

**Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**February 18, 2026, 4:30-6:30PM**  
**Meeting Location: Online**

**MRC Members Present**

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

**MRC Members Absent**

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

**MRC Ex-Officio Members**

David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member

**Staff**

Joycelyn Blue, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  
Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern

**Others**

Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers  
Jeff Whitty - NWSC  
Cynthia Harbison – DNR  
Anya Voloshin – Stillaguamish tribe  
Erik Young – Citizen  
Mike Ehlebracht – Citizen  
Sam Humphry – MFA Consultant

**Summary of Decisions**

MRC approved the derelict vessel outreach article. The MRC elected to contribute the additional funds identified by the NWSC to the derelict vessel removal and turn-in event program run by NWSC

**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 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**

Brie Townsend made a motion to approve the January 2026 meeting summary. Dawn Presler seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

### **Annual Report Draft Check In – Sam Humphry (MFA Consultant)**

In collaboration with the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) will support the process of developing the 2025 Annual Report. The Annual Report is used as the basis for presenting to the Snohomish County Council in April. MRC subcommittees worked collaboratively on the draft, and MFA reviewed changes, using this time to clarify any conflicts and capture comments on design elements. MFA asked members and staff to complete specific unfinished tasks, including the Funding Support Pie Charts, the Oil Spill Prevention section, Beach Cleanup numbers, and the Message from the 2025 Chair. MFA acknowledged that they are also working on updating the kelp data charts. Additionally, the MRC members reviewed the 2025 Annual Report draft 1 and provided initial feedback. This feedback included potentially rearranging pages to allow education and outreach sections to be grouped differently and changing certain page colors.

MRC members are encouraged to provide feedback on pages in the report they did not work on so that the other subcommittees are able to incorporate their feedback prior to the 3/4 member feedback deadline.

The timeline is as follows:

- 2/13 Subcommittee drafts due
  - 2/16-2/25 MFA identifies additional subcommittee changes needed; members incorporate them.
- 2/25 - 3/4 MRC members review and provide edits on full document (all sections)
  - 3/4 – 3/11 MFA incorporates edits, sends out final document 1 week out from 3/18 MRC meeting
- 3/18 MRC Meeting: Group votes to approve final

### **MRC Recommendations to Council – Sam Humphry (MFA Consultant)**

The MFA team led the MRC through a discussion to generate topic areas for potential recommendations to the County Council. The MRC brainstormed topics, and Chair and co-vice chairs (Julie, Brie, and Sara) will steward the preparation of the draft MRC recommendation(s) to Council.

The MRC first discussed different ideas to consider when producing recommendations. These include: it is a tough time for budgets, and they want to be mindful of any requests MRC makes; They want to be sure to acknowledge what Council does and express gratitude for the support

Council provides, including showing up to outreach events; MRC members agree that support for interns has been crucial; The MRC wants to emphasize the continuation of good work.

The MRC then discussed different ideas for recommendations, including: a marine vegetation protection zone (likely not for next funding year, but to plant a seed for the future), continued funding for a Marine Ecology Intern position, sea level rise adaptations, restoration projects like Meadowdale, beach restoration, or kelp bed restoration, shoreline armoring research support for the LIOs, continued funding for derelict vessels, septic systems, and prioritize monitoring to understand changes in the nearshore marine environment.

Joycelyn emphasized that recommendations can be very effective; a half-time planner position was given in part because of a recommendation to the Council. Recommending active/existing work, like the LIO & PSP report on Shoreline Armoring, is apt, but we would want to know what the conclusion of such a study is before recommending a specific action, and the more specific the recommendation, the better.

The MRC will provide feedback to Julie, Sara, and Brie between now and the March MRC meeting.

### **Outreach Article Review – Dawn Presler**

The outreach subcommittee has drafted an article on derelict vessels. This article will be placed in boating organizations' newsletters, and the subcommittee plans to reach out to groups to see if they would also like to share the article within their networks. The subcommittee is seeking final comments and approval for distribution on behalf of the MRC, in addition to other organizational suggestions. Suggestions for additional organizations included distributing these to the North Sound Sea Kayaking Association, Bird Watching Organizations, and potentially working with the county to send these out to local news outlets.

Julie Schlenger made a motion to approve the distribution of the derelict vessel outreach article. Allan Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

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

#### *NWSC – Phil Salditt*

- NWSC meeting was on January 30 in Skagit County.
- The NW Straits Commission welcomes new MRC Representatives on the Commission, Brenda Johnson (Jefferson) and Phil Salditt (Snohomish).
- NW Straits Commission staff has a distribution list for meeting information. This list is separate from our newsletters.
- Annie England, Environmental Educator at Padilla Bay NERR, gave a presentation and overview of the Kids on the Beach program. For more information about the program, please visit the Skagit MRC website.

- Todd Woodard, Infrastructure and Resource Executive Director with Samish Indian Nation, gave a presentation on the Samish Department of Natural Resources. For more information about the Samish Department of Natural Resources, please visit their website.
- Staff shared information about HB 2199 relating to reducing impacts from derelict vessels, and HB 2395 relating to authorizing additional use of certain private recreational docks and mooring buoys. Please see the email for a handout related to these bills.
- Staff shared an update about the successes of the kayak kelp monitoring project in 2025. For more information about the project and the 2025 accomplishments, please visit the Kelp Monitoring page on our website.
- In December 2025, NW Straits Commission moved to a new website platform called Drupal. Staff continue to review the new NW Straits website for ADA compliance, and Jessica is working with MRC website leads on ADA compliance for their websites.
- The Puget Sound Partnership 2026-2030 Action Agenda is available for public comment, for more information please visit the website.
- Puget Sound Day on the Hill is the week of April 13. More information will be available in the meeting highlights as the date gets closer.
- The NW Straits Commission approved a 2026 funding opportunity for MRCs, making use of existing NOAA grant funding that expires December 31, 2026. Sasha will send a memo with information and instructions to MRC staff, chairs, and NW Straits representatives.
- Save the Date! Island MRC is hosting a Forage Fish research workshop at Cornet Bay Retreat Center on April 27, 2026! Details will be available in the NW Straits Commission newsletter.

*LIO – Phil Salditt*

- The LIO Shoreline Action Plan meeting was held on February 5.

*Derelict Vessel MRC Grant – Allan Hicks & Sara Maxwell*

- Met on Feb 2 and are working on finalizing the framework for turn into the grant in April.

*Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger & Dawn Presler*

- MFA consultants are now onboard for design support, and a kick-off meeting was held on Feb 12. The subcommittee worked on their engagement plan and is working to finalize their list of groups to outreach to for the grant in April.
- Meeting with NWSC staff to discuss regional efforts and best options for outreach and how best to measure success

*Forage Fish Monitoring – Phil Salditt & Julie Schlenger*

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Jan 26, Feb 19

- Howarth – Jan 24, Feb 21

#### *Shoreline Armoring – Phil Salditt & Heidi Stewart*

- Subcommittee met on Feb 12 and discussed pausing meetings while keeping tabs on the LIO assessment through the LIO Representative.

#### *Water Quality- Richard Strickland*

- Completed updates to the annual report and are going to pause the meeting for the time being.

#### *Outreach – Dawn Presler*

- Subcommittee met on Feb 9 and discussed feedback on the draft articles and the draft letter for introduction to new groups
- Table secured for the Watershed Fun Fair in Edmonds on May 2

#### *Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention – Julie Schlenger*

- Dept of Ecology kick off meeting Feb 18 about rulemaking for oil spill contingency plan

#### *Beach Watchers*

- The Starlight Beachwalk had over 150 people in attendance and was a success.
- Beach cleanup on March 7 at Howarth Park

#### *MRC New Member Packet – Joycelyn Blue*

- On the MRC SharePoint, Cali and Joycelyn have worked together to create an updated new member orientation packet. This resource is available to all MRC members and is a good refresher for those who have not read the MRC bylaws and other founding documents in a while.

#### *NWSC Funding – Joycelyn Blue*

- In the meeting packet was the NWSC information about the funding opportunity. It explains the origin of this funding and the need for shovel-ready projects, as all funds must be spent by 12/31/26. The SnoCo MRC is not in need of additional funding for current projects and will elect to contribute its funds to the derelict vessel removal and turn-in event program run by NWSC, as outlined in the informational packet.

#### *Upcoming Events*

- Forage fish monitoring
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Feb 19
  - Howarth – Feb 21, March 21
- Beach cleanup, Howarth Park – March 7

- Picnic Point beach planting – February 28
- MRC March Meeting will be online

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