agenda

Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Date: June 26, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Location: Zoom Link Meeting ID: 876 4979 9539 Passcode: 762678

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.

Documents for NW Straits Commission Review:

- **May Meeting Minutes**

10:00 – 10:10 AM	**Welcome and introductions** Tribal acknowledgement Meeting Minutes approval Welcome Katalin Chapman, NWSC Program Coordinator	Jamie Stephens, Chair
10:10 – 10:35 AM	**Speed Date with a Scientist: Integrating human dimensions into shoreline restoration monitoring**	Morgan Arrington, UW
10:35 – 11:05 AM	**MRC Reports**	MRC Representatives
11:05 – 11:20 AM	**Committee Updates** • Executive Committee • External Relations Committee • Science Advisory Committee	 Lucas Hart Lucas Hart Dana Oster
11:20 – 11:35 AM	**Business Items** • MRC Legislative Site Visit Workgroup • NWSC budget overview with MRCs • July Commission meeting reminder	 Lucas Hart Lucas Hart Katalin Chapman

agenda

	Next meeting in Clallam: • Red Cedar Hall, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Community Center 1033 Old Blyn Hwy, Sequim, WA 98382	
11:35 – 11:50 AM	**Project Updates** • Green Crab Update • Voluntary No Anchor Zones	 Allie Simpson Allie Simpson
11:50 – 11:55 AM	**Commissioner Updates** (NW Indian Fisheries Commission, Puget Sound Partnership)	
11:55 – 12:00 PM	**Public Comment**	
12:00 PM	**Adjourn**	

The next regularly scheduled NW Straits Commission meeting will be Friday, July 24, 2026, in person at Red Cedar Hall at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe facility in Clallam County. Please see our Events Page for more information about our meetings.

Minutes

Northwest Straits Commission meeting

May 29, 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees

Commission Members: Jamie Stephens (Chair), Alan Clark (Clallam), Rick Beauregard (Whatcom), Brenda Johnson (Jefferson), Elsa Schwartz, Lynne Wenberg (Skagit), Heidi Stewart (Snohomish - alternate), Ken Collins (Island), Mindy Roberts (Puget Sound Partnership), Christina Koons (San Juan)
Commission Staff: Jeff Whitty, Sasha Horst, Lucas Hart, Allie Simpson, Leah Skare, Jessica Owens, Dana Oster
Others in Attendance: Tim Ellis and Lowyn, Mike Ramsey (San Juan MRC)
Absent: Cecilia Gobin, Emily Grason, Phil Salditt

Welcome and Tribal Acknowledgement

Jamie Stephens opened the meeting with introductions and the Tribal Acknowledgement.

The April 24, 2026 Northwest Straits Commission meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Mindy Roberts, Executive Director for the Puget Sound Partnership, started in March and is just finishing her first 90 days at the Partnership. She provided some information about her background working with Washington Conservation Action, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and the Washington Department of Ecology as well as on projects elsewhere in the United States and abroad. She is excited to lead the Partnership and looking forward to working with a coalition of entities, including the NW Straits Commission, to benefit the Salish Sea.

Retreat Follow-up

At the retreat in April, the Commission advanced actions from the 2025 conference, bringing forward several key questions for the Commission to consider. Retreat participants also reviewed results from the baseline awareness survey.

Jessica walked through the progress to date on the Commission's Communications Plan and how it maps to the strategic plan actions. She shared several outcomes, one of which is the NW Straits Commission 101 that is now available as a recording online: https://vimeo.com/user862642/nwstraits101?share=copy. Jessica also requested Commission feedback on a NW Straits Commission relational map graphic.

DRAFT

Minutes

MRC Reports

***Clallam MRC** – Alan Clark*

- Clallam MRC and volunteers attended the 2026 Kayak Kick-off event
- The forage fish project team updated the Clallam MRC at the monthly meeting and discussed the future of the project.

***Island MRC** – Ken Collins*

- Island MRC hosted a successful Forage Fish Community Workshop on April 27!
- Island MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation are hosting their Cornet Bay and Hoypus Point Stewardship Day on May 27th!
- Island County Comprehensive Plan Final Draft was released and the policy subcommittee will report on next steps moving forward!

***Jefferson MRC** – Brenda Johnson*

- Neil Harrington and WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife partner Julietta Martinelli met with property owners in Kilisut Harbor on 5/15 to discuss future Olympia oyster restoration opportunities.
- The MRC had their first planning meeting on April 27 to discuss the future of the rain garden project. Group established the MRC would hold two work parties in 2026, enlist help from a contracted landscaper and Master Gardener Coordinator to address additional maintenance issues, and continue to discuss next steps for long-term sustainability of project.

***San Juan MRC** – Christina Koons*

- May 3 was the kickoff to boating season here in the San Juans – with this comes the revival of dock tocks to engage boaters with best practices, education about the Marine Stewardship Area and giving whales space, and resumed vessel counts at known eelgrass locations.
- MRC members, acting as the Citizens Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery attended site visits and virtual presentations for potential projects to receive funding at the end of April. This advisory action provides input on the socio-economic benefit of projects and helps direct funding towards salmon recovery.

***Skagit MRC** – Lynne Wenberg*

- The Salish Sea School will be taking over the lead in coordinating Fidalgo Bay Day this year with planning support from the MRC. The date has been set for Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- Sonar surveys for derelict crab pots in Skagit Bay are now underway in collaboration with the Northwest Straits Foundation, Island MRC, and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

DRAFT

Minutes

- Spring 2026 Kids on the Beach program just wrapped up during the week of May 18 -22. Around 90 students from Concrete High School explored the Padilla Bay mudflats with the help of volunteers.

***Snohomish MRC** – Phil Salditt*

- The MRC tabled at the Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 2. Over 145 people stopped at the activities and learned about forage fish, eelgrass, and crab pot loss.
- The MRC presented to County Council on May 19 and highlighted their marine vegetation outreach. They recommended that Council continue support for the MRC through funding, especially for the summer marine ecology intern position.

***Whatcom MRC** – Rick Beauregard*

- The MRC is wrapping up their Beach Seine with Schools events, with the last one taking place on Friday, May 22 with 68 students from Cordata Elementary.
- The MRC kicked off their Olympia oyster restoration project in Drayton Harbor on April 22. In partnership with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and many volunteers, the MRC distributed 150 bags of Olympia oyster cultch across six sites in Drayton Harbor.
- The MRC received additional NWS Commission funding to support 2 additional projects including support for two interns to conduct education and outreach to protect eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove and an education and outreach toolkit that is going to be piloted at the Day at the Beach event at Birch Bay State Park on May 30 and the What's the Point Intertidal Exploration Event at Point Whitehorn on June 14.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

There was no meeting of the Executive Committee in May.

External Relations

Elsa reported on the May meeting discussions, which included tracking progress on the reauthorization bill (HB 2860 and SB 1433). Committee members are doing outreach now. The Committee also discussed a state funding strategy for the 2027-29 biennium. The Committee is interested in forming a workgroup involving MRCs to identify legislators and site visits to MRC projects within their districts, with a goal of one per legislative district during the summer. The workgroup would focus on creating key messages, prioritizing site visits, and leading visit coordination locally. Lucas is currently reaching out to MRCs and talking with MRC Commission reps about workgroup formation.

DRAFT

Minutes

Science Advisory Committee (SAC)
Dana mentioned that although the committee did not meet, they have scheduled collaborative sessions with MRCs. The first session was held with Whatcom MRC about Wildcat Cove. Notes are available and the SAC members will provide further input. Clallam and Skagit are pending sessions. MRCs still have the opportunity available when interested; reach out to Dana Oster to schedule.

Business Items

Dana reviewed the overall plan to transition away from green crab trapping activities in 2027 and reminded the group about the proposal that was shared with the MRCs last meeting. The Commission is working on scheduling a Speed Date with a Scientist presentation at a future meeting with Lisa Watkins, who leads the molt search program for Washington Sea Grant. Several MRCs noted concerns about duplication of effort or potential lack of collaboration with other entities already conducting this work. Dana shared that the idea has been discussed with Washington Sea Grant, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, and other partners who confirmed there could be a complementary role for NWS Commission and MRCs. However, funding does not currently exist to support this engagement; these are early conversations to explore interest in case funding comes available in 2028 or later.

Lucas submitted requests for federal funding at the $10 million level and to be proactive in the event that we received that amount or any level of increase from our current funding. Last month, MRCs were asked to consider what they would do with a bigger budget, and several MRCs shared input and questions with the Commission. Lucas clarified that the exercise is an informal discussion to generate ideas in the event that budget requests result in additional funding. Since this is only an exercise, formal requests for proposals to MRCs are not being developed currently. If funding were to become available, the funds would be subject to the existing NW Straits Commission funding policy. MRCs are encouraged to continue discussions and capture ideas to reference as needed in the future.

NW Straits Commissioner Updates

Puget Sound Partnership – Mindy Roberts shared that the Partnership is working on their 2026-2030 Puget Sound Action Agenda, which is a comprehensive plan for Puget Sound recovery. This is a state requirement as well as a federal National Estuary Program component. They are working through the process and progress. Next steps include working on where to lean in first. It is not clear how SI leads will take feedback from groups like MRCs. Once that happens there will be competitive funding opportunities. The Partnership will be embedded in those Sis to support prioritization. After the PSP negotiations with EPA on scope, might make sense to bring elements back to the Commission (Lucas and Jamie). Next week on TVW/JTK Red Cedar Hall.
https://pspwa.app.box.com/s/ff8a9n6grppy6i7zzl9gyupmscxzpy5u

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Minutes

Mindy also reported that the state revenue forecast will be coming in mid-June. The operating budget is down, which is likely to set up state agencies for some potential cuts at the state workforce level.

Mindy recently met with Samish Indian Nation and saw their kelp restoration site off Cypress Island, where divers were relieved to see some positive results.

NW Indian Fisheries Commission – No update this month.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

The next meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission will be on June 26, 2026 via Zoom. Information can be found at https://nwstraits.org/upcoming-events.

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Clallam MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

The pigeon guillemot team began monitoring colonies this month, with X number of community volunteers participating.
The kelp team met at Freshwater Bay on June 13th for a kayak shakeout meet/greet paddle together.
The MRC helped our partner Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe complete annual Olympia oyster monitoring surveys on Sequim Bay.

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.
Kelp	The kelp team met at Freshwater Bay on June 13th for a kayak shakeout meet/greet paddle together.
Pigeon guillemot	The pigeon guillemot team began monitoring colonies this month, with X number of community volunteers participating.
Olympia oyster	The MRC helped our partner Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe complete annual Olympia oyster monitoring surveys on Sequim Bay on June 1st and 2nd.
HAZWOPER	Specific dates and a venue for HAZWOPER training were confirmed.
Pinto abalone	The team met with the Science Advisory Committee to discuss and receive advice on how to raise awareness of project and its important impact on the Strait.
Education and Outreach	The Education and Outreach subcommittee met to discuss next steps with outreach displays at festivals. They presented a new

Project title	Update for current month
	booth game for the monthly MRC meeting and they have contacted a vendor for display materials.

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date
Departing	Christopher Burns	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe representative	June 16th
New	Jenna Ziogas	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe representative	June 16th

New contact info (if new)	Added to MRC website? Y/N	May we feature this person in our newsletter/social media? Y/N/Not yet
	N (not yet)	Y

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
MRC monthly meeting	June 15th	NA	June MRC meeting	Y
Highlight/description: Suzanne Shull, GIS Specialist from Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, will be presenting on SoundIQ				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Education and Outreach subcommittee meeting	June 11th	NA	NA (in-person)	N
Highlight/description: The Education and Outreach subcommittee met to discuss next steps with outreach displays at festivals				

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Pinto abalone SAC meeting	June 22nd	NA	NA	N
Highlight/description: The team met with the Science Advisory Committee to discuss and receive advice on how to raise awareness of project and its important impact on the Strait.				

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

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): Kelp
Photographer credit(s): Chelsea Korbulic
Approved for use in communications? **Y**/N

ISLAND MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

Island MRC kicked off their bull kelp monitoring season in the sunshine with surveys at Possession Point and Lowell Point!
Island MRC is working to create their 2027-2030 Strategic Plan to be completed and put into action for January 2027.
The derelict crab pot removal project, in partnership with Skagit MRC, Swinomish Tribe, and NWSF, has kicked off and surveyed to determine derelict crab pot targets for removal!

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
Derelict crab pot removal	The derelict crab pot removal project, in partnership with Skagit MRC, Swinomish Tribe, and NWSF, has kicked off and surveyed to determine derelict crab pot targets for removal! Surveying is continuing with a final targets list to be completed by the beginning of crab season.
Bull kelp monitoring	Island MRC kicked off their bull kelp monitoring season in the sunshine with surveys at Possession Point and Lowell Point! The final June monitoring surveys will take place the last week of June before heading to July surveys!
Stewardship and Restoration	At the end of May, the Island stewardship and restoration team headed to Hoypus Point for a morning of weeding and conversation! Co-lead by the NWSF and Island MRC, the eight volunteers quickly worked through the overgrown weeds to give the planted native vegetation some room to breathe! Many hands made for quick work! The next stewardship day will take place on June 30!

Project title	Update for current month
Policy work & Island County Comprehensive Plan	Island County Commissioners and the Planning Department posted their final Comprehensive Plan Draft. The Commissioners and Planning Commission held a public hearing in which Island MRC policy committee representative, Jill Lipoti, thanked the Commissioners and commented on the MRCs continued support of the process in anticipation of a continued policy role in the upcoming SMP update.
Forage Fish Community Workshop & Forage Fish Survey	After the completion of the Island Forage Fish Community Workshop in April, project lead Kirk and workshop facilitator, Emily, discussed and summarized the workshops main findings. From here, the Forage Fish Community Science Workshop Summary and Synthesis was published highlighting the successes of the workshop and potential next steps for the greater "Forage Fish FOCUS" initiative. The finalized summary report can be found on the Island MRC Forage Fish projects page!

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date
N/A			

New contact info (if new)	Added to MRC website? Y/N	May we feature this person in our newsletter/social media? Y/N/Not yet

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, June 30, 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 June 30 and the third will be on Wednesday, July 22! You can register at Cornet Bay & Hoypus Point Summer 2026 Stewardship Days!				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Virtual July MRC Meeting	Tuesday, July 7, 2026		Meetings & Events | Island County Marine Resource Committee	N
Highlight/description – This is the monthly Island MRC meeting. Our July meeting will be entirely virtual.				

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

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): Kathleen Landel
Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): Cornet Bay and Hoypus Point Restoration and Stewardship
Photographer credit(s): Elise Adams
Approved for use in communications? Y

Before

After

Jefferson MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

1	• Crabbing 101 was held on 6/24, where speakers from WDFW, JST, and NWSF spoke on derelict crab pots, crabbing harvest safety and regulations. Troy McKelvey provided a hands-on demonstration to the group showing best practices for rigging and deploying crab pots.
2	• The MRC had a rain garden work party on 5/23 at Adams + Lincoln, where 5 MRC members spent several hours digging out weeds and talking with passerby's about the purpose of rain gardens, and the opportunity to adopt one of the MRC's rain gardens in the area.

**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. 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**
Kelp kayak monitoring	• Summer monitoring dates are tentatively planned for: June 20, 1:30pm July 18, 12:30pm August 15, 11:00am September 25, 8:00am
Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index)	• Sarah Fisken sampled May 29.

Forage fish - Quilcene Marina	• Sarah Fisken sampled May 29.
Olympia Oysters	• Coordinator has submitted all needed permit applications, and is working on providing follow-up information/documentation as requested. • A new restoration site at Kilisut Harbor has been adopted. A population survey will be conducted here on July 16th, and permit applications will be submitted Fall 2026 to allow shell placement to begin Summer 2027. • Team will conduct a population survey at the Discovery Bay Powerlines site on July 15th.
Voluntary No-Anchor Zones	• New strap wrench was received; the NAZ team will go back out soon to try again to sink an anchor for the new buoy location along the PT Waterfront. • NAZ Team is planning to do maintenance on the Port Hadlock buoys before July 2026.
Education & Outreach	• Crabbing 101 was held on 6/24, where speakers from WDFW, JST, and NWSF spoke on derelict crab pots, crabbing harvest safety and regulations. Troy McKelvey provided a hands-on demonstration to the group showing best practices for rigging and deploying crab pots.
	• 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 has drafted contract and is in review with proposed contractor.
Shoreline Landowner	• NWSF is continuing to work on permitting for bulkhead removal at the Quilcene Marina.

Rain Gardens	• The MRC had a rain garden work party on 5/23 at Adams + Lincoln, where 5 MRC members spent several hours digging out weeds and talking with passerby's about the purpose of rain gardens, and the opportunity to adopt one of the MRC's rain gardens in the area. • A contract with Jefferson County Master Gardener's has been drafted 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 Master Gardener Sarah Fairbanks to procure new plants for the Benton + Clay rain garden she has adopted for the past several years.

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date	Contact info (if new)	Added to website?
Departing	Roy Clark	Recreation Alternate	June 24, 2026	N/A	N/A

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

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	Highlight or description	*Promote this event Y/N
Rain Garden Work Party – Adams + Lincoln	5/23/26	N/A	https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/meetings-events/	The MRC held a rain garden work party on 5/23, where 5 MRC members spent several hours digging out weeds and talking with passerby's about the purpose of rain gardens, and the opportunity to adopt one of the MRC's rain gardens in the area. A suggestion was made to put up a placard explaining who we are and what we are doing; this will be created as part of the E+O design work later this summer.	Y
Crabbing 101	6/24/26	WDFW Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe NWSF	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crabbing-101-workshop-tickets-1986721158466?aff=oddtdtcreator	Crabbing 101 was held on 6/24, where speakers from WDFW, JST, and NWSF spoke on derelict crab pots, crabbing harvest safety and regulations. Troy McKelvey provided a hands-on demonstration to the group showing best practices for rigging and deploying crab pots.	Y

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

Other Past Events/Meetings *(for Jefferson recordkeeping)*

May 23 – RGWP Adams + Lincoln
May 29 – Forage Fish sampling
June 2 - MRC Monthly Meeting and Maritime Center Oyster Hatchery Field Trip
June 20 - Kelp Kayak Monitoring
June 24 – Crabbing 101

Other Upcoming Events/Meetings *(for Jefferson recordkeeping)*
July 15+16 – Olympia oyster Population Surveys @ Discovery Beach
July 18 - Kelp Kayak Monitoring
July 21 – MRC Executive Committee Meeting
August 4 - MRC Monthly Meeting
August 15 - Kelp Kayak Monitoring
September 11 – 13 – Wooden Boat Festival
September 25 - Kelp Kayak Monitoring

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

The Jefferson MRC was contacted by WA DOH re: the 2010 Mystery Bay Management Plan, which the JCMRC participated in developing. Several MRC members are in contact with DOH to provide additional information, and provide input on any revisions/updates to the plan.

At the June MRC meeting, the MRC discussed 'Bid Dreams' project work in the event of additional funding, and also discussed potential activities for a legislative visit.

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): Rain Gardens

Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes

A Rain Garden Work Party at Lincoln and Adams was held May 23, 2026 in Port Townsend, WA. Gordon, Frank, Neil, Jon, and Odhran spent several hours pulling weeds and chatting up the neighbors, discussing the purpose of rain gardens, and how to get involved as a volunteer with the MRC's rain gardens.

Photographer credit: Neil Harrington, 5/23/26

San Juan County MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

Summertime outreach is well underway. Dock talks engage boaters in best practices on the water. We provide resources like whale warning flags, information on anchoring out of eelgrass, and how to report derelict vessels.
Marine surveys are happening on the water and in the air! While on the water we are checking in on known vessels of concern, following up with certain boats, counting vessels, documenting buoys, and learning more about what is happening in the marine waters of this county. Aerial surveys are counting vessels across the county to see where "hotspots" overlap with sensitive habitats like eelgrass beds.
The importance of the MRC's advisory role was truly demonstrated through a letter for County Council to send to Transport Canada regarding the transboundary issue of oil spill prevention. This letter describes the value of prevention and risk reduction and was well received. With increased tanker traffic, concerns about preparedness sit with leadership on both sides of the border. From this conversation, the idea of a joint spill response exercise was floated.

****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
Derelict Vessel Prevention	• Marine Surveys happened on May 26, June 8 and 9 to survey county water for derelict vessels, check in on vessels of concern. While on patrol we also count vessels, document mooring buoys, and look for marine debris. • The MRC's partnership with MYCOAST has been fruitful in helping facilitate the removal of marine debris on private property with DNR.

Project title	Update for current month
Marine Stewardship Area	We had a successful dock talk on June 6 passing out whale warning flags and talking with boaters. Another is scheduled for June 19 at Roche Harbor.
Eelgrass Protection	• MRC staff and members Charles Bookman and Lola Walker attended the No Anchor Zone Vessel Compliance training on June 2. This was a nice reminder of the best ways to record this data and orient new members for how to properly collect data. • Aerial flights for vessel density have resumed
Plastic Free Salish Sea	• Subcommittee met discuss upcoming plans for the remainder of the year. Upcoming projects include a self-check list for • The pilot project to recycle boat shrink wrap is well underway. 90% of the bags distributed to individuals or businesses have been returned. One business was thrilled at the idea of recycling the shrink wrap and was able to fit 16 25'-30' boat wraps into their 4 bags. We are waiting for the last few recycling bags to come in and then the load will be weighed and shipped off.

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date
New	Russell Guerry	Member, OPALCO, Orcas Island	Appt. 6/9/26

New contact info (if new)	Added to MRC website? Y/N	May we feature this person in our newsletter/social media? Y/N/Not yet
RGuerry@OPALCO.com, 360-376-3589	Yes	Yes

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Dock Talks	June 19/20, 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	July 2		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
Marine Patrols	July 13-14, 20-21, 27-28			Y
Highlight/description https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2196				

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

The MRC drafted a letter for the San Juan County Council to send to Transport Canada regarding the increased risk for oil spills and the need for stronger prevention and risk reduction. Leadership on both sides of the border are concerned and aligned in becoming better prepared.

Just for fun – While on marine survey in Eastsound, we came across several huge jellyfish blooms in the warm, shallow water. The groups were so large it almost looked like a reef beneath the water. Still images don't do it justice, but it was beautiful to see the moon jellies meandering in these large groups, also known as smacks. Let me know if you want a video.

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): Plastic Free Salish Sea – loading up boat shrink wrap recycling bags
Photographer credit(s): Kari Koski
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Plastic Free Salish Sea – Full boat shrink wrap recycling bags

Photographer credit(s): Kari Koski

Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Derelict Vessel Prevention – Washed ashore dinghy
Photographer credit(s): Kari Koski
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Marine Stewardship Area - Smack of moon jellies!
Photographer credit(s): Kari Koski
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Skagit MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June/2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

Skagit MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan 2026-2031 has been finalized and approved! Next step is to start working on the actions over the next five years.
Olympia oyster settlement in 2025 was the highest density that we've ever observed in recruitment bags south of the trestle in Fidalgo Bay. We are now seeing an increase in native oyster recruitment on the west side of the bay where we have not seen any recruitment in the past.
Derelict crab pot side-scan sonar surveys are now complete, and preliminary results indicate 169 derelict crab pot targets have been identified for removal in Skagit.

****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
Crabber Outreach	▪ This June the MRC outreach team members are delivering more than 600 "*Catch More Crab*" rack cards and posters produced by the Northwest Straits Foundation to twelve businesses that sell crabbing equipment and licenses in Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon and Guemes Island.
Skagit Bay Derelict Crab Pot Removal	▪ Derelict crab pot side-scan sonar surveys have been completed in Skagit. 169 derelict crab pot targets have been identified for removal. ▪ NW Straits Foundation staff completed ROV training last month. During their training they found and pulled their first derelict crab

Project title	Update for current month
	pot with the ROV. It had one dead crab and 10 large crabs that they were able to set free! ▪ Dive operations to remove derelict crab pots are slated to begin this month. After July 1 when recreational crabbing season begins, dive ops will only be conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during non-crabbing days.
Kayak Bull Kelp Surveys	▪ We had an all-team BBQ on June 2 where Catherine Houck was awarded the 2026 NWSC Kelp Estimator of the Year award (from the competition held at the NWSC-MRC Kelp Kayak Kickoff on April 29). ▪ We are thrilled with our 4 new experienced kayakers from Hole in the Wall Kayak Club who have jumped in quickly and are participating in all the MRC kayak activities. ▪ Lone Tree Survey completed May 30 with three kayakers (Steven, Elizabeth, and Catherine). Overall kelp density was very light with several dense clusters especially on west end of perimeter. All kelp bulbs appeared to be fresh growth; no older or overwintered kelp observed. ▪ Coffin Rocks Survey completed May 31 with three kayakers (Steven, Elizabeth, and Marlene). Bed density variable from light to thick. ▪ Shannon Point completed June 12, and Biz Point survey completed June 25. June survey observations will be shared next month.
Bowman Bay Boat Ramp Removal	▪ MRC developed a proposed planting plan for both the beach ramp removal area, as well as the pier demolition area. ▪ The MRC's proposed planting plan was shared with NWSF and State Parks for feedback and recommendations. State Parks will be making some adjustments and return to MRC by 6/22. ▪ The remaining work scheduled for September – December includes: 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).
Salish Sea Stewards	▪ The Salish Sea Stewards Advisory Committee Working Group meeting took place in person at the Padilla Bay Reserve on June 4th, 2026. The committee reviewed the results of the Program Evaluation survey that SSS participants completed at the end of the training. The evaluations were very positive in terms of the overall program, the speakers and topics and Erin's role as the

Project title	Update for current month
	facilitator. The committee also discussed possible improvements for next year's training including topics and speakers, advertising, and usefulness of social media. ▪ 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 people registered for the event. ▪ 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 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 focused on hatchery production. So far 8 million eggs have been produced and settled in about 2/3 of tank space at Puget Sound Restoration Fund's (PSRF) Manchester lab. These are the animals that will be outplanted in spring of 2027. It's been a very productive spawning season so far. ▪ The Research Experience for Undergraduates students arrived at Shannon Point Marine Center (SPMC) this month. Eileen Bates (PSRF) is helping them start their research projects. ▪ Derek continues to work on setting up the SPMC's new abalone nursery for research and will be getting more abalone for future outplants.
Olympia Oyster Restoration	▪ Recruitment cultch bags were collected from 5 areas around Fidalgo Bay, as they have been since about 2004 (number of sites vary by year with an abbreviated number of sites in the last 5 years). Bags were collected on May 16 & 17 and new bags set out to be collected a year from now. ▪ After counting the spat that settled last summer, as well as the number of shells in each bag, we found excellent settlement and over-winter survival. ▪ Our main index (three replicate bags at the trestle) count showed that settlement in 2025 was the second highest ever recorded in the Fidalgo Bay (2024 was the highest). This continues the general trend of ever-increasing natural recruitment throughout the bay. ▪ The bag collected south of the trestle showed the highest density of settlement that we've ever observed in the recruitment bags. This strongly suggests that the dense oyster populations now residing in the channels at the south end of the bay have been

Project title	Update for current month
	spawning and contributing substantially to the population increases. ▪ The oyster recruitment at Weaverling Spit (Samish RV Park) and on the southwest shoreline (at "Otter") has gradually been increasing over the last 7 years. Prior to 2020 we did not see any recruitment at these two sites. Now we are seeing moderate recruitment in the bags, possibly due to the addition of both oyster shell and seed oysters about 5 years ago as well as possible larval contributions from spawning oysters in the south end of the bay. ▪ Bay-wide native oyster population surveys only occur every 5 years in Fidalgo Bay. The last one took place in 2023, with an estimated 5.5 million oysters in Fidalgo Bay. The next population survey will occur in 2028 in conjunction with PSRF.
Intertidal Monitoring	▪ The intertidal monitoring event with The Salish Sea School took place June 2, 2026, at Fidalgo Bay RV Park. Monitoring was led by Elizabeth Drozda with help from lots of volunteers and support from Eleanor Hines, Erica Bleke (Dept of Natural Resources), and Rondi Norda (NW Straits Foundation) who all have many years of intertidal monitoring experience. 12 Anacortes Green Club students and their teacher also participated. Received great feedback from the teacher which will be helpful for planning future intertidal survey events with students!
Forage Fish Monitoring	▪ Monthly forage fish surveys led by Catherine Houck with The Salish Sea School continue. ▪ The surveys are well organized with plenty of volunteers helping. ▪ It has been a busy spawning season for surf smelt. ▪ We've been searching for sand lance spawning sites to survey in Skagit County for years without much success. We recently found out that sand lance have been observed at Rosario Beach, Deception Pass State Park. We plan to explore that area to see if it might be a good option for conducting future sand lance surveys.
Kids on the Beach	▪ 2026 spring KOTB program successfully wrapped up last month. It was a bit of a scramble to recruit enough volunteers to help with KOTB, possibly due to the many different volunteer opportunities happening at that time. Fortunately, several Padilla Bay NERR staff were able to jump in to help. ▪ Annie England (Padilla Bay NERR) has been working on incorporating more art into the KOTB program and other educational programs at PBNERR. ▪ The KOTB Year 1 project report will be finalized in September and will cover the 2025 fall and 2026 spring KOTB programs.

Project title	Update for current month
	▪ MRC and Padilla Bay NERR will schedule a meeting to assess the program to determine if any changes need to be made in the future.
Fidalgo Bay Day	▪ The Salish Sea School (TSSS) is taking the lead in coordinating Fidalgo Bay Day this year with planning support from the MRC former MRC member Diane Henebert, City of Anacortes and County staff. ▪ Planning meetings take place on the 3rd Thursday each month from noon-1:00pm. Next meeting will take place June 25th. ▪ The official FBD event page is on the TSSS website here. ▪ **Save the Date**: Saturday, **September 26, 2026,** 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort. ▪ The Save the Date notice (with Darla Gay's beautiful octopus painting) was sent out this month to past participating organizations along with an online registration form. 11organizations signed up so far! ▪ Received confirmation that Chairman Wooten will provide the Samish welcome and the Mayor of Anacortes will provide the City of Anacortes welcome. ▪ Shannon Point Marine Center touch tank confirmed participation. ▪ Still figuring out the details regarding the beach seining demo. ▪ TSSS will be seeking donations to support this event.

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date

New contact info (if new)	Added to MRC website? Y/N	May we feature this person in our newsletter/social media? Y/N/Not yet

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Skagit MRC Monthly Meeting	7/9		Meetings & Events	
Highlight/description Margo Gillaspy (Skagit County Solid Waste Division Manager) will give a brief presentation on the Whitmarsh Landfill Cleanup at March Point. The meeting will be held virtually via Teams on Thursday, July 9 from 9am-11am.				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Highlight/description				

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

Photos

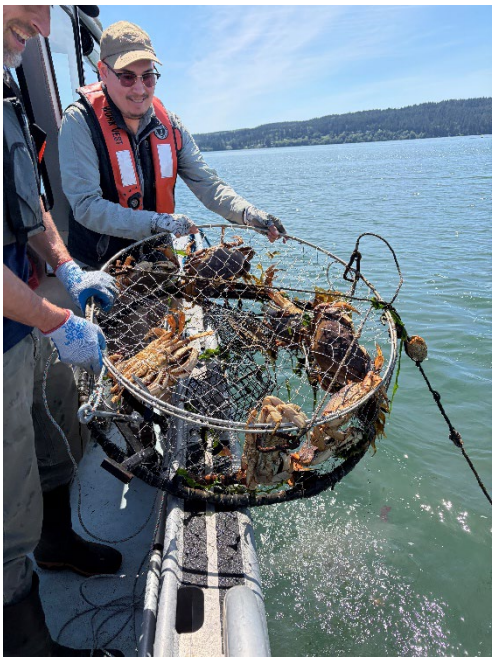
Please embed photos in the Word Doc, ***also attach your best photos full resolution in the email when you submit your report.***

Project name(s): Intertidal Monitoring
Photographer credit(s): Brian Hanser, Dunraven Photo

Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): Derelict Crab Pots (Side-scan Sonar Surveys)
Photographer credit(s): Doug Davidson (drone photo)
Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): Derelict Crab Pots (ROV Training)
Photographer credit(s): NW Straits Foundation
Approved for use in communications?



Project name(s): Bull Kelp Kayak Surveys
Photographer credit(s): Lynne Wenberg-Davidson
Approved for use in communications? Y

Left: Catherine Houck received the 2026 NWSC Kelp Estimator of the Year Award

Right: Bowman Bay shakedown cruise

Snohomish MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June 2026

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 hosted a Beach Cleanup with WSU Beach Watchers at Picnic Point. 13 volunteers attended and picked up 190lbs of trash.
2	Final versions of the marine vegetation one-pager and poster are complete. The group is beginning outreach to local boating groups and areas frequented by boaters.
3	

**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. 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 is working on filling in information on individual vessels to populate the profiles. They will be going out to see a tour of the vessels on June 23rd.
Marine Vegetation Outreach (MRC OTGP Grant 2026-2027)	Final versions of the one-pager and poster are complete. The group is beginning outreach to local boating groups and areas frequented by boaters.
SWM Fee Funded Projects	
Forage Fish Monitoring	Monthly monitoring was completed Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 16 Howarth Park – June 19th or 23rd

Marine Vegetation Monitoring	The group met on June 16 to check in before monitoring begins. Brie, Dawn, Joycelyn, and Brenly completed their self-rescue course. Julie is scheduled to complete hers. The kayak monitoring dates are as follows: Mukilteo on 7/13 and 8/11 (if kelp is found) Meadowdale on 7/14 and 8/13 (if kelp is found) Edmonds on 7/15 and 8/10 Hat Island on 7/16, 8/12, and 9/8.
Outreach	The group is preparing for the Sustainamania event and the ETAP beach cleanup on Sep 26.
Crabber Outreach	Projected dates for crabber outreach at the Port of Everett are two days Fri July 3, and Sat July 4th both 6am – 10am.
Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention	None
Shoreline Armoring/Nearshore	None
Marine Water Quality	None

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

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment / Departure Date	Contact info (if new)	Added to website?
New	Brenly Lott	SWM Marine Ecology Intern	June 1	Brenly.Lott@co.snohomish.wa.us (425) 327-2230	Yes

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

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	Highlight or description	*Promote event Y/N
Beach Cleanup	June 3	WSU Beach Watchers	TBD	Beach cleanup at Picnic Point from 12:30 - 2	Y
MRC Meeting	June 17		**Microsoft Teams meeting** **Join:** **Zoom Link** Meeting ID: 280 690 223 462 097 Passcode: L6Cj9To6	Virtual	
MRC Meeting	July 15		**Microsoft Teams meeting** **Join:** **Zoom Link** Meeting ID: 280 690 223 462 097 Passcode: L6Cj9To6	Virtual	

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

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): Picnic Point Beach Cleanup

Photographer credit(s): Jonathan Robinson

Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes

Whatcom MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: June, 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

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

On June 10, the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) transported 200 bags of spat on Pacific oyster shell via Uhaul to North Chuckanut Bay. 27 folks representing a wide variety of organizations including the Whatcom MRC, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Maritime Center, Bellingham Technical College, Washington Conservation Corps, Lummi Natural Resources, Whatcom County Public Works - Natural Resources, Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe, KUOW/The Wild Podcast, and the Northwest Straits Commission participated in this field event.
The Whatcom MRC was invited to submit an abstract to the ICSR2026 - International Conference on Shellfish Restoration | Puget Sound, Washington, October 4-7, in Shelton WA. MRC member Jackie Dexter, Olympia oyster project champion, will likely be providing an oral presentation on recent Whatcom restoration efforts.
The MRC hosted their last Beach Seine with Schools event on May 22. 72 students participated. A total of 185 students participated in the program this year. Over the life of this project, 761 students have participated.

****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	The MRC hosted their last event on May 22. 72 students participated. A total of 185 students participated in the program this year. Over the life of this project, 761 students have participated.

Project title	Update for current month
	Juvenile salmon were caught in each event again this year. On May 22, only a major effort by Lummi field crews making a record 6 seine sets at two other nearby beaches provided salmon for the kids to observe and count on their field forms. In all this year **we caught 46 chum, 19 pink, 8 hatchery chinook, and 1 hatchery coho**. Also caught were shiner perch, starry flounder, and a few sculpins.
Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring	The HABs team continues the sample weekly. Whatcom County beaches are all currently closed for recreational shellfish collection, due to biotoxins (Alexandrium). Samples were taken on June 2, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.
Forage Fish Surveys	The MRC has scheduled their June forage fish survey for Friday, June 26 at Little Squalicum Beach
Olympia Oyster Restoration	Volunteers returned to the Drayton Harbor restoration sites on June 17th to establish baseline data for the number of live Olympia oysters and to account for any mortality that may have occurred since they were moved from PSRF's hatchery a year ago. On June 10, the Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) transported 200 bags of spat on Pacific oyster shell via Uhaul to North Chuckanut Bay. The bags were transferred to a boat on the shoreline of North Chuckanut Bay, and placed within three restoration plots. The boat was operated by Whatcom County Public Works - Natural Resources staff. Because the Olympia oysters arrived straight from the hatchery, the bags were simply placed in the plots. Volunteers will return on August 11th during a low tide to cut open the bags, spread the shell, and conduct an assessment to get a rough estimate of the number of live Olympia oysters going into each plot to give us a baseline for the annual population surveys moving forward. 27 folks representing a wide variety of organizations including the Whatcom MRC, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Maritime Center, Bellingham Technical College, Washington Conservation Corps, Lummi Natural Resources, Whatcom County Public Works - Natural Resources, Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe, KUOW/The Wild Podcast, and the Northwest Straits Commission participated in this field event. All of the new updates to the MRC's the two Olympia oyster restoration sites was provided to WDFW to include in the updated Oly restoration plan to be published 2026/7.

Project title	Update for current month
	The Whatcom MRC was invited to submit an abstract to the ICSR2026 - International Conference on Shellfish Restoration | Puget Sound, Washington, October 4-7, in Shelton WA. MRC member Jackie Dexter, Olympia oyster project champion, will likely be providing an oral presentation on recent Whatcom restoration efforts.
Education and Outreach Toolkit	the MRC trialed the outreach toolkit at the Day the Beach event, in Birch Bay, on June 6. A lesson plan was developed, with talking points associated with the intertidal. A dissecting scope was purchased that works on battery power. The MRC has beefed up their tools to support low tide critters and a tank and incorporating lessons around what the MRC is doing in the community for our marine resources. Alexi is coming up with better branding for the MRC – i.e. tablecloths, posters, new logo. Alexi will bring a finalized version of the new MRC logo in August.
Wildcat Cove - graph protection	21 applications were received for the MRC internship at Wildcat Cove. Dana, Austin and Mark conducted interviews the week of June 8. 2 fantastic finalists were chosen! The anticipated start date is June 22.

Please note with an aste of risk above any items that you do not want shared more broadly at this time.

Membership & Leadership Updates (if changes occurred)

Status (new, departing, leadership change)	Name	Role	Appointment/ Departure Date

New contact info (if new)	Added to MRC website? Y/N	May we feature this person in our newsletter/social media? Y/N/Not yet

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Highlight/description				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Highlight/description				

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

Other Notes

Optional section for any other notes, such as local issues, advisory actions, questions for the Commission, etc.

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 - North Chuckanut Bay
Photographer credit(s): *MRC member Jackie Dexter being interviewed by Chris Morgan for the podcast The Wild, on boats in North Chuckanut Bay*. Credit: Dana Daniels, Whatcom MRC staff

Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Olympia oyster restoration - North Chuckanut Bay
Photographer credit(s): *Puget Sound Restoration Fund staff give high-fives on the successful arrival of 200 bags of Olympia oly spat on shell, via UHaul*. Credit: Tyler Owens, MRC volunteer.
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Olympia oyster restoration - North Chuckanut Bay

Photographer credit(s): *Volunteers loading oyster bags on boat in North Chuckanut Bay*.
Credit: Tyler Owens, MRC volunteer.
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Photographer credit(s): *Students on shoreline at Boulevard Park in Bellingham watching beach seine as part of Beach Seine with Schools program*
Credit: Dana Daniels, MRC staff.
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Commission staff highlights - [June 2026]

MRC Support

MRC Grants: Commission staff worked with MRCs to process and execute amendments to add the projects proposed in the supplemental funding round approved by the Commission.

MRC Meetings:

Island (June 2) – Allie, Leah
Jefferson (June 2) – Allie
San Juan (June 4) - Jessica
Whatcom (June 4) – Jeff
Skagit (June 11) – Allie
Clallam (June 15) – Suzanne

Other MRC support:
Commission staff coordinated with the Science Advisory Committee and MRCs to schedule project collaboration sessions, the first of which was held June 22 with Clallam.

Whatcom MRC/Whatcom County staff meeting (June 24) – Sasha, Katalin, Lucas
Conference Planning Committee (June 8) – Dana, Sasha, Niki, Jessica, Lucas
Legislative Site Visit Workgroup (June 15) – Lucas, Sasha, Jessica, Jeff
Skagit MRC recruitment (June 1) – Jessica, Allie

Regional Projects

Kelp Plan: Staff continued to develop the Living Kelp Plan with WDNR, PSP, and Marine Agronomics to increase accessibility and usability of key parts of the Kelp Plan. In June, this included conducting and analyzing information from potential users on how they may use the Living Kelp Plan. Staff also met with partners to discuss the possibility of a cross-taxa event to encourage further collaboration with people working on kelp, salmon, and/or forage fish.

Kelp Monitoring: Staff contracted with Fidalgo Paddlesports to hold this year's kayak safety training with interested MRC kelp monitoring volunteers. Seventeen volunteers of all levels of experience participated. Many MRCs began their kelp monitoring surveys in June, and many will continue through September.

European Green Crab: Trapping efforts continue in Drayton Harbor and Samish Bay with help from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Conservation Corps. Staff collaborated with WSU Extension on an outreach booth related to Molt Search and identification of green crabs during Day on the Beach in Birch Bay. NWSC staff and WCC

crew participated in a collaborative trapping blitz in Fidalgo Bay led by WA Department of Natural Resources. As of 6/17, 660 green crabs in 1,229 trap sets (catch rate: 52.7 crabs per 100 trap sets) have been captured in Drayton Harbor and 132 green crabs in 846 trap sets (catch rate 15.9 crabs per 100 traps sets) have been captured in Samish Bay.

Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: Staff provided a public training on the vessel count monitoring protocols and why this is important for sites with and without eelgrass protection zones. Staff presented vessel count monitoring training information to Skagit MRC. Additionally, staff continue to work to incorporate the virtual protection zones in various navigation apps and chart plotters.

Derelict Vessels: The Derelict Vessel Workgroup met June 2nd to reconvene MRCs and Tribal partners to review work accomplished from 2023-2025, discuss priorities for available funds, general concerns and initiatives related to this issue and ideas for ongoing coordination. Planning continues for a tentative vessel turn-in event with the Makah Tribe and DNR for this summer.

SoundIQ: Suzanne held an in-person SoundIQ demonstration for Clallam MRC at their meeting in Port Angeles (6/15). Additional demonstrations are scheduled with other MRCs over the next several months.

Operations

Staff: This month we welcome our new Program Coordinator, Katalin Chapman. Her first day was June 16 and we're excited to have her join us. Please read more about her in her bio on our website.

Budget: Year one of the state 2025-27 biennium ends June 30, and all MRC state grant funds need to be expended before expiration. Commission staff is in communication with county MRC and fiscal staff to prepare for processing those invoices. The state funding that the Commission receives for European green crab work is also at the end of year one, and Commission staff is working with Ecology fiscal staff to prepare invoices. Commission staff are coordinating with our NOAA grant manager to prepare for awarding the Fiscal Year 26 programmatic funding, anticipated to have an October 1 start date.

Communications: Staff are reviewing feedback from the May Commission meeting related to an organizational/relationship graphic. Staff also facilitated a SWOT branding activity with the communications workgroup and Commission staff to inform recommendations in the communications plan.

Contracts and grants: The agreement with WA Tech for the website upgrade is closing as of June. Going forward we'll continue to receive monthly maintenance services from them

through a purchase order. The contract with Fidalgo Paddlesports for kayaker training is complete. Later in the year Commission staff will extend or renew the contract for training in 2027.

Broad Community Engagement: Staff met with Skagit MRC members to discuss recruitment efforts and how to incorporate Community Connectivity Analysis into those efforts.

Other Meetings Attended

Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) Nearshore (June 1) – Jeff, Dana

PSEMP Salmon (June 4) – Jeff

Strengthening Tribal Relations (June 4) - Jessica, Allie

WA Dept of Natural Resources' Elwha Priority Area Knowledge Exchange (June 9) – Jeff

Fostering Sustainable Behavior Change Social Marketing Workshop (June 9-11) - Jessica

PSEMP Forage Fish (June 17) – Jeff, Leah

Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Management Team (June 1, 3, 4, 15, 22, 29) – Lucas