

Mission

Guided by sound science and the needs of the marine ecosystem, the Marine Resources Committee addresses local marine resource issues. The mission of the MRC is to recommend actions to Snohomish County authorities and build local awareness.



Sandpiper



Eel Grass

Northwest Straits Initiative

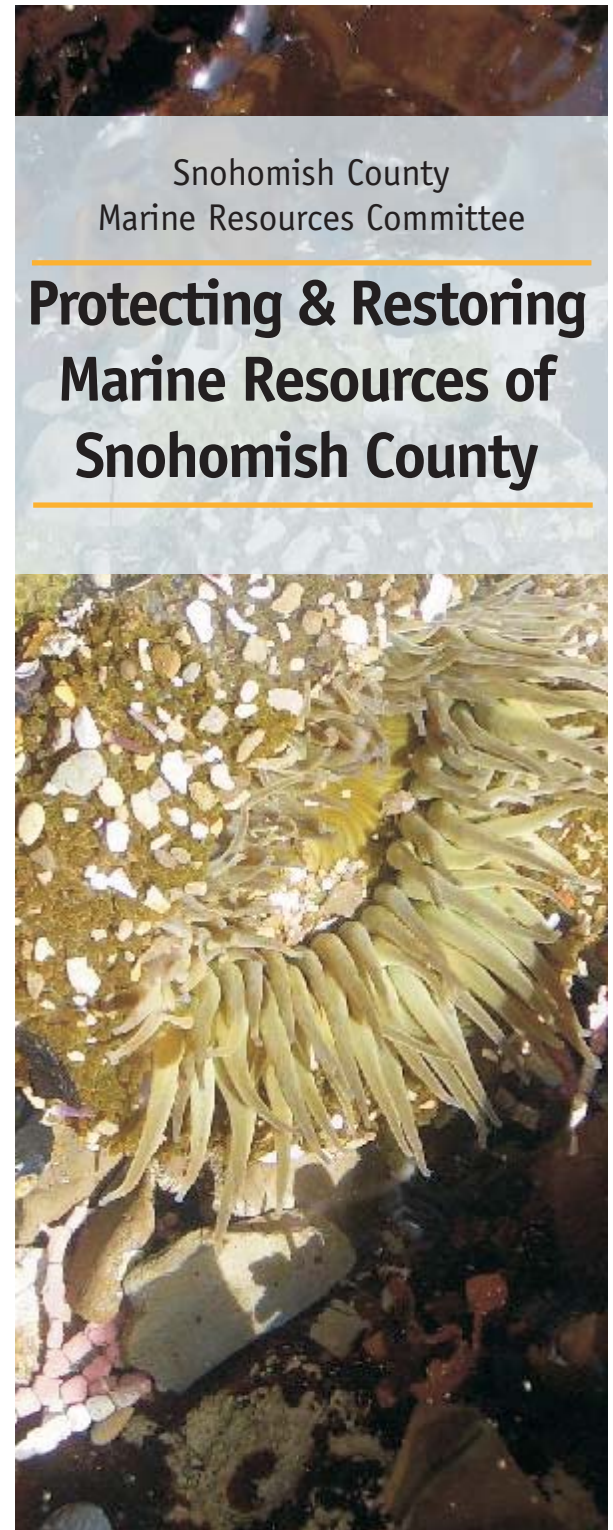
In 1997, Senator Patty Murray and Representative Jack Metcalf established an advisory commission to explore models for protecting and restoring marine resources in the Northwest Straits. At the recommendation of the Commission, the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative was created through an act of Congress.

Through the initiative, the Northwest Straits Commission and county-level Marine Resource Committees were developed as a grassroots effort to halt degradation of marine resources and preserve them for future generations.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.nwstraits.org>



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Marine Resources Committee

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is federally funded through the Northwest Straits Commission. It is one of seven citizen based MRCs. Each committee is comprised of Snohomish County Council appointed volunteers representing scientific, local and tribal governments, economic, recreational and conservation interests.



Starfish

Focus Areas of the Snohomish County MRC

Dungeness crab

- Mapping critical habitat for juvenile Dungeness crab for future protection.
- Educating crabbers about the use of biodegradable “escape cord” to allow crabs to escape over time if a crab trap is lost.
- Researching degradation rates of escape cord.

Nearshore Habitat Protection

- Removing toxic creosote-treated logs from the shoreline.
- Mapping eelgrass habitat leading to better protection of salmon habitat and their prey.
- Restoring the marine shoreline.

Water Quality

- Monitoring toxins in our marine waters by implementing the Mussel Watch Program.
- Compiling water quality data to strengthen our regional understanding of marine water quality.

For a listing of subcommittee projects, visit the MRC website:

<http://www.marine.surfacewater.info>

