

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 15, 2023 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted online

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Allan Hicks Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin</p> <p>Absent Michael Kundu Sara Maxwell</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain</p> <p>Others Bart Christiaen, DNR Caitlyn Blair, NWSC Jeff Whitty, NWSC Dana Oster, NWSC Sasha Horst, NWSC Sam Kaiser, Tulalip Tribes Shellfish Biologist Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers Laura Gurley, Citizen Traci Sanderson, Citizen Lincoln Loehr, Citizen Andrea Main, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the December 2022 meeting summary. ● The MRC elected the executive team, representatives, and ex-officio member. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shore Friendly Workshop: February 25th at 10AM in Arlington, WA ● Forage Fish Monitoring: February 22nd at 10:30AM ● Next MRC Meeting: March 15 at 6:30PM ● Beach Clean Up: March 23rd at 10AM at Picnic Point 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

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

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

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

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Franchesca Perez made a motion to approve the December 21, 2022 Meeting Summary. Allan Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2022 DNR Marine Vegetation Presentation on Port Susan, Hat Island, and entire SnoCo analysis.

Natasha introduced Bart Christiaen, Natural Resource Scientist for the DNR Nearshore Habitat Program.

Bart presented the most recent data as well as an overview of project results:

DNR monitors abundance and depth distribution of native seagrasses to determine status and trends in the greater Puget Sound area through the [Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Program \(SVMP\)](#). The SVMP monitors a selection of sites throughout the Puget Sound that is extrapolated out to create estimates of eelgrass. In 2022, DNR and the Snohomish County MRC completed a multi-year survey that gathered marine vegetation data. By partnering with DNR, Snohomish County was able to get a comprehensive survey of the entire Snohomish County shoreline. The monitoring results are used by DNR for the management of State-Owned Aquatic Lands, by the County and local jurisdictions to understand critical areas on their shoreline, and by the Puget Sound Partnership as one of 25 Vital Signs to track progress in the restoration and recovery of Puget Sound.

Key findings from the monitoring include the following:

- There was approximately 906 hectares of eelgrass in 1999-2007 and 912.3 hectares of eelgrass in 2019-2022
- Comparing the 2019-2022 data with the 1999-2007 data it appears that there is little change in overall eelgrass area over time at a countywide scale, but variability at smaller scales was observed. Sites with increases in eelgrass were mostly located in the central and northern part of Snohomish County and are identified in purple on the map. While three sites showed a decrease trend and are identified in orange on the map.
- The depth distribution of marine vegetation in the study area was similar to other sites in the Central Basin of Puget Sound.

Discussion:

- Tim Ellis – How does the rest of the Salish Sea eelgrass compare? Is DNR monitoring other areas?
 - Sample of 214 other random sites
 - Lot more declines than increases in San Juan Islands
 - DNR has a vital signs website and storymap to show these other areas

- Laura Gurley – Is DNR considering a “don’t do anything” policy in the vegetation areas of the San Juans? (no anchoring etc.)
 - Legislation has passed to protect kelp and eelgrass statewide
 - currently deciding what areas to protect
 - Efforts underway to install voluntary no anchor zones
- Laura Gurley – Deeper edge is increasing in vegetation, any ideas why?
 - Light requirements for different marine vegetation types
 - Plants grow to the depths where they can still do photosynthesis
 - Temperature and turbidity are also factors
- Jonathan Robinson – Sunflower Sea Star hard hit by wasting disease, did this study see any on camera?
 - Yes. 1 in 2020, 3 in 2021, and 5 in 2022
- Natasha Coumou – Sargassum is invasive, is there a potential for wide-scale invasion?
 - Sargassum was noted in previous DNR helicopter survey in 2000
 - Found at 46% of sites (128 randomly sampled sites)
 - Only covered small areas, not very abundant
 - But still widespread, concern that it could compete with understory kelp
- Lincoln Loehr – Sea pens were common but have since vanished. What type of abundance did you see?
 - Tend to reside on the deeper end of survey areas and beyond
 - DNR has not counted because they did not believe they would get a good estimate of the population
- Elisa would like MRC members to follow up as the Marine Vegetation topic will be part of next year’s MRC grant
 - Submit grant proposal in June
 - Decisions regarding the details of the proposal mostly made in the subcommittee
 - Reach out if you are interested in joining the subcommittee

MRC 2023 Elections

The MRC reviewed nominations. Franchesca Perez made a motion to elect the following positions. Andrew Gobin seconded. The following positions and individuals were elected.

Chair: Natasha Coumou

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

LIO Representative: Tim Ellis

LIO Alternate: Allan Hicks

NWSC Representative: Tim Ellis

NWSC Alternate: Julie Schlenger and Allan Hicks

MRC Ex-Officio Members: David Bain

MRC 2023 Port Susan Grant Update and Discussion

Elisa presented to the MRC the communications strategy options that ESA share with the subcommittee. The subcommittee decided to pursue the update of the MRC website and the creation of an interactive storymap. Discussions on the 10 year celebration event are ongoing.

MRC member feedback and discussion:

- Franchesca Perez – Will Snohomish County and Island County be able to update the storymap?
 - Yes, it is hosted through ESRI. We are able to update or hire another consultant and work with them to update
- Julie Schlenger – Idea of combining a beach clean-up and the 10-year celebration
 - Port Susan main beach area would be Kayak point, but it is closed for construction for the majority of the summer
- Natasha Coumou – Idea of planting trees at Leque restoration site for the 10-year celebration
 - Concerns about parking capacity for a public event
- Franchesca Perez – Idea of hosting 10-year event in Island County, maybe at Iverson
 - Iverson is on the list of potential locations for an event
- Natasha Coumou – Supported the ESA proposal of a webinar that would be recorded and put on the webpage for the public to rewatch and get further details about Port Susan
- Franchesca Perez – Stillaguamish tribe has a draft form of state of Port Susan webpage
 - portsusandata.com
 - Integration of this site with storymap
- Franchesca Perez – Idea of Port Susan education walks for 10-year celebration
 - Record for an “in person webinar”
- Julie Schlenger – Idea of connecting 4th grade teachers in the area with storymap or other resources
 - 4th grade is the grade in which students learn about watersheds
 - Julie volunteered to gather the contact info of teachers

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO – Tim Ellis
 - No updates
- NWSC – Tim Ellis
 - The last meeting was January 27. The meeting included an update on:
 - The Commission has passed a budget plan for 2023-2025, which will include funding for MRCs in the next grant cycle in the amount of \$192,500 per MRC annually for the next two years if the proposed 2023-2025 state budget passes.
 - The Northwest Straits Commission conference will be held on November 3-4, 2023, at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend. The Commission is seeking members interested in participating in the Conference Planning Committee. Contact Caitlyn (blair@nwstraits.org) for more information about the committee or to join the group.

- The PUGET SOS bill was passed by Congress as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The bill creates a Puget Sound recovery program office at the EPA and puts Puget Sound on the same level as other nationally significant water bodies, such as Chesapeake Bay. The bill also codifies the Puget Sound Task Force, which is made up of 13 federal agencies operating under a Memorandum of Understanding, working together on the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- The Northwest Straits Initiative retreat is scheduled for March 30-31 at the La Conner Country Inn for members of the Commission and Foundation board.
- Science Committee is looking to increase in members and efforts, reach out to Julie if we have any requests
- Salish Sea Conservation Corps is up and running, currently have 10 members
- 2/24 NWSC Meeting in SnoCo – Tim Ellis
 - NWSC meeting will be at the Stillaguamish Tribe’s Natural Resources Building on February 24 10AM -2:30PM.
- January 18 Beach Walk in Edmonds Recap – Jonathan Robinson
 - Over 70 members of the public attended. Several MRC Members attended. The event was a success.
- Forage Fish – Joycelyn Blue
 - The 2022 wrap up occurred on January 24th
 - A recording of the meeting can be found at <https://app.box.com/s/7supoj4hxqxes4tdbsjdajbq8q0jymil>
 - WDFW presented on all the detections for each MRC
 - At Meadowdale Sand Lance and Surf Smelt eggs detected for the first time in Jan and March respectively
 - January Forage Fish monitoring occurred on Jan 26th and 31st
 - First monitoring completed at Meadowdale post the restoration
 - Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates
 - February 22nd
 - March 22nd
 - For March monitoring, the SnoCo WCC crew will be joining to learn about the forage fish process so there will be plenty of hands, but volunteers are welcome to join and share their expertise.
- Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger
 - We have been working to make sure OSS members are aware of what is happening in the region and reaching out and participating in planning and response efforts in the area. This includes attending meetings, updating points of contact, and working on attending table-top drills and other drills in the area. We are pursuing working with Sea Grant and the Port of Everett to possibly include oil spill outreach education kits during crabber outreach. We are following up on the status of Ecology’s volunteer response database, including vessels of opportunity; we are looking into the status of the “Don’t Drip and Drive” program; and finally, of ways to reduce response time by vessels in order to protect the SWKWs. Upcoming drills in the area include one drill on February 27, 2023 and a second drill on March 7 and 8, 2023. As of now, no OSS members will directly be participating.
 - Plan to meet the Wednesdays before the MRC meeting on a monthly basis at 7pm
 - Exploring ideas of combining crabber outreach with small spills education
 - handing out of spill kits a potential option

- Laura Gurley commented fish finders have a big impact on orca's echolocation, idea of adding this information to the crabber outreach
- 2023 Beach Cleanup Dates and Leads – Jonathan Robinson
 - 10 am March 23 at Picnic Point
 - ETAP on Earth Day April 22
 - Exploring the option of Mission Beach, Natasha currently consulting with community to see if there is interest
 - Elisa asked for an Outreach committee member to serve as liaison to WSU Beachwatchers for beach clean ups
- 2/25 Shore Friendly Workshop in SnoCo – Elisa Dawson
 - Flyer in Packet
 - Anyone from our MRC able to attend?
 - Allan and Natasha expressed interest
- Marine Water Quality – Joycelyn Blue
 - Joycelyn presented to the Snohomish Technical Committee on Feb 7th on the information she had gathered for WRIA 7 and 8
 - The group was appreciative to hear a summary of the current monitoring efforts and did not have any new information to add
 - Elisa talked to the Technical Committee about the potential ORCA partnership
 - Request for presentation to be sent to the MRC members
- ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson
 - Scope of Work is complete and in meeting packet
 - Next to send through Snohomish County Risk, Lawyers, and contracting
- Meadowdale Update – Elisa Dawson
 - The Meadowdale Estuary Restoration Project is now open to the public and access has been restored to the beach. MRC Staff Elisa Dawson had interviews with the Seattle Times, Everett Herald, and gave a site tour to Representative Rick Larsen in early January.
 - Seattle Times Article: [Park near Edmonds gets makeover: Will the salmon return? | The Seattle Times](#)
 - My Edmonds News (features Rick Larsen Tour): [Scene at Meadowdale Beach Park: Congressman Larsen tours restoration work - My Edmonds News](#)
 - Everett Herald Article: [Meadowdale Beach updates give fish, hikers more room to roam | HeraldNet.com](#)
- Other Updates?
 - One Pager on Dredge Sediment – Laura Gurley
 - EPA called asking about beneficial use of this dredge material
 - Interested in how to help fix the liability concerns in using this material
 - Laura going to be involved in a panel to discuss this issue with the major players this week
 - DNR Pilings Removal – Natasha Coumou
 - Removal of 290 creosote pilings from the Snohomish Estuary
 - Elisa working with DNR to get the MRC map updated

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

March 15, 2023 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted online

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Michael Kundu Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin</p> <p>Absent Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain</p> <p>Others Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers Phil Salditt, Citizen, Northwest Straits Foundation Board Richard Strickland, Citizen Becky, Citizen John Vandree, Citizen</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the February 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DNR Puget Sound Kelp Workshop: March 23rd at Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center ● Molt Search Train-the-Trainers Workshop: April 14th in Kingston ● Forage Fish Monitoring: March 22nd ● Next MRC Meeting: April 19th at Mukilteo Rose Hill Community Center ● Beach Clean Up: March 23rd at 10AM at Picnic Point ● ETAP Beach Clean Up: April 22nd at Mission Beach 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

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

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

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

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Andrew Gobin made a motion to approve the February 15, 2023 Meeting Summary. Michael Kundu seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Washington Scuba Alliance Tire Reef Project Presentation

Natasha introduced Jim Trask, President of Washington Scuba Alliance, and Randy Williams, Vice President of Washington Scuba Alliance. Jim and Randy presented on the past and current work being done to address tire reefs in Washington.

Project Overview:

Late 2020 WSA received a grant from Washington State Department of Ecology to locate the estimated 500,000 tires located in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. In early 2021 they hired Coastal Sensing and Survey of three contractors researched. Ben Griner, head of CSAS has a research vessel, Phoenix which has side-scan sonar in the hull as well as a torpedo-like side-scan sonar device which is towed behind the boat. He also has two ROV's which has a video camera in the front as well as a multi-beam sonar head on top. There is also a GPS head too which lets the boat know where the ROV is at any time by the use of a hydrophone which hangs over the side of the boat. This equipment allows for us to find the tires with the side-scan sonar first by "mowing the lawn" over a search area to identify tire reefs. The team then puts the ROV in the water to count the tires in bundles or individually. This information is then put together to give an accurate description of total number of tires that are in the reef. WSA have found 20 such reefs so far and with additional funding will be able to finish the project by identifying the 6 remaining reefs in Hood Canal. The team finished 2022 by locating all of the tire reefs in Puget Sound. WSA hopes that 2023 will be the end of the project once they receive funding.

Discussion:

- Tire reef locations in Snohomish County?
 - A recent survey of the area from Naval Station Everett survey through Mukilteo near old Air Force pier they noted lots of tires
 - Some locations near Howarth Park, Hat Island, Edmonds
 - Refer to online map, <https://www.coastalsensing.com/puget-sound-tire-trash-reefs>)
- Is it possible to utilize the sonar scanning already being done to find tire reefs?
 - The resolution Washington Scuba Alliance utilizes has a higher resolution.
- How much of Snohomish County has been scanned? Are there areas that still need to be scanned?
 - Yes, the areas on the map are the only ones WSA has done thus far.
 - Unsure what DNR has scanned.
- Do we have information on where they were placed in the 70s?
 - Not exactly, have some information but not accurate for all sites. Labeled as fish havens in DNR information and does indicate some of the tire reefs, but not all.
- Is WSA doing sediment sampling?
 - No it has not been done; proposing to start with Saltwater State Park.
 - Currently in conversation with UW for tire reefs and concerns of 6PPD-quinone

MRC 2022 Annual Report Review

MRC reviewed and provided comments on the 2022 MRC Annual Report.

Comments provided included word changes for clarification, updating of a few photos, and slight reworking of the Bull Kelp graphic.

Elisa and Joycelyn took note of these comments and will work with the graphics team to update the report. A final Annual Report will be turned in to the Northwest Straits Commission as part of our reporting in April, and a final version will be available to the MRC at the April meeting.

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO – Tim Ellis
 - No updates
- NWSC – Tim Ellis
 - The last meeting was February 24th. The meeting included an update on:
 - Reauthorization moving forward
 - Puget Sound day on the hill in Washington DC
 - Derelict Vessels for all counties \$1.375 million
 - Retreat on 30th and 31st for MRC Reps
 - Conference in Port Townsend for everyone
- Forage Fish – Joycelyn Blue
 - February Forage Fish monitoring occurred on Feb 22nd
 - Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates
 - March 22nd
 - For March monitoring, the SnoCo WCC crew will be joining to learn about the forage fish process so there will be plenty of hands, but volunteers are welcome to join and share their expertise.
- Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger
 - 100+ oil spill kits donated to MRC outreach by Washington Sea Grant
 - Plan to educate and hand out spill kits simultaneously with crabber outreach
 - Table top deployment exercise at Point Wells in May
 - Subcommittee meets the Wed before the MRC meeting
- Marine Vegetation Update – Brienne Townsend
 - The subcommittee met on March 14th to begin brainstorming a Scope of Work (SOW) for the MRC 2023-2025 RFP. The SOW is due in late May 2023.
 - Meeting again in April to further determine SOW
 - Initial ideas included creating a kelp and eelgrass in Snohomish County 101 document fact sheet to include basic info as well as links to Best Available Science (BAS)
 - Creating a Document outlining difference agency authorities and regulations for marine vegetation in Snohomish County
 - Developing a training program for planners, regulators, and consultants in Snohomish County on marine vegetation. This would include info for anyone who reviews marine vegetation presence and absence reports for permitting, and anyone who conducts marine vegetation surveys.
- Green Crab Molt Search Outreach Program – Jonathan Robinson

- Washington Sea Grant and WSU Extension putting on a Molt Search Train-the-Trainers workshop on April 14, in Kingston
- Conducting a molt search training in May 13th at 10am at Edmonds Recreation Center
- WSU Extension is seeking partners who can
 - Promote the Molt Search project to their staff, students, or volunteers; and/or
 - Provide a space to hold a training workshop; and/or
 - Donate refreshments for the training workshops.
- Fish Depth Finds and Orcas – Elisa Dawson reporting for Laura Gurley
 - Elisa reported that several resources Laura provided are in the meeting packet
 - Guidance document from the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee
 - WDFW Website
 - Scientific paper from Institute of Ocean Science
- Port Susan Update – Elisa Dawson
 - Subcommittee has tasked the consultant to create an outline for the Story Map. This is included in the meeting packet and Elisa asked for any feedback on the outline. Next, the consultant will begin drafting a Story Map consistent with our outline.
- Shore Friendly Workshop –Elisa Dawson reporting for Allan Hicks
 - At-capacity workshop for shoreline landowners to learn about the drivers and impacts of coastal erosion, how sea level rise can intensify coastal erosion, and strategies and adaptations to prepare for future conditions
 - Allan reported that attendees were very engaged and appreciative.
 - Topics included Herrera Consulting’s presentations on geomorphology and effects of sea level rise on the shoreline, and Nickel Brothers presentation on raising/moving houses.
- MRC Grant 2023-2025 Logistics – Elisa Dawson
 - Northwest Straits Commission issued the Request for Proposals on March 1.
 - The scope of work for the 2023-2025 grant is due May 25th in the online Portal.
 - Funding is expected to be \$190,000 per year, approximately double previous years’ grant award. Grant is coming from normal source (State and Federal) and additional funds are coming from NOAA.
 - Elisa is working on adjusting the SWM MRC budget to reflect these additional funds.
- ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson
 - The contract has had several questions from Risk and Legal. It has been updated several times throughout the last month and is still in review. We hope to finalize by the end of March.
- MRC Volunteer Hours
 - Due March 31st
- Other Updates?
 - Crab pot loss prevention plan is going to be updated
 - Meeting invite will be sent soon to go over the plan and educate about loss/prevention

The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary
April 19, 2023 6:30-8:30PM
Rose Hill Community Center. Mukilteo, WA.

<p>MRC Members Present Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Michael Kundu Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell</p> <p>Absent Allan Hicks Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County, MRC Staff David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members</p> <p>Others Phil Salditt, Citizen, Northwest Straits Foundation Board Richard Strickland, Citizen Laura Gurley, Citizen Fred Benedetti, Beach Watchers Jason Morgan, Northwest Straits Foundation</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the March 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NWSC Kelp Season Kickoff: April 20th ● ETAP Beach Clean Up: April 22nd at Mission Beach ● MRC Annual Report to County Council: May 16th ● Next MRC Meeting: May 17th via Zoom 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Brie Townsend opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Brie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Brie 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.”

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Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Michael Kundu made a motion to approve the March 15, 2023 Meeting Summary. Andrew Gobin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Port Gardner Crab Pot Removal

Brie introduced Jason Morgan. Jason Morgan manages the Derelict Fishing Gear Program and Shoreline Restoration Monitoring Program for the Northwest Straits Foundation. The Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) works to eliminate impacts of lost crab pots through targeted removals, research, education, and outreach. Since 2002, the NWSF and its partners have removed over 6,900 derelict crab pots from the waters of the Salish Sea.

Project Overview:

For several years, the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) and the Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) has worked to solve the problem of derelict fishing gear in Snohomish County marine waters through education programs and support for derelict fishing gear removal operations. In 2004 and 2005, the Snohomish MRC focused survey and removal efforts in the commonly fished commercial, Tribal, and recreational Dungeness crab (Cancer magister) fishing area of Port Gardner. In 2008, the MRC supported a survey and removal project in Port Gardner just west of Jetty Island outside the Port of Everett. The 2008 operations overlapped an area where derelict crab pot surveys and removals were conducted in 2004 and 2005. This area has been identified as the Port Gardner Study Area and repeated surveys and removal in the Study Area have been completed in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, and now in 2022. Along with the goals of removing derelict crab pots that impact the local resource and marine ecosystem, multiple years of completed surveys and removals within the same area provide an opportunity to analyze gear loss over time. This also allows for observing changes in the rate of compliance by fishers regarding use of legally mandated escape cord in both the commercial and recreational crab fisheries. These are important factors with respect to the impacts of derelict gear on the valuable Dungeness crab resource.

Discussion:

- What does the data show are the reasons for lost pots in Port Gardner?
 - Vessel strike is the most common reason. Additionally gear malfunction or user error, tampering, barge strike, and entanglement are other issues.
- How can the Northwest Straits Work determine what the reason for pot loss is?
 - When pots are removed, they are assessed by staff. It is generally easy to tell if a line was cut by a small boat v. large barge, if it wasn't weighted and drifted, or other issues that occurred. Crews are generally able to find a reason for 80% of pots. About 20% remain unknown.
- Do people report lost pots anywhere?
 - There is not currently a way people report lost pots. The MRC discussed opportunities to potentially add this information into when people report their harvest for the season.
- In Port Garden, the majority of pots found are recreational. Does this removal effort represent the use? Is it majority recreational crabbers in the study area?

- Yes, Port Gardner is majority a recreational crabber area, and is one of the most popular recreational crabber areas in the Puget Sound.
- There is currently a crab pot loss symposium that Julie Schlenger, Franchesca Perez, and Jason Morgan are all attending. The group has been discussing issues and opportunities to improve the recreational crab fishery moving forward.
- The Northwest Straits Foundation plans to do another round a removals in one year in order to assess this study area again and see if loss-rate go up or down.

MRC Grant Projects Planning Session

MRC Marine Vegetation Project for 2023-2025

The Marine Vegetation Subcommittee team brainstormed many ideas related to marine vegetation projects and lumped them into “buckets” of project ideas. The Marine Vegetation subcommittee proposed prioritizing Tier 1 style projects first, then Tier 2, and finally Tier 3. The idea is to pick 1-2 ideas to focus on for the first year of the NWSC 2023-2025 Grant, which can then be built on with additional ideas for Year 2.

- Tier 1 focus: Policy
 - Curating a Best Available Science document for jurisdictions for comprehensive planning updates
 - Creating kelp 101 training program materials for jurisdictions focusing on outreach around marine vegetation, policy, and permitting.
 - Hosting an advisory committee of sorts from all the stakeholders involved who would review any kind of policy document.
- Tier 2 focus: Outreach
 - Hosting meetings specific to important kelp beds (Edmonds and Hat Island) with stakeholders and the public to gather local knowledge about the bed and understand who is collecting what data on each specific kelp bed area.
 - Opportunities for kelp farming? Learning from kelp farmers to understand opportunities for commercial kelp in Snohomish County.
 - Opportunities for kelp restoration in Snohomish County, creating a kelp forest. Looking into what infrastructure is needed and new types of infrastructure for man-made kelp forests.
 - Thinking about different kinds of outreach materials specific for different audiences. Thinking about commercial, cultural, environmental, aesthetic, etc. and how to incorporate holistic understanding of marine vegetation to stakeholders who might have a focus on only 1 of those areas.
 - Video focused outreach opportunities could be helpful for this kind of work.
- Tier 3 focus: Data gaps, specifically addressing water quality data gaps
 - Point wells has a buoy operated by UW, opportunities to learn more about that and utilize the water quality data from the buoy to understand impacts to the Edmonds kelp beds.
 - More coordination with Reef Check on if they will be gathering data at any of our kelp beds.
 - Could we add aspects into our current monitoring to add more data - such as density when we do our kelp monitoring?
 - Could we coordinate with the Edmonds dive group further to gather more data?

The next Marine Vegetation Meeting will be in early May to create a draft Scope of Work based on the above brainstormed ideas.

MRC Strategic Plan update in 2024 to create a 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

In 2024 the MRC will be getting some additional funding in our MRC grant, and Elisa has proposed the Snohomish MRC include an additional project in 2024 to update the MRC 5-year Strategic Plan. The MRC would hire a consultant to lead us through interviews with members to get feedback, facilitate meetings, and write an updated plan for us. This work would be done throughout 2024, with the goal that their deliverable would be a 2025-2030 MRC Strategic Plan.

The last strategic plan was from 2011-2016 and is in the MRC Meeting Packet.

MRC to discuss scope of work ideas. The draft SOW is included in the meeting packet. The MRC would hire a consultant, separate from the marine vegetation project, to assist with:

- Reviewing old strategic plan
- Conducting interviews/surveys with each individual member and staff to get their input on the strategic plan
- Review NWSI documents to align the Snohomish MRC Strategic Plan with larger initiative goals
- Facilitate 2 retreat style meeting in 2024 to gather input and review strategic plan
- Provide a draft strategic plan for MRC review, and allow time for comments
- Provide a final strategic plan for 2025-2030.

Natasha Coumou, Chair for the MRC will serve as a lead for this project. Elisa also suggested that a non-executive committee member serve as a co-lead. Anyone who would like to serve as a co-lead should reach out to Natasha and Elisa.

Current MRC Grant Port Susan Status Review:

The outline has been completed by ESA consultants for the upcoming Story Map on Port Susan. The project team has been compiling photos and resources for the story map. If anyone has any particular photos of Port Susan or other ideas to add to the Story Map, please reach out to Elisa or ESA consultants. A draft Story Map will be completed by April 30. The Port Susan Team is meeting in early May to review and create a plan to address gaps.

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO – Elisa Dawson for Tim Ellis
 - Last meeting was April 11. Discussed projects funded within Snohomish County. These include: North County Savvy Septic Program, City of Everett Re-Green Everett for riparian buffers in Swamp and North Creek, Regional Forestry Program for Conservation Districts, Stillaguamish Tribe’s project Decolonizing the Stillaguamish for acquisitions, Tulalip Tribes Railroad embayment mitigation project.
- NWSC – Julie Schlenger, Tim Ellis

- Julie attended the Northwest Northwest Straits Initiative Retreat on April 30th and 31st in place of Tim Ellis who was unable to make it. Julie reported that the retreat was helpful in understanding how the MRC works within the Initiative and helpful in creating connections across the MRCs, the Commission and the Foundation. Participants at the retreat identified, discussed, and prioritized action items that could be used to provide continued support of the Initiative's long-term goals.
- The entire MRC will have the opportunity to meet with the entire Initiative at the Conference in Port Townsend in November 2023.
- Forage Fish – Elisa Dawson
 - Forage Fish monitoring occurred on March 22 with assistance from the Snohomish County Washington Conservation Crew. April forage fish monitoring occurred on April 10 and 12.
 - Upcoming Forage Fish Monitoring dates
 - May 15 and 18
- Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger
 - Crabber meeting is scheduled for May 2nd to discuss outreach, including adding the oil spill kits to the boat ramp outreach.
- ORCA Partnership Update
 - The contract has been completed and is located within the MRC Meeting Packet.
- MRC Intern Update
 - 19 applicants passed the initial screening and supplementals were reviewed. Really great to see such a high level of interest.
 - 6 interviewed in April 16/17 and an offer will be extended to one candidate.
- Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson
 - Draft vessels list is in meeting packet
 - 6 vessels and an estimated cost of \$150,000 for removal. Targeting removal in August/September
- MRC 2022 Annual Report – Elisa Dawson
 - The final Annual Report document is in the meeting packet and posted online
 - Natasha will present to Council on May 16.
 - We are scheduling a report to the Executive's office as well.
- Picnic Point Beach Cleanup Review
 - A very successful cleanup. Over 30 pounds of trash cleaned up and a dozen volunteers.
- Other Updates?

The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

May 17, 2023 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted online

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p> <p>Absent Michael Kundu Andrew Gobin</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County, MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Allan Chartrand, Citizen Richard Strickland, Citizen Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen Dawn Presler, Snohomish PUD Jeff Whitty, NWSC Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the April 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ORCA School Student Presentations: June 8th ● Crabber Outreach: early July (dates dependent on opening of crabbing season) ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference: November 3rd and 4th ● Next MRC Meeting: June 21st at the Port of Everett Blue Heron room 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

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

Sara Maxwell made a motion to approve the April 19, 2023, meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. Tim Ellis abstained. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project

Elisa Dawson presented an overview of the Meadowdale Restoration Project including a before and after photo tour of the site, the background and steps taken to implementation, and the ongoing monitoring efforts.

Project Overview:

The Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration Project, completed by Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), restored the estuary of Lunds Gulch Creek by replacing an undersized culvert through the railroad embankment along the Puget Sound shoreline. The project benefits include restored estuary habitat for multiple salmon and trout species, including ESA-listed Chinook salmon, improved public safety, year-round beach access that is ADA-accessible, and reduced flooding.

Meadowdale Beach Park and Restoration is the first Puget Sound shoreline restoration project that included enlarging a stream crossing under railroad tracks along the shoreline. The installation of a wide railroad bridge to replace the undersized culverts was critical to Snohomish County achieving its vision to convert park lawn areas into high-functioning estuarine habitat to benefit salmon. SWM and many partners have conducted habitat monitoring at Meadowdale Beach for many years and will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this project. The Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Project is funded in part by the Federal Rail Administration, NOAA Fisheries, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration, State Salmon Recovery Grants, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the EPA, and the Restore America's Estuaries: NEP CWG Program.

After completing significant project milestones in 2022, Meadowdale Beach became accessible to the public on Saturday, January 7, 2023, while the remaining construction on park aspects will continue in 2023 in a fenced-off area of the park. Beach access is available for public use through the new accessible pedestrian walkway under the train track bridges. Construction of all aspects of the park is expected in fall of 2023, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is expected in Fall 2023.

Discussion:

- Lunds Gulch Creek is a spawning area for Chum. The Students Saving Salmon group releases chum into the creek and completes chum counts yearly.
- Natasha clarified that the threats to young Chinook salmonids are during the rearing stage. Projects like Meadowdale give young Chinook places to rear on their journey to the ocean.
- The County would like to do similar projects in partnership with BNSF. Potential opportunities include Japanese Gulch (City of Mukilteo currently working with partners to do daylighting and restoration), Edmonds Marsh, Big Gulch, and Howarth Park.
 - Natasha shared a link to Edmonds Marsh story map <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/88140c4840d94a0b92223d1285afb7c7>
 - Paul Schlenger has completed a study ranking the priorities for these restoration opportunities.
- Partners on the project are working to document lessons learned.
- The BNSF review was the longest part of the permitting process, and there is not currently a way to expedite the BNSF process.
- For restoration opportunities removing invasives and planting native plants reach out to the Snohomish County Health Forests Project <https://snohomishco.greencitypartnerships.org/event/map/>

- MRC discussed opportunities for volunteer/citizen science to help with additional monitoring aspects such as redd surveys, soil monitoring, and wildlife surveys.

2023-2025 Grant Scope of Work Review

The scope of work is divided into two halves, the Strategic Plan Update and the Marine Vegetation Outreach.

Strategic Plan Update project summary: The Snohomish MRC will hire a facilitator in 2024 to lead the MRC through a process of creating a 2025-2030 (5-year) Strategic Plan. The 2025-2030 Snohomish MRC Strategic Plan will create one focus-forward vision for the MRC; draw attention to gaps, biases, and capacity issues; and develop a way to track MRC progress based on strategic goals.

Discussion:

- MRC members liked the addition of providing an opportunity for previous members and the list serve to add feedback
- Why is the plan 5 years?
 - Matches the previous MRC strategic plan. A 5-year strategic plan also allows for adjustments to changes in science, membership, and priorities of the MRC.
 - Some MRC members advocated for, during the planning process, bringing up the idea of a section of the plan being for a longer term. This section could be a future vision section that would allow future MRC members to understand what the current MRC wanted to work towards.
 - David Bain suggested having the consultant train people on how to do the strategic planning process as we move through the process.

Marine Vegetation Outreach project summary: With the increasing amount of information available about the current status and issues facing kelp and eelgrass, the Snohomish MRC sees a need to communicate Snohomish County specific information in an easily understood manner to our local citizens and government officials. The MRC will hire a consultant to develop kelp and eelgrass outreach materials specific to each of these audiences. These outreach materials will summarize current data on kelp/eelgrass in Snohomish County and provide action steps for readers to take. The consultant will also assist in the development of a pilot in-person public education event.

Discussion:

- The Marine Vegetation committee plans to narrow down “public” by working with the consultant to focus on geographic populace and the major type of use in those areas to determine how to focus outreach materials. Ideas for specific populations include the Hat Island community or Edmonds.
- The committee decide to take the outreach approach to share the new marine vegetation data and mapping to educate both local decision makers and the public on very localized information.

MRC reviewed and voted to approve the 2023-2025 grant scope of work as-is. Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the 2023-2025 grant scope of work. Sara Maxwell seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Crabber Subcommittee Update and Lost Pot Workshop

The Crabber Subcommittee met on May 2 to discuss the plan for outreach for the 2023 crabbing season. The group decided to do outreach at the Everett boat launch for the first two weekends of the season (expecting July 1/2 and July 8/9) in two shifts 6am-8am and 8am-10am.

In addition to the giveaway and informational items of last year, oil spill kits received from Washington Sea Grant and “call in spills” magnets from SWM can be handed out.

The group would like to collect more data on lost pots, pot weights, knowledge of phone numbers to call in case of oil spill, etc. using a short survey with around 5 yes/no questions. The subcommittee is currently refining these survey questions (draft complete by May 31) and plans to have one volunteer collecting responses on a digital form during outreach. The group also plans to have a QR code available for boaters to take the quiz independently.

Julie plans to reach out to boat launches (Port of Edmonds, Port of Everett, Mukilteo launch, and West Marine launch) for permission and best locations to display 11x17 crabber education posters.

Volunteer signups for crabber outreach will be available in early June. The subcommittee and all volunteers will meet in June to finalize logistics for outreach.

Lost Pot Workshop:

The Puget Sound Lost Shellfish Pot Prevention Plan Workshop, hosted by NRC, was held in-person on April 19 and April 26, 2023, from 10-3:30pm in Mukilteo. Joan Drinkwin, NRC, led the meetings. The objective was to update the existing 2016 Puget Sound Lost Crab Pot Prevention Plan. Shrimp pots were added to the discussion. Representative attendees included WDFW, Tribes, MRCs, NWSF, recreational and commercial industries, gear-supply business, and Puget Sound Pilots Board.

3 main causes of pot loss:

1. Vessel interaction
2. Improperly configured gear including knots, floating lines, line length, pot weight and inappropriate buoys
3. Improperly placed gear—in vessel zones, too deep or strong currents

Some take-aways:

- WDFW website has hired staff to update website. This is considered the place to go for information.
 - Potential website updates include better/more organized information and an improved license process that confirms crabbers have a basic knowledge of crabbing prior to receiving license (similar to boating license).
 - Most crabbers believed theft was the reason they did not find their pot
 - Reduce escape cord from 120 to 60-30 cord? (Mortality at approx. 50 days in pot)

Discussion:

- Idea of having recycled rebar also available during crabber outreach to give to people who respond that they didn't know they needed 10-15 lbs of weight in their pot.
- Idea of creating a rhyme to remind people to weight their pots
 - “Don't let your pot stray far, weight it with rebar.”
 - “Got bait, how about weight?”

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO –Tim Ellis
 - A joint meeting between the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Implementation Committees was held on April 11
 - The meeting discussed
 - Strategic Initiative Leads 2023-2025 grant round
 - Ideas and strategies to increase project funding and coordination, strategies to request LIO directed implementation funding
 - Overviews of projects by project sponsors
 - Included funding received/not received
 - Decision to set twice yearly joint meetings moving forward
- NWSC – Allan Hicks, Julie Schlenger
 - The last meeting was April 28. The meeting included an update on:
 - Save the Date! Northwest Straits Initiative Conference, November 3-4 at the Port Townsend Maritime Center. Updates will be sent via e-mail, including registration. Additional information will be added to the Conference Website. Please do not distribute to anyone beyond your MRC or members.
 - The Commission has elected Tim Ellis, Snohomish MRC representative, as the new Chair, as well as Alan Clark of the Clallam MRC as the new Vice Chair.
 - Ginny Broadhurst has been appointed to the Commission by Governor Inslee.
 - The June 23 Commission meeting will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church on Lopez Island, and we will be featuring MRC work. Please contact Caitlyn with any questions and be looking for e-mails related to this meeting.
 - Chanda Littles presented on beneficial use of dredge materials in the Lower Columbia River. Her presentation is available upon request.
 - Next meeting May 25
- MRC 2022 Presentation to Executive and Council – Natasha Coumou
 - Natasha presented to the Snohomish County Executive on May 12 and the County Council on May 16
 - She used the MRC annual report as a presentation to highlight the members and work of the MRC
 - Elisa and Joycelyn were in attendance and answered specific questions from the Executive and Council
 - Both groups expressed appreciation for the work completed and a desire to support the work of the MRC moving forward
 - Megan Dunn mentioned that the MRC is one of the most active committees at the County. And asked if we are involved and how we can get the MRC involved in the septic systems in the Port Susan area.
- Orca Distance Rule Change – Natasha Coumou
 - A senate bill (bill number 5371) requiring all boats to maintain a 1,000-yard distance from southern resident orcas has passed

- In effect January 2025
 - WDFW seeking input from advisory groups to comment and input on the implementation plan
 - Does the MRC want to do any outreach?
- Forage Fish – Joycelyn Blue
 - April forage fish monitoring occurred on April 10 and 13
 - Egg samples from this year were delivered to WDFW on May 3
 - Sediment samples were delivered to the materials lab on May 11
 - The materials lab has finished processing the 2022 samples and reports will be delivered shortly
 - May forage fish monitoring occurred/is occurring on May 15 and May 18
 - June forage fish monitoring is scheduled for June 14 and 15
- Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger
 - Received 100+ oil spill kits donated to MRC outreach by Washington Sea Grant
 - Plan to educate and hand out spill kits simultaneously with crabber outreach
 - Kits comprised of 6 pieces: 1-gal. ziplock bag, one pair of gloves, oil sorbet pillow, mat, bib, and spill report phone numbers
 - Attended a workshop focusing on tugboats and noise
 - In person deployment drill being held May 24
- Marine Vegetation Update – Brienne Townsend
 - The subcommittee met on May 4 to finalize the scope of work for the NWSC 2023-2025 grant
 - Kelp monitoring dates for summer 2023 have been set
- European Green Crab Molt Search Outreach Program – Jonathan Robinson
 - WSU conducted a molt search training on May 13
 - Workshops actively being done across 12 counties
 - Identification and how to use the MyCoast app
 - Skagit County June 8
<https://GreenCrabMoltSearchTrainingSkagit.eventbrite.com>
- Earth Day Beach Clean Up – Joycelyn Blue, Natasha Coumou, and Jonathan Robinson
 - Event held on April 22 at Mission Beach
 - Well attended event, around 30 volunteers
 - Mix of Beach watchers, local community members, and MRC listserv volunteers
 - First time we have run an ETAP without Zero Waste
 - Some refining to be done, but overall went smoothly
 - Over 145 lbs (2374 pieces) of trash taken off the beach
 - Does not include the construction materials
 - Natasha was able to work with public works to schedule regular pick of trash at Mission Beach and to work on scheduling a post July 4 beach cleanup of Mission beach

- Port Susan Update – Sara Maxwell
 - Subcommittee reviewed the draft story map and met with the consultant for additional feedback on May 8
 - Tulalip Tribes accepted the tribal language for the Port Susan storymap
- ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson
 - County staff and ORCA staff met and are continuing to improve the QA/QC plan
- MRC Intern Update
 - The MRC Summer Intern, Ariel, was hired and is expected to start in June and will be with the Marine Program until late September
- Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson
 - Approval to move forward from DNR and Snohomish County for 6 vessels. Two vessels need access agreements from the Tulalip Tribes which a contract is currently being reviewed and signed by the tribes. Additionally, two of the vessels are on private tidelands and the Tulalip Tribal Police are helping Elisa get in touch with the homeowners' association which owns the property. Once access agreements have been signed for these four vessels, vessels will be posted. Ideally in June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

June 21, 2023, 6:30-8:30PM

**Meeting Location: Port of Everett Blue Heron Room
1135 Craftsman Way. Everett, WA 98201**

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez</p> <p>Absent Michael Kundu Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County, MRC Staff Ariel Shiley, Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Andrew Galuska, City of Mukilteo Richard Strickland, Citizen Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen Dawn Presler, Snohomish PUD Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the May 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crabber Outreach: July 1, 2, 8 and 9. ● Jetty Island Beach Cleanup: July 7th. ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference: November 3rd and 4th ● Next MRC Meeting: July 19th, via Zoom. 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

Natasha introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. Additionally, Natasha welcomed Ariel Shiley, Marine Ecology Intern for Snohomish County Surface Water Management. She grew up in Snohomish County all her life and has always found comfort at rocky beaches. She started doing ocean research with the Ocean Research College Academy at 17. Now at 23, she has a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from Western Washington University and is working towards her Master’s in Marine Ecology also at Western. She aims to make science accessible to people from all backgrounds. Between degrees, Ariel worked for the Washington Conservation Corps on the marine debris removal crew. There she removed creosote-treated logs that are toxic to people and the ecosystem. She grew a love for conservation and a hatred for logs.

Ariel started on Monday, June 5, and will be working with us through September. She will be supporting several marine projects, including working with our Marine Resources Committee,

forage fish monitoring, kelp monitoring, and helping us with a new project where we are working towards creating Report Cards for our local marine environment, similar to the ones that exist for streams and lakes for [State of Our Waters](#).

After introductions, Natasha read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

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

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

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 17, 2023, meeting summary. Julie Schlenger seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mukilteo Japanese Gulch Stream Restoration and Pedestrian Promenade Update

Natasha to introduce Andrew Galuska. Andrew is the City of Mukilteo’s Community Development Director. Andrew started his position in late 2022. Andrew came to the City of Mukilteo from Sultan, where he was the City's planning director for four years. He's also held different planning positions in Snohomish County's planning and community development services department, Lake Stevens, Lake Forest Park, and Stanwood.

Project Overview: On January 4, 2016, the City Council adopted the [Downtown Waterfront Master Plan](#) (pdf). The plan describes a revitalized downtown waterfront which includes local businesses, a looped pedestrian promenade, bike lanes and playful waterfront uses. The goal is for residents and visitors to experience a natural shoreline while celebrating the past, present, and future of the Mukilteo waterfront. It incorporates the changes regarding the location of the ferry and ferry loading areas, while also enhancing pedestrian mobility.

A piece of this is the Waterfront Promenade, which includes the area of Japanese Gulch stream where it enters the Puget Sound. Andrew to discuss the plans on daylighting the creek. The creek daylighting is waterward of the BNSF railway, and the entire area that will be daylighted is just over .6 acres.

Discussion:

- The MRC asked several questions regarding the culvert replacement that will be under the road and the BNSF railway culvert that is not being addressed in this project.
 - Andrew reported that the City has been in communication with BNSF, but BNSF is not ready to redesign their culvert. The idea with the City’s design is that it will be ready to connect to a new BNSF culvert once the organization is ready to address their culvert. The current BNSF culvert is an 8ft rigid corrugated pipe.

- The MRC asked about contaminated soils and the process to plan and address those.
 - The City is planning for highly contaminated soils in the scope of work. They are in contact with the Dept. of Ecology and will be in further contact with them as the City moves towards the permitting process. Port of Everett staff Laura Gurley offered to work with Andrew and that the Port could help assist with this process.
- The MRC asked about timeline for the final designs and construction of the project.
 - The City is applying for Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding that would fund final design and permitting. Assuming they get those funds, they expect to work on final design and permitting 2024-2025. Construction could start as early as 2025.

Summer Field Work Logistics and Volunteer Opportunities

Crabber Opening Outreach

Julie Schlenger reported that Crabber Education is planned for the first two weekends of July. Shifts will be on Saturday and Sunday from 6AM-8AM and 8AM-10AM. Julie reviewed the supplies and logistics for crabber outreach. Supplies this year will include crabber outreach materials (handouts, gauges, rot cord) oil spill kits, and a “how to rig a crab pot” example from Allan. Julie also has a few short survey questions for volunteers to ask crabbers to further engage them. Volunteer will ask folks the following yes/no questions verbally, ideally before we hand them supplies, if possible.

1. Have you ever lost a pot?
2. Do you weight your pot?
3. Do you know who to call if you see or spill oil?

Crabber volunteers will have three questions on a clipboard and keep a tally of yes/no throughout the day.

Crabber outreach at the Everett 10th street Boat Launch.								
DATE	1-Jul	1-Jul	2-Jul	2-Jul	8-Jul	8-Jul	9-Jul	9-Jul
	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Saturday	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday
TIME	6AM-8AM	8AM-10AM	6AM-8AM	8AM-10AM	6AM-8AM	8AM-10AM	6AM-8AM	8AM-10AM
PERSON 1	Allan	Brie T.	Allan	Phil S	Dave Bishop	Dave Bishop	Julie S	Phil S
PERSON 2	Natasha	Julie S	Ariel S	Ariel S	Natasha	Phil S	Ariel S	Ariel S
PERSON 3	Julie S	Sam A.	Brie T.	Brie T.	Elisa D	Elisa D	Joycelyn B	Julie S
PERSON 4	Brie T.	Teressa R.			Sam A.	Brie T.		Joycelyn B

Jetty Island Beach Cleanup

Jonathan Robinson reported that the WSU Beach Watchers, Snohomish County Marine Resource Committee and City of Everett are holding a beach clean-up at Jetty Island on July 7th from 10-

noon. Everyone attending the beach clean-up will get a complimentary ferry voucher for passage to Jetty Island. Please join us! Jetty Island Ferry Launch 522 10th Steet Everett, WA 98201.

Register to volunteer here: [Jetty Island Beach Clean-Up Tickets, Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Kelp Monitoring - Brie Townsend

Brie Townsend reported that kelp monitoring dates for this summer have been set.

In July we will monitor all of our kayak-based sites.

July 13 Mukilteo. Meet at Lighthouse Boat Ramp at 7:30AM

July 17 Edmonds. Meet at Brackett's Landing at 10AM

July 18 Meadowdale. Meet at Brackett's Landing at 9:30AM. This day is a long paddle.

Dates we're holding as backup in case of weather and needing to change plans are 7/14 and 7/19.

In August we monitor anywhere we found a kelp bed, typically only Edmonds, a second time by Kayak. Then we go out by motorboat to monitor Hat Island.

August 14 Hat Island vessel monitoring

August 15 is back up for Hat Island

August 28 Edmonds. Meet at Brackett's at 8AM.

Hold July 29 and July 30 as backup dates in case of any changes needed.

September we will just monitor Hat Island by motorboat. This comes after a request from Tulalip Tribes who believes that the bed might develop more after August. On September 26th we plan to monitor Hat Island again, and we are holding September 27th as a backup date.

Forage Fish

Joycelyn Blue reported the following dates for July and August forage fish monitoring. Ariel Shiley is helping with forage fish, and MRC members are also encouraged to volunteer for the following dates:

- July 20 Picnic Point and Meadowdale at 10:30am
- July 24 Howarth Park at 12:30pm
- Aug 16 Picnic Point and Meadowdale at 10am
- Aug 20 Howarth Park at 12pm

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO –Tim Ellis – No Updates.
- NWSC – Tim Ellis
 - The last meeting was May 25. The meeting included an update on:
 - The next Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council meeting is June 7-8 at the LOTT Clean Water Alliance in Olympia. One topic on the Leadership Council agenda is the trend in declining shellfish bed in Puget Sound. This topic will be from 9:20-10:00 on June 7. The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound will follow that up with a local forum from 10:15-12:15 that will cover shellfish beds and nutrient management. The meeting will be streamed on TVW.

- The NW Straits Foundation is hosting a 20th year anniversary event at Jerry Masters' house on June 10 from 2-6 p.m. Contact Brooke Friesen friesen@nwstraitsfoundation.org for information.
 - Next meeting is June 23 in-person on Lopez Island.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Received 100+ oil spill kits donated to MRC outreach by Washington Sea Grant
 - Plan to educate and hand out spill kits simultaneously with crabber outreach
 - Kits comprised of 6 pieces: 1-gal. ziplock bag, one pair of gloves, oil sorbet pillow, mat, bib, and spill report phone numbers
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**
 - ORCA is updating their QA/QC Monitoring Plan. We expect to have an updated version in July to review.
 - ORCA State of Possession Student Showcase was June 8th. Elisa, Joycelyn, Ariel, and David Bain all attended.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - Seven derelict vessels were posted on June 7th. Documentation is being processed, and Elisa is working on soliciting contractor bids. Removal is expected to start in August and be completed by October.
 - Vessel 1 is a 26 ft sailboat located in Steamboat Slough, Vessel 2 is a 20 ft recreational vessel located in Jones Creek Estuary, Vessel 3 is a 26 ft cabin cruiser located on the shores of Ebey Slough. Vessel 4 is a 35 ft sailboat hull located in Ebey Slough, Vessel 5 is a 22 ft cabin cruiser located on the shores of Ebey Slough, Vessel 6 is a 20 ft recreational vessel located on the shores of Ebey Slough, and Vessel 7 is a 16 ft recreational vessel located on the shores of Ebey Slough.
- **August 16th Picnic Planning – Elisa Dawson**
 - Elisa made the following location Suggestions: Meadowdale Beach Park (discuss restroom, shelter status. Parking), Willis Tucker Picnic Shelter, Martha Lake Picnic Shelter.
 - The MRC decided to host the Potluck at Meadowdale. More details on Potluck and logistics will be discussed at the July meeting.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - MRC Meeting
 - July 19th, held virtually over Zoom.
 - MRC Summer Picnic
 - August 16th, location TBD.
 - Crabber Outreach
 - July 1, 2, 8, and 9 at the Port of Everett boat launch
 - Northwest Straits Initiative Conference
 - November 3-4 at Port Townsend Maritime Center

The meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

July 19, 2023, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Andrew Gobin Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p> <p>Absent</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County, MRC Staff Ariel Shiley, Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Jeff Whitty, NWSC Laura Dell'Olio, Citizen Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
Summary of Decisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the June 2023 meeting summary. 	
Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MRC Picnic: August 16th ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference: November 3rd and 4th 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

Natasha introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Natasha 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 June 21, 2023, meeting summary. Franchesca Perez seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

WSU Beach Watchers Presentation and Discussion

Natasha introduced Jonathan Robinson. Jonathan is the Beach Watchers Program Coordinator for Washington State University. He is a Marine Ecologist with an emphasis in intertidal ecosystems and over a decade and a half of experience working in the field. Educated through his youth on the Oregon coast, a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, a master's degree from Western Washington University and a decade of work as a Senior Faculty Research Assistant at Oregon State University. He learned an abundance of information that he is now able to share in educating others about the environment he enjoys so greatly. When not working at the beach, he enjoys time outdoors hiking and gardening with his wife, three children, and yellow lab.

Jonathan presented on the mission and projects of the WSU Beach Watchers as well as the accomplishments of the past year.

WSU Beach Watchers are volunteers dedicated to protecting the Salish Sea and Puget Sound through education, research, and stewardship. Volunteers come from all walks of life and bring a rich cross-section of backgrounds, experience, service, and talents. The WSU Beach Watchers volunteer their time through stewardship, education, and research at many beaches in Snohomish County, including Mukilteo Lighthouse Park, Kayak Point and Edmonds Olympic Beach.

The Beach Watchers currently promote education through classroom visits/field trips, the Beach Naturalist program, and the Pet Waste Education program. They conduct research/citizen science by participating in the Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication & Health (BEACH) program and doing intertidal characterization and monitoring surveys. Through monthly beach clean-ups the Beach Watchers encourage communities to steward their local beaches and keep them trash free.

Each year, SWM writes a reimbursable services agreement with WSU. One part of this agreement is for the Beach Watchers. For the Beach Watchers task that the MRC helps fund. A copy of the reimbursable services agreement was provided to the MRC in their meeting packet. There are several items that the Beach Watchers Program preforms:

- Beach Watcher and Beach Naturalist Training.
- Marine conservation stewardship projects
 - Coordinate and hold at least one virtual or in-person beach education event before March 1, 2023. Plan for and advertise a 2024 event during 2023.
 - Coordinate and plan one annual epifauna and algae survey at Meadowdale Park and Picnic Point Park. Write a one-page summary on results of the survey and comparison to past data as available. Data will be uploaded to Shoreline Monitoring Toolbox (shoremonitoring.org).
 - WSU Beach Watchers will be at Meadowdale Beach Park beach and estuary area for at least two hours on two different days during summer months. WSU Beach Watchers will interact with the public and discuss the Meadowdale Beach and Restoration project by roving the beach and estuary areas. These events will be advertised through various avenues. WSU Beach Watchers will provide the list of dates to the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Division by March 31, 2023.
 - Coordinate and hold at least one shoreline cleanup event per quarter throughout 2023, totaling a minimum of four events. At least one event must use the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol (ETAP) developed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Results from the ETAP protocol must be reported to Zero Waste Washington.

Discussion:

- The MRC discussed ideas to increase interest of the Beach Watchers training to members of the public. Ideas included a hybrid approach, collaboration with local colleges, and making some parts asynchronous.
- The MRC noted that low numbers of volunteers has been an issue across many volunteer organizations.
- The 2024 contract between Snohomish County and WSU Beach Watchers will start being written in the fall of this year. Further feedback to the Beach Watchers program should be given by fall 2023.

Port Susan Project Update

Sara reviewed the status of the Port Susan Project. The subcommittee met on June 28th and gave feedback on the final draft of the story map. After a few final details the consultant delivered the final product. Sara went through the Story Map with the MRC. The MRC suggested adding a note to the story map stating that it is not designed for mobile devices. The MRC brainstormed ways to share the link to the story map including the Port Susan Facebook page, the MRC listserv, and via press releases. Next, the MRC webpage on Port Susan will be updated and the Story Map will be added to the page.

Snohomish Conservation District has agreed to take hand-out material on Port Susan to their booth at the Stanwood-Camano Fair August 4, 5, and 6. Island County MRC is preparing a small flyer, and Elisa will drop off the flyer and copies of the “Keep Port Susan Healthy” booklet to SCD.

The Port Susan team will present to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council on September 27th. The idea is to partner with the Stillaguamish Tribe’s Marine Program to give a “State of Port Susan” update. The subcommittee will be working on preparing for that presentation over the summer.

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO –Tim Ellis – No Updates.
- NWSC – Tim Ellis
 - The last meeting was June 23
 - Dana presented on the work of creating a floating kelp indicator in WA State. WA Department of Natural Resources, and NW Straits Commission staff and MRCs, alongside a diverse coalition of partners worked together to weave multiple data sources into one cohesive and first-of-its kind indicator of trends in canopy forming kelp in Washington state.
 - San Juan MRC hosted a site visit at Odlin County Park where they monitor and maintain a voluntary no-anchor zone to protect eelgrass, and shared information about other new and ongoing projects related to recreational boating best practices in the San Juan Islands. Read about their work at www.sjcmrc.org.
 - NW Straits Commission staff finished the draft of the 2020-2023 Kelp Plan Status Report, which consists of a synthesis of the advances, lessons learned, and next steps of the actions within the Kelp Plan since its publication. The

draft will undergo an open input period by a wide audience, including the MRCs, in July before final publication.

- San Juan Councilmember Jane Fuller shared with the group about the vital roadways in San Juan County, and the current and future impacts sea level rise is having on these roadways. She is interested in discussing further about mitigation strategies and community engagement with the San Juan MRC and NW Straits Commission.
- The Puget Sound Partnership is hiring new staff for their strategic funding team. The purpose of this team is to help partners identify and navigate grant opportunities.
- The Puget Sound Partnership is working on Progress Indicators in collaboration with local, state, and Tribal partners. To learn more about the Progress Indicators, visit this link.
- Next meeting is July 28 in-person at Padilla Bay Reserve
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - 100 oil spill kits were handed out during the first day of crabber outreach
 - Quarter 2 in person coordination and planning meeting is July 20
- **Crabber Outreach Debrief – Brie Townsend and Julie Schlenger**
 - Outreach to 554 people during the two weekends
 - Too much traffic to do the survey questions
- **Marine Vegetation/Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
 - Mukilteo kelp monitoring was conducted on July 13, Edmonds on July 17, and Meadowdale was rescheduled for July 31 due to weather conditions
 - No attached kelp was found at Mukilteo, lots of eelgrass
 - At Edmonds only the large kelp bed was dense enough to do a perimeter
- **Tulalip Grant Collaboration Crab Gear Retrieval – Natasha Coumou**
 - Tulalip wants to submit for a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant to get a ROV and experimentally compare the efficiency of ROV removal of crab gear vs the current method of diver removal
 - Intent to apply due on July 26
 - Asking MRC for letter of support
 - Natasha to request further information and timeline then share with MRC
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**
 - ORCA is updating their QA/QC Monitoring Plan. We expect to have an updated version later this summer to review.
 - Next steps include a meeting with Ecology to give their input on the QA/QC plan
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - The contractor tour was conducted on July 10. Removal of all 7 vessels is expected to start in August and be completed by mid-October.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
 - Upcoming monitoring dates: July 20 Picnic Point and Meadowdale, July 24 Howarth Park

- WDFW is putting together another in person forage fish training on Wed Aug 30 at 9am at Padilla Bay. Need headcount of people interested.
- **August 16th Picnic Planning – Elisa Dawson**
 - The MRC decided to host the Potluck at Mukilteo for ease of access. Elisa will reserve a picnic shelter.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - MRC Potluck/Picnic
 - August 16, Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
 - Northwest Straits Initiative Conference
 - November 3-4 at Port Townsend Maritime Center

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

Sep 20, 2023, 6:30-8:30PM
Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p> <p>Absent Andrew Gobin</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, Snohomish County, MRC Staff Ariel Shiley, Marine Ecology Intern</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Jeff Whitty, NWSC Leah Robinson, NWSC Vera Martinovich, Citizen Richard Strickland, Citizen Danielle Nordstrom, Citizen Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the July 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Port Susan presentation to the SWC: September 27 ● Meadowdale public open house: October 7 ● ORCA Recovery Day at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park: October 14 ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference: November 3 and 4 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

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

“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stulag^wábs̓ (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 July 19, 2023, meeting summary. Allan Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

WDFW Mussel Watch

Mariko Langness is a biologist with the WDFW TBIOS team. Her work with the team began in 2015 and involves supporting monitoring 2 programs to determine the extent and magnitude of toxic contaminants in marine and salmonid species living in Puget Sound and Washington's Pacific coast. Her primary work is focused on conducting the Washington State Mussel Monitoring (aka Mussel Watch) program which performs a biennial survey to assess the status and trends of contaminants in nearshore biota using transplanted native bay mussels.

Mariko Langness presented to the MRC about the Mussel Watch effort and plans for 2023 mussel monitoring. The Mussel Monitoring study continues to support Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) program efforts to measure stormwater impacts on the environment and evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater management actions. Using mussels as our study organism, WDFW assesses toxic contaminants in nearshore habitats throughout Puget Sound. Similar projects were conducted in the winters of 2012/13 (report available here), 2015/16 (report available here), 2017/18 (report available here), and 2019/20 (report available here). The 2021/22 survey report is pending.

We will be revisiting some of the same sites as our 2021/22 mussel monitoring survey but have added many new sites (random) as part of the SAM study design. One significant change since the prior surveys is an updated WDFW study design that will support the Puget Sound Vital Signs Toxics in Aquatic Life nearshore indicator. Leveraging our existing caged mussel monitoring program we will report on the status and trends of nearshore contaminants in Puget Sound using our new study design that groups sites within marine areas and urban embayments. To learn more about the development of this study design and ongoing work see this link to a recorded presentation available on YouTube. With a combination of SAM sites, the new WDFW study design, and NOAA's National Mussel Watch program circling back around to the northwest region, we have over 100 mussel sites this year! A map of all locations can be found by following this google maps link. WDFW will have groups deploying cages from November 12-18 and retrieving them between February 5-12. There is an opportunity to volunteer to assist in bagging mussels from October 30-November 2. Contact Mariko if you are interested.

Sites in Snohomish County that the MRC will be helping with this year are:

- Big Gulch South (SAM-1599): 47.903636, -122.325222 (access is through the WWTP and over the tracks if anyone is leery about crossing)
- Shell Creek (SAM-1667): 47.82323063, -122.3720255
- Edmonds Ferry (PSEF): 47.81407, -122.3825
- Edmonds Marina (PSEM): 47.81108, -122.38813
- Everett Harbor (PSEH): 47.9726, -122.22977
- Mukilteo (PSMF): 47.94968, -122.30158
- Meadowdale Beach (SAM016): 47.8542, -122.335

Other sites in Snohomish County:

Tulalip Tribes is going to deploy cages at Hermosa Point. Stillaguamish Tribe is currently working with WDFW to determine if access is possible to Kayak Point during construction for mussel cage deployment.

Marine Ecology Internship Presentation

Ariel Shiley has served as the marine ecology intern for Snohomish County Surface Water Management this summer. She grew up in Snohomish County all her life and has always found comfort at rocky beaches. She started doing ocean research with the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA) in Everett at 17. Now at 23, she has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Western Washington University and is working towards her Master's in Marine Ecology also at Western. She aims to make science accessible to people from all backgrounds. Between degrees, Ariel worked for the Washington Conservation Corps on the marine debris removal crew. There she removed creosote-treated logs that are toxic to people and the ecosystem. She grew a love for conservation and a hatred for logs.

Ariel presented on her work during her time as the Marine Ecology Intern. Ariel began her internship on June 5 and has been working with MRC staff and Members throughout the summer. She supported several marine projects, including forage fish monitoring, kelp monitoring, our partnership with ORCA, and she has attended MRC meetings throughout the summer, and had opportunities to get to know the members and work of the MRC.

A major focus of her internship has been helping the MRC with a new project where we are working towards creating Report Cards for our local marine environment, similar to the ones that exist for Snohomish County streams and lakes for [State of Our Waters](#). Ariel presented her work collating information on the physical, biological, and chemical parameters of Possession Sound. The goal is for this draft to help the MRC continue the effort to create marine report cards for Snohomish County.

The MRC thanked Ariel for all her hard work and commented that the marine report card development looked very successful. The MRC Water Quality subcommittee plans to build upon Ariel's work and continue working on developing the report card.

Project Updates and Announcements

- LIO –Tim Ellis – No Updates.
- NWSC – Tim Ellis
 - The last meeting was Aug 25
 - The NW Straits Commission will present a new annual award in honor of Senator Patty Murray. An ad-hoc committee will be formed to develop criteria and a nomination process for future recipient selection. The first recipient will be Senator Patty Murray.
 - Northwest Straits Conference registration is opening at the end of August! Travel and lodging costs for MRC members and staff can be covered through their MRC grants. If you have questions about lodging, travel, or general conference inquiries, please contact Caitlyn (blair@nwstraits.org). The conference will be on November 3-4, 2023 at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend.
 - NW Straits Commission staff are working on hiring a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant to assess DEI needs within the Commission and NW Straits

Initiative. The first phase will be to create a needs assessment to identify next steps in DEI at the Initiative.

- NW Straits Commission staff are looking for speed date topics for “Speed Date with a Scientist” presentations at our monthly Commission meetings. If you have topics that you are interested in learning more about, please reach out to Dana (oster@nwstraits.org).
- The NW Straits Commission approved the 2023-2025 MRC grant proposals for the Washington state general fund and EPA-funded award, with a start date of October 1, 2023.
- Next meeting is September 29 in Island County
- **Port Susan – Sara Maxwell**
 - The Port Susan subcommittee has been finalizing a press release about the storymap and website, which was released September 19. The final deliverable for this grant is a presentation to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) on Sep 27. Sara Maxwell will be giving the presentation.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Ecology posted the escort tubs and emergency response towing vehicles reports online.
 - The Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting was in October.
 - Ecology is currently accepting applications for their grant opportunity for oil spill response equipment.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - The subcommittee met on August 31 and decided to focus next year’s outreach on the Edmonds community.
 - The subcommittee is currently developing a project description to be used for hiring a consultant.
- **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
 - Meadowdale, Mukilteo, and Edmonds were all monitored in July. Only one kelp bed and a few individual plants were found at Edmonds. In August Edmonds was again monitored and one bed was found. The two Hat Island beds were monitored in August and were in good condition.
 - There were reports of approximately 10 kelp plants in Mukilteo, north of the typical area surveyed. The Subcommittee has made a note of this new kelp area in the 2023 records and plans to expand the survey area in 2024 to include this new kelp bed.
- **Strategic Planning – Natasha Coumou and Franny Perez**
 - The group met to discuss details for hiring a consultant to run the strategic planning process and have developed a project description and interview questions.
- **Tulalip Tribes Letter of Support – Natasha Coumou**
 - The Tulalip Tribes is applying for the NOAA fish passage grant for the removal of fish barriers. Some of these barriers are on coast streams within Snohomish County. They asked the MRC to provide a letter of support. Natasha will draft the letter and the executive committee will sign pending support from the MRC. The MRC will review the letter and vote via email.
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**

- ORCA and County staff met with Ecology to review the final QA/QC plan.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - The contractor tour was conducted on July 10. After some delays with contracting, removal of all 7 vessels is expected to start in September and be completed by early November.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
 - September monitoring was conducted on September 14 and 18
 - October monitoring is scheduled for October 11 and 26
 - WDFW hosted an in-person forage fish training at Padilla Bay on August 30
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Port Susan presentation to the SWC
 - September 27, Stilly Natural Resources Building
 - Meadowdale public open house
 - October 7
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - October 11 and 26
 - ORCA Recovery Day at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
 - October 14
 - Northwest Straits Initiative Conference
 - November 3-4 at Port Townsend Maritime Center

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

October 18, 2023, 6:30-8:30PM
Meeting Location: Tulalip Marina Building
7411 Tulalip Bay Dr, Marysville, WA 98271

<p>MRC Members Present Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks Andrew Gobin</p> <p>Absent Natasha Coumou, Chair</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes Phil Salditt, Citizen Richard Strickland, Citizen Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the September 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Northwest Straits Initiative Conference: November 3 and 4 	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM.

Tim introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, Tim 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

Julie Schlenger made a motion to approve the September 20, 2023, meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

NWSC-MRC Conference Logistics

The Annual MRC conference for the Northwest Straits is being held in Port Townsend at the Northwest Maritime Center November 3-4. Those who have confirmed that they are attending have hotel reservations:

- Natasha Coumou
- Tim Ellis
- Brie Townsend
- Andrew Gobin
- Franchesca Perez
- Sara Maxwell
- Julie Schlenger
- David Bain
- Joycelyn Blue
- Elisa Dawson

Rooms are reserved at the Bishop Hotel for all Snohomish County MC attendees [The Bishop Hotel – Premiere Boutique Hotel In Port Townsend, WA](#). One Queen Room is reserved for all those named above for Friday night November 3rd. The County will also pre-pay ferry tickets for the ferry ride to Port Townsend and distribute them via email a few days before the conference.

Sara Maxwell gave a final summary presentation on the Snohomish MRC's work of revisiting and celebrating the work that has been accomplished in the last 10 years since the Port Susan Conservation Action Plan was developed. Sara has agreed to give the same presentation to at the Northwest Straits Conference on November 3rd.

Friday night there is a tabling session and appetizers are served. All MRCs are invited to table during an appetizers and social part of the agenda during the Northwest Straits Conference. The Executive Team has agreed to be responsible for staffing the table. Materials available at our table will be:

- Port Susan Story Map
- Port Susan one-pager
- Derelict Vessel one-pager
- Snohomish Dredging one-pager
- Creosote Piling one-pager
- Forage Fish one-pager

More information about the conference can be found on the website: [2023 Northwest Straits Conference \(nwstraits.org\)](https://www.nwstraits.org)

November 13 Mussel Monitoring Deployment Logistics

The Mussel Monitoring study continues to support Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) program efforts to measure stormwater impacts on the environment and evaluate the effectiveness of stormwater management actions. Using mussels as our study organism, WDFW assesses toxic contaminants in nearshore habitats throughout Puget Sound. Similar projects were conducted in the winters of 2012/13, 2015/16, 2017/18, and 2019/20. The 2021/22 survey report is pending.

We will be revisiting some of the same sites as our 2021/22 mussel monitoring survey but have added many new sites (random) as part of the SAM study design. One significant change since the prior surveys is an updated WDFW study design that will support the Puget Sound Vital Signs Toxics in Aquatic Life nearshore indicator. Leveraging our existing caged mussel monitoring program we will report on the status and trends of nearshore contaminants in Puget Sound using our new study design that groups sites within marine areas and urban embayment.

The Snohomish MRC Sites in Snohomish County that the MRC will be helping with this year are:

- Big Gulch South (SAM-1599): 47.903636, -122.325222
 - Richard Strickland
 - Becky Passarella
 - Tim Ellis
- Shell Creek (SAM-1667): 47.82323063, -122.3720255
 - Brie Townsend
 - Mike Ehlebracht
- Edmonds Ferry (PSEF): 47.81407, -122.3825
 - Julie Schlenger
 - Allan Hicks
- Edmonds Marina (PSEM): 47.81108, -122.38813
 - Riley Myers
 - Joycelyn Blue
- Everett Harbor (PSEH): 47.9726, -122.22977
 - Laura Gurley
 - Jonathan Robinson
- Mukilteo (PSMF): 47.94968, -122.30158
 - Alex Pittman
 - Phil Salditt
- Meadowdale Beach (SAM016): 47.8542, -122.335
 - Elisa Dawson
 - Patrick Dunn

Other sites in Snohomish County:

Tulalip Tribes is going to deploy cages at Hermosa Point. Stillaguamish Tribe is currently working with WDFW to determine if access is possible to Kayak Point during construction for mussel cage deployment.

Retrieval will be scheduled in the new year, with dates expected to be between February 5-12.

2024 Work Planning Brainstorm and Strategic Plan Update

Elisa reviewed the 2023 Work Plan with the MRC and opened the conversation for initial brainstorm as we begin drafting the 2024 Work Plan. The goal is to review a draft 2024 work plan at the November MRC meeting. Elisa will send out a follow up email asking for comments via email.

While we begin writing our 2024 workplan, it is important to remember in 2024 we will be going through a Strategic Planning Process. The Snohomish MRC is looking to hire a consultant via

Snohomish County SWM’s on-call process to lead the MRC through a process of creating a 2025-2030 (5-year) Strategic Plan. The planning process will take place from November 2023 - September 2024, with final approval from the MRC in late 2024.

The last Snohomish MRC 5-year Strategic Plan was created for 2011-2016. The Snohomish MRC’s vision is to create a new 5-year strategic plan, with the development of the plan being done in 2024 to create a 2025-2030 Snohomish MRC Strategic Plan. Strategic planning is the ongoing organizational process of using available knowledge to document the groups intended direction. This process is used to prioritize efforts, effectively allocate resources, align MRC Members and MRC Staff on the organization’s goals, and ensure those goals are backed by sound reasoning.

The Strategic Plan team (Elisa Dawson, Franchesca Perez, and Natasha Coumou) have written an overview of the project. The overview is in the MRC meeting packet. They have solicited to the three on-call consultants SWM-Planning has: ESA, HDR, and Peak Sustainability. Interviews are planned for Thursday, October 19. The team plans to have a consultant selected and contract written by the end of the calendar year.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO –Tim Ellis** – No Updates.
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - The last meeting was September 29th in Island County.
 - There was a presentation by Ginny Broadhurst on the Roberts Bank Terminal 2.
 - Island County MRC presented the recent Climate Change White Paper the MRC prepared for their County Council, and their new Water Quality Project. Tim noted he would like to create a similar document to their Climate Change White Paper for the Snohomish County Council.
 - NWSC is preparing for the Annual Conference, happening in Port Townsend November 3-4.
 - The NW Straits Commission approved their 2024 meeting calendar. Check the website for dates and locations and e-mail Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org)
 - The NW Straits Commission has been working diligently on reauthorization. For more information, see the reauthorization trifold brochure that Jessica Owens created.
 - The NW Straits Initiative was featured in two articles:
 - The first article was on the front page of the Skagit Valley Herald on September 14. See the article: “Northwest Straits Initiative may be up for federal funding.”
 - The other article was in the Salish Current on September 22. See the article: “Locals in small operation take on ‘tall order’ in marine ecosystem
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - The subcommittee plans to meet in early November
 - Julie and Joycelyn are currently developing a project description to be used for hiring a consultant
- **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**

- Due to winds and rain, the kelp team was not able to survey Hat Island in late September. The team will try again to monitor in September 2024.
- There is a new kelp forest indicator for the Puget Sound Vital Signs to help track this important habitat in Washington State. More information can be found here: <https://kelp-canopy-vital-sign-for-puget-sound-wadnr.hub.arcgis.com/>
- DNR kelp and eelgrass protection zones plan comments are due October 20th.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Meadowdale is now in the Geographic Response Plan area of priority. Julie worked with Ecology to update information on Meadowdale.
 - Julie is attending last LEPC meeting of 2023 which is October 19, 2023.
- **Tulalip Tribes Letter of Support – Brett Shattuck for Natasha Coumou**
 - The Tulalip Tribes is applying for the NOAA fish passage grant for the removal of fish barriers. Some of these barriers are on coast streams within Snohomish County. They asked the MRC to provide a letter of support. Natasha drafted the letter of Support the MRC approved the letter and the letter was signed by Chair Natasha Coumou and submitted.
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**
 - ORCA and County staff met with Ecology to review the final QA/QC plan. The plan has been signed by County staff and ORCA staff. The Plan was provided in the MRC packet for MRC members to review.
- **Derelict Vessels – Elisa Dawson**
 - The contractor tour was conducted on July 10. After some delays with contracting, removal of all 7 vessels is underway and will be completed by November 15.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Elisa Dawson for Joycelyn Blue**
 - October monitoring of Picnic Point and Meadowdale occurred on Oct 11 and Howarth is scheduled for Oct 26
 - November monitoring is scheduled for Nov 9
 - We will be doing all three sites in one day, if you would like to join but can not join for the whole day get in touch with Joycelyn
 - December monitoring is scheduled for Dec 18 and 19
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - November 9
 - Northwest Straits Initiative Conference
 - November 3-4 at Port Townsend Maritime Center

The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

November 15, 2023, 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

<p>MRC Members Present Natasha Coumou, Chair Tim Ellis, Co-Vice Chair, NWSC and LIO Rep Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Julie Schlenger Franchesca Perez Sara Maxwell Allan Hicks</p> <p>Absent Andrew Gobin</p>	<p>Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff</p> <p>MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member</p> <p>Others Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes Phil Salditt, Citizen Richard Strickland, Citizen Mike Ehlebracht, Citizen Dawn Presler, Snohomish County PUD Jacob Kirschner, Port of Everett</p>
<p>Summary of Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MRC approved the October 2023 meeting summary. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December MRC meeting is a closed meeting – December 13th 	

Welcome and Introductions

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

Natasha introduced herself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants. After introductions, she 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 October 18, 2023, meeting summary. Allan Hicks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Annual Workplan

The MRC continued the discussion of the Annual Workplan building on October's MRC meeting discussion. The MRC reviewed and incorporated comments on the workplan that were sent in advance of the meeting. Subcommittee participants and leads were updated. The MRC members discussed adding a white paper focusing on climate change as a new task goal for the Nearshore Restoration subcommittee in 2024. The group discussed the decision to remove Howarth Park from the Forage Fish monitoring effort to prioritize the other forage fish sites and other MRC work.

The MRC decided to continue finalizing the Annual plan via email and to approve the final plan at the December dinner meeting.

2023 Derelict Vessel Removal

After some delays with contracting, removal of all 7 vessels started in October and was completed by November 15. The 7 vessels removed were:

- Vessel 1 (DVRP# SN23-001), a 26 ft sailboat located in Steamboat Slough
- Vessel 2 (Camelo WN2760NP with DVRP# SN22-011), a 20 ft recreational vessel located in Jones Creek Estuary
- Vessel 3 (DVRP# SN20-011), a 26 ft cabin cruiser located on the shores of Ebey Slough
- Vessel 4 (DVRP# SN20-010), a 35 ft sailboat hull located in Ebey Slough
- Vessel 5 (DVRP# SN23-012), a 22 ft cabin cruiser located on the shores of Ebey Slough
- Vessel 6 (DVRP# SN23-013), a 20 ft recreational vessel located on the shores of Ebey Slough
- Vessel 7 (DVRP#-027), a 16 ft recreational vessel located on the shores of Ebey Slough

Elisa shared several pictures the contractor took during removal. In total 27 vessels have been removed in Snohomish County since 2018!

On October 3, Elisa and Joycelyn met with staff from the Port of Everett and the DNR Derelict Vessel Removal Program to discuss details of potentially hosting a vessel turn-in event at the Port of Everett. While an original hope was to have an event in early 2024, the group has decided to delay the event and start discussion in mid-2024 for a possible event in late 2024 or 2025.

December Meeting Discussion

The MRC decided to hold the December meeting in person and to make it a closed meeting for members and invited guests. Due to the holidays, the MRC decided to move this meeting up a week from December 20 to December 13. The MRC will approve the final annual work plan at this meeting.

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - No Updates.
- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
 - MRC members attended the Northwest Straits Initiative Annual Conference November 3-4

- Sara Maxwell presented on the Port Susan 10-year progress report and story map.
 - During the facilitated design clinic, the Snohomish MRC gathered input from other MRCs about how to engage the public during our upcoming marine vegetation outreach.
- **Marine Vegetation – Julie Schlenger**
 - The subcommittee met on November 6 and finalized the project description. Interview questions are being finalized.
 - The committee plans to conduct interviews in the first two weeks of December.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Julie met with the Clean Marinas steering committee. Sea Grant is working on spill kits that can be handed out again.
 - The Committee is discussing when would be best to hand out these kits and information, potentially boating opening day.
 - San Juan County hosting meeting in Friday Harbor to discuss keeping orcas out of oil spills on December 14/15.
- **Strategic Planning – Natasha Coumou and Franny Perez**
 - Interviews were conducted on October 19 and Peak Sustainability was chosen as the consultant for this work. The committee is currently working with Peak Sustainability to develop the contract which we hope to execute before the end of the calendar year. Strategic Planning will start in January 2024.
- **MRC New Member Recommendations – Elisa Dawson**
 - The interview panel completed interviews for three candidates and is recommending all three for appointment to the MRC. All three candidates have been informed of the recommendation and have accepted the offer of appointment. The candidates are Richard Strickland, Phil Salditt, and Dawn Presler.
 - Staff will bring the recommendation to the Snohomish County Council in January and prepare the paperwork to make all three candidates official MRC members.
- **ORCA Partnership Update – Elisa Dawson**
 - ORCA and County staff met to discuss the work completed this year and to plan for next year. The focus for 2024 will be for ORCA to review, QA/QC, and analyze their data from 2020-2022 to create a 5-year analysis report at the end of 2024.
 - ORCA will turn in their final report for the work in 2023 to the County for review in the first week of December.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring –Joycelyn Blue**
 - November monitoring was completed on November 9.
 - December monitoring is scheduled for December 18 (Picnic Point and Meadowdale) and 19 (Howarth Park).
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - December 18 and 19

The meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.