



Marine Resources Committee Conference
November 7-8, 2025
Maple Hall, La Conner, Skagit County

Shared Currents: Collaboration Across Water and Community

Day 1, Friday November 7, 2025

Time	Topic
9:30 AM	Registration opens
10:20 – 11:30 AM	Welcome and Opening Plenary <i>Alan Clark, NW Straits Commission Chair and Lucas Hart, NW Straits Commission Director</i> <i>Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Chairman Steve Edwards</i> <i>Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen</i>
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Network and Nourishment <i>Grab lunch, talk with fellow attendees, and enjoy the 2025 slideshow. We encourage you to find someone new to introduce yourself to!</i>
12:30 – 2:20 PM	Reaching Your MRC's Full Potential – An Interactive Work Session <i>What does a thriving, successful Marine Resources Committee (MRC) look like—and how do we get there? This interactive session is designed to encourage peer-to-peer exchange of ideas and information to help MRCs leverage strengths, overcome common barriers, and reinforce strategies that have helped MRCs accomplish their work.</i>
2:20 – 2:30 PM	Recorded remarks from Senator Patty Murray and Representative Rick Larsen
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Break
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Building Equitable Partnerships Between MRCs and Tribes Moderator: Cecilia Gobin, NW Indian Fisheries Commission Panelists: Patti Gobin, Tulalip Fisheries and Natural Resources Neil Harrington, Jamestown S'Klallam Department of Natural Resources Jennifer Willup, Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Remarks from Senator Liz Lovelett, 40th District
4:00 – 6:00 PM	Self-Directed Social Hour <i>Check into your rooms and enjoy a break. Please be back promptly for dinner.</i>
6:00 PM	Dinner – buffet style
6:30 – 6:45 PM	Remarks from Representative Debra Lekanoff, 40th District
6:45 – 7:00 PM	Environmental Leadership Award
7:00 – 8:30 PM	Keynote Speaker Josie Iselin: An Artist's Journey into the Science of Seaweed and the Stories of the Kelp Forest <i>Josie has spent years individually scanning seaweeds and kelps Her intent is to elevate their stories, to increase recognition of the beauty and diversity of seaweeds and kelps, and their ingenuity at thriving in the inter- and sub-tidal zones, a zone us humans can only try our hardest to understand.</i>



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Day 2, Saturday November 8, 2025

Time	Topic
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Coffee Social <i>Coffee, tea, and light pastries will be provided.</i>
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Welcome
9:15 – 10:10 AM	Creating Messages that Drive Behavior Change <i>Presenter:</i> Justine Asohmbom, WA State Department of Ecology
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Resilient Ecosystems: Linking Land and Sea and MRCs <i>Panelists:</i> Dr. Caitlin Magel, University of Washington Erik Kingfisher, Jefferson Land Trust Andi Kopit, Whidbey-Camano Land Trust and Island MRC Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Networking Lunch
12:30 – 2:30 PM	MRC Collaborative Networking Session <i>This highly interactive session is designed to spark connections, inspire collaboration, and expand your understanding of projects across the region. We'll kick things off with a Lightning Round, where each MRC will have 3–5 minutes to present a high-level overview of their project to spark interest and inspire follow-up conversations. Following the lightning round presentations, we'll transition into a table talk segment featuring a rotating series of informal, small-group discussions.</i> ➤ Clallam MRC Pinto Abalone Monitoring ➤ Island MRC Shoreline Armoring and Analysis ➤ Jefferson MRC Marine Science and Stewardship Stage at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival ➤ San Juan MRC Understanding vessel impacts for marine ecosystem protection and recovery in the San Juan Islands ➤ Skagit MRC Shoreline Needs Assessment ➤ Whatcom MRC Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Closing Remarks