

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary
April 15, 2026, 4:30-6:30PM
Meeting Location: Snohomish County Campus

MRC Members Present

Julie Schlenger, Chair
Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair
Brienne Townsend, Co-Vice Chair
Phil Salditt
Richard Strickland
Becky Passarella
Dawn Presler
Allan Hicks
Heidi Stewart

MRC Ex-Officio Members

David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member

MRC Members Absent

Cory Champagne (Sara Maxwell Alternate)
Natasha Coumou (Heidi Stewart Alternate)
Anya Voloshin

Staff

Joycelyn Blue, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff

Others

Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers

Summary of Decisions

MRC approved the recommendations to council.

Welcome and Introductions

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

Julie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions from the meeting participants.

After introductions, Julie Schlenger read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulag^wábš (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

Dawn Presler made a motion to approve the March 2026 meeting summary. Sara Maxwell seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

MRC Recommendations to Council – Exec Team

Drafts of the recommendations were reviewed at the March meeting. Julie, Sara, and Heidi volunteered to continue editing the recommendations for final MRC approval and presented the final draft at this meeting. The first recommendation regards the Marine Ecology Intern. This position provided critical support to the MRC's work and trains the next generation of local marine ecologists. The second recommendation regards the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy. Washington State DNR is in the process of developing the [Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy](#) at the state level. They recommend County Council review and share the executive summary of the current version as there will be applications of this work to decisions at the county level. As the strategy develops, the MRC will continue to interface with Council about components that are relevant to Snohomish County decision-making.

The MRC members voted to approve these recommendations. Phil Salditt made a motion to approve the recommendations. Allan Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

MRC Member Biographies Presentation – All

The MRC members participated in an activity to present about themselves and get to know a bit more about one another.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

NWSC – Phil Salditt

- A second NW Straits Commission 101 information session will be held on April 8 at 11am. This webinar is designed to orient new MRC members, remind current members of NWSC structure and functions, and to share information for anyone interested. Please reach out to Sasha Horst.
- The next NW Straits Commission meeting on April 24 (virtual, 10am-12pm) will include a Speed Date with a Scientist from Dr. David Trimbach, Conservation Social Scientist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- The NWSC annual retreat was held April 2-3.
- May 29 Commission meeting will be at Snohomish County campus.

LIO – Phil Salditt

- None

Derelict Vessel MRC Grant – Allan Hicks & Sara Maxwell

- Grant deliverables were submitted

Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger & Dawn Presler

- Subcommittee is currently working with the consultants to create a one-pager and poster for use in outreach to boaters

Forage Fish Monitoring – Phil Salditt & Julie Schlenger

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale –March 19, April 22
- Howarth –March 21, April 17
- Island County will host a forage fish workshop on April 27. Julie and Phil will be attending and Heidi will be presenting.

Outreach – Dawn Presler

- Subcommittee is preparing for the May 2 outreach event Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair.
- Articles are on hold for now to keep outreach focus on marine vegetation outreach

Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention – Julie Schlenger

- The group is going to attend the Second quarter local emergency planning commission – April 16

Upcoming Events

- Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – April 22
 - Howarth –April 17
- Island County MRC forage fish workshop – April 27
- MRC May meeting will be virtual

Other Updates?

- Big Gulch creek restoration by Tulalip Tribes is moving forward

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.