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| MRC Members PresentNatasha Coumou, ChairBrie Townsend, Co-Vice ChairJulie Schlenger, Co-Vice ChairTim Ellis, NWSC and LIO RepSara MaxwellRichard StricklandDawn PreslerAndrew GobinCory Champagne, Alternate**Absent**Phil SaldittAllan HicksFranchesca Perez | **Staff**Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC StaffJoycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff**MRC Ex-Officio Members**David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member**Others**Tom Teigen - Snohomish CountyJonathan Robinson – WSU Beach WatchersAnya Voloshin – Stillaguamish TribesSteve Donnelly – WDNRAlan Mearns - CitizenDarla - Citizen |
| **Summary of Decisions*** The MRC approved the May 2024 meeting summary.
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| **Upcoming Events*** ETAP Beach Clean Up at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park – Sep 21
* Shore Friendly Workshop – Sep 26
* Forage fish monitoring
	+ 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
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**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 stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

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

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 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.**