

**Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**May 20, 2026, 4:30-6:30PM**  
**Meeting Location: Online**

**MRC Members Present**

Julie Schlenger, Chair  
Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  
Brienne Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  
Richard Strickland  
Becky Passarella  
Dawn Presler  
Heidi Stewart  
Anya Voloshin

**MRC Ex-Officio Members**

David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member

**MRC Members Absent**

Cory Champagne (Sara Maxwell Alternate)  
Natasha Coumou (Heidi Stewart Alternate)  
Allan Hicks  
Phil Salditt

**Staff**

Joycelyn Blue, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff  
Cali Weber – Snohomish County, MRC Staff

**Summary of Decisions**

The MRC approved a marine vegetation one-pager and poster for outreach to boaters, as long as the discussed adjustments are made.

**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 stulag<sup>w</sup>ábš (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 April 2026 meeting summary. Richard Strickland seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

## **Welcome Back Cali, SWM Planner – All**

The MRC welcomed Cali Weber back to working with the MRC in her new role as a Planner in Surface Water Management. Cali talked about her new position and explained the NPDES Education and Outreach program that she will also be supporting half time.

## **Marine Vegetation Outreach Materials Review – MFA**

MFA presented draft versions of the marine vegetation outreach materials. The marine vegetation subcommittee has been focused on creating materials that educate boaters on the importance of marine vegetation and how their actions on the water can help protect it. The MRC reviewed the draft one pager and poster. The MRC suggested some wording changes, adjusting the protection zone map, and changing some formatting to improve readability of the text.

The MRC discussed the QR code on the outreach materials and what resources should be available. The consultants recommended no more than 3 resources. The subcommittee had agreed on the Anchor Out website and the Active Captain resource. The 3<sup>rd</sup> resource was decided to be Sound IQ to highlight locations of kelp.

The MRC decided that with the discussed adjustments made that the materials had approval for the subcommittee to begin outreach to boaters.

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

### *NWSC – Phil Salditt*

- Speed Date with a Scientist: Understanding the Human Dimensions of Kelp: David Trimbach from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and member of the NW Straits Commission’s Science Advisory Committee, presented on a collaborative social science research project to better understand human interactions with, connections to, and uses of kelp.
- Jamie Stephens was elected chair of the Commission and Lynne Wenberg Davidson was elected vice chair. Many thanks to Alan Clark from Clallam MRC for his service as chair in the past year!
- The Executive Committee asked MRCs to discuss the following items and share back to the Commission at the May meeting:
  - Green crab: Although we do not have funding at the present time for this work, the Commission is proactively evaluating interest in a NWS Commission coordinated regional green crab molt search program among MRCs. A conceptual framework is attached. This would involve the NWS Commission coordinating 1 or 2 molt search events per year in partnership with MRCs. Would your MRC be interested in participating in such a project? What would your MRC need to participate?
  - Big money: What would happen if your MRC was receiving \$500,000 per year? What work would you prioritize? Although this level of funding is not secured, nor promised, this is an exercise to help us dream big!
- The Science Advisory Committee welcomed Dr. Nicole Naar as the newest member.

- Cecilia Gobin shared updates from the NW Indian Fisheries Commission, including:
  - Their 2025 State of Our Watersheds Report: <https://nwifc.org/publications/state-of-our-watersheds/>
  - Current work to comment on the state Department of Ecology’s State Waters Alteration Permit rulemaking process that is beginning soon. More information at <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/laws-rules-rulemaking/rulemaking/wac-173-217>
- The Puget Sound Partnership’s new Executive Director, Mindy Roberts, attended the meeting. The Partnership has issued their most recent issue of Making Waves, available at <https://makingwaves.psp.wa.gov/>
- MRC reps to the Commission received draft key takeaways and possible action items from the 2026 NWS Commission retreat. At the May meeting, we’ll be discussing which of the key takeaways and action items are the biggest priorities.

*LIO – Phil Salditt*

- None

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

- Members of the subcommittee are currently each working on filling in a vessel profile with all the information that they can find. At the next meeting, June 1, they will compare notes and discuss best resources. They have set a date for the derelict boat tour to see the vessels in person.
- Staff and members will be attending and participating in the June 23 NWSC derelict vessel group.

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

- The subcommittee is working on email templates to use when reaching out to boating groups and bait shops to share information.

*Forage Fish Monitoring – Phil Salditt & Julie Schlenger*

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale –April 22, May 28
- Howarth –April 17, May 23
- Julie, Phil, and Richard attended the Island County forage fish workshop on April 27. Heidi presented.

*Outreach – Dawn Presler*

- Edmonds Watershed Fun Fair on May 12 had a lot of interactions with members of the public. They had over 145 people stop and learn about forage fish and anchoring out of eelgrass.
- The group is preparing for the Sustainamania event and the ETAP beach cleanup on Sep 26.

### *Crabber Outreach – Brie Townsend*

- Projected dates for crabber outreach at the Port of Everett are two days either Thu July 2, Fri July 3, Sun July 5, or Mon July 6 both 6am – 10am. Brie will send a survey out to the MRC to sign up for shifts.

### *Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend*

- Dates and back up dates for kelp monitoring have been selected
- The group is scheduling a subcommittee meeting to chat do a group check prior to monitoring
- Brie, Julie, Dawn, Joycelyn, and the intern are scheduled to renew their self-rescue course

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

- None

### *Beach Watchers – Jonathan Robinson*

- Molt Blitz – June 26, training date and event location to be announced
- Beach Watcher training is in progress
- Quarterly beach cleanup at Picnic Point on June 3

### *Upcoming Events*

- Forage fish monitoring
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 28
  - Howarth –May 23
- Picnic Point Beach cleanup – June 4
- MRC June meeting will be virtual

### *Other Updates?*

- Marine Ecology Intern will be starting on June 1
- MRC presentation to County Council was on May 19, the Council members were provided with the 2025 Annual Report
  - The MRC discussed ways to circle back to County Council since their presentation was cut short.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.**