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| MRC Members Present 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  **Absent**  Andrew Gobin | **Staff**  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff  **MRC Ex-Officio Members**  David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member  **Others**  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 |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the April 2024 meeting summary. | |
| **Upcoming Events**   * 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.

*“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.”*

**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.**