

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Meeting Summary

January 20, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>MRC Members Present</b><br/>Mike Ehlebracht<br/>Laura Gurley<br/>Tom Doerge<br/>Natasha Coumou<br/>Julie Schlenger<br/>Mike Sadler<br/>Tim Ellis<br/>Sara Maxwell<br/>Kip Killebrew</p> <p><b>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment</b><br/>Andrew Gobin<br/>Brienne Townsend<br/>Michael Kundu</p>  | <p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b><br/>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br/>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br/>Jonathan Robinson, WSU Extension Beach Watchers<br/>Sasha Horst, NWSC<br/>Betsy Newnum, Citizen<br/>Traci Sanderson, Citizen<br/>Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br/>David Bain, Citizen<br/>Jon Baker, Citizen<br/>Phil Salditt, Citizen<br/>Eric Adams, Citizen<br/>Lincoln Loehr, Citizen</p> |
| <p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the October 2020 Meeting Minutes.</li> <li>• The MRC approved the elections for the following leadership positions: <b>Chair:</b> Mike Ehlebracht; <b>Co-Vice Chairs:</b> Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou; <b>LIO Representative:</b> Tim Ellis; <b>NWSC Representative:</b> Tim Ellis; <b>NWSC Representative Alternate:</b> Julie Schlenger</li> <li>• The MRC approved the appointment of Susan Tarpley and David Bain as Ex-Officio Members.</li> <li>• The MRC approved the 2021 Work Plan.</li> </ul> |   |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelp 2020 Season Review hosted by the NWSC: January 21</li> <li>• Forage Fish Monitoring: February 16 and 17</li> <li>• February MRC Meeting: February 17</li> </ul>  |   |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

Mike announced that the MRC completed interviews for new members in December and January, and three new MRC Members have been recommended to Snohomish County Council

for appointment. The new members are Brienne Townsend, Michael Kundu, and Andrew Gobin, who were asked to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 MRC Meeting Summary. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **MRC Leadership Elections**

Mike Ehlebracht, MRC Chair, opened a discussion of MRC leadership position elections. Based on the conversation from the MRC November 2020 Retreat, Mike nominated himself for MRC Chair, and Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou for Co-Vice Chair. He then asked for any further nominations. There were none. Mike called for a vote to approve the following positions:

- **MRC Chair:** Mike Ehlebracht
- **MRC Co-Vice Chairs:** Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou

All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Based on conversations from the MRC November 2020 Retreat, Mike nominated Tim Ellis for LIO Representative and NWSC Representative, and Julie Schlenger for NWSC Alternate. He then asked for any further nominations. There were none. Mike called for a vote to approve the following positions:

- **NWSC Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **NWSC Alternate:** Julie Schlenger
- **LIO Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **LIO Alternate:** Vacant

All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Finally, Mike nominated Susan Tarpley and David Bain to serve as Ex-Officio MRC Members, providing the following text from the MRC Bylaws to explain the definition and role of Ex-Officio Members:

To improve coordination within Snohomish County, the MRC may create *ex officio* MRC member positions. *Ex officio* members will be appointed at the first regular meeting of every calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter, for a term of one-year and may be reappointed in subsequent years. Terms will automatically expire at the end of the calendar year unless reappointed via a consensus vote of current MRC members. The *ex officio* member is expected to fully participate in discussions and to share their expertise with the MRC, but they may not participate in MRC decisions and they do not count toward the quorum. *Ex officio* members will meet the requirements of the Snohomish County Code (Chapter 2.03 SCC).

Mike opened the floor for further discussion and questions, and there were none. He then called for a vote to approve the nominations.

All MRC Members voted to approve the Ex-Officio Member appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

## **MRC 2021 Work Plan**

Alex Pittman, MRC Staff with Snohomish County SWM, led the MRC in a discussion of the draft 2021 Work Plan. MRC Members previously provided input on the 2021 Work Plan during the November 2020 MRC Retreat, and via email correspondence in the weeks leading up to this MRC Meeting.

Key changes to the Work Plan for 2021 include the following:

- The MyCoast App subcommittee has been removed from the Work Plan.
- The Kelp Monitoring subcommittee has been renamed the Marine Vegetation Monitoring subcommittee.
- The Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound initiatives have been added to the MRC Outreach subcommittee.
- The Pilings Project will wrap up the MRC grant in September 2021, and the Port Susan project will proceed with MRC grant funding in October 2021.

All MRC Members voted to approve the 2021 Work Plan and the motion passed by consensus.

## **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **Pilings Phase 2:** The MRC has contracted with Environmental Service Associates (ESA) to move forward with Phase 2 of the project. ESA was also contracted in Phase 1 to produce the Pilings Prioritization Plan. The project team has decided on 5 focus areas for Phase 2. Next steps include developing fact sheets for each of these focus areas and preparing for stakeholder meetings.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. Due to inclement weather, December sampling only included the two Howarth Park sites. All sites were monitored in January. The next sample events are February 16 and 17.
- **Meadowdale:** Snohomish County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, has secured the councilmanic bonds needed to fund the project. The MRC assisted Parks by preparing a grant application to partially fund railroad safety improvements associated with the proposed railroad bridge. Grant funds for the project total nearly \$7 million. SWM will contribute \$300,000 toward the project in 2021.
- **Port Susan:** Joint subcommittee meeting with Island County was held on December 15, 2020. The team continued to discuss and refine the focus for the 2021-22 MRC Grant. As it stands, the current plan for 2021-22 is to review the Port Susan Report Card, edit and gather new information, and hold stakeholder meetings to gather best available information from tribes, scientists, and partners.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Four vessels removed at a cost of approximately \$40K in 2020. SWM is currently working to get reimbursed from DNR at 90%. A private philanthropist has made a \$50K donation to the NWSF for derelict vessel removal in Snohomish County. SWM is contracting with NWSF for \$45K (factoring in the admin fee from NWSF), which will effectively double the funds available for removal in 2021. Alex and Elisa will be doing initial recon for 2021 removals in February, though removal won't

occur until late summer. Next, SWM staff will be meeting with partners to create a strategic list of priority boats for 2021.

- **Howarth Park Signage:** New signs have been installed and can be viewed along the boardwalk trail at Howarth Park.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom provided a brief overview of the 2020 Kelp Monitoring data, which will be presented by Dana Oster from the NSWC at the upcoming Kelp Season 2020 Review Meeting.
- **Marine Vegetation Mapping:** Elisa reported that DNR's report is complete and will be sent out to the MRC shortly. Bart, the lead author from DNR, will be coming to speak to the MRC in February. We will discuss opportunities and brainstorm ideas for additional monitoring in 2021.
- **Oil Spills:** A comment letter for the Central Puget Sound GRP was submitted.
- **Beach Watchers – Starlight Beach Walk Event:** Jonathan reported that the virtual event is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30PM.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

### Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee Work Plan 2021

| Project                                       |                | January   | February   | March  | April  | May   | June  | July  | August  | September  | October  | November  | December   |
|---|----------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>MRC Administration (Grant Task 1)</b>      | <b>Members</b> | MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for October, November, Dec. by Jan 1.                                      |  |  | MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for January, February, March by April 1. Annual Report to Council.  |   |   | MRC Members Report Volunteer hours for April, May, June by July 1.  | Host MRC Picnic.  | MRC Members report volunteer hours for July, August September by Sept. 20.   | Plan Annual Retreat and work planning session.   | Website update review and suggestions on changes.   | Host MRC Annual Holiday Party.   |
|   | <b>Staff</b>   | Progress Report Due. Annual Work Plan due.  | Start Annual Report with Communications staff.                             | Schedule Annual Report to County Council. Brainstorm next grant project.             | Progress Report Due. Annual Report to Council. Continue brainstorm next grant project.                 | Finalize next year's grant project. Draft grant proposal.   | Finalize grant proposal. MRC presentation for next year's grant.  | Progress Report Due.  | Complete paperwork for next grant with NWSC/SnoCo.  | Progress Report Due.   | Plan Annual Retreat and work planning session. Start new grant. Start recruitment for new members as needed. | Facilitate Annual Retreat and work planning session. Interviews for new members as needed.                      | Complete website updates from MRC Review. Complete any new member or MRC Member reappointment paperwork. |
| <b>MRC Piling Project (Grant Task 2)</b>      |                | Finalize list of sites. Start planning for stakeholder meetings. Task 2 progress report and deliverables due. | Planning for stakeholder meetings. Creating Fact Sheets.                   | Planning/hosting stakeholder meetings. Editing Fact Sheets.                          | Finalize Fact Sheets. Continue planning/hosting meetings. Task 2 progress report and deliverables due. | Continue planning/hosting stakeholder meetings.   | Continue planning/hosting stakeholder meetings. Consultant drafts report.                               | Review draft report. Presentation by consultant at July Meeting. MRC to give feedback on report by July 30 <sup>th</sup> . Task 2 progress report and deliverables due. | Finalize report. Draft a press release.   | Complete task 2 reporting. Share final report with partners. Finalize press release and distribute. Task 2 final deliverables due. | <i>Start next MRC grant.</i>   | <i>Next MRC grant continues.</i>  | <i>Next MRC grant continues.</i>   |
| <b>Howarth Park and Nearshore Restoration</b> |                |   |  |  |  | Bi-Annual subcommittee Discuss opportunities for continued involvement and advocacy and ACoE beneficial re-use. |   |   |   |  |  | Bi-Annual subcommittee Discuss opportunities for continued involvement and advocacy and ACoE beneficial re-use. |  |
| <b>Derelict Vessels</b>                       |                | Contracting for NWSF funds.   | Plan for recon with SWM boat. Update list of vessels. Finalize NWSF funds. | Boat recon. Update boat spreadsheet.   | Convene meeting with DNR and partners about boats to prioritize for 2021 removal                       | Start compiling docs for 2021 removal.  | 2021 bid on boats.  | Finalize contract for 2021 removal.   | 2021 boat removal.  | 2021 boat removal.   | Close out 2021 contract on boat removal.   | DNR reimbursements. Outreach on boat removal + MyCoast  | DNR reimbursements.  |
| <b>Recreational Crabber Education</b>         |                |   |  | Start conversations with BW, reach out to Jonathan to discuss outreach for the year. | Have Subcommittee meeting to plan outreach. Discuss coordination with WSU and City of Edmonds.         | Continue planning work. Gather materials for season. Create social media ads with Communications staff.         | Continue planning work. Gather materials for season. Create social media ads with Communications staff. | Do outreach focusing on week before opening and week after opening.   | Crabber Ed throughout July and August until close of summer season (generally Labor Day weekend). | Subcommittee meeting to go over numbers, lessons learned, plans for next season.   |  |   |  |
| <b>Mussel Watch</b>                           |                |   | Check in with WDFW staff on results. Ask staff to speak in April or May.   |  | Staff presents at MRC meeting in April or May.   | Staff presents at MRC meeting in April or May.  |   |   | Sites to be determined and finalized.   | Plan for deployment.   | Plan for deployment. Mussel Prep @Penn Cove  | Cages are deployed.   | Plan teams for retrieval.  |

| Project                      |                         | January  | February   | March  | April   | May   | June  | July  | August   | September   | October   | November  | December  |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| MRC Outreach                 | Ocean Literacy +MyCoast |  | Follow up with County and other Orgs + BW. See what partnership opportunities are available for Earth Day. Decide on level of participation. | Meet with Jonathan and BW to discuss how to incorporate our lesson plan into their work. Earth Day event coordination and planning work. | Partner on any Earth Day events, as determined by February subcommittee meeting.      | Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.                          |   |   | Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.                                       |   |   | Subcommittee meeting to discuss Plastic Free Salish Sea and Quiet Sound opportunities for partnerships and outreach.                          |   |
|                              | Orca Day                |  |  |  |   | Subcommittee meeting. Discuss if MRC will participate in Orca Day. Decide on level of participation.  | Continue planning work.   | Continue planning work.   | Continue planning work.  | Event held in coordination with other Orca Day Events.                                      |   |   |   |
|                              | Starlight Beach Walk    | Plan for event.  | Hold event   | Subcommittee meeting with WSU to review event.   |   |   |   |   |  | Start planning for the next year's event, decide on date.                                   | Gather outreach materials.                            | Continue planning work.   | Ensure that MRC has materials for event.                                  |
| Forage Fish                  |                         | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.                  | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.  | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.  | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.                                     | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.   | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.                           | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.                                       | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.  | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth. Compile data from the year for MRC        | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.     | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth. Bring sediment samples to lab.  | Monitor sites at Picnic, Meadowdale, and Howarth.                         |
| Marine Vegetation Monitoring |                         | Start conversation with DNR for 2021 marine vegetation monitoring. | Presentation from DNR on 2020 marine vegetation mapping.   | Recruit new kelp monitor members as needed. Plan for 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.  | Subcommittee meeting to discuss monitoring plan. Schedule any safety training needed. | Finalize monitoring plan. Contract with DNR on 2021 marine vegetation monitoring.   | Check all gear to prepare for monitoring. DNR marine vegetation monitoring. | Complete float plan and paperwork. Monitor kelp beds. DNR marine vegetation monitoring. | Complete float plan and paperwork. Monitor kelp beds. DNR marine vegetation monitoring.  | Get data to NWSI for processing. Initial findings from DNR on marine vegetation monitoring. | Finalize data processing. Ensure data is in Sound IQ. | Share data results with partners.   | DNR to submit findings and report from 2021 marine vegetation monitoring. |
| Oil Spill Preparedness       |                         |  | Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meeting to discuss opportunities for E+O with Outreach Subcom.                  |  |   | Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program |   |   | Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Subcommittee meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program |   |   | Attend quarterly Local Emergency Planning Committee Meeting. Meetings as needed. Keep contact with DoE on GRP updates and BW on Model Program |   |
| Meadowdale                   |                         | Check in with Logan on construction schedule.                      | Monitor construction process, help as needed.  | Monitor construction process, help as needed.  | Monitor construction process, help as needed.   | Monitor construction process, help as needed.   | Monitor construction process, help as needed.                               | Presentation from Snohomish County Parks on the project.                                |  |   |   |   |   |
| Port Susan                   |                         |  |  | Subcommittee meeting for joint planning.   |   |   | Subcommittee meeting for joint planning.                                    |   |  |   | Start MRC Grant Task 2.                               | Grant work.   | Grant work.   |

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Meeting Summary

February 17, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>MRC Members Present</b><br/> Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br/> Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br/> Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br/> Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br/> Laura Gurley<br/> Julie Schlenger<br/> Mike Sadler<br/> Sara Maxwell<br/> Kip Killebrew</p> <p><b>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment</b><br/> Brienne Townsend<br/> Michael Kundu</p> <p><b>Absent</b><br/> Andrew Gobin</p> | <p><b>Staff</b><br/> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br/> Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br/> Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br/> David Bain, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b><br/> Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br/> Bart Christiaen, WA DNR<br/> Betsy Newnum, Citizen<br/> Jon Baker, Citizen<br/> Phil Salditt, Citizen<br/> Lincoln Loehr, Citizen</p> |
| <p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MRC approved the January 2021 meeting minutes.</li> <li>• The MRC approved the 2021 MRC subcommittees list.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car Tires and Salmon Health Webinar February 19 at noon</li> <li>• Beach Watchers Virtual Starlight Beach Walk Event February 22 at 6:30</li> <li>• Forage Fish Monitoring: February 25, March 15, and March 16</li> <li>• February MRC Meeting: March 17 at 6:30</li> </ul>  |   |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions on the meeting participants.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the January 20, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Mike Sadler seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **MRC Subcommittees**

Alex Pittman facilitated the discussion of 2021 Subcommittee roles. The draft subcommittee chart was shared on the screen. The chart was developed based on MRC input solicited over the past few weeks and included each member's preferred assignments. Alex provided a brief overview of the distribution of members proposed for each subcommittee.

Alex then opened the discussion by soliciting general input from MRC members, providing an opportunity to revise their selections for the year. Several changes were made to membership and lead roles based on MRC feedback. The final MRC subcommittees list for 2021 is on the last page of the minutes.

The first task of the 2021 subcommittees will be to review the respective website pages. Alex will send further details about this task in a follow up email. Finally, it was noted that MRC Members can switch membership of subcommittees throughout the year. MRC members should contact Alex, Elisa, and the subcommittee leads with any changes.

## **Plastic Free Salish Sea**

Mike Ehlebracht, Alex Pittman, Elisa Dawson, Mike Sadler, Brienne Townsend, and Jonathan Robinson (WSU Beach Watchers) met via conference call on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss kick off ideas for the Plastic Free Salish Sea outreach campaign. The team would like to propose kicking off the outreach with an Earth Day clean up event. The team would like to model the event after The Great Island Clean Up, which is done in San Juan County. It would be a single or multi day opportunity for participants to clean up trash, specifically emphasizing cleaning up trash at shoreline locations. Elisa is working on finding opportunities for trash collection or drop off. Additionally, the team is working on designating locations for drop off. Elisa has suggested having a drop off location within each of Snohomish County's five council districts. The MRC approved of the proposal from the team.

The team will be working to determine a name and outreach materials over the next few weeks. Additionally, Mike suggested the MRC reach out to contacts to find donations of burlap bags to use instead of plastic bags for trash clean up. The group will meet for another planning call in early March. Earth day is April 22, 2021.

## **Snohomish Estuary Marine Vegetation Presentation**

Elisa Dawson introduced Bart Christiaen. Bart is a Natural Resource Scientist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources. He was the lead for our 2020 marine vegetation mapping project in the Snohomish Estuary which was paid for by Snohomish County Surface Water Management.

In 2020, Snohomish County signed an agreement with DNR to conduct a comprehensive survey of marine vegetation (eelgrass, understory kelp and other macroalgae) at 10 sites along the Snohomish estuary, from Hermosa Point (North of Tulalip Bay) down to Port Gardner, using methods developed for DNR's monitoring programs. This effort supplements existing and planned future sampling by DNR, and significantly increases the certainty in local estimates of eelgrass area and depth distribution over existing data from the Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Program (SVMP). It also serves as a pilot project for classification of other marine vegetation types, based on footage collected for the SVMP.

Main findings include:



1. Marine vegetation in the study area was dominated by eelgrass and green algae, which is expected for intertidal and shallow subtidal estuarine habitats dominated by sandy substrates.
2. The depth distribution of marine vegetation was similar to other sites in the Saratoga Whidbey basin, but more restricted in maximum depth as compared to Central Puget Sound.
3. We were able to assess change in eelgrass area at 6 out of the 10 sites sampled. Eelgrass area has increased over time at 3 sites along the shoreline between Mission Beach and Priest Point. Eelgrass has declined in Tulalip Bay and in the center of the Snohomish delta. The declines in Tulalip Bay are part of a longer-term trend. Declines at the center of the Snohomish delta may be due to natural variability at this highly dynamic site. Both locations are a priority for future monitoring.

The MRC discussed potential reasons for the eelgrass decline at the north end of Jetty Island. Considerations included increased sedimentation, as well as the impact of jet skis and windsurf recreation at that location. The MRC would like to follow up on possible information campaigns and restoration potential at this location. Lastly, Elisa presented a map showing the proposed eelgrass monitoring locations for 2021. Mapping this year would include Mukilteo, Picnic Point, Meadowdale, and towards Edmonds. One benefit of gathering this data in this location is to gather baseline data for Meadowdale, as well as more information in the areas we have previously monitored kelp beds. The goal is to gather the rest of the Snohomish County shoreline in 2022.

## **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** The next LIO meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 10:30. Tim will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the process for soliciting the next round of MRC grants will be coming in March. The NWSC is monitoring marine-resources related legislation and reported that Dana Oster will be giving a presentation on kelp to the legislature. The Puget Sound Partnership is seeking nominees for their science panel. Jefferson MRC reported that they have been approached by a robotics team which is looking for projects, and one project being considered is crab pot removal.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. The next sample events are February 25, March 15, and March 16. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **Meadowdale:** Meadowdale project was chosen for the Coastal Watershed Grants program and recently awarded \$250,000. This program supports projects to address urgent and challenging issues threatening our coast. Thanks to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Restore America's Estuaries for this grant.

- **Port Susan:** Alex, Elisa, and MRC Island County Staff Anna had a meeting UW Seattle Evans School Student Consulting Lab. There is the opportunity to possibly hire the Student Consulting Lab to assist with the 2021-2022 grant work. Consulting teams of three to five skilled Master of Public Administration (MPA) students dedicate approximately 10-12 hours of work each week for a period of five months (totaling 200-250 hours of work per student consultant). Students satisfy our capstone degree requirement by completing their projects over two academic quarters (January – May) and their work is supervised by experienced Evans School faculty.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Tom provided a brief overview of the 2020 Kelp Monitoring data, which was presented by Dana Oster from the NSWC at the upcoming Kelp Season 2020 Review Meeting. The MRC will begin preparing for 2021 monitoring this spring. There is an upcoming virtual kelp webinar hosted by Clallam MRC on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm, featuring NWSC science advisory committee member Tom Mumford.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa is working with Snohomish County Contracting staff to finalize the contract with NSWf for \$45K which will effectively double the funds available for removal in 2021. Alex and Elisa will be doing initial recon for 2021 removals in March, though removal won't occur until late summer. Next, SWM staff will be meeting with partners to create a strategic list of priority boats for 2021.
- Mike reported that Car Tires and Salmon Health Webinar Feb 19 at noon, more information was included in the meeting packet
- Susan reported that the virtual Starlight Beach Walk Event is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30PM.
- Natasha made note of an upcoming volunteer training opportunity for Green Crab Monitoring with Washington Sea Grant, to take place in March. Natasha to send additional information to the MRC.
- Laura noted that renovations to Kayak Point Park are planned for construction in 2022.
- Lincoln Loehr, citizen, made note of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program's (PSEMP) upcoming Annual Marine Waters Overview, scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30**

| MRC Members                   | Executive | MRC Grant/<br>Pilings Project | Derelict Vessels<br>(Elisa Leading) | Recreational<br>Fisheries<br>Education | Mussel Watch | MRC Outreach | Forage Fish<br>(Alex Leading) | Marine<br>Vegetation<br>Monitoring | Oil Spill | Meadowdale | Howarth Park/<br>Nearshore<br>Restoration | Port Susan |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---|------------|
| Mike Ehlebracht, Chair        | X         |                               |                                     |  | X            |              |                               |                                    |           | X          |   |            |
| Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair     |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               | X                                  |           |            |   |            |
| Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Tim Ellis, LIO & NWSC Rep     |           |                               |                                     |  |              | X            |                               |                                    |           |            | X   |            |
| Julie Schlenger               |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Laura Gurley                  |           | X                             |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            | X   |            |
| Kip Killebrew                 |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Sara Maxwell                  |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   | X          |
| Mike Sadler                   |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Brienne Townsend              |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Andrew Gobin                  |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| A. Michael Kundu              |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Susan Tarpley, Ex-Officio     |           |                               |                                     | X                                      |              |              |                               |                                    | X         |            |   |            |
| David Bain, Ex-Officio        |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>3</b>  | <b>7</b>                      | <b>3</b>                            | <b>3</b>                               | <b>9</b>     | <b>7</b>     | <b>9</b>                      | <b>7</b>                           | <b>6</b>  | <b>2</b>   | <b>4</b>                                  | <b>6</b>   |
| X = Project Lead              |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Key Subcommittee Member       |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |
| Subcommittee Member           |           |                               |                                     |  |              |              |                               |                                    |           |            |   |            |

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

March 17, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Laura Gurley<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Mike Sadler<br>Sara Maxwell<br>Kip Killebrew<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Michael Kundu<br><br><b>Absent</b><br>Andrew Gobin | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff<br><br><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br>David Bain, Citizen<br><br><b>Others</b><br>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br>Betsy Newnum, Citizen<br>Jon Baker, Citizen<br>Dana Oster, Northwest Straits Commission |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the February 2021 meeting minutes.</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webinar - Updates &amp; Follow Ups on the Vessel Encounter Module (Oil Spills): March 24 at 1:00</li><li>• Forage Fish Monitoring: April 14 and 15</li><li>• April MRC Meeting: April 21 at 6:30</li></ul>  |  |

### Welcome and Introductions

Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Kip Killebrew made a motion to approve the February 17, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Brienne Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### MRC 2020 Annual Report

Elisa Dawson facilitated a discussion to solicit feedback on the draft MRC 2020 Annual Report. The draft report was sent out for MRC review a week prior to the meeting. Several changes were made to the MRC report and were identified as items for discussion:

- Thanks to Lincoln Loehr for the cover photo!

- A page with MRC members and photos was added. MRC Members were asked to let Elisa know if they would like to change their photo.
- Staff photos were added to the last page.
- The 2020 financials and volunteer hours presented in the report were discussed in detail.
  - MRC Members suggested several revisions to this page aimed at highlighting the efficiency of the MRC and how grant funds and volunteer hours complement funding provided by SWM fees to provide rate payers with substantial value relative to their investment.
- The addition of a tribal acknowledgement was discussed. Elisa will follow up with Kip and Natasha about potential language to include in this report, while the MRC will continue discussions about establishing an official tribal acknowledgement for the longer-term.

Elisa will work with Communications staff to incorporate edits from the MRC. The final Annual Report will be submitted as a grant deliverable in early April.

### **Plastic Free Salish Sea – Earth Day Planning Update**

Mike Ehlebracht, Alex Pittman, Elisa Dawson, Mike Sadler, Brienne Townsend, Julie Schlenger, David Bain, and Heather T. (WSU Sustainable Community Stewards staff) met via conference call on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss further logistics for the Earth Day Plastic Free Salish Sea event idea.

The team decided that the trash collection/drop off time will be Earth Day, Thursday April 22 from 2-6PM. We are encouraging folks to go pick up trash along the shoreline that morning or afternoon, or they could even collect the day or two before, then bring their trash to our drop off locations to have the trash sorted. MRC, Beach Watcher, and WSU Waste Warrior volunteers will be onsite at each location to sort the trash and keep track of the weight of trash collected from the effort. We are also brainstorming a few ways for people to send in pictures of their trash which they can sort and weigh themselves at home, so we can crowdsource the information from folks who would prefer to just throw away their trash at home instead of coming to one of the drop-off locations.

Elisa is working with Meghan Jordan (PW-Communications) and we are making some marketing materials for the event. We will have some of those materials ready for sharing by 3/19. Additionally, Elisa is working with DCNR management to incorporate our event into a larger DCNR-Snohomish County Earth Day celebration.

We will be seeking volunteer to sign up for staffing the waste collection stations from 2-6PM on earth day:

District 1: Twin Rivers County Park

District 2: County Campus

District 3: Esperance County Park

District 4: McCollum County Park

District 5: Fairfield County Park

DCNR management is working with County Council to advertise the event and we should expect County Council to stop by at their respective locations on earth day. There will be a SnoCo staff member assigned to each one of these locations who will be responsible for making sure the

trash is properly disposed of at the end of the day. We want volunteers to be doing the main interaction/collection of waste.

### **European Green Crab Presentation – Natasha Coumou**

Natasha Coumou, MRC member and Restoration Ecologist with the Tulalip Tribes, gave a presentation on European Green Crab and the Tulalip Tribes monitoring plan. MRC members were asked to review a fact sheet and the green crab story map created by Washington Sea Grant (<https://uw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=807fd68b00ab4f99be1cfc4b87bd5a4f>) prior to the meeting.

Natasha explained that the European green crab (*Carcinus maenas*) is one of the most successful and damaging invasive species in the world, and that its recent arrival along Washington's inland shorelines poses a threat to critically important estuarine ecosystems, including native species and shellfish resources, as well as critical wildlife habitat.

Green crab were first detected on the West Coast in 1989, in San Francisco Bay. They were most likely accidentally transported in seaweed used as packing material for live seafood or bait, and genetic evidence indicates they originated on the US East Coast. In the years since, green crab established robust populations on the west coast of Vancouver Island and continued to spread northward. In most estuaries on the coast of Oregon and Washington, however, green crab have typically only been periodically abundant. This trend could be changing, as in recent years, there have been more consistent sightings in some Oregon and Washington coastal estuaries.

Finding populations at the earliest stage of invasion offers the best chance of preventing and reducing damage from European green crab. To get ahead of a potential invasion, Washington Sea Grant's Crab Team launched an early detection monitoring effort for invasive green crab in Washington's portion of the Salish Sea in 2015. Each spring and summer month, Crab Team volunteers and partners systematically search a large network of sites that offer suitable habitat for green crab for evidence of invasion.

Natasha discussed the Tulalip Tribes monitoring green crab monitoring plan, which will begin in April and run through September. Modeling has identified four sites within Snohomish County that are at greatest risk for damage by European green crab if they arrive, and Tulalip will be focusing their efforts on monitoring at these locations.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **MRC Mentorship:** Mike provided a brief check-in and update on the mentorship program for new members this year. For each of the first three months of the year, each new MRC member is being paired with a veteran MRC member to meet.
- **LIO:** Tim attended the February 25 LIO Meeting. Tim noted that presentations were made on the LIO's efforts to address nearshore septic systems in northern Snohomish County and on the Quiet Sound Program by WA Maritime Blue. The next LIO meeting is scheduled for May 20. Tim will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported on a number of items discussed at the February NWSC Meeting. Information was presented on the Maritime WA National

Heritage Site, and staff have made themselves available for potential presentations to individual MRCs. Lucas Hart (NWSF) noted that all noteworthy bills had cleared legislative committees and are moving forward. The External Relations Committee still includes \$910K in funding for MRCs. Peter Hasse with Skagit MRC noted that they have gotten 41 new Salish Sea Stewards on board. Jefferson MRC reported on a project to produce videos about people affected by climate change. Clallam MRC noted that their recent webinar on kelp monitoring was recorded and is now available.

- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. The next sample events are scheduled for April 14 and 15. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **Meadowdale:** Contractors are in-place for 2021 construction, though it is currently unable to progress due to an agreement waiting for approval by BNSF.
- **Port Susan:** The Port Susan subcommittee met jointly with Island County MRC on March 16 to finalize the discussion on scope of work for each MRC prior to beginning the process of preparing grant application documents. The plan is for the draft grant idea to be reviewed and discussed in more detail at the April MRC Meeting.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa is working with DNR on getting a contract together to monitor from Mukilteo to Edmonds area in 2021. While it may not be possible to monitor all the way to the County line, any leftover areas can be captured in a follow up effort, along with Port Susan, in 2022.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa noted that the NWSF contract for SWM to receive funds donated for derelict vessel removal was reviewed at the March 16 County Council Public Works Committee meeting. Alex and Elisa did initial recon field work in early March and are scheduling a conference call with the many stakeholders for mid April.
- **Starlight Beach Walk – WSU Beach Watchers Virtual Event Recap:** Susan Tarpley led a recap discussion of the Starlight Beach Walk, which took place on February 22. This was the first time this event had been held virtually, and there were upsides and downsides to this approach. There was lots of interest in the event, with over 70 registrations, though due to technical issues with logging into the webinar, a much smaller fraction of that was in attendance. There is interest in learning from these lessons and making adjustment for potential future virtual events, including potential summer follow up events.
- **NOAA Mukilteo:** Susan led a discussion about whether and how the MRC would like to respond to the recent announcement that the NOAA research lab in Mukilteo will not be rebuilt due to higher than expected contractor bids. The decision was ultimately made to forego official involvement by the MRC.
- **Volunteer Hours to Alex by April 2.**

- **Elisa out of office from March 19 – April 5.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30**



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

April 21, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

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|--|--|
| <p><b>MRC Members Present</b><br/>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br/>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br/>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br/>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br/>Laura Gurley<br/>Julie Schlenger<br/>Mike Sadler<br/>Sara Maxwell<br/>Kip Killebrew<br/>Brienne Townsend<br/>Andrew Gobin</p> <p><b>Absent</b><br/>Michael Kundu – excused</p> | <p><b>Staff</b><br/>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br/>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br/>Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br/>David Bain, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b><br/>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br/>Jon Baker, Citizen</p> |
| <p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The MRC approved the March 2021 meeting minutes.</li></ul>  |  |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Kelp Monitoring Kick-off Meeting: May 6 1PM-4PM</li><li>● Forage Fish Monitoring: April 26, May 18, and May 19</li><li>● Next MRC Meeting: May 19 at 6:30</li><li>● Snohomish LIO Implementation Meeting May 20</li></ul>  |  |

### Welcome and Introductions

Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Tom introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Kip Killebrew made a motion to approve the March 17, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Tim Ellis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### MRC 2021-2022 Grant Draft Application

Sara Maxwell and Alex Pittman gave an overview of the draft grant application for 2021-2022 which focuses on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. Between 2009 and 2012, over 30 federal, state, local, tribal and non-profit partners worked to create a conservation action plan for

the area associated with Port Susan which culminated in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area. The Conservation Action Plan is unique in that it addresses target species and habitats and looks to encompass a wide range of issues, strategies and contributors. The final plan was adopted by the Snohomish County and Island County Marine Resource Committees, and Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes in 2012. The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) was officially designated by the Snohomish County Council in 2014.

A report card was completed in 2014, which captured progress on the following 7 key conservation targets of the plan: shorebirds, shellfish, beaches, forage fish, chinook salmon, deltas, and Dungeness crab. The report card is an important communication tool for connecting project partners, demonstrating success that is occurring across the landscape, and galvanizing new efforts. This proposed project for the MRC 2021-2022 grant is to work in collaboration with Island County MRC to update the report card. This work will continue the initial work of the first Port Susan MSA Conservation Action Plan Report Card by updating the science, recommendations and actions of the initial Port Susan MSA plan and reengaging stakeholders in the area to assist in helping update the strategic objectives and actions identified in the original plan.

Alex walked the MRC through the draft grant application and asked specifically for feedback on the outcomes, deliverables and project partners, as well as general comments. The MRC brought up the importance of addressing climate change and sea level rise in the new science piece and emphasized the importance of adding the United States Geologic Service (USGS) as an important project partner. USGS has been collecting sea level rise and storm surge data in Port Susan. The MRC commented that an agriculture partner should be added to the stakeholder list. MRC staff will add Snohomish Conservation District to the list of stakeholders and seek input from them on additional agriculture partners who should be added to this list.

Alex will work with the Port Susan Subcommittee to complete edits to the draft. The MRC was encouraged to provide additional edits over the next month as well. A proposed final draft will be made available prior to the next MRC meeting in May, and the MRC will be asked to approve the proposed plan at the May 19 meeting.

### **Plastic Free Salish Sea Earth Day**

Elisa shared the final marketing materials for Earth Day, which included social media posts, press releases, and posters. Earth Day is tomorrow, April 22, and volunteers have been organized and assigned to the following locations:

District 1: Twin Rivers County Park – Michael Kundu and Kip Killebrew

District 2: County Campus – Alex Pittman and Natasha Coumou

District 3: Esperance County Park – Julie Schlenger and Brie Townsend

District 4: McCollum County Park – Jon Baker and Susan Tarpley

District 5: Fairfield County Park – Elisa Dawson

Additionally, volunteers from WSU Waste Warriors will also be meeting the MRC volunteers at each location. Volunteers were asked to arrive at 1:30, where a SWM staff members will meet them to drop off the materials. Volunteers should bring their own sturdy gloves, water bottle and snacks, as well as a camp chair. Several Council Members have said they will be participating in the event, as well as the Department of Natural Resources Washington Conservation Corps crew, and local Beach Watchers. The MRC will host a follow up conversation after the event to talk about what worked well and lessons learned.

## Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** There has been no LIO meeting in the last month. The next LIO meeting is scheduled for May 20. Tim will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the NWSC has decided to host the MRC 2021 conference virtually again. The date has been set for October 29, and more information on speakers will be available this summer. Tim also made note of several items from the March 26 NWSC meeting, including the continuing work on the NWSI tribal acknowledgement, NWSF's Passport to Marine Adventure, the Science Advisory Committee's discussion of communications and the lack of discussion on challenges or difficulties, as well as updates on projects and programs from San Juan MRC, Jefferson MRC, and Island MRC.
- **Puget Sound Day on the Hill:** Tim reported that Puget Sound Day on the Hill is virtual this year. This is a series of virtual events where MRC Members are encouraged to interact with members of congress and talk about Puget Sound recovery. The first session starts Friday April 23 which will discuss Puget Sound restoration and protection, salmon recovery efforts, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and infrastructure, among other topics, with Rep. Derek Kilmer, Rep. Marilyn Strickland, and Rep. Suzan DelBene.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the kelp season kick-off meeting is scheduled for May 6. Tom is working on scheduling the kelp monitoring dates in Snohomish County for July and August. The team expects to monitor Edmonds, Meadowdale, and Mukilteo in July, and Edmonds and Hat Island in August.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa provided a report of the April 16 stakeholder meeting. She also reported that the contract with the NWSF has been finalized. On April 12 the Everett Herald published an article on the recent donation: [Everett couple writes check to clean up the Snohomish River | HeraldNet.com](#)
- **Pilings Phase 2:** Laura reported that the pilings stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for May 26. At this meeting the stakeholders will discuss the current status and information on the pilings and discuss ideas for possible removal. Alex noted that Ben Cooksey at DNR is currently assisting with sorting out piling ownership near property boundaries, with the hopes that this work will be completed prior to the stakeholder meeting.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted, and masks and social distancing are required but possible during this field work. The next sample events are scheduled for April 26, May 18, and May 19. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that the project is still uncertain if it will go to construction in 2021 or 2022. The decision should be made in mid-May.

- **NOAA Mukilteo:** Susan reported that while local leaders have sent letters to Federal Officials about the facility, NOAA still does not plan to move forward on building the facility. Local officials are in the process of dealing with the vacant parcel now.
- MRC Member Mike Sadler announced he will be resigning from the MRC to attend the University of Washington for a Ph.D. The MRC wished him well on his next adventure!

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

May 19, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

**\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\***

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|--|--|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Laura Gurley<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Sara Maxwell<br>Kip Killebrew<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Andrew Gobin<br>Michael Kundu  | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff<br><br><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br>David Bain, Citizen<br><br><b>Others</b><br>Jon Baker, Citizen<br>Phil Salditt, Citizen<br>Eric Adams, Citizen<br>Dana Oster, NWSC<br>Barbara Bennet, Island MRC<br>Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers<br>Matt Pouley, Tulalip Tribes |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the April 2021 meeting minutes.</li><li>• The MRC approved the 2021-2022 NWSC Grant Application.</li></ul>  |  |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snohomish LIO Implementation Meeting May 20</li><li>• MRC 2020 Annual Report to County Council: May 25</li><li>• Snohomish Estuary Pilings Collaborative Meeting: May 26</li><li>• Port Susan Project Presentation to NWSC: May 28</li><li>• Port Susan Joint Committee Meeting with Island MRC: June 9</li><li>• Forage Fish Monitoring: June 15 &amp; 16</li><li>• Next MRC Meeting: June 16 at 6:30</li></ul> |  |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Kip Killebrew seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **MRC 2021-2022 Grant Draft Application**

Sara Maxwell and Alex Pittman facilitated a conversation and solicited input and feedback on the Port Susan Report Card Update Grant Application for the NWSC. They first provided a brief overview of the proposed project and the discussion from the April 2021 MRC meeting.

Alex then walked the MRC through the updated application draft. In particular, the made note of revisions which were made as a result of last month’s discussion and comments received from Island MRC and NWSC staff. Special focus was given to responses related to outcomes and deliverables.

Alex then provided a brief overview of the proposed grant budget.

Sara and Alex then provided a brief overview of next steps. Both the Snohomish and Island MRCs will be presenting the Port Susan project to the NWSC on May 28th. The joint Snohomish-Island Port Susan team will meet in early June for a final discussion of the complementary applications prior to submittal to the NWSC.

Before closing, Sara and Alex emphasized that this is a unique opportunity for the MRC to leverage grant dollars to move meaningful projects forward. Feedback provided by the MRC now will be used to develop the final application, which will be submitted to the NWSC in early June.

The grant application was approved for submittal to the NWSC by consensus.

### **Earth Day Review and Plastic Free Salish Sea Next Steps**

Mike Ehlebracht and Elisa Dawson provided a recap of the MRC’s Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup Event and presented the following information from the MRC.

#### Earth Day Final Stats:

- 900 pounds of total trash picked up
- 554 pounds delivered to drop off stations. Drop-off breakdown:

| Type                         | McCollum  | Campus    | Monroe     | Arlington  | Edmonds    | Total      |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Plastics                     | 12        | 9         | 5          | 6          | 30         | 62         |
| Metals                       | 5         | 3         | 59         | 12         | 34         | 113        |
| Glass                        | 12        | 9         | 7          | 24         | 14         | 66         |
| Organics                     | 11        | 0         | 13         | 4          | 7          | 35         |
| Dog Poop Bags<br>48 dog bags | 2         | 3         | 9          | 2          | 7          | 23         |
| Other                        | 14        | 29        | 14         | 186        | 12         | 255        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>56</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>107</b> | <b>234</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>554</b> |

- 53 people delivered trash to drop off locations
- 350+ additional pounds of trash were collected by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources WCC crew, Mike Ehlebracht, and three other individuals who emailed Elisa.

WSU and the MRC have a meeting scheduled for May 20 to discuss the following:

- What went well
- What could be improved
- EPA's Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol and effort to list trash under the stormwater permit
  - <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools>
- Ideas for future clean up events
- Other ways to reach out about the Plastic Free Salish Sea Campaign
- Other comments/thoughts

Mike and Elisa noted that anyone is welcome to join the May 20 meeting. Mike opened a discussion to solicit ideas and input for next steps on Plastic Free Salish Sea outreach. MRC Members provided feedback on their involvement in this year's initial shoreline cleanup event and provided ideas for improving events like these moving forward. Suggestions included doing reconnaissance of potential shoreline locations and focusing efforts on areas that need cleaning up and setting of drop-off locations near these sites. Members also suggested engaging with students and kids, creating some sort of a competition or a treasure hunt with prizes, and discussed other opportunities for holding more in-person events and making it more of a community engagement event.

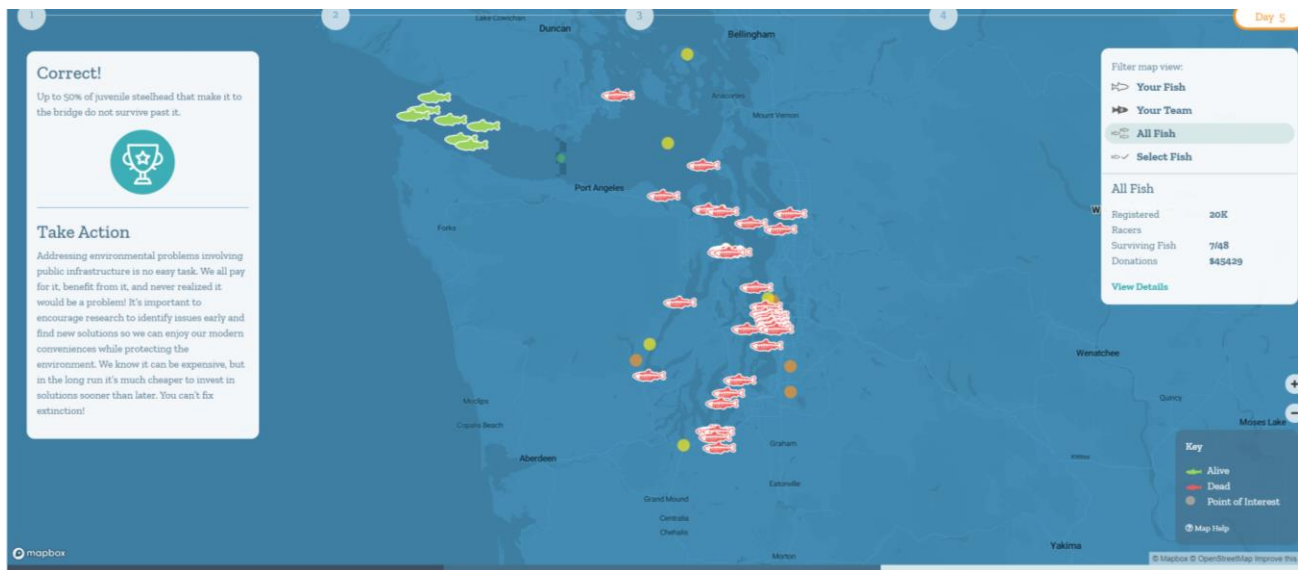
Elisa suggested working with WSU on continued shoreline cleanups and is working on adding this idea to the Reimbursable Services Agreement (yearly contract) SWM has with WSU. The yearly contract focuses on stormwater pollution under the NPDES permit, and the shoreline cleanup idea and using the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol would be a good fit into this contract.

### **Survive the Sound Review**

Elisa Dawson provided a brief recap of Survive the Sound, the interactive online game based on salmon migration through the Puget Sound hosted by Long Live the Kings. Snohomish MRC members had been encouraged to join the game on a team hosted by the Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI).

#### Final Stats:

- We had 34 people on the NWSI team, only 3 fish from our team survived.
- 7 total fish made it to the finish line of the 48 fish you could choose from.



- Screenshare website: [Survive the Sound - Fish Tracking](#)

## Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** There has been no LIO meeting in the last month. The next LIO meeting is scheduled for May 20. Tim and Elisa will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the full notes from the April 30 NWSC meeting are included in the MRC meeting packet but made note of several items. Tim reported on the NWSC's efforts to track and catch European Green Crab in Drayton Harbor, and that UW is pursuing DNA tracking of green crab captures. Elsa Schwartz is the new NWSC Chair and Tom Cowen is the new Vice-Chair. The Salish Sea Stewards received 41 applications, and there are 39 registered in the newest class.
- **Puget Sound Day on the Hill:** Tim reported that Puget Sound Day on the Hill is virtual this year. This is a series of virtual events where MRC Members are encouraged to take some time to interact with our members of congress and talk about Puget Sound Recovery. MRC Members are welcome and encouraged to attend and when you register you can ask questions ahead of time of our representatives. Last session is Friday May 21.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the kelp season kick-off meeting, hosted by the NWSC, was held on May 6. Scheduled monitoring dates for July and August include the following:
  - **All Three Sites:** July 12, 13, and 14, with back-up dates of July 21, 22, 23.
  - **Edmonds Round 2:** August 9 or 20
  - **Hat Island (SWM Staff):** August 10 or 18

Julie and Alex are signed up for a kayak safety class on June 5. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund is coordinating a Kelp Expedition and will be in Edmonds on July 19 for some monitoring work.



- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa provided an update of the County's Derelict Vessel plans for 2021. The plan is to go to bid on three boats in July. Elisa and Alex will go out in late June to capture updated photos of the three boats planned for removal. A notice to mariners will be required for the removal of the *Confusion*, due to its location in a high-traffic area.
- **Pilings Phase 2:** Laura reported that the pilings stakeholder meeting is scheduled for May 26. At this meeting the stakeholders will discuss the current status and information on the pilings and discuss ideas for possible removal. Ben Cooksey with DNR reviewed lease information for the five focus areas identified by the MRC and found few instances of lease information complicating our understanding of piling ownership within the focus areas. Alex is working on pulling maps of the County's pilings. While the County doesn't own many creosote pilings, there are high priority pilings owned by the County. Alex and Elisa will be working internally with SWM over the next few months to identify possible County projects.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted and must follow the current mask and/or social distance requirements. The next sample events are scheduled for June 15 and 16. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **NWSC Letter of Support Request:** Elisa included a copy of the final letter signed by the County Executive and Council in the meeting packet. Elisa noted that the County has sent letters like this in the past, and this letter is to support an effort to increase federal funding levels to the NWSC.
- **NWSC Shoreline Master Plan Request:** Barbara Bennett of Island MRC and Dana Oster discussed an ad hoc workgroup they are forming to discuss possible shared strategies for MRCs as they provide input on their County's Shoreline Master Plan Updates, and to solicit any interested MRC members to join.
- **MRC 2020 Annual Report Presentation to Council:** Mike will be presenting the MRC's 2020 Annual Report to Snohomish County Council on May 25.
- **Crabber Education & Outreach:** Laura & Elisa discussed the initial planning discussion that occurred on May 13. MRC Members were asked if there was interest in hosting in-person outreach activities for opening day this year, given the easing of COVID cases and restrictions. Several folks (Laura Gurley, Brie Townsend, Kip Killebrew, and Phil Salditt) expressed interest and availability for volunteering. Opening day is expected to be on or near July 3, though we won't know for sure until mid-June.
- **August MRC Picnic:** Elisa also opened it up to the MRC to see if there was interest in hosting an in-person, outdoor event for the August MRC Meeting/Picnic. There was a general consensus of interest in tentatively moving forward with this plan.

**Kip Killebrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Natasha Coumou seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

June 16, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Kip Killebrew<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Michael Kundu<br><br>Absent:<br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair (excused)<br>Andrew Gobin (excused)<br>Laura Gurley (excused)<br>Sara Maxwell (excused)   | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff<br><br><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>David Bain, Citizen<br><br><b>Others</b><br>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br>Karen Anderson, Snohomish County Executive's Office |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the May 2021 meeting minutes.</li></ul>   |  |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northwest Straits Commission Meeting June 25</li><li>• Crabber Education workshop with the NWSF June 30</li><li>• Oil Spill webinar June 30</li><li>• Crabber Education at 10<sup>th</sup> street boat launch – July 1, 3, and 10</li><li>• Kelp Monitoring July 13, 14, 21, 22, 23</li><li>• Puget Sound Restoration Fund at Edmonds on July 19</li><li>• Marine Survival North Sound Workshop July 20</li><li>• Next MRC Meeting: July 21 at 6:30</li><li>• Forage fish monitoring July 26</li></ul> |  |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **MRC Pilings Project Update**

Elisa gave the update due to Laura Gurley's absence from the meeting. The Snohomish Estuary Piling Prioritization Project Stakeholder Meeting was on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was to gather stakeholders and partners from the Snohomish River Estuary to review the inventory of pilings and prioritization process, as well as to discuss opportunities for piling removal.

Attendees included Snohomish County, City of Everett, Port of Everett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Natural Resources, City of Marysville, and the Tulalip Tribes. The meeting was facilitated by the MRC's consultant, ESA. The meeting included an overview of the MRC's project to inventory and prioritize the 15,564 pilings in the Snohomish Estuary and the focus areas chosen for further discussion. The group also discussed mitigation in relation to pilings. The MRC and ESA consultant team will be following up with stakeholders in smaller conversations to discuss more about possible removal projects in-depth.

Elisa asked the MRC what their ideas are for how to continue to move this project forward as we come to the end of the grant period. Ideas brainstormed during the meeting were:

- Physically mark creosote piles and high priority piles in some way that is visible. While this would increase awareness of the piles, the MRC discussed needing access from the other jurisdictions for piles not owned by Snohomish County.
- Reach out to private entities about the piles. Thus far, the MRC has only interacted with public entities.
- Research other large-scale piling removal projects by Washington Department of Natural Resources or in other states on how they went from identifying piles to implementation.
- Research funding opportunities both for private and public entities to do piling removal. Create a list of funding opportunities and advocate for additional opportunities for funding.
- Continue conversations and research on mitigation banks and advanced mitigation opportunities with pilings.
- Continue conversations with DNR for a large-scale project and opportunities for a special allocation in the state budget to do removal.
- Continue working with local public entities on connecting dots for when people are already out doing projects and if they can they also remove piles while they're out there. Continue conversations on how we can work together to reduce operational costs of piling removal by collaborating on projects.

The MRC's consultant, ESA, who has been working on this project will present at the July meeting and the MRC will continue this conversation then.

## **Plastic Free Salish Sea and International Coastal Cleanup Day September 18, 2021**

Mike Ehlebracht gave an overview of the May 20<sup>th</sup> follow up meeting with WSU which discussed the Earth Day event and ideas for future events. Overall, the group felt the Earth Day event was a success which was able to adjust to COVID safety measures. The group enjoyed the MRC and WSU collaboration. For future events there is a need for more signage, the group

would like to consider alternate locations, include more safety information and prep, and wants to consider other ways to gather data beyond just weight.

For next steps, the group has proposed planning a clean-up event for International Coastal Cleanup Day, which is September 18<sup>th</sup>. The idea is to host an in-person event at one location using EPA's Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools>, and partner with Zero Waste Washington's work to document trash as a pollutant in Puget Sound. WSU Waste Warriors and WSU Beach Watchers would like to partner with the MRC on this event. The team has decided on Kayak Point Park for the event, and Snohomish County Parks has approved the location and will offer parking passes to volunteers.

Elisa will be sending out a Doodle Poll to schedule a call in July for the planning team. Julie suggested the team continue to consider messaging and how we engage people in this work. The MRC discussed reaching out to specific student groups, volunteer groups, and partnering with other organizations. Additionally, the MRC would like to do a reconnaissance of the Kayak Point area a week before to get an idea of the amount of trash and will also look at tides before decided on specific times for the clean-up on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Port Susan Grant Presentation to NWSC and Application**

Due to Sara's absence, Tim gave an overview of Sara's presentation to the Northwest Straits Commission on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Tim reported Scott Chase gave Island County's presentation in coordination and presented before Sara. Scott's presentation focused on the history of Port Susan and the planning effort that happened from 2009 – 2012 in order to create the Port Susan MSA Plan. Sara went next and gave an overview of the grant proposal for reviewing the Plan and updating the Report Card. Both presentations were well received, and the comments and questions from the Northwest Straits Commission did not result in any significant revisions to the grant application. The final grant application was submitted June 8<sup>th</sup>. Funding will start October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Alex reported that the Port Susan joint subcommittee with Island and Snohomish MRC had their fifth meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The joint subcommittee discussed the Evans School student consulting lab application. Applications must be accepted by UW faculty before being presented to students for consideration. As such, the committee discussed how to adjust the proposal to appeal to student's interests. Beyond the scientific review at the core of this proposal, this could include additional review of policy changes and recommendations, recommendations for engaging the public and stakeholders with the scientific information, recommendations for addressing environmental justice considerations, and providing opportunities for students to participate in the locally-led collaborative process of the larger project. Island County is leading this effort and will share a draft with the group by the end of June. The group will have until July 28<sup>th</sup> to add written comments. The group will meet again in early-mid August to discuss final changes. The application is due in early September.

The MRC asked if it is possible to create a short video pitch to the Evans School to go along with our application. Alex and the joint subcommittee will bring this to the group to discuss and reach out to the Evans School about opportunities. The MRC discussed the importance of emphasizing

our locally led process in the application, and the desire to collaborate with students. Overall, the MRC is looking forward to the opportunity to work with Evans School students.

## Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** Tim reported that he and Elisa attended the LIO meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a presentation by the Snohomish Health District on their septic program. The group also discussed the draft strategies for the new Action Agenda. Tim will be participating in the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO activity to rank the new strategies of the Action Agenda.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that at the last NWSC meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup> Snohomish, Island, and San Juan County MRC's presented their 2021-2022 grant ideas. The next meeting is June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Jefferson, Clallam, Whatcom, and Skagit will present their NWSC grant information.
- **MRC Annual Report Presentation to Council on May 25<sup>th</sup>:** Mike gave the Snohomish MRC's report to council which was recorded and can be viewed here: [http://snohomish.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=18&clip\\_id=7946](http://snohomish.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=18&clip_id=7946). The presentation was very well received from Council and Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources management.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that Alex and Julie have completed their kelp safety training, and Brie will complete hers in July. The team is ready for their monitoring this summer. Scheduled monitoring dates for July and August include the following:
  - **All Three Sites:** July 13 and 14, with additional dates of July 21, 22, 23.
  - **Edmonds Round 2:** August 9 or 20
  - **Hat Island (SWM Staff):** August 10 or 18

Additionally, the Puget Sound Restoration Fund is coordinating a Kelp Expedition and will be in Edmonds on July 19 for some monitoring work.

- **Crabber Outreach:** The MRC plans to do in-person outreach at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street boat launch in Everett. Supplies for outreach include packets with best management rack card info, maps, rot cord, bait clips, crab gauges, and rock fish descenders. The MRC discussed the recent announcement that crab opening will be July 1. The crab team will finalize dates and is still seeking volunteers. Elisa asked those who would like to volunteer to reach out to her.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC monitored two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park in June. Meadowdale Beach is going to be closed for construction, and monitoring is going to stop at Meadowdale until after construction. Moving forward, forage fish monitoring will be consolidated into one day per month and include Picnic Point and Howarth Park. Volunteers are permitted and must follow the current mask and/or social distance requirements. The next sample event is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.

- **Meadowdale:** Elisa announced that Meadowdale is going to construction and the beach closed for construction on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The project is expected to be complete summer or fall of 2022.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Elisa reported that the marine vegetation contract with Washington Department of Natural Resources is being reviewed by county and state lawyers. The contract is expected to be signed in early July and monitoring will happen August and September.
- **NWSC Shoreline Master Plan Request:** Natasha, Alex, and Elisa attended the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Northwest Straits Commission and other MRCs to discuss how MRCs approach shoreline master plan engagement. The goal of this group meeting is to try to coordinate on the MRCs input on local SMPs and share ideas on how we can be involved. There will be future meetings to discuss additional SMP ideas and how MRCs can be involved in their local process. David Bain requested to be added to the group working on this.
- **August MRC Picnic:** Elisa said that the Mukilteo Rose Hill Christiansen Room is available for August 18<sup>th</sup>. The MRC agreed on the location. Elisa will reserve the room from 5PM-9PM.
- MRC member volunteer hours for the second quarter are due to Alex by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mike Ehlebracht reported that he is serving on a technical committee looking into 6PPD-quinone which comes from tires and has been recently demonstrated by researches to be the cause of Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS) in coho salmon.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:27.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

July 21, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Kip Killebrew<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Michael Kundu<br>Andrew Gobin<br>Laura Gurley<br>Sara Maxwell<br><br><b>Absent</b><br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br>(excused)   | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff<br><br><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>David Bain, Citizen<br>Susan Tarpley, Citizen<br><br><b>Others</b><br>Traci Sanderson, Citizen<br>Phil Salditt, Citizen<br>Kendall Norcott, Citizen<br>Susan Curtis, Citizen<br>Jonathan Robinson, WSU Snohomish Beach Watchers<br>Jonathan Hallenbeck, Northwest Straits Commission<br>Paul Schlenger, Environmental Science Associates<br>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the June 2021 meeting minutes.</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Northwest Straits Commission Meeting:</b> July 30</li><li>• <b>Oil Spill Webinars:</b> July 14, 28 and August 18</li><li>• <b>Kelp Monitoring:</b> July 22, 23 and August 9, 20</li><li>• <b>MRC August Picnic:</b> August 18 at 6:30</li><li>• <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> September 15 at 6:30</li><li>• <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> July 28</li></ul> |   |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Kip Killebrew made a motion to approve the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### MRC Pilings Project Update – Presentation by ESA Consultants

Paul Schlenger, with Environmental Science Associates, provided a presentation on Phase 2 of the Pilings Project, which has focused on stakeholder engagement to explore options for removing pilings inventoried in the Snohomish Estuary during Phase 1 of the project.

In this phase, the MRC began implementation planning with public and tribal piling owners to facilitate voluntary removal. Based on the inventory and prioritization results of Phase 1, the MRC selected five areas to focus initial stakeholder discussions for removing pilings. The areas were selected based on multiple considerations, including concentration of creosote- pilings, concentration of high priority pilings, and ownership by public and tribal landowners. For each area, a fact sheet was prepared to summarize the project and effects of pilings in the estuary.

The MRC convened meetings with public and tribal landowners in the project area. The first stakeholder meeting was a group meeting to introduce the project, answer questions, and gauge interest in removal projects. All public and tribal stakeholders with pilings in the project area were invited and attended. The public and tribal stakeholders who participated were Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Port of Everett (Port), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), City of Everett, City of Marysville, Snohomish County, and the Tulalip Tribes.

Paul shared some key takeaways from conversations with each stakeholder:

- **DNR:** DNR is an ideal partner, in part because they have all the permits and extensive experience. Some pilings on state-owned aquatic lands may be associated with an Aquatic Land Lease and may be the responsibility of a lessee.
- **Port & Corps:** The Port is open to participating but needs to keep pilings that have mitigation value for them until they can receive credit for them. The Port has some projects upcoming which will remove pilings as mitigation. Other upcoming projects involving dredging are unlikely to be able to include piling removal because different equipment is needed. The Corps has a functional training dike on a Port-owned parcel. Otherwise, the Corps has no piling uses in the estuary that would prevent pilings from being removed.
- **City of Everett:** The City of Everett plans to remove many pilings in the Public Works Yard high priority area as mitigation for an upcoming project.
- **City of Marysville:** The City of Marysville has upcoming projects along their waterfront where piling removals and/or replacements may occur. All pilings in the stretch between Interstate-5 and State Route 529 will be removed at some point for mitigation credits.
- **Snohomish County:** The County can get piling removals on the 2023 Surface Water Management work plan if the benefits rank high enough. There are potential opportunities to include piling removal in other projects being considered for North Spencer and Smith Island. Small piling removal projects could be funded if there is an end-of-year surplus.
- **Tulalip Tribes:** All pilings within the Tulalip Reservation are under the Tulalip Tribes' regulatory authority regardless of parcel ownership in the parcel database. Before approving piling removal, the tribes will want to consider whether they will have future uses of the pilings. The Tulalip Tribes have been in discussions with DNR on diffuse creosote-removal, especially in the Quilceda estuary. Removal of the high density of creosote-treated pilings near the Quilceda estuary is of interest for the tribes.

Following Paul's presentation, the MRC asked questions and engaged in discussion about opportunities for moving forward. In response to a question about LIO funding, Elisa noted that the MRC currently has an ask into the LIO for NTA funding for piling removal. In discussing stakeholder questions about whether there may or may not be more creosote pilings than included in the inventory, Kip questioned whether there might be archival information available about who installed pilings, when, and whether they're creosote. While this is possible, anecdotal



evidence suggests that this is largely lacking. The MRC discussed options for a limited study to ground truth the creosote attribution and determine whether additional investigation is necessary.

### **Crabber Education and Outreach Recap**

The NWSF held their Crabber Workshop in partnership with WDFW on June 30<sup>th</sup>. 349 households registered for the event. The recording is available online and has received 130 views.

Volunteers with the MRC were out talking to crabbers at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch in Everett on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers spoke with approximately 800 crabbers and handed out supplies and outreach materials listed below. Thanks to all of those who participated: Brie, Elisa, Alex, Phil, Kip, Bob, Laura, and WSU Beach Watcher intern Rachel and other Beach Watchers.

Volunteers handed out:

- Packets with BMP rack cards, charts, rot cord, WDFW brochure
- More cotton cord, bait clips, crab gauges, Rock fish descenders

Snohomish County has also been posting social media posts, there was a press release, and radio ads on Everett's Greatest Hits KRKO, and Classic Country KKXA. The County's boosted social media post ran from July 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, and reached 2988 people, with 120 link clicks and 3 comments, for a total cost of 17 cents per click.

The MRC engaged in discussion about how best to engage with folks who claim that their pots are stolen, understanding that there is a greater likelihood that they have actually been lost. Suggestions centered on educating these folks about how many crab pots are lost in Puget Sound each year (over 10K/year), as they are likely unaware of how common this is.

There was discussion of the possibility of posting information at stores ahead of time and throughout the season. The MRC has conducted outreach like this in the past, but it requires a dedicated volunteer to restock supplies regularly and build relationships with store staff.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim reported that he is participating in the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO activity to rank the new strategies of the Action Agenda. This included a meeting to assign High, Medium, and Low assignments for 151 draft strategies.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that at the last NWSC meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> the Jefferson, Clallam, Whatcom, and Skagit MRCs presented their 2021-22 NWSC grant information. Other noteworthy items included a discussion of NWSC history, Skagit MRCs Salish Sea Stewards report, the NWSC Tribal Acknowledgement being vetted and ready for adoption, and an update on Green Crab monitoring.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the Kelp team have begun surveying, including July 13<sup>th</sup> at Mukilteo and July 14<sup>th</sup> at Meadowdale. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund's Kelp Expedition visited Edmonds on July 19<sup>th</sup> for monitoring work, and Tom met staff from DNR while they captured drone footage of kelp in Edmonds on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional scheduled monitoring dates for July and August include the following:
  - **Edmonds Round 1:** July 22 or 23
  - **Edmonds Round 2:** August 9 or 20
  - **Hat Island (SWM Staff):** August 10 or 18

- **Forage Fish:** The next Forage Fish monitoring date is scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup> at Picnic Point and Howarth Park. Meadowdale Beach is going to be closed for construction, and monitoring will not occur until after construction. Moving forward, monitoring will be consolidated into one day per month to include Picnic Point and Howarth Park. Volunteers are permitted and must follow the current COVID safety protocols.
 

Alex reported that WDFW has secured their WCC crew for another year, so the monitoring program will continue as it has after it appeared they may lose their crew.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that this project is currently under construction. The access road is having improvements done to accommodate heavy machinery onsite. On July 9 local politicians and advocates assembled for a tour of Meadowdale Beach. Among the speakers were U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, state Sen. Marko Liias, Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson, and Snohomish County Councilmember Megan Dunn. More information about this visit can be found in an Everett Herald article about the project and visit: <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/at-meadowdale-beach-the-salmon-will-return-to-a-new-estuary/>
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that SWM will be posting four derelict vessels for removal in 2021. Additionally, two new vessels appeared at Howarth Park recently. Elisa is coordinating with the City of Everett Police Department to support their efforts to remove these vessels.
- **NWSC Shoreline Master Plan Advisory Group:** Alex is collecting notes on topics the Snohomish MRC subcommittee would like to investigate. Participating MRCs will be submitting a list of their top topics of interest to identify common areas of interest to focus on moving forward. The goal of this group is to try to coordinate the MRCs input on local SMPs and share ideas on how we can be involved. There will be future meetings to discuss additional SMP ideas and how MRCs can be involved in their local process.
- **Cleanup Event at Kayak Point Park on September 18<sup>th</sup>:** The MRC Outreach Subcommittee held a planning meeting for this event on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The MRC will host a beach cleanup event on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9AM-12PM at Kayak Point County Park for International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event is in coordination with the WSU Beach Watchers, WSU Waste Warriors, and Zero Waste Washington, and will utilize the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol developed by the EPA.
- **Oil Spill Workshops**
  - The Washington State Department of Ecology will be hosting free one-day event focusing on the various stages of a marine mammal response during oil spills on September 8, 2021. MRC Members are encouraged to attend.
  - The Oil Spill subcommittee has been attending Ecology's Model 101 Presentations and technical discussions on anchorages and probability. The subcommittee will meet in August to recap the webinars and discuss next steps.
- **August MRC Picnic:** Elisa said that the Mukilteo Rose Hill Christiansen Room has been booked for August 18<sup>th</sup> and is reserved from 5PM-9PM. Official start will be 6:30PM.
- **Port Susan:** Alex reported that Island County is leading the effort to apply to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab to support the effort to review new science relevant to Port Susan. Applications are due August 31<sup>st</sup>. Joint subcommittee members are providing comments on the draft application by July 28<sup>th</sup>.

- **Howarth Park/Nearshore Restoration:** Per the MRC 2021 Work Plan, a subcommittee meeting will occur in late summer to discuss opportunities and next steps.
- **Mussel Watch:** Elisa reported that WDFW will be doing another round of mussel monitoring in the greater Puget Sound in the fall/winter of 2021-22. Deployment is expected in November, and we will retrieve in January of February 2022. Edmonds Marine and Tulalip Bay are on the list. Might be adding more in Snohomish County. New volunteers need to register with WDFW: [Department of Fish and Wildlife Volunteer Program - Volunteer Console \(cervistech.com\)](#)
  - **Map of sites:** [2021-22 WDFW Mussel Monitoring Sites - Google My Maps](#)
- **Caroline Gibson:** It is with a heavy heart we heard about the passing of Caroline Gibson, who worked for the NWSF. In honor of the enduring legacy Caroline Gibson made to the Salish Sea, the Northwest Straits Foundation announced the establishment of the Caroline Gibson Scholarship in Marine Studies. It supports the next generation of marine conservationists through applied academic scholarships in science, policy and management for sustaining the Salish Sea. The NWSF goal is to establish a permanent fund for granting annual scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:36.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

September 15, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Michael Kundu<br>Andrew Gobin<br>Laura Gurley  | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff |
| <b>Absent</b><br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair (excused)<br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair (excused)<br>Sara Maxwell (excused)<br>Kip Killebrew (excused)  | <b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>David Bain, Citizen<br>Susan Tarpley, Citizen                            |
| <b>Others</b><br>Sasha Horst, Northwest Straits Commission<br>Mariko Langness, WDFW<br>Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers<br>Dawn Presler, Snohomish PUD  |   |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None. The MRC will vote on the July MRC meeting minutes in October.</li></ul>  |   |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MRC Presentation to Stillaguamish Watershed Council on Port Susan September 22.</li><li>• SMP Learning Group September 23</li><li>• Penn Cove Mussel Preparation October 18-20</li><li>• MRC Presentation to the Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee on Port Susan on October 20</li><li>• Next MRC meeting October 20</li></ul> |   |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Tom introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

The MRC did not have a quorum and therefore did not vote on approval of the July meeting minutes. The July meeting minutes will be reviewed and voted on for approval at the October MRC meeting.

### Mussel Watch Program Presentation

Tom Doerge introduced Mariko Langness. Mariko Langness is a biologist with the WDFW TBIOS team. Her work with the team began in 2015 and involves supporting monitoring

programs to determine the extent and magnitude of toxic contaminants in marine and salmonid species living in Puget Sound and Washington's Pacific coast. Her primary work is focused on conducting the Washington State Mussel Monitoring (aka Mussel Watch) program which performs a biennial survey to assess the status and trends of contaminants in nearshore biota using transplanted native bay mussels.

Mariko gave a presentation on the Mussel Watch Program and plan for 2021-22 monitoring. The Mussel Watch Program involves using citizen science volunteers like the MRC to monitor nearshore contamination in Puget Sound. Cages of mussels are placed at dozens of monitoring locations scattered across Puget Sound, allowed to feed for several months, and then are retrieved for contaminant analysis. Results of the mussel collection and testing program are used to determine hot spots for certain contaminants and whether efforts to reduce them work overtime. Mariko showed data that indicated that the Snohomish County data show spatial differences between the more rural Port Susan area to the north and the more urban developed area to the south of the Snohomish River. Generally, contaminants are lower to the north and higher to the south in Snohomish County.

WDFW will be doing another round of mussel monitoring in the greater Puget Sound area in the fall/winter of 2021-22. Deployment is expected in November, and we will retrieve in January or February 2022. Tulalip Bay is the only site that must be done in Snohomish County this round, but WDFW is willing to sponsor some of the other Snohomish County sites if the MRC volunteers can put out and retrieve the cages. Other locations include Kayak Point, Everett, Mukilteo, and Edmonds. MRC staff will follow up with the mussel watch subcommittee and WSU Beach Watchers to gather a list of volunteers to see if we can staff additional locations.

### **Forage Fish Monitoring Program Update**

Alex Pittman, MRC Staff, gave a presentation on the MRC's Forage Fish Monitoring Program, including an overview of the program, goals, monitoring locations and protocols, recent findings, and recognition for the partnerships and volunteer support that make the program possible. Forage fish are small, schooling fish common in the Puget Sound. Forage fish are not a phylogenetic group, but rather an ecological group. They are considered forage fish because they feed, or forage, on marine plankton. Forage fish are extremely important links in the marine ecological food web. Forage fish are best described as the middle link in the marine food web. These small fish feed on microscopic, primary-producers like phytoplankton. In turn, forage fish and their eggs are key menu items for birds, seals, fish (including salmon), and other animals. In fact, forage fish are indicators of health and productivity of marine ecosystems.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) participates in monthly forage fish spawning surveys along the Snohomish County shoreline. Forage fish spawning surveys use Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's ([WDFW](#)) protocols and focus on two species, surf smelt and Pacific sand lance, which lay eggs on intertidal sand-gravel beaches in the nearshore environment. In order to sample for the presence or absence of eggs, sediment samples are taken along a 100 foot pre-defined transect location. Volunteers collect sand from the top 1/2 inch of the beach, where egg would be deposited. In total, about 1.5-2 liters of sand is collected along the transect.

The sand that is collected is then processed. The first step in processing the sample is to sieve the sample through progressively finer sieves (4 mm, 2 mm, and 0.5 mm mesh). Only the material

collected in the 0.5 mm sieve is retained for further processing. The condensed material collected in the 0.5 mm sieve is added to a hydrocyclone device consisting of a circular bowl and a recirculating electric water pump to create a vortex that concentrates the light material. This device is called the “blue vortex.” The light material is collected and retained for laboratory analysis (examination of material by microscope) to identify and count the eggs.

Since 2011, the MRC has helped take over 700 forage fish samples, and that number continues to grow every month as we take more samples! The results of the ongoing surveys provide up-to-date forage fish spawning information to Snohomish County and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Results from the MRC’s survey can be found on this [WDFW map](#), which displays sand lance, smelt, herring spawning areas, herring pre-spawner holding areas, and the forage fish spawning survey beaches in Washington State.

The MRC thanked Alex for his presentation. The next forage fish monitoring dates are August 25 and September 21.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim reported that there are no current updates from the LOI and the next meeting is scheduled for November 4.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that at the last NWSC meeting August 27<sup>th</sup>. The Commission discussed planning for the 2021 retreat, as well as ideas for options for the NWSC 2021 conference. The Northwest Straits Conference will be virtual this year, as a series starting on Thursday, November 19, 3:30pm-5:00pm, with a focus on climate change and local action. All MRC members are encouraged to attend, and invitations will be sent out shortly.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that Kelp Monitoring for 2022 is complete, and draft kelp maps made by Snohomish County GIS will be reviewed at the October MRC meeting. Data is being uploaded to the NWSC portal.
- **Piling Phase 2:** Elisa reported that ESA consultants provided the final products of the Pilings Phase 2 grant on August 31. Final documents are posted online on the MRC website, along with a web map of the pilings in the Snohomish Estuary [Creosote Pilings | Snohomish MRC \(snocomrc.org\)](#). The MRC is finalizing a press release on the project that will be released by SWM in late September. All final deliverables will be turned in by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that this project is currently under construction. While there was some hope the bridge may be able to be installed this fall, BNSF has had to move some machinery to California in response to wildfire damage. Therefore, the bridge will be installed in 2022 as originally planned. Snohomish County Parks is currently assessing if construction will pause for the winter, and, if so, the beach may be opened to the public until construction resumes again in early spring 2022.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that in August SWM posted four derelict vessels for removal and will gain possession of the vessels on September 18. Additionally, SWM has submitted a letter of intent to apply for a NOAA marine debris grant. The focus will be on removing the Western Marine Construction vessel, which is approximated to cost \$300K for removal. \$150K would come from the grant, \$150K from SWM/DNR. The

letters of intent will be reviewed this fall, and if we are invited to apply for the grant the application will be due January 14, 2022.

- **Cleanup Event at Kayak Point Park on September 18<sup>th</sup>:** The MRC hosted a beach cleanup event on September 18, 2021 from 9AM-12PM at Kayak Point County Park for International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event was put on collaboratively by the Snohomish MRC with WSU Beach Watchers, WSU Waste Warriors, and Zero Waste Washington, and utilized the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol developed by the EPA for cleaning up and assessing the impact of trash on the beach. Snohomish County Council Member Nate Nehring and Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director Tom Teigen attended the event.

In total, nearly 40 volunteer citizen scientists carefully scanned 68,000 square feet at Kayak Point Beach for marine debris and primarily found and picked up small plastic fragments, cigarette butts, bottles and containers, charcoal from firepits, and fishing gear. Over 56 pounds of trash were collected. Using the protocol, the site was given a “C” and determined to be littered, meaning that trash was evenly distributed throughout the site and small accumulations of trash were visible. The citizen science data collected will be used for a region-wide effort to better understand trash loading and how trash is impacting the Puget Sound.

- **Port Susan:** Alex reported the joint Snohomish-Island subcommittee collaborated to finalize an application to the UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab, which was submitted at the end of August. We will find out if our proposal was accepted this fall, with work potentially beginning in December/January. The contractor procurement for the Snohomish MRC scope of work is also underway, with consultant interviews planned for September 29. Additionally, the team will be presenting to Stillaguamish Watershed Council in September and to Island Lead Entity in October to let them know about the upcoming work in Port Susan.
- **Oil Spill Workshops:** The oil spill subcommittee has been attending webinars on the Oil Spill Risk Model this summer and attended the Marine Mammal Management in Oil Spill Response Workshop on September 8. The September 8 workshop included presentations focusing on the various stages of marine mammal response during an oil spill and highlight new wildlife regulations recently adopted in Washington State.
- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura reported that the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee met in late August to begin discussing and brainstorming potential project ideas for the MRC to begin working on or promoting. Several ideas were discussed, including further exploration of capitalizing on the beneficial re-use of dredged materials from the Snohomish River. The group will reconvene later this fall to continue discussions.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Alex reminded the MRC members to please turn in quarterly volunteer hours from July-September by 9/20.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

October 20, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>MRC Members Present</b><br>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair<br>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br>Julie Schlenger<br>Brienne Townsend<br>Andrew Gobin<br>Laura Gurley<br>Sara Maxwell<br>Kip Killebrew<br><b>Absent</b><br>Michael Kundu (excused)<br>Susan Tarpley, Ex-Officio (excused)                              | <b>Staff</b><br>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff<br><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br>David Bain, Citizen<br><b>Others</b><br>Phill Salditt<br>Kendall Norcott<br>Mike Larsen<br>Coleman Byrnes<br>Traci Sanderson, Blue Coast Engineering<br>Alan Mearns, retired NOAA |
| <b>Summary of Decisions</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the July and September meeting minutes.</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Upcoming Events</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mussel Watch Deployment:</b> November 5</li><li>• <b>Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Meeting:</b> November 10</li><li>• <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> November 16</li><li>• <b>SMP Learning Group:</b> November 17</li><li>• <b>MRC Annual Retreat:</b> November 17</li><li>• <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> December 15</li></ul> |   |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Laura Gurley made a motion to approve the July 21, 2021 and September 15, 2021 Meeting Summaries. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### MRC Retreat Poll & Discussion

Elisa Dawson opened a discussion of the MRC's Annual Retreat, scheduled for November 17. The primary topic of conversation at the retreat will be our Annual Work Plan, with additional conversation around the Land Acknowledgement and MRC Recruitment.

The discussion included an anonymous Zoom poll for MRC Members to help decide whether to meet in-person or not. Eight out of ten respondents indicated interest in an outdoor dinner gathering. MRC Members decided to move forward with this option, understanding that not all members would be able to attend. As such, the plan is to have some discussion of key items at the retreat, but all materials will also be sent out via email. The retreat will be a social gathering, and no



decisions will be made. The December MRC Meeting will be used to continue these discussions and make decisions on key items, including the Annual Work Plan.

### **Kelp 2021 Review**

Tom provided a report on the 2021 kelp monitoring season. The MRC conducts annual boat-based surveys of selected beds. Using handheld GPS units and small boats, volunteers map the perimeter of beds and collect accessory data such as water temperatures and bed depth estimates. The Snohomish MRC conducted the following surveys in Summer 2021:

- **7/13 – Mukilteo:** No kelp beds; one kelp plant found.
- **7/14 – Meadowdale:** No kelp beds; a few kelp plants found.
- **7/22 – Edmonds:** 3 kelp beds.
- **8/9 – Edmonds:** 3 kelp beds. The map of this location is getting busy now that we have 7 years of data. Location of beds is consistent, but size is highly variable year-to-year. Low of 4 acres in 2018, now up to 11 acres in 2021.
- **8/10 – Hat Island:** One kelp bed monitored via SWM motorboat.

Tom shared maps showing the extent of kelp beds and how they have changed from 2015 through 2021. Snohomish MRC data will be uploaded into the regional database on Sound IQ by NWSC, and later this Winter/Spring there will be a regional data review.

### **MRC Pilings Grant Close-Out: Review & Discussion**

Laura provided a brief overview of Phases 1 and 2 of the Pilings Project. Phase 1 included first mapping and ground-truthing of all the piles in the estuary (bounded by Highway 2), then prioritized all pilings based on several factors (creosote, habitat, feasibility, etc.), with an eye toward identifying pilings that could be removed to improve water quality and ecosystem function. Phase 2 focused on public stakeholder engagement, and included meetings with City of Marysville, City of Everett, Port of Everett, Tulalip Tribes, USACE, and Snohomish County.

Phase 2 work for our NWSC grant is wrapped up, and our final deliverables, in addition to a web map, were turned in September 30, and are available on the MRC Website project page. A big thanks to our project consultants at ESA for their work creating these documents with us:

- [Executive Summary of Phase 2 Report](#)
- [Final Report for Phase 2](#)
- [Fact Sheets on Priority Areas](#)
- [Web Map](#) where you can see all the pilings, and [sort by jurisdiction](#)
- **Additional Appendices & Other Information** can be found on our MRC project web page: [www.snocomrc.org/projects/creosote-pilings](http://www.snocomrc.org/projects/creosote-pilings)

Snohomish County SWM posted a [press release](#) about this project in late September. We are very happy with how much information we have been able to collect and share over the last two years. We hope this will help local stakeholders make informed decisions about pilings under their ownership moving forward. We also know there is a lot of work ahead, and we hope to see some of these high-priority pilings addressed. While this is the end of our grant-funded work on pilings for now, we are committed to helping move this work forward and would like to continue to work with our partners towards positive restoration progress in the Snohomish Estuary.

Our plan moving forward is to touch base with the stakeholder group on an annual basis about the pilings to hear what updates the project partners might have, identify opportunities, and make sure our information is still accurate. We will reach out to stakeholders in mid-2022.

Natasha Coumou noted that Tulalip Tribes is interested and moving forward with discussions about piles near the City of Marysville, with the potential to use non-creosote pilings as anchors for large

woody debris. The MRC agreed with the approach to continue to periodically re-connect with stakeholders, and thought that this should occur at least annually, and that members and staff should continue discussing with their networks.

### **Mussel Watch 2021-2022 Volunteer Planning**

Deployment of Snohomish County Mussel Watch cages is scheduled for the night of Friday, November 5. The 0' Tide will be at approximately 10:20PM. Teams will want to decide on a meeting time and should be done with installation 15-20 minutes after 0' tide. One member from each team will need to pick up supplies Friday afternoon from the Snohomish County Campus.

COVID protocols are in-place and volunteers will need to register with WDFW and complete and sign WDFW Volunteer documents.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** The next LIO Meeting is scheduled for November 4. Tim is unavailable and looking for someone else to represent the MRC. Mike is likely available at that time. The LIO is also looking for Strategic Initiative volunteers for 2022 and 2023, with applications due October 25.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that there was no September NWSC Meeting, but an online retreat was held on September 23 and 24. Tim reported on several highlights from the retreat and other NWSC items, including the following:
  - The Passport to Marine Adventure game will be made into an app for future seasons.
  - Senator Patty Murray is pushing forward reauthorization of the NWSC, which would provide more consistent and increased funding.
  - The NWSC hired Leah Robison as an Ecosystem Projects Assistant.
  - In lieu of an annual retreat, the NWSC will be hosting a once-per-month symposium series. Elisa will send out calendar invites for these.
  - The NWSC will be expanding their search area for Green Crab, and will have 11 weeks of WCC crew time for 2021-22.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that the monitoring team (SWM, Tulalip Tribes, local high school groups with Joe Scordino, USGS, Blue Coast Engineering, UW, WDFW) met in late September to discuss data gathered so far and plans for monitoring once the project is complete.

Elisa wrote a New Initiative for SWM to take the lead on post-restoration monitoring and will be presenting the SWM management in late October. SWM will likely dedicate funding (approx. \$80K in 2022) to hire a consultant to help support SWM staff Elisa Dawson and Frank Leonetti who will be taking the lead on coordination of post-project monitoring. In 2022, the team will make a long-term plan to address the need to 10 years of post-project monitoring.

- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that a contractor hired by the County is in the process of removing 4 derelict vessels. The *Confusion* has had issues coming out, and another \$25K was requested by the contractor. SWM has approved the request, and the new total budget is approximately \$122K. SWM will be reimbursed for 90% of the total.

SWM approved submittal of a Letter of Intent for a NOAA Marine Debris Grant, which was submitted at the end of September. The focus of this proposal is removing *Western Marine Construction*, which is estimated to cost \$300K for removal. \$150K of that cost would come from the grant, and \$150K from SWM. The \$150K from SWM would be reimbursed by

DNR at 90%. We expect to hear back on if we are invited to turn in a full application by November 15.

A new derelict vessel has shown up in Union Slough at the Smith Island Restoration Site. There is currently a question about whether anyone is living on board. The vessel was known to be inhabited, but is currently stuck in the mud and listing, so it seems unlikely that it is still inhabited. The vessel is on County property on a recently completed restoration project, so the County is interested in getting it removed, though it is in a difficult to remove location.

The derelict vessels at Howarth Park have been removed by the City of Everett.

- **Port Susan:** Sara reported that consultant interviews happened September 29. ESA was selected, and we are in the process of getting a contract complete. To start engaging with stakeholders, Sara presented to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council in September and Elisa presented to the Island County Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee in October. We are scheduling a meeting with the Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Subcommittee in mid-November. By that time, we expect to have ESA under contract and to know if Island MRC's proposal has been selected by the UW Evans School. The Evans School application was accepted by faculty, and now goes to review by students.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex reported that October monitoring at Picnic Point & Howarth Park was completed on October 14. The next two monitoring dates have been set for November 19 and December 16.
- **Kayak Point Beach Cleanup:** Alex reported that the MRC hosted a beach cleanup event on September 18, 2021 at Kayak Point County Park for International Coastal Cleanup Day. This event was put on collaboratively by the Snohomish MRC with WSU Beach Watchers, WSU Waste Warriors, and Zero Waste Washington, and utilized the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol developed by the EPA for cleaning up and assessing the impact of trash on the beach. Snohomish County Council Member Nate Nehring and Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director Tom Teigen attended the event.

In total, nearly 40 volunteer citizen scientists carefully scanned 68,000 square feet of beach for marine debris and primarily found and picked up small plastic fragments, cigarette butts, bottles and containers, charcoal from firepits, and fishing gear. In total 1,338 marine debris objects were collected, totaling over 56 pounds of trash. The citizen science data collected will be used for a region-wide effort to better understand trash loading and how trash is impacting the Puget Sound.

- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura reported that the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee is meeting on October 25 and is planning to discuss dredged material and other nearshore project ideas.
- **MRC New Member Recruitment:** Elisa reported that we are currently recruiting for new MRC members to join in 2022, hoping to fill 1-2 seats in addition to the Stillaguamish Tribal Representative seat. Outreach will occur through November, with applications due December 6, with interviews to occur approximately December 8-15. We will be asking MRC Members to participate on the interview panel, so let Elisa and Alex know if you are interested. Will also be discussing leadership and other assignments (NWSC, LIO rep positions) at November retreat.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

December 15, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>MRC Members Present</b><br/>Mike Ehlebracht, Chair<br/>Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair<br/>Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.<br/>Julie Schlenger<br/>Andrew Gobin<br/>Laura Gurley<br/>Sara Maxwell<br/>Kip Killebrew</p> <p><b>Absent</b><br/>Michael Kundu (excused)<br/>Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair (excused)<br/>Brienne Townsend (excused)</p>                | <p><b>Staff</b><br/>Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff<br/>Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b><br/>David Bain, Citizen<br/>Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b><br/>Kendall Norcott<br/>Kyra Wolf, Student<br/>Teagan Fogg, Citizen<br/>Richard, Citizen<br/>Jennifer Keene, Snohomish County Surface Water Management<br/>Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers<br/>Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District<br/>Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission<br/>Leah Robison, Northwest Straits Commission</p> |
| <p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The MRC approved the October meeting minutes.</li></ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> January 19</li><li>● MRC forage fish monitoring January 19 and 20</li><li>● MRC Virtual Symposium with the NWSC January 20 at 3:30PM</li><li>● Starlight Beach Walk with WSU Beach Watchers January 28</li><li>● MRC Mussel Watch Retrieval January 31</li></ul> |   |

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video. Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Natasha Coumou made a motion to approve the October 20, 2021 Meeting Summaries. Laura Gurley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### Discussion of Potential MRC Code Revision (SCC 2.800)

Elisa Dawson opened a discussion of the MRC's membership terms according to Snohomish County Code (SCC) 2.800. Elisa explained that the impetus for this discussion was a discussion with Stillaguamish Tribal staff on options for Tribal Representatives to serve longer than County Code currently allows. Elisa drafted text for the MRC to review, the additional text shown below in red:

*All positions shall serve three-year terms, except for the initial terms which shall be established by ordinance. A member shall not serve more than three consecutive terms on*

*the committee, unless they represent (d) local tribal governments and are selected by the tribal government to serve as representative.*

The MRC discussed the draft text. Several questions were asked about representation on the MRC in general. Several MRC members expressed interest in wanting to look at SCC 2.800 more in-depth in terms of representation. After a short discussion, the MRC decided to table the draft text and plan a larger discussion of MRC representation at a later date. MRC Staff will work with the MRC Executive Committee to schedule either a special meeting or retreat opportunity for a longer discussion in 2022.

### **Discussion of Tribal Land Acknowledgement**

Mike Ehlebracht opened the discussion by noting that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) has adopted a Tribal Lands Acknowledgement and is encouraging MRCs to consider them as well. The MRC first reviewed Tribal Land Acknowledgement language at the November MRC Retreat. During discussion at the November retreat, it was communicated that the preference of our tribal partners would likely be to use the NWSC tribal acknowledgement, or the version of this acknowledgement adapted for Snohomish County Tribes. The NWSC has approved the following text for their statement:

We acknowledge the land we're on today is the ancestral homeland of Coast Salish and Makah people and has been since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights and access to resources, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These nations include the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Stillaguamish, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Makah Nations.

Prior to the December meeting MRC Member Andrew Gobin shared an adapted version for the MRC to review that is specific to the Snohomish MRC that he is asking the MRC to consider as an option for their Tribal Lands Acknowledgement, shown below:

We, the Snohomish County MRC, acknowledge the lands and waters where we operate today constitute the ancestral homelands of the Tulalip Tribes and the Stillaguamish Tribe. We are committed to working with these sovereign tribal governments to promote effective stewardship of Snohomish County's marine waters, habitats, species, and shorelines in order to support their Treaty rights and access to resources, and to honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water.

The MRC discussed Andrew's proposed text. While many members shared their approval to move this language forward for further review by the Tribes and Snohomish County, there were several questions the MRC would like to address upon further review. First, the MRC would like to ask for County and Tribal guidance on which tribes should be acknowledged. Additionally, the MRC discussed asking for guidance on whether to use the word "acknowledge" or "recognize" in their proposed text.

For next steps, MRC staff will be sharing the proposed language with MRC Members who were not present at this meeting for their review as well. Additionally, MRC staff will seek guidance from Snohomish County management on the question posed by the MRC and the text being proposed above. The discussion on the Tribal Lands Acknowledgement will continue at the January 2022 meeting.

## 2022 Annual Work Plan Discussion

Alex Pittman gave a brief overview of the draft revisions to the format and structure of the MRC Annual Work Plan, which were made in response to comments received from the MRC via email and discussion at the November Retreat.

The largest change to the workplan was the addition of 1-pagers made for each subcommittee which breaks down staff tasks and MRC Member tasks. Alex waked through the various projects/subcommittees to solicit comments from the MRC to finalize the work plan. There was a more focused discussion to finalize some key areas of the work plan, including outreach related to plastics/beach cleanups and stormwater additions to the workplan. The MRC provided several pieces of feedback, including in the future ideally adding the number of hours and specific times each of the subcommittees tends to meet to help give members a better idea of each subcommittee. MRC staff noted that the Annual Work Plan is expected to serve as guidance to the MRC for their yearly work and does not limit or require the MRC work for the year. It is expected that there will be things that will change on the workplan each year. The MRC Members thanked MRC staff for compiling this document and shared their approval to adopt this document as their 2022 Annual Work Plan as-is.

Laura Gurley made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Workplan. Kip Killebrew seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Alex reported that we will solidify subcommittee membership for this workplan in January, and asked MRC members to be thinking about projects where they would like to participate and/or lead in 2022 in preparation for the January meeting.

## 2022 MRC Leadership Discussion

Mike Ehlebracht explained that MRC Leadership will be voted on at the January 19, 2022 meeting. This is still a discussion period, and nominations and official positions do not start until the January 2022 MRC Meeting. Currently, the MRC has the following people serving in the leadership roles:

- **Chair:** Mike Ehlebracht
- **Co-Vice Chairs:** Tom Doerge and Natasha Coumou
- **LIO:** Tim Ellis, alternate is currently vacant
- **NWSC:** Tim Ellis, Julie Schlenger as alternate

Chair Mike Ehlebracht will be reaching out to the current Leadership panel to see if they are interested in continuing their role. MRC Members are encouraged to reach out to Mike Ehlebracht or MRC Staff Elisa Dawson or Alex Pittman prior to the January MRC Meeting if they are interested in pursuing a leadership role.

## Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** Tim Ellis was unable to attend the November 4<sup>th</sup> LIO meeting, so Mike Ehlebracht attended in his place. Mike reported that the LIO discussed the EPA funding guidance for the next funding round. Previous, funding was for a two-year timeframe. Now, funding will be for a 5-year timeframe. The LIO must select a specific project to work on and fund for those 5 years. The LIO has had one survey to determine the local priority for this 5-year funding. However, at the meeting they discussed the need to gather more information before deciding on the funding project. Next, the LIO will be sending out another solicitation for feedback in early 2022 to help guide the workplan.

- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the last NWSC meetings were on October 29 and December 10. There have been presentations on the Quiet Sound initiative to reduce vessel noise, as well as COASST, who is monitoring deceased shore birds. Additionally, the NWSC has been working to secure additional federal funding in 2022, and the MRCs are working on developing both local and regional projects that the funds would be used for. The next MRC Climate Change Symposium is on December 16.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that ESA Consultants is now under contract with Snohomish County to complete creation of a post-project monitoring plan for Meadowdale, gather additional project data, and help create a monitoring webpage for Meadowdale. The monitoring team (SWM, Tulalip Tribes, local high school groups with Joe Scordino, USGS, Blue Coast Engineering, UW, WDFW) met on November 29 to discuss data gathered so far and plans for monitoring once the project is complete.

The primary focus at this time for Meadowdale is to get two monitoring cameras installed to take time-lapse photography of the site, and the create the monitoring plan. Additionally, the Tulalip Tribes intends to apply for additional grant-funds to help them complete their portion of the monitoring work.

- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that the contractor hired by the County has completed the removal of 4 vessels in the Snohomish estuary. Information about the vessels is now on the MRC website: [Derelict Vessels | Snohomish MRC \(snocomrc.org\)](https://www.snocomrc.org/derelict-vessels). Total cost of the removals in 2021 was just over \$114K.

Snohomish County has decided to pull their application for the NOAA marine debris grant because we were unable to get a contractor bid on the vessel Western Marine Construction in time for the application due date. We will try to get a bid again in 2022 and can try applying for the grant again next year.

- **Mussel Watch:** Alex reported that Mussel Watch deployment was completed on November 5 at seven sites throughout Snohomish County. Thanks to all who contributed to making this happen! The window for retrieval is January 27 – February 4. The best dates identified as options for retrieval are Thursday, January 27 (0' tide at 6PM) and Monday, January 31 (0' tide at 8:15PM). Alex to solicit MRC input on preferred date for retrieval, and the MRC was in favor of the January 31 date. Alex will work with Mike Ehlebracht to organize retrieval on January 31. Kip reported that the Kayak Point cage was lost and recovered by a Stillaguamish Tribe staff Franny Perez.
- **Port Susan:** Sara reported that we are currently under contract with ESA as our consultant for this project and MRC staff held our kick-off meeting with the ESA staff team on November 30 for initial scoping discussions. The Island MRC's application to the UW Evans School was accepted, and so we will have a student team working on this project as well. Next steps for Island County include working with the student consulting team and faculty to develop a final scope of work. Additionally, Anna Toledo, Island MRC Coordinator, accepted a position with DNR. Her last day at Island County was December 7. MRC staff are currently working with Island County staff to figure out how this might affect project progress. Finally, a Joint Island-Snohomish MRC Team Meeting was held on November 10. Cory Archer, the ESA Project Manager, was able to join and introduce herself to the team, and the discussion primarily focused on the stakeholder list and survey.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex reported that November monitoring at Picnic Point & Howarth Park was completed on November 16. Meadowdale has also opened again for

public access, and Alex was able to sample at Meadowdale on November 22. The plan is to continue to monitor at Meadowdale while public access is available, which is expected to be through February. The site is expected to close again for a month or two in spring for the replacement of the culvert. Alex also noted that David Bain and himself were able to attend a Forage Fish Monitoring Training for MRCs, put on by WDFW and coordinated by the NWSC, on December 9. They are planning to hold this training again in late Spring 2022.

- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** In place of Tom, Mike reported that DNR completed marine vegetation monitoring from Everett to Edmonds this summer. Eelgrass was present at 21 out of 22 sites sampled, and at 192 of 224 transects sampled. The draft report from DNR is expected by December 31, with a final report due by January 31, 2022.
- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura reported that the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee has been brainstorming text for a one-pager on the beneficial re-use of dredged material from the Snohomish River to help facilitate discussions about this prospective opportunity for nearshore projects. The committee will meet again in early 2022 to review the draft language and discuss formatting of the one-pager.
- **MRC New Member Recruitment:** Elisa reported that the application window closed on December 6, and there was a total of 15 applications, 3 of which either weren't completed for didn't qualify, and 12 qualified for review by the MRC Interview Panel. The Interview Panel held 7 interviews on December 13. A second interview day is scheduled for December 20.
- Laura announced that she is meeting with DNR on their Snohomish Watershed Resilience Plan. Elisa is working to have DNR present to the MRC about this work by DNR as well, hopefully in early 2022.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:36.**