



Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Location: Zoom Conference Call
Date: July 30, 2021
Time: 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

To join the Zoom meeting, [CLICK HERE](#) Meeting ID: **876 1258 0777**

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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.

10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and introductions Tribal acknowledgement: Approval of June minutes Caroline Gibson Tribute	Elsa Schwartz, Chair
10:10 – 10:40	State of the Salish Sea	Ginny Broadhurst, Director Salish Sea Institute
10:40 – 10:55	Clallam MRC – Tumwater Creek intern project	Tim Cochnauer, Chair Clallam MRC
10:55 – 11:10	Committee reports Executive Committee Science Advisory Committee External Relations Committee	
11:10 – 11:25	Business Items Approval of MRC proposals Forage fish program follow up (Dana and Pete)	
11:25 – 11:30	Puget Sound Partnership update	Jennifer Grimm, Puget Sound Partnership
11:30 – 11:35	NWS Foundation update	Don Hunger, NWS Foundation
11:35 – 11:50	MRC Reports	MRC Representatives



agenda

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

June 25, 2021 • 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Zoom – Conference call
Northwest Straits Commission meeting

Attendees:

Commission Members: Elsa Schwartz (Island-Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam), Jeff Taylor (Jefferson), Pete Haase (Skagit), Tim Ellis (Snohomish), Bob Cecile (Whatcom), Nan McKay, Chris Castner, Tom Cowan (Vice Chair), Christina Koons (San Juan)

Commission Staff: Lucas Hart, Allie Simpson, Dana Oster, Sasha Horst, Antonio Jones

Others in Attendance: Mike McKay (Whatcom MRC), Monica Montgomery (Jefferson MRC), Gordon King (Jefferson MRC), Jude Apple (Padilla Bay NERR/Skagit MRC), Austin Rose (Whatcom MRC), Elisa Dawson (Snohomish MRC), Sarah Fiskens (Jefferson MRC), Leslie Perkins, Annie England (Padilla Bay NERR), Sara Brostrom (Padilla Bay NERR), Whitney Stohr

Absent: Julia Parrish, Cecilia Gobin (Tribal), Laura Blackmore

Welcome and Introductions

Elsa Schwartz, chair, opened the meeting and facilitated introductions.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes from the May Northwest Straits Commission as amended by consensus.

Ecology SEA Program Introduction

Joenne McGerr, Program Manager for the Washington Department of Ecology's Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program (SEA) introduced herself and described the SEA program. They seek to improve service to all communities by providing technical expertise and regulatory oversight on wetlands, protection of water quality, eliminating or reducing floods and other hazards, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and housing the state Washington Conservation Corps program. A discussion followed with members of the Commission asking about climate resiliency, the most pressing Puget Sound impacts, Shoreline Master Program process and other topics of mutual interest.

MRC Presentations

Three MRCs shared a project that will be included in their proposal to the Northwest Straits Commission. The presentations can be viewed [here](#).

- Jefferson MRC – Monica Montgomery shared an update on the voluntary no-anchor zone project, focusing on an updated buoy design and liability coverage. Jeff Taylor shared information about a pilot effort to test whether ROVs could be used for derelict crab pot removal.



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- Skagit MRC - Jude Apple, Annie England, and Sara Brostrom presented the two programs that Padilla Bay Reserve carries out in partnership with the MRC, Kids on the Beach and the Salish Sea Stewards, focusing on how they adapted to the virtual world, and looking ahead to next year.
- Whatcom MRC – Mike McKay presented a pilot project that the MRC is proposing to use a beach seine with local students to engage students in understanding fish use of the intertidal area.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Tom Cowan thanked departing member Alan Clark for his participation on the Executive Committee, and welcomed Jeff Taylor and Chris Castner as new members. Chris now serves on the committee as the chair of the External Relations Committee, and Jeff Taylor joined a second MRC representative.

Tom brought forward the tribal acknowledgement and noted that it is now ready for adoption, with the intent of reading it at the beginning of each meeting. He also said that MRCs are welcome to use it. The Commission moved and approved by consensus to adopt the tribal acknowledgement as written.

The committee also brought forward a draft MRC Funding Policy, which staff sent out in the pre-meeting materials and discussed with MRC staff at a previous meeting. MRCs should review and discuss, and bring forward any questions. The expectation is that the Commission will revisit it to consider approval at the July meeting.

Tom also shared that the Committee recommends holding an October meeting, but that an in-person conference is not possible in 2021 for a variety of reasons.

External Relations Committee – Chris Castner reported on the ongoing process for Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization, noting four recent developments:

- Senator Murray has agreed to lead sponsorship of a reauthorization bill in the Senate.
- The 2011 reauthorization bill is being marked up for reintroduction.
- Reps. Kilmer and Larsen are coordinating to determine how to handle reauthorization in the House.
- An earmark for Fiscal Year 22 would provide federal funding, if secured.

Chris encouraged MRCs to consider opportunities to engage with county commissioners/councils and other local officials, and asked MRCs to share with him any examples where that's happening.

Science Advisory Committee – Dana provided an update on behalf of the committee. She noted that the committee is preparing to review a few select MRC projects, and they are looking for ways to better support MRCs and project development.

Business items



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In addition to the written update, staff provided the following business items:

- Staffing update – Lucas informed the group that a new Communications and Outreach Specialist, Leslie Perkins, begins July 1. A second Marine Project Technician and Veterans Conservation Corps member, Antonio Jones, started in June. Another position (Ecosystem Projects Assistant) is posted through Ecology and closes June 25.
- In-person meetings – Lucas shared information about Ecology's emerging plans for reopening. The group noted that ferry schedules are challenging, especially this summer. Staff will consider ways to accommodate both in-person and virtual attendees where possible.
- Retreat planning – Lucas noted that a planning group is starting conversations about a hybrid in-person and virtual retreat for the fall. More information will be forthcoming.
- Pew kelp project – Dana shared an update on the plans for this project, noting that the recent first advisory group meeting had great engagement. Commission staff also had a meeting with staff from the Governor's office to provide an update on kelp work.
- Shoreline Master Program (SMP) workgroup – Barbara Bennett from Island MRC initiated a new workgroup of interested MRC representatives to collectively discuss SMP update processes and shared interests.
- Green crab update – Allie updated the group on the recent activities on trapping and removal of invasive green crab, including ongoing efforts in Drayton Harbor and new discovery in Squalicum Harbor in Bellingham Bay.
- Forage fish update – Dana shared the news that WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will not be able to process forage fish samples collected by MRCs after July 16, with only limited sample support for sites where eggs have been found for the first time. WDFW staff is preparing a letter with more information, and Dana will share it with MRCs. Dana can also help coordinate with WDFW on site specific recommendations for how to proceed beyond mid-July.

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) update

No report.

Puget Sound Partnership Update

No report.

MRC Updates

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

Clallam – Alan Clark

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



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Island – Elsa Schwartz

- **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.

Jefferson – Jeff Taylor

- The MRC gave its annual update presentation to the Board of County Commissioners on June 14.
- The MRC sent its dive safety manual to the County attorney in late May for review and recommendation for Board of County Commissioner's adoption.
- Northwest Straits Foundation 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.

San Juan – Christina Koons

- 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.

Skagit – Pete Haase

- 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.

Snohomish – Tim Ellis

- 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.



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- 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.

Whatcom – Bob Cecile

- The MRC has a vacancy for a Conservation-Environmental seat. This vacancy is advertised on the [MRC homepage](#).

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:

- No-anchor zone project from Jefferson, and especially lessons learned.
- Tribal acknowledgment adopted, and MRCs are welcome to use it.
- The External Relations committee request to engage county officials and share information.
- Shoreline Master Program workgroup activities.
- Forage fish sample processing situation with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Public comment

There was no public comment.

* The next regular Commission meeting will be on Friday, July 30 via Zoom.*



Executive Committee Meeting Notes
July 19, 2021 • 11:00am-12:00pm
Video Conference Call

Committee Members: Jude Apple, Chris Castner, Tom Cowan, Elsa Schwartz, Jeff Taylor

Commission Staff/Support: Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Leslie Perkins

Absent: Julia Parrish

Welcome new staff: Chair Tom welcomed new staff person Leslie Perkins, for the NW Straits Commission Communications and Outreach Specialist position. She introduced herself and met each Committee member.

Reflection: A few moments were taken to be able to reflect and pay tribute to Caroline Gibson who just recently passed away. Members each honored her passion and ability to inspire people to preserve and protect the Salish Sea. Her life's work will have a lasting impact on the region and her positive spirit and outlook will be a huge loss. Members were pleased the NW Straits Foundation has established a marine studies scholarship in her name.

Retreat planning: Lucas updated the Committee that the 2021 NW Straits Initiative retreat planning efforts are underway with the next meeting scheduled for July 22. Plans are to hold a virtual session on Thursday afternoon, September 23, and an "in-person" session on Friday, September 24 (with hybrid remote option).

- Staff is collecting feedback from the Commission and Foundation Board members to determine level of attendance/participation and retreat topics of interest.
- Lucas will keep the Committee updated.

In-person meetings: Members discussed the timing for holding future Commission meetings in-person again. Tom welcomed the opportunity to meet in person again as valuable for connection. Concerns were shared about COVID-19 variant surges, vaccination levels within the group, and preventing a "spreader" event.

- Elsa suggested to follow the state guidelines for meetings and encouraged flexibility as plans can change based on the pandemic. Lucas clarified the rules on what can be shared regarding vaccination.
- Jeff would like to offer a hybrid remote option for remote attendance. Technology will be the issue at any location to accommodate that. Jude is upgrading Padilla Bay's A/V equipment.
- The group agreed that December or January might be good target months for an in-person meeting. However, we should re-evaluate based on findings from the retreat survey, which will provide insight into people's comfort level. Also, be ready to move from in-person back to virtual.
- Next steps: Commission staff will explore suitable locations with outdoor options and technology that might accommodate hybrid meetings.

Scientific mini-presentations: Lucas reported on Julia Parrish's idea of having presentations at Commission meetings of scientific projects that MRC's could potentially engage in. Chris shared concerns about how to



frame the ideas without looking like top-down suggestions to the MRCs. Jeff liked that these could encourage the MRCs to think about new project possibilities.

- A suggested retreat topic could be how to stimulate/invigorate new ideas for MRC projects.
- Jeff suggested a virtual symposium focusing on MRC's work and further ideas.

Forage fish communications: After the last Commission meeting, Pete Haase (Skagit MRC/Commission rep) highlighted the importance of forage fish monitoring in Puget Sound and the contributions of MRCs. He suggested that the Commission discuss communications options. Elsa noted that telling the stories and educating on 1) the importance of forage fish to the ecosystem; and 2) how the MRC's are doing the local monitoring work is critical. Lucas highlighted that staffing limitations impact the extent of our communications abilities, but that there might be other creative ways to get the word out in collaboration with MRCs. There will be time on the July Commission agenda to discuss this.

MRC Funding policy: Lucas reported that MRC staff gave feedback at a previous all staff meeting. Lucas reminded the committee that the policy was given to the Commission in June to allow for a one-month MRC review period. No feedback has been received to date. The policy will be ready for Commission approval at the July meeting.

NW Straits Initiative Reauthorization: Lucas and Chris updated that the External Relations Committee meets regularly and Senator Murray's staff is working on bill language. More action is expected after the August recess. In the meantime, Senator Murray's staff are reaching out to stakeholders for discussion and input on NW Straits Initiative reauthorization.

Other funding news: The US Fish and Wildlife grant was awarded to support permitting and other planning activities for eelgrass no-anchor zones. The permitting work will be done mostly by the NW Straits Foundation. Tom inquired about what permits are involved and Lucas noted the NW Straits Foundation plans to apply for a nationwide permit to cover all the sites from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Sasha updated the process is in motion for the following funding:

- Our base funding from EPA via the Puget Sound Partnership.
- Green crab state funding via a Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife interagency agreement.
- Kelp state funding allocated directly to Ecology for the NW Straits Commission and partners.

Open comments: Jeff suggested outreach opportunity around geoduck/clamming digging to protect eelgrass. He showed pictures of pitting and trenches from shovels that should be filled in afterwards. Could be potential educational program to prevent impact to the eelgrass.

Next meeting: August 16, 2021, 11:00am

2021-2023 DRAFT MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROJECTS

			DRAFT	DRAFT
Project	Category	Description	Budget Y1	Budget Y2
Clallam				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 77,084	\$ 77,084
Kelp Monitoring	Monitoring	Working in collaboration with the NW Straits Commission, Clallam MRC will monitor floating kelp beds at three locations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca to provide valuable information on the annual spatial distribution of floating kelp communities in Clallam County.	\$ 7,300	\$ 1,000
Forage Fish monitoring	Monitoring	Working in collaboration with the NWSC and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Clallam MRC will continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at 3 locations, Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and Elwha restoration site to provide valuable information on seasonal and spatial spawning trends by forage fish in Clallam County.	\$ 100	\$ 100
Pigeon guillemot breeding colony monitoring	Monitoring	Since 2016, Clallam County MRC, in partnership with Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS), has monitored pigeon guillemots nesting success and foraging behavior in Clallam County. The monitoring effort will be continued in 2021 and if feasible (based on bird distribution and the number of new volunteers), expanded to include additional breeding colonies. The collected data served as baseline information regarding this indicator species and the health of the nearshore environment.	\$ 400	\$ 400
Elwha beach stewardship	Education	Clallam MRC will continue education and outreach efforts to West Elwha beach visitors about the importance of preventing fecal bacterial pollution, and will provide a Sanikan and dog waste bins.	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
Internship program	Education	Clallam MRC will continue their intern program that reaches college students or recent graduates and provide them with an opportunity to participate in a hands-on local citizen science and/or outreach project.	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,800

Olympia Oyster Restoration	Restoration	In 2012, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe partnered with Clallam MRC and Puget Sound Restoration Fund to restore Olympia oysters on 1.5 acres of their tidelands in Sequim Bay. In 2018, the restoration effort was expanded to 2-2.25 acres. Clallam MRC and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe will continue the restoration efforts, including annual population surveys and addition of shell substrate as needed to expand the population.	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,500
Island				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 63,125	\$ 62,125
Forage fish	Monitoring	Island MRC partners with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct forage fish spawn surveys to understand when and where forage fish are spawning. In addition, the MRC partners with the NW Straits Foundation to conduct forage fish spawn surveys at planned or completed restoration sites to help guide efforts for shoreline protection and restoration, and monitor the results of shoreline restoration projects.		
Kelp Monitoring	Monitoring	Bull kelp provides important habitat and nutrient inputs to a variety of marine species. Declines in bull kelp have been observed in some areas of Puget Sound, and Island MRC is engaging in a larger effort with the NW Straits Initiative to improve understanding of bull kelp abundance and changes over time, with the MRC focused specifically on the populations around Island County. The MRC seeks to collect and compare bull kelp bed measurements over time to identify trends or changes.		
Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Update	Education	Island MRC, in collaboration with Snohomish County MRC, would continue the initial work of the first Port Susan MSA Conservation Action Plan Report Card by updating the science, recommendations, and actions of the initial Port Susan MSA plan and reengaging stakeholders in the area to assist in helping update the strategic objectives and actions identified in the original plan.	\$ 16,563	\$ 13,312

Jefferson				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 53,093	\$ 53,600
Community science monitoring (kelp and forage fish)	Monitoring	Jefferson MRC will conduct bull kelp monitoring as part of a regional, long-term data collection project with NW Straits Commission. Jefferson MRC will conduct forage fish spawning surveys at two long-term data collection "Index Sites" with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife - Discovery Bay and Dabob Bay. Funding is also allocated for the second year (2022-2023) for Jefferson MRC to collect forage fish spawning data for the 7th year at a WDFW restoration monitoring site at Fort Townsend State Park. (The 6th year, 2021-2022, will be covered by the NW Straits Foundation).	\$ 3,950	\$ 4,620
Rain gardens and Stormwater	Restoration	Rain gardens are a green infrastructure and low-impact development technology used to reduce nutrients and contaminants from stormwater runoff. By decreasing pollution loads that eventually flow into the surrounding marine waters of East Jefferson County, rain gardens improve water quality and benefit eelgrass beds, shellfish beds, and other nearshore and marine habitats. Jefferson MRC is developing a model for successful partnerships at the local level to continue to build a network of rain gardens in suitable, priority locations by installing at least one rain garden each year.	\$ 8,196	\$ 16,390
Eelgrass and shellfish no anchor zones	Restoration	Jefferson MRC will protect local eelgrass and shellfish beds by maintaining voluntary no-anchor zones in Port Townsend Bay and Mystery Bay. These buoys effectively inform boaters where to avoid dropping their anchors and prevent physical damage to eelgrass and shellfish beds. Maintenance of the buoys involves checking lines, removing tangled debris and marine fouling, and replacing buoys and worn hardware.	\$ 6,910	\$ 6,910
Education and Outreach	Education	Jefferson MRC will develop and implement an annual Outreach Plan that identifies targeted education, audiences and strategies including: developing a speaker series in partnership with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center to target rural areas of the County with place-specific topics of interest; partnering with a WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	\$ 7,660	\$ 7,660

		(WDFW) speaker to present on seaweed harvesting and lead an accompanying event; partnering with WDFW to offer "Digging for Dinner", an event that features a WDFW speaker on sustainable bi-valve harvesting practices; partnering with the NW Straits Foundation (NWSF) on crabber outreach efforts (organizing a local workshop focused on regulations and ways to prevent loss of crab pots); and partnering with the NWSF Shore Friendly program to co-host at least one workshop focused on ways to protect shoreline property from erosion and alternatives to hard armoring that help prevent erosion.		
Olympia Oyster	Restoration	Jefferson MRC has two existing Olympia oyster restoration sites in Discovery Bay (Powerlines and Lagoon) where there is a small but stable extant Olympia oyster population. The MRC will continue to place shell at both sites each year to provide substrate for larvae to settle on and monitor the number and size of Olympia oysters. The MRC also intends to expand the Powerlines site to include an adjacent parcel just south of it, and will continue to assess potential sites for restoration across East Jefferson County with guidance from WDFW partners.	\$ 5,745	\$ 4,820
Mapping lost crab pots	Monitoring	Abandoned gear, like crab pots, can sit on the ocean floor for decades, trapping and killing hundreds of thousands of marine animals. Jefferson MRC will identify areas with high concentrations of lost crab pots that are overlooked by other derelict gear removal programs, using sidescan sonar surveys to detect lost crab pots in Discovery Bay. If permitted by WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, the MRC will also test the ability of a submersible remotely operated vehicle (ROV) as a low-cost method to detect and remove lost crab pots.	\$ 8,446	\$ -
San Juan				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 28,806	pending

Marine Stewardship	Education	San Juan MRC will engage directly with grade 5 students throughout the County by partnering with Killer Whale Tales, a program teaches science through storytelling and focuses on the Southern Resident killer whale population. The MRC will coordinate with schools, take part in each event and share information about the MRC. As part of the program, the MRC will work with each school and teachers to have students create personal or family pledges for one thing that they will do for the Salish Sea that the MRC will feature as part of a wider call for community based stewardship efforts throughout the County. The MRC will finalize the update of the MSA Plan and submit to MRC, Friday Harbor Labs, Friends of the San Juans, San Juan County Community Development, Sea Doc Society, key State Agency marine managers, and the local Coast Salish Tribes for review; revise plan based on reviewer comments and submit a final draft for public comment; and present updated plan to County Council for approval.	\$ 12,153	pending
Plastic Free Salish Sea	Education	San Juan MRC will continue to build on efforts initiated in 2018 to raise awareness and influence consumer culture surrounding the use of single use plastic at the local and regional level. During 2019-2021 the Plastic Free Salish Sea (PFSS) subcommittee developed and created toolkits to guide individuals, groups, and businesses to make the switch from single-use plastics to more sustainable practices, in addition they partnered with the County's Solid Waste Program to create an Adopt a Beach feature of the website to engage citizens and visitors throughout San Juan County to participate in beach clean-ups and assist in data collection surrounding the types of material found. In addition, the MRC had the opportunity to initiate a trial with a SeaBin in 2021. Going forward into 2022 and 2023 the MRC will add to this effort with an Adopt a Road feature and continue to engage with the local community through community forums, online outreach with videos and other online material. The MRC will establish a pilot program to further test the SeaBin system in partnership with the Port of Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor, and other marinas in the County to establish the efficacy of the marine debris filtering system. The MRC will participate in local beach clean-ups and the County-wide Great Islands Clean-up events.	\$ 8,769	pending

Derelict vessel prevention	Monitoring	<p>The Derelict Prevention Program was created in 2013 by the MRC to make the existing County Derelict Vessel Removal Program more cost effective. The basic premise was for vessels of concern to be identified and their owners contacted before they were considered at risk of imminent sinking thus becoming hazards to the environment and/or navigation. San Juan MRC will re-establish a long-term MRC led monitoring effort in San Juan County, produce a database of vessels deemed to be at risk, provide the County's Derelict Vessel Removal Program with a prioritized list of vessels for removal in 2022 and in 2023, and expand community awareness with targeted outreach regarding the impacts of derelict vessels in the County.</p>	\$ 16,537	pending
Eelgrass habitat protection	Monitoring	<p>Eelgrass anchor out protection zones are being deployed or planned for a number of sites around San Juan County. To determine the long-term effectiveness of these protection zones requires dedicated monitoring of the sites for boat presence, behavior, and compliance of the voluntary protection zones. This project proposes to build off the efforts initiated by MRC members in 2021 to monitor vessel presence and conduct vessel counts at the Odlin, Bell Point, and Eastsound locations. For Bell Point and East Sound, this will allow the MRC to collect valuable vessel presence data both in the absence of protection buoys and after they have been deployed, providing the opportunity for data to be compared between the two time periods. This project is two-fold, it first will ensure ongoing maintenance of the Odlin Park protection zone, and second it will build off the pilot monitoring efforts launched in 2021 to monitor three protection sites for vessel presence, behavior, and vessel compliance with the voluntary anchor out zones in San Juan County.</p>	\$ 13,153	pending

Monitoring False Bay	Monitoring	False Bay has great biological importance to the San Juan Islands. Its ~300 acres of tidelands are designated as a Marine Biological Preserve owned by the University of Washington. Residents of False Bay and scientists at FHL have become increasingly concerned about the rising numbers of visitors and the rising number of dogs off leash, which disturb both sea birds and marine mammals that use the bay. Additionally, there has been a long-standing concern regarding the water quality of the bay and the impacts of activities in its surrounding upland watershed. Ulva sp. blooms occur in the bay each summer, though the intensity of these blooms can vary. The blooms impact both marine life and human enjoyment of the area; there is some concern that increased bloom intensity negatively impacts the eelgrass beds at the mouth of the bay. The MRC will monitor Ulva sp. mat density and how the density changes through a season to provide a better understanding on which drivers may be influencing Ulva sp. growth. The MRC will also continue education and outreach efforts with visitors to False Bay during the spring to understand visitor usage, provide education regarding eelgrass beds the biological significance of the bay.	\$ 12,969	pending
Skagit				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
Salish Sea Stewards	Education	Skagit MRC will continue the Salish Sea Stewards program to train and recruit volunteers in marine stewardship and citizen science to support projects of the Skagit Marine Resource Committee and projects that support the goals of the Northwest Straits Initiative and Puget Sound Partnership.	\$ 21,000	\$ 31,000

Kids on the beach	Education	<p>Skagit MRC's Kids on the Beach (KOTB) program is designed to increase literacy in marine science in Skagit County middle schools with real, relevant, local experience in marine science and restoration. The goal is to provide school kids (6th-8th grades) with a variety of hands-on authentic marine conservation research in the classroom and on the beach, and build a program that is useful to teachers, which are patterned after and compatible with existing programs.</p> <p>The students will present their work at a research symposium. The Skagit MRC's 2021-23 project continues to work towards establishing a widely available, sustainable program in schools in partnership with Padilla Bay NERR.</p>	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000
Fidalgo Bay Day	Education	<p>Skagit MRC will host the 18th year of Fidalgo Bay Day, Skagit MRC's signature annual educational event. This event offers a great opportunity to collaborate with many like-minded organizations and businesses and volunteers to help celebrate the beauty, diversity, and value of Fidalgo Bay with our community, and to help build a greater sense of understanding and appreciation of the marine environment.</p> <p>This one-day event is primarily planned, coordinated, and carried out by volunteers. It features interactive environmental learning activities and displays, children's marine-related art and craft activities and samples of local seafood.</p>	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Pinto Abalone Monitoring & Restoration	Monitoring/ Restoration	<p>Skagit MRC will continue outplants and overseeding to new and existing pinto abalone recovery sites in Skagit County and associated surveys to document progress. This restoration outplanting and subsequent monitoring surveys for growth and survival at recovery sites will continue annually until WDFW determines that reproductive populations are self-sustaining over a significant portion of the range of the species in Washington. All restoration sites will be surveyed annually prior to overseeding, when hatchery production allows for additional outplants to occur. Restoration outplants of hatchery-reared juveniles follow standard protocols designed and approved by WDFW.</p>	\$ 21,000	\$ 31,000

MRC Intern	Education	Skagit MRC will partner with the Salish Sea School to recruit and mentor an intern who will help educate about and carry out a specific project/s (either an existing MRC project, or a new project such as forage fish surveys at Skyline, oyster restoration, or stormwater monitoring, kelp boat surveys, etc.). At the end of the program, the intern will present the project to the MRC. Deliverables will include quarterly reports and a final report with measures of success.	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Stormwater sample testing	Monitoring	Fidalgo Bay, located in Skagit County, was designated as an Aquatic Reserve in 2008. Its extensive eelgrass beds, tidal flats, salt marshes and pocket estuaries are considered essential habitat for the highly diverse species that reside there. Highway 20 is a heavily trafficked roadway that runs along the southern tip of Fidalgo Bay. Skagit MRC and partners will monitor the stormwater runoff that enters Fidalgo Bay from the newly constructed roundabout on Highway 20 for hydrocarbons, metals and other road related chemical compounds that are detrimental to marine ecosystems.	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Snohomish				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 37,300	pending
Port Susan MSA Update	Restoration	Snohomish MRC, in collaboration with Island County MRC, will continue the initial work of the first Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Conservation Action Plan Report Card by updating the science (Island MRC), recommendations, and actions of the initial Port Susan MSA plan and reengaging stakeholders in the area (Snohomish MRC) to assist in helping update the objectives and strategic action items identified in the original plan.	\$ 56,700	pending
Whatcom				
Operations and Administration		Carry out administrative and operational functions in support of the mission (including work plan preparation, developing and preparing project proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, and communications), travel, planning and participation in training opportunities.	\$ 81,133	pending

Beach seine	Education	Whatcom MRC will establish a program for elementary students from Bellingham schools to attend a field event to observe the deployment and catch in a beach seine at selected sites during the peak of the juvenile salmon outmigration period, using sampling protocols developed by the Lummi Tribe and WDFW and collecting demonstration data. Up to three field events will occur during the period from April thru July. The MRC will share the opportunity with local tribal schools in effort to expand participation in following years. Events will be held at shoreline locations in Whatcom County that offer good seining characteristics and beach access for children, where previous beach seine sampling has occurred by Lummi Natural Resources.	\$ 13,656	pending
Bull Kelp Monitoring	Monitoring	Working in collaboration with the Northwest Straits Commission, using existing monitoring protocols, the Whatcom MRC will monitor floating bull kelp beds at five locations in Whatcom County to provide information on the status (presence, size, health) of floating kelp communities in Whatcom County.	\$ 1,924	pending
Forage Fish monitoring	Monitoring	Whatcom MRC will participate in a regional effort to characterize populations of the two species of forage fish that spawn on Puget Sound beaches: Pacific sand lance and surf smelt. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting wide-scale spawning surveys and Whatcom MRC will serve as a local partner to support their efforts and expand the impact of the study. The MRC will hire a county intern to assist with recruiting and training volunteers to conduct monthly spawning surveys at two priority beaches using existing protocols. The MRC will also conduct forage fish egg presence/absence analysis from beach substrate samples.	\$ 2,384	pending

North Chuckanut Bay Pollution Identification and Correction	Monitoring	<p>Northern Chuckanut Bay is a recreational shellfish harvesting area that supports many species of clams. WA State Department of Health (DOH) closed the recreational shellfish harvesting area in 1994 due to poor water quality and sewage disposal conditions. DOH does not have the capacity to continue sampling necessary to evaluate water quality conditions. In 2014, the MRC established a Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) project in the area in partnership with local and state agencies to conduct intensive water quality sampling in both the marine and freshwater, septic system evaluations, and increased community outreach in the Chuckanut Village area. The MRC will continue ongoing community outreach and engagement and water quality monitoring (using volunteers for fieldwork when possible), data reporting on a bi-weekly basis to project partners and the community to inform status of water quality in the bay.</p>	\$ 4,810	pending
Olympia oyster restoration monitoring	Monitoring	<p>Whatcom MRC will continue a pilot project to establish a self-sustaining population of Olympia oysters while enhancing habitat complexity and diversity in North Chuckanut Bay. Following a pilot planting of Olympia oyster cultch in May 2018, the Whatcom MRC will follow a QAPP to collect physical and biological parameter (such as substrate composition, algae cover) data to determine the status of restoration potential. A spring monitoring event will involve students from local colleges/universities, as possible. The MRC will develop an evaluation of oyster retention with pilot restoration plots, and changes in habitat characterization will be determined by assessing change in restoration plots against the identified reference plot.</p>	\$ 3,207	pending

Rain garden development	Restoration	Whatcom MRC will prioritize site-specific locations where storm water is likely impacting marine water quality and would benefit from a rain garden or LID installation. The MRC will set criteria and work with Whatcom County storm water engineers, City of Bellingham, and Port of Bellingham to identify drainage basins, rain garden size, and appropriate design standard. A final prioritization report will provide guidance to the MRC and other entities looking to pursue a similar project. In year one, MRC project champions will gather data to include in a report of high-priority stormwater problem areas where rain gardens would help intercept contaminants entering Whatcom County marine waters. MRC project champions and MRC staff will develop the report. In year 2, a priority site identified will be selected for rain garden installation. MRC project champions and MRC staff will make direct engagement with stakeholders who are interested in learning about or helping install rain garden projects, and begin necessary work on permitting for installation.	\$ 1,283	pending
Remote beach cleanups	Restoration	Whatcom MRC will conduct volunteer led remote beach cleanup on the southwest side of Lummi Island, Lummi Rocks, and potentially Eliza Island or Cliffside Beach (Bellingham) in 2022 and 2023. A volunteer solicitation will be developed and distributed electronically. The volunteer solicitation will include education about the importance of beach cleanups to reduce litter, protect the Salish Sea, and raise awareness about litter and plastic pollution.	\$ 6,283	pending



Commission staff highlights- [July 2021]

MRC Support

MRC Grants:

2021-23: Commission staff coordinated with MRC staff and MRC project leads to finalize project proposals. The project list is included in the July meeting materials for Commission review and approval. The final proposals will be adapted into agreements in August and September, with a target start date of October 1.

2019-21: Commission staff reviewed and processed the quarterly reporting and payment requests for the current MRC grants, closing out the state funding from the 2019-21 biennium.

Regional Projects

Eelgrass: NW Straits Commission and NW Straits Foundation were not successful in our pursuit of a Restore Americas Estuaries' NEP Coastal Watershed Grant.

Kelp: MRC bull kelp monitoring is in full swing with most MRC teams surveying their sites this month. In addition, some MRCs and the Commission took part in the Kelp Highway Expedition led by Puget Sound Restoration Fund. This event ran 7/15-7/23 and held events starting in Freshwater Bay and made its way down the Sound to Olympia. Additionally, the NW Straits Commission held its second kelp management advisory meeting as part of the work funded by Pew Charitable Trusts to understand improved science/guidance's to support implementing protections for kelp. The advisory team continues to get good cross agency engagement and the team is working on developing a questionnaire to assist in planning for workshops.

Green Crab: NW Straits Commission staff assisted WA Department of Fish and Wildlife with a large trapping effort in Birch Bay. Fortunately, no green crabs were found during this trapping effort. NW Straits Commission worked closely with Whatcom MRC, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and WA Sea Grant to send a mailer about green crabs targeted towards residents of Drayton Harbor.

Operations

Staffing update: Leslie started on staff July 1 in the Communications and Outreach Specialist position. Interviews are proceeding to fill the Commission's Ecosystem Project Assistant position. The Commission expects to be posting for an Ecosystem Project Coordinator in August.

COVID-19 update: Ecology is planning to reopen to staff in mid-August and to the public mid-September. Re-entry plans are being drafted specific to each facility. The NWS Commission will consult these plans as we evaluate the potential for holding in-person meetings. Special

consideration will also be given to the comfort level of individual Commissioners. In order to accommodate a variety of comfort levels, hybrid in-person/remote meetings will be considered, pending technology availability. We will also continue to consult public health recommendations and follow state guidelines. Ecology staff are not allowed to ask other staff about their vaccination status. However, staff are able to volunteer their vaccination status. That may also offer to have their vaccinations status “validated” with their supervisor. Validated staff are approved to work without a mask at the present time as long as they are not interacting with the public.

Funding update: Commission staff is working with WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife to finalize an interagency agreement to receive funding for green crab trapping over the 2021-23 biennium. The funding agreement with US Fish & Wildlife Service for eelgrass no-anchor zone permitting is now fully executed, with work scheduled to begin in 2022.

Meetings attended:

Lucas attended: Retreat Planning Committee 6/28, 7/22; MRAC 6/29; Shore Friendly Advisory meeting 7/8; PEW Kelp project check-in and advisory team meetings 7/12, 7/21; Forage fish project check in with WDFW 7/13; External Relations 7/14; Kelp Expedition events 7/15, 7/17, 7/23; Executive Committee 7/19

Leslie attended: External Relations 7/14, Executive Committee 7/19, Retreat Planning meeting 7/22

Dana attended: Skagit MRC meeting 7/8, MRC WDFW Forage Fish meeting 7/13, Kelp Highway Expedition 7/15, 7/16, 7/23, Kelp canopy indicator planning meeting 7/20, Kelp management advisory meeting 7/21.

Allie attended: MRC WDFW Forage Fish meeting 7/13, Drayton Harbor Grid Survey Planning meeting 7/22

Sasha attended: Tribal Fishing Culture webinar 6/28; Retreat Planning meeting 7/22

Northwest Straits Foundation 2021 Work Updates

July 2021

Programs: Derelict Gear, Nearshore, and Shorefriendly

- **An introduction from our new Nearshore Program Outreach Assistant:** Hello! I'm Kate Chandler, an environmental policy major at WWU. I grew up in Monterey, California where I developed a strong interest in ecology, biology, and conservation. This internship is an incredible opportunity to apply my studies to real-world situations. Working with the Shore Friendly program has been really interesting because it requires an understanding of private interest, political influences, and ecological processes. I've enjoyed learning how to work with private property owners to find mutually beneficial land management strategies. My favorite classes have all been about understanding the ideological foundations of environmental conflicts and this position offers a perfect place to experience that first hand. I would like to gain experience in environmental conflict management that could help me get a job at an environmental consulting firm in the future. I am also planning on attending a postgraduate program to get certified as a scientific illustrator. While I am working for the Foundation I would like to put this skill to use and create some infographics explaining some of the natural processes we work with (native vegetation stabilizing soil, forage fish spawning, and the movement of sediment on the coast). This could help landowners understand how their property ties into larger ecological systems. I'm very excited to be working with Lisa and the rest of the team.



New Nearshore intern Kate Chandler and an example of her illustrations.

- Jason Morgan was interviewed by Hilary at Veda Environmental on the Catch More Crab program for their new Conservation Café podcast. The expected release date for the episode is August 3rd.
- NWSF hosted a crabber workshop on June 30th in partnership with WDFW. 349 households registered for the event. The recording is available online and has received 130 views.

Advancement/Other

- In honor of the enduring legacy Caroline Gibson made to the Salish Sea, the Northwest Straits Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Caroline Gibson Scholarship in Marine Studies. It supports the next generation of marine conservationists through applied academic scholarships in science, policy and management for sustaining the Salish Sea. Our goal is to establish a permanent fund for granting annual scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Together, we'll carry on her enduring passion, inspiration and commitment to healthy marine waters for marine life and us. The first scholarships will be awarded during the 2021-22 academic year. You can find the donation page on our homepage.
- We are recruiting board members for a three-year term starting January 2022. We recruit board members from diverse disciplines, backgrounds, and skills with a passion for advancing marine conservation. In addition to the standard roles and responsibilities of a board member, our board actively advocates and acts as ambassadors for the organization. Our board is fully engaged in securing the financial resources and partnerships necessary for the Northwest Straits Foundation to advance its mission. From the nearshore to the deep waters, you can see the impact of our work. Please consider joining our board.



MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Clallam

Month/Year: July 2021

Submitted by: Rebecca Paradis

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

- Internships are all going smoothly
- Forage fish sampling was conducted on Lower Elwha Tribal newly restored beach.

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):

Monthly MRC Meeting: will be held July 19.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):
CMRC proposal for NWSC funding was resubmitted with corrections.

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

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 outreach cards 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. Surveys are being conducted by 2-3 volunteers on Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and a newly restored site on Elwha beach.

Shellfish biotoxins sampling has been occurring.

Kelp bed monitoring has started and there have been 2 surveys.

Pigeon Guillemot surveys started the week of June 7th and are now in the 6th week of the 10 week monitoring period. We have about 30 volunteers covering the various sites as primary monitors or substitutes.

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: Island

Month/Year: July 2021

Submitted by: Ann Prusha

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

- **Bull Kelp:** The monitoring season has started, and volunteers are conducting surveys. The Cornet Bay/Hoypus Point site was recently added.
- **Crabber Outreach:** On the opening day of the crabbing season, volunteers at Camano Island State Park, Cornet Bay Boat Launch, Langley Marina, and Oak Harbor Marina distributed crabber materials and rot cord.

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.

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

Past Meetings/Events:

- July 6: MRC meeting. Topic: Microplastics

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- August 3: MRC meeting. Topic: Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)

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: Teams are continuing to monitor, and Ann has an iForms training scheduled with the last team who needs it.

Monitoring – Kelp: The monitoring season has started, and volunteers are conducting surveys. The Cornet Bay/Hoypus Point site was recently added.

Outreach – Needs Assessment: The MRC is having regular discussions to ensure that this is a living document that will be used to drive decision-making efforts. The final document should be available for distribution this summer.

Outreach – Crabber Outreach: On the opening day of the crabbing season (July 1), volunteers at Camano Island State Park, Cornet Bay Boat Launch, Langley Marina, and Oak Harbor Marina distributed crabber materials and rot cord. While the Camano team reported lower than normal crabber numbers, the Whidbey teams report that all three of their areas were busy.

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 watering and weeding bi-weekly throughout the summer months.

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.):

- Jennifer Johnson, Island County DNR’s new manager, started on June 21.

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



Julie Wage, a Sound Water Steward, models the crab hat on July 1, 2021 (photo credit: Scott Chase)



2021 Crabber Opening Day (photo credit: Julie Wage)

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Jefferson

Month/Year: July 2021

Submitted by: Monica Montgomery

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

- The MRC conducted its first kelp survey of the season on June 22nd and several MRC members participated in the July 17th Kelp Expedition event at Chetzemoka Park.
- The MRC piloted its ROV project for detecting lost crab pots near Adelma Beach on July 6th.

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

June 22 – First kelp survey of the season
June 25 – NWSC meeting, MRC presentation to the Commission
June 30 – Forage fish sampling at Adelma Beach
July 6 – ROV test run near Adelma Beach
July 13 – MRC forage fish meeting with WDFW & NWSC
July 19 – Forage fish sampling at Dabob Bay
July 20 – Executive Committee meeting
July 23 – Second kelp survey

Upcoming Events/Meetings

July 26 – Oly oyster monitoring at Powerlines site, Discovery Bay
July 28 – New rain garden installation, at the corner of Franklin and Adams Streets in Port Townsend
July 30 – NWSC meeting
August 3 – MRC meeting
August 10 – Salish Sea No-Anchor Zones meeting
August 16 – Executive Committee meeting
August 20 – Third kelp survey
August 27 – NWSC meeting
August – Shell placement (3 cu. ft.) at Powerlines site, Discovery Bay

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 30th with one other volunteer.

- c. **Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index):** The project lead, MRC Coordinator and two community volunteers monitored on July 19th. The project lead also attended the MRC forage fish meeting on July 13th.
- d. **Kelp:** Two MRC members, one resigned MRC member, and the MRC Coordinator conducted the season's first survey on June 22nd. The MRC Coordinator and three volunteers will conduct the second survey on July 23rd. Several MRC members attended the July 17th Kelp Expedition event at Chetzemoka Park.
- 2. **Rain Gardens:**
 - a. The subcommittee will be installing a new rain garden at the corner of Franklin and Adams Streets in Uptown Port Townsend on July 28th.
- 3. **Education & Outreach:**
 - a. The project lead, one MRC member, and the MRC Coordinator met with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center's Program Director to discuss plans for a partnered speaker series, to begin in September. The first event will feature a NOAA marine debris program speaker presenting on plastics in the ocean and will be coupled with a WA CoastSavers beach clean-up on September 18th.
 - b. The subcommittee will be meeting in August to discuss plans for the Wooden Boat Festival.
 - c. One MRC member continues to work on developing short climate change videos.
- 4. **Olympia Oysters:**
 - a. The Olympia oyster monitoring day at the Powerlines site scheduled for June 26th was canceled due to the heat wave. The workday has been rescheduled for July 26th.
 - b. The project lead is planning an eelgrass/macroalgae survey for the permits, either on July 26th or August 9th.
 - c. The MRC Coordinator continues to work on updating permits to include a new parcel just south of the Powerlines site.
 - d. The subcommittee is also organizing another workday to spread 3 cubic feet of clean shell at the Powerlines site, perhaps in August.
- 5. **Voluntary No-Anchor Zones:**
 - a. The MRC Coordinator continues to check on the status of the County's review of the dive safety manual.
 - b. A resigned MRC member mapped out the current buoys in Mystery Bay (three are missing, including one State Park boundary buoy) and noted the conditions of the buoys (some partially submerged and some missing lettering, e.g., phone number to call if lost).
 - c. The MRC will need to purchase new labels/lettering to revamp the current buoys.
 - d. One MRC member continues to monitor and share photos of the PT buoys.

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.):

ROV Project: The MRC Coordinator, one MRC member, a volunteer boat skipper and three members of the Port Townsend Sea Dragons robotics team went out on the water near Adelma Beach on July 6th to test run the underwater ROV for detecting crab pots. The test run went well and the team determined it would need additional supplies for navigating the ROV as well as an established protocol for using the ROV to scan a sample area.

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

July 19 Forage fish sampling at Dabob Bay – Photos by Monica Montgomery





June 22 First Kelp Survey – Photos by Betsy Carlson





July 6 ROV test run – Photos by Monica Montgomery







MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: San Juan County

Month/Year: July 2021

Submitted by: Sam Whitridge

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

- The MRC purchased a SeaBin and is partnering with Deer Harbor, Orcas Island to pilot this summer. The SeaBin was installed in late June and trials have started in July.
- The MRC kicked off Plastic Free July, joining a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

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

- Sam Whitridge is serving as interim MRC Coordinator while Frances Robertson is on maternity leave. Sam will serve in this role through September 2021.
- 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):

July events and meetings

- The MRC met on July 1st via Zoom for their monthly meeting.
- The MRC participated in a Long Live the Kings workshop on July 20th in which the synthesis report from the Salish Sea Marine Survival project was presented.

Upcoming events

- The next monthly MRC meeting will be held on August 5th. At this meeting the MRC will perform its final review of the 2021 San Juan County Salmon Recovery projects and we will hear an update from MRC member Megan Dethier on the impacts of the recent heatwave on marine life.

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

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

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

Plastic Free Salish Sea: During its meeting on June 28, San Juan County Council approved a proclamation establishing this month as "Plastic Free July." Plastic Free July is being promoted throughout the county as an effort to raise awareness of plastic reduction goals.

The MRC received their SeaBin on June 17th and it was installed at the Deer Harbor Marina on June 24th by MRC volunteer R.P. Oates. Seabins are designed to filter water and capture floating marine debris, with the ultimate goal of being an upstream solution for cleaner oceans. Seabins selectively target buoyant microplastics down to 2 millimeters without harming marine critters in the process. Removal of

these surface pollutants at scale is a necessary step towards ecological restoration efforts and exploring environmental services that improve overall ecological health in the San Juan Islands. Our main objective is to deploy a Seabin pilot program, of sufficient scope and scale, that will integrate with existing San Juan Island marine debris prevention efforts and accelerate current cleanup efforts. This pilot will place a Seabin in the most heavily trafficked marinas, or those identified as having the highest volume of marine debris. The SeaBin will remain at Deer Harbor for the remainder of the summer.

Eelgrass habitat protection zone vessel presence and compliance monitoring: The MRC is piloting monitoring efforts for vessel usage/presence in areas with protection buoys installed or identified as locations of need and monitoring efforts are ongoing this spring and summer. The Odlin County Park Eelgrass Protection Zone is fully installed with the spar buoys installed earlier this spring. This is the MRC's first anchor out zone in the County. Boater safety and marine stewardship outreach signage will be displayed at Odlin for the remainder of 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 was made on updating the kelp/seagrass, subtidal, and intertidal sections. We are continuing 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.):

At the July 1st meeting, the MRC voted to request that San Juan County Council submit comment letters on the following two items:

- 1) A letter requesting Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler support an underwriting policy to require the Trans Mountain Pipeline project to secure consent from Tribal Nations
- 2) A letter to Department of Ecology regarding their latest Net Pen Guidance

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

SeaBin photos



*Figure 1. Seabin fully operating at Deer Harbor Marina.
Photo Credit: R.P. Oates*



Figure 2 - Polystyrene foam sorted from biomass in Seabin catchment on Jul 13, 2021
Photo Credit: R.P. Oates

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Skagit

Month/Year: July/2021

Submitted by: Tracy/ Pete

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

- Bowman Bay Plant Maintenance/ Nearshore Monitoring Event -July 19: 24 volunteers participated in small groups at the nearshore restoration event at Bowman Bay on July 19. Volunteer activities included weeding and watering shoreline plants, forage fish spawning surveys, hosting the forage fish interpretive station, and beach seining. Volunteers successfully hauled 500 gallons of water in buckets to water the plants and removed invasive weeds, caught lots of juvenile Chinook in the seine, and had lots of great interactions with the public. All in all, it was a great day at the beach!
- Olympia Oyster Heat Related Mortalities: MRC member Paul Dinnel is working with a group of researchers from WA, OR, and BC to assess the impacts of the recent “heat dome” event. Results of the mortality surveys in Fidalgo Bay indicate some new mortality at each site surveyed, averaging 13.2% and 14.6%. The mortalities were likely limited to those that were in direct sunlight. The densities of live Olympia oysters at both survey locations were essentially the same as they were in 2018, despite the recent mortalities. There were no observations of mussels or barnacle mortality on the pilings of the trestle. There also did not appear to be any mortality of Pacific oysters throughout the survey.

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 Monthly Meeting- **July 8 (via Microsoft Teams)**- Jackie Lindsey gave a presentation on the COASST Program. The meeting was attended by 14 people.
- Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Meeting- **July 21** (via Zoom)
- Next MRC Monthly Meeting- **August 12, 9am-11:00am via Microsoft Teams**

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 SSS Advisory Committee met on June 23 and July 21. We welcomed 2 new members from the graduating SSS Class of 2021, bringing the AC’s membership to 13 (of which 7 are general volunteers doing planning & implementation work & 6 are advisory representatives of involved organizations (PBNERR, Skagit MRC, Coastal Training Program & Friends of Skagit Beaches) overseeing the process. 2021 was a very successful year in both graduate numbers (38 Completed the Program) & trainee satisfaction as indicated by the end of program Survey taken by the SSS graduates. Next year’s training is slated for a hybrid format, in-classroom at Padilla Bay & tentatively several on-line Speaker experts from further reaches. There are currently 304 Trained Salish Sea Stewards on our Master List. Citizen Science volunteer opportunities are opening slowly, but most are limited to an established core of pre-trained, past volunteers. The AC has completed streamlining & updating *Volgistics* (the tool for reporting of volunteer hours). We are working on finalizing a SSS Planning Timeline template for future years (registration, advertising, utilizing social media platforms, gear & working with PBNERR on Speakers). We have started brainstorming the funding search for a part-time paid coordinator and are currently developing a job description.

- Fidalgo Bay Day: No updates. Just looking for ideas for the new MRC display booth and activities for future events.
- Bowman Bay Restoration: A sub-award agreement with the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group for plant maintenance at Bowman Bay has been drafted and is waiting signatures. A special volunteer event was held at the Bowman Bay restoration site on July 19 from 11am to 1pm. 11 volunteers helped with weeding and watering at the restoration site. Volunteers hauled buckets of water (500 gallons) to water plants throughout the site with water from the County's water trailer. The volunteers removed thistles, poison hemlock, and blackberries before they went to seed. Four volunteers helped with forage fish spawning surveys and two volunteers helped with the forage fish interpretive station. They did not find any forage fish eggs but the interpretive station was a huge hit with the public. Seven volunteers helped with the beach seining. They found lots of juvenile Chinook and had lots of great interaction with the public.
- 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 Shannon Point and Biz Point in June. The volunteers observed a large healthy kelp bed at Shannon Point. The Biz Point kelp beds were just starting to grow in June, but they appeared to be healthy. The Coffin Rocks kelp bed was surveyed in early July. The Coffin Rocks kelp bed appeared to be very healthy with a huge growth at the northeast corner that they've never seen before. A reconnaissance survey was conducted at the Hope Island kelp bed in Skagit Bay as a potential new survey site. The volunteers found a lot of narrow growth with small clumps of bull kelp that really didn't quite line up with our normal survey protocols. We are currently looking at the possibility of applying a different protocol, a single way point method, at that location. Hope Island has some strong currents so it's important to pay attention to the tides. They will look at that site again in August.
- 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.
- Kids on the Beach: We have wrapped up this season, and Annie England, the lead KOTB Educator, gave a great presentation at the recent NWSC meeting as part of our Skagit MRC presentation. All past participating schools and teachers want to continue this program next year and would prefer to do it in person including a field trip. However, No one wanted to make solid plans yet - most of the teachers seem confident next year will be in person and that field trips will be allowed but depending on what COVID protocols will be in place, it could impact the KOTB program. In the fall 2021, Conway and Concrete High Schools will participate in the KOTB program focused on forage fish. Then there will be invasive snail surveys in the spring 2022 with potentially Concrete high school students, and fish seines with Sedro-Woolley elementary students. This might be changed up a bit based on need and ability. We will not be able to finalize things with teachers until the beginning of the school year. We are still working on how Between Two Worlds (Swinomish tribal education program) fits into the KOTB. More to come there.
- Pinto Abalone Recovery: Nothing new to report. The 2021 Annual Pinto Abalone Report will be finalized in September.
- Olympia Oyster Restoration: Paul Dinnel is working with the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to try to restore the native oyster population in the southern channels of Padilla Bay. 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 were transported to Fidalgo Bay to collect seed oysters to outplant in Padilla Bay next spring. Paul pulled and replaced stacks of ceramic tile to collect oyster recruitment data at two-week intervals. Results indicated the highest oyster settlement ever seen on the tiles in July (we usually don't see high settlement until August), which suggests we will also likely get a nice set of new juvenile oyster settlement on the shell bags this year. Paul also observed a high percentage (approximately 35%) of dead oyster seed on the ceramic tiles, most likely due to the recent 'heat dome'. Paul surveyed the shell beds in Fidalgo Bay to assess the

mortality of native oysters. Results indicated an average mortality rate of 13.2% and 14.6% at both sites surveyed. The mortalities were likely limited to those that were in direct sunlight.

- Crabber Outreach: Darla Gay Smith, the MRC Project Lead, tried to recruit volunteers to help with crabber outreach at the public boat launches on opening weekend through the Salish Sea Stewards electronic news bulletin, The WAVE. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest from volunteers to participate this year. Darla said that it is always a “hard sell” to recruit enough volunteers to help with crabber outreach for several reasons: the volunteers haven’t received proper training on this topic, the timing to conduct outreach is too early in the morning for most volunteers, and there is nothing to entice the crabbers to take the time to engage with the volunteers while they are busy launching their boats and are already geared up for crabbing. Darla suggested the MRC rethink our educational approach. Some of the ideas the MRC discussed included: 1) providing crabber outreach materials in new crab pots sold at local businesses; and 2) Providing demos with properly equipped crab trap display and outreach materials at scheduled times at public beaches, docks, and boat launches, etc. prior to the opening of crabbing season. Darla submitted a crabber outreach article in the Guemes Island Community newsletter including a link to the Northwest Straits Foundation’s online crabber training workshop on June 30th.

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):

Bowman Bay Nearshore Restoration Volunteer Event on July 19, 2021

County Water Truck Filling up Buckets for Volunteers



Volunteers Hauling Buckets of Water for Shoreline Plantings



Beach Seining



Forage Fish Spawning Survey



Beach Seining Activity – Public Outreach



Forage Fish Interpretive Station - Public Outreach



MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: July 2021

Submitted by: Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman

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

- On July 9 local politicians and advocates assembled for a tour of Meadowdale Beach. Among the speakers were U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, state Sen. Marko Liias, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, and Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn.
- The MRC conducted crabber outreach at the 10th street boat launch in Everett on July 1, 3, and 10, reaching over 1,000 crabbers in the 3 days.
- The MRC will host a beach cleanup event on September 18, 2021 from 9AM-12PM at Kayak Point County Park for International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event is 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):

MRC Staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman conducted derelict vessel reconnaissance on June 21.

There was a follow up discussion with MRC Staff and City of Everett Staff on the pilings project on June 22.

There was a follow up discussion with MRC Staff and The Port of Everett on the pilings project on June 23.

MRC Staff and Members attended the Washington State Oil Spill Webinar reviewing the model structure on June 30.

MRC Staff and Members attended the virtual crabber workshop on June 30 hosted by the NWSF.

There was a follow up discussion with MRC Staff and Snohomish County Staff on the pilings project on July 1.

The MRC conducted crabber outreach at the 10th street boat launch in Everett on July 1, 3, and 10, reaching over 1,000 crabbers in the 3 days. MRC Staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman assisted MRC Members Kip Killebrew, Brie Townsend, and Laura Gurley who did outreach. MRC volunteer Phil Salditt also took shifts along with WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers.

There was a follow up discussion with MRC Staff and Tulalip Tribal Staff on the pilings project on July 6.

On July 9 local politicians and advocates assembled for a tour of Meadowdale Beach. Among the speakers were U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, state Sen. Marko Liias, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, and Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn. MRC Staff Elisa Dawson attended the event.

The MRC conducted kelp monitoring at Mukilteo on July 13, and Meadowdale on July 14. MRC Staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman assisted along with MRC Members Tom Doerge, Julie Schlenger, and Brie Townsend.

MRC Staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman attended a forage fish call with WDFW and the NWSC on July 13.

MRC Staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman met with Snohomish County GIS staff to discuss a pilings web map on July 14.

There was a conference call planning discussion for the September 18 cleanup day on July 15. Participants included Xenia Dolovova (Zero Waste Washington Staff), Jonathan Robinson (WSU Beach Watcher Staff), Jon Baker (MRC), Brooks Bennet (WSU Beach Watcher), Alex Pittman (MRC Staff), Mike Ehlebracht (MRC), Elisa Dawson (MRC Staff).

Tom Doerge attended the Puget Sound Restoration Fund kelp monitoring at Edmonds on July 19.

MRC Staff Elisa Dawson attended the North Sound Marine Survival Workshop on July 20.

The MRC hosted their monthly meeting on July 21. The meeting had a presentation from Consultant ESA on the pilings project work.

MRC Kelp Team Tom Doerge, Traci Sanderson, Julie Schlenger, and MRC staff Elisa Dawson and Alex Pittman conducted kelp monitoring at Edmonds on July 22.

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 completed their follow up calls with stakeholders. The calls were on June 22 with City of Everett, June 23 with the Port of Everett, July 1 with Snohomish County, and July 6 with the Tulalip Tribes. City of Marysville opted to not have a follow up call at this time. A draft report will be completed by the consultants mid-July and reviewed by the MRC.

Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (proposed grant project for 2021-2022): Island MRC created a draft application for the Evans School Consulting Lab. The joint MRC Port Susan team of Island County and Snohomish County are reviewing the document and will meet mid-August to discuss edits and make final changes to the application. The application is due August 31.

Derelict Vessels (NWSF funds): Snohomish County is preparing to remove four vessels in late summer 2021 for approximately \$90,000. Target date for removal is late September. Two new derelict vessels washed ashore at Howarth Park this month. MRC Staff are coordinating with project partners, including the City of Everett Police Department, which is leading the removal effort.

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 Picnic Point and Howarth Park. The next sample date is July 28.

Meadowdale: On July 9 local politicians and advocates assembled for a tour of Meadowdale Beach. Among the speakers were U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, state Sen. Marko Liias, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, and Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn.

Marine Vegetation: DNR and Snohomish County have finalized a contract for monitoring in south Snohomish County with DNR in 2021. Monitoring will occur from the south County line to south Everett for a cost of \$40,000. 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 from 9AM-12PM at Kayak Point County Park on 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 conducted crabber outreach at the 10th street boat launch in Everett on July 1, 3, and 10, reaching over 1,000 crabbers in the 3 days.

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:

- Forage Fish Monitoring at Picnic Point & Howarth Park on July 28
- August 18 MRC picnic at Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center
- Kelp Monitoring Edmond August 9, with back-up date of August 20
- Hat Island Kelp monitoring August 10, with back-up date August 18 and 23
- BEACH monitoring with WSU Beach Watchers August 16
- Oil Spill Marine Mammal workshop September 8
- Next MRC meeting September 15.
- Beach Cleanup at Kayak Point County Park for International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 18

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



On July 9 local politicians and advocates assembled for a tour of Meadowdale Beach. Among the speakers were U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, state Sen. Marko Liias, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, and Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn. Photo: Snohomish County Parks.



MRC Crabber outreach at Everett 10th Street Boat Launch. Photo: Elisa Dawson



Snohomish County Government

in 15 mins ·



Going crabbing this weekend? Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee volunteers will be at the 10th Street Boat Launch in Everett, Saturday, July 10 from 6-10 a.m. Look for these fun hats! The volunteers can answer question about correctly setting up your crab pot so you can catch more crab and avoid losing your pots. Volunteers will also be handing out free rot cord and gauges to measure your catch, while supplies last. Learn more information on preventing lost crab pots: <https://www.snocomrc.org/pr.../recreational-crabber-education/>



Social Media Post on Snohomish County Facebook Page on MRC crabber outreach. Photo: Brie Townsend.

MRC Monthly Report to the Northwest Straits Commission

County: Whatcom

Month/Year: JULY 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):

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

- The MRC did not hold their July general meeting due to summer vacations. Meeting highlights include:

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 planning to host a marine research symposium focusing on marine research and recovery in WRIA 1 in a manner that combines and coordinates data and research and community interests and needs. The planning committee is hoping to host this event in early 2022 instead of an updated State of the Bay research symposium. 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 occurred in late June:
 - 1) **Tribal Fishing Culture**, Monday, June 28
Members of the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Indian Tribe discussed the importance of fishing, the First Salmon Ceremony, and their mission to preserve fishing life for future generations. Approx. 53 people participated.
 - 2) **Car Tire Killing Coho**, Wednesday, June 30, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Dr. Jen McIntyre, Washington State University, presented her research on the chemical in tires found to be killing Coho salmon in urban waterways before they can spawn. 25 people participated.

Monitoring

- Dr. Paul Dinnel is continuing to assist with assessing for Olympia oyster larvae settlement on a ceramic tile structure placed in Chuckanut Bay. The tiles that will be assessed in late July will have been in the bay for 4 weeks.
- North Chuckanut Bay water quality has shown a decrease in bacteria levels in the month of July - perhaps due to a lack of rainfall.
- The MRC sent 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 focused on the connection of bacteria levels and shellfish harvest.
- Kelp monitoring is set to begin in late July. The first survey will be conducted at the Aiston Preserve.

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 worked NWSC staff, Washington SeaGrant staff and WDFW staff to develop a mailer to the Drayton Harbor community regarding the increased trapping of European Green Crab this summer. The mailer was sent in early July. There is also increased trapping in Terrell Creek. Messaging will be sent to the Birch Bay community regarding that trapping.

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