

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary
March 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
Anya Voloshin

MRC Members Absent

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

Staff

Joycelyn Blue, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff

Others

Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers

MRC Ex-Officio Members

David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member

Summary of Decisions

MRC approved the MRC annual report and Council presentation.

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.

The MRC welcomed Anya Voloshin as the newest MRC member and Stillaguamish Tribal Representative.

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 stulag^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

Sara Maxwell made a motion to approve the February 2026 meeting summary. Heidi Stewart seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Annual Report Final and Council Presentation – MFA Consultants

In collaboration with the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) will support the process of developing the 2026 Annual Report. The Annual Report is used as the basis for presenting to Snohomish County Council on May 5. The MRC reviewed the final report and approved it. While doing red flag review it was noted that the lighter blue and orange combination was not passing the accessibility checker, so the report has been updated with a darker blue. The consultant team will do final clean up and accessibility checks and deliver the final document by March 31.

The MRC discussed the graphic communicating the marine vegetation outreach surveys and decided to leave it as is. The group discussed the work MFA will be doing to ensure the report is compliant with ADA standards. The MRC voted to approve the 2025 Annual Report. Phil Salditt made a motion to approve, Dawn Presler seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MFA utilized the annual report to create a condensed power point version to be used at the presentation for County Council on May 5. Council requests that presentations be no more than 10 slides and speakers are limited to a max of 10min. The current presentation is 11 slides; suggestions were to either remove the Thank You slide or the Focus Areas slide. The Thank You slide was removed, and a few repeated photos were replaced. With these changes the MRC voted to approve the 2025 Presentation to Council power point. Phil Salditt made a motion, Sara Maxwell seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. The consultant team will do final clean up and deliver the final document by March 31.

MRC Recommendations to Council – Exec Team

Drafts of the recommendations were developed based on the MRC discussion at the February MRC meeting. The MRC reviewed and provided comments to the executive team. Julie, Sara, and Heidi volunteered to continue editing the recommendations for final MRC approval at the April MRC meeting. The group discussed the second recommendation on marine vegetation/protection and plans to connect with Cynthia from DNR for further conversation about current state level happenings.

Marine Veg Grant Deliverable Review: List of Community Groups – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee

The marine vegetation outreach subcommittee has drafted a list of the community groups they plan to do outreach to this summer. This list is the first grant deliverable due in April. The MRC reviewed the list and suggested a few additional groups that the subcommittee will plan to discuss and potentially add. MFA will adjust the grant deliverable with the updated group.

Derelict Vessels Grant Deliverable Review: Data Framework – Derelict Vessel Subcommittee

The derelict vessel subcommittee has developed the framework for what data and information they will gather about the derelict vessels in Snohomish County. This framework is the first deliverable due for the grant in April. The MRC reviewed the framework and suggested changes. The subcommittee will discuss these suggestions and finalize the framework.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

NWSC – Phil Salditt

- The NW Straits Commission sent out a Baseline Awareness Survey to gather information on NW Straits Commission knowledge and understanding. Results will be used in communications planning. Please fill it out no later than Friday, March 6 and contact Sasha Horst with any questions.
- The NW Straits Commission will host NW Straits Commission 101 information sessions to orient new MRC members, remind current members of NWSC structure and functions, and to share information for anyone interested. Please reach out to Sasha Horst.
 - March 19, 2:00-3:30pm
 - April 8 11:00am-12:30pm
- NW Straits Commission welcomes new Science Advisory Committee member, Jason Toft! To read more about Jason and his work, please visit this webpage: [Jason Toft | Freshwater Initiative](#) or [About – Wetland Ecosystem Team](#).
- The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) is excited to offer the next iteration of MRC/SAC project collaborative sessions. Each MRC can request up to two Collaborative Sessions with SAC members. The sessions are meant to support your MRC in a wider phase of project life cycles. Details and timelines were included in a memo sent out this month to discuss with your MRC. Please contact Dana Oster with questions.
- Commission staff shared an update on the European green crab regional project and results from the 2025 trapping season in Drayton Harbor and Samish Bay. Ongoing monitoring and removal of green crab in these hotspots is a collaborative effort that will continue in 2026. Statewide results from various other trapping partners can be viewed on WDFW's EGC Hub, 2025 blog, or WA Sea Grant's 2025 Salish Sea Green Crab Summary. If you have questions, please contact Leah Skare and we can direct you to our EGC partners.

- Caitlyn Blair is departing to pursue a new career opportunity, with a last day on March 17. She has greatly appreciated the support and learning during her time with MRC and Commission staff and volunteers and partners. It's been a joyful and exciting time, and she will miss everyone! She will be sending out her personal email to keep in touch. Please email Sasha Horst for items related to anything Caitlyn worked on.
- Washington State Bull Kelp Day is April 16! We hope you celebrate by going on a beach walk, talking about the importance of Bull Kelp, or celebrating it any way you can! For more information: Bull Kelp Gets A Day: Governor Signs Nance Bill Establishing State Marine Forest and Proclaims April 16 "Bull Kelp Day" – Greg Nance

LIO – Phil Salditt

- The LIO met on Feb 25 and discussed their upcoming watershed plans and future project ideas. Ideas being considered are a watershed wide stormwater retrofit mapping, construction outreach to construction groups about pervious surfaces, development of measurable goals for stormwater management, and evaluation of in-progress projects that could be moved to completion, and a test example of putting pervious surface at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds.

Derelict Vessel MRC Grant – Allan Hicks & Sara Maxwell

- Subcommittee plans to connect with local groups and individuals to document knowledge of vessels and continue filling in framework

Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger & Dawn Presler

- Subcommittee is currently working with the consultants to create a one-pager and poster for use in outreach to boaters

Forage Fish Monitoring – Phil Salditt & Julie Schlenger

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale –Feb 19, March 19
- Howarth –Feb 21, March 21

Outreach – Dawn Presler

- Subcommittee is preparing for the May 2 outreach event Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair. The group is considering participating in the Sustainamaia event in Bothell in September. The group worked on a display material that highlights the Possession Sound water quality report cards and has qr codes for ease of access by members of the public.

Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention – Julie Schlenger

- The group is currently tracking the Ecology updates to the oil spill WAC.

Marine Vegetation Monitoring – Brie Townsend

- Kayak Kickoff April 29 10:30 – 3pm at Padilla Bay

- If any MRC members are interested in volunteering for kayak kelp monitoring, please contact Joycelyn and Brie. You will need your own kayaking equipment (no inflatable kayaks allowed), willingness to complete a water self-rescue course or proof of one completed within the last year, and ability to complete monitoring during weekdays.
- Insurance discussions are occurring to see if non-MRC members can be covered for kayak monitoring.
- Met with Skagit County MRC folks to discuss monitoring of the kelp beds near to the ferry at Mukilteo.

Beach Watchers

- The beach cleanup on March 7 at Howarth Park had 14 people in attendance and picked up 255lbs of trash.

Other Updates?

- The Northwest Straits Foundation is hosting a Salish Sea Scholars Symposium on April 3 from 2-4pm at the UW Botanical Garden.
- European Green Crab update did include one found at Mission Beach. Julie is willing to train folks on how to conduct molt searches.
- The Planner position interviews will be occurring soon. Interviews for the Marine Ecology Intern position will also be within the next few weeks.

Upcoming Events

- Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – March 19
 - Howarth – March 21
- NWSC 101s virtual – March 19 and April 8
- Island County MRC forage fish workshop – April 27
- MRC April Meeting will be at County campus

The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.