



Agenda

Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission Meeting

Date: July 24, 2026

Time: 10:30 AM – 2:50 PM

Location: Port Williams Boat Ramp

2499 Port Williams Rd, Sequim, WA 98382

&

Red Cedar Hall, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Community Center

1033 Old Blyn Hwy, Sequim, WA 98382

We acknowledge the lands we’re on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Jamestown S’Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

Today we are on the ancestral and current homelands of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

Documents for NW Straits Commission Review:

- **Meeting Minutes**

10:30 – 10:40 AM	Welcome and Introductions Tribal acknowledgement	Jamie Stephens, Chair
10:40 – 11:10 AM	Site Visit and Presentation: Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring Program Meet at Port Williams boat ramp	Ed Bowlby, Clallam MRC
11:10 – 11:30 AM	Travel to Red Cedar Hall Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Community Center 1033 Old Blyn Hwy, Sequim, WA 98382	
11:30 – 11:35 AM	Reconvene Meeting Meeting minute approval	Jamie Stephens, Chair



Agenda

11:35 – 11:50 AM	Remarks from Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias	Mark Ozias
11:50 – 12:15PM	MRC Reports	MRC Representatives
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Working Lunch	
1:15 – 1:45 PM	Committee Updates • External Relations • Executive Committee • Science Advisory Committee	Elsa Schwartz Lynne Wenberg Dana Oster
1:45 – 2:20 PM	Business Items • Revisit strategic plan action items • Funding Review • August Commission meeting reminder	Lucas Hart Lucas Hart Katalin Chapman
2:20 – 2:35 PM	Project Updates • Kelp update • Vessel turn-in event	Jeff Whitty Dana Oster
2:35 – 2:45 PM	Public Comment	
2:45 PM	Adjourn	

The next regular monthly NW Straits Commission meeting will be on August 28, 2026 over Zoom. Please visit the [website](#) for more information.



Minutes

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting June 26, 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees

Commission Members: Jamie Stephens (Chair), Rick Beauregard (Whatcom), Alan Clark (Clallam), Ken Collins (Island), Cecilia Gobin (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Emily Grason, Peter Haase (Skagit – alternate), Brenda Johnson (Jefferson), Christina Koons (San Juan), Phil Salditt (Snohomish)

Commission Staff: Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Dana Oster, Jessica Owens, Allie Simpson, Leah Skare, Jeff Whitty, Katalin Chapman

Others in Attendance: Morgan Arrington

Absent: Lynne Wenberg (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Mindy Roberts (Puget Sound Partnership), Elsa Schwartz (Island)

Welcome and Tribal Acknowledgement

Jamie Stephens opened the meeting with the Tribal Acknowledgment, introductions, and a welcome to Katalin Chapman, the new Northwest Straits Commission Program Coordinator.

The May 29, 2026 Northwest Straits Commission meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Speed Date with a Scientist: Integrating human dimensions into shoreline restoration monitoring

Morgan Arrington, Ph.D. student at the University of Washington's School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences presented on a monitoring database and a new survey. The [Shoreline Monitoring Database](#) is a resource to upload data from standardized protocols for monitoring shorelines in the Puget Sound. The [Puget Sound Shoreline Survey](#) aims to learn about place-based experiences and attachment to shorelines in Puget Sound, and community views on shoreline restoration. Please contact Morgan Arrington (marringt@uw.edu) with any questions, or thoughts on how this survey can support Marine Resource Committee work. Check out the [presentation slides](#)!

Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Reports

Clallam MRC – Alan Clark

- The pigeon guillemot team began monitoring colonies this month, with high community volunteer turnout.



Minutes

- The kelp team met at Freshwater Bay on June 13 to monitor two kelp beds in the area via kayak. One kelp bed is doing well, and one has yet to emerge for the season. There was strong volunteer participation.
- The MRC supported the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe in completing their annual Olympia oyster monitoring surveys on Sequim Bay.

Island MRC – Ken Collins

- The bull kelp monitoring season began with surveys at Possession Point and Lowell Point.
- The stewardship and restoration team is continuing weeding efforts at Hoypus Point.
- The MRC is working on its 2027- 2030 strategic plan to be put into action in January 2027.
- The derelict crab pot removal project, in partnership with Skagit MRC, Swinomish Tribe, and Northwest Straits Foundation, has kicked off with surveys to determine location and removal beginning in July.

Jefferson MRC – Brenda Johnson

- The MRC hosted its annual crabbing 101 on June 24 to educate on derelict crab pots, crabbing harvest regulations, and best practices with speakers from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, and Northwest Straits Foundation.
- A raingarden work party was led in May to weed and connect with the community on the purpose of rain gardens, and the opportunity to adopt one of the MRC’s raingardens.
- Monitoring of the North Beach kelp bed in June showed growth to the east, and a potential merging with another kelp bed.

San Juan MRC – Christina Koons

- The Commission shared gratitude for Christina Koons at her last Commission meeting as the San Juan MRC representative.
- Dock talks have been hosted to engage boaters in best practices on the water, providing resources like whale warning flags, information on anchoring out of eelgrass, and how to report derelict vessels.
- Derelict vessel work is under way with water and aerial surveys to track vessels and see where “hotspots” overlap with sensitive habitats like eelgrass beds.
- Through its advisory role the MRC had County Council send a letter to Transport Canada regarding the transboundary issue of oil spill prevention, particularly with increased tanker traffic. This letter describes the value of prevention and risk reduction. It was well received and the idea of a joint spill response exercise was floated.

Skagit MRC – Peter Haase

- The MRC’s 2026-2031 strategic plan has been finalized and approved, one focus is the recruitment and retention of members.



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- The Fidalgo Bay Olympia oyster settlement is showing high oyster density and recruitment numbers, including on the west side of the bay which had no previous recruitment.
- Derelict crab pot side-scan sonar surveys identified 169 derelict crab pots for removal in July and August.
- The MRC recently heard of a potential sand lance spawning site and plans to explore it in the fall.

Snohomish MRC – Phil Salditt

- Crabber outreach events are planned for July 3 and 4 at the Port of Everett. Informational cards will be shared, and past turnout has been 200-300 people.
- Kelp monitoring and derelict vessel identification work is ongoing, along with outreach to local boating groups on marine vegetation information.
- The MRC's summer intern will work through September to analyze forage fish data. They may reach out to other MRCs for additional data points.

Whatcom MRC – Rick Beauregard

- The Puget Sound Restoration Fund provided 200 bags of Olympia oyster spat on Pacific oyster shells which were placed in North Chuckanut Bay. 27 volunteers participated in the event, representing a wide variety of organizations.
- The MRC hosted its last Beach Seine with Schools event of the season. 72 students participated in the May event, and a total of 185 participated in the program this year.
- Two interns were hired to direct boat-launching traffic away from eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

The Committee is discussing the option of moving the annual MRC Conference to an every-other-year cadence, with targeted symposiums in off-years to continue collaborative opportunities while limiting costs. More information will be shared with the Commission as the conversation continues. Potential Environmental Leadership Award nominees are being discussed by the Executive Committee.

Additionally, Lucas shared guidance on Northwest Straits logo usage, which is available online in the [Brand Guide](#).

External Relations

The Northwest Straits Commission reauthorization bill has passed the House and is advancing in the Senate. Follow progress of the Northwest Straits reauthorization bill through the



Minutes

[House](#) and [Senate](#). The Committee reviewed plans to form a legislative site visit workgroup with MRC participation.

Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Science Advisory Committee did not meet in June.

The July meeting will include preparation of discussion plans for the November MRC Conference workshop.

Emily Grason emphasized the Science Advisory Committee's offer of a collaborative session with MRCs is still open. Several MRCs have already scheduled sessions. Please contact Dana Oster (oster@nwstraits.org) if your MRC is interested.

Business Items

MRC Legislative Site Visit Workgroup

Lucas reiterated the importance of highlighting MRC work to federal and state legislators. Workgroup members are planning site visits with their respective MRCs and looking for ways to collaborate across MRCs on site visits.

Northwest Straits Commission budget overview with MRCs

Northwest Straits Commission staff would like to schedule time on MRC agendas to provide education and an overview of the NWSC budget and how it links to MRCs.

July Commission meeting reminder

The Commission will meet in-person in Clallam County on Friday July 24, from 10:45AM to 3:45PM at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Community Center and virtually on August 28. More information will be available on our [events page](#).

Project Updates

Green Crab

Allie Simpson shared updated numbers on green crab trapping efforts in Drayton Harbor and Samish Bay. As of 6/17, a total of 835 crabs were captured, including 29 egg-bearing crabs. Each clutch from an egg-bearing crab can hold 180,000 eggs, meaning an estimated 5 million eggs were removed! Learn more on our [European green crab page](#) and please contact Allie Simpson (simpson@nwstraits.org) with any questions.

Volunteer No Anchor Zones

Allie shared an update on voluntary no-anchor zones. Vessel monitoring trainings are under way for volunteers and MRCs. If your MRC is interested in a training, please contact Allie Simpson (simpson@nwstraits.org).



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Northwest Straits Commission's Anchor Out campaign is ramping up for the summer with ads and articles. *The Salish Current* highlighted this work in a recent article, "[Local groups promote green boating during World Cup traffic](#)" which included an interview with Allie Simpson. Waggoner Cruising Guide July eNews featured an article [Protecting Eelgrass Meadows in East Sound, Orcas Island | Waggoner](#). An [anchor out toolkit and resources](#) like graphics and logos are available for MRC and partner use. Learn more on our [anchor out](#) and [voluntary no-anchor zones](#) pages, or contact Dana Oster (oster@nwstraits.org).

Northwest Straits Commissioner Updates

Phil Salditt noted the Northwest Straits Foundation is hiring a new Executive Director. Learn more through the Valtas Group's [position profile](#).

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Cecilia noted the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission is working to amend Section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to protect salmon stocks that are listed as endangered or of concern. This could include salmon, sturgeon, lamprey, and more, and would mirror amendments that Columbia River tribes made recently.

Additionally, the WA State Department of Ecology is working to tighten nutrient and stormwater discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants via individual NPDES permits for facilities along the coast. Public comment periods are open for several facilities. Learn more on Ecology's [Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit](#) page.

Puget Sound Partnership

There was no update this month.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

*The next meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission will be on July 24, 2026 at Red Cedar Hall, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Community Center, 1033 Old Blyn Hwy, Sequim, WA 98382
Information can be found on our [events page](#).*

Clallam MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

The Clallam kelp team completed their first survey at Clallam Bay on July 17 th .
The forage fish team welcomed a new volunteer, Rian Robinson, a student at Peninsula College, who was trained in collection protocols and plans to continue volunteering with the forage fish team.
The Olympia oyster project was highlighted in the Northwest Treaty Tribes summer newsletter .

**Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.*

Project Updates

What happened during **this specific month**, highlights, what's next, and any connection to reaching broader communities. Include dates, partners, participants, volunteers, data collect, results and quotes if relevant. Your highlight may be featured in our newsletter or social media. *Including highlights makes it easier to amplify MRC work in NW Straits newsletters and social media.*

Project title	Update for current month
Forage fish	Volunteers collected monthly forage fish samples from 4 beaches in Clallam County. A new volunteer, Rian Robinson, a student at Peninsula College, was trained in collection protocols and plans to continue volunteering with the forage fish team.
Kelp	The kelp team completed their first survey at Clallam Bay on July 17 th .
Pigeon guillemot	The pigeon guillemot team continued monitoring colonies this month.
Olympia oyster	The Olympia oyster project was highlighted in the Northwest Treaty Tribes summer newsletter.

**Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.*

Photos

NA

Island MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

Island MRC is continuing to work on the 2027-2030 Strategic Plan and will use the August MRC Meeting time as a volunteer summer celebration potluck and Strategic Plan discussion!

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Project Updates

Project title	Update for current month
Bull kelp monitoring	Island MRC continued their bull kelp monitoring with their July surveys! Volunteers enjoyed blue skies and sunny weather as they surveyed Island County's kelp beds.
Stewardship and Restoration	The Island stewardship and restoration continued this summer's volunteer work and headed to Cornet Bay for a morning of weeding and conversation! Co-lead by the NWSF and Island MRC, the six volunteers moved through the site and weeded, clearing up the site for the native vegetation! The team is taking a pause in July and will continue the next volunteer event on September 1.
Forage Fish survey	The Island MRC forage fish survey team continued to survey their six sites in July.
Derelict crab pot removal	The derelict crab pot removal project has received a finished map of the survey track lines, survey area, and crab pot targets for removal, with ROV operations scheduled for the end of July and likely past that into August and September.
Abandoned and derelict vessels	The ADV team is working to create and finalize outreach and educational materials regarding the removal of ADV's in Island County. The co-leads and Coordinator will be meeting with the Island County Sergeant to discuss their partnership and role in ADV removal!

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point Stewardship Day	Tuesday, September 1, 2026	Northwest Straits Foundation	Island County Marine Resources Committee Island County Marine Resource Committee	Y
Highlight/description – Island Stewardship and Restoration team are co-hosting another volunteer stewardship day with the NWSF at Cornet Bay and Hoypus Point on September 1! You can register at Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point Summer 2026 Stewardship Days!				

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

Photos

*Please embed photos in the Word Doc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.***

Project name(s): Bull kelp monitoring

Photographer credit(s): Doug Palm

Approved for use in communications? Y





Project name(s): Cornet Bay Restoration and Stewardship

Photographer credit(s): Elise Adams

Approved for use in communications? Y



Jefferson MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

1	The Olympia Oyster Restoration Team was out in the field this month counting Oly populations at our two restorations site – Discovery Bay and Mystery Bay. The Disco Bay survey was a very successful day on the water, group of 14 spent 4 hours collecting 142 samples at the Powerlines site.
2	The MRC will be holding new member interviews in late July 2026. There are 3 new applicants as of 7/17/2026.

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Project Updates

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Project title	Update for current month
Kelp kayak monitoring	The Kelp team monitored on July 20 th .
Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index)	Sarah Fisker will sample late July.
Forage fish - Quilcene Marina	Sarah Fisker will sample late July.
Olympia Oyster Restoration	• Coordinator has submitted all needed permit applications, and is working on providing follow-up information/documentation as requested. • A new restoration site at Kilisnoe Harbor has been adopted. A population survey was conducted here on July 17th, with the help of 8 volunteers and 4 MRC members, and permit applications will be submitted Fall 2026 to allow shell placement to begin Summer 2027.

Project title	Update for current month
	• Team conducted a population survey at the Discovery Bay Powerlines site on July 15th, with the help of 12 volunteers and 2 MRC members.
Voluntary No-Anchor Zones	• NAZ team met with NWSC staff to provide information for September Waggoner issue. • NAZ Team is planning to attempt to install new buoy along PT Waterfront by October 2026. • NAZ Team is planning to do maintenance on the Port Hadlock buoys before October 2026.
Education & Outreach	• A new E+O project, focused on updating MRC outreach/advertising materials, will be added to the scope of work in the upcoming OTGP-2026 amendment. • Coordinator met with contractor to finalize contract for new project, and review deliverable timeline and needs for upcoming deliverable (Priority Ad #1).
Shoreline Landowner	• NWSF is continuing to work on permitting for bulkhead removal at the Quilcene Marina. • NWSF is working with the MRC to hold a Shoreline Friendly Workshop in Port Townsend on 8/19/2026.
Rain Gardens	• A contract with Jefferson County Master Gardeners is in progress to contract support for a fall RGWP and planting, and restoration at the Chetzemoka Park rain garden. • Rain Garden scope of work will be updated in the upcoming OTGP-2026 amendment. • Signage is planned to be replaced at several rain gardens. • Coordinator worked with Franklin and Lincoln RG Steward Lynda to address thistle overgrowth issue and purchase soaker hoses to sustain current plantings in August. • Coordinator, MG Coordinator, and 3 City of PT staff met on 7/24 at the Chetzemoka Park RG to discuss drainage issues and maintenance.

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Olympia Oyster population survey – Discovery Bay	July 15 th , 2026	None – In-kind support from Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Taylor Shellfish and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/olympia-oyster-restoration/	Y
Highlight/description Had a very successful day on the water, group of 14 spent 4 hours collecting 142 samples at the Powerlines site in Discovery Bay.				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Olympia Oyster population survey – Mystery Bay	July 17 th , 2026	None – In-kind support from Taylor Shellfish and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/olympia-oyster-restoration/	Y
Highlight/description N/A				

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

Photos

*Please embed photos in the Word Doc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.***

Project name(s): Olympia Oyster Restoration

Photographer credit(s): Neil Harrington

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N



San Juan County MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

Summertime surveys for data collection and outreach to visitors and residents is proving to be successful in advancing the goals of the MRC. Having eyes on the water and in the air is allowing us to see boating behavior. Engagement at docks is helping spread messages about anchoring out of eelgrass and educating boaters on whale regulations and tools.

At the August MRC meeting, members will perform their role as the citizens advisory group for Salmon Recovery and offer final scoring for the socio-economic value of proposed salmon recovery projects. This advisory action taps into the MRCs' expertise and helps ensure funding for recovery and protection projects happen throughout the county.

The MRC continues to engage in oil-spill prevention messaging this month drafting and sending a letter to Governor Ferguson highlighting the increased risk of accidents and spills with the Canadian Transmountain Pipeline expansion. Cooperation and engagement with cross-border neighbors is essential to keeping our marine waters safe.

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Project Updates

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Project title	Update for current month
Derelict Vessel Prevention	- Derelict Vessel surveys have been happening frequently this summer. While it is more difficult to identify vessels during the busier season, there are still plenty of boats to keep an eye on. - Surveying vessels across county waters in helping our DV coordinator track vessel registration. As per new law, vessels without updated registration for the last two years are now able to be flagged.
Marine Stewardship Area	Marine surveys continue for vessel counts, mooring buoy surveys, and derelict vessel patrols. Having eyes on the water

Project title	Update for current month
	and knowing what is happening around the Marine Stewardship Area has been beneficial not just for data collection, but to have a presence among boaters. • Dock talks continue to be successful with engaging boaters in best practices and passing out whale warning flags. Now that we have been circulating flags for several years we are hearing reports of people using them successfully and feeling like they are making a difference for local whales by flying the flag to alert other boaters. This anecdotal evidence is slowly showing behavior change, which is the goal of the whale warning flag.
Eelgrass Protection	• Vessel counts are underway. • The MRC is planning a talk for the San Juan County Fair Village Green Speaker Series about our work in eelgrass protection.
Plastic Free Salish Sea	• Plastic Free July is underway with social media posts and videos spreading awareness and inviting folks to engage in reducing plastic in their everyday lives. • The subcommittee is working on an entry for the county fair's Fashion Trashion show, which uses recycled materials to create outfits. We hope that by using plastic from boat shrink wraps, the plastic film recycling bin, and found debris will help inspire people to take action against using so much plastic, especially when there are alternatives. • The Youth Conservation Corp will be auditing the plastic film bin contents on August 3. Sorting and identifying what materials should and should not be in the recycling bin will help inform future education and lead to a better end product.

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Dock Talks	July 17, Aug 1, Sept 5	Roche Harbor		Y
Highlight/description Boater outreach at marinas. We pass out whale warning flags, provide resources and education about anchoring out of eelgrass, derelict vessel prevention, and oil spill prevention.				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Next MRC Meeting	August 6		https://sjcmrc.org/meetings-events/	Y
Highlight/description Monthly Meeting of MRC, in conjunction with CAG and LIO				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
San Juan County Fair	August 13-17	SJC Department of Environmental Stewardship	https://sjcmrc.org/meetings-events/	Y
Highlight/description The MRC will have a booth in conjunction with the SJC Department of Environmental Stewardship at the county fair to showcase MRC projects and engage the public with our work.				

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

Other Notes

A draft letter was written by the MRC's Spill Prevention and Rescue Towing Subcommittee on behalf of San Juan County Council to send to Governor Ferguson to alert him to the heightened risks of accidents and spills from Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion and other new pipelines and terminals. The subcommittee is seeking MRC approval to forward this letter to County Council and request that they sign and send the letter to Governor Ferguson. If approved, the letter would also be forwarded to other legislative representatives and partners as a reference.

Photos

Please embed photos in the Word Doc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.**



Project name(s): Derelict Vessel Prevention/MSA - Scenic buoy on survey

Photographer credit(s): Katie Johnson

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N



Project name(s): Youth Rep Lola Walker on Marine Survey -Derelict Vessel Prevention/MSA

Photographer credit(s): Katie Johnson

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N



Project name(s): Youth Rep Flora Vaught on Marine Survey -Derelict Vessel Prevention/MSA

Photographer credit(s): Katie Johnson

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N

SKAGIT MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July/2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

We finally have kelp at our East Shannon Point bull kelp survey site after it disappeared for 2-3 years! Kelp blades are healthy but loosely formed.

A total of 397 derelict pots were identified and mapped for targeted removal. So far, the dive team removed 75 derelict crab pots in Similk Bay in June. ROV ops started in July (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) focusing on deep water targets. Five pots have been pulled by the ROV so far.

* Paul Dinnel is running an experiment with four small test plots to test the effectiveness of different sizes of oyster shell in terms of capture and retention of oyster larvae on the mudflat.

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Project Updates

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Project title	Update for current month
Crabber Outreach	▪ In June, our crabber outreach team delivered more than 600 “<i>Catch More Crab</i>” rack cards and posters to twelve businesses in Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon & Guemes Island. This year NWSF had posters & rack cards printed in the Spanish.
Skagit Bay Derelict Crab Pot Removal	▪ Derelict crab pot side-scan sonar surveys are now complete. A total of 397 derelict pots were identified and mapped for removal. A high density of pots found off NW Camano. ▪ NWSF experienced some issues with the USBLE software which is the GPS for an underwater ROV. ROV training ended up being 4

Project title	Update for current month
	days instead of 1 due to software issues. Oceanbotics has been working through the issue and will need to test it out again. ▪ Pot removal ops will only be conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during closed crabbing days. They currently have 100 deep water pots to go after with the ROV and 215 shallow water pots to be removed by divers (8-9 dive days). ▪ Dive team removed 75 crab pots in Similk Bay in June. No dive ops scheduled in July. Will likely start back up in August and focus on Skagit sites. ▪ ROV crab pot removal starts in July. Will likely be adding dates in September as well. Primary ROV focus will be on deep water targets off Camano but will depend on the weather.
Kayak Bull Kelp Surveys	▪ Shannon Point survey completed <u>June 12</u>. Four volunteers. WEST - Two beds forming: Track 1 (south) and Track 2 (north). Track 2 is largest, most defined but bulbs broadly spaced out / not dense. Track 2 was loosely formed and difficult to track but met protocols. Several single bulbs close to shore in shallows, many young loose kelp dislodged from holdfasts. Kelp was mostly healthy but many blades had evidence of damage and tears. Many kelp crabs (10?) on blades. EAST – THERE IS FINALLY KELP! One small bed forming west of large rock. Several single bulbs observed east of bed popping through sargassum. Kelp blades healthy but loosely formed. Dense sargassum observed along shoreline and 100m+ offshore at east end of bed near ferry terminal. ▪ Biz Point survey completed <u>June 25</u>. Four volunteers. Reported lots of healthy kelp. ▪ Lone Tree survey completed <u>June 28</u>. Three volunteers. Overall kelp bed density greater than in May 2026, and kelp growth area much more spread out. Number of actual kelp bulbs easily double to triple the amount seen in May 2026. ▪ Coffin Rocks survey completed <u>June 29</u>. Four volunteers. Kelp very fresh and healthy throughout perimeter; density varied from very dense to scattered on east and west sides. Large dense cluster northeast of main about 10 meters from perimeter identified by Waypoint 187. ▪ A reporter from Salish Current is interested in possibly interviewing the kelp survey volunteers either on shore or out on the water. ▪ July survey schedule is as follows: Shannon Point West/East (7/11), Biz Point (7/26), Coffin Rocks (7/28), and Lone Tree (7/29). Details for July surveys will be shared next month.

Project title	Update for current month
Bowman Bay Boat Ramp Removal	▪ An Interlocal Agreement is in process of completion and being routed through the signature process. It's expected to be fully executed by late July or early August. ▪ The significantly damaged concrete boat ramp was removed by State Parks in March. Volunteers helped remove the smaller chunks of concrete rubble that their excavator was unable to get. ▪ MRC developed a native planting plan for both the beach ramp removal area, as well as the pier demolition in collaboration with NWSF and State Parks. The planting plan is anticipated to be finalized and approved soon. ▪ The remaining work scheduled for September – December to include: final shoreline armoring and debris removal during in water work window (September); apply beach nourishment (September-November); install native plants and mulch (November-December); and Final report (December). ▪ The MRC will continue to support NWSF's Stewardship Days at Bowman Bay during the summer with media support and volunteers. NWSF continues to use the Park's Fire Truck to water the plants periodically. Note: June's Stewardship Day was cancelled due to lack of participants and July's will be cancelled as the plants are flourishing with little weeding needed. There are still plans for a stewardship event in August that will include presenting and update on the boat ramp removal project and pier demo and the native plantings and maintenance that will require help from volunteers. New plantings at the Boat Ramp and Pier Demo will need continued stewardship support in 2027 and beyond.
Salish Sea Stewards	▪ The first Social Educational Event of this year was held June 17 at Washington Park. There was a picnic catered by Gere-a-Deli and an exploration of the tide pools led by Erin Merklein. 20 Salish Sea Stewards (new graduates and alumni) attended the event. It was a huge success! ▪ The Advisory Committee is now on Summer Break until October 1st. During our Summer Break we will probably start to have email conversations about our next Social Event and planning prep for the next year of SSS. ▪ The next meeting of the Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Working Group will be held in person at Padilla Bay on October 1st from 10:00am to noon where we will start to set

Project title	Update for current month
	the schedule for Publicity and Speakers/Topics for the 2026/2027 SSS Training Year.
Pinto Abalone Restoration	▪ Field work is complete for this season. The focus is now on hatchery production. ▪ Puget Sound Restoration Fund is helping Shannon Point Marine Center to build their hatchery and working with students on some of their experiment projects. ▪ Will start working on the Year End Report soon which will be completed by September 30th.
Olympia Oyster Restoration	▪ Patches of oysters have spontaneously cropped up in the mudflats to the south of the trestle. Most of the mudflats in that area are devoid of material for oysters to settle on. There are lots of oyster larvae being produced in Fidalgo Bay and the larvae are looking for someplace to settle. ▪ Paul Dinnel is running an experiment with four small test plots to test the effectiveness of different sizes of oyster shell in terms of retention and capture of oyster larvae on the mudflat. In theory, breaking up the shell into smaller pieces might spread out further and provide more surface area for larvae to settle on compared to full sized shells. Once they settle on something they will start forming an oyster bed. The experiment will help answer questions such as, once they settle on broken shell will they end up getting buried in sediment during storms? How do the broken shells compare to the full-sized shells in terms of effectiveness in oyster settlement and survival?
Intertidal Monitoring	▪ The Intertidal Monitoring event took place in June. ▪ The Salish Sea School is working on entering and analyzing the intertidal monitoring data collected and will put together a report and plan to include a comparison of past surveys at that site. Working with RE-Sources, DNR, and Whatcom MRC to track down all the data and put it in a compatible digital form. ▪ Pete plans to reach out to different stakeholders to see if there is any interest or need in continuing intertidal monitoring in Fidalgo Bay for another year.
Forage Fish Monitoring	▪ Monthly monitoring at restoration sites and index sites continues with lots of volunteer help. ▪ Finding lots of eggs in the usual places.

Project title	Update for current month
Kids on the Beach	▪ 2026 spring KOTB program successfully wrapped up in May. ▪ The KOTB Year 1 project report will be finalized in September and will cover the 2025 fall and 2026 spring KOTB programs. ▪ The next event will likely take place in October, 2026 with Conway Middle School.
Fidalgo Bay Day	▪ Save the Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026, 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort. The official FBD event page is on The Salish Sea School (TSSS) website here. ▪ TSSS is hosting the event this year and securing sponsors. They have 5 so far. ▪ Skagit MRC is participating on the event planning committee. ▪ 14 organizations have signed up to participate so far. ▪ A call for volunteers has been posted in the electronic news bulletin, The WAVE. Volunteers can sign up to help by filling out the online Google Form. 7 volunteers signed up so far.
La Conner School Rain Garden	▪ Lynne Wenberg-Davidson has been regularly checking in on the rain garden. She installed the irrigation system and did some weeding with help from her husband Doug and Elizabeth Drozda. Plants are doing great!

**Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.*

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Skagit MRC Monthly Meeting	8/13		Meetings & Events	
Highlight/description Suzanne Schull will give a brief presentation on Sound IQ. The meeting will be held in-person at Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Stevens Center in the upstairs conference room				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Fidalgo Bay Day	9/26	The Salish Sea School	https://www.thesalishseaschool.org/event-details/fidalgo-bay-day	Y
Highlight/description Fidalgo Bay Day is a FREE educational community event that fosters public awareness and stewardship of the marine environment and presents a wonderful opportunity to strengthen partnerships with the local conservation community. There will be educational displays from marine conservation groups across the region and activities such as a beach seining demonstration, Forage Fish egg survey, Shannon Point Marine Center portable touch tanks, and FREE samples of local seafood.				

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

Photos

*Please embed photos in the Word Doc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.***

Project name(s): Paul Dinnel's Olympia Oyster Shell Experiment

Photographer credit(s): Paul Dinnel

Approved for use in communications? Check with Paul Dinnel



Project name(s): Lone Tree Kelp Surveys

Photographer credit(s): TBD

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Coffin Rocks Kelp post-survey

Photographer credit(s): Peggy Woods

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Coffin Rocks Kelp survey

Photographer credit(s): Steven Olsen

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Shannon Point West Kelp survey- torn kelp blades

Photographer credit(s): Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Shannon Point West Kelp survey- young kelp detached

Photographer credit(s): Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Shannon Point East Kelp Survey- invasive sargassum

Photographer credit(s): Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Derelict Crab Pots- removed by ROV

Photographer credit(s): Jason Morgan, NWSF

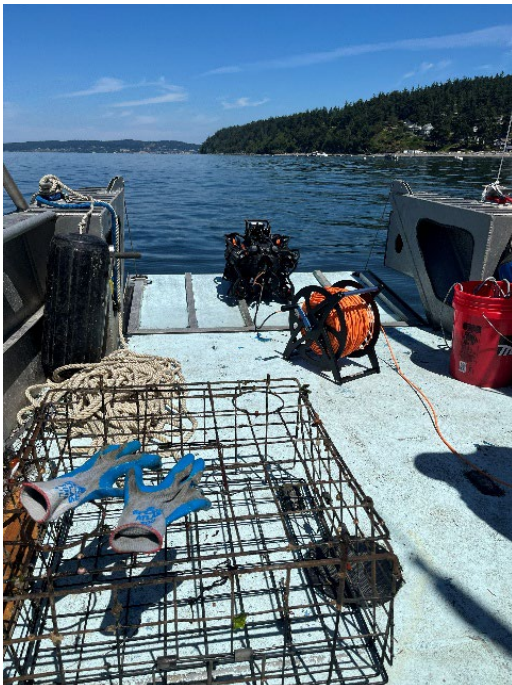
Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): Derelict Crab Pots- ROV in operation in Skagit Bay

Photographer credit(s): Jason Morgan, NWSF

Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): La Conner School Rain Garden- irrigation installation and maintenance

Photographer credit(s): Lynne Wenberg-Davidson

Approved for use in communications? Y



Snohomish MRC Monthly Report

1. Basic Info

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: July 2026

2. Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

Up to 3 bullets. ~2 sentences each.

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

1	The MRC approved two letters of support for Tulalip Tribes. One for European Green Crab invasive species management funding and the other for culvert removal funding.
2	Cali and Joycelyn bought kayaks and safety gear for the county to use during kelp monitoring. Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Meadowdale have already been monitored for July.
3	No MRC meeting in August. Members will have a picnic instead.

****please** note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.*

3. Project Updates

What happened during this specific month, highlights, what's next, and any connection to reaching broader communities. Include dates, partners, participants, volunteers, data collect, results and quotes if relevant. Your highlight may be featured in our newsletter or social media. Please note: you do not need to include all of these items every month, this is a reminder that including highlights that will make it easier to amplify MRC work in the NW Straits newsletters and social media.

Project title	Update for current month
Grant Funded Projects	
Derelict Vessel (MRC Grant 2025-2027)	The subcommittee went on a tour of the vessels in Snohomish County on June 23 rd . They have begun reaching out to the Port of Everett, Port of Edmonds, and DNR.
Marine Vegetation Outreach (MRC OTGP Grant 2026-2027)	The subcommittee has started giving local boating groups and areas frequented by boaters, the posters and one pagers. They have also started brainstorming presentation ideas for the same organizations.
SWM Fee Funded Projects	
Forage Fish Monitoring	Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Scheduled for July 27 th Howarth Park – July 17 th
Marine Vegetation Monitoring	Kayak Monitoring has begun. The dates are as follows: Mukilteo on 7/13 completed, no kelp beds were found. Meadowdale on 7/14 completed, no kelp beds found. Edmonds on 7/15 (completed) and 8/10 Hat Island on 7/29, 8/12, and 9/8.
Outreach	The group is preparing for the Sustainamania event and the ETAP beach cleanup on Sep 26 th .
Crabber Outreach	Brie, Phil, and Brenly attended crabber outreach Projected dates for crabber outreach at the Port of Everett on Fri July 3 rd , and Sat July 4 th both 6am – 10am. They made 191 contacts.
Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention	None
Shoreline Armoring/Nearshore	None
Marine Water Quality	None

4. Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date	Contact info (if new)	Added to website?
Departing	Becky Passarella	Member	June 18 th		Yes

May we feature this information in our newsletter/social media? ☐ Yes ☐ Not yet

5. Event & Meetings List

Nam e	Dat e(s)	Partn er(s)	Link to event on MRC site	Highlig ht or descri ption	*Pro mote this event Y/N
MRC Mee ting	July 15 th		Microsoft Teams meeting Join: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/280690223462097?p=rUrHNhir70BWk6MZyO Meeting ID: 280 690 223 462 097 Passcode: L6Cj9To6	Virtual	

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

6. Other Notes

The MRC was asked to weigh in on the Snohomish County Budget.

For legislative outreach the Snohomish County MRC, is planning to invite legislators to Hat Island to highlight the monitoring work underway, share updates on the kelp and eelgrass protection zone, and discuss our future partnership with DNR on a full shoreline monitoring inventory. An on-land backup plan is also being developed.

7. Photos

Please embed photos in the WordDoc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.**

Project name(s): Crabber Outreach

Photographer credit(s): Brienne Townsend

Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes





Project name(s): Meadowdale Kelp Monitoring

Photographer credit(s): Cali Weber

Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes



Whatcom County MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July/2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

These will be included in Commission meeting updates and may be adapted for other communications.

The MRC will be kicking off their kelp monitoring surveys on July 29 th at Aiston Preserve. All other surveys/locations are scheduled for August.
The MRC hired 2 interns who are conducting education and outreach activities around eelgrass protection at Wildcat Cove this summer. The interns are engaging with launch users, encouraging best practices to reduce impacts to the eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove. They are also collecting observational data on launch use and surveying launch users to inform potential future actions that could be taken to protect eelgrass in Wildcat Cove. The interns will be providing a presentation of their work at the August 6 th MRC meeting and will be working through the end of August.
The MRC provided a presentation of their 2025 annual report to Whatcom County Council on July 14 th , highlighting projects and accomplishments from this period.

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Project Updates

What happened during **this specific month**, highlights, what's next, and any connection to reaching broader communities. Include dates, partners, participants, volunteers, data collect, results and quotes if relevant. Your highlight may be featured in our newsletter or social media. *Including highlights makes it easier to amplify MRC work in NW Straits newsletters and social media.*

Project title	Update for current month
Beach Seine with Schools	No project activities were completed in July.
Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring	The HABs team continues the sample weekly. Drayton Harbor and Birch Bay are currently open for recreational shellfish collection. Samples were taken on July 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , and 28 th .
Olympia Oyster Restoration	There are no July updates for the Olympia oyster project. The MRC and volunteers will be returning to North Chuckanut Bay on August 11th to establish restoration plots by spreading the bags of oyster shell that were dropped during June. The Whatcom MRC was invited to submit an abstract to the ICSR2026 - International Conference on Shellfish Restoration Puget

Project title	Update for current month
	Sound, Washington , October 4-7, in Shelton WA. MRC member Jackie Dexter, the Olympia oyster project lead, will likely be providing an oral presentation on the MRC's Olympia oyster restoration efforts.
Forage Fish Surveys	The MRC conducted forage fish surveys at Clayton Beach on July 9 th and Little Squalicum Beach on July 10 th .
Kelp Monitoring	The MRC's first kelp monitoring survey is scheduled for Aiston Preserve on July 29 th . All other locations/surveys are scheduled for August.
Education and Outreach Toolkit	The MRC utilized their intertidal lesson and new outreach materials at the What's the Point Event that took place on June 14 th .
Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Protection	The MRC hired and provided orientation to 2 interns, Claire Glaude and Ferdinand Mesmer, who are conducting education and outreach activities in Wildcat Cove this summer. The interns are engaging with launch users, encouraging best practices to reduce impacts to the eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove. They are also collecting observational data on launch use and surveying launch users to inform potential future actions that can be taken to protect eelgrass in Wildcat Cove. The interns will be providing a presentation of their work at the August 6 th MRC meeting.

****Please note with an asterisk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.***

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
August MRC Meeting	8/6/26		https://www.whatcomcountymrc.org/meetings-events/	N
Highlight/description				

*May we promote this information in our newsletter/social media? Y/N

Other Notes

- The MRC provided a presentation of their 2025 annual report to Whatcom County Council on July 14th, highlighting projects and accomplishments from this period.
- The MRC is planning to showcase their Olympia oyster project to Representative Alex Ramel from 10-11am on August 11th at North Chuckanut Bay. We are also working to see if we can have Salish Current coverage of the field event on this day.
- The MRC established an advisory subcommittee that has been meeting to discuss their mission and process for addressing advisory topics.
- The MRC executive committee is working to determine the scope of their October planning meeting and will reach back out to NWSC staff about possible facilitation after more details are determined.

Photos

*Please embed photos in the Word Doc, **also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.***

Top left

Project name(s): Forage Fish Monitoring – Little Squalicum Beach

Photographer credit(s): Dana Daniels

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N

Top right

Project name(s): Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Protection

Photographer credit(s): Dana Daniels

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N

Bottom row

Project name(s): Olympia Oyster Restoration – Drayton Harbor

Photographer credit(s): Alexi Guddal

Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N





Commission Staff Highlights - July 2026

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) Support

MRC Grants: The April-June quarterly reporting and invoicing are in process, and Commission staff are working with MRCs and Ecology fiscal staff to process them as they are submitted.

MRC Staff meeting: Commission staff are working to schedule a meeting of MRC staff in September.

MRC Meetings:

- San Juan MRC (7/2) - Lucas, Jessica, Jeff
- Skagit MRC (7/9) – Leah
- Snohomish MRC (7/15) – Jeff

Regional Projects

Kelp Plan: Staff continue to work with partners to develop the Living Kelp Plan and update the [WA Kelp Project Inventory](#). The purpose of the Living Kelp Plan is to help interested parties explore, track, and learn about Kelp Plan goals and actions to increase awareness, action, and coordination. Staff are also working with WA and transboundary partners, including the [Kelp Forest Alliance](#), to amplify work being done in WA globally.

Kelp Monitoring: Kayak volunteer survey reports have started to come in as MRCs wrap up their June and July surveys. Many MRCs will continue to monitor their selected kelp sites through September.

Forage Fish: Staff attended forage fish monitoring with Whatcom County in July and will be bringing Whatcom and Skagit MRC samples to WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

European Green Crab: Staff coordinated with WA Dept of Natural Resources to conduct trapping in Samish Bay (Skagit County) using airboats to reach areas of the bay that are difficult to access on foot. WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife and WA Conservation Corps continue to support field efforts in Drayton Harbor (Whatcom County) and Samish Bay. Staff are assembling the Interim Report for WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife covering project efforts in Fiscal Year 26.

Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Staff are partnering with transboundary eelgrass workgroup (Anchor Out of Eelgrass for Safety & Salmon Campaign) on a series of newsletter posts published by Waggoner boating guide to highlight eelgrass beds in popular summer boating destinations. The first article was published July 1 [Protecting](#)



Commission Staff Highlights - July 2026

[Eelgrass Meadows in East Sound, Orcas Island | Waggoner](#). Staff were interviewed by the Salish Current about best boating practices to mitigate damage to eelgrass due to increased vessel traffic during the World Cup ([Local Groups Promote Green Boating During World Cup Traffic](#)).

Derelict Vessels: Staff continue to coordinate with the Makah Tribe on the goal to host a vessel turn-in event, waiting for an intergovernmental agreement to be signed between the Tribe and WA Dept of Natural Resources. Staff are also working with MRCs and Tribal partners on creating a list of priorities for future vessel turn-in events and possible derelict vessels to consider for removals.

SoundIQ: Staff are working on a communications plan to maintain post-launch momentum for SoundIQ to support MRCs, standardizing data submission, expanding awareness among planners/partners, tracking analytics and refining the tool based on feedback. Staff attended a GIS Conference to gain insights into improving how SoundIQ can be discovered, utilized, and improved with software updates.

Operations

Staff: Katalin Chapman has been on board for a month now and is quickly getting up to speed. She is now the primary point of contact for Commission meetings, events, and membership information.

Budget: Commission staff are working with Dept of Ecology fiscal staff to complete fiscal year end closeout for state funding (MRC grant funds and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife green crab funding).

Communications: Staff are working with MRCs, partners and a reporter from a local media outlet on a long-term story to highlight regional work in Whatcom, Island, Skagit, and San Juan). Staff are finalizing recommendations for the updated Northwest Straits Commission Communications plan.

Contracts and grants: There are no new contracts this period. The agreement with WA Dept of Natural Resources for 2026-27 derelict vessel work is in place but there has been no billable activity to date.

Broad Community Engagement: Staff reviewed steps in Community Connectivity Analysis and related documents to better understand how to implement at MRCs.



Commission Staff Highlights - July 2026

Other Meetings Attended

- Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Management Team (6/29, 7/1, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20) - Lucas
- Multi-MRC Legislative Workgroup (7/16, 7/17) – Lucas
- Jefferson MRC Discovery Bay oyster count (7/15) - Lucas



CLALLAM MRC

RESEARCH & MONITORING



PIGEON GUILLEMOT MONITORING

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Monitor pigeon guillemot colonies weekly as they raise their young in burrows during summer.
- Partner with the Salish Sea Guillemot Network and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society to engage about 40 citizen scientist volunteers per season.



*A pigeon guillemot taking off with a gunnel in its mouth, likely about to deliver the prey to its nesting young.
Photo credit Peggy McClure.*

PURPOSE

We monitor guillemots because their use of coastal bluffs for nesting and subtidal habitat for feeding makes them excellent indicator species of nearshore habitat health.

PROJECT CONTACTS: Ed Bowlby | edbowlby2@gmail.com
Rebecca Mahan | rebecca.mahan@clallamcountywa.gov

OUTCOMES

- Changes in guillemot nesting, usage of specific colony sites, and prey delivery habits will continue to be recorded through weekly monitoring during the next nesting seasons.
- The MRC will continue retaining, recruiting and training volunteers to engage in this effort.
- Through the Salish Sea Guillemot Network, the monitoring data may be furnished to researchers to better understand pigeon guillemot nesting, feeding and interaction with their environment.
- Results that we have observed this year are that birds are nesting later and consequently fledging of young Pigeon Guillemots has occurred later in the season.

INFORMATION SHARING & COLLABORATION

This project stands out as a successful long-term monitoring effort for the Clallam MRC thanks to MRC member champions Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato, strong partnerships with regional organizations, and a large crew of volunteers. Citizen volunteers that have stayed committed to this project year-over-year, finding enjoyment in watching the birds and interest in the long-term health of specific colonies, have been key to its success. The Salish Sea Guillemot Network provides online training and a carefully organized protocol that enables the MRC project lead to train and retain these volunteers.



This project stands out as a successful long-term monitoring effort for the Clallam MRC thanks to MRC member champions Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato, strong partnerships with regional organizations, and a large crew of volunteers.



Pigeon Guillemots. Stock photo.