

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

January 15, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Julie Schlenger, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin Richard Strickland Heidi Stewart, Alternate  <b>Absent</b> Allan Hicks Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Cory Champagne, Alternate Dawn Presler	<b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  <b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member  <b>Others</b> Steve Donnelly – DNR Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Vivian Ericson – MFA Natalie Sacker – MFA Sasha Horst, Northwest Straits Commission Laura Gurley, Port of Everett Michael Chesher, Citizen
<b>Summary of Decisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the November 2024 meeting summary.</li><li>• The MRC approved the 2025 Executive Team, Ex-Officio Members, Alternates, and Representatives.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 8<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30 Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk at Olympic Beach</li><li>• February 19<sup>th</sup> MRC Meeting in-person at the Snohomish County Campus</li></ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Brie Townsend opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Brie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sdhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the November 2024 meeting summary. Andrew Gobin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **MRC Annual Elections – Brie Townsend**

Brie Townsend led the MRC through the proposed roles and MRC Members were asked to provide any additional nominations. The final proposed Executive Committee, Representative, and Ex-Officio MRC roles that were submitted to be approved by consensus were:

Chair: Julie Schlenger

Vice-Chair/Co Vice-Chairs: Brie Townsend and Sara Maxwell

Past-Chair: Natasha Coumou

LIO Representative: Tim Ellis

LIO Alternate: Allan Hicks

NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis

NWSC Alternate: Julie Schlenger

MRC Ex-Officio Members: David Bain

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the proposed Executive Committee, Representative, and Ex-Officio MRC roles, Phil Salditt seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Next, the MRC reviewed the following proposed MRC Member alternates. Elisa Dawson reminded the MRC that the Bylaws state: only appointed MRC members may participate in MRC decisions. MRC members may submit a written request to the MRC chairperson to participate through a designee. If the MRC approves the request, then the designee may participate in MRC decisions on behalf of the appointed MRC member.

Prior to the MRC Meeting, Sara Maxwell had requested that Cory Champagne serve as her formal alternate again for 2025. Additionally, prior to the MRC Meeting, Natasha Coumou had requested that Heidi Stewart serve as her formal alternate for 2025.

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the proposed MRC Alternative Member roles, Phil Salditt seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Annual Report Discussion – Natalie Sacker and Vivian Ericson, MFA Consulting**

In collaboration with the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) will support the process of implementing the MRC's 2025-2030 (5-year) Strategic Plan. MFA's role in this process is to co-lead the development of the 2025 Annual Work Plan and the Annual Report. Currently, MFA is working with the MRC to update the Annual Report. This year the Annual Report will shift to being made collaboratively on Canva and MFA will lead the creation of the Annual Report.

Natalie led the MRC through a process to show them how to edit the Annual Report Canva document. The MRC is expected to review the draft designs for the Annual Report and respond to a poll of design preferences that MFA has asked the MRC to participate in. Next, Subcommittees will draft content for the Annual Report by March 10th. MFA will provide a draft Annual Report by March 17th, then the

MRC will review the document by March 24th, and the final Annual Report will be ready by March 31st.

### **Letter of Support Policy– Elisa Dawson**

The Snohomish MRC receives requests for letters of support for projects within the marine waters of Snohomish County. To be considered for a letter of support, partners must work with one or more Members of the Snohomish MRC to find a project Lead to bring the letter forward. A MRC Member Lead must facilitate the process of gathering MRC approval for the letter of support. This document is intended to provide clarity on the approval criteria, authorization process to be followed, and timing required in completing a letter of support.

The MRC reviewed the draft Letter of Support Policy and had a discussion. Several discussion and text edits were considered regarding if MRC Members who are leading the letter of support should also participate in the consensus vote. MRC staff will work to incorporate these comments and an updated Letter of Support Policy will be reviewed at the February meeting. If ready, the MRC will vote to approve the Letter of Support Policy at the February MRC meeting.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - The meetings and events for 2025 are live on the NW Straits Commission website. Agendas and meeting details are posted to this page as each meeting approaches.
  - Caitlyn Blair shared highlights from the responses to the 2024 NWS Initiative annual conference held November. More than 120 members, partners, and speakers participated in the event, and there was high praise for the event structure, sessions, and networking activities. Watch for a follow-up e-mail with more details and information, including links and attachments to notes from the Science Advisory Committee session, as well as the one-pagers from the MRC networking activity. In the meantime, please see the NW Straits Conference website for the information that has already been compiled, as well as a photo gallery from the conference.
  - Save the date: 2025 Conference will be held at Maple Hall in Skagit County on November 7-8, 2025.
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - The LIO hosted a Riparian Workshop Dec 10
  - Snohomish County Health Department is building a GIS database of septic systems.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
  - MFA will continue to support this project as a consultant.
  - The subcommittee's first meeting and the kickoff for year 2 is Jan 16.
  - The Kelp Kayak Monitoring Data Review meeting for all MRCs is on Jan 30.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update– Julie Schlenger**
  - The annual Oil Spill Task Force meeting occurred December 2024. A case study included the response to tar balls observed along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Communication and no known responsible party were cited as response issues.
  - The next Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting will be January 16, 2025.

- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Monitoring has continued monthly for Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park.
  - Upcoming monitoring dates: Picnic Point and Meadowdale – January 14, Howarth – January 18
  - The 2024 data summary presentation with WDFW is currently being scheduled and will most likely be virtual.
  - The WDFW Marine Beach Spawning map publishes forage fish data on a biyearly basis and was updated in September. It now reflects all surveys completed through December 2023.
  - Howarth Park did 9 consecutive months on sampling in 2024. January sampling of Howarth Park on January 18.
- **Spencer Island Restoration Update – Phil Salditt**
  - Phil was unable to attend the meeting on 12/5 and did not have an update.
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC are collaborating on hosting a vessel turn in event in February 2026. Planning for the event is starting now, with the first meeting being held on Jan 22.
  - There is budget for vessel removal in 2025. MRC Members are encouraged to submit their suggestions for vessel removal by March 19, 2025.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County and the ORCA program completed their 2024 contract.
  - A contract for 2025-2026 is currently being developed. In this SOW, ORCA would continue to collect data throughout the 2 years, while also focusing on creating a public-facing outreach material showing their results for data 2020-2024.
- **Kayak Point Signage – Elisa Dawson**
  - The MRC held a workgroup meeting to continue to refine language for the 9 signs on Dec 12. This meeting included Tulalip Natural Resources staff from their Treaty Rights Office.
  - The Tulalip Tribes graphics team has agreed to take on creating updated new drafts of all 9 signs. We expect to see drafts soon and will be reviewing updated drafts at the February or March MRC meeting.
- **Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk – Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30PM.**
  - MRC will provide hot chocolate and cider. A few volunteers are needed to help with the drinks. All MRC members are encouraged to attend.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – January 14
    - Howarth – January 18
  - MRC February Meeting will be in-person.
- **Other Updates?**
  - None.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

February 19, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM

Meeting Location: Snohomish County Campus  
3000 Rockefeller Ave Everett, WA 98201

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Julie Schlenger, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin Richard Strickland Allan Hicks Dawn Presler  <b>Absent</b> Cory Champagne, Alternate Heidi Stewart, Alternate	<b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  <b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member  <b>Others</b> Laura Gurley, Port of Everett
<b>Summary of Decisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the January 2025 meeting summary.</li><li>• The MRC approved the Letter of Support Policy</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• March 19<sup>th</sup> MRC Meeting online via Zoom</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – March 20</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – March 15</li><li>• NWSF Graduate Research Showcase March 29, 2025 at Padilla Bay</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábs̓ (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš̓ (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the January 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Letter of Support Policy – Elisa Dawson**

The Snohomish MRC receives requests for letters of support for projects within the marine waters of Snohomish County. To be considered for a letter of support, partners must work with one or more Members of the Snohomish MRC to find a project Lead to bring the letter forward. A MRC Member Lead must facilitate the process of gathering MRC approval for the letter of support. This document is intended to provide clarity on the approval criteria, authorization process to be followed, and timing required in completing a letter of support.

MRC Staff Elisa Dawson provided and reviewed the updated draft Letter of Support Policy text that had been edited based on the discussion at the January MRC Meeting. The MRC reviewed the draft Letter of Support Policy and had a discussion, agreeing that the updates resolved the concerns from the January Meeting.

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the proposed Letter of Support Policy, Andrew Gobin seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Kayak Point Signage – Natasha Coumou**

A subgroup met in December to review edits for the Kayak Point signs. Natasha brought copies of the updated draft signs for Kayak Point and discussed their current status. The Tulalip Tribes' graphic design department is working on drafts for all 9 of the interpretive signs that will be installed at Kayak Point Park. MRC members reviewed the signs and gave their initial feedback. One comment about the signs was wondering if the colors would fade. Natasha is going to check on how similar signs have held up.

The signs will continue to be edited by the Tulalip Tribes graphic design staff. Natasha expects to have proofs of all 9 signed by mid-March.

## **MRC 2025-2027 Grant Projects Discussion – Elisa Dawson**

The MRC discussed a list of ideas for the MRC's upcoming 2025-2027 NWSC funds. Project ideas included:

- Continue with community science monitoring.
- A project focused on derelict vessels – creating outreach materials about the work we've done, reaching out to people about vessel turn in, making a plan for vessels left in the estuary.
- Create a marine report card for Possession Sound
- Complete a shoreline armor analysis similar to Island County.
- A project focused on nearshore restoration. Possibly doing a priority areas analysis, or focusing in on a specific capital project
- Marine Vegetation work, including identifying no-anchor zones to protect eelgrass.

The MRC discussed the ideas and discussed which two ideas should be further scoped for the grant. It was decided that the Derelict Vessel subcommittee would further scope the derelict vessel ideas, and the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee would further scope the shoreline armor analysis idea.

Both ideas will be further discussed at the next MRC meeting and the MRC will decide which idea to move forward. Final scoping will occur by May.

## **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**

- The Commission recognized Nan McKay for her contributions as a NWS Commissioner over her 11 year term as a Governor’s appointee, and her contributions to the Puget Sound restoration community throughout her professional and volunteer career. Nan termed off the Commission in late 2024.
- The Science Advisory Committee is planning another workshop in their series, anticipated for October 2025. Stay tuned for more information about the topic and date.
- The Commission adopted a set of Norms for Courageous Conversations. The norms will be used at Commission meetings to establish expectations and solutions for tackling difficult conversations. Commission staff will be following up with MRC staff to provide more details.
- The Commission discussed the NWS Initiative definition that was proposed at the September 2024 retreat. The Commission recommended gathering additional information from the NWS Foundation to further inform the discussion.
- Ginny Broadhurst shared information from the Salish Sea Institute on a recent speaker series event about Commercial Shipping: Impacts and Risks in the Salish Sea, featuring speaker Lovel Pratt from Friends of the San Juans and San Juan MRC member. A recording of the event is available online.

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**

- The Executive Committee of the LIO met on January 29<sup>th</sup>. EPA Manager, Peter Murchie talked about the EPA Funding Model and EPA oversight of the Puget Sound Recovery Program.
- The LIO reviewed their 2025 workplan.

- **Starlight Beach Walk February 8 review – Joycelyn Blue**

- Collaboration between Beach Watchers, MRC, and City of Edmonds
  - MRC Staff attended and set up the hot drinks station
- Beach Watchers counted over 100 people in attendance
- Many adults and small children excited to see the sea stars, anemones, and chitons

- **Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger**

- The consultant is currently working on updates to the marine vegetation memo to include information on Hat Island and Mukilteo areas.
- The subcommittee is meeting tomorrow, Thursday Feb 20 to discuss updates to the marine veg webpages.

- **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**

- The MRC Kelp Kayak-Based Monitoring Review meeting hosted by the NWSC was held on January 30 with an overview of trends from MRCs, Vashon Nature Center and Samish Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources. A recording of the session is available online.

- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - The Oil Spill subcommittee is planning to meet to discuss GRP updates.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Monitoring has continued monthly for Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park.
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Feb 13, March 20, Howarth – Feb 15, March 15
  - The 2024 data summary presentation with WDFW is currently being scheduled and will most likely be virtual.
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC are collaborating on hosting a vessel turn in event in February 2026. Planning for the event is starting now, the first meeting was held on Jan 22.
  - Next meeting is March 19. The MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe are invited to have representatives attend.
  - There is budget for vessel removal in 2025. MRC Members are encouraged to submit their suggestions for vessel removal by March 19, 2025.
  - Vessel recon scheduled for SWM staff on March 24/26
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County and the ORCA program completed their 2024 contract.
  - ORCA and SWM are currently in discussions about next steps.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –March 20
    - Howarth – March 15
  - MRC March Meeting will be online.
- **Other Updates?**
  - Richard provided an update about the possible letter to Snohomish County Council about critical areas. He asked if anyone else would be interested in leading the process, but there were no volunteers.
  - Phil reported that there will be a Showcase of Graduate Research: Salish Sea Conservation and Stewardship hosted by the NWSF on Saturday March 29 from 1-3PM at Padilla Bay. All MRC members and their guests are welcome.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.**



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**March 19, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Online**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Julie Schlenger, Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Franchesca Perez  Andrew Gobin  Richard Strickland  Allan Hicks  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p><b>Others</b>  Bill Burger – Citizen  Tom Teigen - Snohomish County, DCNR  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the February 2025 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – March 20, April 10</li> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – April 12</li> <li>• NWSF Graduate Research Showcase March 29, 2025 at Padilla Bay</li> <li>• Beach Cleanup Howarth Park – March 30</li> </ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábs̓ (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš̓ (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

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## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the February 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation Presentation – Don Hunger**

Don Hunger is a career conservationist currently serving as the NW Straits Foundation executive director. He has developed and led national, regional and international conservation programs addressing environmental challenges in forest health, wildland fire, invasive species, outdoor recreation, wilderness, national parks and protected areas.

Don presented to the MRC about the Northwest Straits Foundation, explaining its role as a not for profit and outlining their funding sources and the project funding request process. MRC members and staff asked further questions about the project request process and discussed the option of collaborating on derelict gear outreach and removal.

## **Annual Report Draft Review – MFA Consultants**

The MRC has been working to update the 2024 Annual Report in Canva. Consultants from MFA and the MRC reviewed the draft. A final version of the Annual Report will be completed by end of March. The group discussed the font size and readability of the report and determined no major changes were necessary. The Marine Vegetation Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing and finalizing the kelp data. A shortened version of the annual report will be turned into a presentation for Snohomish County Council.

## **2025 – 2027 Grant Scope of Work (SOW) Review – Phil Salditt and Tim Ellis**

At the February meeting, the MRC discussed the potential grant project ideas and decided that two should be further scoped for the grant. It was decided that the Derelict Vessel subcommittee would further scope the derelict vessel ideas, and the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee would further scope the shoreline armor analysis idea. Only one project idea will move forward for grant funding, and a full scope of work developed.

Phil Salditt presented the Derelict Vessel subcommittee's project idea, saying there were two potential paths forward. One path forward would create a plan to address the difficult-to-remove vessels, or another would focus on education. Tim Ellis presented an idea about conducting a shoreline armoring survey similar to Island County's. The MRC decided to continue development of the Derelict Vessel project for the 2025 – 2027 grant. The Derelict Vessel subcommittee is now tasked with meeting and developing a full scope of work to be presented at the April MRC meeting for MRC feedback. The full scope of work is due to the NWSC on May 29.

## **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - The Commission's newly implemented Knowledge Base hosts a wealth of diversity, equity and inclusion resources for building engagement and community partnerships for MRCs. Start with the Knowledge Base Guide to see a quick description and link to each resource included in the Knowledge Base. Additionally, this Knowledge Base is meant to be built upon, and we intend to add resources to it as we continue this work. If you have/find resources you think would be beneficial to add, or have

questions please contact Allie Simpson (simpson@nwstraits.org) or Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org).

- The NW Straits Commission retreat is on April 3-4 at Padilla Bay. Commissioners, Commission staff, and MRC Staff are invited. More information about the agenda will be available in the coming weeks. Please contact Caitlyn (blair@nwstraits.org).
- Clallam MRC will be hosting a planting event on March 6th for the Ediz Hook revegetation project, in partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Clallam Conservation District. Approximately 50 local elementary students are expected to attend and help plant native beach plants.
- The Great Islands Cleanup is scheduled for April 12 on Lopez Island and April 26 on Orcas, San Juan, and Shaw islands. For more information, please see the Plastic Free Salish Sea website.
- Skagit MRC is collaborating with Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Island MRC, Jefferson MRC and NWSF on a potential derelict crab pot removal project in Skagit Bay. They are exploring the possibility of using an ROV for surveying and removing derelict pots. They have scheduled a demo with Oceanbotics ROV (<https://oceanbotics.com/>) on March 11 at Cornet Bay.
- Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for April 29-May 2, 2025. The NW Straits reauthorization will remain one of the key priorities. More information as the event is planned can be found at <https://psdoth.org/>.
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - North Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Brown Bag presentation April 2
  - Planners Briefing for Puget Sound Parcel-Scale Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment April 18
- **Kayak Point Signage – Heidi Stewart**
  - Natasha Coumou to update the group via email.
- **Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger**
  - The subcommittee is currently reviewing the draft of updates to the marine vegetation memo. The subcommittee next meets on 3/20.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - The subcommittee met on February 26, 2025. Items covered included: 2025 potential distribution of small spill kits in partnership with WA Sea Grant, potentially writing an oil spill prevention article to distribute to SnoCo marina newsletters and yacht clubs, potentially improving partnership with other active MRC oil spill subcommittees, decision to not provide official MRC letter of support about the SnoCo kelp bed protection in CPS-1 GRP
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –March 20, April 10; Howarth –March 15, April 12
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - The second meeting for a vessel turn in event in February 2026 occurred on March 19. Representatives from Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC, MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe attended.
  - Vessel recon scheduled for SWM staff on March 24/26
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**

- Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
- Encourage Marine Water Quality subcommittee to meet to discuss potential collaboration
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – April 10
    - Howarth – April 12
    - Beach Cleanup Howarth Park – March 30 1pm
  - MRC April Meeting will be at the Blue Heron Room at the Port of Everett
- **Other Updates?**
  - Kayak data from the MRCs has been requested to be used by Reef Check, UW, and WA DNR. Please refer to the email from Jeff Whitty sent earlier this month for more information.
  - Dawn participating in the planning committee for the November NWS conference. An email will be sent asking for Members ideas and topics for the conference.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

**April 16, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Port of Everett Blue Heron Room**

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Julie Schlenger, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin Richard Strickland Allan Hicks Dawn Presler Heidi Stewart, Alternate  <b>Absent</b> Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Cory Champagne, Alternate	<b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  <b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member  <b>Others</b> Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers
<b>Summary of Decisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the March 2025 meeting summary.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – May 10</li><li>• May 21 MRC Meeting will be online via Zoom</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the March 2025 meeting summary. Franchesca Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **MRC Annual Report and Presentation – Natasha Coumou and Julie Schlenger**

Natasha Coumou presented to Council on the MRC 2024 Annual Report with staff Elisa and Joycelyn on 4/15. MRC Members Julie Schlenger and Richard Strickland attended. Natasha reported that the presentation went well and there was a positive discussion with Council Members.

The MRC has been working to prepare a letter of recommendations to Council as a follow up to the Council Meeting. Consultants MFA have prepared a draft letter, and consensus was voted on via email. However, the MRC was not able to meet consensus over email and Julie led a conversation at the meeting to discuss the letter. There are currently 3 recommendations. The MRC was able to reach consensus on one recommendation, but it was determined that the Marine Water Quality Subcommittee would need to meet to discuss another one of the ideas. The MRC discussed the third recommendation at length and decided that that would want to rewrite it. Natasha and Andrew volunteered to rewrite the third recommendation. The MRC will review updated language at a later meeting.

## **Marine Vegetation Grant Update – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee**

The Marine Vegetation Subcommittee met on 4/15 to discuss the anticipated grant funds for 2026 (\$75,000) and 2027 (\$71,000). Based on this conversation it was decided that the 2026 funds would be used for continuing outreach about marine vegetation. The two potential approaches discussed were either an online version of the kelp outreach event inviting community members who were unable to attend our previous in person events, or a focus on reaching out to local community groups and sharing the information available with them (this could include presentations at the organizations meetings if they are interested).

For the 2027 funds the subcommittee decided their focus would be to begin the process to update the marine vegetation mapping of the Snohomish County shoreline. When the MRC mapped the marine vegetation of Snohomish County in 2019-2022, the recommendation was to recomplete this monitoring every 7-10 years. Mapping of the whole shoreline would require 3 years, but the subcommittee plans to choose an area of the shoreline to focus on that would have the greatest benefit at this time.

Dawn volunteered to support as Co-Lead and Julie will also Co-Lead this project with the rest of the marine Vegetation Subcommittee which includes Tim Ellis, Brie Townsend, and Natasha Coumou. The subcommittee will put together a final draft of their grant scope of work for the final MRC review at the May 21 MRC meeting. Grant applications are due to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29 by end of day.

## **Derelict Vessel Draft Grant Scope of Work Presentation – Derelict Vessel Subcommittee**

Natasha presented slides and a draft scope of work for the derelict vessel subcommittee. Natasha described the idea of the project, which is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the scope and impact of derelict vessels in Snohomish County's marine environments by identifying the number, type, and location of vessels. This will create a foundational framework that will help prioritize interventions, streamline resource allocation, and foster collaboration among local authorities, stakeholders, and environmental organizations. The goal is to mitigate environmental harm, ensure navigational safety, and support sustainable marine ecosystems. The development of the first County-Specific derelict vessel database would offer a clear, up-to-date snapshot of the issue, including the locations and conditions of these vessels. This database will serve as a valuable

tool for stakeholders, providing the evidence necessary for informed decision-making and policy development.

Natasha said that in order to move this work forward she would need at least 2 people to volunteer to help co-lead the project with her. Allan Hicks volunteered. However, a second volunteer could not be found. The MRC discussed if they should continue to move this project forward if there is not full buy-in from the MRC to complete the work. It was decided that the subcommittee would meet after the meeting to discuss. If they decide to move forward, the subcommittee will put together a final draft of their grant scope of work for the final MRC review at the May 21 MRC meeting. Grant applications are due to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 29 by end of day.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - The Commission’s annual retreat was on April 3 & 4. While Tim and Joycelyn both has planned to attend, both were unable to day-of. No Snohomish MRC members were in attendance at the retreat. Tim will work to get an update from the NWSC about what happened at the retreat.
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - There was a North Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Brown Bag presentation April 2 that MRC staff and members attended.
  - Planners Briefing for Puget Sound Parcel-Scale Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment April 18
- **Kayak Point Signage – Heidi Stewart**
  - Natasha Coumou is reviewing the sign drafts. 4 of the 9 signs have drafts, and Natasha hopes to have drafts of all 9 signs for the MRC to review at the May meeting.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - The subcommittee is in the early draft stages of writing an article for boaters on oil spill preparedness and prevention. They hope to have the document ready to be reviewed by MRC and discussed at May MRC meeting.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –May 15, June 25; Howarth –May 10, June 21.
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Vessel recon was completed by SWM staff on March 24. One vessel on Port of Everett Land was identified. Another possible vessel on the tide flats near the mouth of Steamboat Slough/Ebey Slough was also marked. Tulalip Tribal staff offered to go look for it while they are out in the field later this month and will follow up with Elisa.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
  - Elisa encouraged the Marine Water Quality subcommittee to meet to discuss potential collaboration
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15
  - Howarth – May 10
  - MRC May 21 meeting will be online via Zoom.
- **Other Updates?**
  - Edmonds Watershed festival is May 3. Brie and Julie are interested in hosting a table.
  - Marine Ecology intern position has been offered. More information will be provided at the May meeting. Our hope is to have the intern work with the Marine Water Quality and Nearshore Restoration Subcommittee. We are looking for 1-2 MRC member(s) to provide mentorship. Last year, Sara filled this role.
  - Dawn is participating in the planning committee for the November NWS conference.
  - Port of Everett Clean Up at Jetty Island on April 19.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.**



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

May 21, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Julie Schlenger, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Franchesca Perez Richard Strickland Allan Hicks Heidi Stewart, Alternate <b>Absent</b> Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Cory Champagne, Alternate Andrew Gobin Dawn Presler	<b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff <b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member <b>Others</b> Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Sasha Horst – NWSC Laura Gurley – Port of Everett Tom Teigen - Snohomish County, DCMR
<b>Summary of Decisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the April 2025 meeting summary.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beach cleanup at Picnic Point – June 11</li><li>• ORCA Student Showcase – June 12</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – June 21</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25</li><li>• June 18 MRC Meeting will be at the Snohomish County campus</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulagʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the April 2025 meeting summary. Natasha Coumou seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Derelict Vessel Final Grant Proposal – Derelict Vessel Subcommittee**

Natasha Coumou and Allan Hicks will co-lead the Derelict Vessel Assessment project. Allan Hicks presented to the MRC the derelict vessel scope of work: The Snohomish County Derelict Vessel Assessment project aims to address the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels in Snohomish County's marine waterways. The project will create a framework for information needed on the issues and constraints of derelict vessel removal, gather a database of information on Vessels of Concern in Snohomish County using the framework, and create a final report with profiles of specific derelict vessels that can be used to inform their future removal. The outputs of this project will be used to inform Authorized Public Entities who can remove vessels in Snohomish County with the goal that this information will help identify and prioritize removal efforts within their respective jurisdiction, resulting in timelier and more coordinated removal.

The MRC discussed the intended use of the assessment for other authorized public entities and the ability of the framework to be adapted for other vessels in the future. The group discussed building upon work completed at larger scales, such as that of the NWSC and DNR, and that this project is focused on being hyper-local and specific to Snohomish County vessels. Any further comments were requested to be in by 5/26/25, so they could be addressed prior to the 5/29/25 deadline.

## **Marine Vegetation Final Grant Proposal – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee**

Julie Schlenger and Dawn Presler will be co-leads for the next two years of marine vegetation work. Julie Schlenger presented the proposed marine vegetation scope to the MRC: With the increasing amount of information available about the current status and issues facing kelp and eelgrass, the Snohomish MRC sees a need to communicate Snohomish County specific information in an easily understood manner to our local citizens and government officials. The MRC will build upon previous marine vegetation work by continuing outreach to local community groups and updating local marine vegetation data. In 2026, the MRC plans to conduct outreach to identified community groups and create relevant outreach materials. In 2027, the MRC will contract with DNR to survey a portion of the Snohomish County shoreline to update marine vegetation information.

The MRC discussed the previous marine vegetation monitoring and reports completed in contract with DNR. The subcommittee assured the group that similar analyses would be completed so that the two data sets could be compared. The goal of the monitoring was emphasized to be to keep the data consistent with the previous monitoring as well as with other marine vegetation monitoring happening across Puget Sound. Any further comments were requested to be in by 5/26/25, so they could be addressed prior to the 5/29/25 deadline.

## **Kayak Point Sign Review – Natasha Coumou**

The Tulalip Tribes' graphic design department is working on drafts for all 9 of the interpretive signs that will be installed at Kayak Point Park. An initial review of the general signage design was completed by the MRC at the February 2025 meeting. Natasha presented updated drafts of the signs for MRC members to review. Comments on the signs included a discussion about the addition of the MRC logo, which staff and Natasha are going to follow up on. The MRC requested to see the

final versions of the Tulalip Tribes signs to be able to ensure supportive but non-repetitive messaging.

Next steps are to have comments from the MRC given to the graphics department of Tulalip Tribes and have a second draft completed for the June meeting. Natasha is going to share a link for MRC members to leave comments on a shared document. Comments are requested to be in by June 4.

### **Marine Summer Intern Update – Elisa Dawson**

The intern position has been offered and accepted by Caliana Weber, and undergrad student in UW Marine Biology program. She will be starting her internship on June 16 and continuing until school resumes in the fall. Her priority focus throughout the internship will be to move forward the shoreline armoring project by helping to develop a scope of work for a shoreline armoring assessment. She will work with the nearshore restoration subcommittee on this work. Caliana will also work to continue project progress of the Possession Sound marine report card and will work with the water quality subcommittee to do so.

Elisa Dawson gave a summary of the previous two interns, the projects the 2025 intern will work on, and the role of MRC intern advisor. The water quality subcommittee met this week and Richard Strickland gave a summary of the discussion about the ORCA data and working towards a report card for Possession Sound. Richard Strickland volunteered to work as a mentor for the report card portion of the intern project. Elisa asked if any MRC member was interested in acting as a mentor for the nearshore subcommittee and the shoreline armoring project. She requested interested folks reach out to her in the next week.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - Alan Clark was elected Chair and Jamie Stephens was elected the vice-Chair of the NW Straits Commission. Many thanks to Tim Ellis, outgoing chair, for his service the last two years.
  - Senator Murray and Representative Larsen have reintroduced the NW Straits Initiative reauthorization bill. Senator Cantwell and Representative Randall are cosponsors. To learn more see the press release.
  - The May 30 NW Straits Commission meeting will be held at the Dungeness River Nature Center in Clallam County. Additional details and the agenda will be available the week of the meeting on our Events page. If you have questions contact, Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org).
  - The 2024 Impact Report is currently the second most visited page on the NW Straits Commission website! If you are interested in sharing the report or reading it yourself, click [here](#) or contact Jessica Owens (owens@nwstraits.org).
  - Skagit MRC has released a Native Olympia Oyster Restoration StoryMap, available on their website!
  - Snohomish MRC's 2024 Annual Report is available on their website!
  - There will be two Kayak Kickoffs for 2025 MRC kelp monitoring volunteers, the first will be at Padilla Bay from 10:00 – 2:00 PM on May 2, and the second one will be at the WSU Jefferson County Extension Office in Port Hadlock from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on May 14. There will be multiple kayak safety trainings for MRC kelp

monitoring volunteers at Bowman Bay, Fidalgo Island on May 31 and June 1, and at North Beach, Port Townsend on June 7 (two classes per day). Registration has closed for all events but if you have any questions or would like to attend the kickoff or safety training, please contact Jeff Whitty ([whitty@nwstraits.org](mailto:whitty@nwstraits.org)) asap.

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - The LIO met on May 6 to discuss possible direct funding through Ecology for 6PPD research on BMPs, the upcoming Stormwater SIL Funding, and an update on the Healthy Shorelines Action Plan.
  - The LIO is working on a Marine Nearshore Plan that they are requesting input and review from the MRC. A workshop is being held on June 3 and Tim plans to attend. The nearshore subcommittee is meeting on June 2 to discuss this information.
- **Policy Recommendation Updates – Natasha Coumou, Andrew Gobin, Water Quality Subcommittee**
  - The Critical Areas Regulations Amendment 3 has passed and thus a policy recommendation from the MRC is not moving forward.
  - The Water Quality Subcommittee has not yet met to discuss the recommendation related to an inventory of unpermitted shoreline armoring and enforcing existing regulations.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - No updates
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15, June 25, July 17; Howarth – May 10, June 21
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - The third meeting for a vessel turn in event in February 2026 occurred on May 21. Representatives from Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC, MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe attended.
  - Two vessels identified for removal this year the small boat at Pigeon #1 at the Port of Everett and the vessel on the marshland near Ebey Slough. Staff will look into the vessel reportedly sunk near Howarth Park.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  - Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
  - The Marine Water Quality subcommittee met and are continuing to work towards a marine report card utilizing the ORCA data.
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
  - Olympic Beach education walk on May 26
  - The second quarter cleanup is Wed June 11 from 11am – 12:30am at Picnic Point
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Beach cleanup – June 11
  - ORCA Student Showcase – June 12
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25
    - Howarth – June 21

- MRC June Meeting will be at the Snohomish County campus
- **Other Updates?**
  - Julie Schlenger, Brie, and Richard hosted a table educating about marine vegetation at the Edmonds Watershed Festival on May 3. 161 people visited the table and learned about nearshore habitat and forage fish.
  - Franchesca Perez will be attending the UW Ocean Acidification symposium on May 28.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**June 18, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Snohomish County Campus  
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA. 98201.**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Julie Schlenger, Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Richard Strickland  Allan Hicks  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Andrew Gobin  Franchesca Perez</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p><b>Others</b>  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the May 2025 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – June 21</li> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17</li> <li>• July 18 MRC Meeting will be held online via Zoom.</li> </ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauc-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Welcome Cali, Snohomish County Marine Ecology Intern – Elisa Dawson**

Elisa Dawson introduced Caliana Weber, an undergrad student at the University of Washington who started her internship on June 16, 2025.

Cali Weber is a Marine Ecology Intern for Snohomish County Surface Water Management. She is a senior at the University of Washington studying marine biology with a minor in data science. Cali grew up in Chicago but moved to Seattle because of the amazing ecosystems surrounding the area. Outside of school/work she loves to go diving, skiing, backpacking, or basically anything outside as well as make ceramics. Prior to joining Snohomish County, Cali has helped graduate students researching kelp forests both through scientific diving and analyzing microscope photos. She also had the privilege to study abroad in Croatia, doing research on bottlenose dolphins. She is excited for the opportunity to help shape conservation and learn along the way!

Her priority focus throughout the internship will be to move forward the shoreline armoring project by helping to develop a scope of work for a shoreline armoring assessment. She will work with the nearshore restoration subcommittee on this work. Caliana will also work to continue project progress of the Possession Sound marine report card and will work with the water quality subcommittee to do so. She will also participate in forage fish monitoring, kelp monitoring, and other MRC activities. If MRC members have ideas about other activities for her to get involved in, please reach out to Elisa.

## **Marine Vegetation Updates – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee**

The summer 2025 Monitoring Schedule to kelp monitoring in Snohomish County was presented to the MRC.

- July: Mukilteo July 7, Edmonds July 8, Meadowdale July 9. Backup dates: 21, 23, 24
- August just Edmonds: August 7. Backup 8 or 22
- MRC Members should reach out the Elisa if they are interested in future training for Kayak Kelp Monitoring.
- Kelp Monitoring via boat @Hat Island:
  - July 10 or 22
  - August 6 or 20
  - September 4 or 18
  - MRC Members should reach out if they are interested in attending the boat tours of the Hat Island kelp bed.

Next the MRC reviewed the draft outreach materials for the event. Consultant MFA has created drafts of the two outreach one-pagers to be reviewed by the MRC. These were in the meeting packet and the marine vegetation subcommittee took comments from the MRC. These comments will be provided to MFA and updated finals will be created. Any final comments need to be turned in to Joycelyn by Monday 6/23.

Finally, the Grant's outreach event has been planned for September 10, 2025. The Point Elliot room has been reserved from 2-9PM. The marine vegetation subcommittee will be discussing timing of

the event, speakers, and logistics at their next subcommittee meeting MRC members are asked to put the event date in their calendars and plan to attend. Dawn, Julie, Richard, and Phil all noted their availability for that date.

### **Kayak Point Sign Review – Natasha Coumou**

Natasha Coumou was unable to attend the MRC meeting. Elisa reported that the Tulalip Tribes' graphic design department is working on updated drafts for all 9 of the interpretive signs. Initial reviews of the general signage design were completed by the MRC at the February meeting, and drafts were reviewed at the MRC meeting in May. Natasha will follow up with the MRC on next steps.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**

- Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC. The new representative would take over the position starting in January 2026.
- Clallam MRC shared a great presentation about processes the MRC created to determine when to advise their county commissioners on local issues. For more information, please see the Clallam MRC [website](#) or e-mail LaTrisha Suggs ([lsuggs@jamestowntribe.org](mailto:lsuggs@jamestowntribe.org)).
- The Anchor Out of Eelgrass social media campaign is live! Please visit the website at [AnchorOut.org](http://AnchorOut.org) and follow the campaign on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Threads](#)!
- Save the Date: 2025 MRC Conference, November 7-8 at Maple Hall in La Conner! The MRC Conference [website](#) is live, please visit the website for information on hotels, speakers, and registration information. We can't wait to see you there!
- NW Straits Commission reviewed the draft strategic plan at the meeting. NW Straits Commission staff will incorporate edits and begin drafting an implementation plan. The NW Straits Commission aims to have approval by the June NW Straits Commission meeting.
- Hansi Hals, Natural Resource Director with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe shared remarks about projects and initiatives that Jamestown S'Klallam is working on and spearheading. Currently, Jamestown is working on restoration at the mouth of the Dungeness River, invasive species control, stewardship panning, marine water quality, sea level rise, biotoxin monitoring, algal blooms, Olympia oyster population assessments, and European Green Crab trapping efforts at several sites. For more information about natural resource projects with Jamestown S'Klallam, visit their [website](#).
- Jake Beattie, CEO of the NW Maritime Center, presented on the Blue Schools Initiative. The Blue Schools Initiative aims to connect students with the maritime world to educate them about and prepare them for maritime careers. For more information about the Blue Schools Initiative, visit the NW Maritime Center [website](#).
- The Port of Skagit was awarded the 2025 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Washington Public Ports Association for their role in the vessel turn-in event in



collaboration with NW Straits Commission and other partners. For more information please visit the [press release](#).

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - The LIO is working on a Marine Nearshore Plan that they are requesting input and review from the MRC. The Nearshore Subcommittee met on June 2 to discuss this information with LIO staff and gave their input prior to the workshop on June 3. Tim was unable to attend the June 3 workshop but is working with the LIO to get the MRC member comments incorporated. A next draft is expected later this summer.
- **Crabber Outreach Summer 2025 – Brie Townsend**
  - Brie has gotten the permit from the Port of Everett for crabber outreach. WDFW has announced July 3 – September 1 as crabber opening for area 8-2.
  - If members are interested in volunteering for crabber outreach, please reach out to Brie.
- **Water Quality Subcommittee:**
  - Richard showed the Lunds Gulch report card by SWM and the data from ORCA as examples of the information the subcommittee is working to build from. The Marine Water Quality subcommittee will meet on Tuesday 6/24 to discuss how to turn the ORCA data into the form of the SWM report cards.
- **Policy Recommendation Updates – Natasha Coumou, Andrew Gobin, Water Quality Subcommittee**
  - Julie is willing to take on editing the advisory letter. Richard will co-lead with Julie.
  - They will have a draft available in October for MRC review. The goal would be to finish the letter by early November while the Snohomish County Council is reviewing their budget cycle.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - Escort Tug rules are on the final review.
  - Oil Spill draft 1-pager is ready for review. Julie requested time for review at the July MRC Meeting, and staff will add the draft flyer to the meeting packet for July.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –June 25, July 17
  - Howarth –June 21
  - Joycelyn is following up to see if there is a WDFW training being held in 2025.
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
  - The third meeting for a vessel turn in event in February 2026 occurred on May 21. Representatives from Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC, MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe attended.
  - Two vessels identified for removal this year the small boat at Pigeon #1 at the Port of Everett and the vessel on the marshland near Ebey Slough. Vessels were posted on 6/18. A work order is being posted by Snohomish County purchasing to get a contractor on board for removal.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
  - ORCA hosted their student showcase on 6/12, Elisa, Joycelyn, Tim, Richard, David, and Dawn attended.

- Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration we are waiting to get an updated scope of work from ORCA.
- The Marine Water Quality subcommittee met and are continuing to work towards a marine report card utilizing the ORCA data. ORCA has been invited to attend the 6/24 Marine Water Quality Subcommittee meeting.
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
  - The second quarter cleanup was Wed June 11 from 11am – 12:30am at Picnic Point. Dawn attended
  - The next cleanup will be September 20<sup>th</sup> at Kayak Point where the ETAP protocol will be completed.
- **August Picnic** – Elisa requested at least one MRC Member to help lead the picnic planning. There are no volunteers at this time. An email will be sent soliciting a volunteer, otherwise the picnic will be cancelled for 2025.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25
    - Howarth – June 21
  - MRC July Meeting will be held online via Zoom.
- **Other Updates?**
  - None.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**July 16, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Online**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Richard Strickland  Allan Hicks  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate  Franchesca Perez</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Julie Schlenger, Chair  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Andrew Gobin</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p><b>Others</b>  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers  Nicholas Mirra – MFA  Natalie Sacker - MFA  Becky Passarella – Citizen  Tom Teigen – Snohomish County</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the June 2025 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – July 26</li> <li>● Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17</li> <li>● No Aug MRC Meeting, the annual Picnic will be held instead</li> </ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Sara introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulagʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the June 2025 meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Strategic Planning Review and 2026 Workplan Process – MFA Consultants**

The MFA consultants are currently working on reviewing and capturing feedback from the MRC members about the yearlong strategic planning process conducted in 2024. These reflections will be utilized as the 2026 workplan is developed. A survey was sent to all members in early June and follow up conversations are occurring via phone calls. Half of the MRC has had their interviews and Nicholas Mirra reminded everyone to sign up for their calls in the next week.

Natalie Sacker provided a summary of the marine vegetation work thus far and updates regarding the promotions for the September 10<sup>th</sup> marine vegetation event. MRC members were asked to think about locations where they may be able to put up posters advertising the event. MRC members were also asked to determine how they can volunteer during the event. Folks are needed to help set up, during the event, and tear down afterwards.

### **Beach Watchers Update 2025 – Jonathan Robinson**

Jonathan Robinson – Beach Watchers Program Coordinator – Washington State University

Jonathan is a Marine Ecologist with an emphasis in intertidal ecosystems and over a decade and a half of experience working in the field. Educated through his youth on the Oregon coast, a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, a master's degree from Western Washington University and a decade of work as a Senior Faculty Research Assistant at Oregon State University. He learned an abundance of information that he is now able to share in educating others about the environment he enjoys so greatly. When not working at the beach, he enjoys time outdoors hiking and gardening with his wife, three children and yellow lab.

Jonathan presented on the Beach Watchers, giving a short summary of the program and discussing the trainings held in 2025. He also highlighted upcoming events and encouraged MRC members to attend.

The Beach Watchers are under contract with Snohomish County and are required to accomplish the following tasks per current contract:

- 2025 Beach Watcher training, at least 12 new registrants, and an end of training evaluation
- A brainstorming meeting with available MRC members and staff for ideas and topical priorities for the next year's training
- Intertidal surveys at Meadowdale and Picnic Point
- Beach education events, beach cleanups, and Meadowdale Beach and Restoration education days

MRC Members are encouraged to attend and participate alongside Beach Watchers at our upcoming events:

Meadowdale Beach Park – salmon run education

Sep 25 2-3pm

Oct 11 10:30-11:30am

ETAP Beach Clean Up - Kayak Point  
Sep 20 10:30 -12:30

The MRC discussed ways to engage folks for the Beach Watchers training. The 2025 registration for this training was 6 people, significantly low compared to past trainings. Jonathan explained the ways the training was advertised, including a variety of online and in print ads. The MRC discussed the majority demographic of the Beach Watchers, early retired folks, and how to reach them. Another group, college students, and ways to reach them were discussed.

### **Oil Spill Fact Sheet Review – Dawn Presler**

Dawn has worked on an oil spill fact sheet to be included in the Everett Yacht Club monthly newsletter. The audience for this is the boating community and thus not too technical and focused on what they can do to help the environment. The draft has been reviewed by the Oil Spills subcommittee already. The MRC discussed the fact sheet and with a few small adjustments the MRC approved the fact sheet. Dawn will add the MRC logo and utilize it in both the Everett Yacht Club newsletter and outreach to other boating and yacht clubs offering the fact sheet.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC. The role requires someone to attend the monthly meetings, held on Fridays alternating online and in person. This person would participate at the regional level and vote to represent the Snohomish Marine Resources Committee.
  - Speed Date with a Scientist: Fiona Beaty presented on her research while at University of British Columbia. She works in service of community and Indigenous-led marine stewardship throughout the coastline of British Columbia. Fiona's presentation titled: Centering Community Values in Marine Planning highlighted how social sciences can provide opportunities to elevate and integrate community values in marine planning processes. More details and information on this research are available in the Emerging Issues Publication: Centering Community Values in Marine Planning.
  - Applications are being accepted for the Whatcom Vessel Turn-in Recycling Event until July 15 (deadline extended!). For more information, please see the flyer.
  - The July NW Straits Commission meeting will be in Bellingham at the Whatcom County Civic Building on July 25, 2025 from 10 – 3 PM. Stay tuned for the agenda and materials and reach out to [info@nwstraits.org](mailto:info@nwstraits.org) if you have any questions.
  - The NW Straits Commission approved the 2025-2030 strategic plan. The plan was developed over a six-month process and is intended to be an internal tool to guide NWSC staff in prioritizing actions that advance the Commission's mission to: "protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the NW Straits region by supporting Marine Resources Committees and advancing their community-driven priorities."
  - Island MRC will be hosting Representative Rick Larsen at Keystone Preserve on Camano Island for a site visit. Island MRC representatives will be participating.
  - NW Straits Commission welcomed Jason Lim, Puget Sound Partnership alternate, and Daniel Duncan, NW Straits Commission Veterans Conservation Corps Intern.

- Cecilia Gobin, NW Indian Fisheries Commission, shared that the public comment period for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) proposal to reissue and modify nationwide permits (NWPs) is currently open and will close on July 18th, 2025. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on June 18th, 2025.
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - No updates
- **2025 – 2027 Grant Updates - Natasha Coumou/Allan Hicks, Julie Schlenger/Dawn Presler, Staff**
  - Comments were received from NWSC on the grant proposals and staff have been reviewing them. The majority of the comments are things to be considered as the projects are implemented and staff are working on responses.
  - Grant funding is currently still being determined, but the MRC does not foresee being unable to do the work they scoped.
- **Crabber Outreach Summer 2025 – Brie Townsend**
  - Crabber education was conducted by Brie and Phil at the Port of Everett boat launch on July 5 and 6. They handed out informational materials, crab gauges, and bait hooks. They spoke with 122 crabbers
- **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
  - July 7 and 8 Mukilteo and Edmonds were monitored. Mukilteo did not have a kelp bed. Edmonds dive park bed was a bit small, the big bed looked healthy, and the nearshore bed was not present.
  - Hat Island was monitored by staff and Becky Passarella on July 10. The beds were quite large.
  - The subcommittee plans to attend the NWSC regional kelp meeting on September 30.
- **Water Quality Subcommittee Update – Richard Strickland and Cali Weber**
  - The Water Quality subcommittee is working on a marine report card specific to Possession Sound. The goal of this outreach material is to communicate to the public about the marine health using the data from ORCA, specifically temperature and dissolved oxygen. The report card will also discuss the collaboration between ORCA, the MRC, and Snohomish County and have a section saying how people can help marine health.
  - Cali has been working on a draft report card and is currently seeking feedback from the subcommittee members.
- **Nearshore Armoring Update – Cali Weber**
  - Cali has been working researching all that would be potentially involved in a nearshore armoring study and developing a draft scope of work that could be utilized to hire a contractor.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - None
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17, Aug 25
  - Howarth –July 26

- **August Picnic – Elisa Dawson**

- The picnic will take the place of our August meeting. Richard has offered to host the event at his house. Brie will be sending out a sign up for potluck style food.

- **Upcoming Events**

- Forage fish monitoring
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17, Aug 25
  - Howarth – July 26
- MRC Aug there will be no meeting, annual picnic instead – Aug 20
- Beach Clean Up ETAP at Kayak Point – Sep 20

- **Other Updates?**

- None

**The meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**September 17, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Online**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Julie Schlenger, Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Richard Strickland  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate  Franchesca Perez  Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Andrew Gobin  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p><b>Others</b>  Lincoln Loehr – Citizen  Amy Rodriguez – Citizen  Becky Paserella – Citizen  Tom Teigen - Snohomish County  Avery Maverick - Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the July 2025 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – Sep 19</li> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Sep 23</li> <li>• ETAP beach cleanup at Kayak Point – Sep 20 10:30am – 12:30pm</li> <li>• MRC Oct meeting will be a closed meeting for the SnoCo MRC yearly planning retreat</li> </ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary



Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the July 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **MRC Conference – Caitlyn Blair**

Caitlyn talked about the 2025 MRC Conference to be held on November 7-8 in La Conner. She encouraged members to register and to check the conference website. The conference will be hosting a digital art show. Attendees can submit photos at the conference website.

The MRC took a head count of members planning to attend and reminded everyone to register via the link provided by NWSC.

### **2026 Workplan Process – MFA Consultants**

The consultants from MFA discussed the results of the one on one interviews and some suggestions for the MRC to think about as they head into planning for 2026, including highlighting the 5 year strategic plan and using it as a guide.

The October MRC retreat was discussed and the MRC approved extending the meeting by one hour to ensure enough time to complete the 2026 work plan, so the meeting will be from 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

### **Marine Ecology Intern Presentation – Cali Weber**

Cali presented on her work as the Marine Ecology Intern for this summer. She covered things like kelp monitoring, forage fish, stream monitoring, and her work with both the water quality subcommittee and nearshore subcommittee.

Cali encouraged folks to leave comments and their feedback on the draft Possession Sound report card. The MRC discussed the statement referring to hydro power and plans to continue the discussion at the next water quality subcommittee meeting.

The MRC complimented all of the work Cali has accomplished and were excited that she is extending her internship through the end of the year.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC.
  - Registration for the 2025 MRC Conference is live for MRC members and staff, click [here to register!](#) Please visit the website for information on registration, hotels, meals, and the agenda. Please do not forward registration to anyone. Registration closes October 7!
  - Conference attendees may invite a guest to attend the keynote dinner on November 7. If you are interested in bringing a guest, please fill out the information on the registration form. If you have questions, email Caitlyn Blair ([info@nwstraits.org](mailto:info@nwstraits.org)).
  - There will be a conference session focused on Reaching your MRC's Full Potential where MRCs can share successful strategies and identify barriers and opportunities in reaching MRC's full potential. MRC members are encouraged to think about

and/or discuss the themes below prior to the conference to come ready for the interactive session. If you have questions, please reach out to Sasha (horst@nwstraits.org).

- Rebuilding/sustaining capacity – What strategies does your MRC use to recruit/retain/ orient members?
- Balancing member/staff roles – Does your MRC have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for members and staff?
- Project selection/prioritization – How does your MRC ensure that the slate of projects is aligned with member interest and capacity? How does your MRC determine when to sunset a project?
- Engaging with contractors/consultants – When and how does your MRC determine when consultant support is needed? Does your MRC have guidance for the use of consultants?
- The Collaborative Networking session will include a lightning round of presentations on projects, then round table networking. MRC members are encouraged to share about project successes, lessons learned, and other project related material. If your MRC is interested in participating, reach out to Jessica Owens (owens@nwstraits.org). Materials are due by September 19.
- The Port of Bellingham, Whatcom MRC, Whatcom County, Nooksack Indian Tribe, WA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), WA Dept. of Ecology, NW Straits Commission, and other partners hosted a free vessel turn-in recycling event, which is still underway. The event is part of DNR’s vessel turn-in program to prevent derelict or abandoned boats and protect marine habitats. 29 vessels were turned in, 22 were deconstructed and recycled. The remaining boats are awaiting testing to deconstruct. The event will wrap up in the next few weeks.
- Snohomish MRC is hosting an outreach event focused on kelp and eelgrass of Mukilteo and Hat Island. The event will be September 10 at Rosehill Community Center. Learn more about the event and RSVP here!
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
  - The LIO finalized their Healthy Shorelines Action Plan and the document is available on the Snohomish County website.
- **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
  - Monitoring of Hat Island, Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Meadowdale were completed throughout July, Aug, and Sep. Mukilteo and Meadowdale monitoring transects did not have kelp beds and thus were only monitored in July. Edmonds had two beds and was monitored in both July and Aug. Hat Island was monitored in all three months due to increases in kelp seen later in the season last year.
  - Reports of kelp near the Mukilteo ferry terminal were confirmed and the subcommittee plans to work with NWSC to determine eligibility and safety of potential future monitoring.
- **Marine Vegetation Event – Julie Schlenger**
  - The event went well with speakers from the NWSC, PSRF, and the MRC speaking about eelgrass and kelp to an audience of 84 members of the public. Pre and post surveys were given to attendees to determine what was learned and how they heard about the event.

- MFA is working on the event plan/report deliverable for the grant due at the end of September.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  - Julie Schlenger replied to a call from Ecology for potentially transporting materials, but no action was needed.
  - Ecology offering a HAZWOPER training on Nov 8
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Aug 25, Sep 23
  - Howarth – Aug 21, Sep 19
  - The WDFW training is occurring on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 4pm at Padilla Bay. Current forage fish volunteers were forwarded the email to sign up.
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
  - September 20<sup>th</sup> at Kayak Point is the ETAP event. Dawn Presler is coordinating on behalf of the MRC.
  - Salmon education at Meadowdale – Sep 25 3-5pm and Oct 11 10:30 – 12:30am
- **Derelict Vessels update – Joycelyn Blue**
  - Two vessels have been removed this year the small boat at Pigeon #1 at the Port of Everett and the vessel on the marshland near Ebey Slough.
  - Sara Maxwell sent a doodle poll to the subcommittee to begin the work on the 2026 grant.
- **NWSC Conference Networking Activity – Joycelyn Blue**
  - The project information outline is due end of week Sept 19. This year the activity again involves each MRC, selecting one project to feature at a station. Conference participants will rotate throughout the stations so that everyone has a chance to learn about work happening in other areas and find areas of common interest.
  - Need an MRC member volunteer to be present a project and create project outline to get to Jessica Owens at NWSC by Sep 19. Description of tabling and items for the project outline were included in the meeting packet. Phil Salditt volunteered to lead the presentation for the conference.
- **Upcoming Events**
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Sep 23
    - Howarth – Sep 19
  - ETAP beach cleanup at Kayak Point – Sep 20 10:30am – 12:30pm
  - MRC Oct meeting will be a closed meeting for the SnoCo MRC yearly planning retreat
- **Other Updates?**
  - Julie Schlenger and Phil Salditt presented to the Port of Edmonds the 2024 MRC annual report on Sep 8.
  - NSWF is currently looking for folks to serve on the board, please reach out to Phil Salditt if you are interested.
  - Q3 volunteer hours are going to be due at the beginning of October. Please keep an eye out for the email and respond in a timely manner.

- 2025 year report – subcommittee leads please begin thinking of how you would like to adjust your pages and think of photos that may be good
- Supplies – if members have supplies requests, please work together to collate into one document and provide detailed information including item, quantity, links, and description of purpose to staff. Staff will then compare to budget and see what is possible.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**November 19, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM**

**Meeting Location: Online**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>  Julie Schlenger, Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Phil Salditt  Richard Strickland  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate  Franchesca Perez  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Absent</b>  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Andrew Gobin</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p><b>Others</b>  Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers  Erik Young – Citizen  Josh Berkowitz – Island County MRC  Jay Tavarez-Brown – Snohomish County Office of Energy and Sustainability  Cynthia Harbison – WA DNR  Becky Passarella - Citizen  Laura Gurley – Port of Everett</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the September 2025 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – Dec 13</li> <li>• Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Dec 9</li> <li>• No December MRC meeting</li> <li>• Starlight Beachwalk - Jan 28</li> </ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sdhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

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## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Allan Hicks made a motion to approve the September 2025 meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Possession Sound Report Card – Cali Weber**

Cali presented the final versions of the Possession Sound Report Card to the MRC. Members were asked to give any final feedback in comments on the links provided with the meeting packet by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. The group discussed a few alterations to the graphs and the best phrases and terminology to use throughout the documents.

Cali presented the disclaimer document that further explains the data the report cards are based on. Cali invited people to make comments via the link provided. The disclaimer document is meant to be included as a link on the report cards and available on the MRC website.

### **2026 Workplan Final Approval – MFA Consultants**

The consultants presented the final 2026 annual workplans and asked if there were any final adjustments to be made by members. Members discussed a few alterations to be made on the workplan, the subcommittee roles, and the individuals who would serve on each subcommittee. The MRC voted to approve the 2026 workplan with the changes identified to be made by the consultant team. Dawn Presler motioned, Franchesca Perez seconded. The MRC approved and the motion passed.

### **Project Updates/Announcements – All**

- **MRC Membership – Elisa Dawson**
  - Renewal and new member paperwork has been started with the County
  - Members renewing: Julie Schlenger, Sara Maxwell with Cory Champagne as alternate
  - New members: Heidi Stewart assuming the Tulalip Tribal representative role, Becky Passarella
  - Resigning members: Tim Ellis and Andrew Gobin
- **MRC Conference – All**
  - Members discussed appreciating seeing other MRC's work and the mixed group breakout sessions
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
  - None
- **LIO – Elisa Dawson**
  - An LIO meeting was held on November 13. The LIO may be participating in a Puget Sound wide armor analysis similar to the ideas the Snohomish MRC has been discussing which are based off the Island MRC study. A final decision on if the LIO will be participating in that project will come in mid-December and the MRC plans to follow up.
  - Elisa reminded folks that the LIO representative position will be established in January and someone from the Nearshore subcommittee may want to be in this position.
- **Derelict Vessel Grant – Allan Hicks and Sara Maxwell**

- In process of developing framework for information on derelict vessels in Snohomish County.
- Joycelyn and Allan are working on a file sharing system for the MRC members.
- **Marine Vegetation Grant, Outreach Plan – Julie Schlenger**
  - A draft of the Marine Vegetation Decision Maker Outreach Plan has been reviewed by the subcommittee and changes have been incorporated. The final version was included in the meeting packet for full MRC review.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue, Phil Salditt, and Julie Schlenger**
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Oct 20, Nov 17
  - Howarth – Oct 29, Nov 22
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
  - Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> beach cleanup was held at Howarth Park over 200 lbs. of trash were picked up by 24 participants. Councilmember Megan Dunn was also in attendance.
  - The Starlight Beach Walk is being planned for Jan 28
- **Upcoming Events**
  - No December MRC meeting
  - Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Dec 9
    - Howarth – Dec 13
- **Other Updates?**
  - Q4 volunteer hours are due before the January meeting. To avoid the holiday crunch, hours will be requested early in December. Please project your expected hours through the end of the year.
  - A talk in Edmonds about sunflower sea stars is at the Waterfront Center on Nov 20.
  - The State of Shorelines story map by Island County is live.
  - The final EIS about tug escorts has been published.
  - The MRC thanked and congratulated Elisa on her wonderful work and wished her well in her future adventures.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:23pm.**