

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

January 19, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Julie Schlenger                  Andrew Gobin                  Laura Gurley                  Sara Maxwell                  Brie Townsend                  Michael Kundu</p> <p><b>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment</b>                  Franchesca Perez                  Allan Hicks                  Bob Margulis</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff                  Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain, Citizen                  Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District                  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers                  Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission                  Richard Strickland, Citizen                  Dan Elefant, Citizen                  Bernie Busch, Citizen &amp; WSU Beach Watcher</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the December 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>NWSC Representative:</b> Tim Ellis; <b>NWSC Representative Alternate:</b> Julie Schlenger <b>LIO Representative:</b> Tim Ellis; <b>LIO Representative Alternate:</b> Bob Margulis (pending official appointment to the MRC by Snohomish County Council)</li> <li>● The MRC approved the re-appointment of Susan Tarpley and David Bain as Ex-Officio Members.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> February 16</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> <li>● MRC forage fish monitoring February 16 and 17</li> <li>● MRC Virtual Symposium with the NWSC February 17 at 3:30PM</li> </ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Natasha Coumou 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.

Natasha introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

Natasha announced that the MRC completed interviews for new members in December, and three new MRC Members have been recommended to Snohomish County Council for appointment. The new members are Franchesca Perez (Stillaguamish Tribal Representative), Allan Hicks, and Bob Margulis, who were asked to introduce themselves.

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021 Meeting Summary. Laura Gurley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## 2022 MRC Leadership Discussion and Vote

Natasha Coumou, MRC Co-Vice Chair, opened a discussion of MRC leadership position elections. Based on discussion during and since the MRC November 2021 Retreat, Natasha nominated Mike Ehlebracht to continue serving as MRC Chair, and nominated Tom Doerge and herself to continue serving as Co-Vice Chairs. She then asked for any further nominations. There were none. Natasha called for a vote to approve the following positions:

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

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the Executive Committee appointments. Laura Gurley seconded the motion. All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Based on discussion during and since the MRC November 2021 Retreat, Natasha nominated Tim Ellis for LIO Representative and NWSC Representative, and Julie Schlenger for NWSC Alternate. She then asked for any further nominations, in particular for the LIO Alternate position. Bob Margulis nominated himself to serve as the LIO Representative, pending his official appointment to the MRC by Snohomish County Council. Natasha called for a vote to approve the following positions:

- **NWSC Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **NWSC Alternate:** Julie Schlenger
- **LIO Representative:** Tim Ellis
- **LIO Alternate:** Bob Margulis (pending official appointment to the MRC by Snohomish County Council)

Brie Townsend made a motion to approve the appointments. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

Finally, Natasha nominated Susan Tarpley and David Bain to continue serving 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).

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

Laura Gurley made a motion to approve the Ex-Officio Member appointments. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All MRC Members voted to approve the appointments and the motion passed by consensus.

## Mussel Watch Retrieval Planning

Alex Pittman provided a brief update on the Mussel Watch Retrieval Plan. Cage retrieval has been scheduled for Monday, January 31st. Zero tide on January 31 is around 8:15 pm. Mike Ehlebracht will send out the retrieval instructions. Retrieval team members will need to bring ice along with the equipment that was provided during deployment. It would be ideal if someone from each mussel station could meet Mike on Monday night to transfer the mussels and equipment to him. Mike will then plan to meet someone from WDFW (or another volunteer) on Tuesday so that the mussels and supplies can be transported to the Olympia lab for processing.

Tom and Julie noted that they will not be available for retrieval, and Allan offered to join a team in Edmonds or Mukilteo. Natasha noted that she no longer has a volunteer on board to help with retrieval, and Bob offered to assist her in Tulalip. Alex will update the spreadsheet with team assignments and send it out to the entire group for review.

## 2022 MRC Subcommittee Review

Alex opened a discussion on subcommittee assignments and subcommittee leadership. We have moved towards including subcommittee membership information within the Annual Work Plan itself, rather than solely on a separate document.

The MRC worked through the 2022 Annual Work Plan project-by-project, with MRC members making note of which subcommittees they would like to join or leave along the way. The final subcommittee assignments will be added to the final 2022 Annual Work Plan.

Project/Subcommittee	Members
<b>Executive Committee</b>	Mike Ehlebracht (Chair), Natasha Coumou (Co-Vice Chair), Tom Doerge (Co-Vice Chair)
<b>Port Susan CAP Update (MRC Grant Task 2)</b>	Sara Maxwell (Lead), Natasha Coumou, Julie Schlenger, Allan Hicks
<b>MRC Outreach</b>	Tim Ellis (Lead), Mike Ehlebracht, Julie Schlenger, Brie Townsend, Michael Kundu, Susan Tarpley, David Bain
<b>Marine Vegetation Monitoring</b>	Tom Doerge (Lead), Tim Ellis, Julie Schlenger, Brie Townsend, Andrew Gobin, Bob Margulis
<b>Nearshore Restoration</b>	Laura Gurley (Co-Lead), Tim Ellis (Co-Lead), Brie Townsend, David Bain, Julie Schlenger, Bob Margulis, Natasha Coumou, Mike Ehlebracht
<b>Forage Fish Monitoring</b>	Tom Doerge, Tim Ellis, Julie Schlenger, Sara Maxwell, Brie Townsend, Michael Kundu, David Bain, Natasha Coumou, Allan Hicks, Bob Margulis
<b>Recreational Crabber Education</b>	Susan Tarpley (Lead), Laura Gurley, Brie Townsend, Allan Hicks, Andrew Gobin, Franchesca Perez
<b>Oil Spill Preparedness</b>	Susan Tarpley (Co-Lead), Julie Schlenger (Co-Lead), Mike Ehlebracht, David Bain, Franchesca Perez
<b>Stormwater</b>	Mike Ehlebracht (Lead), Tom Doerge, Natasha Coumou, Tim Ellis, Laura Gurley, Brie Townsend, Andrew Gobin, Susan Tarpley, David Bain, Julie Schlenger, Bob Margulis
<b>Snohomish Estuary Pilings Project</b>	Laura Gurley (Lead), Mike Ehlebracht, Natasha Coumou, Sara Maxwell, Andrew Gobin, David Bain
<b>Derelict Vessels</b>	Natasha Coumou, Laura Gurley, Michael Kundu, Andrew Gobin

## **Discussion of Tribal Land Acknowledgement**

Elisa opened a discussion of the MRC's consideration of Tribal Land Acknowledgement statement text, which would be added to their meeting agendas and to use in their documents, such as their Annual Report. The Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), the State coordinating body of the MRCs, was approached by Tribes within the NWSC area to develop a regional tribal lands acknowledgement statement that would be included in their documents. After working together with these tribes, the NWSC adopted the language below as their formal statement. This adopted statement was provided to local MRCs to consider for their use, which could be adapted appropriately for their geographic area and used in their local meetings and reports. Using the NWSC statement as guidance, the MRC worked with Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribal staff to create a statement that the Snohomish MRC is now considering, as provided below.

**NWSC Tribal Land Acknowledgement:** 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.

**Text being considered by the Snohomish MRC for their Tribal Land Acknowledgement:** 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 is trying to determine whether the Suquamish Tribe should be added to the list of tribes names in the Snohomish MRC statement. We are seeking county feedback on this and would also seek tribal feedback if we move forward with this language.

We have also learned that there is language being adopted by Snohomish County Council below

*"We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulag<sup>w</sup>ábs̓ (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš̓ (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County."*

The Snohomish County recommendation would be that the MRC adopt the same as the county statement. If the MRC would like to use a different statement, then we will need to schedule a meeting to discuss.

As MRC members discussed the different options presented, some noted that they would be okay with any of the options presented. Tribal representatives noted the need to get clarity about how the County language was developed, and whether or not it has been fully vetted by local tribes. Elisa

will follow up to gather this information prior to the next MRC meeting. Andrew added that the land acknowledgement is an opportunity to commit to a goal, and noted that the MRC's draft text was developed to incorporate the MRC's mission and commit to collaboration with local tribes. This discussion will continue at future MRC meetings before a final MRC recommendation is made.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim will attend the next LIO meeting, which will be a joint meeting with the Stillaguamish Watershed Council, which is also the Stillaguamish Implementation Committee, on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 1:00 PM-4:00 PM. The first portion of the meeting will be dedicated to SWC and LIO announcements, public comment, and then a presentation and discussion on the draft LIO Barriers Project Themes.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported the next NWSC meeting is January 28. Tim also noted that Phil Salditt, a regular volunteer with the MRC, was recently appointed to the NWSF board, and that the 3<sup>rd</sup> MRC Symposium Event is scheduled for January 20, from 3:30 – 5:00 PM.
- **Meadowdale:** Elisa reported that the monitoring team is working on getting time-lapse cameras installed in the park for restoration monitoring. Elisa also reported that Todd Zackey with the Tulalip Tribes is planning to apply for a grant to support the monitoring effort, which the County is also supporting.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that the County put out a joint press release with the City of Everett Police Department on derelict vessel removals in 2021: [Snohomish-County-and-City-of-Everett-Successfully-Improved-Waterway-and-Shoreline-Environment-with-Removal-of-Six-Derelict-Vessels-in-2021 \(snohomishcountywa.gov\)](https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Portals/0/PDFDocuments/2021%20Derelict%20Vessels%20Removal%20Press%20Release.pdf). The press release, along with news stories from the Everett Post and My Everett News, was included in the meeting packet. Elisa also noted that the state legislature is considering a bill to provide sustainable funding for derelict vessels. A fact sheet for this bill can be found here: [https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em\\_leg\\_dnr\\_derelict\\_vessels\\_2022.pdf](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_leg_dnr_derelict_vessels_2022.pdf)
- **Port Susan:** Sara reported that the subcommittee has finalized the Port Susan Stakeholder List in December, and coordinated a draft of the Stakeholder Survey through December and January, with comments solicited from the Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Team, as well as selected staff at Snohomish County. The team also met with UW Evans School Student Consulting Team on January 13 to scope for the project. The next Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Team Meeting is scheduled for January 25 from 3:00 – 4:30PM.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex reported that December Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on December 15 (Howarth Park) and December 16 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale). January Forage Fish Monitoring is underway, with Picnic Point & Meadowdale completed today (January 19) and Howarth Park planned for tomorrow (January 20). February Forage Fish Monitoring is scheduled for February 16 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale) and February 17 (Howarth Park).
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring:** Tom 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. A draft report is being reviewed by the subcommittee, with a final report due by January 31, 2022. Bart Christiaen from DNR will be presenting on this work at the February MRC Meeting.

- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura reported that the subcommittee is currently working to develop a one-pager. 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 subcommittee will meet in late January to discuss.
- **Oil Spills:** The Oil Spills Subcommittee will schedule a meeting in February to discuss GRPs.
- **WSU Beach Watchers Starlight Beach Walk:** Jonathan Robinson reported that WSU Beach Watchers will be hosting a Starlight Beach Walk at Olympic Beach in Edmonds on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.
- **Comprehensive Plan Comments:** Elisa noted that Mike has sent out draft comments from the MRC on the County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. MRC Members should submit comments within the next couple of weeks, as the proposed language will need to be approved by SWM management before submittal by February 25.

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

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

February 16, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Julie Schlenger Andrew Gobin Laura Gurley Sara Maxwell Brie Townsend Michael Kundu</p> <p><b>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment</b> Franchesca Perez Allan Hicks Bob Margulis</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, Citizen Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b> Bart Christiaen, Washington Department of Natural Resources Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission Richard Strickland, Citizen Traci Sanderson, Citizen Kendall Norcott, Citizen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the January meeting minutes.</li><li>• The MRC approved comments on the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan Update and Chair Mike Ehlebracht will submit the comments on behalf of the MRC.</li></ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MRC Virtual Symposium with the NWSC February 17 at 3:30PM.</li><li>• MRC SMP learning group February 24.</li><li>• Beach Cleanup with WSU Beach Watchers at Howarth Park on March 3, 10AM.</li><li>• <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> March 16.</li><li>• MRC forage fish monitoring March 22 and 23.</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 January 19, 2022 Meeting Summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### South Snohomish County Marine Vegetation Survey Presentation

Elisa Dawson introduced Bart Christiaen. Bart Christiaen is a Natural Resource Scientist with the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Bart conducted the MRC's marine vegetation monitoring in 2020 of the Snohomish Estuary area, and in 2021 he led the team that collected the same data for South Snohomish County. Bart gave a presentation with an overview of the 2021 project and findings.

In 2021, Snohomish County signed an agreement with DNR to conduct a comprehensive survey of marine vegetation (eelgrass, understory kelp and other macroalgae) at 22 sites along the shoreline of Snohomish County, between Edmonds and Everett, using methods developed for DNR's monitoring programs. Four additional sites were surveyed for eelgrass in 2019 and 2020. 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 SVMP. It also serves as a baseline for classification of other marine vegetation types.

Main findings include:

1. The intertidal and shallow subtidal were colonized by a variety of marine vegetation types, which often displayed different zonation at individual sites.
2. The depth distribution of marine vegetation was similar to other sites in the Central Basin of Puget Sound.
3. We were able to assess change in eelgrass area at 8 out of the 26 sites in the study area. At 7 of these sites, there was no significant trend in eelgrass area over time. At one site (swh1649) there was a small increase over time between 2005 and 2019.

Bart then opened up the conversation to discussion with the MRC. MRC Members asked several questions related to the findings and locations of projects within the focus area. Finally, the group discussed marine vegetation mapping for 2022 in north Snohomish County, Port Susan area and Hat Island. Once the MRC and DNR complete the mapping of Port Susan and Hat Island in 2022, marine vegetation along the entire Snohomish County shoreline will be mapped. The goal of the Marine Vegetation Subcommittee is then to be able to compare this data to the 2007 dataset to understand change over time. That study would be done in 2023.

### **MRC Kelp Update**

Tom Doerge reported on the MRC Kayak Kelp Survey Update held on January 26. This event included a review of 2021 MRC Kelp Kayak Survey Data and the following presentations and discussed how MRC data is being incorporated into their work:

- Preparing the MRC data for inclusion in the Floating Kelp Vital Sign and other observations – Julia Ledbetter, WA DNR
- The Kelp Wave: An expedition to add cohesion and momentum to regional kelp research and restoration efforts – Jodie Toft, Puget Sound Restoration Fund
- Kelp Forest Canopy Surveys with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Fixed-Wing Aircraft – Tyler Cowdrey, WA DNR

Next, Alex Pittman briefly discussed his involvement with the Kelp Management Advisory Team, led by NWSC. The Northwest Straits Commission is leading a follow up effort to support implementation of the [Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan](#) (Kelp Plan) by working to help bridge available and needed science with policy and management practices to more effectively conserve kelp forests in Puget Sound.

This effort included a stakeholder survey conducted in the Summer of 2021, and is currently planning to host workshops in 2022 with the goal of *strengthening connections between science and policy within the existing policy and regulatory framework*:

1. Gain a common understanding of current kelp protection and associated recovery practices via existing policy and regulations in Puget Sound.
2. Identify and reach common understanding regarding priority challenges, gaps, hurdles, and opportunities.



3. Map a path forward for addressing priority challenges, gaps, hurdles and opportunities.
4. Develop a strategy for communicating the workshop findings to all stakeholders involved in kelp protection and recovery.

### **WSU Beach Watchers Projects**

Jonathan Robinson provided an overview of recent and upcoming WSU Beach Watchers projects for 2022, including:

- Starlight Beach Walk Review
  - Alex, Elisa, Tim and Susan attended. About 50 people from the public attended and we had about 15 volunteers. The MRC provided hot chocolate and apple cider.
- Shoreline Cleanup Opportunities in 2022
  - Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> Beach Cleanup at Howarth Park at 10 AM.
  - Also planning international coastal cleanup day event for Saturday September 17. Location and time are to-be-determined.
  - MRC staff will bring coffee and snacks.
- Earth Day 2022
  - We are planning for Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a beach cleanup event, likely at Picnic Point Park.
  - MRC staff will bring coffee and snacks.
  - Jonathan is reaching out to Zero Waste Washington to see if they would be able to attend and help us use the ETAP protocol again similar to our event last fall.
- 2022 Beach Watchers Training
  - MRC Members are encouraged to become Beach Watchers or Beach Naturalists. Training for becoming a Beach Watcher starts on March 10 and is an 80-hour commitment. There is also a shorter 16-hour Beach Naturalist training anyone is welcome to take. Info can be found on the WSU Beach Watchers page: [Beach Watchers | Snohomish County | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#).

### **MRC Comments on Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan**

Mike opened a discussion of the MRC's draft comments related to Snohomish County's 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update visioning process. Mike developed draft text and sent it out to the MRC for review on January 10. This text has been revised per the comments received by MRC members and also received some edits after being reviewed by SWM Management. A current draft of the comments was provided to the MRC in their meeting packet. Mike reviewed the changes with the MRC.

The comments identify four key themes for the County to consider through the update process:

- Managing Growth While Preserving the Natural Environment
- Implementing Environmental Restoration as part of Infrastructure Improvements
- Reducing Climate Impacts by Utilizing Clean Energy and Sustainable Practices
- Adapting to Climate Change using Resilient Technologies that Protect Natural Environment

Mike asked for any comments on the text. There were none. Mike asked the MRC to vote on approval of comments.

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the MRC's comments. Tom Doerge seconded the motion. All MRC Members voted to approve the comments as written and the motion passed by consensus.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim Ellis and Bob Margulis attended the LIO meeting on January 26 from 1PM-6PM. This meeting was a joint meeting with the Stillaguamish Watershed Council, which is also the Stillaguamish Implementation Committee. The first portion of the meeting was dedicated to SWC and LIO announcements, public comment, and then a presentation and discussion on the draft LIO Barriers Project Themes.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from January 28 NWSC Meeting:
  - A tentative in-person Northwest Straits conference for all MRC members is scheduled for November 18-19, 2022 at Maple Hall in La Conner.
  - NWSF has issued its first call for applications for the Caroline Gibson Scholarship in Marine Studies. Applications are being accepted through February 19.
  - Clallam MRC shared information about marine critter outreach cards that they have distributed at community locations with a link back to the MRC website. Contact Rebecca Mahan (rparadis@co.clallam.wa.us) if your MRC is interested in getting copies.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and final webinar of the climate change series is February 17, 2022, at 3:30PM. The next NWSC meeting is February 25.

- **Mussel Watch Retrieval:** Mike Ehlebracht reported that mussel cages were successfully retrieved from Snohomish County monitoring sites on January 31. The mussel cage at Kayak Point was washed down beach during stormy weather shortly after deployment, but cages at the other 6 Snohomish sites were successful, and the cages have been delivered to WDFW.
- **Tribal Lands Acknowledgement:** Elisa Dawson reminded the MRC that at the January meeting there was a request from our Tribal Representatives to learn more about how the Snohomish County and the NWSC Land Acknowledgement statements were vetted by the Tribal Governments. Elisa followed up with Snohomish County and received the following reply from Lacey Harper on how the language was vetted for the Snohomish County Lands Acknowledgement statement: *For the Tulalip Tribes we consulted with Ryan Miller, the Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, and for the Stillaguamish Tribe we consulted with Sam Barr, Cultural Resources/THPO Supervisor. The language was recommended, reviewed and agreed upon through our Government to Government consultation. Please let me know if you have any other questions.*

The NWSC has provided a one-pager on their process for creating their Tribal Acknowledgement statement. This information is provided in the meeting packet. This information is for continued consideration and the MRC will continue with a larger discussion at a later meeting.

- **Port Susan:** Sara reported that Port Susan Stakeholder Survey was launched on February 9 and will remain open until March 2. We are already receiving responses to the survey with helpful information as well as several requests for phone call conversations. The next Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Team Meeting is scheduled for March 3 from 1:00 – 2:30PM.

- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex reported that January Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on January 19 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale) and January 20 (Howarth Park). February Forage Fish Monitoring is underway, with Picnic Point & Meadowdale completed today (February 16) and Howarth Park planned for tomorrow (February 17). Alex is putting dates together for March and April and will send those to the subcommittee members later this week.
- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura reported the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee met on February 3 to discuss the draft 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. Through this discussion, the team decided that we should re-draft this document with more of an emphasis on a potential future project, highlighting the lessons learned and efficiencies and cost-savings that would benefit future restoration projects. The team decided to focus on discussing a second phase of nourishment at Howarth Park. The team will meet again in early March to discuss the next iteration of the draft one-pager.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa reported that Snohomish County staff completed reconnaissance of potential 2022 vessels for removal on January 26. There are 4 boats currently suggested for removal, and information on the vessels was included in the MRC meeting packet. Elisa is working on receiving feedback on 2022 vessel removal plan from SWM management and stakeholders. Mike Ehlebracht brought up a fifth vessel for possible removal in Ebey Slough, and Elisa will add this vessel to the list of candidates for removal.
- **Oil Spills:** Julie Schlenger provided subcommittee members information via email and is working on setting up a meeting for the Oil Spills Subcommittee in March.
- **DNR Watershed Resilience Plan for the Snohomish Basin:** Laura reported that DNR has posted their new plan for the Snohomish Basin that highlights a lot of the MRC's work, including efforts on derelict vessels, pilings and marine debris, and marine vegetation mapping. Elisa is working with DNR to have someone from the agency come speak to the MRC about the plan. The plan can be seen here: [DNR's Watershed Resilience Action Plan by Washington State Department of Natural Resources](#)

**The meeting adjourned at 8:26.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

March 16, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

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<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Julie Schlenger                  Andrew Gobin                  Laura Gurley                  Brie Townsend                  Michael Kundu</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Sara Maxwell (excused)</p> <p><b>MRC Members Recommended for Appointment</b>                  Franchesca Perez                  Allan Hicks                  Bob Margulis</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff                  Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain, Citizen                  Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Tom Teigen, Snohomish County Conservation &amp; Natural Resources                  Phil Salditt, Northwest Straits Foundation                  Traci Sanderson, Citizen                  Richard Strickland, Citizen                  Lincoln Loehr, Citizen                  Mary Brueggeman, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the February meeting minutes.</li> <li>● The MRC approved a motion to adopt the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement, with an agreement to continue the discussion on revising this language in the future to include more actionable language specific to the MRC.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> March 22 and 23, April 19 and 20</li> <li>● <b>NW Straits Initiative 101:</b> March 17</li> <li>● <b>Kelp Monitoring 2022 Kickoff:</b> April 14</li> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> April 20</li> <li>● <b>Earth Day Beach Cleanup with WSU Beach Watchers:</b> April 23 at Picnic Point</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

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the February 16, 2022 Meeting Summary. Natasha Coumou seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### Draft MRC Annual Report Review & Discussion

Alex Pittman facilitated a discussion to review the draft MRC 2021 Annual Report and solicit MRC input. The draft report was sent out for MRC review a week prior to the meeting, and some

members submitted written comments ahead of time. Alex worked through the entire report to solicit MRC input on each page, with highlights of key discussion points included below:

- **MRC Members Page:** Alex requested that members please send in a different photo of themselves if they would like to change theirs.
- **Finance Page:** Alex made note of the fact that volunteer hours are down from 2020, which is a continuation of a longer-term trend (1,400 hours in 2020; 1,016 hours in 2021). Alex to note that this is part of the conversation we've been having through the 2022 Work Plan process, about empowering MRC members to take ownership of projects and get more involved. Also emphasize the importance of documenting time spent on MRC projects and general admin. There was great discussion around this point, with some members noting that the pandemic and shifts in project types are likely largely responsible for this decline, MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht encouraged MRC members to make sure they are properly documenting all the time they spend on MRC projects when they are reporting volunteer hours.
- **Derelict Vessel Page:** Alex noted that we had a new graphic created this year to highlight impacts of derelict vessels.
- **Marine Vegetation Monitoring Section:** Alex noted that this is a newly added project section to highlight monitoring efforts with DNR. He asked for MRC member input on whether the photo in the draft is useful, and members noted that a photo of the underwater marine vegetation would be preferred.
- **Beach Cleanups Page:** Alex made note of this is a new project section.

Alex took notes on the report throughout the discussion and will coordinate final revisions to the report following the meeting. The plan is to have a final report completed by April 1, so that it is ready to be distributed and submitted as an MRC grant deliverable in early April.

### **MRC Tribal Acknowledgment Discussion**

Elisa Dawson opened a discussion about Tribal Land Acknowledgement statement language which the MRC is considering adopting and adding to their meeting agendas and using in their documents, such as their Annual Report. The MRC has been discussing potential language over the past few months, and is currently considering three language options:

- **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Language:** The NWSC, the State coordinating body of the MRCs, was approached by Tribes within the NWSC area to develop a regional tribal lands acknowledgement statement that would be included in their documents. A document outlining this process has been provided to MRC members. After working together with these tribes, the NWSC adopted the language below as their formal statement. This adopted statement was provided to local MRCs to consider for their use, which could be adapted appropriately for their geographic area and used in their local meetings and reports.

**NWSC Tribal Acknowledgement:** *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.*

- **Snohomish MRC Drafted Language:** Using the NWSC statement as guidance, the MRC worked with Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribal staff to create a statement that the Snohomish MRC is now considering, as provided below. This language has not yet gone through any

vetting process with local tribes. The MRC is also trying to determine whether the Suquamish Tribe should be added to the list of tribes named in the Snohomish MRC statement. We are seeking county feedback on this and would also seek tribal feedback if we move forward with this language.

**Draft Tribal Acknowledgement developed by the Snohomish MRC:** *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.*

- **Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement Language:** We have also learned that there is language being adopted by Snohomish County Council below, as shown below. Snohomish County's recommendation would be that the MRC adopt the same as the county statement. If they would like to use a different statement than we need to schedule a meeting to discuss. Snohomish County reply from Lacey Harper on how the language was vetted for the Snohomish County Lands Acknowledgement statement: *For the Tulalip Tribes we consulted with Ryan Miller, the Director of Treaty Rights and Government Affairs, and for the Stillaguamish Tribe we consulted with Sam Barr, Cultural Resources/THPO Supervisor. The language was recommended, reviewed and agreed upon through our Government-to-Government consultation. Please let me know if you have any other questions.*

**Snohomish County Council Tribal Acknowledgement:** *"We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulag<sup>w</sup>ábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County."*

The MRC continued discussing these options, as they have all now had a chance to review and consider the options over the previous weeks and months.

Michael Kundu made a motion to adopt the Snohomish County Tribal Land Acknowledgement language. Tim Ellis seconded the motion. The MRC discussed the motion, and Laura Gurley requested to amend the motion to adopt the Snohomish County language with a commitment to ongoing discussion about developing MRC-specific language which includes more actionable language. All MRC Members voted to approve the language and the motion passed by consensus.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** No updates.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from February 25 NWSC Meeting:

- A reminder for the tentative in-person Northwest Straits conference November 18-19, 2022 at Maple Hall in La Conner. The Northwest Straits Commission plans to announce whether a conference will be held within the next month. A decision is pending public health recommendations.
- The REEF Volunteer Fish Survey Project is a citizen science opportunity for those who dive or snorkel. Learn more about how to get involved here: <https://www.reef.org/what-reef>.
- For invasive European green crab early detection and monitoring information, follow along with the work of Washington Sea Grant's Crab Team: [Get Involved With Crab Team – Washington Sea Grant](#).
- In Whatcom and Skagit Counties, NWSC staff will be leading intensive green crab removal efforts. Contact Leah Robison ([robison@nwstraits.org](mailto:robison@nwstraits.org)) for more information about MRC volunteer opportunities in these counties.
- Maritime WA National Heritage Area recognizes our state's unique and diverse maritime culture. This new designation supports our coastal communities in celebrating, maintaining, and sharing their water-based stories. A draft management plan for this area has been released. Comments can be provided in several ways, including through a survey that focuses on the key components of the plan. <https://preservewa.org/programs/maritime-national-heritage-area/mw-nha-get-involved/>
- NW Straits 101 scheduled for March 17 at 3:30PM.
- The next NWSC meeting is March 25.
- **Port Susan:** Alex Pittman reported that the Port Susan Stakeholder Survey closed on March 2. We had 25 responses to the survey. We will continue to hold follow up interviews with stakeholders in the coming weeks, and will begin to turn our attention to a series of stakeholder meetings to be held through the spring and summer. The Joint Island-Snohomish Port Susan Team met on March 3 to debrief from the survey and discuss next steps. The team decided that interviews would be held over coming weeks, and ESA will have analysis from interviews and survey responses by 4/1. The team is also currently reviewing draft documents from the Evans School Student Consulting Lab team.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex Pittman reported that February Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on February 16 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale) and February 17 (Howarth Park). March Forage Fish Monitoring is scheduled for March 22 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale) and March 23 (Howarth Park).
- **Nearshore Restoration:** Laura Gurley reported that the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee is continuing the effort to re-work a draft 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 team submitted comments via email and will meet again in April discuss the next iteration of the draft one-pager.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported that Snohomish County staff convened a stakeholder meeting on March 2 to discuss 2021 accomplishments, the current status of all derelict vessels in the Snohomish Estuary, Snohomish County's 2022 vessel removal plan, and DNR Derelict Vessel Program updates. The goal is to post 5 vessels for removal in March.
- **Oil Spills:** Julie Schlenger reported that the Oil Spills Subcommittee met March 14 to discuss local Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) and other plans for the group. The group

plans to meet in person soon to review documents and identify areas of focus for moving forward.

- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge provided an update on the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designation of an eelgrass and kelp protection area for the Snohomish Estuary. Washington State Department of Natural Resources has withdrawn approximately 2,298.01 acres of aquatic lands from leasing as authorized under RCW 79.10.210 effective February 28, 2022. These state-owned aquatic lands have kelp forests and eelgrass meadows that require additional protection and restoration activities. Such habitats provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species such as salmon, rockfish, and Pinto abalone. These marine forests and meadows also play an important role in climate mitigation and adaptation by sequestering carbon and relieving ocean acidification. In addition to these ecological benefits, kelp and eelgrass have important cultural value to Northwest Tribal Nations, playing a prominent role in traditional fishing, hunting, and food preparation and storage.
- **MRC Volunteer Hours:** Alex Pittman provided a quick update that volunteer hours tracking sheets for the first quarter of 2021 are due by April 1.
- **Beach Cleanup Review:** WSU Beach Watchers hosted a beach cleanup on March 3 at Howarth Park, and several MRC members and staff attended.
- **Earth Day 2022:** WSU Beach Watchers is hosting a beach cleanup for Earth Day at 10AM on Saturday, April 23 at Picnic Point. The MRC will be providing coffee and snacks.
- **Native Tree Seedlings:** Michael Kundu reported that he has approximately 100 native tree seedlings available to be donated to restoration projects.

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



# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

April 20, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Julie Schlenger                  Brie Townsend                  Sara Maxwell                  Franchesca Perez                  Allan Hicks                  Bob Margulis</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Michael Kundu (excused)                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair (excused)                  Laura Gurley (excused)                  Andrew Gobin (excused)</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff                  Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain, Citizen                  Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Richard Strickland, Citizen                  Don Wilcox, Citizen                  Traci Sanderson, Citizen                  Raveena, Citizen                  Ian Miller, Washington Sea Grant                  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers                  Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County SWM                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the March meeting minutes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Earth Day Beach Cleanup with WSU Beach Watchers:</b> April 23 at Picnic Point</li> <li>● <b>Salish Sea Conference:</b> April 26-28</li> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> May 18</li> <li>● <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> May 19</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. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*”

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the March 16, 2022 Meeting Summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Sea Level Rise Planning in Puget Sound**

Elisa Dawson introduced Dr. Ian Miller. Ian Miller is Washington Sea Grant's coastal hazards specialist. He specializes in helping coastal communities with issues including sea-level rise and tsunamis. Ian's team has just completed a quantitative sea level rise assessment for all parcels bordering Puget Sound and is sharing the work with MRC's to get feedback on the results of their project and solicit input on what the next steps with the data should be.

Ian went through a presentation on his project "Prioritizing Sea Level Rise Exposure and Habitat Sensitivity Across Puget Sound." This project worked to understand which areas of Puget Sound are exposed to future flooding and erosion associated with sea level rise, and what the consequences might be of that exposure to both existing infrastructure and habitats. The methods used were spatial, GIS-based analysis at the parcel level. They combined elevation data for Puget Sound with sea level rise projections, flood magnitude estimates, and coastal asset databases (infrastructure, habitats, etc.) to examine relationships between projected sea level rise and local conditions and habitats across Puget Sound. In addition to estimates of impact based on physical features, Social scientists with National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) leveraged their expertise in vulnerability assessments to support Washington Sea Grant's ongoing effort by providing overall project support, integrating human dimensions (i.e., social vulnerability) data, and adding capacity to this effort on the West Coast.

NCCOS developed a complementary social vulnerability assessment for communities within the Puget Sound region. To assess social vulnerability, the authors applied part of NCCOS's vulnerability assessment framework through application of a regionally modified Social Vulnerability Index for Zip Code Tabulation Areas within the Puget Sound drainage basin. A principal components analysis on 50 chosen variables was used to determine the components and variables to include in the final index. The final social vulnerability index included 36 variables and resulted in seven components of social vulnerability for the Puget Sound region. Components included Diversity and Urbanity; Income and Education; Age and Housing Occupancy; Isolation, Access to Social Services, and Dependence on Extractive Industries; Housing and Infrastructure; Institutional Inequities; and Life Satisfaction and Belonging. These components were adjusted for directionality and placed in an equal-weighted additive model to achieve a single, community-level social vulnerability index score. The final composite social vulnerability index was then integrated into the sea level rise vulnerability assessment led by Washington Sea Grant as a modifier for identification of co-benefits.

This project provides valuable science to decision makers, planners, and partners that will inform management decisions in the Puget Sound and support restoration activities. Without these types of analyses, coastal communities and natural habitats are at a disadvantage in the face of climate change and related impacts. Beyond its integration with the larger vulnerability assessment as an optional parcel-level vulnerability score modifier, the social vulnerability assessment can be used as a stand-alone product to inform other efforts in the Puget Sound region and offers a tool for communities and other users to summarize needs and advocate for resources for environmental justice action and adaptation in the face of climate change and sea level rise. After his presentation, Ian then opened the conversation for discussion. He specifically asked for feedback on his data, suggestions on how it might be used or where the data should be stored.

MRC Members thanked Ian for his presentation. One suggestion from the MRC was to have the GIS data available for student groups/professionals to use. The MRC also asked Ian about the five different sea level rise scenarios and their range that were used to create the model. Ian said they included a high magnitude scenario as well as near term scenarios. Also, Ian mentioned that because this is a relative ranking scenario, all sea level rise scenarios should give similar relative rankings. Several MRC Members mentioned that it would be helpful to include more transparency around the five different scenarios used when the data becomes available as they thought users would be interested in that information. Additionally, the MRC made comments around how to make the data applicable, it will need to be conveyed in an understandable and relatable format. Overall, the MRC found the data to be powerful and hopes it will be used for local decision making.

### **Meadowdale Interpretive Signage Review**

Elisa Dawson opened a discussion of draft interpretive sign designs and locations for the Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project. Drafts of the 4 interpretive signs and a map of their locations was provided to the MRC in the meeting packet. The MRC last provided feedback on interpretive signs at Meadowdale in 2018, and these are the drafts that have been finalized since then. Parks is seeking final feedback before these signs are printed and installed in Fall 2022. There is a maximum of four signs that can be installed at this location, so all edits should assume no additional signs can be made. The MRC suggested the following edits to the signs:

“Forested Ravine” (it says watershed sign on the drawings at the overlook, is that location where this sign will be?)

- Illustration on lower right could be edited to better show the shade of the trees over the stream.
- Could add “native plants provide erosion control” to lower right graphic
- In lower right graphic say “large wood helps slow flows”
- In lower right graphic say “trees provide cooling shade”

“Reconnecting and Restoring”

- Text on upper right could be changed to “The stream erodes Ice Age deposits of sand and gravel and carries them downstream to form the beach.”
  - The interruption of sediment is mentioned in other part of this sign, and we think this sign could use less wording on it.

“Estuary Habitat”

- There is no mention about how there are also Chum and Coho found in this stream. Also sea-run cutthroat trout are in this stream, and other fish.
- The bottom center should specifically mention juvenile chinook are not natal to this stream – right now it only says juvenile salmon, there are chum who were “born” in this stream through the hatchery process by the Edmonds Stream Team.

“The Salish Sea” (it says native American sign on the drawings at the beach location, is that location where this sign will be?)

- Suggest keeping the top large text, but change the bottom center text to “Tribal communities have long recognized the importance of water and water-based resources in sustaining life in this region. For many who live here, the Salish Sea defines our region. To protect these waters and the life that depends on it, we must protect and restore habitat throughout shorelines, rivers, and streams; remove barriers to fish passage; improve water quality; and address underlying causes of climate change. You can help by practicing Leave No Trace

and picking up trash and pet waste. For more ideas on what you can do visit [PugetSoundStartsHere.org](http://PugetSoundStartsHere.org)”

- Add the website address for Meadowdale that SWM is setting up (probably won't be available until June)
- Could add a call out that says “x̣wəlč is “**Salish Sea**, saltwater” in Lushootseed”
- Ranger has asked that the mention of stopping at the Ranger's house be removed.

### **Port Susan Project Update**

Sara and Alex reported that the Port Susan team wrapped up the Stakeholder Survey and follow up Stakeholder Interviews in March. Project consultant ESA completed a draft Early Assessment Summary in early April. Overall, the survey results and information shared during interviews demonstrate strong commitment to the responsible management of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area from a broad range of stakeholders and community members. Key takeaways include:

- The majority of individuals who have used the plan in recent years used it to identify project or funding opportunities. This early assessment indicates many partners are not regularly utilizing the Port Susan MSA CAP. Over half of respondents indicated they have referenced the plan once in the last 1-5 years, or more than 5 years.
- Many of the same issues and challenges identified in 2012 still exist in Port Susan today. Instead of updating the Port Susan MSA CAP, respondents broadly requested a shift in focus towards implementation.
- Some objectives and strategies would benefit from additional context and framing, particularly as they relate to climate change, wellbeing, and new considerations from the past 10 years.
- When asked how to make the plan more useful, a majority of respondents chose options to cross walk the plan with the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda and host biannual implementation meetings.

The joint Snohomish-Island Port Susan team met on April 6 to discuss these results, and how to approach the follow up Stakeholder Meetings this Spring and Summer based on the feedback obtained. We will likely be holding three meetings with the following general themes:

- Introductory Meeting – potentially to be held in coordination with the Snohomish-Stillaguamish and/or Island LIOs.
- Strategies & Actions Workshop
- Plan Implementation Workshop

This team will meet again in early-mid May to continue Stakeholder Meeting planning.

MRC staff and members also met on April 13 to discuss the NWSC Grant Amendment and Phase 2 of the Port Susan Project. We are drafting language based on that discussion to be reviewed by the MRC at our May meeting, and plan to submit our high-level proposal to the NWSC by the end May.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** No updates.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from the March 25 NWSC Meeting:

- Senator Murray secured \$3M in Congressional funding for FY22. MRCs are prioritizing projects they would like to fund with this money. The Commission is waiting for further instructions from NOAA regarding timelines and other details.
  - The NW Straits Commission is planning for future hybrid meetings, and have ordered an Owl Camera to make those hybrid meetings more effective.
  - The NW Straits Commission plans to hold an in-person conference November 18-19 at Maple Hall in La Conner. More information will be provided as planning commences.
  - Leah Robison on NW Straits Commission staff is planning a forage fish spawn monitoring training for July. Contact Leah for more information (robison@nwstraits.org)
  - The NW Straits Foundation is researching and designing an AmeriCorps marine conservation corps program. This is part of a planning grant to assess the need for a program in the Northwest Straits region. They will be reaching out to MRC staff starting in April to learn about emerging opportunities and to identify partnership opportunities where AmeriCorps members can provide capacity, knowledge, skills and abilities supporting local marine projects.
  - The next NWSC meeting is April 22.
- **NWSC Letter of Support.** Elisa Dawson announced that The NWSC recently received \$3M in federal funding for FY22. Undoubtedly, the letters of support submitted by the MRC's respective counties were highly influential in solidifying Senator Murray's support for this request. Senator Murray's office recommended submitting another \$3M congressional funding request for FY23 and requested another round of letters of support from each County. Snohomish County submitted a letter of support signed by the County Executive and all five County Councilmembers on March 30.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex Pittman reported that March Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on March 22 (Picnic Point & Meadowdale) and March 23 (Howarth Park). April Forage Fish Monitoring for Meadowdale was completed on April 7, and Howarth Park and Picnic Point samples were collected on April 19. Monitoring at Meadowdale is on-hold again. Meadowdale beach access closed on April 11 for construction to resume, and we will resume monitoring once beach access is restored.
- **Nearshore Restoration:** Elisa reported that the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee is continuing the effort to re-work a draft 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 team submitted comments via email and met on April 18 to discuss the next iteration of the draft one-pager. The subcommittee hopes to share the one-pager with the MRC this summer.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported that Snohomish County staff posted four vessels on March 28 and is currently in the process of getting bids. Removal of the vessels should start in mid-May.
- **Oil Spills:** Julie Schlenger reported that the Oil Spills Subcommittee met March 14 to discuss local Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) and other plans for the group. The group plans to meet in person soon to review documents and identify areas of focus for moving forward.

- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported that NWSC hosted an MRC Kelp Monitoring Season Kickoff on April 14. Tom is working on putting together the dates for monitoring this summer and asked any MRC Members who are interested in participating to please contact him or Elisa.
- **Stormwater:** Mike Ehlebracht provided an overview of his work serving on a panel for 6PPD-quinone – an oxidation product of a chemical additive in tires that is intended to prevent damage to tire rubber from ozone. Researchers recently demonstrated that 6PPD-quinone causes Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS) in coho salmon. Mike explained that for decades, scientists noticed that coho salmon returning to urban streams throughout the Sound were dying in large amounts before being able to spawn – sometimes up to 90% or more of the return. The phenomenon is called coho prespawn mortality. From 2002 to 2009, various federal and state agencies conducted surveys on coho, Chinook, and chum salmon that use Longfellow Creek in Seattle as well as other urban creeks in Puget Sound as spawning habitat. Research confirmed the link between coho prespawn mortality and polluted stormwater runoff in our urban streams, and the term “Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome” was coined. Coho exhibiting URMS gasp for breath, swim at the surface of the water, swim in confused circles, and can die within just a few hours. Mike explained that best management practices for filtering stormwater, such as installing raingardens, are extremely effective for this stormwater issue.
- **Earth Day 2022:** WSU Beach Watchers is hosting a beach cleanup for Earth Day at 10AM on Saturday, April 23 at Picnic Point. The MRC will be providing coffee and snacks.
- **Snohomish County Tree Ordinance:** Mike Ehlebracht reported that he personally submitted a letter on the Snohomish County Tree Ordinance that was proposed by Councilmember Dunn to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- **MRC Annual Report Presentation to Council:** Mike will be presenting to the Snohomish County Council’s Conservation, Sustainability and Recreation Committee on Tuesday, April 26. Alex also noted that we have hard copies of the Annual Report for each MRC member and will plan on distributing those at upcoming in-person meetings.
- **Kayak Point Park Update:** Elisa Dawson reported that an update on the Kayak Point project is on the agenda for May. Snohomish County Parks is still awaiting the final Corps of Engineer permit for phase 1 which may delay construction from this summer to next, and in the meantime, they are applying for phase 2 funding. The project still includes a new boat launch, removal of part of the existing armored shoreline sea wall, installation of a backshore berm which will improve sea level rise resiliency while enhancing native shoreline vegetation. Phase 2 also includes renovated restrooms and picnic shelters, new pedestrian circulation paths, play areas, picnic areas, parking, stormwater treatment, and utilities. Parks is seeking a letter of support from the MRC.

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

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

May 18, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted via conference call/video\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Brie Townsend                  Laura Gurley                  Sara Maxwell                  Franchesca Perez                  Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Michael Kundu (excused)                  Julie Schlenger (excused)                  Bob Margulis (excused)                  Susan Tarpley, Ex-Officio (excused)                  Andrew Gobin</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff                  Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers                  Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District                  Kelly Zupich, Island County, MRC Staff                  Phil Salditt, NWSF Board Member                  Sandy Evans, WSU Beach Watchers                  Tiffany Ha, UW Evans School                  Grace Adams, UW Evans School                  Tori Shaw, UW Evans School                  Madison Rose Bristol, UW Evans School                  Michael Cervantes, UW Evans School                  Richard Strickland, Citizen                  Carin Chase, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the April 2022 meeting minutes.</li> <li>● The MRC approved the development of a letter of support for the Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> May 19 &amp; June 16</li> <li>● <b>Port Susan Stakeholder Meeting at the Stillaguamish Watershed Council:</b> May 25</li> <li>● <b>Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Salish Sea Marine Survival Project Workshop:</b> May 25</li> <li>● <b>Crabber Subcommittee Meeting:</b> June 6</li> <li>● <b>Kelp Vital Sign Indicator Development - Workshop #2:</b> June 7</li> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> June 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. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest*

*about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

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

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the April 20, 2022 Meeting Summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Comprehensive Review of the 2012 Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Conservation Action Plan (MSA CAP) by the UW Evans School Student Consulting Team**

Alex Pittman introduced Grace Adams, Tori Shaw, Madison Rose Bristol, Michael Cervantes, and Tiffany Ha with the UW Evans School Student Consulting Lab. The Evans School Team has been working over the past several months with both the Island and Snohomish MRCs to review and provide recommendations with respect to three main topic areas related to the Port Susan MSA CAP, including updating relevant knowledge, opportunities for improving effectiveness, and enhancing meaningful and equitable community engagement.

The Evans School Team has completed a draft report detailing their analysis of the 2012 CAP, a review of relevant literature, and recommendations for improving future community engagement in the planning process. This report will help inform the recommendations that the Snohomish MRC and project consultant ESA will include in our final Phase 1 report and will also help inform the actions taken in Phase 2 and beyond. The Evans School Team presented to the MRC about their guiding research questions, methodology, research findings, and recommendations.

First, the team conducted an extensive literature review. This included an analysis of relevant scientific literature for each conservation target, a progress review of strategic actions and objectives for each target, and a review of where regulatory guidance may have been updated. The team also reviewed alternative approaches to conservation planning and other initiatives in Puget Sound to discover successful approaches to community-based resource management and conservation planning.

The Evans School Team also helped with collecting stakeholder and partner input via surveys and interviews, and then analyzed those results to inform their findings. From the survey, we found that roughly half of respondents had not used the CAP in the last 5 years. To address this and improve utility, respondents suggested making a shorter or abridged version of the CAP or an alternative process, identifying more concrete and actionable steps, meeting more regularly with partners, and linking efforts to related local initiatives. Based on updated scientific understanding, respondents were most concerned with prioritizing sea level rise; climate change; nearshore ecology; and environmental justice issues, including human wellbeing. Interviews also revealed that partners are experiencing planning fatigue, and that partners noted that the CAP placed emphasis on biological systems and indicators, limiting the opportunity for sociocultural considerations, resulting in a lack of community ownership.

The team also conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analysis. This analysis noted that the collaborative development of the CAP was a strength, though key weaknesses include a lack of clarity about how progress would be tracked over time, that collaborative engagement was limited to those who were invited and able to participate, limiting the perspectives, interests, and values represented in the CAP, and that the chosen conservation targets



neglected to link social and ecological factors to community values. Key threats identified included the exclusion of human dimensions in the planning process, an overreliance on expert knowledge without defining the source of that knowledge, and the fact that only 68% of prioritized strategic actions targeted high threats. Opportunities identified include developing culturally appropriate and equitable stewardship practices, incorporating local and traditional stewardship practices, and building authentic partnerships with BIPOC and low-income communities.

The team closed the presentation by outlining their recommendations, which were categorized into three groups:

**1. Enhance the CAP Framework**

- a. *Revisit Conservation Targets and Threats:* Incorporate new information, engage with existing efforts, and improve understanding of conservation targets.
- b. *Revise Viability Indicators:* Ensure they are defined and measurable.
- c. *Sociocultural Targets:* Facilitate a process for community members to develop their own sociocultural targets and use the literature review to help frame and develop measurements for these targets.
- d. *Tracking Strategic Actions:* Include a robust tracking method.
- e. *Communications Tool:* Create an accessible communication tool to share key information and highlight successes.

**2. Alternative Pathways**

- a. *Crosswalk with the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda:* Identify overlapping goals and allow for implementation of aligned recovery efforts in Port Susan.
- b. *Collaborative Decision-Making Coalition:* Form a coalition to reach consensus on stewardship actions and share responsibility for implementation.

**3. Overarching Recommendations: Environmental Justice & Community Engagement**

- a. *Join the WA State Environmental Justice Council (EJC) Interagency Workgroup.*
- b. *Review and Incorporate Guidelines from the EJC's Equitable Community Engagement Plan.*
- c. *Plan for Equitable & Meaningful Community Engagement:* Plan for inclusive participation to generate a truly community-based stewardship effort.

MRC members expressed their appreciation for the Evans School Team's great work on this project and asked several questions about the team's presentation and how these findings might relate to how the MRC proceeds with Phase 2 of this project. Phase 1 is still underway, with stakeholder input still being gathered through a series of targeted meetings, and Phase 2 will begin in Fall 2022 and will focus heavily on identifying and acting upon opportunities to improve partner and community engagement with restoration and protection efforts in Port Susan. As such, there will be many opportunities to incorporate the lessons of the Evans School Team's work into the MRC's process moving forward.

**MRC 2022-23 Draft Grant Amendment Review**

Alex Pittman facilitated a discussion of the MRC's 2022-23 Draft Grant Amendment application, which proposes to continue with Phase 2 of the Port Susan MSA CAP project, first providing a brief overview of the proposal. Phase 2 of this project, in collaboration with Island County MRC, would leverage the findings of the stakeholder engagement process completed in Phase 1 to identify and execute the best methods and opportunities to build community and improve engagement with the Port Susan MSA CAP through the creation of clear and actionable communications materials. The overall goal of both phases of work is increased engagement by stakeholders and the public, and improved focus and coordination of protection and restoration efforts in the Port Susan MSA.

He then walked the MRC through key draft responses in the grant application, with special focus on responses related to outcomes and deliverables, soliciting input from the MRC throughout. MRC members and meeting attendees asked questions related to equitable community engagement and measuring the effectiveness of community engagement efforts, and minor revisions to the application were made during the discussion.

Alex closed the discussion with a brief discussion of the next steps in the application process.

### **Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project Update**

Elisa Dawson introduced Carol Ohlfs, Principal Planner with Snohomish County Parks, to discuss the [Kayak Point Day-Use Improvement Project](#).

Kayak Point is one of Snohomish County's most popular, most visited parks, and is one of only 3 saltwater public access points Snohomish County Parks has. It was last renovated in the 1970s, which makes the infrastructure over 50 years old. Snohomish County Parks gone through a multi-year process with public outreach, design, and permitting, and are getting ready to start construction of the almost \$18 million project across two phases.

Snohomish County Park's current plan for the park was informed by the work done in 2002- 2003 and 2008-2011 in partnership with the Snohomish County MRC. In 2010, Snohomish County Parks and the MRC worked to create a shared Vision Statement through a series of public meetings. The Kayak Point Park Community Shared Vision is:

*“Kayak Point Park is a premier waterfront recreation resource for Snohomish County which contributes to the overall health and sustainability of the Puget Sound ecosystem. The day use portion of the park provides a beautiful place for visitors to connect with the saltwater environment and enjoy diverse recreation, education and leisure opportunities. Accessible, safe and pedestrian friendly facilities promote exceptional park experiences for all. Facilities for boating, picnicking, nature appreciation, field sports, fishing, child play, and walking are thoughtfully designed to create lasting functionality and durability while promoting a healthy beach and marine environment. Revenue from park amenities, services, and fees help to ensure a quality park is maintained for our children, grandchildren and beyond.”*

The last presentation on Kayak Point to the MRC was in 2017. MRC Members were provided with the 2017 materials prior to this meeting. Carol Ohlfs, project manager, presented an update of the project plans and timeline and made a request for a letter of support from the MRC for this project.

Laura Gurley made a motion to approve the development of a letter of support from the MRC for the Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project. Laura suggested using the Port of Everett's letter of support as a draft template for developing the MRC's letter. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** No updates.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from the April 22 NWSC Meeting:
  - The NW Straits Commission approved staff to move forward with contracting necessary for eelgrass protection zone expansion. This includes social marketing and site monitoring. Commission staff are working with MRCs to identify sites.

- Securing \$3 million in Congressionally Directed Spending is significant. MRCs should reach out to Lucas or Sasha if they anticipate needing more than \$200,000 for project work. It will be possible to provide funding in excess of this amount.
  - The Commission elected Elsa Schwartz and Tom Cowan for another term as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.
  - Forage Fish training will be held July 13 in Port Townsend. Contact Leah Robison with questions [Robison@nwstraits.org](mailto:Robison@nwstraits.org)
  - The NW Straits Commission Program Coordinator position is currently open for applicants. Information and application at <https://bit.ly/3Iz1tXk>
  - Changes to the account that MRC State funds come from now require that half of the funds be spent by June 30, 2022. This will require MRC grant amendments.
  - P. Sean McDonald presented on green crab at the Commission meeting. E-DNA methods for crab detection are being developed. Information and resources on green crab can be found at [www.wsg.washington.edu/crabteam](http://www.wsg.washington.edu/crabteam)
  - The NW Straits Foundation is scoping development of a Salish Sea Conservation Corps program. They will be reaching out to MRCs on needs.
  - The NW Straits Foundation is creating an app for their Passport to Marine Adventure project. The app will include georeferenced NW Straits Initiative projects and encourage people to visit. The Foundation will be reaching out to MRCs to gather information on projects they would like to highlight.
    - The next NWSC meeting is May 27.
- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported that the MRC Kelp Monitoring Team is currently scheduling monitoring dates for the 2022 monitoring season. Tom also reported that members of SWM management has expressed some interest in assisting with monitoring field work this year.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex Pittman reported that April Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on April 7 (Meadowdale) and April 19 (Picnic Point and Howarth Park). May monitoring is scheduled for May 19 at Picnic Point and Howarth Park.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported that Snohomish County staff hosted a contractor tour as part of the bidding process on April 25. The County received three bids and is in the process of contracting with the low bidder, totaling \$143,500. The hope is to remove vessels in late May – June. Since the total for removal of the 4 vessels is so close to our total budget amount (\$150,000), we likely will not be able to remove any further vessels in 2022, unless we get a budget increase approval from SWM management.
- **Pilings Project Presentation at Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference:** Elisa Dawson reported that she presented on the Snohomish Estuary Pilings Project at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference on April 28.
- **Review of Earth Day 2022:** Alex Pittman provided a brief recap of the MRC’s Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Picnic Point on April 23 in partnership with WSU Beach Watchers. Several MRC members and their families, along with volunteers from WSU Beach Watchers and Puget Sound Energy, removing over 370 pounds of trash from the beach.
- **Review of MRC Annual Report Presentation to Council:** Mike provided a brief recap of his presentation to the Snohomish County Council’s Conservation, Sustainability and Recreation Committee on Tuesday, April 26. The presentation was well received, and Council Chair Dunn and Councilmember Nehring both expressed their gratitude for the MRC’s great work through 2021.
- **The meeting adjourned at 8:30.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

June 15, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting held at Willis Tucker Snohomish County Parks Building\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Brie Townsend Laura Gurley Sara Maxwell Franchesca Perez Michael Kundu Julie Schlenger Bob Margulis</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Allan Hicks (excused) Andrew Gobin</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain, Citizen Susan Tarpley, Citizen</p> <p><b>Others</b> Phil Salditt, Northwest Straits Foundation</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the May 2022 meeting minutes.</li><li>• The MRC approved the letter of support for the Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> July 25</li><li>• <b>Crabber Outreach:</b> July 1, 2, 8, and 9 at Everett 10<sup>th</sup> street Boat Launch</li><li>• <b>MRC Kelp Monitoring:</b> July 11-13</li><li>• <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> July and August MRC Meetings cancelled.</li><li>• <b>MRC Social Picnic:</b> August 17</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábs̓ (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš̓ (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*”

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

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

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 18, 2022 Meeting Summary. Natasha Coumou seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project Letter of Support**

At the May MRC Meeting, Carol Ohlfs from Snohomish County Parks, Recreation, & Tourism presented a project update to the MRC and requested a letter of support for additional grant funding to complete the project. At that meeting, the MRC approved the development of a draft letter of support using the Port of Everett’s letter of support as a template.

A draft letter was circulated to the MRC for review in late May, and the current draft has been updated based on the comments received through that review. Mike Ehlebracht asked for any discussion on the letter, and there was none. Mike requested a MRC vote on if they would like to approve this letter of support for submittal:

Tom Doerge made a motion to approve the Kayak Point Park Day-Use Improvement Project Letter of Support, Michael Kundu seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mike Ehlebracht will sign the letter and a final letter will be sent to Snohomish County Parks.

### **MRC General Administration and Planning Discussion**

Elisa Dawson facilitated a discussion of MRC general administration and planning. The group started by reviewing the MRC Bylaws. Elisa noted the Bylaws on alternates for members and was as the attendance Bylaws.

In reviewing the work completed so far in 2021, the group discussed the need to add Green Crab work to the MRC workplan. MRC Members who have been involved in Green Crab work noted their experience so far, and the deepening need to address Green Crab as the Green Crabs are being found further south into Puget Sound. The MRC agreed to work to find a guest speaker for an early fall MRC meeting on this topic. Bob Margulis will reach out to the Northwest Straits Commission for Guest Speaker ideas, and Natasha Coumou will reach out to Washington Sea Grant.

The group next discussed Snohomish County Code 2.800 – Marine Resources Advisory Committee. Elisa noted that in January 2022 the MRC considered the following change to SCC 2.800.050, as follows 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 moving forward on this change. There was general agreement among the group that the MRC should work to move this change forward. One suggestion was to look into an annual opportunity the County Council may offer for proposing code suggestions. The Executive Committee will look into this opportunity as a way to move forward on this change.

Additionally, the MRC briefly discussed the need to update the MRC Strategic Plan. Due to lack of time, the MRC will discuss the Strategic Plan at a later meeting.

Alex Pittman announced he has accepted a new position as a Watershed Steward at Snohomish County. Alex has served as staff for the Snohomish MRC since October 2020. For the last 21 months he has helped lead many MRC projects including forage fish monitoring, our Port Susan work, beach cleanups with partners, and has been a great coworker and friend to the MRC. In his new role within Snohomish County, he will provide technical assistance to Snohomish County residents and public agencies on surface water projects. He will be monitoring water quality issues and improving habitat throughout the County. The MRC is pleased to see him in this role that we know he will excel at.

The MRC has cancelled their July meeting. The August meeting is also cancelled, per the usual schedule, and in its place a social picnic will occur on August 17. More details to come.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** No updates.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from May 27 NWSC Meeting:
  - **Action Item:** MRC reps please ask your MRCs for insight on the following conference related matters and report general feedback to Sasha and Elsa (horst@nwstraits.org; eschwartz@estuaries.org). Given COVID:
    - How does the MRC feel about attending an in person indoor NW Straits Initiative conference in November?
    - How does the MRC feel about attending an outdoor NW Straits Initiative gathering in late summer/early fall instead of holding an in-person conference in November? The event would be more of an opportunity to connect than a conference.
  - Lucas will be reaching out to MRC staff and other interested parties soon to schedule a meeting to discuss derelict vessels. In particular, we will discuss an opportunity to do a direct interagency agreement with DNR to remove vessels in MRC counties. Related to this, we will review the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Vessels of Concern list and the possibility of doing a pilot vessel turn-in event with DNR.
  - The Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council will vote on approval of the new Action Agenda in June.
- The next NWSC meeting is June 24.
- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported that the MRC Kelp Monitoring Team has scheduled monitoring dates for the 2022 monitoring season. All three sites (Edmonds, Mukilteo, Meadowdale) will be monitored in July. Possible dates are July 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, & 27. Edmonds will be monitored a second time in August. Possible dates are August 10 & 12. SWM Staff will monitor Hat Island in August. Possible dates are August 11 & 25. Tom also announced that the MRC has gotten their permit for access at the Edmonds Dive Park.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Alex Pittman reported that May Forage Fish Monitoring was completed on May 19 at Picnic Point and Howarth Park. June monitoring is scheduled for June 16 at Picnic Point and Howarth Park. MRC Member Bob and SWM staff Joycelyn are attending the forage fish training in Port Townsend in July.

- **Port Susan: Alex Pittman & Sara Maxwell reported that** the Port Susan team hosted an introductory stakeholder meeting at the Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) meeting on May 25. The SWC doubles as the LIO Implementation Committee for the Stillaguamish watershed. We also invited the Island County LIO and stakeholders who had previously expressed an interest in continued engagement. At this meeting, we introduced the project and solicited input on a draft progress tracker, a draft crosswalk with the PSP Action Agenda, and draft agendas for the two follow up stakeholder meetings. We are currently planning for the two follow up meetings, which will occur in late June and early July, and will focus on the Objectives & Strategic Actions of the CAP and Implementation Planning. Dates for the workshops are June 30 and July 6.
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported the County's contractor, NRC, is planning to begin removing four vessels the week of June 27, starting with the vessel on Jetty Island.
- **Crabber Education:** Susan Tarpley reported that the Crabber Education subcommittee met on June 6 to discuss the outreach plan for 2022. The team is planning to coordinate in-person outreach at the 10th Street Boat Launch in Everett on July 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th, pending final details about opening day from WDFW. Depending on volunteer interest beyond the subcommittee, in-person outreach may expand to additional sites throughout the County.
- Elisa reported that she will be out-of-office June 17-27
- Volunteer Hours Due Friday, July 1. Please send them to Alex Pittman.

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

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

September 21, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted online\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Franchesca Perez                  Michael Kundu                  Julie Schlenger                  Bob Margulis                  Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Andrew Gobin                  Brie Townsend                  Laura Gurley                  Sara Maxwell                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior                  Planner and MRC Staff</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain                  Susan Tarpley</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Phil Salditt, Northwest Straits Foundation                  Jeff Adams, Washington Sea Grant                  Chelsey Buffington, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife                  Allie Simpson, Northwest Straights Commission                  Leah Robison, Northwest Straights Commission                  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers                  Tom Teigen, Snohomish County, Department of                  Conservation and Natural Resources                  Traci Sanderson, citizen                  Celeste Race, Work Force Snohomish</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the June 2022 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Beach Cleanup at Picnic Point: September 24</b></li> <li>● <b>Forage Fish Monitoring: October 10<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting: October 19<sup>th</sup>, virtual</b></li> </ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləg<sup>w</sup>ábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

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## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the June 15, 2022 Meeting Summary. Franchesca Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **Washington Sea Grant/WDFW European Green Crab Presentation.**

Jeff Adams from Washington Sea Grant and Chelsey Buffington from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented on the current status and management actions of invasive European Green Crab (EGC).

### **Key Points:**

- **Current Status**
  - EGC is listed as a priority 1 invasive species
  - 2022 Governor's proclamation instituted emergency measures and funding to address EGC
  - Two main invasions
    - Coastal shorelines – high abundance and widespread continuous geographic range
    - Inland shorelines – low abundance and sparser restricted geographic range
  - Early detection networks are working
  - Two new detections both small in numbers
    - Discovery Bay between Port Townsend and Sequim
    - Seabeck area of Hood Canal
- **Management Actions**
  - Public updates going out biweekly
    - 176,600 EGC removed as of the latest report at time of presentation
  - Implementation of an Incident Command Structure to organize the response
  - Increased collaboration with partners
  - Hiring dedicated positions both permanent and seasonal
  - Trying to do more in the off season (winter) this year
  - Lower intensity detection protocol currently in development, expected to be available in April

## **Green Crab Q&A, Discussion, and MRC Next Steps**

### **Questions:**

Q: The biggest hurdle or bottleneck the MRC can help with?

A: With no detections in Snohomish County, education to local groups and public is most important. If there was a detection, then the MRC would be vital to serving as the channel agency for connecting with local groups to get boots on the ground.

Q: Advice for the average beach going citizen who has heard of EGC and how to help?

A: Washington Sea Grant is currently developing outreach opportunities. Suggests that those familiar with EGC keep an eye out for molts when walking the beach and share their awareness with other members of the community.

Q: What are the habitat changes and impacts of high EGC populations?

A: The research is still ongoing, more so in Canada than in Washington due to the length of established EGC populations. Observations of EGC ripping up eel grass, eating soft shelled clams, and interrupting aquaculture have been made. There are also concerns about the impacts to juvenile fish due to habitat loss.

#### Ideas and Suggestions:

- Connecting EGC info with the MyCoast App or Naturalist App, WDFW points people to the WA Invasives app
- Include the flyer on EGC in the crabber education packet. Need to include context that EGC is a shore crab.

#### **Port Susan Status Update**

Joycelyn provided an update of the Port Susan Project. Final documents were received from ESA. The Port Susan Team of Island and SnoCo members reviewed these docs in early September. Final documents for Phase 1 include:

- final detailed report of the work in Phase 1
- one-pager overview of Phase 1
- progress tracker - provides an overview of projects done in Port Susan within the last ten years and the status of meeting goals outlined in the plan
- Action Agenda Crosswalk template - the team developed to begin to understand the overlaps between the Port Susan Conservation Action Planning process 10 years ago and the current Action Agenda way of planning in the Puget Sound.

Reiterated the goal for Phase 2: to continue to develop the progress Tracker into an online tool and create other online tools to gather information on Port Susan, celebrate the work that has been done, and continue to encourage work to be done in the future. And stated the first task this fall will be creating a Communications Plan which will outline the rest of the work to be done from Fall 2022-Fall 2023.

Kudos were given to the MRC members currently on the Port Susan team: Sara Maxwell, Andrew Gobin, Natasha Coumou, Allan Hicks, and Julie Schlenger.

#### **Snohomish STEM Program Support**

Mike Ehlebracht facilitated a discussion of how the MRC can support the Snohomish STEM Program. Mike was specifically asking if someone would want to meet with Alyssa Jackson, Acting Director of the Snohomish STEM Network, and continue the education and outreach discussion.

David Bain stated interest in making this connection. Allan Hicks and Phil Salditt expressed willingness to share about their careers.

#### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim Ellis reported:
  - Next LIO meeting Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 3pm

- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from August 26 NWSC Meeting:
  - Northwest Straits Commission meeting schedule: The Commission approved the remaining 2022 dates and the 2023 schedule. Strive to be in person every other month.
  - Derelict Vessel Removal: MRCs and tribal partners are compiling prioritization lists for derelict vessel removal to distribute to NW Straits Commission staff. Contact your MRC Coordinator or Lucas Hart (hart@nwstraits) for more information.
  - Northwest Straits Initiative Collaborative Conservation Workshop: Senator Lovelett agreed to speak at the Sept. 16 Collaborative Conservation Workshop. Workshop registrants – watch for an email that will include the workshop agenda and details about the event, including how to complete the required health screening.
  - Congressionally Directed Spending for the Northwest Straits Commission was awarded by NOAA for 2023. Funding will be available January 1 – December 31, 2023. Northwest Straits Commission staff provided instructions for project applications to MRC coordinators.
  - Yellow Island Intertidal Monitoring Project: Chris Mantegna presented to the Northwest Straits Commission. Chris developed this project, with funding from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholar Program, to create opportunities for underserved groups to engage in conservation. Students from various disciplines monitored Yellow Island by cataloging presence and abundance of observed species. Chris hopes to increase the scale and involve other partner organizations in similar student driven monitoring efforts in the future. Learn more about the program here, or find contact information on Chris and other presenters in the Speed Dating with Scientists series here.
  - Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization: Senator Murray continues to lead the effort on a federal reauthorization of the NW Straits Initiative. Preliminary plans indicate the bill may be introduced in the US Senate after the August recess.
  - Carolyn Gibson scholarship recipients reporting out on the 23rd of this month at Port Townsend 4-6pm at the maritime center
  - Northwest Straits Collaborative Conservation workshop: last Friday was very successful, insightful, and a great way to connect with other MRCs and NWSF/NWSC staff.
  - The next NWSC meeting is September 30th from 10-12 via Zoom.
- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported:
  - Kelp Monitoring in July occurred on July 11 for Mukilteo, July 13 for Edmonds, and July 29 for Meadowdale. SWM Staff monitored Hat Island by boat on August 11. Edmonds was monitored again in August on August 25.
  - Marine Vegetation data has been gathered by DNR for Port Susan and Hat Island. They will be processing the data this fall, and we will get their final report in early 2023. We will plan for a presentation by Bart again in early 2023.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  - Egg detections this year
    - Jan – 6 Sand Lance at Howarth N. 178 Sand Lance at Howarth S. 3 Sand Lance at Meadowdale N.
    - Feb – 11 Sand Lance at Howarth S.

- March – 2 Surf Smelt at Meadowdale N.
  - April, May, and June – No detections
- September Forage Fish Monitoring at Picnic Point and Howarth Park occurred on September 13th.
- October Forage Fish Monitoring is scheduled for Monday October 10th at Picnic Point and Howarth Park.
- MRC Members Bob and Julie and I attended the Forage Fish Training back in July
- **Derelict Vessels:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  - All 4 derelict vessels have been removed from the Snohomish Estuary.
    - Photos in packet along with a 1-pager Elisa recently created.
    - Cost was just under \$150,000 for 2022.
    - There is another \$150,000 in the 2023 budget to continue more removals.
  - Elisa plans to host another partner meeting in early 2023 to discuss priorities for removal.
- **Beach Clean Up Picnic Point:** Mike Ehlebracht reported:
  - Picnic Point Beach Clean Up is for International Coastal Cleanup Day in partnership with WSU Extension, Zero Waste Washington, and Plastic Free Salish Sea
  - September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – 12PM
  - Picnic Point County Park: 7231 Picnic Point Rd, Edmonds, WA 98036
- **Crabber Education Update:** Susan Tarpley reported:
  - The Crabber Education subcommittee conducted in-person outreach at the 10th Street Boat Launch in Everett on July 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th.
    - Volunteers spoke to over 350 crabbers over the 4 days.
- **Oil Spill Update:** Julie Schlenger reported:
  - She sat in on the San Juan County MRC meeting
    - Response director of the removal of the 50ft boat that capsized on the coast of the San Juan Islands on August 13<sup>th</sup> spoke
    - \$4 million recovery cost as of the start of September
    - Boat is currently up and on a crane, removal still in progress
- **Other Updates**
  - Mike Ehlebracht reminded MRC members to submit their volunteer hours by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Bob Margulis commented that the MRC should think about increasing relationships with local tribal leaders on a personal level. He suggested maybe hosting an event with this intention.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

**Meeting Summary**  
**October 19, 2022 6:30-8:30PM**  
**\*Meeting conducted online\***

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Mike Ehlebracht, Chair                  Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair                  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep.                  Franchesca Perez                  Michael Kundu                  Julie Schlenger                  Bob Margulis                  Sara Maxwell                  Andrew Gobin                  Laura Gurley                  Brie Townsend</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Allan Hicks                  Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff                  Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b>                  David Bain                  Susan Tarpley</p> <p><b>Others</b>                  Leah Robison, Northwest Straits Commission                  Jeff Whitty, Northwest Straits Commission                  Kent Short, citizen                  Kemberly Cauvel, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission                  Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The MRC approved the September 2022 meeting summary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Beach Cleanup at Howarth Park:</b> November 22<sup>nd</sup></li> <li>● <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> November 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>● <b>Next MRC Meeting/MRC Retreat:</b> November 16<sup>th</sup>, Lombardi's</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulag<sup>w</sup>ábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## **Approval of MRC Meeting Summary**

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the September 21, 2022 Meeting Summary. Bob Margulis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## **European Green Crab Follow-up Discussion.**

Joycelyn Blue facilitated a follow up discussion regarding next steps of the MRC on the topic of invasive European Green Crab.

### **Presented Information:**

- Current monitoring sites of the Tulalip Tribe: Priest point, Quilceda, and Port Susan Bay
- Current monitoring sites of the Stillaguamish Tribe: Davis Slough, Iverson Preserve, and Triangle Cove
- WSG Crab Team Current Monitoring Locations Map: [WSG Crab Team Monitoring - Google My Maps](#)
  - the “most suitable sites” highlighted on this map could be potential monitoring sites for the MRC in conjunction with WSG Crab Team

### **Discussion:**

- Franny Perez discussed the details of the Crab Team monitoring at the Stillaguamish monitoring sites.
- Franny discussed eDNA opportunities
  - ORCA currently has a grant, there may be an opportunity to add onto their eDNA research.
  - Franny is doing additional research on the costs of eDNA
  - The group discussed the eDNA research going on at the County
- Washington Sea Grant is collaborating with WSU on creating education and outreach materials.
  - The MRC could assist in dispersal of materials and cross posting on websites and social media.
- Bob Margulis is going to keep the group updated on the WSG Crab Team lower intensity detection protocol as it is developed

## **Port Susan Phase 2 Update**

Sara Maxwell provided the update for Port Susan. The Snohomish County and Island County Port Susan teams met on October 5 to discuss Phase 2, which officially started with the new grant on October 1, 2022.

The group discussed opportunities for community outreach. Additional brainstormed ideas included:

- Adding the Stanwood Museum and Legion Park in Everett to the potential sites list for a celebration
- A boat party barge option for a partners celebration
- Ensure at any celebration that signs showing partners and funding are present
- Potential idea of spreading awareness of Port Susan by speaking in elementary classrooms or holding an art contest

Elisa Dawson shared the members of the core team and asked that if anyone wanted to be added to the team that they reach out to her.

### **November Retreat planning, membership term renewals, and Annual Work Plan Discussion**

Elisa Dawson led the group in planning for the November Retreat on the 16th.

- Lombardi's was decided as the location of the retreat.
  - Elisa will confirm availability and make the reservation.
  - We will be utilizing the outdoor space, so remember to dress warmly.
- Elisa will also send the Annual Work Plan out to all members to review and suggest edits before the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Mike asked MRC members to consider leadership roles which will be discussed at the retreat.
  - Mike will be terming out at the end of the year, so a new Chair will need to be elected.
- Elisa asked that if any members would not like to change their member status to contact her

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim Ellis reported:
  - The LIO discussed ways to engage with the Ecosystem Coordination Board
  - LIO collective project updates for the Shoreline Armoring Project and the Septic Project
  - The LIO reviewed the 2022-2023 Draft Workplan
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from September 30 NWSC Meeting:
  - Northwest Straits Initiative Reauthorization: The Northwest Straits Initiative reauthorization bill was introduced in the Senate (S4903) by Senator Murray. It was referred to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.
  - Monitoring Washington's marine wildlife by air, water, and land: Scott Pearson from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife gave an overview of how they monitor seabirds and marine mammals, in partnership with other agencies and entities. To explore data collected, go to <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/wp/MarineSeabird/index.html>
  - Green crab: Commission staff shared a late season update on green crab trapping, noting a surge in the number of crabs caught.
  - Derelict vessels: Lucas updated the Commission on planning efforts for the derelict vessel removal and the pilot derelict vessel turn in event. A workgroup will be formed in October made up of interested MRC and tribal representatives. The workgroup will guide prioritization of vessel removals in 2023.
  - Upcoming Events - See website for more details
    - October 28, 2022 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting (new): 10am-12pm via Zoom.
    - December 9, 2022 – Northwest Straits Commission meeting: 10am-12pm via Zoom.
  - Andrew Gobin said Tulalip tribes supports and will support the reauthorization of NWSC
- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported:

- Marine Vegetation data has been gathered by DNR for Port Susan and Hat Island. An update on the data gathered has been provided by DNR with preliminary observations and is in the meeting packet. DNR will continue to process the data over the coming months and will provide a final report in January 2023. The MRC will have Bart present on this work likely at the February 2023 MRC meeting.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  - October Forage Fish monitoring occurred on October 10<sup>th</sup>
    - Thanks to all that joined on that smoky day!
  - Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates
    - November 7<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm
    - December 5<sup>th</sup> 8am-11am
    - January 16<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm-5:30pm
- **Marine Water Quality:** Joycelyn Blue reported:
  - She is working on a white paper gathering information on what water quality data is being gathered in Snohomish County. She is gathering info on the Stilly Tribe's buoy, ORCA school activities, BEACH sampling, and more. Please reach out to Joycelyn if you have any additional ideas on marine water quality you would like to share.
  - Tim Ellis shared that Friends of Skagit Beaches is doing some stormwater sampling in Mukilteo and Edmonds
- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa Dawson reported:
  - All 4 derelict vessels have been removed from the Snohomish Estuary, and Elisa is currently processing the reimbursements from DNR. Total cost for the contractor was \$143,500. DNR is now reimbursing 100%, and we will be seeking full reimbursement.
  - The Northwest Straits and looking to partner with DNR on a vessel turn in event, where vessel owners could bring vessels to be disposed of for a low-to-nothing cost. Port of Everett staff and Elisa attended an initial conversation with the NWSC about this in September.
- **Beach Clean Up Picnic Point:** Mike Ehlebracht reported:
  - The Snohomish MRC partnered with Zero Waste Washington and WSU Beach Watchers to host a Beach Cleanup on September 24 for International Coastal Cleanup Day. The Cleanup was at Picnic Point Beach, where over a dozen volunteers picked up nearly 75 pounds of trash. The Cleanup utilized the Escaped Trash Protocol developed by the EPA to assess the impact of trash of the beach. The data collected from this citizen science work will be used for a region-wide effort to better understand trash loading throughout Puget Sound.
  - Mike Ehlebracht helped staff this event and brought the coffee and treats on behalf of the MRC!
  - The next cleanup event is at Howarth Park on November 22 at 10AM.
- **DNR Letter of Support – Mike Ehlebracht**
  - The MRC executive committee sought MRC approval for the letter of support for a DNR grant application under NOAA's Marine Debris program to request ~ \$6m for additional focus on removal of derelict vessels and large marine debris in the Snohomish Watershed to support goals stated with the WRAP. The grant includes some of funds to remove and monitor tire piles elsewhere within Puget Sound (~4m), for a total grant of



about \$10m. If DNR receives the grant, they will build additional capacity within DNR to tackle the existing list of derelict vessels in Snohomish as well as expand our voluntary turn-in program to intercept problem vessels before they become hazardous. The MRC approved the letter, which was sent to DNR on October 11, 2022

- **Other Updates**

- Julie Schlenger mentioned attending the 2022 HAZWOPER Refresher for oiled wildlife volunteers and encouraged other MRC members to attend in the future.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Summary

December 21, 2022 6:30-8:30PM

\*Meeting conducted online\*

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Julie Schlenger Allan Hicks Laura Gurley Brie Townsend</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair Franchesca Perez Bob Margulis Michael Kundu Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p><b>MRC Ex-Officio Members</b> David Bain</p> <p><b>Others</b> Tom Teigen, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Ardi Kveven, Ocean Research College Academy Traci Sanderson, Citizen</p>
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The MRC approved the October 2022 meeting summary.</li><li>• The MRC approved the 2023 workplan</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Starlight Beach Walk:</b> January 18 at 7PM at Edmonds Olympic Beach</li><li>• <b>Forage Fish Monitoring:</b> January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.</li><li>• <b>Next MRC Meeting:</b> February 15 at 6:30PM</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Mike read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

*“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləg<sup>w</sup>ábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.*

*With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”*

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the October 19, 2022 Meeting Summary. Laura Gurley seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## ORCA School Research and Partnership Discussion.

Mike introduced Ardi Kveven. Ardi is the Executive Director of the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA), an innovative early-college program at Everett Community College. Kveven earned her bachelor's degree in biology with a marine emphasis, along with her teaching certificate, from the University of Washington. She holds a master's degree in science education from Western Washington University and a United States Coast Guard 100-ton Master's License. Focused on introducing students to the marine biology of the Pacific Northwest, she taught marine science and oceanography from high school to the college levels for fourteen years prior to developing ORCA with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Innovative work with engaging students in experimental research in the Snohomish River estuary led to two National Science Foundation grants, including one for a custom designed 34-foot research vessel, the R/V Phocoena.

Ardi presented the following information to the MRC:

The ORCA program was founded at Everett Community College with start-up funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2003, addressing a unique niche for high school students to earn college credit through dual enrollment. By offering a cohort-based learning community, supportive networks, interdisciplinary instruction centered on active learning in oceanographic research, ORCA has pioneered investigative learning in the local marine environment in Everett, WA. Student research starts in the Snohomish River where students measure temperature and salinity and look at river flow and tidal influence. Students ask their own research questions, gather data and begin their journey of analysis and interpretation. An example of a student first quarter project is this Story Map:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e865123d4ecc4f479dea72ef26056603>

As students learn about the Snohomish River Estuary up close, students transition to sampling out in Port Gardner on our research vessel, where monthly (and sometimes bimonthly) cruises collect a suite of oceanographic data (to 50 meters): temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, relative chlorophyll concentration, and turbidity. Phytoplankton 20 micron at the Halocline, Zooplankton 335 micron from 50m to surface, Species of Concern Tracking: Marine Birds and Marine Mammals, Nutrient testing (Ammonium, Nitrates, Nitrites, Phosphates & Silicates), at Surface, Cline, Deep/Near Bottom, Navigation and Weather Data along with Heavy Metals (EPA's suite of six Hg, Pb, Cu, Cd, Ar, Zn) seasonally.

This project, which ORCA calls **State of Possession Sound (SOPS)**, extends the parameters that many state agencies use and engages more than 100 students annually as student researchers. The National Science Foundation (NSF) review panel noted, "*ORCA and the State of Possession Sound Project represent the best of what we now know about how students learn science.*" ORCA has conducted 215 SOPS research cruises and nearly 100 independent research cruises. Enabling students to ask and attempt to answer their own research question grounds them in this place and contributes to the lifelong stewardship and connection to the region.

Student questions and data set gaps led to deployed sensor monitoring and further projects:

Water chemistry (same as above) at Mt. Baker terminal every 15 minutes  
DNA testing of scat, larval fish  
SoundTrap Hydrophone Ambient Noise Sampling every 15 minutes  
Water Chemistry (same as above) on Guest dock 7  
ADCP at Guest dock 7  
Boat Based Hydrophone and ADCP  
Environmental DNA

Discussion:

The MRC thanked Ardi for her presentation. Ardi invited the MRC to the annual student showcase in June where students present their work. A more formal invite will be sent out in spring of 2023. MRC members discussed opportunities to partner with the ORCA school to better utilize the data ORCA is collecting. Elisa has reached out to Snohomish County Management and Lawyers to hear what kind of contract might be able to be formed between the MRC and ORCA. She is awaiting response. The MRC will continue to find ways to partner with ORCA in 2023.

### **MRC 2023 Workplan**

Elisa presented the most recent version of the MRC 2023 Workplan. The Workplan is a grant requirement that is due in early January. Elisa asked for any feedback on the current 2023 Workplan. MRC Members reviewed the Workplan and had no changes. There was a discussion around finding leads in 2023 for Forage Fish and Derelict Vessel projects, and the MRC made it a goal to find leads for these groups in the next year.

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Workplan, Brie Townsend seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. The 2023 Workplan will be sent in as a grant deliverable to the Northwest Straits Commission in early January.

### **MRC Leadership and Membership Discussion**

The Current MRC Executive team asked the MRC for Nominations for the Executive Team. After discussion, the MRC decided to nominate the following:

Chair: Natasha Coumou

Vice-Chair/Co Vice-Chairs: Brie Townsend, Tim Ellis

LIO Representative: Tim Ellis

LIO Alternate: vacant

NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis

NWSC Alternate: Julie Schlenger, Allan Hicks

These nominations will be voted on at the first MRC Meeting in 2023. The January MRC meeting has been canceled because it will fall on the same evening as the MRC's annual Starlight Beach Walk. Instead, the first meeting will be on February 15, and the Executive nominations will be voted on at that time.

Next the MRC discussed MRC Membership. Mike Ehlebracht, Laura Gurley, Tom Doerge, and Bob Margulis will be leaving the MRC at the end of the calendar year. Leaving 4 vacant spots on the MRC in 2023. Elisa suggested a new approach to recruitment for new Members in 2023. She suggested a rolling application for MRC Members, along with MRC Members reaching out to specific potential applicants to ask them to apply. The MRC specifically needs to fill roles in Economic and Local Government interests, and ideally find an applicant from Districts 1, 4 and 5. For each application that passes staff screening for minimum qualifications, staff would ask that person to attend 1-2 MRC meetings prior to an interview with MRC members and staff. If they are still interested after attending a meeting or two, we could setup an interview with Staff and a minimum of 2 MRC Members. The MRC agreed to this approach and will start recruitment in early 2023.

### **Project Updates and Announcements**

- **LIO:** Tim Ellis reported:
  - The last LIO meeting was October 26<sup>th</sup>. The LIO discussed the upcoming funding opportunities for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Watersheds.
  - There is not currently a LIO meeting scheduled in 2023 yet.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim Ellis reported the Key Highlights from December 9 NWSC Meeting:
  - The Commission approved a Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) vision and goals statement. You can see the statement here (p. 9). NW Straits Commission staff will begin developing a process to create action items for each of the DEI goals. More information will follow in the coming months
  - Tessa Francis from the Puget Sound Institute presented a study assessing the impact of shoreline armoring on chinook salmon, Chum salmon, herring, and surf smelt. Tessa welcomes the opportunity to present at individual MRC meetings.
  - The NW Straits Commission Science Advisory Committee is recruiting new members. MRC members and others are encouraged to suggest names for potential members. More details about the role and expectations of committee members can be found in the Committee's Articles of Association.
  - The NW Straits Foundation is starting a Salish Sea Conservation Corps program. The program will create internships for early career professionals. The Foundation is looking for individuals to mentor interns. Contact Don Hunger [don@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:don@nwstraitsfoundation.org) or Brooke Friesen [friesen@nwstraitsfoundation.org](mailto:friesen@nwstraitsfoundation.org) for more information.
  - League of Women voters released a study on the Shoreline Management Act (SMP) assessing its effectiveness over the last 50 years. Barbara Bennett of the Island MRC has compiled resources on county Comprehensive Plans from an SMP learning group made up of MRC representatives. Please reach out to her if you'd like access to those materials: [bennbluw@gmail.com](mailto:bennbluw@gmail.com)
- **Marine Vegetation:** Tom Doerge reported:
  - DNR continues to process the data from 2022 Eelgrass monitoring and is providing a draft report by the end of December. The report will be finalized in January. The MRC will have Bart present on this work at the February 2023 MRC meeting.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring:** Elisa Dawson reported:
  - October Forage Fish monitoring occurred on December 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates

- January 26<sup>th</sup> 1PM-4PM
- **Meadowdale Update:** Elisa Dawson reported:
  - The Park is still under construction and plans to be open by early January. The monitoring team will start their work in early 2023.
  - There will be a volunteer opportunity to help put protective fencing around plants and remove some invasive plants in late January/early February.
  - Part of the 2023 Beach Watchers contract include 2 days where beach watchers will be available at Meadowdale to tour/provide info to the public. Dates are being planned with the BW program and will be in the summer. Also, part of the contract is for Beach Watchers to do their nearshore surveys at Meadowdale.
- **January 18 Beach Walk in Edmonds**
  - All MRC Members are invited to attend the January 18 Beach Walk in Edmonds. The event is family friendly and Members are encouraged to bring family and friends. The MRC will be providing hot chocolate and cider for participants. A flyer for the event was included in the meeting packet.
- **MRC Member Volunteer Hours are Due 12/31.**
- **Other Updates:**
  - Julie Schlenger reported that Washington Department of Ecology is working with Department of Health to implement a new law designed to reduce the use of toxic chemicals in consumer products by restricting or eliminating those toxics when safer alternatives are available. The Toxic Pollution law ([Chapter 70A.350 RCW](#)), creates a pathway to keep harmful chemicals out of the environment. The program that implements the law is called Safer Products for Washington. Public Comment and Review is now open for the Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting; MRC Members may submit comments as individuals.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.**