

San Juan County Marine Resources Committee

2014 Annual Report

2015 Work Plan

Powers and Duties of the MRC

Resolution 14-2001

- * Advise the Board of County Commissioners about research, educational, and regulatory measures necessary to protect and restore the marine resource of the county
- * Promote and guide specific projects necessary to achieve the protection and restoration of the marine resources of the County
- * Advise the BOCC about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote consistent cross-border conservation, protection and restoration of marine habitats and resources.
- * Information necessary to protect and restore marine systems
- * Specific projects needed to protect and restore
- * Promote consistent cross border efforts to protect and restore

Powers and Duties of the MRC

continued

- * Help assess marine resources problems and the need for preventive or corrective measures in concert with governmental, non-governmental, tribal, recreational and commercial interests.
- * Help identify implications, needs, and strategies associated with the recovery of Puget Sound salmon and other marine species and habitats in and around the County; and do so in concert with the above mentioned entities
- * Work with the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program and other entities to enhance and make public the scientific baseline and monitoring program for the marine environment/ecosystem of the County
- * Assess problems; suggest solutions; work in concert
- * Salmon recovery, along with other species
- * Scientific baseline and monitoring program

Powers and Duties of the MRC

continued

- * Annually identify current actions and the need for additional measures and seek funding sources appropriate to accomplish tasks identified by the Committee that exceed the County's own ability to fund adequately.
- * Work closely with the Board of County Commissioners and the county planning function to establish and implement local marine conservation, protection and restoration initiatives.
- * Coordinate with the Norwest Straits Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.
- * Seek funding for specific tasks
- * Work with CD&P to establish marine conservation initiatives
- * Coordinate with NW Straits

Powers and Duties of the MRC

continued

- * Reach out to the public and other key constituencies on the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources and how marine protected areas (MPAs) can play an important role in habitat protection.
- * Engage in public outreach.

What others think we should do

NW Straits

- * **Protect and restore marine, coastal and nearshore habitats, prevent loss and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas**
- * **Protect and restore marine populations to healthy, sustainable levels**
- * **Protect marine water quality of the Northwest Straits region, and restore the health of marine waters**
- * **Collect high quality data and promote its use and dissemination**
- * **Promote stewardship and understanding of Northwest Straits marine resources through education and outreach**
- * Protect & restore habitats
- * Protect & restore populations
- * Protect & restore water quality
- * Collect high quality data
- * Promote stewardship

What others think we should do

Puget Sound Partnership

San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group = Local Integrating Organization

Priority Pressures Identified for 2014

- Major oil spills
- Runoff from the built environment (including septic systems)
- Shoreline development (including armoring)

Tier 1 Strategies

- * Work with the Puget Sound Partnership on **oil spill prevention and readiness programs** within Puget Sound and with Canada.
- * Maintain local oil spill readiness and response programs in alignment with a regional readiness and response program.
- * Create effective compliance mechanisms for **stormwater**
- * Implement best management practices to reduce pollution of source wastes by **residential runoff** and non-point sources.
- * Provide information and work with landowners regarding the importance of retaining and restoring **native vegetation**, trees and ground cover and geologic processes.
- * Improve on compliance and **enforcement capacity**
- * **Identify and implement shoreline protection tools including land preservation via acquisition and conservation easements, restoration, and protection of marine areas consistent with treaty rights.**

* 2015 Priorities

- * Oil spills
- * Runoff from the built environment
- * Shoreline development

* Strategies for MRC

- * Oil spill prevention / readiness
- * Stormwater
- * Shoreline protection

fyi: PSP > LIO = AAOG = AOC + IC (omg!)

What we did in 2014

- * **MRC Operations**

- * Attended NWS Commission meetings, training, and annual conference
- * Maintained and updated MRC web site
- * Contributed to development of Action Agenda 2014 and helped to *champion inclusion of Council legislative priorities*
- * Produced 2014 Annual Report
- * Prepared 2015 Work Plan for County Council approval

What we did in 2014

- * **Advisory**

- * Participated in updates to county Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program
- * Participated (two members) on Implementation Committee of the Local Integration Organization (with the Puget Sound Partnership)
- * Worked with NWSF and LIO to organize response to oil spill issues in San Juan Action Agenda

What we did in 2014

- * **Marine Stewardship Area Plan Implementation and Monitoring**
- * Completed addition of local data on beach access, sea level rise, stormwater monitoring locations, and soils to NWS Commission's Sound IQ program
- * Prepared grant proposals to fund specimen bank and mussel watch programs (not awarded)

What we did in 2014

- * **Outreach and Education**

- * Participated in monthly meetings of SJ Stewardship Network
- * Distributed Marine Stewardship Area maps and brochures for boaters and visitors
- * Organized the annual Marine Managers Workshop – ocean acidification workshop with shellfish growers

What we did in 2014

- * **Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Functions for WRIA 2**
MRC as the Citizens Advisory Group (CAG):
 - * Participated in a joint meeting with the San Juan County Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to discuss the TAG's technical scoring of round 14 SRFB proposals
 - * Scored the SRFB round proposals on Socioeconomic Impacts and approved the final scoring and ranking of the proposals to be submitted for consideration of funding for SRFB round 14
 - * Allocated \$1.8 mil in grant funds to projects for total of \$2.9 mil to salmon recovery projects in SJC

The San Juan MRC has region-wide impacts

- * Greg Ayers was elected to serve as Treasurer on NWS Foundation Board
- * Barbara Bentley was appointed to serve on the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee
- * She was also appointed to the Science Panel of the Puget Sound Partnership

What we plan to do in 2015

- * 5 major areas
 - * MRC operations
 - * MSA Plan Implementation
 - * Marine policy advisory
 - * Outreach
 - * Salmon Recovery

2015 MRC Operations

- * Grant projects
- * Grants management
 - * Billing
 - * Reports
- * Participate in NWSC Meetings and Training Events
- * Meeting Agendas
- * Web Site Maintenance
- * Document Volunteer Hours
- * 2014 Annual Report
- * 2015 Work Plan

2015 MSA Plan Implementation

- * Strengthen website links to data through **Sound IQ**
- * Seek funding to build **marine specimen bank**
- * Support pre- and post-construction monitoring for the **Deer Harbor bridge** replacement project
- * Explore opportunities to update previous **eelgrass mapping** for SJC
- * Develop program to involve **kayak tour companies** in monitoring bull kelp
- * Assist research to develop anecdotal data on historical **herring populations** in SJC

2015 Marine Policy Advisory

- * Track **marine issues** and provide information and/or policy recommendations for County Council
- * Participate in the **San Juan County LIO** to ensure coordination between MRC work plan and Action Agenda near-term priorities
- * Participate in management planning for Bureau of Land Management/**National Monument**
- * Monitor the results of **Coast Guard Authorization Act** of 2010 and the CG & Maritime Transportation Act of 2012
- * Participate in joint efforts between SJC and the Islands Trust to address marine resource management through the **marine managers workshop** and other opportunities as they may arise

2015 Outreach

- * Participate in **Stewardship Network Steering Committee** and monthly Stewardship Network meetings – (ongoing)
 - * Continue to assess effectiveness of this avenue to achieve MRC outreach goals and develop outreach strategy and logic model (target audience and message)
 - * Partner with Stewardship Network to assist with development of marine-based programs for the **Youth Conservation Corp**
- * Seek opportunities to foster **“Leave No Trace”** education
- * Deliver **MRC Power Point presentation** developed under prior grant; all members deliver to audiences as opportunities arise with quarterly reports on presentations (location, audience) (ongoing)
- * **State Fishing Ad** –determine value as Marine Stewardship Area Plan educational outreach for 2015 funding
- * **Tribal Relations** – develop and conduct education program for MRC and others on tribal rights and interests in marine resources in SJC and enhance communications on marine issues between SJC and tribes
- * **Seek funding** for environmental education programs
- * Seek opportunities to [rovde boater education to **protect eelgrass**

2015 Salmon Recovery

- * As **Citizen Advisory for Salmon Recovery** in Watershed Resource Inventory Area 2 (all of San Juan County):
 - * Attend site visits related to proposals
 - * Review proposals (also reviewed by Technical Advisory Group)
 - * Approve proposals and generate final ranked list
 - * Advise salmon recovery decisions
 - * Keep MRC informed on development of Monitoring and Adaptive Management section of San Juan Salmon Recovery Plan, subject to funding

Sources of support for MRC Activities

- * Northwest Straits Commission grant = \$73,000
 - * program funding = \$58,000
 - * 0.5 FTE professional staff
 - * Salary
 - * Benefits
 - * County overhead and IT = ~ \$15,000
 - * Puget Sound Partnership = \$0
 - * Outside grants = \$0
 - * San Juan County = \$0
 - * MRC Member volunteer time
 - * 500 hrs per quarter
 - * Approx \$50,000 per year
 - * No benefits
 - * No overhead
 - * Limited reimbursements (often donated by members)

Setting Priorities

2015 work plan is too ambitious for resources available

Solution:

Increase resources to 1.0 FTE coordinator

OR

Some action may not be accomplished

The MRC is on your side



Economic cascade

- * Healthy marine habitats
 - * Healthy resources
 - * Healthy economy
 - * (You get what you pay for)

Thank you for your support

What could a 1.0 FTE Coordinator do?

- * 0.5 FTE = MRC operations
 - * 2 meetings per month
 - * Agency reports and coordination
 - * Committee updates, training, webpage
- * 0.25 FTE = MSA grant proposals & administration
- * 0.25 FTE = outreach materials, coordination, volunteer support