



2010

Annual Report

San Juan County
Marine Resources
Committee

The San Juan County MRC

Protecting the Marine Waters, Habitats and Species of the Salish Sea

The San Juan County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) was started in 1996 as a grassroots effort to establish local management of marine resources. Our mission is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats and species of the Salish Sea to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use.

The MRC works toward the achievement of our mission by:

- advising the San Juan County Council on marine resource issues,
- participating in local and regional processes affecting marine resource management,
- developing resources for local marine science, ecosystem preservation and recovery projects,
- raising awareness and engaging citizens in marine issues,
- managing marine preservation and recovery projects.

The seven county-based Marine Resource Committees in the Puget Sound region are supported by federal funding through the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. The MRCs develop and accomplish restoration and conservation projects that meet performance benchmarks, engaging many community members in the process. The Northwest Straits Commission coordinates these efforts.

Message from the Chair

Despite continuing funding reductions, 2010 was a year of innovation and resurrection for the MRC. In partnership with the County's Public Works Dept., the MRC helped the County obtain a \$700,000 grant from the EPA enabling a constructed wetland in Eastsound and technical assistance for landowners to help protect the marine environment. We're partnering with the city of Seattle on another EPA project to pilot a certification program to encourage sustainable building practices along the shoreline. The Derelict Vessel Removal program will be restarted, preventing significant pollution. As a result of the MRC's work, there will be two rain gardens constructed in the Town of Friday Harbor in 2011.

In keeping with our commitment to engage in local and regional marine protection efforts, we provided input to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's five year strategic plan and participated on their rockfish advisory group. Two of our members sit on the Puget Sound Partnership's Implementation Committee. To learn more about community science projects, we held joint meetings with the county's citizen science groups and showcased their work in our fall newsletter.

Responding to concerns, the MRC was asked to advise on prioritization of the county's stormwater basins for planning and is working with Public Works to scope out a stormwater monitoring program. We commented on the County Council's white paper on oil spills, the number one priority identified in the county.

These accomplishments were made possible by the extensive volunteer hours and personal commitment of the extraordinary people on the MRC.

Steve Revella

San Juan County Marine Resources Committee Membership (1/1/2011)

Laura Arnold	Planning Consultant / Friday Harbor Planning Commission / Artist	<i>San Juan Island</i>
John Aschoff	Retired Software Engineer / Soundwatch Volunteer / Sailor	<i>Orcas Island</i>
René Beliveau	Director, San Juan County Dept. of Community Development & Planning	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Barbara Bentley	Botanist / Retired University Professor / San Juan Beach Watcher	<i>Orcas Island</i>
Gregg Dietzman	President and Program Director, White Point Systems / Zoologist	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Michael Durland	Marina Owner-Operator / Captain / Recreational Boater	<i>Orcas Island</i>
Johannes Kreiger	Owner - Crystal Seas Kayaking / Volunteer in Local Schools	<i>San Juan Island</i>
David Loyd	Water Freight Service Operator / Teacher / Sustenance Fisherman	<i>Waldron Island</i>
Barbara Marrett	Port of Friday Harbor Commissioner / Captain / Recreational Boater	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Kit Rawson	Conservation Science Manager, Tulalip Tribes	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Steve Revella	Recreational Fisherman / Member, San Juan Puget Sound Anglers	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Ken Sebens	Director of the Friday Harbor Marine Labs / Marine Biologist / Professor	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Jim Slocomb	Recreational Boater / GIS Mapping Specialist / Marine Mechanic	<i>San Juan Island</i>
Jonathan White	Custom Home Builder / Author / Captain	<i>Orcas Island</i>
Tina Whitman	Forage Fish Specialist / Staff Scientist for the Friends of the San Juans	<i>Orcas Island</i>

2010 MRC Staff

Mary Knackstedt, Coordinator
 Brian Rader, Pollution Prevention Specialist
 Jeff Hanson, Outreach Coordinator
 Helen Venada, Minute Taker

MRC Associate

Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery

Former MRC Members Who Served During 2010.

Lynn Danaher, Pacific Islands Research Institute
 Jack Giard, Commercial Fisherman
 Pete Rose, San Juan County Administrator
 Richard Strathmann, Marine Biologist

Advising Local, State and Federal Agencies

One key MRC role is to advise on marine issues. In 2010, the MRC made recommendations for the following:

NOAA's proposed vessel rules to protect orca whales.

Basin prioritization for the County's Stormwater Advisory Committee.

Restoration of the County's Derelict Vessel Removal Program.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's five year strategic plan.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services's management plan for the San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Selection of projects for the Puget Sound Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.

Prioritizing Funding for Salmon Recovery

As the San Juan Salmon Citizens Advisory Group, the MRC reviewed and approved over \$620,000 for three salmon recovery projects:

An Action Plan for Wild Salmon Recovery in San Juan County: This project compiles a synthesis of all existing data to update the county's salmon recovery plan and engages local and regional salmon experts to identify and prioritize locations and restoration and protection actions to conserve and improve habitat for salmon and their prey.

Restoring Thatcher Bay: This removes wood waste from a historic mill on Thatcher Bay on Blakely Island to restore forage fish spawning habitat and intertidal areas used by Puget Sound Chinook as well as pink, Puget Sound chum and coho salmon.

Removing Abandoned Fishing Nets: This removes seven abandoned fishing nets from salmon migratory pathways, restoring 0.6 acres of marine habitat in San Juan waters by eliminating a direct cause of death for adult salmon, rockfish and other marine animals.

Policy



Outreach: Fostering a Stewardship Ethic in the San Juans

Events

The MRC raised awareness and engaged citizens with the following events:

Sustainable San Juans (Orcas Island)

San Juan County Fair (San Juan Island)

Crab Management Workshop with presenters from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Orcas Island)

Community meetings to showcase citizen science (San Juan, Orcas, Lopez Islands)



Coordinated Outreach

The MRC worked with several partners to:

Raise community concerns about pollution and trash from derelict vessels and the need for local management

Tell the public in media articles about the engineered wetlands being constructed to treat Eastsound's stormwater.

Publish the 13 week *Short Run to the Sea* campaign with weekly ads, articles and newsletter stories.

Produce two *Stewardship Connections* newsletters on water quality and citizen science.

Placed a full page map with information about the Marine Stewardship Area in the State Fishing Guide.

We provided media articles to tell the public about the engineered wetlands planned to treat Eastsound's stormwater.

Science for Public Policy

The MRC compiled several documents and research papers for the County's Critical Areas Ordinance and in preparation for the update of the Shoreline Master Program. Much of this research has been funded by the Salmon Recovery Program and the MRC.

MRC members participated on the state [Rockfish Advisory Group](#) on a rockfish conservation plan

Monitoring Marine Health

The MRC is leveraging local and regional resources to assess the health of the marine environment by: Developing a prioritized monitoring strategy outlining needs and next steps to accompany the [San Juan Marine Stewardship Area Monitoring Plan](#).

Working with San Juan County Public Works to scope out an affordable and effective stormwater monitoring plan using local resources and volunteers.

Coordinated [Community Monitoring Roundtables](#) on Orcas, Lopez and San Juan islands to summarize local monitoring efforts.

Moderated a working session at the annual MRC Conference on local and community monitoring needs.

Established a regional Monitoring Work Group to address shared monitoring needs such as a user-friendly database and scientific support.

Assistance for Local Science Efforts

The MRC provided funding to Kwiaht to analyze phthalates, cancer-causing substances commonly added to plastics, in local waters and provided equipment for Mike Kail to test for pollutants in stormwater.



Integration: Supporting Marine Resource Initiatives

Obtaining Grants for Local Projects

The MRC took the lead in the application for a \$696,184 EPA grant to San Juan County to build its capacity to manage growth sustainably.

With the City of Seattle, The MRC successfully applied for an EPA [Green Shores Grant](#). The program will pilot a certification and incentives program for sustainable residential shoreline development.

By leveraging a small amount of grant funds, the MRC worked with the town of Friday Harbor to develop plans for the construction of two small raingardens at Spring and 2nd Street to treat stormwater and in the bargain, make downtown Friday Harbor more attractive.



Training, Workshops and Conferences

The MRC provided and participated in these training opportunities for county staff, MRC members and local professionals as part of a continuing effort to build capacity for technical assistance to landowners and improve communication for the public:

[Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control training at Skagit Valley College](#)

Sixth annual Marine Managers Workshop with participants from throughout the Salish Sea region on how to carry out the San Juan Action Agenda.

The [MRC Conference at Rosario at Rosario](#) provided exceptional educational and networking opportunities for MRCs throughout Washington.

Pollution Prevention Program

Brian Rader, Pollution Prevention Specialist, provided over 100 site visits to businesses to help them reduce pollution. He

Financial Resources

The MRC brings the following financial resources into San Juan County which translates into protection of marine resources as well as jobs and dollars which support the local economy.

Funding Source	Purpose	Time period	Amount
NW Straits Commission grant	Supports MRC operations and projects	2009-2011	\$240,000
NW Straits Commission benchmark fund	Map feeder bluffs and other shore forms and distribute the information.	2009-2011	\$55,463
Department of Ecology Local Source Control program	San Juan County's Pollution Prevention Program	2009 - 2011	\$193,102
Puget Sound Partnership	Coordinates local and regional outreach efforts	2009 - 2010	\$10,000
EPA grant	Technical assistance for landowners, construction of a engineered wetland, low impact development codes/outreach.	2010-2014	\$696,184
EPA grant	Pilot certification & incentive program for sustainable shoreline development.	2010 - 2014	\$93,856
		TOTAL	\$1,288,605