

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

January 17, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Allan Hicks</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Cory Champagne, MRC alternate Phil Salditt, Citizen Richard Strickland, Citizen Dawn Presler, Snohomish County PUD Laura Gurley, Port of Everett Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission Jamie Bails, Washington DNR Tom Doerge, Snohomish County, DCNR</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the November 2023 meeting summary. ● Julie Schlenger was elected as Co-Vice Chair. ● Cory Champagne was approved as a formal alternate for Sara Maxwell. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forage fish monitoring January 29th ● Starlight Beach Walk February 6th ● Mussel cage retrieval February 7th 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Natasha 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 November 15, 2023, meeting summary. Franny Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Annual Elections

The MRC reviewed the current roles. Chair, LIO Representative, NWSC Representative, and Ex-Officio members did not change. Tim Ellis decided to step down as a Co-Vice Chair, and Julie Schlenger was elected as a new Co-Vice Chair. Sara Maxwell had requested a formal alternate in accordance with MRC bylaws, and a formal alternate was voted on for Sara Maxwell. The current MRC roles are now as follows:

Chair: Natasha Coumou

Vice-Chair/Co Vice-Chairs: Brie Townsend and Julie Schlenger

LIO Representative: Tim Ellis

LIO Alternate: Allan Hicks and Julie Schlenger

NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis

NWSC Alternate: Julie Schlenger and Allan Hicks

MRC Ex-Officio Members: David Bain

Formal Alternate: Cory Champagne for Sara Maxwell

Northwest Straits Commission Projects and Strategic Plan Overview

A nationally recognized conservation initiative, the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative brings together scientists and countless community volunteers in seven counties in northwest Washington. The Northwest Straits Initiative's unique and innovative approach combines sound science and ecosystem perspective together with citizen energy and entrepreneurship to improve efforts to save Puget Sound.

The Initiative is overseen by the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) whose mission is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats and species of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use. The Northwest Straits Commission provides funding, training, and support to seven county-based Marine Resources Committees (MRCs). It facilitates regional coordination among the MRCs and connects the MRC work to regional planning processes

Dana Oster, the marine program manager for the NWSC, presented an overview of the NWSC strategic plan and process. She also presented on the structure and mission of NWSC. Projects such as the "speed-dates with a scientist", forage fish, and voluntary no-anchor zones were highlighted during the presentation.

The MRC discussed the NWSC with Dana and sought advice from their strategic planning process as the MRC will begin their own strategic planning process in 2024. One of the recommendations the MRC would like to incorporate into their strategic plan is having a one-pager strategic plan overview that could easily be share with public officials or the public as a communication material.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO –Tim Ellis**
 - No Updates.
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - NW Straits Commission members Bob Cecile (Whatcom MRC) and Elsa Schwartz (Island MRC) have completed their terms on their respective MRCs and therefore have completed their terms on the NW Straits Commission. We are very grateful for their time serving on the NW Straits Commission and MRCs.
 - Teal Waterstrat and Tyler Porter with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave an overview of their Coastal Program and examples of projects and collaborative opportunities. Their presentation can be found [here](#).
 - The Northwest Straits Commission’s proposal to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Labs was selected by students for a capstone project. The proposal was created by Commission and Marine Resources Committee staff to create a Community Needs Assessment framework that all MRCs can use. The needs assessment will build on work Island Marine Resources Committee developed to better understand community priorities related to marine resources to inform strategic planning and project prioritization. The first round of the project will be from January - May 2024.
 - The Kelp Plan webpage has been updated. It includes the Kelp Plan status report summary and the five themes that the NW Straits Initiative is encouraging partners and members to focus on in relation to the Kelp Plan.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - Currently working on contracting to bring the consultant on board.
 - The committee plans to hold a kickoff meeting in February.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - David Bain attended the San Juan Island workshop about acoustic deterrence for keeping marine mammals away from oil spills.
- **Strategic Planning – Natasha Coumou and Franny Perez**
 - A kick-off meeting was held on Jan 9.
 - Interview questions for the individual interviews with MRC members and staff are in draft. The MRC was asked to give feedback on the revised draft interview questions.
 - The strategic plan from 2011-2016 was in the packet for all members to review prior to their interview.
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**
 - The 2024 scope of work has been finalized and includes continuing the collection of data and the review and synthesis of previous data from 2020 – 2023.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring –Jocelyn Blue**
 - December monitoring was completed on Dec 18 and 19
 - January monitoring will occur on Jan 29
 - The meeting with WDFW discussing the results of 2023 forage fish monitoring for all MRCs was this morning.

- The way WDFW shared the data this time included egg detections from the monitoring completed prior to MRC involvement. Picnic Point has had one detection for both Surf Smelt and Sand Lance in December of 2000 when sampling was done by WDFW.
- 2023 egg detections: Sand Lance – Jan (Howarth S); Surf Smelt – Oct (Howarth S) and Nov (Howarth S)
 - Samples for Sep – Dec are still being processed and detections of Sand Lance are most likely during this timeframe
- The subcommittee and those who are interested are meeting on January 30 to discuss if there are any MRC members or partner organizations that would want to take over planning, organizing, and conducting the forage fish monitoring at Howarth Park.
- **Mussel Cage Retrieval – Elisa Dawson**
 - The date chosen for mussel retrieval was February 7. Mussels will be collected by members and then delivered to the county campus the following day for pick up by WDFW.
- **MRC New Member Appointments -Elisa Dawson**
 - In one week, the members will be officially appointed to the MRC. Welcome to our new members: Phil Salditt, Richard Strickland, and Dawn Presler.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

February 20, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM
Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks Andrew Gobin Richard Strickland Dawn Presler Phil Salditt Cory Champagne (Sara Maxwell Alternate)</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Laura Gurley, Port of Everett Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the January 2024 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forage fish monitoring January 29th ● MRC Strategic Plan Retreat March 20th, in-person at Snohomish County Campus 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Natasha 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

Phil Salditt made a motion to approve the January 17, 2024, meeting summary. Tim Ellis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC 2023 Annual Report Draft Review

The MRC reviewed the 2023 Annual Report draft which had been sent prior to the meeting for review. The MRC Annual Report is created each year, and overviews all the projects the MRC works on and highlights from the year. The intended audience is meant to be grant funders, public officials, and Snohomish County Management, and is also posted online for the public. Once the Annual Report is complete it is turned into the NWSC as a grant requirement and is also used to give the Snohomish MRC Annual Report to Snohomish County Council.

The MRC reviewed the pages and some of the highlights from 2023. These highlights included 961 volunteer hours donated by MRC Members, conducting outreach to outline actionable steps for meeting conservation targets at Port Susan, expanding our Derelict Vessel Removal efforts by forging a unique partnership with the Tulalip Tribes to remove seven owner abandoned derelict vessels, and partnering with the Ocean Research College academy (ORCA) to explore the potential use of invaluable multiyear data on Possession Sound health.

The MRC reviewed all the project pages and made final edits. Any additional edits were asked to be turned in by February 23. Elisa will forward all final edits to another Snohomish County staff who does graphic design, and the final report is expected to be complete in early March. Once the final Annual Report is ready, we will schedule our report to Council for late March or early April.

MRC Strategic Plan Updates

Natasha Coumou and Franchesca Perez provided updates on the status of the MRC Strategic Plan. First, MRC Member interview questions were reviewed and approved by the MRC, and interviews with Peak Consulting began in February. All members are expected to complete their interviews by end of February. Next, the MRC needs to decide on a date for the 2nd Strategic Plan Retreat that is expected to happen in late June or early July. Natasha will send out a Doodle Poll for everyone to fill out their availability. We will have a date decided on by the March 20th retreat.

Elisa reported that the MRC will hold the first of two retreats for the Strategic Plan on March 20th 5:30-8:30 at Snohomish County Campus: 3000 Rockefeller Ave Everett, 98201. We will be on the 7th floor of Admin East. Free street parking is available, and dinner will be provided. This Retreat will focus on reviewing the summary of MRC input from the interviews and identifying next steps of the strategic planning process. The consultant is responsible for planning and facilitating this retreat.

Elisa reported that the Northwest Straits Commission's proposal to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Labs was selected by students for a capstone project. The proposal was created by Commission and Marine Resources Committee staff to create a Community Needs Assessment framework that all MRCs can use. The needs assessment will build on work Island Marine Resources Committee developed to better understand community priorities related to marine resources to inform strategic planning and project prioritization. The first round of the project will be from January - May 2024, and Snohomish MRC has been chosen as the MRC for the students to work with. The scope of work for the Evans School work was in the meeting packet.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - No Updates.
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - Caitlyn is looking to establish the 2024 NW Straits Initiative conference planning committee. MRC members can contact Caitlyn Blair to volunteer or gather more information (blair@nwstraits.org).
 - Phil Salditt offered to assist with the Planning Committee.
 - The NW Straits Commission scheduled a virtual Commission meeting for March 29, 2024. This will take the place of the previously scheduled March NWS Initiative retreat. The retreat will be rescheduled for a later date.
 - Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for May 13th through May 17th. This is an annual event in Washington DC aimed at highlighting Puget Sound issues. Please contact Lucas for more information (hart@nwstraits.org)
 - The Partnership has launched the Puget Sound Partnership Nearshore Conservation Credit Program. If MRCs have nearshore conservation projects in need of funding, they are encouraged to submit proposals.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - Currently working on contracting to bring the consultant on board.
 - A kickoff meeting is expected in March.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - The most recent LEPC meeting was cancelled.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
 - January monitoring was completed on January 29 at Meadowdale and Picnic Point
 - February monitoring will occur on February 26
 - 2023 egg detections: Sand Lance – Jan (Howarth S); Surf Smelt – Oct (Howarth S) and Nov (Howarth S)
 - Sep – Nov have been processed. Surf Smelt – Sep (Howarth S), Oct (Howarth S), Nov (Howarth S)
 - The forage fish subcommittee met on January 30 to discuss if there are any MRC members or partner organizations that would want to take over planning, organizing, and conducting the forage fish monitoring at Howarth Park. The group determined that Julie’s proposal of a member lead, weekend sampling effort would require a commitment of at least 3 people for a minimum of a year. In this scenario a second sampling kit would be created.
 - On behalf of the subcommittee, Julie would like to propose a subgroup of committed forage fish volunteers to do sampling of Howarth Park on the weekends.
 - Julie will be the lead and care for the kit.
 - WDFW supports continuing the sampling at Howarth.
 - Julie had 5 folks offer to help.
 - Staff will work on ordering a second set of materials for forage fish monitoring.
- **Mussel Cage Retrieval – Elisa Dawson**

- The date chosen for mussel retrieval was February 7. However, WDFW has had a stand-down for all water-based field work and mussel cage retrieval has been delayed. We expect to hear next steps from WDFW by end of February.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - MRC staff will be doing derelict vessel recon in early March. Please reach out if you have any vessels in mind you would like for us to assess.
- **Starlight Beach Walk February 6 – Jonathan Robinson**
 - The 2024 beach walk at Edmonds Olympic Beach was held on Feb 6th from 7-8:30. Over 175 attendees and a reporter from the Everett Herald attended. MRC brought hot drinks which were very popular. We will need to refresh our supply of hot drinks prior the event next year.
- **Other Announcements/Upcoming Events**
 - Joycelyn Blue reported that the NW Straits Commission has hired a DEI consultant, Athena Group. The consultant will help us assess diversity, equity, and inclusion within the NW Straits Initiative. Our overall DEI goals are:
 - Achieve NWSI membership and engagement that is representative of the diverse communities within each county.
 - Deliver projects that are meaningful to and benefit the diverse communities within each county.
 - Create equitable and inclusive career opportunities in marine conservation through NWSI staff, internships, and staff support (consultants, etc.) positions. Have inclusive and relevant messaging for the diverse communities in the Northwest.
 - The NWSC is seeking an MRC staff member or MRC volunteer who might be interested in being part of the project team. Dawn and Julie volunteered to assist with the effort along with Joycelyn who is the staff representative.
 - Laura Gurley reported that there is an ongoing dredge material discussion and there will be an April workshop to discuss beneficial use of dredge material in the Snohomish River. She reported that the work the MRC did to create the 1-pager has successfully helped start these discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

April 17, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM
Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks Richard Strickland Dawn Presler Phil Salditt</p> <p>Absent Andrew Gobin</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Jeff Whitty - NWSC</p>
Summary of Decisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the February 2024 meeting summary. 	
Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mission Beach Earth Day beach cleanup – April 22 ● Forage fish monitoring Picnic Point and Meadowdale – April 24, May 22; Howarth Park – April 27 ● ORCA Student Showcase – June 6 at 4pm 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, meeting summary. Richard Strickland seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Strategic Plan Debrief

The MRC conducted a general debrief of the first in person strategic planning meeting that was held on March 20th. MRC members discussed the things they liked and would have altered about the process. A few members commented that the meeting could have had been a bit longer to discuss some areas in more detail. The group expressed excitement for the second in person planning meeting that will be held on July 10.

The Strategic Planning subcommittee provided an update saying the online survey was sent out on July 17 and answers are due back by the first week of May.

MRC Meeting Guest Speakers/Topics

The MRC frequently has guest speakers that share information on marine topics and projects. The MRC reviewed a list of the speakers of the past two years and discussed ideas for future speakers. Topics such as an in-depth explanation of tribal treaty rights and which fish are affected by 6ppd were brought up as ideas. Some folks expressed wanting to see project specific presentations that focus more on the implementation perspective instead of the science/research perspective.

MRC Internal Communications

Julie Schlenger brought to the group the idea of creating a shared MRC member calendar for events and subcommittee meetings. The group expressed that while there is benefit in the calendar, they are unsure how often it would be utilized. The Executive Committee said they would meet to determine if this were a communication device they would like to pursue. Their first step would be to further gauge interest by sending a poll to MRC members.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO –Tim Ellis**
 - The LIO met on April 17th some of the topics discussed included Puget Sound Partnership’s Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (RAFT), conservation efforts across the county, and Army Corps reuse of dredge material
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - Save the date! The Northwest Straits Initiative annual conference will be from November 15-16, 2024 at the Delta Hotel in Snohomish County. The planning committee will be meeting in late March.
 - The Northwest Straits Commission is kicking off our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion assessment. We will be working with Athena Group to address our DEI goals within the Northwest Straits Initiative.
 - The NW Straits Commission 2023 Impact Report will be available digitally as of February 27, 2024.
 - Puget Sound Day on the Hill is scheduled for May 13-17, 2024, in Washington D.C.
 - The Northwest Straits Commission approved creating a second tribal seat on the Commission in February.

- Jefferson Marine Resources Committee staff member, Monica Montgomery, has stepped down from her position. Jefferson MRC is hiring someone to fill her position as the Marine Resources Committee coordinator. Monica has done great work with the MRC, and we wish her luck in her new position!
- The Northwest Straits Foundation is hosting a community event on May 5, 2024, at the Port of Everett.
- The Puget Sound Partnership is hiring several positions, such as an Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator and a Boards Program Coordinator.
- Rick Beauregard gave a presentation on the Drayton Harbor Harmful Algal Bloom project. In 2023, volunteers spent over 2,000 hours surveying over 620 phytoplankton samples and harmful algal bloom species (HABS) to determine biotoxin presence in Drayton Harbor, and how these biotoxins contributed to paralytic shellfish toxins.
- San Juan Marine Resources Committee is hosting a free derelict vessel turn-in event in April 2024.
- The Puget Sound Partnership’s Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (RAFT) is now available, centralizing details on funding opportunities for the Puget Sound ecosystem and salmon recovery.
- The Salish Sea Institute at WWU is hosting Dr. Elin Kelsey on March 5, who will be speaking about hope during the climate crisis.
- Jefferson Marine Resources Committee finished their storm surge reports with the help of Suzanne Shull. These reports are now available on SoundIQ under “Shoreline Data”.
- Senator Murray thank you video being made with representatives from each MRC.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - A kickoff meeting was held on April 1. Currently the consultant is creating a summary of the available marine vegetation information including science and policy and a list of Edmonds community groups.
 - The subcommittee is currently working on a stakeholder list.
 - Julie asked the group for photos related to marine vegetation in Edmonds.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - The most recent LEPC meeting was on April 18.
 - 100 oil spill kits from WA Sea Grant have arrived.
 - On May 8 there is a workshop on the rule making for tug escorts.
- **Crabber Outreach – Brie Townsend and Julie Schlenger**
 - A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 30 to prep for opening crabbing weekends.
 - Inventory of crabber materials to be handed out will be completed.
- **Kayak Point Signage – Natasha Coumou**
 - Tulalip Tribes is working with Snohomish County to provide language for new environmental signs at Kayak Point. Within the MRC annual plan, the Port Susan subcommittee wrote that they would track and provide input with the perspective of the 10-year assessment of the Port Susan project targets and indicators. The initial review of language will be in May and final comment in June.

- Natasha will set up a meeting with the outreach subcommittee meeting in the next two weeks
- **Forage Fish Monitoring –Joycelyn Blue**
 - February monitoring was completed on February 29 at Meadowdale and Picnic Point. March monitoring was completed on March 25.
 - A second forage fish kit has been built. Julie will be coordinating monthly volunteers for Howarth Park monitoring.
- **ORCA – Elisa Dawson**
 - The contract for 2024-2025 is final and MRC members are invited to the student showcase in June.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - MRC staff identified two vessels for removal.
- **Other Announcements/Upcoming Events**
 - NWSF Spring Celebration on May 5 at the Port of Everett
 - Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 18
 - Julie Schlenger asked if the MRC was interested in tabling at the event to educate about marine vegetation. Julie will email the MRC further details.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

May 15, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks Richard Strickland Dawn Presler Phil Salditt</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Andrew Gobin</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Jeff Whitty - NWSC Sasha Horst - NWSC Dana Oster - NWSC Leah Gare – NWSC Kathleen Pozarycki – Snohomish County SWM Laura Gurley – Port of Everett Becky Paserella – Citizen Isabel Baird - UW Evan’s School David B. Clark - UW Evan’s School Chara Lynch - UW Evan’s School Diana Rucavado Rojas - UW Evan’s School</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the April 2024 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 18 ● Forage fish monitoring Picnic Point and Meadowdale –May 22; Howarth Park – May 11 ● ORCA Student Showcase – June 6 at 4pm 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

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

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Developing a Needs Assessment Framework for Marine Resources Committees in Washington State, Results from the Snohomish MRC’s Pilot Study in coordination with the Northwest Straits Commission - UW Evan’s School Student Consulting Team

UW Evan’s school students have been working with the Northwest Straits Commission from January 2024-May 2024 to create a Needs Assessment framework that MRCs can use. The Student Consulting Lab is a collaboration between small teams of Evans School students, their faculty advisors, and our public, private, and nonprofit partners to co-create solutions to policy and organizational problems. Under the guidance of faculty advisors, teams of three to five skilled, second-year Master of Public Administration (MPA) students dedicated approximately 10-12 hours per week to their selected projects over a five-month period.

Isabel Baird, David B. Clark, Chara Lynch, and Diana Rucavado Rojas are the Evan’s school students working on this project. This project developed a needs assessment framework to support MRCs in collecting community perspectives on local marine resources needs. Conducting these needs assessments at a county level will help MRCs identify needs in the community that may otherwise not have been identified, helping provide additional guidance to leadership as to which projects should receive funding, in addition to strengthening relationships between the individual MRCs and their community leaders and members. The Snohomish County MRC was used as a pilot to test the effectiveness of the framework. This report provides feedback and recommendations from the pilot study on how to improve and use the framework for future needs assessments for all seven MRCs.

Throughout the current project, the UW Team responded to the following research question (RQ): *How can MRCs assess their local communities’ concerns and priorities related to the marine environment and its resources?*

To answer the RQ, the UW team conducted a literature review, executed a pilot study with the Snohomish County MRC, analyzed interview results from the pilot study, and put forth a series of recommendations for conducting future needs assessments. The pilot study consisted of developing an interview guide, providing qualitative training to MRC staff and volunteers, conducting 11 interviews with marine experts in Snohomish County, and analyzing interview data through a detailed qualitative analysis process. The interviews focused on gathering information from participants about their knowledge of the marine environment and MRC, marine challenges and changes, solutions and communication methods to identify challenges and changes, and relevant stakeholders.

The pilot study was used to determine the validity and usefulness of the interview framework, as well as the processes to construct and utilize the framework, developed by the UW Team. Key findings from this process include:

- The interview guide is best suited for interviewing marine experts, rather than those with limited knowledge of the marine ecosystem.
- A larger and more diverse sample can provide a more comprehensive look at local communities’ marine priorities and concerns, which would require adjusting the framework.
- Many interviewees highlighted the MRC’s potential to do more outreach, implement different communication strategies, and collaborate with other stakeholders on the issues mentioned.

- Interviews yielded important responses on respondents' priorities and concerns regarding Snohomish County's marine environment. For example, the most salient theme in current pressing issues is stormwater, while many mentioned partnerships as being critical when thinking about solutions.

MRC Members thanked the UW students for their work. Several questions were asked about how to adapt the questions for a more general population rather than marine experts. Ultimately, the hope is for the framework to be used by other MRCs.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the April 17, 2024, meeting summary. Richard Strickland seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Kayak Point Signage Update – Natasha Coumou

Snohomish County Parks is updating the interpretive signage at Kayak Point Park. They are working with the Tulalip Tribes and the MRC to create a total of 11 signs. Natasha Coumou is serving as the lead for these signs in both her Tulalip Tribal role and MRC role.

- Tulalip will have 5 signs
- MRC would have the 6 other signs
- The signs would work together to tell a story

The Tulalip staff will develop content for

- Tribal use of the shoreline
- Tribal History of Port Susan Bay
- Fish and Shellfish food and gathering
- Upland food (plants and animal) and gathering
- Tribal Stories/Stories of the Islands/areas that can be seen from Kayak Point

Some themes that were suggested for MRC signs by Tulalip:

- Post contact shoreline history and management of Kayak Point
- Natural history of Port Susan (Ecology, biodiversity, etc)
- Fish Story
- Riparian Vegetation

Natasha convened a meeting with Port Susan and Outreach subcommittee MRC members on 4/29 where they began discussing ideas for the 6 signs. Broad themes that were brainstormed were:

MRC Outreach Sub-Committee Recap

- Conservation target (with map of port Susan included with "you are here signs")
 - Should discuss goal and objectives, not necessarily current progress.
- Restoration actions
 - General restoration actions (bulk heads, stream restoration, etc)
 - Maybe have one with featuring specific restoration projects?
- What can we do to keep the shoreline vibrant
 - Feature public involvement, education, and related citizen science efforts.
 - Leave no trace for shoreline.
- The biology/ecology of the pier

- Maybe re-hash language from old signs, Julie can send a highlight.
- Other ecology (maybe the intertidal species signs)
- Other ecology (maybe the other species) + Industrial age history of cherry point refinery

The subcommittees plan to meet together again in May to continue developing the signage. Any other MRC members who did not attend the first meeting are welcome to attend the May meeting.

MRC Logistics – Elisa Dawson and Joycelyn Blue

MRC June Meeting Discussion: MRC meeting falls on the Juneteenth holiday, June 19, 2024. Meeting will either need to be rescheduled or cancelled. MRC had a discussion on options and decided to cancel the June MRC Meeting.

MRC Staffing for June Update: Elisa will be taking time off May 27 – July 5. During this time, please contact Joycelyn for all updates and questions.

Marine Ecology Intern Update: Snohomish County has hired a marine ecology intern who will support MRC projects. The intern, Cassandra Laney, went to ORCA and will start in early June. She is expected to work full time through mid-September and we are exploring opportunities for her to continue part-time through the end of the calendar year. Sara Maxwell has agreed to be the MRC Member lead to work with Cassie on her summer project, which will focus on creating a marine shoreline health assessment for Snohomish County shorelines.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - Congratulations to San Juan MRC and partners for a successful derelict vessel turn-in event! 14 vessels were turned in and deconstructed in partnership with the NW Straits Commission, Department of Natural Resources, San Juan County, and the Port of Friday Harbor. The turn-in event media day was held on April 4, 2024, at the Port of Friday Harbor.
 - The NW Straits Initiative is working with consultants at ECO Resource Group in a process to plan a fall leadership retreat. The focus is to define what the NWS Initiative is today and looking forward. As part of the process, ECO will perform a series of interviews with representatives from the MRCs, Commission, and Foundation. Interview results will be shared at a virtual presentation on July 10, 2024, from 3-5 PM. If you are interested in attending, please contact Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org) and she will provide you with a calendar invitation.
 - The film “Fish War”, which was screened at the 50th Anniversary of the Boldt Decision Conference in February 2024, will be premiering on May 11-12, 2024. Please see the website for more details on the premiere and visit the film’s website page to watch the trailer and learn more about the film.
 - On May 15, 2024, from 6:30 – 7:10 PM, the UW Evans School Student Consulting team will be presenting their summary of the community needs assessment at the Snohomish MRC meeting. The UW Evans School student consulting team is working with the Snohomish MRC and NW Straits Commission to build a framework for MRCs to assess community needs related to local marine resource management. Please visit the Snohomish MRC event page for the agenda and link to the meeting.

- The NW Straits Foundation is hosting an event May 5, 2024, from 11:30 AM – 3 PM at the Edmonds Yacht Club. Contact Don Hunger (don@nwsfoundation.org) for more information.
- For the Speed Date with a Scientist presentation, Tom Koontz and Craig Thomas from the University of Washington presented on how collaborative partnerships (including MRCs) use science in the Puget Sound basin. If you are interested in reading the summary report or following up with the presenters, please contact Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org).
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - No updates
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Oil spill kits from Sea Grant have arrived for crabber education.
 - LEPC meeting April 18 discussed lithium-ion batteries.
 - May 8 workshop on 7th rule making and tug escorts.
- **Crabber Outreach – Brie Townsend and Julie Schlenger**
 - A subcommittee meeting was held on April 30 to prep for opening crabbing weekends.
 - Joycelyn conducted an inventory of crabber materials to be handed out and the subcommittee decided to order more bait clips.
 - A sign up for volunteer spots will be created in late May and sent to MRC members and Beach Watchers.
 - Julie and Allan are working together on placing the 11x17 signs at crabber locations for more education and outreach opportunities.
 - Another meeting will be held in June to further go over details and volunteer assignments for opening weekend.
- **Marine Vegetation Grant– Julie Schlenger**
 - A subcommittee meeting was held on May 9.
 - Subcommittee and consultant are completing the summary of the available marine vegetation information including science and policy. They are also completing the stakeholder list and are currently brainstorming fall-event details.
- **Kelp Monitoring 2024 – Brie Townsend**
 - Dates are currently being scheduled for Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Meadowdale in July. Hat island will also be monitored in July. Edmonds will be monitored again in August and anywhere else a kelp bed is found. Hat island will be monitored in August and September.
 - A kayak safety class is being held by the NWSC on June 29/30
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
 - February monitoring was completed on April 24 at Meadowdale and Picnic Point.
 - A second forage fish kit has been built. Julie conducted monitoring at Howarth Park on April 27 with Richard Strickland and May 11 with Dawn Presler.
- **ORCA – Elisa Dawson**

- SWM staff met with ORCA staff to review progress of the 2024 contract and discuss next steps. Data has been analyzed for 2023 and 2020. ORCA is working on 2021 and 2022 data analysis now. The team will meet again in the fall.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - MRC staff conducted vessel recon and identified two boats for removal. Vessels were posted on 5/6 and we are currently soliciting bids for removal. Removal is expected to occur in late June/early July.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 18
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –May 22
 - Howarth Park – May11
 - ORCA Student Showcase – June 6 at 4pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

September 18, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Sara Maxwell Richard Strickland Dawn Presler Andrew Gobin Cory Champagne, Alternate</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Phil Salditt Allan Hicks Franchesca Perez</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Tom Teigen - Snohomish County Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Anya Voloshin – Stillaguamish Tribes Steve Donnelly – WDNR Alan Mearns - Citizen Darla - Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the May 2024 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ETAP Beach Clean Up at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park – Sep 21 ● Shore Friendly Workshop – Sep 26 ● Forage fish monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Picnic Point and Meadowdale –Sep 26 ○ Howarth – Sep 28 ● Dive into Kelp (MRC Marine Vegetation event) – Oct 12 ● In-person MRC meeting at Port of Everett – Oct 16 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

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 stulag^wábš (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 May 15, 2024, meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

WSU Beach Watchers Presentation – Jonathan Robinson

Julie introduced Jonathan Robinson. Jonathan is the Beach Watchers Program Coordinator for Washington State University. He 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 current work and programs run by WSU Beach Watchers. He also reported to the MRC on the successes and challenges of the 2024 round of the Beach Watchers and Beach Naturalist training programs. MRC members and Jonathan discussed the plan for these trainings in the upcoming year and provided suggestions on ways to support the program.

Marine Ecology Intern Summary – Elisa Dawson

During her internship Casandra Laney supported current MRC projects and completed her own project to create a shoreline health assessment framework Cassie presented an overview of her work and intern experience to the MRC on September 18th during a lunch zoom meeting. For those members who were unable to attend a copy of the presentation was included in the meeting packet. The presentation was also recorded, and the link is available to MRC Members.

The MRC thank Cassie for her hard work and wishes her the best in her senior year!

Elisa gave an overview of the foundations and background of Cassie’s internship project. She emphasized how this work is contributing to the ultimate goal of having a marine report card for the Snohomish County marine area. Elisa shared a few slides from Cassie’s presentation and the shoreline monitoring map that Cassie developed.

MRC members gave suggestions for future expansion of the shoreline monitoring work including measuring armoring and its height relative to tide height, creating a standardized protocol for measuring accretion, and assessing the age of armoring.

Marine Vegetation Outreach Event Details – Julie Schlenger and Joycelyn Blue

The group discussed event details and asked for MRC member volunteers to fill roles still needed for the event.

Title: Dive into Kelp: Exploring Edmonds’ Marine Environment

Date & Time: Saturday October 12th at 1pm

Location: Edmonds Plaza Room (650 Main Street, Edmonds, WA 98020)

Project Updates and Announcements

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**

- The Science Advisory Committee is hosting a Social Science Seminar: Understanding and Engaging Communities Using Social Sciences on October 2nd from 4 PM – 5:30 PM. All MRCs and staff, and NW Straits members are invited. Please e-mail Dana (oster@nwstraits.org) for the calendar invitation.
- Registration for the NW Straits Annual Conference is now open! All MRC members and staff are invited to attend. Please visit the conference website for registration information or e-mail us (info@nwstraits.org) if you have any questions.
- The Commission approved a proposed budget for \$1 million in NOAA programmatic funding that was appropriated for fiscal year 2024. The funds will be spent over three years, which will allow for MRC grant funding through 2027. Commission staff are preparing the application to submit to NOAA for approval in September.
- The Skagit County Vessel Turn-In Recycling Event began July 22nd, 2024, bringing previously approved vessels to site for deconstruction and recycling. 50 vessels applied to be a part of this recycling event! To highlight the turn-in event, project partners, special guests and members of the media gathered at La Conner Maritime Service in La Conner in early August for a media day. The media day event was an opportunity to showcase the amazing collaborative work by all the project partners.
- The NW Straits Insider Roundup will have its first iteration in September. This will be an Outlook email from info@nwstraits.org including resources and links we've rounded up for our internal audience (MRCs, NW Straits Commission, NW Straits Foundation, and Science Advisory Committee members). The goal of this is to share resources distinct from our external communications channels, foster better connections, stay informed about each other's work, and to provide a platform for sharing information.
- The Northwest Straits Initiative DEI Assessment is complete and was included in the meeting packet.

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**

- No updates

- **Strategic Plan – Natasha Coumou and Franchesca Perez**

- The final Strategic Plan and one-pager executive summary are available. MRC members are asked to review the final document. We will vote to adopt the plan at the October MRC meeting.

- **Kelp Monitoring 2024 – Brie Townsend**

- Edmonds, Mukilteo, Meadowdale, and Hat Island were monitored in July. Only Edmonds and Hat Island had kelp present and were monitored again in Aug. Hat Island was monitored again in September due to tribal suggestion that the beds may continue to grow in September.
- Edmonds had two discernable beds that looked generally healthy. There were also two kelp beds near Hat Island.

- Submitting data to NWSC by October 1st.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
 - Monitoring has continued monthly for Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park.
 - Picnic Point had detections of sand lance eggs in Dec 2023 and Jan 2024. The first detections of forage fish since 2000.
 - Samples collected since April were delivered to WDFW on August 26.
 - Upcoming monitoring dates: Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Sep 26, Howarth Park – Sep 28
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Coordinating Sea grant supplies for oil spill kits with Crabber Outreach
 - Admiralty Inlet GRP being reviewed by the subcommittee.
- **ORCA – Elisa Dawson**
 - A meeting with ORCA staff will occur in fall.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - Removal of two vessels was completed in late August. We are currently working on the payment to the contractor and reimbursement process from DNR.
 - 32 total vessels removed over the last 7 years. Moving into next year the group is discussing putting energy into a turn-in event in collaboration with the Port of Everett.
- **MRC Volunteer Hours – Joycelyn Blue**
 - MRC volunteer hours sheets were sent on Sep 11. Hours are due today.
- **Other Updates?**
 - Snohomish County Executive, Executive Summers will be participating in the discussion panel “Engagement with Local Government” at the NWS conference in November. MRC members were encouraged to brainstorm specific questions that our MRC would like on the list of pre-identified questions that we think would also be good for other MRCs to hear the answers to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

October 16, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Port of Everett Blue Heron Room

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Richard Strickland Dawn Presler Phil Salditt Allan Hicks Cory Champagne, Alternate</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Franchesca Perez Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Laura Gurley, Port of Everett Tom Tiegen, Snohomish County Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the September 2024 meeting summary. ● The MRC approved the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sea Level Rise Forum in Lynnwood – October 24/25 ● Forage Fish Monitoring Meadowdale and Picnic Point - October 28 ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference in Everett November 15/16 ● Virtual MRC meeting – November 20 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Natasha 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 stuləg^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

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024, meeting summary. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Final 2025-2030 Strategic Plan – Natasha Coumou + Strategic Plan Subcommittee

The Snohomish County Marine Resource Advisory Committee (MRC) created a strategic plan over ten months in 2024 with input from members, county staff, and partners. This plan aligns with the Northwest Straits Initiative 2019-2024 Strategic Plan when possible. The plan is organized using the acronym CCARES, which covers six themes of the MRC’s work. Each theme has a goal and desired long-term result, with high-level objectives that can adapt to changing conditions. Annual workplans provide details on projects that forward the vision of the MRC. The vision put forward by the Snohomish County MRC goes beyond the five years, and the goals and strategies within this document are steppingstones towards a regenerated and healthy Puget Sound. The final MRC 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was completed in September 2024. For the last month, the MRC has been reviewing the final.

Natasha to open the floor for any questions or conversations about the final Strategic Plan. The MRC discussed the flexibility of the Strategic Plan and our ability to adapt as times change. After discussion, the MRC took action to vote and approve the final plan for adoption.

Natasha asked if an MRC member will make a motion to approve the MRC’s 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. Tim Ellis made a motion, Richard Strickland seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC 2025 Work Planning – Vivian Ericson, MFA Consulting

Vivian and Sam introduced themselves. Vivian and Sam now work for MFA, which acquired Peak Sustainability earlier this fall. 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 2025 Annual Report. MFA will collate progress made implementing the 5-year Strategic Plan and identify opportunities for process improvement. MFA will then support the MRC as it implements opportunities to strengthen the process by co-leading development of MRC’s 2026 Annual Work Plan.

Vivian and Sam discussed historic number of hours available for project and capacity. Based on hours of staff and members available, it was advised to pick 3-4 priority projects to add in addition to the grant projects. All other projects would be put in the “parking lot” for 2025.

Grant Related Must-do Projects

- MRC Administration
- Forage Fish Monitoring
- Kelp Monitoring
- Marine Vegetation Outreach

Projects of Highest Member Interest

- Marine Water Quality

- Derelict Vessels
- MRC Outreach
- Oil Spill Preparedness

Parking lot projects

- Nearshore Restoration
- Crabber Education
- Port Susan

Next, MFA will provide the MRC with an updated draft 2025 work plan for the MRC to edit prior to the November meeting. At the November meeting, a final 2025 workplan will be reviewed and voted on for approval.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - The Science Advisory Committee is hosting a Social Science Seminar: Understanding and Engaging Communities Using Social Sciences on October 2 from 4 PM – 5:30 PM. All MRCs and staff, and NW Straits members were invited.
 - Registration for the NW Straits Annual Conference is closed October 15! All MRC members and staff are invited to attend. Please visit the conference website for registration information or e-mail us (info@nwstraits.org) if you have any questions.
 - The NW Straits Commission is working with Athena Group on Phase 2 of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion project. For Phase 2, we are building on phase 1 by evaluating DEI implementation tools that will assist MRCs and the NWSC with integrating DEI practices into regular operations. Athena Group has invited MRC members to join a DEI learning cohort. The cohort will work toward the selection and practice of tools that will work best for MRCs. Please reach out to Caitlyn (blair@nwstraits.org) if you are interested in joining the learning cohort or would like more information.
 - Julieta Martinelli, the Olympia Oyster Program Lead with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided a presentation highlighting regional Olympia Oyster Restoration with a focus on MRC contributions in WA as our featured Speed Date with a Scientist. Julieta (julieta.martinelli@dfw.wa.gov) is available to meet with MRCs interested in discussing sites and education and outreach opportunities in partnership with WDFW.
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - No updates
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - October 12 Event Recap: Nearly 40 people attended the Dive Into Kelp: Exploring Edmonds’ Marine Environment. The event went very well, and the Subcommittee was happy with it and looks forward to building off of this pilot event next year.
 - The subcommittee would like to replicate the community outreach from this year for the Mukilteo community or the Hat Island community. Feedback and lessons learned from this year’s kelp event will be incorporated into the next outreach event.
- **Kayak Point Signage – Natasha Coumou**

- Natasha reported that the Tulalip Tribes continue to work with Snohomish County Parks on updating the signage for Kayak Point Park. The MRC is asked to review the signs in the meeting packet and give Natasha any feedback by November 17.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Julie Schlenger**
 - Monitoring has continued monthly for Meadowdale, Picnic Point, and Howarth Park.
 - Upcoming monitoring dates: Picnic Point and Meadowdale – October 28 and Howarth Park – October 13
 - There was a forage fish training on October 14. Julie Schlenger and Dawn Presler attended.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Coordinating Sea grant supplies for oil spill kits with Crabber Outreach
 - Admiralty Inlet GRP being reviewed by the subcommittee.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – October 28
 - Howarth – October 13
 - Northwest Straits Conference in Everett – November 15-16
 - Virtual MRC meeting– November 20
- **Other Updates?**
 - ETAP Beach Clean Up at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park – Sep 21
 - In total we picked up almost 800 pieces (over 100 cigarette butts) of trash totaling 12 pounds.
 - MRC Meeting time to change in 2025. New meeting time will be 4:30-6:30 PM and will be implemented January 2025. We will continue a rotating in-person and virtual schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

November 20, 2024, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present</p> <p>Natasha Coumou, Chair Julie Schlenger, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Dawn Presler Phil Salditt Allan Hicks Franchesca Perez Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell</p> <p>Absent</p> <p>Cory Champagne, Alternate Richard Strickland</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Rachel Benbrook - DNR Steve Donnelly – DNR Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Vivian Ericson – MFA Natalie Sacker – MFA Samantha Politano – Citizen Jake Jacobson – Citizen Becky – Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the October 2024 meeting summary. ● The MRC approved a letter of support for the Tulalip Tribes crab pot removal grant application. ● The MRC decided to postpone and vote and instead vote via email on a letter of support for the Tulalip Tribes green crab early detection and control application. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December MRC Meeting Canceled 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Natasha Coumou opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Natasha 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 October 2024 meeting summary. Sara Maxwell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Washington DNR Project Updates – Rachel Benbrook

Rachel Benbrook, Watershed Resilience Program Lead for WA Dept of Natural Resources, has built a diverse skillset and wide knowledge of Salish Sea/Western Washington ecology, watersheds, and communities through 20+ years of working on the water and in the woods. Her career includes time with local businesses and regional/local nonprofits, with a focus on salmon recovery, habitat restoration, scientific monitoring, and community engagement projects. She has been with the Washington Department of Natural Resources since early 2023, where she leads the Watershed Resilience Program, a coordinated, “trees to seas” effort to support salmon recovery and ecosystem resiliency in three Puget Sound watersheds. Rachel also has a long history with the NWSC, having served as a member on the Skagit and Whatcom MRCs for several years, and currently as a board member of the Northwest Straits Foundation.

Rachel presented to the MRC on DNR’s mission, the Watershed Resilience Program (WRAP), and other projects across DNR. DNR launched its Watershed Resilience Program in 2022 with the announcement of the Snohomish WRAP. WRAP presents an expansive “trees to seas” action plan for salmon recovery that organizes DNR’s work within the watershed, bolstering ongoing agency and partner efforts and developing new programs to address barriers and accelerate progress.

After the presentation, the MRC asked questions about the kelp and eelgrass protection zone and next steps regarding outreach to the public. The MRC also asked about the status of the dredge reuse studies. Rachel commented that DNR is interested in finding sites to put materials and complete test restorations. Rachel also expressed a willingness to continue partnering and connecting the MRC with other teams at DNR.

MRC 2025 Work Planning – Vivian Ericson, MFA Consulting

The MRC worked through an exercise to determine what should be included in the 2025 work plan at the October MRC meeting. A draft of the plan was sent to members to review and provide feedback that was incorporated into the draft included in the meeting packet. A guidance document that assists the MRC in translating the work plan into action steps was also included in the meeting packet and reviewed by the MRC. The MRC discussed the final drafts of these documents and voted to approve the 2025 work plan. Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the 2025 work plan. Sara Maxwell seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - No NWSC meeting in October
 - NWSC Conference was held Nov 15-16
- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - LIO Riparian Workshop Dec 10
 - Snohomish County Health Department is building a GIS database of septic systems.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**

- The consultant presented the results of the pre and post event surveys. The results showed that every person who filled out the survey did mention learning something new.
- The Kelp Kayak Monitoring Workgroup fall meeting will be held Thursday Nov 21.
- **Kayak Point Signage – Natasha Coumou**
 - The MRC plans to hold a workgroup meeting to draft new language for the 9 signs on Dec 12. This meeting will include Tulalip Natural Resources staff.
- **Tulalip Tribes Letter of Support Request – Natasha Coumou**
 - Tulalip Tribes is asking for a letter of support from the MRC for their grant application to BIA to fund green crab early detection and control if needed. Information and a template letter of support were in the meeting packet.
 - MRC decided to postpone vote so members could consider longer and vote via email
 - Tulalip Tribes is asking for a letter of support from the MRC for their grant application to remove derelict crab pots. Information and a template letter of support were in the meeting packet.
 - The MRC requested that a comment recommending the group look at the Jefferson County MRC’s ROV work be included with a letter of support.
 - Julie Schlenger made a motion to approve a letter of support. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Julie Schlenger**
 - Upcoming monitoring dates: Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Nov 18, Howarth – Nov 23
 - 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.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - No Updates
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – November 18
 - Howarth – November 23
 - No December MRC Meeting
- **Other Updates?**
 - MRC Meeting time to change in 2025. New meeting time will be 4:30-6:30 PM and will be implemented January 2025. We will continue a rotating in-person and virtual schedule.
 - Staff and a member attended the state sea level rise conference and plan to keep in communications with the LIO for local information and actions regarding sea level rise in our county.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.