

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett**

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Charles LaNasa
Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Heather McCartney
Chet Motekaitis
Jen Sevigny, for Ed Goodridge, Sr.
Karen Stewart (for Larry Adamson, *ex officio*)
Sally van Niel
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Dave Mascarenas, Citizen
Curt Moulton, Snohomish County/WSU Extension
Lynda Ransley, Snohomish County SWM
Kim Rasmussen, Naval Station Everett
Suzi Wong Swint, Snohomish County SWM

MRC Members Absent

Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate (excused)
Alan Mearns (excused)
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair (excused)

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. A quorum was present. The 11/17/04 MRC meeting summary was approved as written.

Linda Lyshall introduced herself as the new Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) Local Liaison for Snohomish and Island counties. She also announced that PSAT's *State of the Sound 2004* report is now available on the PSAT web site at <http://www.psat.wa.gov>. PSAT has also produced a new *Low Impact Development (LID) Manual* for the development community. PSAT's next *Sound Waves* newsletter will feature a success story on the Snohomish County Intertidal Habitat Mapping project. Linda is coordinating this story with Tulalip Tribes Shellfish Manager Mike McHugh and MRC Lead Staff Sean Edwards.

Daryl announced that the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission recently released its *State of the Watersheds Report*. Daryl also reported that he attended the Northwest Straits Commission Strategic Planning Retreat in Coupeville on 1/13/05.

Suzi Wong Swint reported that she has been working on the WSU Extension search committee for the Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watchers Coordinator and that they received about 30 applications. Interviews are being scheduled and a hiring announcement is expected by the end of February.

Dawn distributed *2005 Tide Graph Calendars* from Evergreen Pacific publishing company in Edmonds to MRC Members and Partners as a thank you gift for their on-going contributions to the Snohomish County MRC. Dawn is working with Suzi on a cover letter for calendars that will be sent to local elected officials.

Sean announced that the Snohomish County Council elected Gary Nelson as Chair and John Koster as Vice Chair for 2005. He also noted that the invasive tunicate issue is a wide spread problem as evidenced by the International Invasive Sea Squirt Conference scheduled for April 21-22, 2005, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

1. Crab, Nearshore, and Marine Water Quality Subcommittee Recommendations for MRC 2005 Work Plan

Heather reported on behalf of the Nearshore Subcommittee, which worked via email. Heather and Karen identified a number of potential activities, but need to refine these and specify desired results. She also reported on the Northwest Straits Commission's effort to solicit MRC support for a regional or multi-MRC project to survey and remove creosote logs. Several MRCs are interested and further discussion is planned for the 1/20/05 MRC Chairs and Lead Staff meeting. Northwest Straits Commission staff member Ginny Broadhurst would take the lead on project management. The first step would be an inventory and this could be a good project for Beach Watcher volunteers.

Washington State Ferries staff may do a separate inventory of creosote log pilings and the Port of Everett is interested in receiving mitigation credit for creosote piling removal at the Mukilteo Tank Farm. The Northwest Straits project scope would be limited to "rogue" creosote logs rather than pilings.

Daryl reported for the Marine Water Quality Subcommittee, which met prior to today's MRC meeting. Daryl, Jen, Mary, and Sean discussed existing marine water quality data sources and monitoring efforts and defined the following needs: 1) further assess what data is available, 2) identify data gaps, and 3) define goals for the future. One approach would be to collaborate with agencies on existing projects, such as NOAA's current modeling for Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Work Plan provides a good framework for marine water quality goals and activities, but it is extensive and will require additional study by the subcommittee. Since this is a new topic for the MRC, the subcommittee is in the early stage of the learning curve.

Dawn reported for the Crab Subcommittee, which met twice since the last MRC meeting. With staff support from Suzi and facilitation by Kent, the subcommittee defined measurable activities by each strategy pulled from the MRC's *Proposed Dungeness Crab Stewardship Plan for Snohomish County*. The subcommittee now needs to prioritize and estimate staffing needs and resources for those activities. Activity lead roles for MRC members also needed to be assigned without relying too heavily on MRC staff.

The MRC requested staff distribute Kent's matrix for defining activities, roles, staffing/resource needs, and schedule to the Nearshore and Marine Water Quality subcommittees. Additional subcommittee work will be done prior to the 2/16/05 MRC meeting. The Year 6 MRC Grant letter of intent is due 3/1/05. Therefore it will be essential for the MRC to decide on its priorities and a general scope of work for inclusion in the letter of intent by the end of February.

2. Juvenile Crab Study MOU/Update

Sean reported that Snohomish County will need to be one of the signatories on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) along with the Snohomish County MRC, Tulalip Tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Straits Foundation. This will require legal review by the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's office and approval by the Snohomish County Executive. Therefore signing of a final MOU will be delayed for approximately another month. However, progress continues to be made by the Tulalip Tribes and WDFW shellfish biologists on the intertidal habitat mapping GIS data compilation and construction of the juvenile crab sampling gear.

Discussion Items

1. MRC Chairs and Lead Staff Meeting 1/20/05

The annual meeting of MRC Chairs and Lead Staff was attended by Snohomish County MRC Chair Dawn Lawrence and SWM Community Partners Supervisor Lynda Ransley. Dawn and Lynda described the following Snohomish County MRC work to the other meeting participants: 2005 MRC work planning, WRIA 8 Steering Committee letter regarding the omission of nearshore areas from NOAA's recent critical habitat designation for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, the Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watcher Coordinator search, MRC staffing changes, and progress on the juvenile crab study. The meeting provided a good opportunity for Dawn and Lynda to work together on managing the MRC's current staffing and work planning transition.

2. MRC Staffing

Lynda reported that SWM is seeking to provide additional MRC staff support through the temporary Associate Planner position. The Snohomish County Executive approved the reclassification of Sean's old Associate Planner position to a new Marine Resource Steward position. This new position will be posted in early February and the position will be filled at the earliest by the end of March. Lynda will work with Dawn to define an MRC role in the hiring process. The time of MRC work plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Regular MRC Meeting: Wednesday, 2/16/05, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Snohomish County Surface Water Management Conference Room, 2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett.

For more information about the Snohomish County MRC see the website at <http://mrc.surfacewater.info> or contact Sean Edwards, 425-388-3464 x4669, at Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett**

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Heather McCartney
Chet Motekaitis
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Jen Sevigny, for Ed Goodridge, Sr.
Karen Stewart (for Larry Adamson, *ex officio*)
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Jon Houghton, Pentec Environmental
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Curt Moulton, Snohomish County/WSU Extension
Lynda Ransley, Snohomish County SWM
Kim Rasmussen, Naval Station Everett
Suzi Wong Swint, Snohomish County SWM

MRC Members Absent

Charles LaNasa (excused)
Alan Mearns (excused)
Sally van Niel (excused)

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 1/19/05 MRC meeting summary was approved as written.

Daryl Williams reported that the MRC was presented with an award at the Shared Strategy Summit in recognition of their work on behalf of salmon. He suggested that the framed artwork be hung in the SWM entrance near the MRC meeting room.

Curt Moulton announced that four candidates were interviewed on 2/14/05 for the Beach Watcher Coordinator position.

Sean Edwards made the following announcements:

- The MRC Chair received a citizen letter regarding forest clearing and development in the Norma Beach area.
- NOAA will conduct a community meeting on 2/17/05 at the Seattle Aquarium regarding the recent federal listing of the Killer Whale as a “threatened” species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Sean reviewed the Stillaguamish Tribe grant proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for derelict gear removal, survey and public education in Port Susan.
- Alan Mearns was attending a multi-stakeholder workshop on oil spill response options in Port Townsend and was thus absent from the meeting.
- The Snohomish County Marine Resource Steward position will be posted any day.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

1. MRC scholarship for Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference

Sean announced that the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference will be offering an attendance scholarship to MRC members. Those interested should contact Sean Edwards. Alan Mearns and Linda Lyshall are already registered for the conference and Alan is co-chairing a session on oil spill response and clean-up.

2. Crab, Nearshore, and Marine Water Quality Subcommittee Recommendations for the MRC 2005-2007 Work Plan.

Subcommittees listed and described top priorities for the MRC and identified “easy hits” and “high cost” items. The committee needs to define sequencing and distribution of efforts across a 2-year period as well as identify leveraging opportunities with partners and volunteers. This includes conducting outreach to local cities to raise awareness of MRC work. The MRC plans to talk with Executive Reardon this summer and with Council in the fall in order to secure general fund support. Sean will contact Sasha Horst to determine flexibility on the grant deadline.

Crab Subcommittee recommendations:

Recommendation	Feasibility	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Data gaps -harvesting -reproduction	High	X		
2. Complete juvenile habitat/residence studies	High	X		
3. Nearshore / crab habitat correlates			X	
4. Derelict gear removal		X	X	
5. Gravid female “condo” areas (ID, significance, protection)	Low			X

Nearshore Subcommittee recommendations:

Recommendation	Feasibility	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Monitor on-going Picnic Point and Kayak Point projects.	High	X	X	
2. Pocket estuaries: locate, map, assessment, prioritization, restoration.		X	X	
3. Identify and map eelgrass beds, organize data from county/city/tribal and translate into maps. -NRC sidescan sonar data -Intertidal habitat mapping -Mitigation site mapping	Potential high cost	X	X	
4. Creosote log inventory and removal		X	X	
5. Soft shore alternatives and training workshops (private property owners)			X	

Marine Water Quality Recommendations:

Recommendation	Feasibility	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1. Inventory and assessment of data and monitoring programs.	MRC	X		
2. Water quality connections to environmental health conditions.	Present. to MRC	X	X	
3. Marine current modeling for Whidbey Basin	High	X		
4. Increased capability for oil spill response and clean-up (Port of Everett plan, the “Alan Show”.	High	X	X	
5. Assessment of beaches for pollution problems.	SWM	X	X	

Discussion Items

1. Juvenile Crab Study MOU Update

Sean reported that he is in the process of revising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Snohomish County to be the signatory with the MRC as a delegated representative. The next steps include county legal review, Tulalip Tribes legal review and confirmation of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as the current signatory. Volunteers for the crab study will be needed by April; recruitment details will be provided to the MRC.

2. MRC Staffing Update

Sean announced that the Marine Resources Steward position will be posted any day. Snohomish County SWM has hired a new Associate Planner (Tim Walls), who will be helping with the MRC Library and Picnic Point feasibility and design study. Ted Parker is continuing to work on the nearshore candidate sites analysis. SWM is also hiring a Temporary Associate Planner, likely to start at the end of February, who will be helping with MRC projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Regular MRC Meeting: Wednesday, 3/16/05, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Snohomish County Surface Water Management Conference Room, 2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett.

For more information about the Snohomish County MRC see the website at <http://marine.surfacewater.info> or contact Sean Edwards, 425-388-3464 x4669, at Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Charles LaNasa
Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Heather McCartney
Alan Mearns
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Karen Stewart (for Larry Adamson, *ex officio*)
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Curt Moulton, Snohomish County/WSU Extension
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Leo Ted Parker, Snohomish County SWM

MRC Members Absent

Chet Motekaitis (excused)
Jen Sevigny, for Ed Goodridge, Sr. (excused)
Sally van Niel (excused)

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 2/16/05 MRC meeting summary was approved as written.

Sean Edwards made the following announcements:

- | • Grey whales have returned to the Whidbey Basin. The Mosquito Fleet, based out of Everett, offers whale watching tours.
- | • The Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Regional Conference registration for the Snohomish County MRC may be shared among different people. Tuesday and Wednesday are still open. Mary Cunningham will attend on Thursday. MRC members should contact Sean
- | • 3/12/05 Ivy Out at Picnic Point was successful. Forty-four volunteers pulled out enough Ivy to fill 55 large garbage bags, which amounted to almost one ton of green waste. Two volunteers expressed interest in becoming long term stewards. If future work parties have similar numbers of spirited volunteers, we may be able remove all the ivy by June.
- | • The next Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be held on April 22, 2005 in Snohomish County. Potential meeting locations include the new Snohomish County Administration Building and the The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research lab in Mukilteo.
- | • NOAA is seeking public comment on its Preliminary Draft Conservation Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales. The document has been posted for public review on the NOAA Fisheries webpage: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/mmammals/whales/prelimkwconsplan.pdf>.
- | • The SWM web site is being converted to a new layout and it went on-line March 15th. Comments and suggestions for improving the Marine Resources Program web pages at <http://marine.surfacewater.info> should be sent to Sean.

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Daryl Williams announced that Washington State Senate Bill 5432, which would create a Citizens Oil Spill Advisory Council, has passed in the Senate. It is now being presented to the House. Daryl also announced that Washington State Substitute Senate Bill 5895 would change the name and function of the Puget Sound Action Team to broaden its scope of work to include habitat in addition to water quality. This bill would also provide the Executive Director of the Northwest Straits Commission with an *ex officio* seat on the board.

Heather McCartney announced that Senate Bill 5959, currently before the Senate, would grant access to State-owned aquatic lands for the purpose of public safety operations or public recreation.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

1. FY04/05 MRC Grant: Costs and Scheduling of Crab, Nearshore, and Marine Water Quality Activities (Dawn Lawrence, MRC Chair)

Kent and Sean presented a comprehensive set of activities identified by the MRC for inclusion in the next two-year \$150,000 MRC grant from the Northwest Straits Commission. An additional \$10,000 is available from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to support MRC participation in the Regional Creosote Log Survey and Removal Project. An additional \$10,000 is also available from the Northwest Straits Commission for a “regional priorities project”. The MRC refined the set of activities, reviewed cost estimates for the proposed crab stewardship activities, and discussed potential costs of the proposed nearshore habitat and marine water quality activities.

MRC members discussed the need for clarifying the approach that will be used for surveying and removing creosote logs. Questions about the environmental impacts of creosote logs and the loss of productive biomass on existing pilings will be addressed at a future MRC meeting. Lisa Kaufman from the Washington Department of Natural Resources and Paul Dinnel from the Skagit MRC were identified as potential guest speakers for this topic.

Sean reported that SWM is planning to hire a half-time summer intern using a \$5,000 grant from the Washington Department of Ecology’s Beach Environmental Assessment Cleanup and Health (BEACH) Program to coordinate marine water quality monitoring, education and outreach in Snohomish County. The MRC agreed to allocate some additional MRC grant money to expand this internship to provide support to the MRC Marine Water Quality Subcommittee for compiling and evaluating existing marine water quality data and monitoring programs.

Curt Moulton requested that the MRC consider allocating some grant resources for purchasing equipment that will be needed by the Beach Watcher volunteers.

Sean and Kent will develop an MRC grant allocation proposal and distribute it by email to MRC members for review by early next week.

Discussion Items

1. MRC “In-Service Training”

An “In-Service Training” on Dungeness crab harvest management will be scheduled for the April meeting with creosote logs as the “In-Service” topic for the May meeting. Ideas for future topics included the environmental health impacts of water quality and oil spill response and cleanup.

2. MRC Staffing Update

Sean reported that the Marine Resources Steward position has been announced through various networks and posted on the Snohomish County web site. The application deadline is March 24th.

3. Juvenile Crab Study Update

Kent Scudder spoke with Mike McHugh and Don Velasquez about the status of the juvenile crab study. The project is behind schedule and the juvenile crab residence survey methodology is being refined, but the survey work is still expected to start in April. Sean reported that he still needs to send the Juvenile Crab Study Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) through the proper channels for approval.

Next Regular MRC Meeting: Wednesday, 4/20/05, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Snohomish County Surface Water Management Conference Room, 2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett.

For more information about the Snohomish County MRC see the website at <http://marine.surfacewater.info> or contact Sean Edwards, 425-388-3464 x4669, at Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett**

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Charles LaNasa
Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Heather McCartney
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Jen Sevigny, for Ed Goodridge, Sr.
Karen Stewart (for Larry Adamson, *ex officio*)
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension, Snohomish/Skagit
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Ardi Kveven, Everett Community College
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Erin Meyer, Stilly-Snohomish Task Force
Curt Moulton, Snohomish County/WSU Extension
Don Velasquez, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

MRC Members Absent

Alan Mearns (excused)
Chet Motekaitis (excused)
Sally van Niel

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 3/16/05 MRC meeting summary was approved as written.

Chrys Bertolotto was introduced as the new Snohomish County/Skagit County Beach Watcher Coordinator. The Beach Watcher program is expanding from Island County into the other six NW Straits counties. The first Snohomish/Skagit County Beach Watcher training program will begin September 1st. Chrys is looking forward to working with the MRC to address local marine resource issues.

Erin Meyer announced that the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force will be holding several beach and river clean-ups. Contact the Task Force at 425-252-6686 for more details or to RSVP. The current clean-up dates are as follows:

Saturday June 11th - Picnic Point Park near Mukilteo, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday July 16th - North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, near Arlington, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday August 6th - Mukilteo Lighthouse Park in Mukilteo 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Heather announced that Ardi Kveven from Everett Community College would be dropping by to describe the Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA) program. The ORCA program allows high school students to attend community college during their junior and senior years, completing high school requirements and earning an Associate of Arts (AA) degree at the same time. Heather hopes that the MRC can tap into this program for volunteers while offering learning opportunities for the students.

Mary announced that Cyrilla Cook, a former employee of King County, has accepted a new position as the Shorelines Program Manager at People for Puget Sound. She will also be serving on the Snohomish County Shoreline Advisory Committee.

Daryl reminded the MRC that the Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be held Friday, April 22nd, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Port of Everett Administration Building. He encouraged everyone to consider attending, especially during the first hour for Dawn and Kent's update on the Snohomish County MRC.

Mary announced that she attended the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference. She received a free beach guide, produced by the Washington State University (WSU) Extension, which normally sells to the public for \$10.00, but is available for educational purposes for \$4.00. SWM already has several copies for MRC educational activities.

Daryl announced that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries has accepted a petition to list Puget Sound steelhead as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. If NOAA determines that the listing is warranted, then it would probably require additional protection for small streams that flow directly into Puget Sound. These small Puget Sound tributary streams are currently not designated as critical habitat for Chinook salmon, which is already listed.

Sean made the following announcements:

1. SWM sent a thank you letter to Cascade High School for allowing Dawn to attend MRC and Northwest Straits Commission meetings during school hours. Dawn requested that a copy of the letter be sent to Dr. Carol Whitehead, Superintendent of Public Schools for the Everett School District.
2. The Stillaguamish Tribe submitted a letter to the Snohomish County Shoreline Advisory Committee requesting that net pens not be included in the Shoreline Master Program as an approved use for marine shoreline areas.
3. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conducted a Puget Sound Invasive Species Workshop on April 6th to educate stakeholders about the invasive tunicate found at Edmonds Underwater Park.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion Items

1. 2005-2007 MRC Grant Application

Sean reported that the application for the 2005-2007 Snohomish County MRC Grant was submitted to the Northwest Straits Commission and it is currently being reviewed.

2. MRC Staffing Update

Sean reported that there were a number of excellent candidates for the Snohomish County Marine Resource Steward position (35 qualified candidates out of approximately 50 applicants). The interview team (made up of Mary Cunningham, Lynda Ransley, Janet Carroll and John Engle) interviewed the top seven candidates. The top three candidates will be invited for second interviews.

3. MRC Reappointments Update

The MRC reappointments have been submitted to the Snohomish County Executive for nomination

to the Snohomish County Council.

4. Juvenile Crab Study Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The Juvenile Crab Study MOU still needs to be completed, but it is not urgent. Don Velasquez announced that the juvenile crab traps have been constructed and he is now looking for locations to test the gear. The project is slightly behind but WDFW and the Tulalip Tribes should be able to start the juvenile crab residence survey soon.

5. Update on MRC Sponsored Picnic Point Restoration Project

There was a second Ivy Out Work Party at Picnic Point on April 9th. Twenty volunteers removed 55 bags of ivy (about 1 ton) from the upper beach area. If work continues at this rate we may be able to remove the ivy from the beach by June. Additional Picnic Point Ivy Out work parties are scheduled for May 14th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and June 11th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MRC Training: Dungeness Crab Harvest Management (Don Velasquez, WDFW)

Presentation overview:

- Summary of Crab Biology
- Puget Sound Crab Management (Historical and Current)
- Changes and Future Activities

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Dungeness crab is the only crab species for which WDFW manages an active fishery in Puget Sound. The largest confirmed Dungeness crab had a carapace width of 9 inches and a maximum age of 8-9 years. They prefer sandy substrates less than 350 feet deep. They feed primarily on clams and crustaceans and mate in late spring or early summer. Adults molt about once a year, juveniles molt much more frequently. It takes about 4 years and 13 – 14 molting cycles for male crabs to reach the legal harvest size of 6 ¼ inches.

Crab harvest went up in the early 1990s as other Puget Sound fisheries began to decline. Little fisheries management prior to 1994/1995 resulted in declining fish populations; the same situation may now be happening with Dungeness crab.

Each year the WDFW issues 75 state commercial licenses, 150,000–200,000 recreational licenses and 500 tribal commercial licenses. Tribes allow less catch per license than the State, therefore there are more tribal commercial licenses.

Changes after the Rafeedie Decision include agreements between tribes and the State over harvest allocations. Softshell harvest rules also changed due to more complete data. The first level of allocation by the Rafeedie decision determines that Tribal and State harvest quotas will be split 50/50. The second level of allocation is determined by the Fish and Wildlife Commission which sets the proportion of the state share allocated to commercial harvest and recreational harvest. Allocations of the state share are approximately 1/3 recreational harvest and 2/3 commercial harvest.

The bulk of the Dungeness crab population is concentrated north of Anacortes. Crab populations are much less abundant south of Edmonds and Kingston.

Signs that indicate that the crab fisheries have been pushed too far include lack of egg mass on females at the right time of year. Challenges for the future include timely and accurate data,

adequate enforcement, public education about current management, funding for additional research on crab resources and allowing for a quality harvest despite the increasing number of recreational crabbers and a decreasing available harvest. The recreational take last year was 6 crabs per person per day.

Current research activities include: shell condition sample studies, crab tagging, mortality studies to complement existing data, juvenile crab habitat, settlement and residency research, and lab studies of growth and molting frequency that simulate Puget Sound conditions.

Heather suggested that the MRC should discuss crab harvest with the Northwest Straits Commission and encourage the Commission to discuss the issue with decision makers.

How can the MRC affect management of crab harvest?

- Contact the Fish and Wildlife Commission, which will meet May 14th in Tumwater to decide on season length and allocations.
- Contact the state commercial and recreational crab advisory boards.
- Contact Steve Burton, WDFW staff.
- Contact Tribal staff.

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Heather introduced a motion for the MRC to submit a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission expressing concern over crab harvest in our area, concern over lack of research and encouraging a precautionary approach to crab harvest. The motion was seconded by Mary. The motion passed by consensus. The MRC will need to provide someone to present the letter to the Commission.

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Wednesday, May 18, 2005

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Staff, Presenters and Others

Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Extension, Snohomish/Skagit
Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Lisa Kaufman, WA DNR
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Kim Rasmussen, Everett Naval Station

MRC Members Absent

Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate (excused)
Charles LaNasa (excused)
Karen Stewart (for Larry Adamson, *ex officio*) (excused)
Jen Sevigny (for Ed Goodridge, Sr.) (excused)
Sally van Niel

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 4/20/05 MRC meeting summary was approved as written.

Stef Frenzl was introduced as the new Snohomish County Marine Resources Steward. Stef, who begins work on Monday 5/23, will be working closely with the Snohomish County MRC and taking over duties from Sean Edwards.

Sean made the following announcements:

1. The MRC has been invited to set up an informational booth at the annual Festival of the River, to be held in Arlington August 13th and 14th. Surface Water Management will probably staff a booth, but MRC representation will be needed as well.
2. The MRC has received a copy of the Shared Strategy DVD, *Creating a Future for Salmon*. The DVD will be kept in the MRC library and available for check out.
3. The Department of Health sent the MRC a copy of its annual commercial shellfish growing areas report for Snohomish County. This report will also be kept in the MRC library.
4. An alternate MRC representative is needed for the 5/20/05 NWSC meeting in Bellingham.
5. An invasive tunicate identification workshop will be held on 5/21/05 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Edmonds. The workshop will be held at the Frances Anderson Cultural and Leisure Center at 700 Main Street in room 206.
6. Sean confirmed that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) can directly administer a portion of the Snohomish County MRC 2005 – 2007 grant to conduct the Port Gardner derelict gear removal work.

7. Sean met with representatives of the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation to discuss potential marine riparian enhancement project sites within the Everett-Mukilteo shoreline of the Snohomish River basin.

Heather announced that she is in the process of developing signage for Mukilteo Lighthouse Park using a Public Involvement and Education (PIE) grant from the Puget Sound Action Team. She is working with the artist that created the signage for Kayak Point and the City of Edmonds.

Heather also attended the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters Restoration workshop on May 12th in Seattle. This program focuses on creating partnerships between the Army Corps of Engineers and local organizations to recover nearshore ecosystem processes, habitats and functions.

Chrys Bertolotto announced that she is forming an advisory committee to help direct the Snohomish/Skagit Beach Watchers Program and she is looking for a Snohomish County MRC representative to join the committee. MRC Member Jen Sevigny's alternate for the Stillaguamish Tribe, Francesca Perez, and Stef Frenzl were approved to represent the Snohomish County MRC on the Beach Watchers advisory committee.

Daryl Williams invited the MRC to the Tulalip Tribes annual Salmon Ceremony beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday June 18th at the Tulalip Tribal Center. Sean and Stef will attend.

Public Comment

None.

Discussion Items

1. 2005-2007 MRC Grant Application

The MRC has received the NWSC review letter from Ginny Broadhurst. The letter states that the projects look great but some additional details will be needed for the contract. Kent noted that this year was the first year that the project process was committee driven rather than staff driven.

2. MRC Staffing Update

Stef Frenzl attended the meeting as the new MRC Steward. He has a background in general biology and has spent time working on stewardship projects and land protection planning with non-profit organizations in Idaho.

Robyn Redekopp, a student at the University of Washington School of Fisheries, has accepted the MRC marine water quality monitoring internship. She will collect weekly marine water samples at seven county beaches and she will compile and assess existing water quality data. She will begin in mid June.

3. MRC Reappointments Update

The MRC reappointment paperwork will be reviewed by Council next week. The next reappointments will occur in 2007.

4. Juvenile Crab Study Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Sean has a meeting scheduled for 5/26 with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tulalip Tribes to discuss the juvenile crab study. The MOU is still in the works.

5. Update on MRC Sponsored Picnic Point Restoration Project

The third Picnic Point Ivy Out Work Party was held on May 14th. Twenty volunteers removed 36 bags of English ivy (about 3/4 ton) from the upper beach area. Approximately half of the ivy has been removed from the site during the past three work parties. The final Ivy Out work party will be held in conjunction with a beach cleanup, on June 11th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

6. Update on Dungeness Crab Comment Letter to Fish and Wildlife Commission

Last month the MRC passed a motion to send a comment letter to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding recreational crab harvest management. After staff began the process for submitting a letter, which requires approval from the Snohomish County Executive, several members of the MRC expressed concern over the content and purpose of the letter. As a result, the MRC did not submit the letter. However, information from the letter was used by a citizen close to the MRC for a personal letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

When the MRC passes a motion such as this one, it triggers considerable actions for staff. The MRC discussed its advisory role within Snohomish County government. The MRC agreed that in the future such motions should be considered more closely and debated at the table before it passes any motions.

Copies of the WDFW news release on the Fish and Wildlife's recent decision to open the recreational crab season on July 15th and to reduce the limit to 5 crab per license were distributed.

Heather suggested that the MRC should work through the Northwest Straits Commission on the crab stewardship issue in order to have greater influence on important regional marine resource issues. The MRC should also look at better ways to interact with Snohomish County Council and Executive and make information available to the public.

7. Brainstorming Session: Marketing MRC Projects and Priorities to Targeted Audiences
This brainstorming session was postponed until next month.

8. MRC Review and Input on NWSC Draft Strategic Plan and Regional Projects

Hard copies of the NWSC Draft Strategic Plan and Ideas for a NWSC Regional Project were distributed and comments accepted. Alan Mearns encouraged the MRC and NWSC to coordinate with the Oil Spill Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and coordinate for increased mussel watch expansion. Daryl noted that the Governor will appoint citizens to the RAC and the NWSC should request an appointment. Chrys noted the importance of Green Crab Monitoring and the need to identify the presence of green crabs early, should they arrive in Puget Sound.

The MRC agreed to ask former Snohomish County MRC Member Pat Stevenson represent the MRC at the 5/20/05 NWSC meeting because Daryl Williams and his alternate Kirby Johnson are not able to attend.

**MRC Training: Creosote Log Survey and Removal. (Lisa Kaufman, Washington DNR)
(PowerPoint presentation with 2 handouts)**

Lisa Kaufman's presentation focused on methods for survey and removal of creosote logs.

Landowner permission:

The first step in a creosote log removal project is to seek permission from private landowners to access the beach, conduct a survey and remove any logs found.

Volunteers:

Community meetings are held to educate citizens on the issues with creosote logs and recruit potential volunteers for inventory of the logs. Beach watchers are also recruited as volunteers. After receiving training, volunteers visit various beaches in order to identify, measure, photograph, tag and GPS each log. The data is then put into a database that will determine the highest concentrations of logs for the most effective removal.

Methods:

Standard methods are developed to be used in each county and site for consistent data gathering. All creosote logs are tagged and removed, despite the age of the log, since the most potent compounds take the longest to release.

Creosote use is banned in freshwater. Limited uses exist in marine water, but even these uses are usually not granted a permit.

Inventory form:

The data form is still a work in progress. Columns include log number, photo number, latitude and longitude coordinates, GPS positioning, diameter, length, treatment type (creosote or other) and other descriptors. This form will be used by staff and volunteers to document consistent information on creosote logs, enter it into the data base and relocate the logs for removal.

Timing:

Timing for log removal is considered for a variety of factors such as forage fish spawning windows, accessibility to the logs by land or water, geography, optimum tides (high – boat), (low-beach), and seasonal issues (summer heat results in more creosote exposure, winter provides weather challenges).

Removal Methods:

Depending on accessibility and volume, logs can either be hand carried out, loaded onto a boat or barge and shipped out, or picked up and flown out with a helicopter.

Disposal:

Creosote is not considered hazardous and can be legally disposed of in any landfill. However, Washington DNR has decided to dispose of the logs in a hazardous materials landfill due to the toxicity of the material. Other disposal methods such as burning or upland reuse have been considered but rejected in favor of removing the toxic compound from the environment and isolating it in a hazardous materials landfill.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Charles LaNasa
Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Heather McCartney
Chet Motekaitis
Jen Sevigny
Karen Stewart
Sally van Niel
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Jamie Bails, Snohomish CD
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Lisa Kaufman, WA DNR
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Erin Meyer, Stilly-Snohomish Task Force

MRC Members Absent

Alan Mearns
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair

Summary of Decisions

NWSC 2005-2007 Grant Application- MRC agreed to remove the Feeder Bluff Mapping and Protection Project from the application and transfer \$7,426 to the Eelgrass Mapping and Protection Project. Consensus approved the submittal of the revised application.

Follow-Up Items

Stef Frenzl-

- Complete and submit revised NWSC 2005-2007 Grant Application (by June 30)
- Complete Juvenile Crab MOU (asap)
- Complete BEACH Program Interagency Agreement with DOE (asap)
- Speak with NWSC about nominating Alan Mearns for the Oil Spill Advisory Council

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Upcoming Events

- Tulalip Tribes annual Salmon Ceremony beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday June 18th at the Tulalip Tribal Center.
- Beach Expos will be held throughout the summer at the following locations:
June 25th from 12-4 at Kayak Point Park
July 23rd from 11-3 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
August 20th from 10-2 on Jetty Island
- Juvenile Dungeness Crab Surveys- See body of Meeting Summary for more information

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Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

June 15, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 6/18/05 MRC meeting summary was approved as written at the end of the meeting.

A request was made to alert MRC members of any large programs scheduled for the Everett Events Center on MRC meeting nights as this can make parking difficult.

Beach Expos will be held throughout the summer at the following locations:

- June 25th from 12-4 at Kayak Point Park
- July 23rd from 11-3 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
- August 20th from 10-2 on Jetty Island

Senator Murray has secured \$250,000 through the Senate Appropriations bill for the Beach Watchers program. The funding will now go before the full Senate for consideration.

Puget Sound Restoration Fund and Nahkeeta Northwest are seeking volunteers to monitor for the invasive European Green Crab. A press release was distributed with further details.

The Legislature approved a permanent and independent Oil Spill Advisory Council that will report to the Governor. An application should be submitted for a seat on the committee from the MRC or from the NWSC. Members felt that Alan Mearns or the BP representative from Whatcom County would be the most qualified to sit on this committee, but felt that the NWSC is the most appropriate entity to nominate him. MRC directed Stef Frenzl to speak with NWSC about this potential nomination in time to allow the NWSC to discuss it at their June meeting.

Copies of an article on the decline of Horseshoe Crabs on the East coast and the latest issue of Sound Waves were distributed.

Daryl Williams invited the MRC to the Tulalip Tribes annual Salmon Ceremony beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday June 18th at the Tulalip Tribal Center.

Stef announced that he will be out of the office from June 30 – July 10th to attend his brother's wedding.

A gift of a Native American print depicting a crab and salmon was presented to Sean in recognition and thanks for his work with the MRC. Sean accepted a Senior Planner position working in the Stillaguamish Watershed.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

1. MRC 2005 – 2007 Grant Application Revisions

Dungeness Crab Subcommittee Report to the MRC

Minimal revisions were necessary for the Dungeness crab Subcommittee's projects proposed under the NWSC 2005-2007 Action Grant proposal. MRC directed to make the necessary changes to the application.

The Subcommittee designated at least one MRC member to act as the lead for each Subcommittee project. Below is the list of projects and project leads:

- Derelict Gear Survey and Recovery in Port Gardner- Charlie LaNasa
- Assessment of Juvenile Abundance- Kirby Johnson
- Gravid Female Habitat Study- Kent Scudder
- Understanding Crab Trap Mortality- Chet Motekaitis and Dawn Lawrence

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Water Quality Subcommittee Report to the MRC

The water quality subcommittee decided to make several changes to the original application and clarified the budget and methodology of all projects. The Subcommittee decided to combine the Assessment of Existing Marine Water Quality Conditions and Assess Impact of Marine Outfalls sections under one task. They discussed the mussel watch program and asked Alan to give a presentation to the subcommittee.

Nearshore Habitat Subcommittee Report to the MRC

The nearshore committee discussed three primary topics:

Eelgrass beds: The subcommittee looked into completing an eelgrass inventory utilizing side sonar mapping. Marine Resources Consulting estimated that it would take about \$80,000 to map the 212 miles of shoreline in Island County. This survey would map the full extent of the eelgrass beds. Snohomish County has 40.68 miles of unincorporated shoreline plus shoreline under cities jurisdiction. No estimate has been determined for side sonar mapping in Snohomish County.

Jim Norris estimated that \$10,000 would likely be sufficient to perform subtidal mapping using hydroacoustic and videographic methods that have been applied in Island and San Juan counties. This effort would identify the subtidal extent of eelgrass beds but would not determine density, connectivity or other indicators of eelgrass health. The NWSC 2005-2007 grant application proposes to use this methodology.

The Nearshore Habitat Subcommittee suggested removing the Feeder Bluff Mapping and Protection project from the NWSC 2005-2007 Action Grant proposal. The funding requested in the original application was \$7,426. The recommendation to remove this project from the application was made to keep the Nearshore Habitat Subcommittee from being over-extended. Additionally, third-party funding would need to be secured to complete the project, and Snohomish County has already met the minimum requirements of the Department of Ecology to identify feeder bluffs. However, some MRC members feel that the project is still important and a necessary step for large-scale restoration, and plan to implement the project in the future.

Alternatives discussed for transferring the \$7,426 originally allocated to the Feeder Bluff study to another project included 1) maintaining stewardship momentum at Picnic Point, or 2) allocating funds towards eelgrass mapping. The MRC agreed by consensus to transfer the requested \$7,426 originally allocated to the Feeder Bluff Mapping and Protection project to the Eelgrass Mapping and

Protection Project, with details on how to spend the money to be determined by the Nearshore Habitat Subcommittee at the next subcommittee meeting.

Pocket estuary work will be continued through Category B Task 5 of the grant. A total of \$1,148 was allocated to this project.

The Subcommittee designated at least one MRC member to act as the lead for each Subcommittee project. Below is the list of projects and project leads.

- Eelgrass Mapping and Protection Project- Karen Stewart
- Task Creosote Log Survey & Removal- Lynda Lyshall
- Picnic Point Restoration- Heather McCartney

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2. Northwest Straits Commission Ecosystem Project (Daryl Williams)

The NWSC is in the process of determining a region wide project with a budget of \$86,000. Project ideas were developed at the January retreat and have been evolving since then. A handout was distributed listing the latest ecosystem project ideas and preferences from all counties. Each MRC was asked to determine and rank their top three choices for a region wide project. The top three choices for each MRC will be brought to the June meeting. After some discussion, the MRC chose the following projects as their top three region wide choices:

1. Data coordination
2. Forage fish coordination
3. Marine debris

Chuck expressed concerns over the data coordination project. He felt that this project should have a more tangible product or result. Data should be presented in a more tangible fashion and be useful to the MRC on the local level.

Discussion Items

1. MRC Marketing (Dawn Lawrence)

The MRC needs to continue brainstorming approaches to improve MRC's public relations and outreach. Ideas identified in the meeting included creating a brochure for distribution at events, opening and advertising subcommittee meetings to the public and contacting the media prior to the crab monitoring workshops for a good photo and article opportunity.

Erin Meyer from the Task Force mentioned that the Task Force brings brochures for various community groups to their public events and that they could do the same with any MRC brochure that is developed.

2. Juvenile Crab MOU/Update (Sean Edwards)

Sean reported that he has not been able to develop an MOU for the juvenile crab study; this task has now been passed on to Stef.

Dates have been set for Juvenile crab monitoring at Edgewater Park and Kayak Point:

July 5th or 6th

July 20th or 21st

August 3rd or 4th

August 18th or 19th

August 31st or September 1st

September 15th or 16th
September 29th or 30th

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Chrys Bertolotto at chrys@wsu.edu.

3. Picnic Point Restoration Project Final Report (Sean Edwards/Stef Frenzl)

The pieces of the final report for the Picnic Point Restoration Project are coming together. Staff members working on the various pieces of the report are coordinating efforts for the June 30th due date.

MRC Training: DNR's Eelgrass Monitoring Program in Puget Sound, and Linkages to Local Programs (Helen Berry and Blain Reeves, Department of Natural Resources)

"Take Home Messages" from the Presentation:

- 1) The State of Washington has established a no net loss eelgrass policy. DNR is mandated to track the health of the nearshore and focus on inventorying and monitoring eelgrass, floating kelp and intertidal biotic communities
- 2) Eelgrass Mapping and Monitoring are two different tasks. Mapping is a one-time "snap shot" of the extent of eelgrass. Monitoring identifies trends in population characteristics over time and requires continuous, long-term funding.
- 3) Multiple decision-making steps are necessary to determine whether mapping or monitoring is necessary, and how methodology should be developed.

Through this project, the DNR works on long term investigation of environmental trends. Their mandate is to track the health of the nearshore and focus on inventorying and monitoring eelgrass, floating kelp and intertidal biotic communities. Through collaboration they work to link large scale and local scale projects.

Monitoring includes sound wide projects, regional projects and site level projects. Underwater videography transects are used to determine maximum and minimum depth and patchiness of eelgrass beds.

A no net loss eelgrass policy is in effect. Eelgrass was found to be stable in the years 2000 – 2003. In 2003 eelgrass cover increase was statistically significant. However, there has been a significant decline in Hood Canal for three years in a row. Significant losses have also been found at the heads of several embayments.

The Washington Shore Zone Inventory includes multiple parameters over a large area but does not detect changes quickly.

San Juan and Cypress Islands have been a focus region for the DNR. This has resulted in county wide information on presence and absence of eelgrass and maximum depth.

Steps to determining mapping or monitoring questions include:

- Identifying the research question
- Determining how the data will be used

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- Determining which data is most needed
- Determining parameters: presence/absence, maximum and minimum depth, bed area, density and patchiness.
- Determining mapping (how much detail) or monitoring (how much change detection capability is needed)

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) Office
2731 Wetmore Ave., Suite 300, Everett

MRC Members Present

Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Charles LaNasa
Heather McCartney
Alan Mearns
Chet Motekaitis
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Karen Stewart
Sally van Niel
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Action Team
Lynda Ransley, Snohomish County SWM
Kim Rasmussen, Everett Naval Station
Robyn Redekopp, Snohomish County SWM

MRC Members Absent

Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Jen Sevigny

Summary of Decisions

No decisions were made. Only discussion items were addressed.

Follow-Up Items

Stef Frenzl-

- Complete Juvenile Crab MOU (asap)
- Complete BEACH Program Interagency Agreement with DOE (asap)
- Work with Dawn and Kent to draft annual report to Council

MRC Sub-Committee Chairs -

- Schedule Sub-committee meetings and Agendas for August. Hold meetings.

All MRC-

- Develop ideas for the upcoming report to Council and e-mail them to Stef

Upcoming Events

- **Next MRC meeting: Wednesday August 17th, 6:30 p.m. Tentative: Kayak Pt Potluck**
- Stillaguamish Festival of the River, August 13-14, 10a.m. - 8p.m. at River Meadows County Park.
- Beach Expos will be held throughout the summer at the following locations:
July 23rd from 11-3 at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
August 20th from 10-2 on Jetty Island
- Juvenile Dungeness Crab Surveys- See body of Meeting Summary for more information
- Creosote Log Removal Training, September 10th 10-1 Lions Hall, Everett.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)
July 20, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Kent opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 7/20/05 MRC meeting summary was approved with changes.

Stef announced the following upcoming MRC related events:

Beach Expos:

Saturday July 23rd 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Mukilteo lighthouse park.

Saturday August 20th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Jetty Island.

Stillaguamish Festival of the River, August 13-14 10 a.m.–8 p.m. at River Meadows County Park.

Juvenile Crab Study – Kayak Point and Mukilteo Lighthouse Park

Wednesday August 3rd 7:30 AM – 2:00 p.m.,

Thursday August 18th 7:30 AM – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday August 31st 7:15 AM – 2:00 p.m.

Linda Lyshall announced that there will be a creosote log removal training on September 10th from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Lions Hall in Everett. The training may also include a site visit in the afternoon.

Stef described the various articles handed out to the MRC members:

Sea life in peril – plankton vanishing. Unusual seasonal influx of cold water isn't happening. San Francisco Chronicle. July 12, 2005. This article describes the disappearance of oceanic plankton and its effect on the marine food web.

Stillaguamish Tribe Fights Dangerous, Ecologically Devastating Derelict Gear. Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. June 21st, 2005. This article describes the Stillaguamish Tribes efforts at removing derelict crab pots and gillnets.

Kids comb beach for knowledge. HeraldNet. June 26th, 2005. This article describes the activities of last month's Beach Expo at Kayak Point Park led by Chrys Bertolotto and Stef Frenzl.

Stef described the process for nomination of Alan Mearns to the newly formed governor's Oil Spill Advisory Committee. Due to the lengthy process required for nomination through the County, Stef approached the NWSC to request a nomination. However, the NWSC's high workload and staff shortage would not allow them to complete the nomination by the due date. They will complete a nomination as soon as possible and request consideration from the governor's council.

Stef announced that the 2005–2007 grant application and deliverables were completed on time and turned into the NWSC.

Surface Water Management is looking into a tracking and database management system. One option is Ekosystem. This is a web based program that would allow MRC members to log into the system and update information or view others members updates and project information.

This meeting is the last MRC meeting in the Wetmore Building. The August MRC meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Kayak Point Park at 6:30pm, August 17 2005 in the south shelter. September brings the SWM move to the new administration building and a new meeting space.

Daryl announced that annual salmon homecoming celebration will occur September 8th – 11th. This event is usually held in downtown Seattle at the pier next to the Seattle Aquarium. This year the event will be held at Magnuson Park in Sand Point. The event is designed to educate the public on salmon issues. Events planned include talks given by experts, education programs, powwows, and tribal canoes.

Linda Lyshall announced that she is planning a shoreline landowner workshop with Stef Frenzl and Chrys Bertolotto from the Beach Watchers program for sometime in February.

Kim Rasmussen announced that Jeff June with the NWSC trained navy divers on derelict gear removal protocol. Navy divers will be working on derelict gear removal on the navy base waters.

Public Comment

None.

Action Items

Discussion Items

1. Meeting Summary Format:

The MRC discussed the new proposed meeting summary format. A summary of decisions, follow-up items and upcoming events are placed on the front page followed by a detailed meeting summary. MRC members agreed that they liked the new meeting summary format. Alan suggested that the next meeting date also be placed on the front page of the meeting summary.

2. 2005-2007 Projects Schedule:

Crab subcommittee:

The crab subcommittee plans to complete the derelict gear survey and review data to determine the hot spots that will deliver more “bang for the buck”. Much of the shallow water surveys have been completed; the crab subcommittee is determining whether they should consider removing gear from medium to deep waters. According to the divers that the subcommittee spoke to, it is not possible for divers to go deeper than 105 feet without a decompression tank on board, which becomes significantly more costly.

The crab subcommittee is also considering whether the derelict gear really needs to be removed or if it would be as effective to simply open crab pot doors. Once crab pots have settled, they do become habitats for various creatures and removing them disturbs much of the surrounding substrate.

The crab subcommittee is also evaluating the metrics involved in this project such as the cost/pound

of gear removed, evaluation of known information on rot cords and the value of training divers.

Alan Mearns suggested considering commissioning the survey work in deep water even if the actual work can't be done now as there is value in knowing what is out there. Daryl added that the tribes have been surveying in deeper water and that there is a possibility of remote removal through the use of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).

The MRC discussed whether it would be in favor of retaining dollars and responsibility for derelict gear removal within the Snohomish County MRC or handing it over to the NWSC as a region wide effort. Kirby was in favor of retaining the project within the MRC since there are more pots than nets in Snohomish County waters and many of the other areas are focused more on net recovery. Others felt that the MRC would still have a significant say in the project even if it became a regional NWSC project.

Juvenile Dungeness Crab:

The Juvenile Dungeness crab study is underway with pilot projects at Kayak Point and Mukilteo lighthouse. The juvenile crab study will continue for one year. Stef announced that he found extra money in the budget due to a numbers error in the budget formula. He hopes some of this money can be spent hiring staff to participate in the crab studies during the cold winter months that require midnight surveys.

The crab subcommittee is looking into rot cord material. Chet contacted the Rocky Mountain Cord Company which was able to give him lots of anecdotal information on rot cord. From experience and customer contacts they found out that rot cord breaks down faster in warm water, faster current, salt water, and with exposure to sunlight. On the east coast, crabbers typically replace their cord every year. The average life span for cord is six to twelve months. The crab subcommittee and staff are going to look into other studies in nearby areas including similar studies outside of state lines.

Nearshore Subcommittee:

The nearshore committee looked at maps to try to determine eelgrass beds. Additional mapping will be needed. The MRC discussed the habitat values of *Zostera japonica* (Japanese eelgrass) and *Zostera marina* (native eelgrass) as well as the value of mapping them together or separately.

Water quality Subcommittee:

Work is on hold for task #7: assessing existing water quality and assessing risks. The data that Robyn was going to analyze for the report is not currently available

Current outfall data collected by the County isn't highly reliable. However, Todd Zacky from Tulalip Tribes is currently collecting the same data, which may end up being more useful and accurate.

Robyn is collecting weekly water samples from six area beaches and assessing the condition of the beach for the BEACH Program, a project the MRC is working on in partnership with Washington Department of Ecology. Water samples are sent to the Everett lab for processing and testing for Enterococcus, a bacterium that serves as an indicator of water quality and safety of water for human recreational uses.

3. MRC Annual Report

The MRC needs to develop the annual report and presentation to Council which should occur before the first or third Wednesday in September. The MRC discussed including items that are new this year (such as the marine water quality subcommittee), newspaper articles, engaging Council in dialogue and discussing the issues that really affect them and their constituents directly (such as water quality). The MRC should also include their contributions to Snohomish County information and projects. Shoreline updates and salmon plans included information that the MRC had gathered and was ready to be included.

The MRC will formulate a draft letter to Council in the next three weeks. Ideas on the message to Council should be e-mailed to Stef.

4. Juvenile Crab MOU Update

The Juvenile Crab Memorandum of Understanding is in the works but not yet completed. This will be completed as soon as possible.

5. BEACH Program Interagency Agreement Update

The Beach program interagency agreement is in the process of being completed.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary
Wednesday, August 17, 2005
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Kayak Point Park
15610 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292

MRC Members Present

Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Mary Cunningham
Heather McCartney
Alan Mearns
Chet Motekaitis
Sally van Niel
Jen Sevigny
Karen Stewart
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Gwen Heisterkamp, Snohomish County SWM
Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Beach Watchers
Bonnie Mearns, Teacher, Edmonds
Doug Sanders

MRC Members Absent

Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Charles LaNasa
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate

Summary of Decisions

Adoption of 2005 Snohomish County MRC Annual Report

Follow-Up Items

MRC Annual Report Presentation to Snohomish County Executive and Council

- The following MRC members offered assistance with creation of the presentation: Dawn Lawrence, Heather McCartney, Sally van Niel, Alan Mearns. Kent Scudder and Charlie LaNasa were volunteered by the Committee to assist as well.

MRC Sub-Committee Chairs -

- Schedule Sub-committee meetings and Agendas for September. Hold meetings.

Upcoming Events

- **Next MRC meeting: Wednesday Sept 21th, 6:30 p.m. Location: To Be Determined**
- Creosote Log Removal Training, September 10th 10-1 Tulalip Marina, Tulalip Tribes Reservation
- Salmon Homecoming Forum- Sept 8th; Magnuson Park, Seattle WA; 9:00am-5:00pm

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)
August 17, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The 7/20/05 MRC meeting summary will be reviewed in the 9/21/05 MRC meeting.

No announcements were made

Public Comment

None.

Discussion Items

2005 Snohomish County MRC Annual Report Draft

Stef discussed the 2005 Annual Report and recent changes made since the MRC received the previous draft version. Stef noted that photographs and drawings may change depending on whether the County has approval, and additional changes may be made per Snohomish County Surface Water Management Staff's recommendations. Then Stef asked for MRC suggestions.

Topics discussed:

- 1) Stef given direction to stress partnerships and ways in which the MRC benefits the County
- 2) Snohomish County is in a leadership role in Dungeness crab stewardship
- 3) Asking MRC partners to show support for MRC funding by attending the presentation
- 4) Financial Summary section- need a diagram (pie chart) to show funding sources, stressing that Snohomish County's contribution is essential to complete the work plan

Thank You Cards/Dungeness Crab Logo

Stef announced that he wants to put together MRC Thank You cards to send to MRC partners for their contributions. Stef said that he'd like to put the Dungeness crab logo that was attached to the Dungeness Crab Stewardship Report on the Thank You cards. Dawn asked who contributed the image. Jen stated that her father, Bill Neat, contributed the logo, and said she would speak with her father for approval to use the logo and would report to Dawn and Stef.

Action Items

Daryl moved to accept the 2005 Snohomish County MRC Annual Report with direction to add a diagram in the Financial Summary section and to incorporate all additional comments from Surface Water Management staff in the final version of the report. Motion approved.

Stef asked for assistance from MRC members to comment on the PowerPoint presentation to the County Executive and Council. Dawn, Heather, Sally and Alan volunteered. The MRC also volunteered Kent and Charlie.

Meeting Closed

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, September 21, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Snohomish County East Administration Building
Public Meeting Room 1, West
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201

MRC Members Present	Staff, Presenters and Others
Dawn Lawrence, Chair	Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Mary Cunningham	Linda Lyshall, PSAT
Alan Mearns	Andrea Copping, NWSC
Chet Motekaitis	
Karen Stewart	
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative	
MRC Members Absent	
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair	
Charles LaNasa	
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate	
Jen Sevigny	
Sally Van Niel	

Summary of Decisions

No Quorum- No decisions adopted

Follow-Up Items

MRC Conference- Skagit Valley Casino Resort- Bow, WA- Nov 4-5, 2005

- All MRC members register with NWSC
- All MRC members reserve hotel room at the resort (877-275-2448)

Data Coordination Submittal-

- Submit Data Types to NWSC for regional data coordination effort

MRC Sub-Committee Chairs -

- Schedule Sub-committee meetings and Agendas for October. Hold meetings.

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Upcoming Events

- Next MRC meeting: Wednesday Oct 19, 6:30 p.m.
- MRC Conference- Fri-Sat, Nov 4-5; Skagit Valley Casino Resort- Bow, WA

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

September 21, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 7/20/05 MRC meeting summary was neither reviewed nor adopted because not enough MRC members were present for a quorum. The 7/20/05, 8/17/05, and 9/21/05 meeting summaries will be reviewed at the October 19, 2005 MRC meeting.

Announcements

- Northwest Straits Commission Meeting- September 30 - Island County, Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville
- Creosote Log Training Event Sept 10th- 14 people attended, and all public beaches will be surveyed this fall. This training effort was a great success.
- Shoreline Landowner Workshops- Workshops will be held in late February, coordinating with Linda Lyshall at PSAT and Chrys Bertolotto at WSU Beach Watchers on initial planning effort
- BEACH Program complete this year- Stef will give a presentation next month on results
- Sean Edwards presentation next month on Candidate Site Analysis for Shoreline Restoration Projects in Snohomish County
- Annual Reports will be distributed next month- printer not available for the move.
- (Flier) Pioneers in Conservation Grants Program- Salmon Recovery Grants (\$25,000-\$150,000) for salmon recovery on agricultural land. 1:1 match, and funding is contributed by shared strategy
- (Flier) Toxic Creosote Pilings removed from Vashon Island Beach
- (Flier) Funding Notices- Pass information along if you know of any potential projects
- Upcoming MRC Events-
 - National Estuaries Day- This Saturday, Sept 24th- Padilla Bay National Estuary Research Reserve at the Puget Sound Kids Day Celebration in Mount Vernon. Enjoy a day of free music, art and nature activities. Lend a hand on a restoration project on Hamm Creek in Seattle with People for Puget Sound and Sound Stewards. Contact PSAT or People for Puget Sound for more information.
 - Annual Report to Snohomish County Exec and Council- Date to be determined. Need MRC members to come if at all possible to show support. I'll send out an email as soon as I know the date.
 - Derelict Gear Removal media event- sometime soon (next couple of weeks). Hopefully nail down a date with Tom Cowan in the next few days, and I'll send out an email.
 - Pocket Estuary Mapping Meeting- Skagit System Cooperative- schedule next week with Eric Beamer, I'll contact everyone interested in attending with options for meeting dates.

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Public Comment

None.

Discussion Items

NOAA Marine Debris Program Grants

Dawn described the current plans for moving forward with an application to the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) to continue the MRC's derelict gear removal efforts in Port Gardner, and to increase the MRC's Dungeness crab best management practices educational efforts to the local community. More specifically, this application would include two projects:

- 1) Continue to remove derelict fishing gear from 0-100 ft depths in Port Gardner. Although the MRC is surveying for derelict gear to 200ft, the MRC will limit our removal efforts to the 100ft depth because of the increases in expense to remove in deeper waters. Partners would include the Tulalip Tribes and NWSC.
- 2) Spearhead a Dungeness Crab Stewardship educational effort throughout Snohomish County. This effort will include the distribution of educational cards that list best management practices while harvesting. If awarded the grant, we will distribute these cards to recreational crabbers at a minimum of 5 boat launches in the County. Volunteers will distribute cards at least three times throughout the crabbing season, 1) in the beginning of the season, 2) in the middle of the season, and 3) close to the end of the season.

Kent is drafting the application, and will apply for approximately \$50,000 in funds from the MDP. The MDP requires a minimum of a 1:1 match, and the MRC is currently looking for matching partners.

Andrea Copping had several recommendations to include in our application.

- 1) Include retail outlets (sporting goods stores that sell crabbing gear) in the project by creating a space to distribute rot cord educational cards, sell legal rot cord, put up a poster about crab best management practices, etc.
- 2) Include an evaluation plan in the grant. Describe the number of crab pots removed, the number of people we hope to reach, and how we're going to determine our success. For example, one example would be to monitor the number of rot cord users at the beginning of the crabbing season and compare to the end of the season.

Daryl Williams recommended that we apply for \$10-\$15,000 through the Tulalip Tribes Foundation to help contribute to the match.

NWSC Data Coordination-Andrea E. Copping

All MRCs feel that coordinating data is an important step for protecting marine resources throughout the Puget Sound. Andrea is taking the lead on behalf of the NWSC to develop the program to develop a regional database that will enable MRCs to have easier access to various types of data that's been collected in other parts of the Northwest Straits.

Andrea discussed the different types of data (geographic data, tabular data and metadata), and discussed different types of databases (centralized, decentralized, and a hybrid of the two). She currently feels that a hybrid database is the most appropriate for this data coordination effort.

Mary asked if State and Federal agency data would be downloaded into this database also. Andrea suggested that we initially focus on the goal of creating the database for the MRCs, but would be open to collecting State and Federal data also.

Chet asked if NWSC is planning on hiring a new person. Andrea said yes, eventually; however, first they're going to hire a competent intern. Puget Sound Action Team has a new GIS technician who

may also be involved in this process.

MRC Annual Report Presentation to County Executive and Council

Stef has submitted the Annual Report to the County Executive and Council. The Executive will add us to an Agenda sometime in the next month or two, and will contact Stef with a final date.

Rot Cord Educational Cards- Dawn Lawrence

Stef distributed examples of the rot cord educational cards that Chet and former intern Robyn Redekopp designed. These cards show best management practices while harvesting Crab. Dawn described her experience distributing these cards with Robyn on a Friday and a Saturday, and said she had excellent success. She distributed 55 cards in a 3 hour period.

Updated cards should also include information on where to buy rot cord.

Chet stated that there's confusion about legal or acceptable rot cord, and recommends that we obtain more clear information from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that we're sending a consistent message about rot cord requirements (material, thickness, etc).

Chet asked if there's a way the MRC can have students prepare these educational cards. Dawn said yes, though we'd need to have the cards printed already. Stef will pass 40 cards on to Dawn, along with rot cord, for students to work with as a pilot effort.

NWSC Conference- Nov 4-5

The NWSC MRC Training Conference is on Friday-Saturday, Nov-4-5, 2005 at the Skagit Valley Casino Resort in Bow, WA. Stef urged MRC members to reply to Susan Woods' email at the NWSC with their registrations, and then to contact the Resort to reserve a room.

Andrea informed the MRC that Nate Mantua will be speaking on global climate change and how it is likely to affect the Puget Sound. Additionally, workshops will be held on Saturday morning and afternoon.

Stef recommended that we leave time in the October 2005 agenda to allow MRC members to determine which workshops they plan to attend to get strong representation at each workshop.

Rot Cord Study

Stef showed the MRC the rot cord degeneration study experimental design. Chet asked if we could replicate this study by working with high school students. Dawn said that she would look into it.

NWSC Representation

Snohomish County MRC did not have representation at the August NWSC meeting. Stef recommended that we develop a better communication system to ensure that we have representation at every meeting. Stef will act as an additional alternate to NWSC meetings.

Snohomish County MRC Polo Shirts

Dawn submitted an order for polo shirts with MRC logos. Shirts will cost \$23 for a plain, one colored polo shirt, and \$26 for a polo shirt with a stripe on the collar and sleeve. Dawn is taking orders from MRC members whom would like to have one.

Meeting Closed

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 21, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Snohomish County East Administration Building

Public Meeting Room 1, West

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201

MRC Members Present

Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Heather McCartney
Alan Mearns
Chet Motekaitis
Karen Stewart
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Linda Lyshall, PSAT
Franchesca Perez, Stillaguamish Tribe
Tom Murphy, Edmonds Community College
Kristin Marshall, SSFE Task Force
Jon Houghton, Pentec Environmental
Sean Edwards, Snohomish County SWM
Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Beach Watchers

MRC Members Absent

Charles LaNasa -Excused
Jen Sevigny- Excused
Sally Van Niel

Summary of Decisions

- NOAA- 2006 Marine Debris Program Grant: Committee consensus to approve drafting of proposal for marine debris removal and education project. Approval to include project application as a part of NWSC application.
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation: Committee consensus to approve drafting of proposal for Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund if MRC Lead Staff time allows

Follow-Up Items

MRC Conference- Skagit Valley Casino Resort- Bow, WA- Nov 4-5, 2005

- All MRC members register with NWSC
- All MRC members reserve hotel room at the resort (877-275-2448)

Kent Scudder- Complete NOAA 2006 MDP Grant Proposal

Stef Frenzl- Research and complete NFWF Grant Proposal

MRC Sub-Committee Chairs -

- Schedule Sub-committee meetings and Agendas for October. Hold meetings.

Upcoming Events

- Next MRC meeting: Wednesday Nov 16, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
- MRC Conference- Fri-Sat, Nov 4-5; Skagit Valley Casino Resort- Bow, WA

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)
October 21, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Meeting Summaries, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 7/20/05 and 8/17/05 Proposed MRC meeting summaries were adopted without changes. The 9/21/05 and 10/19/05 meeting summaries will be reviewed at the November 16, 2005 MRC meeting.

Announcements

- MRC Conference will be held on Nov 4-5, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Bow WA
- Annual Report to Snohomish County Exec and Council- Date to be determined. Need MRC members to come if at all possible to show support. Stef will send out an email as soon as he receives the agenda.
- Derelict Gear Removal media event- Thursday, Oct 27th is the most likely date. Morning and Afternoon Shifts are available for media. Tom Cowan is talking with KIRO TV.
- Pocket Estuary Mapping Meeting- Skagit System Cooperative- scheduled for 7/21/05.
- BEACH Program complete this year- presentation delayed to next month on results

Public Comment

- Tom Murphy-Edmonds Community College- developing service learning opportunities for students. Tom is interested in learning more about the MRC and how Edmonds Community College can partner with the MRC to enable students to obtain field hours on MRC projects. He will be working with Stef to continue this discussion.

Action Items

NOAA Marine Debris Program Grants (Kent Scudder)

Kent gave a brief description of the project, reiterating information discussed at the September 2005 MRC meeting (see September Meeting Summary for details). Kent submitted a handout of the Project Budget and described the budgets for the education and the derelict gear removal components of the application.

Kent described two approaches for submitting the application:

- 1) Snohomish MRC apply individually to NOAA to implement this project; or
- 2) Snohomish MRC can submit the application to NWSC, and NWSC will include this project as one portion of their NOAA MDP application. Kent mentioned that he spoke with Jeff June at NRC, and Jeff strongly recommended that we submit the application to NWSC to increase the likelihood of receiving funds. Kent had not completed discussions with Tom Cowan at NWSC to determine if including our project under the NWSC umbrella is a possible option.

Stef asked the MRC for a motion to approve the submission of a grant proposal to NWSC, if this is a possible option. If not a possible option, MRC will approve applying individually. Motion given. Consensus given.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation- Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund (Stef Frenzl)

Stef introduced the MRC to a one-time funding opportunity through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. No Match required, and pre-proposals due Nov 10th. Full proposals usually due in February or March 2006.

Stef recommended that we apply to fund a position to develop and administer shoreline landowner workshops for a 2-year period. A portion of Stef's time with NWSC Grant allocated for coordinat-

ing the workshops could be used to write pre-proposal and hire a temp position, but Stef will need significant assistance from the MRC to write the grant. Stef asked for consensus from the MRC to draft the pre-proposal if time is available in Stef's work schedule. Consensus given.

Discussion Items

WSU Beach Watchers- (Chrys Bertolotto)

The WSU Beach Watcher program in Skagit County is almost complete, and Chrys is now looking forward to next spring to implement Beach Watcher training in Snohomish County. The program will require Beach Watchers in training to attend workshops every Monday and Thursday through March 13 and May 4, for a total of 16 days and approximately 100 hours of training. Beach Watchers will be required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours in the first year following their training, and another 50 hours the year after. Of the first year's 50 hours, the WSU Beach Watcher program will require that all Beach Watchers volunteer a minimum of 15 hours on MRC related projects.

Chrys urged MRC members to learn more about the program and expressed her strong interest in developing a stronger partnership with the MRC to coordinate and implement projects.

Update on Ocean Research College Academy (Ardi Kveven)

ORCA is a unique opportunity for high school students, using the framework of the Running Start program and the resources of Everett Community College. ORCA offers students a full-time college experience that satisfies all requirements for an Associate's degree and most requirements for a high school diploma.

Using an innovative, project-based approach in a small "learning community" environment, students enjoy the challenge of designing and implementing their own learning experiences under the guidance of talented college faculty. ORCA's curriculum incorporates rigorous and integrated studies grounded in the marine environment.

Ardi urged the MRC members to learn more about the program and to think about how the MRC can include ORCA in MRC projects. Stef mentioned that he was going to meet Ardi next week to begin to discuss the possibilities.

MRC Conference (Stef)

Stef handed out directions to the conference scheduled for Nov 4 and 5, and went over the agenda. Stef asked all MRC members to keep receipts from the conference and bring to the November MRC meeting.

Snohomish County MRC Shirts (Dawn)

Dawn passed out shirts for MRC members who previously ordered them. Shirts cost \$23 for a plain, one colored polo shirt, and \$26 for a polo shirt with a stripe on the collar and sleeve. Dawn is taking orders from MRC members whom would like to have one.

MRC Logos (Stef/Dawn)

The MRC voted by ballot to adopt various logos that Stef developed.

MRC Appointments (Stef/Dawn)

Dawn listed the below MRC positions that are opening for reappointment in January 2006.

- o Mary Cunningham (Position #1)-local government in District 2

- Chet Motekaitis (Position #3)- Economic interest in District 2
- Kent Scudder (Position #5)- Economic interest in District 3
- Kirby Johnson (Position #7)- Recreation interest in District 4
- Sally Van Niel (Position #9)- Conservation interest in District 4

Those MRC members interested in reappointment must demonstrate the continuing benefits for reappointment. Dawn plans to schedule conversations with each of these members in the next month to discuss reappointment.

Stef noted that if any of these MRC members choose not to be reappointed, the County asks that they continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The MRC can recruit potential members, and propose them to the County Executive. The Executive will review candidates, and will try to maintain equal interest representation and maintain or expand representation from County Districts (District 5 from the north doesn't currently have representation) before making an appointment.

Stef will proceed next month with further information regarding reappointments and new appointments at the beginning of the year

8:00- Presentation: Snohomish County Nearshore Candidate Sites for Protection and Restoration- Sean Edwards, Senior Planner

Sean Edwards presented the County Nearshore Candidate Sites for Protection and Restoration Report, a deliverable for the previous NWSC Action Grant.

The Snohomish County Nearshore Candidate Sites for Protection and Restoration project is a local effort to identify candidate sites for protection and restoration of marine resources in the county. Methodology was developed by Sean Edwards with review and approval by the MRC. The report documents methodology, results, lessons learned and next steps, and the project represents the culmination of MRC data compilation and analysis.

Methodology

- 1) Define geographic units of analysis: *Nearshore Stewardship Areas* and *Shore Units*
- 2) Compile relevant data and background information for study area
- 3) Develop evaluation criteria and scoring system
- 4) Analyze Shore Units to identify potential candidate sites for protection and restoration
- 5) Write narrative descriptions of candidate sites and project options

Results/Recommendations: Shore Unit Analysis

Protection: 7 miles (10%), 32 Shore Units

Restoration: 22 miles (31%), 53 Shore Units

Protection and Restoration: 16 miles (23%), 45 Shore Units

Not Applicable: 26 miles (37%), 67 Shore Units

Discussion

- Shore Unit Analysis is completed and potential candidate sites identified for all 13 Nearshore Stewardship Areas
- Candidate sites identified for all Nearshore Stewardship Areas except Hat Slough, Stanwood and Skagit Flats
- Some narrative candidate site descriptions and project options still need to be written

- Prioritization criteria have been developed but not yet applied
- Nearshore candidate sites for protection are mostly in north Snohomish County and around Hat Island
- Most of South Snohomish County nearshore is degraded by the railroad and shoreline development

General Types of nearshore impacts

- Large scale shoreline modifications
- Loss of pocket estuaries
- Separation of feeder bluffs from nearshore
- Interruption of longshore drift
- Confinement of Puget Sound stream mouths
- Clearing of mature marine riparian vegetation
- Development of low bank shorelines
- Conversion of mature upland forest cover
- Increased upland runoff and erosion

Lessons Learned

The methodology is:

- Relatively simple but requires GIS and significant amounts of time
- Adaptable and Scalable
- Provides a framework for compiling, maintaining, analyzing marine resource data

Conclusions/Recommendations

- First comprehensive attempt to identify nearshore candidate sites for restoration and protection in Snohomish County
- Candidate sites and project options are speculative, and they do include property owner commitments
- Provides a starting point for identifying sites, projects and priorities

Next Steps

- Complete the detailed candidate site descriptions and project options
- Final MRC review
- Post report on MRC web site
- Provide report to Snohomish County Planning and Development Services
- Include highlights in annual report to Snohomish County Council and Executive

Meeting Adjourned

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)

Draft Meeting Summary

Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Snohomish County East Administration Building
Public Meeting Room 1, West
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA 98201

MRC Members Present

Dawn Lawrence, Chair
Kent Scudder, Vice Chair
Mary Cunningham
Kirby Johnson, NW Straits Alternate
Heather McCartney
Alan Mearns
Chet Motekaitis
Jen Sevigny
Karen Stewart
Daryl Williams, NW Straits Representative

Staff, Presenters and Others

Stef Frenzl, Snohomish County SWM
Tom Murphy, Edmonds Community College
Kerrie Murphy, Edmonds Community College

MRC Members Absent

Charles LaNasa -Excused
Chet Motekaitis- Excused
Sally Van Niel-

Summary of Decisions

- NOAA- 2006 Marine Debris Program Grant: Committee approved submittal of application as a part of NWSC application.
- Committee approved amendments to bylaws
- Committee approved action to add an Ex Officio MRC member position to represent WSU Skagit/Snohomish Beach Watchers to the Snohomish County Code and MRC Bylaws. The Beach Watcher Ex Officio position must be filled by a WSU Beach Watcher staff member.

Follow-Up Items

Kent Scudder- Complete NOAA 2006 MDP Grant Proposal
Dawn Lawrence- Conversation with MRC members about reappointment
MRC Sub-Committee Chairs -

- Schedule Sub-committee meetings in December. Hold meetings.

Upcoming Events

- Next MRC meeting: Wednesday January 18, 2005, Everett, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- NWSC Meeting- Friday, December 02, 2005, LaConnor, 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC)
November 16, 2005

Introductions, Agenda, Minutes, and Announcements

Dawn opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The 10/19/05 and 11/16/05 meeting summaries will be reviewed at the January 18, 2005 MRC meeting.

Announcements

- Orca listed on the ESA as Endangered- implications unknown at this point
- NOAA Marine Debris Program Application Update (Kent)- The proposal is moving forward and will be submitted by NWSC.
- WSU Beach Watcher Presentation- Chrys Bertolotto would like a MRC member to present at the first WSU Beach Watcher class on March 13th, mid-morning, time somewhat flexible. The presentation should cover the Snohomish MRC and NWSC History, Role in marine protection and overview of MRC Projects. Chrys requested that his presentation be given by an MRC member, and not the MRC Lead Staff, to encourage better participation of Beach Watchers at MRC meetings and events.
- Tom Murdoch, Adopt A Stream Foundation, will be at Picnic Point on November 17th to rescue 20-30 salmon that are blocked. They're going up with Mike Chamblin (WDFW) to transfer fish. Meet at 9:00-Parking Lot. If any MRC members attend, please take pictures, knee high boots and plastic garbage can, truck if possible.
- Stef is working to obtain a full-time intern, possibly an Individual Placement position through WCC- start in October 2006. Also working on part-time intern options. Stef will come to next MRC meeting with breakdown

Public Comment

- None

Action Items

Stef asked whether the MRC would like to hold the next MRC meeting in December. Dawn recommended that we hold subcommittee meetings in December and hold the next MRC meeting on January 18, 2006. Consensus made.

Stef distributed MRC bylaws and recommended amendments and updates to MRC members. Consensus made to accept staff's recommendations. See attached MRC bylaw amendments at the end of this meeting summary.

MRC Ex Officio member representing WSU Beach Watchers (Stef)

WSU Beach Watchers is going to play a vital role in accomplishing the MRC's goals in the future. Chrys Bertolotto is requiring each Beach Watcher to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours of service on MRC-related projects in 2006. This program will likely be a significant and continuous source of volunteer effort for the MRC.

Stef proposed creating an additional *Ex Officio* MRC member position to represent Skagit/Snohomish WSU Beach Watchers to Snohomish County Code and MRC Bylaws. Stef suggested that this position would enable the MRC and WSU Skagit/Snohomish Beach Watchers to continue to develop a strong partnership, and will improve the MRC's ability to recruit skilled volunteers for MRC projects. Stef recommended that the Beach Watcher *Ex Officio* position must be filled by a WSU Skagit/Snohomish Beach Watcher staff member. MRC consensus was made to

amend the MRC bylaws as proposed (See Exhibit A) and request MRC Staff to make the necessary changes to the Snohomish County Code to create a WSU Skagit/Snohomish Beach Watchers Ex Officio MRC Member position.

Discussion Items

MRC Conference Review (Dawn)

Dawn asked the MRC members to highlight any insights from the MRC conference. Dawn highlighted her insights from the media outreach presentation, and said she would send out an email with further information about how the MRC can incorporate ideas from the workshop into the MRC Work Plan.

Conference Reimbursements (Stef)

Stef asked for original receipts and completed reimbursement forms from MRC members ASAP. The County will send checks to MRC members' addresses on record.

Oil Spill Awareness Course- Jan 11 & 12- Everett (Alan)

Alan handed out a draft of the topics to be discussed in the Northwest Oil Spill Awareness Course. MRC members planning to attend the Course should speak with Alan as soon as possible to ensure enough seats.

Port Gardner Derelict Gear Removal Recap (Stef)

The 2005 Port Gardner Derelict Gear Removal effort is complete. A total of 154 pots/rings were removed and 5 disabled and left in place. NRC found a total of 57 commercial and 102 sport pots. Twenty-four pots were actively fishing and 135 were no longer fishing. 106 Dungeness crab were released, 72 alive and 34 dead. Of the 77 crab pots equipped with rot cord, the rot cord had deteriorated on 65 pots and remained intact on 12 pots (3 commercial and 9 sport pots).

Stef noted that rot cord didn't always rot in traps known to be derelict for at least 15 months, and mentioned that this was a good insight for Don Velasquez, Shellfish Biologist at WDFW. Don assumed that rot cord would degrade in only 30 days in the Puget Sound, and is excited about continuing the MRC's rot cord study. Stef also suggested that this data raises questions about whether the MRC should target the removal of derelict pots known to be derelict for more than 1 year. Stef recommended that this discussion continue at the next Dungeness crab subcommittee.

DOE BEACH Program (Stef)

Stef distributed a handout showing Snohomish County's results from the 2005 DOE Beach Program monitoring. In general, Snohomish County's results are relatively high on list compared to other areas monitored in the Puget Sound, though still within the legal limits for public health and safety requirements. However, Marina Beach South, Picnic Point and Howarth Park all showed excessive enterococcus levels at the creeks' confluences with the Puget Sound shortly after rain events.

Freshwater inputs are sources of fecal coliform. Heather recommended that the MRC attempt to convince the Department of Health to implement monitoring at these sites in future years. Stef requested that the MRC Water Quality Subcommittee should discuss the MRC's future involvement in the DOE BEACH Program and to identify and prioritize the Water Quality Subcommittee's projects.

MRC Reappointments (Dawn & Stef)

Dawn was unable to speak with each MRC member with positions open for reappointment. She handed out a questionnaire to each of these MRC members and asked for them to respond as soon as possible. Stef will formally submit reappointment requests in January, and will contact each MRC

member if needed. Additionally, the MRC will vote for MRC Chair, MRC Vice Chair and MRC NWSC Representative positions in January.

8:00- Presentation: Marine Debris Assessment & Removal on Unalaska Island, Alaska (Nir Barnea and Holly Bamford). Mr. Barnea gave this presentation to the MRC.

In December 2004, 400,000 gallons of oil spilled into the waters surrounding Unalaska. Unalaska is very rich in birds, marine mammals and fish. Some oil was initially cleaned up, but most cleanup efforts were postponed until summer of 2005. While surveying for oil, NOAA also surveyed for marine debris along the shoreline using GPS and survey data forms. NOAA prioritized removal locations, having to be sensitive to significant cultural sites.

The initial removal effort went well the first ½ day until a hole was ripped in the 60 ft landing craft along the northern shore of the island. NOAA revised their plan and removed marine debris at prioritized sites using manual removal techniques only (no landing craft and no ATVs). Fishing nets were cut using Victorinox knives, put in trash bags and carried by hand back to a small boat. The crew moved to the southwest portion of the island and removed additional gear for a total of 4 days of marine debris removal. NOAA was able to recycle a few floats, lines and nets, but the majority of the debris was disposed at a landfill. The crew removed a total of two truck loads of marine debris.

The work crew was excellent to work with, and have an exceptional story. They are known as the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” and escaped the atrocities in Sudan by moving to a refugee camp in Kenya.

Mr. Barnea hopes to learn more about the rate of accretion of marine debris along the shoreline the next time he's in Unalaska.

Mr. Barnea also mentioned that he appreciates the MRC's efforts to research rot cord degradation.

Meeting Adjourned

Attachment: MRC Bylaw Amendments

**Snohomish County MRC
Draft Amendment to MRC By-Laws
11/16/05**

1.2 Authorization for MRC

The MRC is authorized by Snohomish County [Chapter 2.800](#) and it participates in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative authorized by the federal government in Public Law 105-384.

2.3 *Ex Officio* Members

To improve coordination with the county, the MRC created an *ex officio* MRC member position to represent Snohomish County. The *ex officio* member is expected to fully participate in discussions and to share their expertise with the MRC, but they may not participate in MRC decisions and they do not count toward the quorum.

To improve and maintain coordination with WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watchers, the MRC created an *ex officio* MRC member position to represent WSU Skagit-Snohomish Beach Watchers. The ex officio member is expected to fully participate in discussions, project coordination and to share their expertise with the MRC, but they may not participate in MRC decisions and they do not count toward the quorum.

4.3 Quorum

A simple majority of MRC members, not counting the *ex officio* members, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Once a quorum is established for a meeting, the requirement for a quorum is met for all subsequent actions in that meeting. Decisions or actions shall not be taken without a quorum, but discussions can take place.

5.5. Subcommittees

The MRC established three subcommittees to develop and complete MRC work plans and projects: 1) Dungeness Crab Subcommittee; 2) Nearshore Habitat Subcommittee; 3) Marine Water Quality Subcommittee. All MRC members shall fully participate in at least one of the above-mentioned subcommittees. Membership of subcommittees shall be at the appointment of the chairperson. Public involvement in subcommittees is encouraged.

The MRC may create additional *ad hoc* work groups to complete specific tasks. All *ad hoc* work groups shall have clearly defined tasks to be completed within a specific timeframe. Membership of *ad hoc* work groups shall be at the invitation of the chairperson.