



# Marine Resources Committee 2018 Annual Report

Restore, Conserve, Educate



Snohomish County  
Marine Resources  
Committee



Snohomish County  
Public Works  
*Surface Water Management*

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee

## 2018 Annual Report

Snohomish County  
Marine Resources Advisory Committee  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S-607  
Everett, WA 98201

### Questions or comments about the MRC can be directed to:

Kathleen Pozarycki, MMA  
Marine Resources Committee Program Manager  
425-388-6414  
[Kathleen.Pozarycki@snoco.org](mailto:Kathleen.Pozarycki@snoco.org)

Elisa Dawson  
Marine Resources Committee Planner  
425-388-6466  
[Elisa.Dawson@snoco.org](mailto:Elisa.Dawson@snoco.org)

*Cover Photo Credit: Robyn Rice*

#### **Title VI and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information:**

*It is Snohomish County's policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be discriminated against under any county sponsored program or activity. For questions regarding Snohomish County Public Works' Title VI Program, or for interpreter or translation services for non-English speakers, or otherwise making materials available in an alternate format, contact the Department Title VI Coordinator via email at [spw-titlevi@snoco.org](mailto:spw-titlevi@snoco.org) or phone 425-388-6660. Hearing/speech impaired may call 711.*

#### **Información sobre el Título VI y sobre la Ley de Americanos con Discapacidades**

*(ADA por sus siglas en inglés): Es la política del Condado de Snohomish asegurar que ninguna persona sea excluida de participar, se le nieguen beneficios o se le discrimine de alguna otra manera en cualquier programa o actividad patrocinada por el Condado de Snohomish en razón de raza, color, país de origen o género, conforme al Título VI de la Enmienda a la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964. Comuníquese con el Department Title VI Coordinator (Coordinador del Título VI del Departamento) al correo electrónico [spw-titlevi@snoco.org](mailto:spw-titlevi@snoco.org), o al teléfono 425-388-6660 si tiene preguntas referentes al Snohomish County Public Works' Title VI Program (Programa del Título VI de Obras Públicas del Condado de Snohomish), o para servicios de interpretación o traducción para los no angloparlantes, o para pedir que los materiales se hagan disponibles en un formato alternativo. Los que tienen necesidades comunicativas especiales pueden llamar al 711.*

## Message from Chair, Sarah Brown



I'm very happy to share the vast array of restoration, conservation, and education projects that our Snohomish County MRC accomplished in 2018! Our 12 member volunteer team, with a broad range of expertise, work together with Surface Water Management staff to tackle extensive projects in Snohomish County. Projects like derelict boat removal, educating recreational crabbers, preventing oil spills, monitoring for forage fish and restoring habitat are a few examples of our work. All of these actions improve the health of our Salish Sea and the wonderful wildlife who depend on it.

While this report celebrates our accomplishments of 2018, we are focused on the immense work that remains. Exceptionally low salmon stocks and numerous types of pollution threaten the survival of many species, including our beloved Southern Resident Killer Whales.

As you read through our report, please consider joining our citizen scientist team by downloading the MyCoast App, described on page 12, and submit photo reports when you visit the beach. The app is an easy way that you can help us gather important information which will aid in planning future restoration work.

We are indebted to our funding partners and the local citizen scientists who support the work we do to protect, preserve, and restore our priceless Salish Sea. Thank you!

## Table of Contents

About the MRC .....	3
Finance .....	4
Restore .....	5
Conserve .....	7
Educate .....	10
Contact Us, Resources/Credits .....	14

Established in 1999 and authorized by Chapter 2.800 of the Snohomish County Code; the Snohomish MRC members represent a diverse group of environmental, recreational, conservation, economic, and local and tribal government interests.

The Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is a team of citizen volunteers who are appointed by the Snohomish County Council and congressionally authorized to represent diverse local interests. Advocating for communities, the MRC provides sound guidance to public officials as an advisory committee. The MRC is essential to the protection and restoration of Snohomish County's marine environment. Without the partnerships or funding support from native tribes, government, businesses, and non-profit organizations the MRC could not continue this crucial work.

The MRC is guided by the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative (NWSI) Strategic Plan. Together these entities comprise a nonpartisan regional effort to protect and restore marine resources in the northern Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

*"Promoting effective stewardship of Snohomish County's marine waters."*

12 Committee members



Science workgroups with MRC representation

35



Outreach events



11

Media releases



6

10 Trainings & conferences attended



## Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative



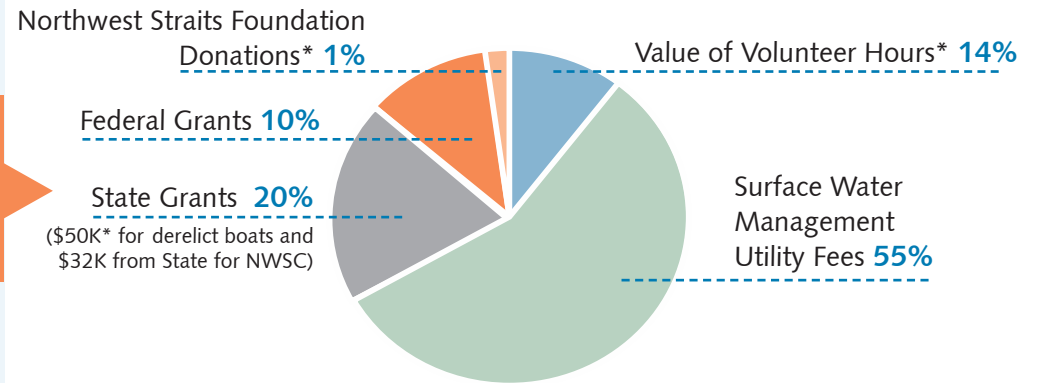
## Program Support

1,832 professional hours donated by 12 MRC members in 2018 to implement MRC's 2018 work plan and related activities which:

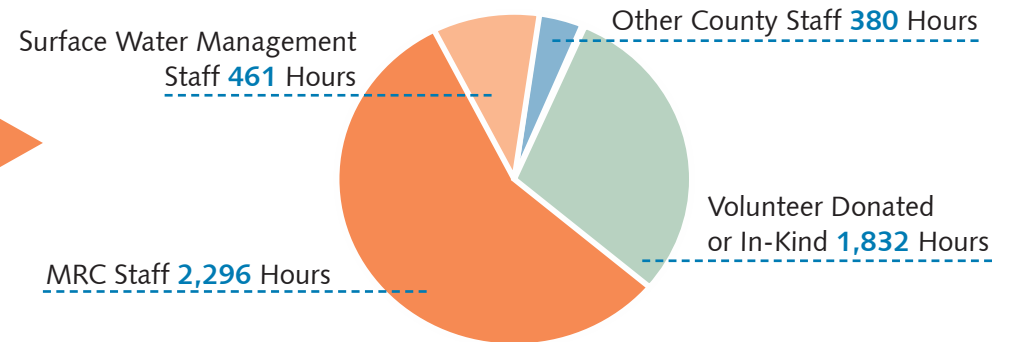
- o Provided a forum to mobilize citizen support of the marine conservation.
- o Generated and implemented practical, on-the-ground projects that benefit the ecosystem and the economy of our region.



FUNDING



SUPPORT



**\$30.46**  
Washington State's estimated value of a volunteer hour.



**1,832**  
Professional hours donated in 2018.

**\$55,802.72**  
Total value to Snohomish County





## Meadowdale Beach Park Restoration

**WHAT:** Meadowdale Beach Park is a 108 acre park located in unincorporated Snohomish County. The park's hike-in only access trail winds through a ravine alongside Lund's Gulch Creek to Puget Sound. Park visitors access the beach by way of a six-foot-wide concrete box culvert under the railroad. This culvert also conveys the year-round flow of Lund's Gulch Creek.

**WHY:** Due to the narrow opening of the culvert, sediment carried by the creek accumulates in the passageway, causing frequent flooding in the culvert and limits beach access for park visitors and limits salmon use of the creek.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project proposes the construction of a 130 foot, five-span railroad bridge to replace the existing culvert and enhance beach access and stream flow. The project will create two acres of restored estuary and riparian habitat to provide critical habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon.

On July 2, 2018 - Congressman Rick Larsen visited Meadowdale Beach Park to learn about the project and the County's plans to restore the estuary outlet. At this time, the County is confirming an agreement with BNSF in which they would construct the bridge with their crews provided the County funds the project. The park gets an estimated 65,000 visitors per year. Here's a link to the article in the [Herald](#).

On August 2, 2018 - Maria Cantwell's Staff toured Meadowdale Beach Park along with MRC members Sarah Brown and Paul Clampitt with Senator Maria Cantwell's staff Joe Downes. Snohomish County Councilwoman Stephanie Wright was in attendance.

On July 2, 2018 - Congressman Rick Larsen visited Meadowdale Beach Park



Spotlight:

### Community Benefits

A benefit-cost analysis done by Earth Economics found that for every \$1 invested into park restoration at Meadowdale, the community will receive more than a \$4 public benefit.



On August 2, 2018 - Maria Cantwell's Staff toured Meadowdale Beach Park



*Did you know?*

16 tons of marine debris was removed from the Snohomish Estuary and Nearshore in 2018.

## Derelict Vessel Removal

Five derelict vessels were removed in 2018 from the Snohomish Estuary and Snohomish County Nearshore. Funding was provided by the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Snohomish County Surface Water Management. Removing these derelict vessels helps improve water quality by removing toxics and also improves habitat by removing physical barriers. Over 16 tons of marine debris was removed as part of this project. All the derelict boats were recycled or destroyed following a process to identify and work with last known owners according to Washington Administrative Code.



5

Boats removed

Sometimes the easiest way to conserve vulnerable habitat is to protect it. This involves knowing how much habitat you have in order to measure its decline or recovery. The Snohomish County MRC assists state and federal agencies by helping collect baseline and monitoring data for species or habitats of concern.

## Kelp Monitoring

In response to concerns about declining bull kelp populations in some parts of the Puget Sound, and mounting interest in kelp restoration, the MRC gathered data for the Northwest Straits Commission's Regional Kelp monitoring project. The MRC kayak surveys cover the entire southern portion of the Snohomish County Nearshore from the Snohomish/King County border to the Snohomish River Delta and around Hat Island.

- Watch the [Kelp Monitoring Video](#) to learn more.

## Did you know?

Between 2015-2018, there has been a 77% decline in the area of kelp beds surveyed, and six of the nine beds originally found have disappeared. The MRC will continue to monitor kelp beds to better understand trends.



## Spotlight:

**Bull Kelp** is the largest of the 23 native species of large brown algae reaching 60' or more.

UP TO  
60'  
LONG



2018 monitoring found:  
**4 Bull Kelp beds**  
covering 5.1 acres.

Bull kelp forests provide **food and shelter** to dozens of species in our marine ecosystem, including rockfish.





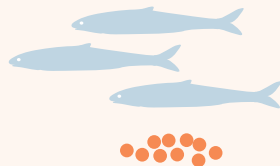
## ▶ Forage Fish Spawning Surveys

In conjunction with the [Nearshore Restoration Project](#), the MRC has conducted pre- and post-restoration monitoring of forage fish spawning since 2011 at 18 locations within the project reach between Mukilteo and Everett. Forage fish species, including Pacific sand lance (*Ammodytes hexapterus*) and surf smelt (*Hypomesus pretiosus*) play a vital role in the marine food web by providing food for salmon as well as other birds, mammals, and fish. Forage fish depend on the [nearshore](#) area for spawning and rearing. The MRC forage fish spawning surveys use [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's](#) (WDFW) protocols focusing surf smelt and Pacific sand lance, which lay eggs on intertidal sand-gravel beaches in the nearshore environment.

MRC volunteers collected sediment samples, which were winnowed, processed, and examined to look for eggs. This information is used to quantify spawning abundance and for scientific evaluations of spawning sites.

### Spotlight:

Forage fish are the middle link in the food web. These fish eat plankton, and in turn are eaten by birds, salmon, orcas, and other animals. Forage fish are considered to be indicators of health and productivity of marine ecosystems.



12 days of **forage fish** monitoring in Snohomish County at 18 locations; eggs found at 12 locations.



## Caged Mussel Study, Retrieval February 27, 2018

[Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) biologists are using cages filled with Penn Cove mussels to track the levels of stormwater pollution entering Puget Sound. The MRC sponsored one location at Edmonds Brackett's Landing and volunteered to help with cages at Meadowdale Beach Park and the Port of Everett. After the MRC had installed cages in December 2017, they were retrieved three months later in February 2018. Data from this work is being analyzed and will be available in 2019.

## Oil Spill Preparedness

A large oil spill in County waters could significantly damage important environmental and economic resources. The MRC Oil Spill Preparedness Subcommittee works to build interagency relationships vital to successful spill prevention, preparedness, and response in Snohomish County and the Puget Sound region. MRC Members attended the 2018 Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition in Portland, Oregon, a conference designed for all parties responsible for prevention and response operations in the Western United States and Canada. This conference facilitated multi-jurisdiction coordination and discussed best practices and new solutions for oil spill response. Also in 2018, the MRC was invited to participate with regional, state, and federal stakeholders in the initial planning phases of a Model Volunteer Oil Spill Response program. This program, coordinated by Washington State University Extension, aims to develop, maintain and coordinate a regional team of trained volunteers for use in spill response. Additionally, on October 3, 2018 MRC members attended and networked at the Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum sponsored by the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.



## Our Coast Free Community Film Series

In 2018, the Snohomish MRC conducted six movie events and provided educational materials to encourage participants of all ages. The goal for the MRC Ocean Literacy program for 2018 was to provide citizens with a free educational experience that encourages engagement in local projects along Snohomish County's marine shoreline. The Our Coast Community Film Series which began in early 2018, showcased independent films, local filmmakers and marine experts in a series of discussion focused events, with over 300 people attending the 6 events. Participants will also receive information on how to monitor changes at local beaches through the [MyCoast App](#).

These events were put on using grant funds from the Northwest Straits Initiative. Everett Community College with The Ocean Research College Academy and the University of Washington Bothell partnered with the MRC on these events and provided venues.



# 2018

## Our Coast FREE Community Film Series

### Everett Community College

Jackson Conference Center  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

#### January 29 Puget Sound Focus

- Return of the King
- Olympic Coast

#### February 28 Freshwater Focus

- Return of the River
- Making Way for Salmon

#### April 25 Ocean Focus

- Chasing Coral

[www.snocomrc.org](http://www.snocomrc.org)  
FREE POPCORN

### UW Bothell

North Creek Events Center  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

#### February 7 Puget Sound Focus

- Return of the King
- Olympic Coast

#### March 1 Freshwater Focus

- Return of the River
- Making Way for Salmon

#### April 22 Ocean Focus

- Chasing Coral

Please RSVP and get your free tickets at [www.snocomrc.org](http://www.snocomrc.org)



PUGET SOUND  
PARTNERSHIP



EVERETT  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Stay Close... Go Far



W  
BOTHELL



Ocean  
Research  
College  
Academy



Snohomish County  
Marine Resources  
Committee



Snohomish County  
Puget Sound  
Surface Water Management

The Snohomish County MRC provides education on key issues relating to our 123 miles of shoreline, including best management practices for shoreline landowners, recreational fishermen, and other interested citizens.



## Crabber Outreach

On opening crabbing weekend, the Snohomish MRC worked with Washington State University Extension Beach Watchers staff and volunteers to connect with more than 1,900 fishermen and women through in-person and social media outreach.

Volunteers provided the information and products to support sustainable fishing and crabbing practices in an effort to reduce both marine debris and wildlife loss.

Volunteers conducted outreach at the Everett 10th Street boat launch, Kayak Point boat launch and pier, and the Edmonds fishing pier. Volunteers were on-site the mornings of: June 30th, July 1st and July 7th.

## Spotlight:

- Researchers estimate that **12,000 crab pots are lost** each year in Puget Sound.
- Lost pots catch and **kill an estimated 129,000 crabs annually.**



## ▶ MyCoast Is Now Available Throughout Washington State!

The Snohomish MRC piloted the MyCoast Smartphone App in Snohomish County in early 2017 as a pilot study to collect important information for natural resource managers. In 2018, Washington Department of Natural Resources decided to make the app statewide in partnerships with Washington Sea Grant, The Northwest Straits Partnership, and the United States Geological Survey.

*Spotlight:*

View the [Snohomish County MyCoast Website](#) for more information.



# MyCoast

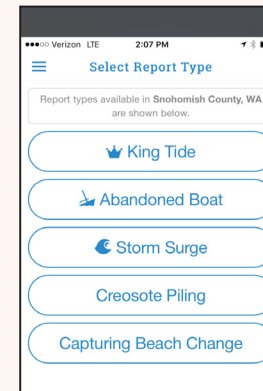
## ▶ Citizen Science with the MyCoast App

The MyCoast App is a free smartphone app and webpage that can be downloaded by anyone who wants to participate in an MRC project. The MRC created "forms" which users can fill out to participate in MRC Projects. These projects include:

- Storm Surge Monitoring Project
- Report derelict vessels
- Report creosote pilings
- Document king tides
- Capture beach change

## ▶ Capturing Beach Change

The MRC is conducting photo monitoring at public beaches along the Snohomish County shoreline. Anyone can participate by following directions within the app and take a photo. These photos will create a collective time-lapse to allow us to see change over time!



▶ In 2018, **212 MyCoast reports** were collected from residents through the MyCoast Smartphone App.

## Community Involvement

The MRC hosted educational tables at five community events in 2018

- Sound Waters University 2018
- Snohomish Healthy Homes = Healthy Waters
- Snohomish County RainScaping Expo
- Shoreline Property Real Estate Workshop
- Annual MRC Conference

## Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Outreach

The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area is of shared interest to Snohomish and Island counties, and both counties previously adopted a [Conservation Action Plan](#) to help define a community vision for enhanced stewardship. In 2018 Snohomish MRC brought new attention to the Marine Stewardship Area with a presentation to local Sound Water Stewards on Camano Island. The MRC continues to invest in strategizing with Citizen Science groups in the region to identify projects that can build on the MyCoast platform to engage and educate the larger Snohomish County community about the benefits of marine stewardship and restoration efforts.

Kathleen Pozarycki and Debbie Hopkins presented in partnership with Island County MRC to the Sound Water Stewards (SWS) on October 1 at Cama Beach during their regular business meeting to bring new attention to the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. The MRC shared the MyCoast App strategy for building public awareness and engagement with the shoreline.



## Thank You

The MRC receives support from the Northwest Straits Commission, Puget Sound Partnership, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and Snohomish County Public Works' Surface Water Management Division for the Marine Resources Program.

Thank you to our MRC Members. Your work and dedication to protecting and restoring the marine environment is making a difference in Snohomish County.

2018 MRC Members:

*Sarah Brown, 2018 Chair*

*Michael Ehlebracht 2018 Co-Vice Chair*

*Robert Hillmann 2018 Co-Vice Chair*

*Cathy Stanley*

*Paul Clampitt*

*Franchesca Perez*

*Traci Sanderson*

*Susan Tarpley*

*Deborah Hopkins*

*Laura Gurley*

*Craig Wollam*

*Tom Doerge*

A special thank you to the MRC Program Manager and Lead Staff Kathleen Pozarycki, MRC Planner Elisa Dawson, Surface Water Management staff Luke Hanna, Frank Leonetti, Melody Ovard, and to the many other Snohomish County employees who have contributed time and expertise to the 2018 MRC projects.

We would also like to recognize the partnership of the Tulalip Tribes and the Stillaguamish Tribe for providing in-kind staff support and coordination for MRC Projects. It's a critical partnership for the MRC Program!

The accomplishments and current activities of the Snohomish County MRC depend on contributions from MRC Members, volunteers, Snohomish County staff members and individuals from other organizations. Their interest and participation in MRC activities is greatly appreciated.

## How to reach us?

- [www.snocomrc.org](http://www.snocomrc.org)

## How to become involved

- Attend monthly MRC meetings
- Volunteer on local projects
- Become a member of the Northwest Straits Foundation
- Sign up for [MRC email distribution list](#) and [Northwest Straits Initiative newsletter](#)

## When/Where are meetings held?

- Third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
Snohomish County Administrative Building East  
on the 6th Floor

