Agenda

Meeting: Northwest Straits Commission
Date: August 28, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: Zoom

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:

- July Meeting Minutes
- 2027 NWSC Meeting Schedule

10:00 – 10:10 AM	**Welcome and Introductions** Tribal acknowledgement Meeting Minutes approval Meeting Schedule approval	Jamie Stephens, Chair
10:10 – 10:40 AM	**Speed Date with a Scientist:** *The Economics of Harmful Algal Blooms*	Sunny Jardine, UW
10:40 – 11:10 AM	**MRC Reports**	MRC Representatives
11:10 – 11:25 AM	**Committee Updates** • Executive Committee • External Relations Committee • Science Advisory Committee	 Lynne Wenberg Elsa Schwartz Emily Grason
11:25 – 11:35 AM	**Business Items** • Next meeting will be on September 25th, in Island County	Katalin Chapman

	• Brainstorm on topics of interest for future meetings	Lucas Hart
11:35 – 11:50 AM	**Discussion:** Proposed update to the private mooring buoy statute 79.105.430	Dana Oster
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, September 25, 2026, in person at the Pacific Rim Institute, 180 Parker Rd, Coupeville, WA 98239. Please see our Events Page for more information about our meetings.

Minutes

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting

Port Williams Boat Ramp and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Community Center
July 24, 2026, 10:30 AM – 2:45 PM

Attendees

Commission Members: Jamie Stephens (Chair), Lynne Wenberg-Davidson (Vice-Chair, Skagit), Rick Beauregard (Whatcom), Alan Clark (Clallam), Ken Collins (Island), Brenda Johnson (Jefferson), Phil Salditt (Snohomish), Elsa Schwartz (Island)
Commission Staff: Lucas Hart, Sasha Horst, Leah Skare, Jeff Whitty, Katalin Chapman
Others in Attendance: Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner)
Absent: Cecilia Gobin (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Emily Grason, Mike Ramsey (San Juan), Mindy Roberts (Puget Sound Partnership)

Welcome and Tribal Acknowledgement

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

The June 26, 2026, Northwest Straits Commission meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Clallam Marine Resource Committee (MRC) Site Visit: Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring

Clallam MRC Member Ed Bowlby led a site visit of the Port Williams Pigeon Guillemot monitoring site. Dedicated volunteers follow the Salish Sea Guillemot Network survey protocol to monitor the species and promote community science contributions to regional research. Ed highlighted that Pigeon Guillemots' use of coastal bluffs for nesting and subtidal habitat for feeding makes them an excellent indicator of nearshore habitat health.

Remarks from Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias welcomed the Commission to Clallam County and expressed his gratitude for the work of MRCs. He specifically called out education and outreach work, kelp bed monitoring, pigeon guillemot monitoring, and Olympia oyster restoration projects. He praised the advisory role of MRCs and emphasized that implementing advice from MRCs gives him confidence in the longevity and merit of policies.

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MRC Reports

***Clallam MRC** – Alan Clark*

- The kelp team successfully completed their first survey at Clallam Bay with new volunteers from the Olympic Paddling Club. More than 30 sea otters were spotted!
- The forage fish team collected samples from 4 beaches and found large numbers of surf smelt in Dungeness Bay. New volunteer Rian Robinson is supporting with collection protocols.
- Olympia oyster restoration work was highlighted in the Northwest Treaty Tribes summer newsletter. Check it out on page 10!
- 24-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trainings are set for October 27 – 28.

***Island MRC** – Ken Collins*

- Monitoring and restoration projects are moving along well.
- The MRC continues to work on their 2027-2030 strategic plan and will use the August meeting to hear from Skagit MRC about the successful creation and implementation of their strategic plan.

***Jefferson MRC** – Brenda Johnson*

- The Olympia oyster restoration team surveyed Discovery Bay and Mystery Bay. 14 volunteers collected 142 samples over 4 hours at Discovery Bay.
- Kelp bed kayak monitoring found the North Beach bed is growing and has many reproductive leaves. Unfortunately, it has been a challenge to attract volunteers.
- The Mystery Bay management plan, created in 2010 to protect the bay from heavy boat traffic and mooring, is currently under review.

***San Juan MRC** – Provided written report*

- The MRC has successfully supported 50 Tier 1 HAZWOPER responders through all their training.
- Remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) are successfully removing derelict crab pots, and drones are identifying derelict vessels and tracking boater behavior.

***Skagit MRC** – Lynne Wenberg - Davidson*

- After disappearing for 2-3 years, the East Shannon Point bull kelp bed is returning with healthy but loosely formed blades! Invasive sargassum may play a role in the disappearance.
- Many kelp monitoring kayakers did not return this season, though the local paddle club has helped fill vacant volunteer slots.

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- A total of 397 derelict pots were identified and mapped for targeted removal. The 3 contracted dive teams removed 75 derelict crab pots in Similk Bay in June. ROVs have removed 5 pots so far and will continue focusing on deep water targets.

Snohomish MRC *– Phil Salditt*

- 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.
- Kelp and eelgrass monitoring are in progress, and the county has purchased kayaks and safety gear to support the project.
- Derelict vessel identification and forage fish monitoring are both in progress.
- The Marine Vegetation Outreach Subcommittee developed a 1-pager to share with boating groups and is planning to give more detailed presentations as well.
- Crabber outreach at the Everett boat launch resulted in 191 contacts over the 2 days of opening weekend.

Whatcom MRC *– Rick Beauregard*

- Low phytoplankton numbers were recorded at the 2 sampled sites, potentially due to high water temperatures. Additionally, no phytotoxins were found in sampled shellfish.
- Olympia oyster monitoring in Drayton Harbor and Chuckanut Bay is ongoing.
- The MRC established an Advisory Subcommittee and has been meeting to discuss their mission and process.
- Humpback and orca whales have recently been sighted in Semiahmoo Bay.

Committee Updates

Executive Committee

Lynne shared that the Committee discussed NW Straits Commission budget planning elements, including the need to better understand baseline funding requirements for the Commission and MRCs, which can help inform future budget decisions. Next steps will include reaching out to MRC staff and chairs to gather MRC budget information.

Other topics included the possibility of having a 1-day conference every other year instead of the 2-day conference every year, reviewing commissioner roles and responsibilities, and Environmental Leadership Award nominees, which the Committee will vote on in the coming weeks.

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External Relations

MRC congressional and legislative site visits are in progress. Rick Larsen is visiting Skagit County next week. The visit will include kayaking kelp beds with Skagit MRC and Olympia oyster restoration with Samish Indian Nation and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Senator Murray and Representative Randall's staff will visit Jefferson County next week. Jefferson and Clallam representatives will join the tour, which is scheduled to highlight pinto abalone restoration, kelp conservation, and Olympia oyster restoration.

Representative Ramel will visit Whatcom MRC's Olympia oyster restoration field day in August. Skagit, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam MRCs are also discussing site visit options for state legislators in August and September.

No update on reauthorization. It is awaiting passage in the Senate.

Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The SAC met on July 8 and discussed Collaborative Sessions and the Pre-Conference SAC Workshop.

Two of three Collaborative Sessions between the SAC and MRCs have already happened. The goal of these sessions is to help MRCs work through processes, questions, or challenges on existing projects or the development of new project and advisory ideas. The SAC discussed the success of these sessions and how SAC members can best prepare for them. Please contact Dana Oster (oster@nwstraits.org) by September 18 if your MRC is interested in a Collaborative Session.

The SAC is planning a Pre-MRC Conference Workshop that will be offered on the first day of the Conference, November 6. The workshop will focus on effective ecological monitoring, and participants will leave with a better general understanding of the different types of monitoring programs and how monitoring purpose shapes decisions about design, partners, and endpoints. This workshop will be a mix of learning and applying what we cover to case studies and your own work or ideas. Registration and more information will be included in MRC Conference registration in August.

Business Items

Strategic Plan and Funding Review

Lucas gave a review of the strategic plan action items and Commission funding.

Commissioners discussed the need for MRCs to be proactive about recruitment. They noted that potential recruits may feel they aren't qualified, don't have the time, or are not familiar enough with MRCs.

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Elsa cautioned the Commission not to be overly prescriptive by mandating specific recruitment requirements for MRCs. Instead, recruitment tactics could be framed as suggestions or recommendations designed to help MRCs overcome recruitment challenges.

Lynne recommended providing a briefing to MRC members on the outcomes of the meetings between NW Straits Commission staff, MRC staff, and county leadership.

Commissioners discussed the benefits of the strategic plan and shared their delight that it is being used as an effective tool to implement actions.

Project Updates

Kelp Update

Jeff Whitty gave an overview of MRCs' kayak-based kelp surveys and the accompanying Story Map. Compared to SoundIQ, where anyone can view and download the data, this Story Map provides context for the project and visually highlights the data and work of each MRC. It includes an interactive data map, photos, testimonials, and trends. Please contact Jeff Whitty (whitty@nwstraits.org) with any questions.

Vessel Turn-in Event Planning

Dana Oster updated the Commission on her work with the Makah Tribe and the Department of Natural Resources to run a vessel turn-in recycling event in August. They expect an estimated 28 boats, including those brought in by the Coast Guard from the marina, abandoned on the Makah Reservation, and turned in by Tribal community members. This will add to the 29 vessels removed in 2023-2025 and 92 vessels collected during turn-in events in 2024 and 2025.

Please contact Dana Oster (oster@nwstraits.org) with any questions.

Northwest Straits Commissioner Updates

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

There was no update this month.

Puget Sound Partnership

There was no update this month.

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Roundtable

Representative Larsen's staff asked for the Commission's thoughts on the planned Alberta to British Columbia oil pipeline. Commissioners shared:

- Alberta crude is diluted bitumen, which sinks in the water. Technology does not exist to clean it up after a spill.
- San Juan County and the MRC have been focused on spill prevention by seeking an emergency rescue tug to be stationed in Sydney or Roche Harbor. They feel prevention will become more important as traffic increases.
- Risk assessments have been done for crude oil, but not bitumen.
- Southern Resident Orca Task Force recommendations included reducing the threat of oil spills (recommendation 24) as well as a recommendation to conduct an environmental review to minimize whale strikes and underwater noise (recommendation 49).
- Baseline habitat assessments and monitoring are needed to be effective at oil spill cleanup.
- Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network (24th Congressional District) has discussed meeting with Canadian counterparts about oil spill risk and planning. Details were not known, but we could ask around if needed.
- Folks expressed concern for the crab fishery and kelp habitat in the vicinity of the tanker traffic.

This input will be provided to Rep. Larsen's staff.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

The next meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission will be on August 28, 2026, on Zoom. Information can be found on our events page.

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2027 Meeting Schedule

Virtual meetings are 10am-12pm via Zoom. In-person meetings are 10am-3pm, with lunch provided. In-person meeting locations are to be determined but will rotate throughout the Northwest Straits region.

January 29, 2027 – in-person Whatcom

February 26, 2027 – virtual

March 25-26, 2027 – Retreat Skagit or Island

April 30, 2027 – virtual

May 21, 2027 – in-person San Juan

June 25, 2027 – virtual

July 30, 2027 – in-person Jefferson

August 27, 2027 – virtual

September 24, 2027 – in-person Island

November 5-6, 2027– Annual Conference / Workshop

December 10, 2027 – virtual

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Clallam MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: August 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

- The Clallam kelp team completed three kelp surveys on our monitored beds.
- Ed Bowlby, pigeon guillemot project lead, gave a field tour and presentation for Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias and the WA Association of Counties leadership team.
- Ann Soule gave an introduction at the Northwest Straits Foundation workshop at the Dungeness River Nature Center on Clallam MRC.

****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
Forage fish	Volunteers collected monthly forage fish samples from 4 beaches in Clallam County.
Kelp	The Clallam kelp team completed three kelp surveys on our monitored beds.
Pigeon guillemot	The pigeon guillemot team continued monitoring colonies this month. The team hit the 10-week mark, an end date for many volunteers. However, Clallam teams keep monitoring if pigeon guillemots continue to deliver (and hold) prey.
Pinto abalone	The contract for additional funds to do juvenile pinto abalone raising with MRC partner Puget Sound Restoration Fund was prepared and signed by all parties.
Oil spill readiness/ HAZWOPER	HAZWOPER oil spill training courses are fully booked! We have 30 participants registered and a waitlist.

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	Howard Sprouse	District III representative	August 25th, 2026

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
	Not yet	Yes

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Pigeon guillemot field tour	8/6/2026	NA	NA (in-person)	N (already happened)
Highlight/description: Pigeon guillemot project lead, Ed Bowlby gave a field tour and presentation at Port Williams beach for Clallam County Commissioner Mark Ozias and the WA Association of Counties leadership team.				
MRC monthly meeting	8/17/2026	NA	MRC website	N (already happened)
Highlight/description: MRC monthly meeting where Dana Oster (Northwest Straits Commission) spoke on the derelict vessel program, we welcomed new member Jenna Ziogas, discussed future legislator engagement, and talked about current issues with Dungeness crab and potential future work.				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Shore-friendly workshop for Clallam County bluff property owners	8/18/2026	Northwest Straits Foundation	NA	N (already happened)
Highlight/description: Living on a coastal bluff offers a deep connection to the natural beauty of the shoreline, but it can also bring uncertainty as conditions change. This workshop provides a respectful, supportive space to better understand what's happening along your shoreline and explore what it could mean for your property and future. This workshop was hosted by Northwest Straits Foundation. Clallam County MRC member Ann Soule gave a brief introduction about the MRC.				

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

Other Notes

NA

Photos

Project name(s): NA
Photographer credit(s): Chase O'Neil
Approved for use in communications? Y/N – I didn't get photo permissions from the participants at the workshop

Island MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: August 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

- Island MRC has spent the last few months Strategic Planning for 2027-2030.
- Island MRC is partnering with Skagit MRC to host a legislative visit on September 18th.

****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 August surveys!
Forage fish survey	The Island MRC forage fish survey team continued to survey their six sites in August.
Abandoned and derelict vessels	The ADV have created their marina information poster regarding the removal of ADV's in Island County, to be distributed throughout the County marinas, HOAs, and community boards. The co-leads and Coordinator met with the Island County Sergeant to discuss their partnership and role in ADV removal, gaining a further understanding and grasp on how to work together into the future.
Derelict crab pot removal	The derelict crab pot removal project has been busily working to remove derelict crab pots throughout the project sites.
MRC Policy & Strategic Planning Work	The MRC policy sub-committee has been assisting with the Island County Shoreline Management Plan, conducting a thorough Strategic Planning process, and planning for the upcoming legislative visits taking place in September!

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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
MRC September Meeting	9/1/26			N
Highlight/description: The MRC will host their hybrid monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 1 from 4:00-6:00p.				
Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Camano 101	9/12/26	Sound Water Stewards, WSU-Island County Extension	Camano 101: Living on an Island | Island County | Washington State University	Y
Highlight/description: Island MRC will join other Island County partners at Camano 101 on Saturday, September 1st from 10:00a-1:00p at the Camano Center to talk and educate the community on the unique nature of island living!				

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

Other Notes

NA

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/**N

JEFFERSON MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: August 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

1	NAZ team Troy, Bryan and Gordon met on 8/8/2026 and took a donated Taylor boat out to Mystery Bay and Port Hadlock and cleaned every buoy, 5 at Mystery Bay and 5 at Port Hadlock. A fair bit of epibiota was present, but all in all things seemed ok. One of the five buoys at Port Hadlock was very low in the water because the plastic on the buoy had imploded and wrinkled. Next visit they will install a new one in its place.
2	Gordon, Bryan, and Neil are presenting at next month's Wooden Boat Festival outreach event.

*****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**
Kelp kayak monitoring	The Kelp team monitored on August 15th.
Forage fish - Dabob Bay (Index)	Sarah Fisken sampled Aug 18.
Forage fish - Quilcene Marina	Sarah Fisken sampled Aug 18.
Olympia Oyster Restoration	• Neil is working on a presentation for WBF. • Coordinator has submitted all needed permit applications for Discovery Bay, and is working on providing follow-up information/documentation as requested.
Voluntary No-Anchor Zones	• NAZ team Troy, Bryan and Gordon met on 8/8/2026 and took a Taylor boat out to Mystery Bay and Port Hadlock and cleaned every buoy, 5 at Mystery Bay and 5 at Port Hadlock. A fair bit of epibiota was present, but all in all things seemed ok. One of the five buoys at Port Hadlock was very low in the water because the plastic on the buoy had imploded and wrinkled. Next visit they will install a new one in its place. • Gordon and Bryan are working on a presentation for WBF. • The MRC is planning to collect additional data this year re: NAZ boater compliance during WBF.
Education & Outreach	• The E+O project focused on updating MRC outreach/advertising materials has produced three deliverables: a NAZ Ad that will be

Project title	Update for current month
	run in the August issue of Working Waterfront, and a roll-up banner and A-Frame sign to be used for tabling and workshop events. • The MRC is preparing for Wooden Boat Festival outreach event next month.
Shoreline Landowner	• NWSF is continuing to work on permitting for bulkhead removal at the Quilcene Marina. • NWSF held a Shoreline Friendly Workshop in partnership with the MRC for bluff property homeowners 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. • The MRC plans to hold a RGWP in October.

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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

NA

Other Notes

- MRC has been asked by DOH to support the update of the 2011 Mystery Bay Management Plan.
- MRC is working with NWSC and Port of PT to coordinate a Derelict Vessel V-tip event in Spring 2027.
- MRC interviewed new candidates for open MRC member positions on 7/28/26 and offered positions to three applicants. All three accepted and are expected to officially start as members at the Sept. 1 MRC meeting.

Photos

Project name(s): No-Anchor Zones

Photographer credit(s): Troy McKelvey

Approved for use in communications? Y/N

San Juan County MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: July 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

The MRC represented at the San Juan County Fair with a booth in conjunction with the San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship. MRC Members Olivia Graham and Flora Vaught presented about eelgrass and MRC outreach at the Green Village Speaker Series.
At the August MRC meeting, MRC members finalized scoring as the citizens advisory group for Salmon Recovery ranking the socio-economic value of proposed salmon recovery projects. Two projects will move forward: one to remove key stressors located in eelgrass such as creosote pilings, derelict docks, floats, and boathouses and the second is to pursue a conservation easement at an undeveloped shoreline parcel.
Plastic Free Salish Sea participated in the San Juan County Fair Trashion Fashion show by crafting outfits made from boat shrink wrap and plastic film recycling bin materials. The key messaging with the outfits was that our society is so dependent on plastic, that it is time to start new and work towards being plastic free! We use plastic materials for such a temporary amount of time, yet they last in our environment for decades. Fairgoers were hopefully inspired by this message to think before they shrink (wrap) their boats!

*****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
Derelict Vessel Prevention	• Derelict Vessel surveys have continued. • An educational flier for reporting derelict vessels (among other marine interests like green crab, oil spills, etc.) was created for the SJC fair. We used this flier to push reporting messaging at this community event and provided the public with resources for how and who to report issues to.
Marine Stewardship Area	• Dock talks and whale flag distribution have been ongoing throughout summer. • A brief knowledge assessment survey has been released to gauge public awareness of the Marine Stewardship Area and focal targets within, particularly kelp and eelgrass. 28 surveys were collected at the County Fair. The survey will be open for a few more weeks to gather insights: https://www.jotform.com/form/262227118110040
Eelgrass Protection	• Olivia Graham and Flora Vaught presented at the Green Village Speaker Series at the County Fair. Their talk engaged community in the wonders of eelgrass and MRC outreach endeavors like dock talks and passing out whale warning flags.
Plastic Free Salish Sea	• PFSS participated in the County Fair Trashion Fashion Show with outfits made from boat shrink wrap. The key message was how our society is married to plastic and we need to break free. By inspiring others to use less plastic, we hope our community will think twice before resorting to single-use plastics and make a sustainable choice. • The Youth Conservation Corp helped to audit one week's worth of plastic film recycling. The team sorted the materials into true plastic film, multi-layer film, contamination, and reusable bags. It was interesting comparing this data with that of 2024. Our community is doing a much better job of putting correct materials in the bin. Despite the large volume, its great to see this plastic recycled instead of taking up space in landfills. • Save the Date – Fall Great Islands Cleanup September 26

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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Dock Talk	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	September 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
Fall Great Islands Cleanup	September 26		https://plasticfreesalishsea.org/events/	Y
Highlight/description Biannual community event to clean beaches, roadways and trails from litter and debris				

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

Other Notes

NA

Photos

Project name(s): Eelgrass Protection – Olivia Graham and Flora Vaught speaking at the Fair
Photographer credit(s): Frances Robertson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Outreach and Education – MRC booth at the SJC Fair
Photographer credit(s): Frances Robertson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Outreach & Education – MRC members Olivia, Adam and Flora staffed the booth and shared messages about MRC projects
Photographer credit(s): Katie Johnson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Plastic Free Salish Sea – Youth Conservation Corps members sorting plastic film destined for recycling
Photographer credit(s): Katie Johnson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Plastic Free Salish Sea – Trashion Fashion performance at SJC Fair
Photographer credit(s): Reid Johnson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Project name(s): Plastic Free Salish Sea – Trashion Fashion performance at SJC Fair
Photographer credit(s): Chase Anderson
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

SKAGIT MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: Aug/2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

Lone Tree Kelp: Primary Lone Tree kelp bed has increased dramatically in size and density since June, 2026! Kelp looks very healthy. In addition, there were two new beds and other areas of kelp spread throughout the shoreline segments growing in shallow areas with eelgrass.
MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan Implementation: MRC voted to establish new subcommittees to help implement the actions in the MRC's 5-Year Strategic Plan. Subcommittees include: Communications, Recruitment, Science, Project Leads, and Executive Subcommittees. Next step is to assign subcommittee leads.
MRC Recruitment: MRC Recruitment Subcommittee identified gaps and created a list of places, people, organizations etc. to pursue for potential candidates. Created a new MRC Recruitment webpage. A link is also provided on the MRC homepage.

****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
Crabber Outreach	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ In June, our crabber outreach team delivered more than 600 "*Catch More Crab*" rack cards and posters to 17 businesses and marinas in Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon & Guemes Island.
Skagit Bay Derelict Crab Pot Removal	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ Derelict crab pot side-scan sonar surveys are complete. A total of 397 derelict pots were identified and mapped for removal. ▪ The Salish Sea Alliance (formerly Northwest Straits Foundation) reported they finally had a successful ROV day after working through a series of issues. ▪ The SSA is waiting to hear back from WDFW before laying out a plan for the remainder of this project.
Kayak Bull Kelp Surveys	▪ 2026 kelp season is in full gear! We have eleven active kayak volunteers this year. ▪ Survey schedules are posted on a shared drive. Process is working for kayak volunteers to sign up for any survey that they wish. ▪ July Survey summaries:

Project title	Update for current month
	○ Shannon Point West / East (7/11): Lynne, Elizabeth, Marlene, Peggy. WEST: The two beds observed from June have now merged into one bed. Kelp looks healthy, but somewhat sparse. Sargassum observed close to shore at south end of bed. EAST: Kelp bed forming offshore towards shore (shallow). Blades healthy. Some sargassum within the bed, but significant amount of sargassum east of bed near shore. ○ Biz Point (7/26): John, Denby, Elizabeth, Catherine (report in progress) ○ Lone Tree (7/29): Steven, Catherine, Lynne. Primary kelp bed has increased dramatically in area and density since June 2026. All kelp looks to be very healthy and blades intact. In addition; there were two very large "clusters" or more appropriately new beds with the shoreline segments south of the reef. And there are many other areas of kelp spread throughout the shoreline segments growing in shallow area with eelgrass. ○ Coffin Rocks (7/28): Steven, Catherine, Kay. Kelp bed much denser compared with June 2026. Bed extended to northeast in east side of rocks. Density overall greater than in June. Bulbs beginning to show signs of late season growth and senescence. Overall kelp bed appears very healthy. ▪ Next scheduled surveys for August: ○ Shannon Point West / East (8/13) ○ Biz Point (8/26) ○ Coffin Rocks (8/26) ○ Lone Tree (8/27)
Bowman Bay Boat Ramp Removal	▪ The Interlocal Agreement between State Parks and Skagit County has been finalized. ▪ A native planting plan to support both the boat ramp removal area as well as the pier demolition has been reviewed by MRC, State Parks and NWSF and approved by State Parks. ▪ State Parks began work on the pier demolition on August 5 to do some “pier abutment rock removal” to provide access for the contractor to begin removing the piling. Forage fish team was there to observe! ▪ The remaining work is scheduled for November – December to include: Final shoreline armoring and debris removal during in water work window, apply beach nourishment, install native plants and mulch, and Final report (December). ▪ Bowman Bay Plant Maintenance: The MRC will continue to support Stewardship Days during the summer with media support and volunteers. NWSF continues to use the Park’s Fire Truck to

Project title	Update for current month
	water the plants periodically. Note June, July and August's Stewardship Days was cancelled due to lack of participants and plants are flourishing with little weeding needed. New plantings at the Boat Ramp and Pier Demo will need continued stewardship support in 2027 and beyond.
Salish Sea Stewards	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ The 2026 SSS 40-hour Training Program took place Feb-April with 15 new volunteers. ▪ The SSS Advisory Committee Working Group is now on summer break until October 1st. ▪ 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	▪ The Shannon Point Marine Center's (SPMC) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) students wrapped up their research and presentations this month. Contents of the presentations will be available. Eileen Bates (Puget Sound Restoration Fund) trained the students in outplanting and site selection. 2 sites have been outplanted with the abalone raised in their nursery last month. Likely 2 more outplantings coming up! ▪ It's now bee post-set care season, with Manchester, Seattle Aquarium, SPMC, and Marrowstone all having animals to monitor. ▪ The broodstock used for spawning in the hatchery this season were returned back into the wild by the PSRF team. ▪ The number of partnerships involved in pinto abalone restoration has expanded and is quite impressive!
Olympia Oyster Restoration	▪ Paul Dinnel and Todd Woodard briefed Congressman Rick Larsen on Olympia oysters in Fidalgo Bay during his visit at the Fidalgo Bay Resort (hosted by the NWSC, PSRF, Skagit MRC, and Samish Indian Nation). Congressman Larsen also visited Skagit Bay to learn about the Swinomish Tribe's oyster restoration work.
Intertidal Monitoring	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ The Intertidal Monitoring event took place in the Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve in June.

Project title	Update for current month
	▪ The Salish Sea School is working on entering and analyzing the data collected in the final report and will make recommendations for the next steps.
Forage Fish Monitoring	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ MRC has a contract with The Salish Sea School's Catherine Houck to coordinate. ▪ Monthly monitoring at 7 restoration sites and index sites continues with lots of volunteer help. ▪ Finding lots of eggs in the usual places.
Kids on the Beach	▪ No new updates this month. ▪ 2026 spring KOTB program successfully wrapped up in May. ▪ The next event will likely take place in October 2026 with Conway Middle School. ▪ PBNERR is looking into the possibility of incorporating bird surveys into the KOTB program. ▪ The KOTB Year 1 project report will be finalized in September and will cover the 2025 fall and 2026 spring KOTB programs.
Fidalgo Bay Day	▪ **Save the Date**: Saturday, **September 26, 2026,** 11am-3pm at the Fidalgo Bay RV Resort. ▪ TSSS is hosting the event this year and successfully secured several sponsors. ▪ Skagit MRC is helping with event planning. ▪ The official FBD event page is on The Salish Sea School (TSSS) website here. ▪ A press release was sent out to the county's listserve subscribers. ▪ The Salish Sea School created a flyer which is being distributed to local businesses by volunteers. ▪ 22 organizations have signed up to participate so far! ▪ This year, there will be a simpler passport booklet. No advance planning or designated passport question is required. The Friends of the Salish Sea are once again sponsoring the passport activity, coloring contest, and prizes. ▪ Local food samples donated by Adrift, Island Café, Sugyio, and Taylor Shellfish. However, oysters on a half-shell will not be available this year, so our volunteers might have to do some shucking!

Project title	Update for current month
	▪ Activities will include beach seining demonstration, forage fish survey demonstration, touch tank, educational booths, and kids crafts.

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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
Skagit MRC Monthly Meeting	9/10		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

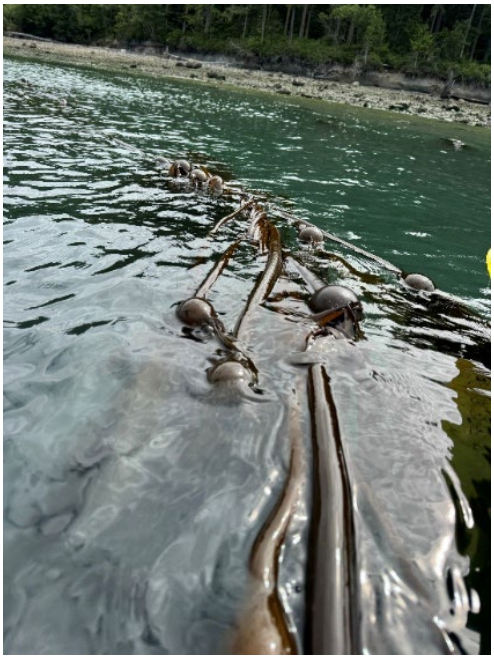
Other Notes

NA

Photos

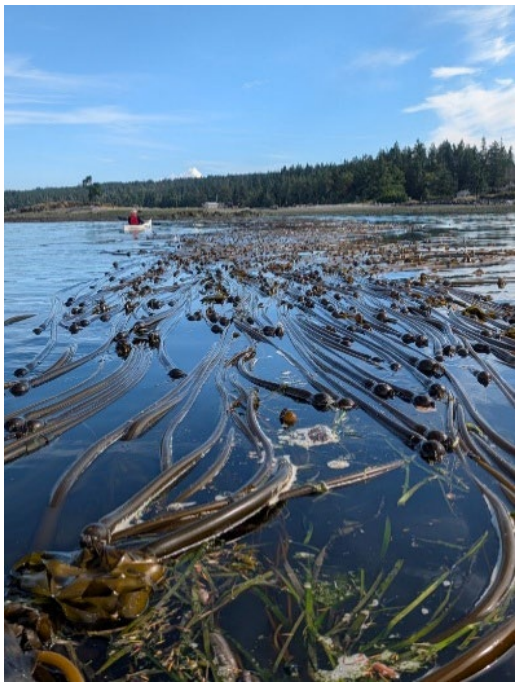
Project name(s): Site Visit at Shannon Point Marine Center with Congressman Rick Larsen and his staff.
Photographer credit(s): MRC Volunteer, Sarah Roberts
Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): **Shannon Point West (1) and East (2), 7/11/26**
Photographer credit(s): MRC Volunteer, Elizabeth Drozda
Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): **Coffin Rocks Bull Kelp Kayak Survey, 7/28/26**
Photographer credit(s): MRC Volunteer, **Steven Olsen**
Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): **Lone Tree Bull Kelp Kayak Survey, 7/29/26**
Photographer credit(s): **Lynne Wenberg-Davidson**
Approved for use in communications? Y



Project name(s): **Bowman Bay Pier Demolition- August 5**
Photographer credit(s): **Lynne Wenberg-Davidson**
Approved for use in communications? Y

Project name(s): **Derelict Crab Pot Removal- ROV in operation, July 2026**
Photographer credit(s): **Salish Sea Alliance**
Approved for use in communications? Y

MRC Monthly Report

Basic Info

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: August 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

1	August kelp monitoring was successful at Edmonds and Hat Island. The Hat Island bed had a Gray Whale feeding in it!
2	The MRC and WSU Beach watchers are hosting an ETAP beach cleanup at Howarth Park on 9/26.*
3	The MRC will be tabling at Sustainamania on 9/26 from 10am-2pm.*

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
Grant Funded Projects	
Derelict Vessel (MRC Grant 2025-20 27)	The subcommittee met with DNR and the Port of Edmonds and learned about how each entity handles derelict vessel removal. The subcommittee has begun writing a report.
Marine Vegetation Outreach (MRC OTGP Grant 2026-2027)	The subcommittee started drafting a presentation to give to local boating organizations. Additionally, they are in the process of scheduling a presentation with Hat Island.
SWM Fee Funded Projects	
Forage Fish Monitoring	Picnic Point and Meadowdale – 8/13 Howarth Park – 8/21
Marine Vegetation Monitoring	Kayak Monitoring is completed for August. The dates were as follows: Edmonds on 8/10 Hat Island on 8/12.
Outreach	The group is preparing for the Sustainamania event and the ETAP beach cleanup on 9/26.
Crabber Outreach	None

Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention	Several members attended a workshop hosted by Ecology to assess amendments for Chapter 363-116 WAC. Additionally, the subcommittee is drafting a letter to Ecology to rulemaking on non-floating oil and railroads. *
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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	Highlight or description	*Promote this event Y/N
MRC Meeting	9/16		**Microsoft Teams meeting Join:** https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/280690223462097?p=rUrHNhir70BWk6MZyO Meeting ID: 280 690 223 462 097 Passcode: L6Cj9To6	Virtual	Y
MRC ETAP Beach Cleanup	9/26	WSU Beach Watchers	Meetings and Events | Snohomish MRC	Escaped Trash Assessment protocol for International Costal Cleanup Day	Y
Sustainamania	9/26 10 am - 2 pm		Meetings and Events | Snohomish MRC Sustainamania 2026 | Bothell WA	Education and outreach tabling event.	Y

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

Other Notes

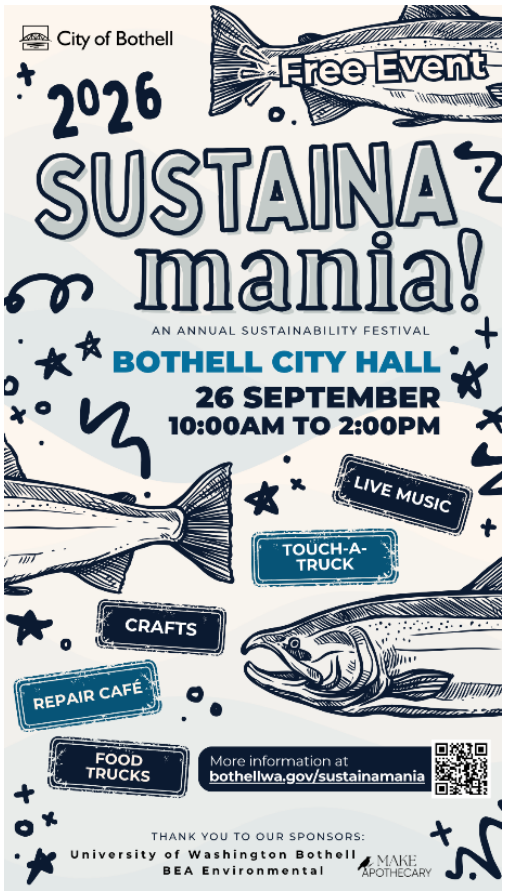
Joycelyn is working with county management to figure out who is allowed to reach out to legislators to do a tour.

Photos

Project name(s): Gray Whale Kelp Monitoring
Photographer credit(s): Cali Weber
Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes

Project name(s): Sustainamania Social Media Kit

Approved for use in communications? ☐ Yes



Whatcom County MRC Monthly Report

Month/Year: August 2026

Key Items for Verbal Report-Out

The MRC and volunteers returned to North Chuckanut Bay on August 11th to establish 3 Olympia oyster restoration plots. In total, 24 people participated, representing the Whatcom MRC, City of Bellingham, Northwest Maritime Center, Bellingham Technical College, Western Washington University, Washington Conservation Corps, Lummi Natural Resources, the Nooksack tribe, the Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum, and the NWSC.
The two MRC Wildcat Cove interns conclude their internship at the end of August. They provided a fantastic presentation to the full MRC during the August 6th meeting and will be meeting with State Parks staff to provide an overview of their findings and recommendations for future actions.
The MRC has a few upcoming outreach events including a stream and beach walk during Whatcom Water Week on September 15th, tabling at Bellingham SeaFeast on September 26th, and is working on putting together an activity for Orca Recovery Day on October 17th.

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
Beach Seine with Schools	No project activities were completed in August.
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 August 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th.
Olympia Oyster Restoration	The MRC and volunteers returned to North Chuckanut Bay on August 11th to establish 3 Olympia oyster restoration plots by spreading the bags of oyster shell that were dropped during June. A baseline population assessment was also conducted. In total, 24 people participated, representing the Whatcom MRC, City of Bellingham, Northwest Maritime Center, Bellingham Technical College, Western Washington University, Washington Conservation Corps, Lummi Natural Resources, the Nooksack tribe, the Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum, and the Northwest Straits Commission. The Whatcom MRC submitted an abstract to the ICSR2026 - International Conference on Shellfish Restoration | Puget Sound, Washington in Shelton WA. The Olympia oyster project lead, Jackie Dexter, will be providing an oral presentation on October 7th about the MRC's Olympia oyster restoration efforts.

Project title	Update for current month
Forage Fish Surveys	The MRC conducted a forage fish survey at Little Squalicum Beach on August 7th.
Kelp Monitoring	The MRC has completed kelp monitoring surveys at Aiston Preserve, Cherry Point / Gulf Road, and SW Lummi Island. The final survey at Point Whitehorn is scheduled for August 26th.
Education and Outreach Toolkit	The MRC is working on their education and outreach toolkit to showcase at a Whatcom Water Week event on September 15th, SeaFeast on September 26th, and Orca Recovery Day on October 17th. See event list for more details.
Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Protection	The two MRC interns, Claire Glaude and Ferdinand Mesmer, completed their education and outreach activities in Wildcat Cove at the end of August. The interns provided a fantastic presentation of their work at the August 6th MRC meeting and will be meeting with State Parks staff to provide an overview of their findings and recommendations for future actions.

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)

NA

Event & Meetings List

Name	Date(s)	Partner(s)	Link to event on MRC site	*Promote event Y/N
September MRC Meeting	9/3/26		https://www.whatcomcountymrc.org/meetings-events/	N
Virtual meeting.				
Whatcom WaterWeek Event	9/15/26	Whatcom Conservation District	https://www.whatcomwin.org/water-week-events or https://www.whatcomcountymrc.org/meetings-events/	Y
Event Description: Stream to Sea: An interactive walk connecting our home to salmon and orcas: Do you want to learn more about our local orcas and salmon? Join the Whatcom Marine Resources Committee and the Whatcom Conservation District for an interactive walk along Squalicum Creek and the Little Squalicum Pier. You will be able to learn more about these amazing species that share our waters, the challenges they face, how we are all connected, and some tips for seeing them in the wild! All ages are welcome.				
Bellingham SeaFeast	9/26/26		https://www.bellinghamseafeast.org/ or	Y
Highlight/description: The MRC will be tabling at Bellingham SeaFeast on Saturday, September 26th from 10am-5pm. The booth theme will be “salmon connect our homes to our orcas”, helping folks better understand the connections between salmon and southern resident killer whales and how everyday actions can support these iconic species.				

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

Other Notes

- The MRC established an advisory subcommittee that is working to create a process for assessing 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

Top row and bottom right:
Project name(s): Olympia Oyster Restoration – North Chuckanut Bay
Photographer credit(s): Dana Daniels
Approved for use in communications? Y/N
Bottom left:
Project name(s): Forage Fish Monitoring
Photographer credit(s): Dana Daniels
Approved for use in communications? Y/N

Second page photos:

Project name(s): Bull Kelp Monitoring - Cherry Point

Photographer credit(s): Dana Daniels

Approved for use in communications? Y/N

DNR Legislative Mooring Buoy Updates

DNR is proposing to update the mooring buoy statute 79.105.430 . Please see below for more information, including how to comment on the proposed changes. Comment period closes **September 14th**.

NOTICE:

DNR is proposing changes to the mooring buoy statute 79.105.430 this upcoming 2027 legislative session to address the management issues surrounding recreational mooring buoys on state-owned aquatic lands.

Issue:

As stewards of 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic land (SOAL), DNR has the responsibility to manage land use in a way that fosters water-dependent uses, encourages public use and access, utilizes renewable resources, and protects the environment.

Unauthorized, unpermitted mooring buoys are a long-time and growing problem in Washington state. Unchecked proliferation of buoys on SOAL can

- interfere with fishing, including geoduck harvesting
- degrade nearshore environments
- interfere with ingress and egress rights of other landowners
- cause closures of shellfish beds
- impede navigation
- result in abandoned and derelict vessels

Currently, DNR has insufficient funding resources and authority to track and remove unauthorized and unpermitted mooring buoys.

Proposed solution:

Our goal is to address the management issues surrounding mooring buoys on state-owned aquatic lands via three mechanisms:

1. **Require registration for all qualifying recreational mooring buoys**

Under the current statute, mooring buoy registration with DNR is optional. By adding a registration requirement and administrative processing fee, DNR gains the ability to track and identify mooring buoys, increasing management effectiveness.

2. **Clarify DNR's role in mooring buoy management**

By clearly defining DNR's authority to actively manage unauthorized and unpermitted buoys, DNR gains the ability to enforce compliance with licensing and registration requirements.

3. **Implement a Watercraft Excise Tax diversion to fund enforcement and compliance of unauthorized buoys**

By implementing a 5% diversion of the Watercraft Excise Tax, DNR gains the resources needed to fund these compliance efforts and improve the condition of and access to state-owned aquatic lands for all users.

The Benefits:

This proposed statute change aims to:

- Reduce hazards to public health and safety
- Mitigate the impacts on tribal treaty rights
- Minimize private disputes and complaints
- Protect the aquatic environment
- Foster public enjoyment of SOAL

Resources:

DNR welcomes comments on the proposed legislative change. For questions and comments on the proposed change, please follow this link below to our official public comment page: Increasing the effectiveness of mooring buoy management. You can also email us at directly at Buoy-Comments@dnr.wa.gov to comment. **Comments are due by September 14, 2026**.

Commission Staff Highlights- August 28, 2026

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) Support

MRC Grants: The grants funded with state and EPA/Partnership funds are in the final quarter of year one, with annual project reports coming due in the next month. Commission staff processed an amendment for Jefferson MRC and are starting to work on plans and timelines for the next two-year grant cycle.

MRC Staff meeting: A meeting of MRC staff is scheduled for late September. A summary of discussion and action items will be shared after the meeting.

MRC Meetings:

- Island MRC (8/4) - Lucas, Jeff
- Whatcom (8/6) – Jeff, Sasha, Jessica, Suzanne, Katalin
- Clallam (8/17) - Dana

Regional Projects

Kelp Plan: Staff worked with partners across Puget Sound on a few paragraphs describing kelp policy and funding in Washington for the Kelp Forest Alliance's State of Kelp Report, which will be presented at COP17 (UN Biodiversity) and featured again at COP31 (climate) in October and November.

Kelp Monitoring: Paddlers are mid-season in their kelp surveys, with no signs of slowing down! Representatives from each MRC paddling team joined NWSC staff in the Kelp Monitoring Workgroup summer meeting and shared what they have observed in the field and any successes or hurdles they faced. Overall, this appears to be a good year for most MRC-monitored kelp beds.

European Green Crab: Staff submitted the Interim Report to WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) describing project efforts in Drayton Harbor (Whatcom County) and Samish Bay (Skagit County) for FY26. Additionally, staff provided an addendum (jointly written with Padilla Bay NERR for Ecology) for WDFW's annual report to legislators. In the field, staff coordinated with the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe to trap their tideland property in Samish Bay. WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife and WA Conservation Corps continue to support field efforts in Drayton Harbor and Samish Bay.

Voluntary No-Anchor Zones: NWSC staff continue to work with partners to write a series of blog/article posts highlighting key eelgrass protection areas around the Salish Sea. The most recent post featured Seafarers' Park by the Port of Anacortes. More posts are in the works for the remainder of the boating season.

Derelict Vessels: NWSC convened the Derelict Vessel workgroup to meet July 30th to continue planning priority derelict vessel removals and prevention actions like turn-in recycling events. The workgroup, made up of MRC reps and Tribal partners prioritized 3 derelict vessels to remove and mapped out tentative plans for 2027 and 2028 vessel turn-in events. Staff are working with WA Dept of Natural Resources to move forward on the 3 vessels for removal and are discussing capacity to partner on future turn-in events. Additionally, NWSC staff facilitated an intergovernmental agreement between DNR and the Makah Tribe that has been signed. Planning coordination continues for a turn-in event with the Makah Tribe for September.

SoundIQ: Staff are working to maintain post-launch momentum for SoundIQ, support MRCs in using and promoting the tool, roll out a clear data-submission process, expand awareness among planners and partners, track real-world use, and continually refine SoundIQ based on MRC feedback.

Operations

Staff: No new updates on staff this month.

Budget: State fiscal year 2026 is closed, with final invoicing sent to WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for green crab activities to fully expend year one of the agreement. State funding for MRC grants was also fully expended. The last payment requests from counties are still being processed.

Communications: Staff are finishing the updated 2026 Communications Plan, which aims to provide unified messaging and strengthen coordination across the Commission/MRC network. Staff are working with MRC leads/reps to develop a clear workflow for coordinating local news releases following county protocol, the process is underway.

Contracts and grants: There are no new contracts this period and no activity on the Department of Natural Resources agreement for derelict vessel work.

Broad Community Engagement: Staff continue to determine how best to implement Community Connectivity Analysis at MRCs.

Other Meetings Attended

- Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Management Team (8/3) - Lucas
- Whatcom MRC legislative site visit planning (7/27) - Lucas
- Rep. Larsen site visit in Skagit County (7/28) – Lucas

- Maritime Blue's Roadmap to a Thriving Seaweed Aquaculture Industry in Washington State (7/29) – Dana
- North Puget Sound European Green Crab Regional Coordination Group (8/5) – Allie, Leah
- Island MRC legislative site visit planning (8/6) - Lucas
- Marine Resources Advisory Council (8/7) – Lucas
- WDFW Human-Kelp Interaction Workshop (8/15) – Jeff