|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MRC Members Present 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  **Absent**  Franchesca Perez  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Andrew Gobin  Sara Maxwell | **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**  Laura Gurley, Port of Everett  Tom Tiegen, Snohomish County  Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the September 2024 meeting summary. * The MRC approved the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan | |
| **Upcoming Events**   * 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 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 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 or 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

Nest, 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.**