \$8,000 to MRCs this upcoming grant year.

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

Monitoring – Forage Fish: Ann, Ken Collins, and a couple of volunteers met up with Jason Morgan at Hoypus Point and Cornet Bay to receive an overview of sampling at these sites. Monitoring activities are continuing. Ann is continuing to train teams on the iForms app for data collection. The Hidden Beach team is recruiting for more volunteers.

Monitoring – Kelp: The monitoring season is starting. Members who have not already had it will be receiving Island County's Human Resources training.

Outreach – Needs Assessment: Barb and Andi have analyzed the results of the needs assessment interviews. They are working on creating a document to summarize these findings. The MRC is having regular discussions to ensure that this is a living document that will be used to drive decision-making efforts.

Restoration – Hoypus Point (partnership with NWSF): The 90% design has been completed. The project team met with the Multi-Agency Review Team (MART) – a group of representatives from regulatory agencies – to discuss the permitting needs of this project, with the goal to facilitate the permitting process as a restoration project.

Restoration – Cornet Bay Stewardship: Gwendolyn Hannam and Ann Prusha are going to be watering and weeding bi-weekly throughout the summer months. Anna, Gwendolyn, and Ann visited this site to strategize a watering and maintenance plan for this summer.

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.):

- Lori Clark, Island County DNR's manager, has stepped down. Jennifer Johnson, Island County DNR's new manager, will be starting on June 21.

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

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: June 2021

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

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

- The MRC gave its annual update presentation to the BoCC on June 14th.
- The MRC sent its dive safety manual to the County attorney in late May for review and recommendation for BoCC adoption.
- NWSF Shore Friendly conducted 12 site visits with shoreline landowners in Jefferson County in May. We have three additional sites/stretches of shoreline anticipating site visits and will continue promoting them throughout the summer.

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

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

Past Events/Meetings

May 23 – 3 MRC members swapped out 5 PT winter floats with summer buoys
May 24 – Shoreline landowner outreach meeting (Coordinator, 5 MRC Members)
May 25 – Forage fish sampling at Dabob (Coordinator, 1 MRC Member, 2 Community Volunteers)
May 28 – NWSC meeting
June 1 – MRC monthly meeting
June 8 – Salish Sea No-Anchor Zones meeting
June 14 – MRC annual report presentation to the BoCC
June 18 – Crabber outreach meeting (4 MRC Members)

Upcoming Events/Meetings

June 22 – First kelp survey of the season
June 25 – NWSC meeting, MRC presentation to the Commission
June 26 – Oly oyster monitoring at Powerlines site, Discovery Bay
July 6 – No MRC meeting; meetings will resume on August 3
July 16/17 – Second kelp survey, plus hosting the Kelp Expedition in Jefferson
July 20 – Executive Committee meeting
July – Second kelp survey
July – Shell placement (3 cu. ft.) at Powerlines site, Discovery Bay
July – Forage fish sampling at Dabob Bay & Adelma Beach
Late July – Second rain garden installation, in Uptown PT

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.
- b. **Forage fish - Adelma Beach (Index):** The project lead monitored on June 1st.
- c. **Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index):** The project lead, MRC Coordinator and two community volunteers will monitor on June 28th.
- d. **Kelp:** Two MRC members and one resigned MRC member are planning to have the first survey of the season on June 22nd.

2. Rain Gardens:

- a. Maritime Center – Chrissy McLean, Associate Program Manager with the NW Maritime Center, and one high school student shared their perspective on the rain garden collaboration with the MRC at the June meeting. The Maritime Center did [a write-up](#) about the rain garden rehabilitation project on their blog. They also sent a nice “thank you” note – see below.
- b. The subcommittee will be focusing on the second new rain garden for this year, to be installed at the corner of Franklin and Adams Streets in Uptown PT in late July.

3. Education & Outreach:

- a. In addition to the ads reported last month, the MRC placed another boater targeted eelgrass protection ad in The Leader’s summer activities guide in June.
- b. The project lead is working on final feedback on the MRC roll-up banner and a new water quality ad focused on plastics.
- c. MRC members working on crabber outreach met on June 18th to put together packets (including info sheets, “Catch More Crab!” rack card, WDFW brochure, crab gauge and cotton escape cord). They also assessed a list of distribution sites, and divided up responsibilities for distributing posters, rack cards and packets ahead of the NWSF-WDFW virtual crabbing workshop on June 30th.

4. Olympia Oysters:

- a. The MRC is organizing an Olympia oyster monitoring day at the Powerlines site on June 26th.
- b. The project lead is planning an eelgrass/macroalgae survey for the permits.
- c. The MRC Coordinator is continuing to work on updating permits and has hired a local consulting cooperative to help create GIS maps for the permits.
- d. The subcommittee is also organizing another workday to spread 3 cubic feet of clean shell at the Powerlines site, perhaps in July.

5. Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:

- a. On May 23rd, three MRC Members swapped the winter floats with summer buoys along the PT waterfront. Only five of the floats were accessible by boat due to extensive kelp growth, so divers will need to get in the water this summer to address any underwater hardware issues and swap out the remaining floats. The dive safety manual was sent to the County attorney in May. We are hoping to have it adopted this summer and in time to have divers work at the Port Townsend and Mystery Bay sites.
- b. The subcommittee is reassessing the current buoy system design, to reduce the amount of metal and loss of buoys.
- c. The project lead attended the monthly transboundary meeting.
- d. One MRC member continues to monitor and share photos of the PT buoys (14 monitoring days to date since April).

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 Actions: The MRC Executive Committee forwarded a letter for BoCC signature, in support of a USFWS grant the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe is applying for to fund a project focused on quantifying existing marine macroalgal habitat resources and building a regional kelp seed bank. The MRC also gave its annual update presentation to the BoCC on June 14th.

Shoreline Landowner Outreach (NWSF project): The MRC Coordinator and project lead met with Lisa (NWSF) and Andrea (Herrera Environmental) on May 24th to debrief on the 12+ site visits conducted in Jefferson in May, discuss additional site visits and promotional needs for the rest of summer, and decide on postponing a native vegetation workshop to the fall.

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

Thank you message from the NW Maritime Center’s Bravo Team students who helped with the Maritime Center rain garden rehabilitation efforts this year:

Thank You for Supporting the raingarden project!






Bravo Team students after our final work day applying the mulch.




And on our first day removing the sod...what a big difference!

Bravo Team consists of middle and high school students from Port Townsend School District’s OCEAN alternative learning program who attend a weekly class at Northwest Maritime Center.

Each year, the class initiates an environmental service project to address the health of our Salish Sea. This year, we chose to focus on climate change and positive human impacts.



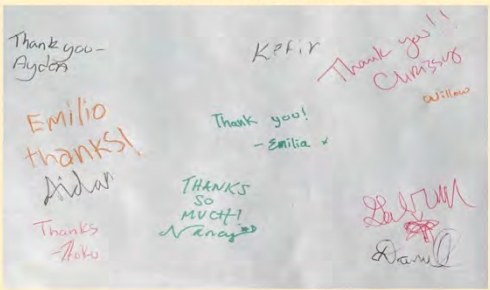
Studying the established rain garden at Point Hudson.



We took two truckloads of sod to the composting facility!

The raingarden benefits the health of the Salish Sea because it cleans water so that it doesn’t pollute the ocean. It was fun to do and nice to work together. Even though it is one small step, many steps can make a big difference.

We appreciate your support!



MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: June 2021

Submitted by: Frances Robertson & Sam Whitridge

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

- The MRC hosted Killer Whale Tales in the Friday Harbor and Orcas Island Elementary Schools to kick off Orca Action month.
- Eelgrass habitat protection zone vessel presence and compliance monitoring began.

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

- MRC member Cathleen Burns is stepping down from the MRC and will not be renewing her term.
- Carl Davis, Karin Roemers-Kleven, and Ivan Reiff have all been reappointed for a second term.
- The MRC currently has two open positions.
- Chair and Vice Chair positions will be up for election in August.

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

June events and meetings

- The MRC met on June 3rd via Zoom for their monthly meeting.
- The MRC participated in the monthly San Juan County Stewardship Council meeting on June 2nd.
- The MRC hosted Killer Whale Tales at the Friday Harbor Elementary School on June 3 and 4.
- The MRC participated in the Salish Sea No Anchor Zone transboundary monthly meeting.

Upcoming events

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

The MRC submitted its grant application for the 2021-2023.

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

Plastic Free Salish Sea: Members of the community continue to sign up as beach stewards through the PFSS website. The MRC also purchased a SeaBin and are partnering with Deer Harbor, Orcas Island to pilot this summer. The SeaBin arrived on 17 June and is being installed this month ready to start trials in July.

Southern Resident Killer Whales: MRC member Kailey Genther joined the San Juan Elementary school grade 5 classes to support the Killer Whale Tales program provided virtually by Jeff Hogan. Kailey Genther and Jeff Hogan were able to share the program with over 50 students and their teachers and

collected pledges to the Salish Sea from both students and the teachers. Jeff Hogan also provided the Killer Whale Tales program to the Orcas Island grade 5 students.

In addition, the MRC and County Parks created boater safety and marine stewardship outreach signage for installation at Odlin State Park over the summer. The outreach signage includes information on Be Whale Wise, KELP, the Whale Warning Flag, and Eelgrass protection.

Marine Stewardship Area Plan update: Progress continues to be made on updating the biodiversity targets and planning for the next stages of the update.

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

The MRC began to pilot monitoring efforts for vessel usage/presence in areas with protection buoys installed or identified as locations of need and will start pilot monitoring efforts this spring and summer. The Odlin County Park Eelgrass Protection Zone is now fully installed with the spar buoys being installed in May 2021. This is the MRC's first anchor out zone in the County.

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

Odlin Park Eelgrass Protection Zone



Figure 1. Odlin County Park eelgrass protection Zone. The zone is demarcated by three clearly marked spar buoys.

San Juan Elementary School Grade 5 Pledges to the Salish Sea.



"I pledge to help and protect the orcas and ocean by keeping the kelp beds healthy for the orcas and other sea creatures. And to not pollution the ocean or get a lot of salmon. (I don't exactly like salmon.) I will also protect the orcas and other sea creatures habitats."

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Skagit

Month/Year: June/2021

Submitted by: Tracy

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

- MRC Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners: The MRC Coordinator, Tracy Alker, presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 8. She gave a brief history of the NWSI, an overview of the MRC, 2020 project highlights, and projects that are in the works. The presentation was well received.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration in Padilla Bay: MRC Project Lead, Paul Dinnel, is working with Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to restore native oysters in the southern channels of Padilla Bay. Approximately 200 bags of oyster shell were purchased. 50 of those bags will be placed in Fidalgo Bay to collect oyster seed to outplant in Padilla Bay next spring.

Membership/Leadership changes (new/departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff): No changes

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

- MRC Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners- **June 8**
- MRC Monthly Meeting- **June 10**. Jessica Hybregts gave a presentation on the 'No Discharge Zone' and the 'Pump Out Don't Dump Out Campaign'.
- Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Meeting- **June 23** (via Zoom)
- Next MRC Monthly Meeting- **July 8** 9am-11:00am

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: 38 participants completed the Salish Sea Stewards "virtual" training program on June 3. There are now 304 Salish Sea Stewards that have successfully completed the training program since 2014. This year's course ran an extended 4 months. The remaining field training portion will be accomplished by project sponsors for specific tasks. Graduation packets were distributed to class participants including a t-shirt, name badge, congrats letter, and a Certificate of Completion. Citizen Science volunteer opportunities are opening up slowly, but are mostly limited to an established core of pre-trained, past volunteers. The Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee proudly welcomes two new 2021 Salish Sea Stewards graduates to join the Committee which will bring the total to 13 members. The Committee will start brainstorming to find funding for a part-time paid coordinator.
- Fidalgo Bay Day: The MRC decided to cancel Fidalgo Bay Day this year due to the pandemic. The Fidalgo Bay Day grant funding will most likely be used to upgrade the MRC booth for future outreach events. The MRC is also considering doing a much smaller scale outreach event later this summer, but will need to play it by ear. The Fidalgo Bay Resort is also not allowing any events at their facility this year so it would have to be held at a different location.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: The new Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Riparian Restoration staff developed a scope of work for maintaining the riparian vegetation at the Bowman Bay restoration site this summer in partnership with the MRC. A new sub-award agreement will be drafted to get

the work done. Lynne Wenberg-Davidson is the new MRC Project Lead for Bowman Bay and will be directly involved in maintaining the site.

- Kayak Kelp Surveys: The survey teams are up and running and have scheduled surveys. The kelp beds include: Shannon Point, Biz Point, and Coffin Rocks. Surveys were conducted at each site in June. A reconnaissance survey will be conducted at the Hope Island kelp bed as a potential new survey site.
- Forage Fish Surveys: Forage fish surveys continue at our 3 MRC restoration sites and our 3 Forage Fish Index sites as well as the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve. Surf smelt spawning activity is picking up pretty rapidly, especially in Fidalgo Bay. On May 24th the forage fish survey crew hosted a small group of kids from a private school in Bellingham. The volunteers brought the forage fish interpretive stand and the kids got to participate in the forage fish surveys and looked at eggs under microscopes. Later this month, a few kids from the Salish Sea School will be doing something similar. Eventually, the new class of Salish Sea Stewards will get to have an orientation on forage fish surveys out on the beach, after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Kids on the Beach: Some of the KOTB presentations from Conway 8th graders were put together on Prezi: <https://prezi.com/view/RYhIWJzxtgtYBplmDyl/>. A few of the loom videos from Concrete 7th/8th graders were also posted: [Watch Video Alex J. KOB Template - Google Slides](#) - [Watch Video Kelsey x Kelsey KOB Template - Google Slides](#) - [Watch Video](#). La Conner's Swinomish 'Between Two Worlds' 9th grade (30 students) recently completed the program in June. It was a modified/shortened version. The La Conner Weekly News recently wrote an article about the collaboration between Kids on the Beach and Between Two Worlds.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: The Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) and WDFW finished up monitoring and outplants of 10,000 juvenile abalone at 10 different restoration sites in the San Juan Archipelago, including 4,000 abalone at sites in Skagit County waters. That is twice the number of abalone they had planned on outplanting. PSRF now has around 50,000 time-lapse images that they will be analyzing for predation. They are also looking at the oceanographic data collected from the sensor arrays that were deployed at six abalone restoration sites. The data collected includes temperature, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen, light intensity, and sedimentation. They will have one more field session to collect additional oceanography data later this summer.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: It has been a very busy month with native oyster restoration. Paul and his son collected bags of shell that were distributed in Fidalgo Bay to monitor last year's oyster settlement. So far last year's oyster settlement appears to be fairly moderate. It's not great, but good enough to keep the oyster population going. Paul said it's pretty typical to have some really good years and others that aren't so good. They also replaced the bags of shell with new bags to monitor this year's oyster settlement. Paul and his son also deployed stacks of tile that they will be monitoring at two week intervals throughout the summer. Paul went up to Chuckanut Bay to help with Whatcom MRC's native oyster restoration project and put out stacks of tile for monitoring oyster settlement. Paul is also working with the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to try to restore the native oyster population in the southern channels of Padilla Bay. They found a good location that looks very promising for oyster restoration. Around 200 bags of shell were purchased from the former Blau Oyster Company which were loaded on to the County dump truck by volunteers and hauled to a farm on south Padilla Bay for the oyster restoration project. 50 shell bags will be deployed in Fidalgo Bay to collect oyster seed to outplant in Padilla Bay next spring.

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: June 2021

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman

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

- The MRC submitted their NWSC Grant for 2021-2022 on June 8. This work will focus on reviewing the Port Susan MSA Plan and Report Card and is a collaboration with Island County.
- Meadowdale Park has closed for construction on June 15, 2021. The project will remove shoreline armoring and restore a pocket estuary. The beach will be closed until Summer/Fall 2022.
- The MRC will host another clean up event on September 18, 2021 which is International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event will be in coordination with the WSU Beach Watchers, WSU Waste Warriors, and Zero Waste Washington, and will utilize the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol developed by the EPA.

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):

Tim Ellis and Elisa Dawson attended the Snohomish LIO meeting May 20

Mike Ehlebracht gave the MRC 2020 Annual Report presentation to Snohomish County Council May 25. Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman also attended the presentation. The presentation was recorded and can be viewed here:

http://snohomish.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=18&clip_id=7946

The Snohomish Estuary Pilings collaborative meeting was May 26. Stakeholders representing City of Everett, City of Marysville, Port of Everett, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County, Department of Natural Resources, and the Army Corps of Engineers attended.

Sara Maxwell presented on behalf of Snohomish MRC to the NWSC on May 28 on the Port Susan MSA review and update of the Report Card.

The Island and Snohomish Port Susan Subcommittee team met on June 9 to discuss their application to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab.

Forage Fish monitoring occurred at Meadowdale and Picnic Point on June 15 and Howarth Park on June 16.

The MRC had their June meeting on the 16th and discussed updated to the Pilings Project, Port Susan Project, and plans for another cleanup event in September.

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

The MRC submitted their NWSC Grant for 2021-2022 on June 8. This work will focus on reviewing the Port Susan MSA Plan and Report Card and is a collaboration with Island County.

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

MRC Grant 2019-2020 Task 2: The MRC hosted a collaborative stakeholder meeting on May 26 with the City of Everett, City of Marysville, Port of Everett, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County, Department of Natural Resources, and the Army Corps of Engineers. The group discussed the pilings projects and possibilities for removal. The MRC is having follow up conversations with stakeholders as the next step, and has calls scheduled for June 22 with City of Everett and July 1 with Snohomish County so far.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (proposed grant project for 2021-2022): MRC submitted their NWSC Grant for 2021-2022 on June 8. This work will focus on reviewing the Port Susan MSA Plan and Report Card and is a collaboration with Island County. There was a joint MRC Port Susan meeting on June 9 with Island County and Snohomish County. The group is working on completing their UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab application which is due in early September.

Derelict Vessels (NWSF funds): Snohomish County is preparing to remove three vessels in late summer 2021 for approximately \$90,000. Target date for removal is early September.

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

Forage Fish: forage fish samples continue to be taken once per month at Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park. Meadowdale beach will be closing for construction and sampling will be put on pause at that location starting in July.

Meadowdale: Meadowdale project manager Logan Daniels officially closed the park for construction which will remove shoreline armoring and restore a pocket estuary on June 15, 2021. The beach will be closed until Summer/Fall 2022.

Marine Vegetation: DNR and Snohomish County lawyers have approved a contract for monitoring in south Snohomish County with DNR in 2021. Final signatures are being gathered. Monitoring of marine vegetation is expected to occur in late summer.

MRC Outreach Subcommittee: The MRC will host another clean up event on September 18, which is International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event will be in coordination with the WSU Beach Watchers, WSU Waste Warriors, and Zero Waste Washington, and will utilize the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol developed by the EPA.

Crabber Education: The MRC crabber subcommittee met on June 9 to discuss plans for crabber outreach for summer 2021. The team will do in-person outreach at the Everett 10th street boat launch on opening day (assumed to be July 3) and they are working with Beach Watchers to do additional outreach on July 4 and 10. Snohomish County will also run social media ads using the Northwest Straits Foundation's media kit.

Mussel Watch: Mariko Langness with WDFW will present at the September MRC meeting on recent findings of the program and in preparation for deployment in November.

Oil Spill: The oil spill subcommittee will be attending webinars on the Oil Spill Risk Model this summer and will meet in late August to discuss what they've learned and next steps. Information on the webinars can be found here: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Oil-spill-prevention/Safety-of-Oil-Transportation-Act/Risk-model/Get-involved#UpcomingEvents>

No current updates for

- Nearshore Beach Restoration at Howarth Park and Everett Nearshore 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.

Upcoming Events:

- LIO webinar identifying strategies for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda June 22
- MRC Pilings follow up call with City of Everett June 22
- Oil Spill Risk Webinar June 30
- Crabber Workshop Webinar with the NWSF June 30
- MRC Pilings follow up call with Snohomish County July 1
- MRC kelp monitoring July 13-14, and 21-23
- Marine Survival Workshop July 20
- July MRC Meeting: July 21 at 6:30

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

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: JUNE 2021

Submitted by: Austin Rose

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

- The MRC has a vacancy for a Conservation-Environmental seat. This vacancy is advertised on the MRC homepage <https://www.whatcomcountymrc.org/meetings-events/2021-mrc-vacancies/>

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

- Rachel Arnold has officially resigned from the MRC due to new employment out of state. The vacancy is advertised on the MRC homepage, County Executive website, and Whatcom County social media channels. Kathy Ketteridge is the new project champion for the Forage Fish surveys

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

- The MRC general meeting was held on June 3. Meeting highlights include:
 - Dana Oster and Allie Simpson discussed the Commission's efforts to expand the Voluntary No Anchor Zone project. The Whatcom MRC suggested three sites for voluntary no anchor zones: Chuckanut Bay, Taylor Dock, and the Aiston Preserve (Lummi Island). Committee members interested will help establish ideal areas to view boating/anchoring activity.
 - The MRC voted to not hold their July meeting due to the holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5.
 - The Natural Resources Division manager mentioned that advisory committee could likely meet in person again starting in August.
 - A full size female European Green Crab was found in Squalicum Harbor (Bellingham marina). This is the first time a LIVE green crab has been discovered in Bellingham Bay.
- MRC Staff, Austin Rose, and MRC Chair, Eleanor Hines, attended a meeting to brainstorm ways MRC's can efficiently comment on their county Shoreline Master Program updates. Austin will join an ad hoc committee to continue discussions.

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):

Education and Outreach

- The Public Speakers Series Committee (MRC/WWIN) is continuing work to host an updated State of the Bay Research Symposium in early 2022. It is anticipated that the focus will shift to cover the entire Whatcom shoreline, and not just focus on Bellingham Bay.

- Two speaker series events are scheduled for the month of June:
 - 1) **Tribal Fishing Culture**, Monday, June 28, 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Register by June 27 <https://tinyurl.com/FishingCulture>
Members of the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Indian Tribe will discuss the importance of fishing, the First Salmon Ceremony, and their mission to preserve fishing life for future generations.
 - 2) **Car Tire Killing Coho**, Wednesday, June 30, 12:00pm – 1:00pm, Register at <https://tinyurl.com/CarandCoho>
Dr. Jen McIntyre, Washington State University, will present her research on the chemical in tires found to be killing Coho salmon in urban waterways before they can spawn.
- WWIN will be hosting a virtual general membership meeting on June 25 focusing on allowing members to share COVID-19 silver linings with regards to virtual outreach and education. The MRC will present on their most recent successful beach cleanups.
- Whatcom Water Week is scheduled to occur (mostly) virtual September 11th – 19th. The planning team is contacting previous event hosts about their interest in hosting events in 2021. It is anticipated that previous hosts will connect at the WWIN general membership meeting and will exchange ideas about what events worked well or didn't work during COVID and how to adapt.

Monitoring

- The Olympia oyster monitoring/population survey occurred May 25-27. Students and staff from Bellingham Technical College (BTC) will be joined the survey in groups of 5-7 over the course of three days. Twelve bags of seasoned Pacific oyster shell were placed within the pilot plots to assess for larvae settlement in 2022. Dr. Paul Dinnel assisted with placing a ceramic tile structure near the channel – another method the MRC can use to monitor natural larvae recruitment. Those tiles were removed two weeks later and assessed under dissecting scopes by BTC students, MRC Staff, and the MRC project champion. See pictures below.
- North Chuckanut Bay water quality monitoring occurred in early June. Not ideal results for fecal bacteria, but they were similar to what was found in other areas of the county that same day. There was 0.36 inches of rain the day before and 0.14 inches right before the sampling occurred. Results were much higher in the freshwater system, and correlated with the marine results.
- The MRC is preparing to send a mailer to the Chuckanut Village community with messaging that is clear and consistent with the County messaging to maintain healthy water quality. The mailer will have a focus on the connection of bacteria levels and shellfish harvest.

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 member Bob Seaman worked with Bellingham Technical College students on forage fish surveys June 8-10. This was not a part of the regular MRC monthly survey, but an educational opportunity for the students. The surveys took place at the MRC's index site at Squaticum Beach. The samples are under QA/QC, but nearly 350 eggs were identified over multiple

samples, spanning the three days of collection.

- MRC Staff and MRC Chair is working with Allie Simpson and staff from Washington SeaGrant and WDFW to develop a mailer to the Drayton Harbor community regarding the increased trapping of European Green Crab this summer. The mailer is anticipated to be sent in July.

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

Photo Credit (below): Austin Rose, *BTC students assessing tiles for oyster larvae*.

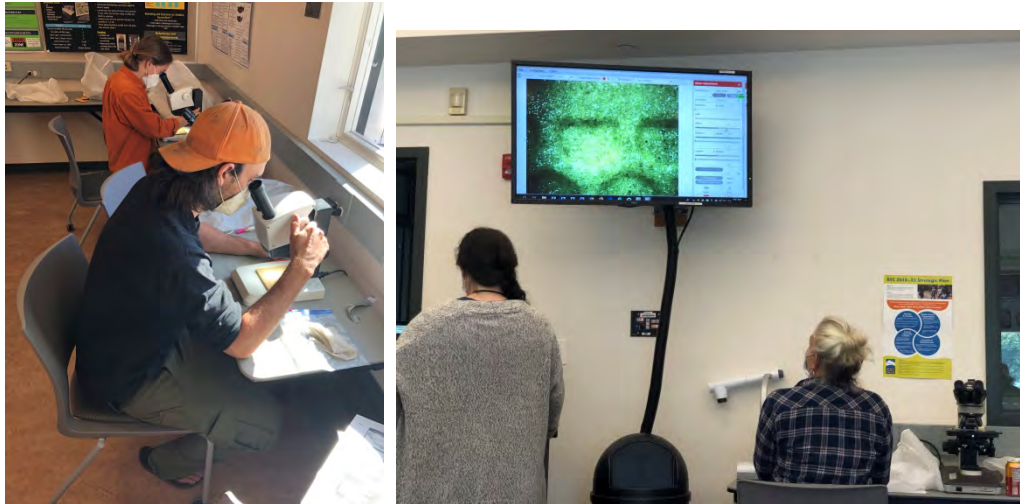


Photo credit (below): Brittany Palm-Flawd, *fun findings under scope*. Left to right – *potential oyster larvae, potential oyster larvae, hungry barnacle*.

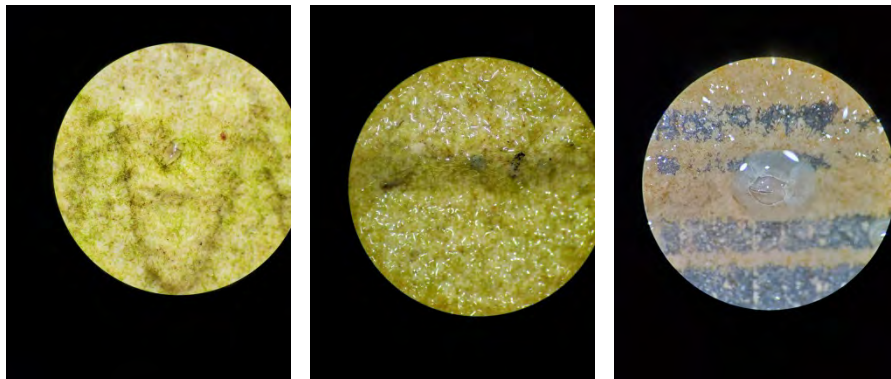




Photo Credit: Austin Rose, *BTC students conducting oyster population survey*



Photo credit: Austin Rose, (left) *Dr. Paul Dinnel installing tile structure*, (right) *Bob Seaman teaching BTC students how to grab sediment sample for forage fish egg survey*.

Northwest Straits Foundation 2021 Work Updates

June 2021

Programs: Derelict Gear, Nearshore, and Shorefriendly

- Hosted a virtual refresher training for experienced volunteers in conducting intertidal surveys. We were unable to complete these surveys in 2020 due to the pandemic, we expect to be able to, following appropriate safety guidelines this summer.
- Presented on the monitoring program to the Salish Sea Stewards. Fully engaged audience of about 40 in attendance.
- Performed site visit with consultants and Navy personnel at Polnell Point in preparation for feasibility study and preliminary design.
- Lummi Quarry Overwater Structure Removal: Four bids were submitted for removal of the dock, pier, and pilings at the Lummi Quarry site. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2021 with Quigg Bros completing the work.
- Similk Bay Shoreline Armor Removal: Seven bids were submitted for removal of 200 feet of armor from adjacent private properties in Similk Bay. PNW Civil is the apparent low bidder. Construction should start in fall 2021.
- Hoypus Point Shoreline Armor Removal: Permit applications were submitted for the federal permitting portion of the project. Funding is pending from ESRP and SRFB with construction anticipated for fall 2022.



Participants, Janna and Claude, show off their Passport at two featured sites!

Advancement

- Passport To Marine Adventure: We have mailed out just around 80 Passport To Marine Adventure's and have started to receive our first complete submissions! Over the last week we have received emails and pictures from two households who have visited both 4 and 6 sites, respectively.

- Virtual Crabber Workshop: We have been setting up and promoting our Virtual Crabber Workshop, to be held Wednesday, June 30th from 6-7pm. So far we have over 125 people signed up.
- Shore Friendly Living 3: Shore Friendly Living Episode 3 has been a huge success! We recently created a Facebook Ad Campaign for the video and the reception has been huge. Already there have been over 106,000 views on Facebook!



- #CatchMoreCrab: This year, for #CatchMoreCrab we have made a couple of robust marketing and communication changes that are going to continue to extend our reach. We revamped both our rack card and poster to reflect current information, and we've added a QR code to each for easy access to our website. We also now have our both our rack cards and a 30-second digital video ad in circulation on all Washington State Ferries. MRCs will be receiving their requested crabber outreach materials this week and next as we get ready for the start of Crabbing season in July.
- Dead Boats Society Campaign: The Dead Boats Society will be a one-year campaign with emphasis on removing derelict vessels. We hope to raise enough money to remove the top 10 most threatening vessels to marine life and people throughout the NW straits region.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) is funding and collaborating in the construction of a water filtration rain garden at Mt. Erie Elementary School in Anacortes, WA. The goal is to provide a rain garden comprised of native vegetation that supports environmental education, wildlife habitat and reduces the impact of polluted stormwater flowing into Fidalgo Bay.