



2016 Annual Summary Report

BOCC March 6, 2017

Highlights

- 1,877 volunteer hours for MRC projects in 2016
- Two more rain gardens installed
- Completion of Fort Townsend State Park shoreline restoration project
- Expanded Olympia oysters restoration and forage fish monitoring projects



MRC Projects

- **Fort Townsend State Park Shoreline Restoration:** Improved beach access and restored nearshore habitat project completed in 2016 in partnership with NW Straits Foundation and WA State Parks. 22 volunteers helped with three on-site events last year and permanent colorful interpretive signs highlight the benefits of this project. 17 volunteers engaged in monitoring activities. **2017 post-construction monitoring by citizen science volunteers continues in collaboration with WDFW & Point No Point Treaty Council.**
- **Eelgrass and Shellfish Voluntary No-anchor Zones:** In 2016, the MRC continued protection of 52 acres of eelgrass beds in Port Townsend. No-anchor Zones in Port Hadlock and Mystery Bay protect commercial and recreational shellfish beds. **Efforts will continue in 2017.**
- **Rain Gardens:** Early in 2016, the MRC completed a prioritization of future bio-retention project sites in East Jefferson County. In partnership with WSU Extension and the City of PT, the MRC installed rain gardens at two priority sites in 2016: near the Courthouse (corner of Washington and Walker Streets) and near the Port Townsend Community

Center (corner of Taylor and Clay Streets). The MRC plans to complete 2 more rain gardens in 2017.



- **Olympia Oyster Projects:** Olympia oyster habitat enhancement project in Discovery Bay is progressing well. Monitoring will continue for several more years. The MRC also worked with WDFW and tribal co-managers (Skokomish and Jamestown S’Klallam) to test feasibility of a Olympia oyster restoration project in Quilcene Bay in 2016. Monitoring and project expansion plans underway in 2017.
- **Bull Kelp Studies:** Jefferson MRC continues to participate in a regional effort to test citizen science monitoring of local bull kelp beds, coordinated by the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). Results are mixed and NWSC is now working on the next iteration.
- **Puget Sound Partnership:** MRC has three NTAs with Strait ERN and HCCC LIOs (rain gardens, Olympia oysters, and shoreline armoring outreach). Continuing in 2017.

Education & Outreach

- **Shoreline Landowner Outreach:** MRC & KPTZ staff aired 2 radio programs about shoreline armoring and local restoration projects. MRC also supported the NW Straits Foundation’s shoreline landowner outreach, which included 13 landowner site visits here, and assistance with two designs (3 properties) for armor removal here. Two neighborhood-based outreach programs are planned for 2017 in the Discovery Bay area, along with a more outreach to a broader geographic area.
- **Diggin’ for Dinner:** One family-oriented program on safe and sustainable clam harvesting at a local public beach, in partnership with WDFW and WSU Beach Naturalists. In 2017, the MRC will offer two of these programs in south Jefferson County.
- **Ocean Acidification: Action at a Local Level:** In June 2016, the Northwest Straits Commission hosted a special program for local decision makers to look at opportunities for mitigating O.A. Future programs being considered.

- **Other:** Information tables at festivals, presentations to local groups, and general outreach. In 2017, outreach topics include developing a PTSD Maritime Discovery Program partnership, prevention of lost crab pots, school participation in rain garden projects, and more outreach to boating public.

Benefits to Jefferson County

The MRC and Northwest Straits Initiative provide important economic, recreational and environmental benefits to Jefferson County. **2016 direct value only is \$668,000.**

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):

- **\$73,000** annual grant for MRC administration and local projects (EPA \$ thru WA Dept of Ecology). (**\$1,346,000 to Jefferson County since 1999**)

Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF): **\$575,000** to Jefferson County in 2016

- **\$478,000** spent for Fort Townsend State Park Nearshore Restoration. (Additional **\$15,000** for education/outreach work in last 2 yrs).
- **\$48,000 for Shoreline Armoring Removal Program**—technical consultant site visits, conceptual design work and permitting assistance in Jefferson Co.
- **\$6,000** spent on refining “Best of the Best” feeder bluff parcel assessment in Jefferson Co to identify best sites for future armor removal.
- **\$1,000** MRC funding to support targeted outreach and education about shoreline habitats and armor removal.
- **\$12,000** derelict net removals in 2016
- **\$15,000** in support of nearshore restoration for NOSC Maynard Beach project

Other Leverage (In-kind Value): **≈ \$20,000**

- City of Port Townsend (rain gardens) **\$3,600**
- WSU Extension (rain gardens & volunteer support) **\$7,250**
- Skokomish Tribe (Olympia oysters GIS work) **\$100**
- WA Fish and Wildlife (shellfish, restoration monitoring & Olympia oysters) **\$1,050**
- Taylor Shellfish (Olympia oysters) **\$5,150**
- Point No Point Treaty Council (forage fish lab work) **\$600**
- Port of Port Townsend (no anchor zones) **\$2,250**

