

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## Meeting Summary

January 16, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Bob Hillman Thomas Hoban Lincoln Loehr Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley Susan Tarpley Brent Hackney Franchesca Perez Simon Geerlofs Keeley O’Connell	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County SWM Michelle LaForge, Snohomish County SWM Ashley Janofski, Citizen Casey Rice, NOAA Jesse Sayles, Arizona State University Bea Wilson, WSU Beach Watchers Annika Fain, Citizen Don Young, Brush Wrangler Mike Rustay, Snohomish County David Bain, SnoCam ECONET J. Miller, Everett
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The November 14, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li><li>• MRC Members re-elected Tom Hoban as MRC Chair and Simon Geerlofs and Paul Schlenger as Co-Vice Chairs.</li><li>• MRC members re-elected Tom Hoban as the MRC’s NWSC representative and Lincoln Loehr and Kathleen Herrmann as alternates.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January 24, 2013: Ocean Acidification Seminar in Everett – 6:00-8:00 PM</li><li>• January 25, 2013: NWSC Meeting – 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM</li><li>• February 2, 2013: Sound Waters in Oak Harbor – 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM</li><li>• February 7, 2013: Starlight Beach Walk in Edmonds – 7:30-9:00 PM</li><li>• March 25-28, 2013: National Working Waterfronts and Waterways</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:37 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Motion to approve the November 14, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary: Keeley O’Connell, Seconded: Brent Hackney. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### “Coastal Blue Carbon” Opportunity Assessment for Puget Sound: How Wetlands Carbon Can Help Achieve Management Goals in the Snohomish Estuary – Keeley O’Connell

Keeley O’Connell, Senior Project Manager at EarthCorps, gave a presentation to the MRC on Coastal Blue Carbon and wetland carbon sequestration in the Snohomish Estuary.

Keeley defined Coastal Blue Carbon as: “Greenhouse gases (GHGs) stored in, sequestered by, and released by coastal marine ecosystems such as seagrasses, mangroves, and other tidal wetlands.” There are currently 5.3 million acres of tidal wetlands. A single acre of a salt march is able to

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sequester approximately 3.2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. However, CO<sub>2</sub> is not the only green house gas that contributes to climate change. Studies have shown methane is a significant contributor and wetlands with a salinity of 18 – 20 ppt are able to sequester this green house gas. Lower salinities permit methane release.

The United States does not currently have an industry to offset green house gases. Such an industry would provide a practical method of reducing and mitigating emissions.

Why focus on the Snohomish Estuary?

- Many carbon scientists are in the area
- The Snohomish Estuary is home to every wetland type except mangroves
- A significant body of data already exists to add to the project

Project steps:

- Describe landscape setting from historic and greenhouse gas emission change estimates
- Conduct estuary specific soil carbon sampling
- Determine carbon values and benefits of restoration scenarios at estuary scale
- Estimate carbon values and benefits of restoration scenarios for greater Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem

One question the project hopes to answer is, “Do similar structures store the same amount of green house gasses in different areas?” While field sampling will only be conducted in Snohomish County, understanding how much carbon can be sequestered in a particular habitat may allow extrapolation into other restoration areas, i.e. Chesapeake Bay, Gulf of Mexico, etc.

**Ocean Acidification Seminar Update – Michelle LaForge and Kathleen Herrmann**

The seminar will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 in the Weyerhaeuser Room at the Everett Station. A turnout of at least 100 is expected and the room will be set up to accommodate 210 people. Robert Hillman located the room and assisted in securing it for the seminar.

Flyers have been distributed to local universities, coffee shops, libraries and grocery stores. Electronic copies were sent the UW system, Seattle Aquarium, WSU Beach Watchers, Adopt-A-Stream, Sound Salmon Solutions, Snohomish Conservation District and numerous listservs. Hard and electronic copies were also given to MRC members to post in public areas. A distribution list has been created for future events.

**MRC Executive Subcommittee**

MRC Executive Subcommittee positions for 2013 are open for election. Tom Hoban announced that he is willing to continue as Chair of the MRC until the end of 2013. After 2013, he would like to step-down and help phase his replacement into the position. For the position of Vice Chair, Paul Schlenger and Simon Geerlofs are willing to continue serving as Co-Vice Chairs.

Tom Hoban has built rapport with the NWSC and would like to continue as the MRC’s NWSC representative. Lincoln Loehr and Kathleen Herrmann are willing to continue serving as alternates to the NWSC.

**Motion to re-elect Tom Hoban as MRC Chair: Paul Schlenger. Seconded: Robert Hillman. All were in favor, and the motion passed.**

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**Motion to re-elect Simon Geerlofs and Paul Schlenger as MRC Co-Vice Chairs: Tom Hoban. Seconded: Brent Hackney. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Motion to re-elect Tom Hoban as the MRC representative to the NWSC with Lincoln Loehr and Kathleen Herrmann as alternates: Franchesca Perez. Seconded: Susan Tarpley. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

**Port Gardner Derelict Gear Removal Update and Report Review – Brent Hackney**

Commercial and Tribal Dungeness crab fisheries ended on December 15, 2012. Brent Hackney put the word out for fisherman to avoid the derelict gear removal study area and many fishermen voluntarily complied. Natural Resources Consultants Inc. (NRC) was hired by Snohomish County and was able to successfully remove 100% of the derelict gear in the study area. There was minimal disturbance by active crab pots. The report and derelict gear removal was completed and submitted to Kathleen Herrmann on December 31, 2012.

MRC Members participated in a discussion on the draft report. Suggested revisions include:

- Note that the Crabber Education Program began in 2005, not in 2008.
- The current focus of the Crabber Education has changed from using escape cord to preventing crab pot loss.
- Bar charts should be added to break up the number of tables in the report.
- According to the report, 2012 exhibited the highest loss of crab pot during a time when the Crabber Education Program was the strongest. Brent suggested a possible explanation could be the timing of the derelict gear removal. The 2011 gear removal consisted of one summer season, while the 2012 removal encompassed two winter seasons and one summer season. An additional suggestion was the increased number of new recreational crabbers, who present a higher risk of crab pot loss. These explanations should be included in the report.

Brent Hackney will take the lead on compiling all report suggestions for Kathleen to send to NRC.

A suggestion was made by a meeting observer to include the Crabber Education information with each crab pot purchased. Brent explained that retailers are allowed to sell crab pots that do not meet the legal requirements and manufacturers are hesitant to include this information. Smaller retailers, such as Holiday Sports and John's, have agreed to include the educational information in their crab pot sales.

In addition, Brent announced there is money available for Crabber Education. Last year, over 100,000 crabbers did not report their catch. There is a \$10 fine for not reporting. Brent suggested that the \$1,000,000 collected should go back into crabbing, crab management, and education, and suggested that this funding source be pursued for future education efforts. The NRC derelict gear removal reports outlining crab pot loss, escape cord use and recommendations will provide a basis for obtaining funding for the Crabber Education Program and future derelict gear removals.

**NWSC Update – Tom Hoban**

The theme of the MRC Lead Staff and Chair Meeting in Padilla Bay on January 7, 2013 was sustainability - how the Initiative can survive and continue funding programs. Discussion was held on identifying and setting up schedule to call potential donors. Tom Hoban added that individuals need to get out and knock on doors to bring in funding. He indicated that February 19, 2013 is

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Lobby Day, which provides an opportunity to talk to Senators and the House and make them aware of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative and the importance of their programs to both the State and to Treaty Rights.

In the future, Tom would like to add to the clarity of commission meetings by having the MRC report include obstacles, changes and successes. The next commission meeting is a public meeting and the elections for the new chair are coming up. After the elections, Jerry Master's, the current chair, will return to his position as a board member.

**NWSC Nearshore Meeting Update – Kathleen Herrmann**

The MRC's (excluding Clallam County) met on January 11, 2013 to discuss ways to reduce demand for shoreline armoring. Each county gave strategies and Curtis Tanner and Paul Cereghino gave presentations on strategies for nearshore protection. Sites north of Everett generally possess high restoration potential with the exception of certain urban areas such as parts of Bellingham. While a concrete strategy was not developed, MRC's displayed a willingness to collaborate on a northwest straits wide project.

Nicole Faghin of the Washington Sea Grant connected Kathleen Herrmann and Kelsey Gianou, who is interested in focusing her Sea Grant Fellowship on armoring removal and prevention in the nearshore.

**Announcements**

Announcements:

- The MRC will be sending out an email to update the MRC Contact Information List.
- Sound Waters will be on February 2, 2013 in Oak Harbor on Whidbey Island. Michelle LaForge and Lincoln Loehr will be attending and bringing the MRC booth.
- The Starlight Beach Walk will be held on February 7, 2013. In the past, 150-200 people have attended. Susan Tarpley and Paul Schlenger will share the responsibility of using the megaphone to give an update on what the MRC does.
- Lincoln Loehr announced that the native and caged mussels were collected on January 7, 2013 and delivered to the WDFW the following day, all the samples were in good condition.
- Robert Hillman indicated that the Geotech work has been completed work for the pedestrian structure at Howarth Park.
- Brent Hackney announced the Blue Square Real Estate development plans for Point Wells' were accepted by the Court of Appeals. This proposal will allow the developers to build high-rise waterfront condos, shops and a public pier on a 60 acre site in Shoreline, Washington.
- Kathleen Herrmann announced the MRC and project partners received the 2012 Puget Sound Champions Award for their habitat protection work on Port Susan. Kathleen Herrmann accepted the award with the project partners in the audience included.

Meetings and Events:

- Northwest Straits Commission Meeting – January 25, 2013, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Whatcom County.
- The February MRC Meeting will be moved from February 20<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## Meeting Summary

February 12, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Bob Hillman Thomas Hoban Lincoln Loehr Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley Susan Tarpley Brent Hackney Franchesca Perez Simon Geerlofs Keeley O'Connell	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County SWM Michelle LaForge, Snohomish County SWM David Bain, SnoCam ECONET
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The January 16, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li><li>• MRC Subcommittees, with the exception of the Executive Subcommittee, will meet on an ad hoc basis.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• March 2-3, 2013: Captain's Meeting at Cabela's in Tulalip.</li><li>• March 25-28, 2013: National Working Waterfronts and Waterways</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:40 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Motion to approve the November 14, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary: Lincoln Loehr, Seconded: Brent Hackney. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### “Coastal Blue Carbon” Presentation Feedback – Keeley O'Connell

Keeley O'Connell presented “Coastal Blue Carbon” Opportunity Assessment for Puget Sound: How Wetlands Carbon Can Help Achieve Management Goals in the Snohomish Estuary” during the January MRC meeting and requested feedback from the MRC.

Comments received are as follows:

- Many MRC members said Keeley's presentation contained a lot of new, unfamiliar information.
- Franchesca Perez explained that shortly after she developed questions, Keeley addressed her questions in the presentation.
- Susan Tarpley added that having the Coastal Blue Carbon project coming to the Puget Sound was a unique opportunity. Brent Hackney elaborated by saying several people have a perception that the Puget Sound waters are too polluted for people to be in safely, but he disagrees. Perhaps, in trying to create public awareness, the media is overplaying the state of the Sound. When

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furthering awareness, Brent suggested we need to keep people from believing the extremes when the truth is in the middle.

Keeley will be giving a 5 minute presentation on EarthCorps Coastal Blue Carbon project during the Sustainable Path Foundation's event on Feb 27th.

**Announcements**

Announcements:

- David Bain announced the next SnoCam ECONET meeting will be a joint meeting with the City's Stormwater Group on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The meeting will be held at 30101 Cedar St. from 10:00AM – 1:00PM
- Keeley O'Connell submitted \$750,000 grant application to NOAA for 2014. The grant would fund 16 restoration projects.
- Tom Hoban announced the NWSC created a list of all senate and house bills that involve Puget Sound related activities. He will send this list to the MRC.
- Franchesca Perez announced the Stillaguamish Tribe has begun their Sound Toxins Monitoring Program by conducting a plankton tow at Kayak Point. The tribe is working to identify the 4 species responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning and have already found *Dynophysis*, which has also shown up at Penn Cove.
- Simon Geerlofs announced the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Modeling Group completed a Puget Sound wide hydrodynamic model coupled with a water quality model. The model is operational and could potentially be used to for ocean acidification. A presentation on the model may be of interest to the MRC.
- Keeley O'Connell announced that the I-Heart media awareness campaign was launched by Restore America's Estuary, National Estuary Research Reserve (NERR) and NOAA.

**Shrimper Education – Brent Hackney**

Brent Hackney updated the MRC on the proposed Shrimper Education Program. He announced that Mark O'Toole, Shrimp Biologist with the WDFW, will find out if the department is interested in implementing Shrimper Education. If so, Mark will update Brent about the WDFW's willingness to partner with local organizations.

Brent Hackney would like the MRC to be involved. Brent envisions involvement being a matter of MRC members spending time on the project, but specific funding would not be needed. Kathleen Herrmann said this is a good example of the type of project the MRC can get involved in with limited staff support required. Brent's project vision also includes the involvement of Chrys Bertolotto and the Beach Watchers because the shrimping season is 3 to 5 days, meaning there are more people to reach in a shorter period of time. Chrys has the experience to reach the shrimpers and the Beach Watchers have the manpower needed for this outreach. Franchesca Perez asked Brent to introduce Shrimper Education to the Beach Watchers when he speaks to them about Crabber Education. Franchesca explained that if the Beach Watchers are willing to go to the boat launch and talk to shrimpers, the MRC should get involved.

After the recent ban of commercial shrimping between Deception Pass and Port Townsend, the status of the shrimping industry is fresh in everyone's mind. The proposed Shrimper Education will show people how to be responsible stewards for the resource by teaching the basics of successful shrimping and ways to minimize shrimp pot loss. Brent will continue to pursue this opportunity.

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**Cabela's Captain's Meeting**

Susan Tarpley announced that the Tulalip Cabela's will host a Captain's Meeting on March 2-3, 2013. Organizations with fishing and outdoor interests are invited to set-up display booths in the parking lot. Susan suggested that the MRC Crabber Education display (or Shrimper Education if ready) be featured at the event. Susan offered to contact Cabela's to set up a booth if the MRC would like to have a presence at the Captain's Meeting.

The MRC supported having a presence at Cabela's, but determined to only display Crabber Education, as Shrimper Education has not yet been launched. For future events where Shrimper Education could have a presence, Brent will begin working on developing Shrimper Education bullet points to create cards for distribution. Brent will work with MRC Staff to determine costs of printing and the audience for distribution.

**MRC Subcommittees**

A discussion was held about the role of MRC subcommittees. The question of how well the committees are functioning was posed. Generally the current subcommittees have been meeting on an ad-hoc basis. The bylaws state that each MRC member needs to be involved in at least one subcommittee.

The MRC discussed the pros and cons of meeting on an ad-hoc basis. Many projects are seasonal and do not require regularly scheduled meetings. In general, folks thought that these subcommittee meetings function best when task oriented and scheduled based on a need. However, Simon Geerlofs added that there is a benefit to holding regular standing meetings to facilitate the discussion of new ideas. The MRC determined the most effective use of the subcommittees would be to meet on an ad hoc basis. The executive subcommittee will continue to meet at least quarterly.

Kathleen Herrmann suggested the Education and Outreach Subcommittee should connect with other subcommittees to determine where the MRC booth should be displayed, identify potential projects, and search for additional areas of involvement or outreach. In response, several MRC members expressed that there is an education and outreach component present in all MRC subcommittees. It was suggested that select future MRC meeting agendas include time for education and outreach discussion.

**MRC Meeting Adjustments**

Kathleen Herrmann requested feedback on whether or not people enjoyed having presentations at MRC meetings. Several MRC members mentioned the lack of a presentation allowed room for updates and discussion about MRC projects. Keeley O'Connell and Simon Geerlofs suggested that future MRC agendas should be diversified to include project brainstorming and educational presentations. They further recommended that the meeting audience be kept in mind when creating the agenda so that invitations could be sent to interested parties.

**Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (PSMSA) Update – Kathleen Herrmann**

The Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Phase II Conservation Action Plan (CAP) was completed on Dec. 18, 2012. Creating the CAP report was a joint effort between the Snohomish and Island County MRC's. Some of the strategies listed in the CAP Workplan have already received funding while the remaining actions provide future funding opportunities.

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The Core Team and Advisory Team will continue to meet quarterly, and recently presented to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council. The Stillaguamish Watershed Council displayed enthusiasm and support for the project. Kathleen Herrmann gave kudos to the MRC for have the vision to develop the PSMSA project.

Franchesca Perez added the Stillaguamish Tribe has grant money for estuary protection and restoration or acquisition. She requested fellow MRC members to inform her of any estuarine lands available.

**Port Susan Armoring Prevention Update – Kathleen Herrmann**

The Shoreline Armoring Prevention Project is underway in Port Susan and Scott Chase has been actively screening and scheduling site visits.

During the coastal landowner workshop in October 2012 on Camano Island, many attendees suggested that another workshop be held in Snohomish County to connect with other landowners. As a result, plans for a second workshop in Warm Beach are in progress. Jim Johannessen, who presented the October workshop, will be contacted to consider leading the upcoming Warm Beach workshop. Dates being considered are April 20 and 27. Keeley O’Connell mentioned several groups and organizations have Earth Day events occurring on those weekends and suggested an alternate date be selected.

**Nearshore Project Update – Kathleen Herrmann**

The Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) grant request for \$833,000 was submitted in November 2012. The Snohomish County Surface Water Management was granted \$600,000 in ESRP funds to complete the Howarth Park Restoration. The beach nourishment portion of the project was not funded, however that State RCO office recommended that the County to apply for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant for the remaining \$233,000 needed for construction which would also serve as match for the ESRP grant. MRC Staff are working with the County to begin the application process.

**Mussel Watch Project Update – Lincoln Loehr**

Lincoln Loehr extended a thank you to the MRC members and staff that participated in the Mussel Watch Program. Lincoln announced that Jennifer Lansbury gave a presentation at Sound Waters in February 2013. According to Jennifer, three mussel cages were corrupted during the two month study. In one cage, the mussels were attached to the cage vertically instead of horizontally. Another cage filled with sand, and the last cage was not secured properly to the substrate. The final WDFW Mussel Watch report will be completed in 2014. All Mussel Watch samples were archived in case future contaminant needs arise.

**Forage Fish – Franchesca Perez and Michelle LaForge**

The last forage fish samples were collected on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Franchesca Perez remarked that site 13 displayed unique sediment shifts from sandy throughout the majority of winter to small cobbles in February. MRC members requested thank you cards be sent to all the forage fish Beach

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Watcher volunteers. Cards will be brought to the March MRC meeting for all the MRC members and staff to sign.

Michelle LaForge announced that she is working with Paul Schlenger and Susan Tarpley to create a new forage fish fact sheet to improve on the past version with new information and graphics.

The MRC discussed the black, metallic slag material Dan Penttila has found in the forage fish samples. At this time, no one has pursued investigating the slag material. Lincoln explained that slag is not necessarily harmful and can support biodiversity.

**Derelict Gear Update – Kathleen Herrmann**

Brent Hackney compiled the report revisions, which were compiled by Kathleen Herrmann and sent in a memo to NRC. NRC will update the derelict gear report to include these revisions.

**Ocean Acidification Update – Michelle LaForge and Kathleen Herrmann**

The Ocean Acidification Seminar held in Everett on January 24<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Over 120 people attended, including a group of ORCA high school students. Due to the interest generated from this event, the MRC website will be revised to contain resources on ocean acidification, which will include PowerPoint presentations from the seminar, resources and news articles highlighting ocean acidification. The MRC aims to launch the revised website in March 2013.

MRC Members discussed the creation of an MRC Business Card which would include the MRC website along with bullet points outlining key the MRC projects and areas of interest such as Ocean Acidification. The goal would be to direct people to the MRC website to learn more about MRC projects. Michelle LaForge will draft a business card for MRC approval.

**NWSC Update – Tom Hoban**

NWSC meetings will no longer be held successively in the individual counties. Some meetings will be replaced with conference calls. Tom Hoban will inquire if the conference calls will be open for public call in.

The current Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI) funding will end on June 30, 2013. Jerry Masters, the current Northwest Straits Commission Chair, is optimistic and believes the NWSI will receive funding from the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) or the state level. Tom explained the MRCs are helping implement the PSP Action Agenda and this reflects positively on the NWSI. In addition, the new governor is aware of the NWSI and former REI CEO, Sally Jewell, was selected as the new Secretary of the Interior. Sally attended Renton High School and has a mechanical engineering degree. She has experience with retail and business, and is familiar with both the tribes and treaties. Tom believes that Sally's local roots and familiarity with the region will favor the tribes and the work of the NWSI.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## Meeting Summary

March 20, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201

Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Thomas Hoban Simon Geerlofs Bob Hillman Susan Tarpley Lincoln Loehr Paul Schlenger Brent Hackney Cathy Stanley Franchesca Perez Keeley O'Connell	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County SWM Jennifer Lanksbury, WDFW  <b>Absent</b> Michelle LaForge, excused
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The February 12, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li><li>• The 2012 MRC annual report and recommendations were approved for presentation to the County Council.</li><li>• Lincoln Loehr will draft a letter to NOAA's National Mussel Watch Program to provide program recommendations.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 3, 2013: Explore Puget Sound In Depth: Japanese Gulch Fish Passage</li><li>• June 1, 2013: Living with the Coast Workshop</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:40 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Motion to approve the November 14, 2012 MRC Meeting Summary: Simon Geerlofs, Seconded: Brent Hackney. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### Mussel Watch Pilot Expansion Presentation – Jennifer Lanksbury, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jennifer Lanksbury, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), presented the initial results of the Mussel Watch Pilot Expansion Project to the MRC.

WDFW determined NOAA's Mussel Watch site coverage was too limited to provide information on nearshore contaminants on the scale needed. WDFW obtained a grant from the EPA's National Estuary Program to expand the coverage through a pilot caged mussel project. Jennifer explained the state has a long term goal to establish status and trends monitoring for toxics in

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nearshore organisms, and the Mussel Watch Program is the only tool available for monitoring nearshore contaminants. In addition, data collected from mussel studies can provide baseline information to assess Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) impacts of oil or chemical spills.

Funding limitations resulted in four study areas being selected: South Sound, Main Basin, Whidbey Basin, and North Sound. WDFW had EPA funds for 60 sites and 32 external partnering agencies contributed funding for an additional 48 sites. Site selection methods were varied by location and sponsoring organization. Study sites represented NOAA Mussel Watch sites, areas of ecological importance, or areas co-located with other studies. While study sites represented different environments, all sites were related to the percent impervious surfaces within their watersheds (4 groupings).

The pilot study was conducted in winter, between November 2012 and January 2013, to include the maximum stormwater input. Winter timing also avoided the spring spawning season. One of the project partners, Penn Cove Shellfish, donated the mussels for the project and they were sorted, cleaned and bagged in Penn Cove. Volunteers helped prepare the mussels for deployment and various volunteers deployed 108 mussel cages around Washington State in November. The cages were retrieved in January, and delivered to the WDFW for processing.

After retrieval, initial processing involved calculating percent survival and predation. In addition, 12 mussels from each cage were used to measure a condition index (soft tissue dry weight/shell length x 100). Since some of the Snohomish County native mussels were smaller than the caged mussels, WDFW used 32 mussels per cage for chemical analysis. The mussels used for the condition index were shucked and homogenized. Homogenized samples were split into five containers and sent to multiple WDFW contract labs for analysis, which cost significantly less than the NOAA contract lab.

Jennifer Lanksbury presented some preliminary results on survival and condition index. Overall, percent survival exhibited a downward trend as impervious surface increased, but the trend was not statistically significant. Jennifer explained condition indices change with the seasons and spawning, and decreased condition indices in the winter were expected. The WDFW will be requesting volunteers to help with future condition index data entry.

**Response to NOAA Mussel Watch Input Request**

Kathleen Herrmann shared email correspondences between NOAA and various state Mussel Watch participants. NOAA is under new funding constraints and has requested input to improve and streamline their Mussel Watch Program. Jennifer announced the WDFW has submitted feedback and explained the WDFW would like to see the national program serve as a backbone for nearshore monitoring. Lincoln Loehr will draft a letter of recommendations to NOAA for MRC approval.

**2012 MRC Annual Report Discussion**

The MRC was planning to present the 2012 MRC annual report to the county council at 9:00 a.m. on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since the MRC meeting, this presentation is being rescheduled. All MRC members are welcome to attend. The MRC discussed annual report edits and recommendations

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for the county council. All MRC members agreed the MRC should be reauthorized in county code, as it is set to sunset in 2014.

**Motion to approve the annual report with edits: Keeley O’Connell. Seconded: Simon Geerlofs. All were in favor, and the motion passed.**

**Cabela’s Captain’s Meeting Update – Susan Tarpley and Brent Hackney**

Susan Tarpley briefed the MRC on the Cabela’s Captain’s meeting. The MRC booth focused on crabber education. However, due to the inclement weather and booth location, turnout was low. Throughout the event, Cabela’s was great to work with and will make improvements for future events. For future events, Brent Hackney suggested the MRC Crabber Education booth should be set up in the store where crabbing gear is sold. The MRC agreed that relations with Cabela’s have been well established.

Training of Cabela’s Staff was also discussed as a pilot project. Brent indicated that in his discussions thus far, Cabela’s limits the total number of staff attending a training at any one time to two. Therefore any training on crabber education would need to be brief and easily repeatable.

**Announcements**

Announcements:

- The coastal landowner’s workshop, “Living with the Coast,” will be held on June 1, 2013, and will focus on preventing shoreline armoring in Port Susan.
- Lisa Dulude, the Energy and Sustainable Development Analyst for Snohomish County, is seeking a letter of support for a NOAA grant request for a climate change adaptation project using GIS.
- Keeley O’Connell announced that the Coastal Blue Carbon Project will be collecting core samples in May and June 2013. Casey Rice, NOAA, has also gotten involved with the project. EarthCorps gave a presentation on the Coastal Blue Carbon Project at the Seattle Town Hall in February.
- EarthCorps will draft a feasibility study on the Edmonds Marsh project, and will be applying for the next round of funding in early May to continue developing the design. The City of Edmonds is the Edmonds Marsh Project sponsor and has sub-contracted with Earth Corps.
- Brent Hackney announced the WDFW has reconvened the Recreational Crabber Committee and he has been invited to sit on the committee. Brent has contacted WDFW to determine interest in a Shrimper Education program.
- Bob Hillman announced the Howarth Park Geotech Study has been completed and turned over to Snohomish County. Bob explained the historic beach is approximately 9.5 feet below current grade.
- Cathy Stanley announced the Tulalip Tribes are preparing to measure the shrimp catch per unit effort (CPUE) in their usual and accustomed fishing areas.
- Susan Tarpley announced the Beach Watcher’s Explore Puget Sound In-Depth talks will occur on the first Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Mukilteo City Hall. The April 3 seminar will discuss the Japanese Gulch Fish Passage Project.

**Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary, Wednesday, March 20, 2012, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

- Franchesca Perez announced plankton blooms have begun in Puget Sound. The Stillaguamish Tribe has been conducting plankton tows in Port Susan. Information gathered from the tows will be sent to the SoundToxins Program.
- Lincoln Loehr has observed landslide material on the shoreline nourishing the beaches and significant sediment input into the Puget Sound from streams due to the heavy rain falls.
- Surface Water Management will be submitting a SRF Board application for the nearshore project due April 5, 2012 to provide the remaining grant funds needed for construction. Gregg Farris or Debbie Terwilleger will attend the next MRC meeting.

**NWSC Update – Tom Hoban**

The last Northwest Straits Commission meeting was held by conference call. Tom Hoban explained that the conference call was not as good as in person meetings, but expects more meetings in the future will have to be conducted by conference calls due to budget cuts. Tom sent the meeting minutes from the Commission conference call to the MRC. The Commission's annual retreat will be held in Padilla Bay on March 21 and 22. The Commission hired a strategic facilitator to guide the participants through a list of agenda items and key topics.

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

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## Meeting Summary

April 17, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201

Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Thomas Hoban Simon Geerlofs Bob Hillmann Lincoln Loehr Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley Franchesca Perez Keeley O’Connell  <b>Absent</b> Brent Hackney, excused Susan Tarpley, excused	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Michelle LaForge, Snohomish County MRC Assistant Caroline Gibson, Northwest Straits Commission Andrea Hennings, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife David Bain, Snohomish-Camano Education, Communication and Outreach Network Robyn du Pre, Northwest Straits Foundation Gregg Farris, Snohomish County Surface Water Management
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The March 20, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li><li>• Letter of recommendations to NOAA’s National Mussel Watch Program was approved.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May 9, 2013: Kathleen Herrmann’s NOAA Monster Jam Talk, “Marine Conservation at the Local Level: The Role of Volunteers in Creating Vibrant Coastal Communities”</li><li>• May 11, 2013: Mariners’ baseball game featuring Puget Sound Starts Here</li><li>• June 1, 2013: Port Susan Living with the Coast Landowners Workshop</li><li>• June 4, 2013: 2012 MRC Annual Report and Recommendations presentation to Snohomish County Council.</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:36 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Motion to approve the March 20, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary: Bob Hillmann.

Seconded: Franchesca Perez. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### Update from the Northwest Straits Foundation – Robyn du Pre

Robyn du Pre, Executive Director of the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF), updated the MRC on the Foundation and explained the role of the Foundation in the Northwest Straits Initiative to facilitate obtaining MRC funding.

As a nonprofit organization, the NWSF can access a broader spectrum of funding opportunities, such as individual donors, than the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). Robyn’s vision for the foundation is to serve the MRCs, foster collaboration, and spearhead regional projects, which include derelict gear removal and oil spill preparedness. With the NWSC’s shift from National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding through the Puget Sound Partnership, funds distributed to MRCs have to line up with specific items on the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda. Foundation staff has been looking for funding opportunities for the MRC project priorities submitted to the NWSC, and can serve as a contract mechanism for MRCs to receive both grant and private funding.

The Foundation and MRCs, excluding Snohomish County, will be conducting community oil spill preparedness workshops and trainings with EPA funding. In 2010, the Snohomish County Council has requested the MRC investigate how Snohomish County can be more prepared and proactive to prevent or mitigate a possible oil spill. As a result, the Snohomish County MRC worked with the University of Washington's Environmental Management Certificate program to hire a team of students to examine this issue as their student Keystone Project. In 2011, the project team produced a report assessing the County's current marine oil spill prevention and preparedness abilities and providing recommendations for reducing the consequences of oil spills affecting the County's marine waters. Kathleen Herrmann will determine if funding is available for the Snohomish MRC to partner with the Foundation and other MRCs.

Robyn du Pre and Kathleen Herrmann have been working on the Shoreline Armoring Prevention Project in Port Susan. An armoring prevention workshop will be held on June 1, 2013 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Stillaguamish Grange Hall in Stanwood.

Northwest Straits Initiative derelict gear removal projects are now directed by the NWSF, and Robyn du Pre will connect with Franchesca Perez to discuss derelict gear removal at Kayak Point. Joan Drinkwin, NWSF Program Director, presented the impacts of derelict gear on marine mammals to the International Whaling Commission.

The NWSC Board of Directors currently functions as the NWSF board. The Commission has proposed developing a separate board for the NWSF. The proposal for a revised board structure will be presented at the May 31, 2013 NWSC board meeting.

#### **Update from Surface Water Management on Nearshore Restoration Project – Gregg Farris**

Surface Water Management (SWM) hired ANCHOR QEA to design the Nearshore Restoration Project. Gregg Farris anticipates the final design will be completed in one year. On April 5, SWM submitted a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) application for the remaining \$300,000 needed for construction. The County's has also applied for SRFB and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding to restore habitat surrounding Smith Island in the Snohomish River. If PSAR funds the Smith Island Project, Gregg believes the Nearshore Restoration Project will receive SRFB funding. The MRC thanked Gregg for his support.

The Diking District has submitted a project proposal similar to the Nearshore Project for SRFB funding. The proposal aims to use dredge material from the old Stillaguamish Channel to create mud flat habitat in the Stillaguamish Basin. However, the project was trimmed down to a feasibility study. The project is being proposed as restoration, but since no real loss of mud flats in the Stillaguamish Basin has been documented, it is unclear how the dredge material will be used to create habitat.

### **Review the Response to NOAA's Mussel Watch Input Request – Lincoln Loehr**

In December 2012, NOAA requested input to improve and streamline the National Mussel Watch Program. The MRC drafted a letter recommending the continued use of citizen science volunteers, archiving mussel tissue for future analysis, creating a protocol to certify state and local labs to reduce costs, presenting data to facilitate a discussion of contaminant trends, and including periodic summer sampling trends to evaluate seasonal differences. The MRC also suggested state and local areas should be notified if data reveal significant health concerns.

**Motion to approve the NOAA's National Mussel Watch Letter of Recommendation: Lincoln Loehr.**

**Seconded: Simon Geerlofs. All were in favor, and the motion passed.**

### **Marine Mammal Signs – Kathleen Herrmann**

The MRC funded Washington State University Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers to install Marine Mammal Stranding Network signs at nine locations in Snohomish County. Chrys has requested assistance from the MRC to install the 2 remaining signs at Kayak Point Park and the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch. Bob Hillmann and Keeley O'Connell will work with their contacts to have a new marine mammal sign installed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch. Keeley will also contact Sharon Swan and Tom Teigen with the Parks Department to discuss how to mount and install a sign at Kayak Point. A Beach Watcher will take photos of the installed signs for the MRC website.

### **Northwest Straits Commission RFP for 2013-2014 Funding – Kathleen Herrmann, Caroline Gibson and Simon Geerlofs**

The MRC received a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the NWSC regarding 2013-2014 project priorities. Caroline Gibson expects the EPA to provide \$900,000. Approximately \$65,000 to \$72,000 is anticipated to be distributed to each MRC. Funding will be effective for one year, beginning approximately on July 1, 2013.

The Executive Subcommittee recommended the MRC advance Port Susan MSA strategies and further recommended focusing mainly on direct action strategies and less on education and outreach. The three main Port Susan Projects listed in the submitted proposal are as follows:

1. The overall goal of the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area plan is to achieve a healthy biodiversity of the seven target species and habitat that representation the ecosystem. A suite of strategies were developed through a facilitated project planning process that ranked a variety of key strategies.
2. Conduct initial planning and feasibility studies for a private soft shore armoring pilot project.
3. Work with the Northwest Straits Foundation Project Entitled "Feeder Bluff Outreach and Armor Removal" originally targeting at Island and Jefferson Counties to include the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area.

The EPA grant restricts projects on private property, with some exceptions for feasibility studies, likely reducing the potential for a pilot soft shore armoring project. The shoreline contractor manual being developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been delayed, further limiting shoreline protection projects. For Project 3, the Tulalip Tribes have collected feeder bluff data from the reservation in Port Susan. Kathleen will follow up with Cathy Stanley or Terry Williams to determine what data the Tulalip Tribes have gathered.

Due to the one year time constraint, the MRC chose to focus discussion Project 1 and directed staff to look into the following three strategies:

- Develop ideas for protecting unarmored shoreline parcels in Port Susan
- Prevent introduction of priority commercial/residential landscaping chemicals into surface waters by 2015
- Restore 25% of degraded buffers to functional buffers within 100 feet of the marine shoreline by 2020

Kathleen Herrmann explained that Futurewise developed a draft report entitled, “Incentives to Help Meet Priority Shoreline Restoration Objectives.” This report explores a number of incentives to protect unarmored shorelines. MRC members further recommended building connections with interested landowners to determine which incentives would encourage landowners to be good stewards of their property. To restore 25% of degraded buffers, Simon Geerlofs and Franchesca Perez recommended joining with Snohomish County and the Critical Area Regulation (CAR) Monitoring Program. Simon further recommended contacting a technical group to determine strong evaluation metrics for each strategy. Kathleen Herrmann explore these strategies and will send out project details for MRC approval.

### **Northwest Straits Forage Fish Program – Caroline Gibson**

Caroline Gibson was asked to coordinate the PSEMP Forage Fish and Food Webs work group. All seven MRCs have displayed interest in forage fish monitoring, and the work group hopes to develop monitoring strategies and protocols for the MRCs to use.

Caroline Gibson also announced the public comment period for the Octopus Advisory Group just opened. The group consists of 12 appointees, who will submit final Giant Pacific Octopus Recreational Harvest recommendations to WDFW in May 2013. Regulatory options, which include keeping the current regulations, limiting recreational harvest, and eliminating recreational harvest, will be presented at two public workshops. The WDFW will make the final decision in August 2013.

### **Announcements**

#### Announcements:

- The Port Susan “Living with the Coast” landowner workshop will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at the Stillaguamish Grange Hall.
- Kathleen Herrmann announced the MRC will present the 2012 Annual Report and Recommendations to the County Council on June 4, 2013.
- Tom Hoban and Kathleen Herrmann presented the MRC and the Nearshore Beach Restoration Project to the new Beach Watcher’s class on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Kathleen Herrmann will be presenting, “Marine Conservation at the Local Level: The Role of Volunteers in Creating Vibrant Coastal Communities” at NOAA’s Monster Jam on May 9 at 11:00AM in Seattle.
- WDFW will fund Chrys Bertolotto to conduct Recreational Crabber Education.
- Kathleen Herrmann announced the CamOcean Water Festival will be August 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00AM to 4:00PM at Cama Beach State Park. Suzi Wong Swint helped reschedule the event and is interested in working with an intern to develop an interactive game for the MRC booth.
- The Nature Conservancy and Island County acquired 52 acres at Barnum Point on Camano Point. The MRC wrote a letter of support for this acquisition.

- David Bain announced the “Don’t Drip and Drive” campaign has checked 1,400 of the target 10,000 cars for leaks. King County will continue this campaign for the next one or two years.
- Puget Sound Starts Here will be featured at the May 11 Mariners’ game and volunteers are needed to run an informational table about Puget Sound recovery. EarthCorps will be purchasing a group of tickets for the game if any MRC members are interested in attending.
- The Coastal Blue Carbon team will be selecting sampling dates in May and June for 12 sites. The number of samples collected at each site was reduced to increase the number of Smith Island and Quiloot sampling sites. The team is in need of volunteers to help sample Sitka spruce swamps and Otter Island.
- Keeley O’Connell announced the early feasibility study on the Edmond’s Marsh Project will be presented to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Technical Committee on May 1 and the Edmond’s City Council on May 7.
- Keeley O’Connell announced the City of Edmonds is interested in acquiring Chevron’s 15-20 acre property near the Point Edwards Condos for bioremediation.
- Franchesca Perez submitted a coastal wetlands grant for 56 acres of salt marsh. The salt marsh is currently farmland, but represents an excellent restoration opportunity. Franchesca needs a total of \$75,000 in match commitments for the project.
- Lincoln Loehr attended the Beach Watcher’s Puget Sound in Depth talk on the Japanese Gulch Fish Passage Story. The presentation explained how a stream blockage issue with one culvert was restored at a fraction of the estimated cost.
- Caroline Gibson announced an Elephant Seal has pupped on Protection Island in Jefferson County.

### **NWSC Update – Tom Hoban**

The NWSC held a two day strategic retreat to discuss the Commission and Foundation structure and project frameworks for the MRCs. The NWSC proposed funding three priority areas that encompass projects engaged by all seven MRCs. However, the MRCs did not reach an agreement on the three priority areas. Good discussion was held about the future direction of the Initiative and how to move in a coordinated framework.

The next NWSC meeting will be a conference call on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Tom Hoban asked MRC members to contact Sasha Horst before calling into the meeting to ensure ports are available.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## Meeting Summary

May 15, 2013 6:30 – 8:42 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201

Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Thomas Hoban Bob Hillmann Lincoln Loehr Cathy Stanley Franchesca Perez Keeley O’Connell Susan Tarpley Brent Hackney  <b>Absent</b> Paul Schlenger, excused Simon Geerlofs, excused	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Doug Hennick, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The April 17, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 1, 2013: Port Susan Living with the Coast Landowners Workshop</li><li>• June 4, 2013: 2012 MRC Annual Report and Recommendations presentation to Snohomish County Council.</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:42 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Motion to approve the April 17, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary: Franchesca Perez.

Seconded: Brent Hackney. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### NOAA Monster Jam Update

Kathleen Herrmann presented on the theory of Collective Impact in a talk entitled, “Marine Conservation at the Local Level: The Role of Volunteers in Creating Vibrant Coastal Communities” at NOAA’s Monster Jam on May 9 at the Northwest Fisheries Center in Seattle. Terrie Klinger provided guidance for her presentation to structure it so it would be well received by a scientific audience. Per Tom Hoban and Kathleen, the talk was well received. Attendance was lower than hoped, at around 25 people, but the audience was engaged. NOAA social scientists were present and expressed interest in using the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area project for their human dimension pilot project.

### Marine Mammal Stranding Network Signs Update

Keeley O’Connell and Bob Hillmann moved forward with arranging installation of the two final Marine Mammal Stranding Network signs. The MRC funded Washington State University Snohomish County Extension Beach Watchers to install at nine locations in Snohomish County.

Chrys Bertolotto had requested assistance from the MRC to install the two remaining signs at Kayak Point Park and the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Boat Launch.

The 10<sup>th</sup> St Boat Launch sign in Everett is now installed to the right of life preserver kiosk. This is a highly used and secure area. The Kayak Point Park sign is set to be installed. There was a recent change in the Kayak Park management, which resulted in the postponing of installation. Park management has suggested posting the sign on the kiosk on the grass rather than the dock, for better visibility and because there are already several signs on the dock.

### **MRC Annual Report Presentation Preview**

Kathleen Herrmann and Tom Hoban provided a preview of their presentation on the 2012 MRC Annual Report and Recommendations to County Council. Paul Schlenger will present on the Annual Report along with Tom to Council on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Council chambers. MRC members provided feedback on both Tom's opening comments and the contents of the presentation. The presentation, as with all activity in the Council chamber, will be webcast live. MRC members are encouraged to attend.

Francesca agreed to find out the estimated number of crabs saved per derelict crab pot removed. She will also try to acquire the gray whale photo taken recently at Kayak Point Park.

### **Proposal for Port Susan Project Strategies Update**

Background: The MRC received a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the NWSC regarding 2013-2014 project priorities. Caroline Gibson expects the EPA to provide \$900,000 for the year to the Northwest Straits Commission. Approximately \$65,000 to \$72,000 is anticipated to be distributed to each MRC. Funding will be effective for one year, beginning approximately on July 1, 2013. The Executive Subcommittee recommended the MRC advance Port Susan MSA strategies and further recommended focusing mainly on direct action strategies and less on education and outreach.

Kathleen Herrmann has worked with Commission staff to narrow the scope and language of the Snohomish MRC proposal to directly support a single Port Susan MSA CAP strategy: "Develop ideas for protecting unarmored shoreline parcels in Port Susan." To that end, the proposal includes language for the following projects:

- 1) Create a Shoreline Incentive Tool Box. This will provide incentives to shoreline landowners to apply best management practices on their shorelines.
- 2) A pilot project in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency that will offer conservation easements for shoreline properties in lieu of bulkheads.

A third project supporting this strategy may be implemented using the remaining funds of the current Port Susan MSA CAP grant. This project would focus on creating a shoreline prioritization guidance document specifically for Port Susan. An important aspect of this project would be to compile and synthesize existing information from various stakeholders, agencies and tribes.

### **New Member Recruitment**

Two vacant seats on the MRC currently exist. The committee discussed what background and specialty would be suitable to balance the current committee membership. Suggestions included:

- Someone representing an economic interest.
- Someone who earns a living using a marine resource.
- Someone with shoreline planning knowledge.

- A non-paid volunteer from the community with availability in their schedule. For example, a recently retired citizen person and/or a Beach Watcher.

### **Update on WRIA 8 Beach Nourishment Project**

Kathleen Herrmann provided background on the project. Kathleen, MRC member Paul Schlenger, and County staff Frank Leonetti agree that Herrera's report needs to be rewritten to meet the needs intended in the partnership. Leonetti has taken the lead on responding to Herrera and King County WRIA 8. MRC members Keeley O'Connell and Lincoln Loehr may also provide additional comments.

### **Announcements**

- The Port Susan "Living with the Coast" landowner workshop will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2013 at the Stillaguamish Grange Hall. *MRC members are requested to volunteer if possible.*
- Kathleen Herrmann announced the MRC will present the 2012 Annual Report and Recommendations to the County Council on June 4, 2013.

### **NWSC Update – Tom Hoban**

At the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, NWS Foundation funding strategies and different projects were discussed. The next NWSC meeting will be held at Island County on Friday May 31st. Conference calling will be available. Tom Hoban asked MRC members to contact Sasha Horst before calling into the meeting to ensure ports are available.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting (MRC)

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

June 19, 2013 6:30 – 8:37 p.m.

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201

Admin East Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Public Hearing Room 2

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Simon Geerlofs Brent Hackney Bob Hillmann Thomas Hoban Lincoln Loehr Keeley O’Connell Franchesca Perez Susan Tarpley Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley  <b>Absent</b> All present	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff  David Bane, ECONet liason Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC staff Mary Cunningham, former MRC member Jerry Masters, NWSC member Mandy Roberts, OTAK consultant Debbie Terwilleger, SWM Manager Steve Thompson, Public Works Director
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The May 15, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June 27, 2013: Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee workshop</li></ul>	

### Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the meeting with a quorum at 6:40 pm.

### Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Following introductions, Brent Hackney made a motion to approve the May 15, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Lincoln Loehr. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### June 1<sup>st</sup> Port Susan Coastal Landowner Workshop Update

Approximately 60 Snohomish and Island County residents learned how they can protect and maintain their shoreline property in this Saturday workshop at the Stillaguamish Grange Hall. The event was hosted by the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Snohomish MRC in partnership with Island County Shore Stewards.

Free follow-up site visits for ten workshop participants have been scheduled. Potential site visits are being screened for appropriate criteria, including resident of a marine shoreline on the east side of Camano Island or in Snohomish County.

Per Ginny Broadhurst, the Northwest Straits Commission regards this project as a model for broader Puget Sound. The State is developing social marketing messages for promoting these workshops and to help scale them up to other Puget Sound audiences.

## **Surface Water Management (SWM) Service District Reassessment**

Debbie Terwilleger provided a summary of the history and purpose of SWM, as well as the programs and services which the assessed fees support. Considerations in the district reassessment include correcting equity issues, addressing needs not included in the original SWM list of services, updating the rate structure, and reducing complexity of fee assessment.

### MRC discussion and questions included:

- Regarding fee-supported services, which actions are mandatory? Which are discretionary? *Education and public contact are discretionary.*
- Why isn't the marine shoreline clearly included in the SWM service district, since runoff into the marine shoreline is an "other water body" largely impacted by surface water? *Members noted the importance of water connectivity messaging.*
- Incentives should be considered. *Examples of incentives included fee credits for softshore armoring, rain gardens, and pervious surfaces.*
- How does Planning and Development Services impact the function of SWM? *They are the regulators.*
- Climate change and hydrology were discussed in relation to surface water runoff.

## **Update on WRIA 8 Beach Nourishment Project**

Kathleen Herrmann briefed the committee on the meeting with King County and Herrera last month. The meeting was called in response to the draft report on the WRIA 8 Beach Nourishment project, which Snohomish County Staff and MRC Members felt needed another round of edits. Both parties agreed to amend the report to address several topics of concern to Snohomish County.

## **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Update**

Ginny Broadhurst reported that Christine Woodward, Natural Resources Director for the Samish Indian Nation, is the new chair of the NWSC. The annual NWSC conference will be held on November 22 and 23 in Bellingham. Also, a new board and a new president of the Northwest Straits Foundation will be selected and membership will be separate from the NWSC.

## **Announcements**

- June 27, 2013: Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee workshop. Location: Willis Tucker Port 9a-4p, the Gary Weikel Room. The purpose of the workshop is to make initial decisions on Near Term Actions (NTA) and criteria for choosing priorities for implementing the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.
- Tom Hoban suggested having a couple folks at each MRC meeting talk about their work projects.
- Keeley O'Connell reported that Earthcorps is currently soil sampling in the Snohomish Estuary for the Blue Carbon Sequestration project. Two sampling dates will occur in July. A regional workshop on Blue Carbon will be held in autumn, date to be determined.
- Simon Geerlofs briefed the MRC on the SnoCaps to White Caps modeling project Pacific Northwest National Lab is conducting with SWM.
- Brent Hackney reported that crabbing season is set to open July 1, and that he attended a Train the Trainer session for crabber education.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**July 17, 2013 6:40-7:41 p.m.  
120 W. Dayton Street, Cascade Room  
Edmonds, WA 98020**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Simon Geerlofs Thomas Hoban Keeley O’Connell Franchesca Perez Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley Susan Tarpley</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Brent Hackney, Excused Lincoln Loehr, Excused Bob Hillman, Excused</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Alyson Rae, Snohomish County MRC Program Assistant  Alan Mearns, NOAA Chelsea Cook, Snohomish County Surface Water Management Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Beach Watchers Victor, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The June 19, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li> <li>• Susan Tarpley will make final edits to the Rate Study Comment Letter.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 10-11, 2013: Stillaguamish Festival of the River</li> <li>• August 21, 2013: MRC Meeting and Picnic</li> <li>• November 29, 2013: Sound Living, Everett Community College</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

The MRC meeting was opened at 6:40 pm.

**Announcements**

- The MRC submitted 6 Near Term Action (NTA) Item Requests at June 27<sup>th</sup> Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee Workshop. Kathleen Herrmann and Tom Hoban attended the workshop.
- Keeley O’Connell announced that she will be presenting the Coastal Blue Carbon Project at the next NWSC Meeting on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. In addition, the carbon sequestration site sampling portion of the project is complete and will now move on to analysis.
- Chrys Bertolotto reported that Beach Watchers is continuing with recreational crabber education at boat launches in Snohomish County and will attend a Speed Crabbing Derby on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The most recent beach watcher training is almost complete and 18 new beach watchers will graduate from the program.
- Cathy Stanley reported it has been a “normal year” for crabbing meaning catches are down from last year but are more on average with previous year’s numbers.
- Franchesca Perez reported that the Marine Mammal Stranding Network sign at Kayak Point is still not in place. Chrys responded that the Snohomish County Parks Department is in the process of installing the sign.

- Alan Mearns announced that NOAA is completing a study of Penn Cove mussels after a recent diesel spill. Alan and his colleagues used NOAA Mussel Watch data as a comparison.
- Susan Tarpley reported that authorities receive frequent calls about large crab die-offs in Edmonds. What appears to be a die-off is just molting crabs. Susan suggested creating educational materials, perhaps a sign, to educate locals about molting to decrease public concern. Chrys mentioned that she is aware of additional materials on this topic.

**A quorum of MRC members was present at 7:05 pm.**

### **MRC Events**

- **Summer Picnic:** August 21, 2013- Members discussed the location for the picnic and agreed upon Howarth park but are flexible since it will be a high tide. Staff will take the lead in planning this event with support from MRC members.
- **Stilly Festival of the River 8/10 and 8/11:** MRC members were asked to volunteer and staff will follow up by email.

### **Rate Study Comment Letter**

Members reviewed the rate study comment letter drafted by Paul Schlenger and Franchesca Perez. After a discussion, all members agreed to change some wording and clarify the first sentence of the letter. Susan Tarpley, with the help of staff, will make final edits to this letter. Staff will submit letter to Debbie Terwilleger and also send a copy to Chrys Bertolotto to distribute to WSU Beach Watchers and ECO Net members who may be willing to send to the County.

### **NWSC Update**

Tom Hoban reported that the NWSC has a new chair, Christine Woodward of Samish Indian Nation. The NWSC conference dates are scheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The NWSC will receive \$200,000 from NOAA for administrative purposes, not for on the ground projects, and \$3.5 million from the EPA to work with WDFW on derelict gear removal. The next meeting is July 26<sup>th</sup> in Padilla Bay.

### **Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements**

Keeley O'Connell made a motion to approve the June 19, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Simon Geerlofs. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 for a tour of Edmonds Marsh.**

### **Edmonds Marsh Tour**

MRC members and staff, led by Keeley O'Connell, walked to the Edmonds Marsh boardwalk where Keeley gave a brief presentation and answered questions about the history of Edmonds Marsh, the current status of the project and the benefits of the restoration.

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Meeting Summary

August 21, 2013 6:50-7:15 p.m.

Kayak Point Park  
15610 Marine Drive  
Stanwood, WA 98292

<b>MRC Members Present</b> Simon Geerlofs Thomas Hoban Keeley O'Connell Paul Schlenger Cathy Stanley Susan Tarpley Bob Hillman  <b>Absent</b> Franchesca Perez, Excused Brent Hackney, Excused Lincoln Loehr, Excused	<b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Alyson Rae, Snohomish County MRC Program Assistant
<b>Summary of Decisions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The July 17, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li></ul>	
<b>Upcoming Events</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 9, 2013: Sound Living, Everett Community College</li><li>• November 22-23, 2013: MRC Conference, Bellingham, WA</li></ul>	

## Welcome and Introductions

Tom Hoban opened the MRC meeting with a quorum at 6:50 pm.

## Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements

Tom Hoban made a motion to approve the July 17, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Cathy Stanley. All were in favor and the motion passed.

## NWSC Grant Update

Kathleen Herrmann reported that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) grant deadline is usually June 30<sup>th</sup> but this year has been extended until August 31, 2013 and the new grant will begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Kathleen has been working with Sasha Horst (NWSC) to draft the grant contract. For the new grant, half of the grant award will be designated for program administration including MRC staff time while the other portion will fund the Port Susan Shoreline Protection Incentives Project.

## **Announcements**

- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has asked the MRC to participate in the statewide mussel watch studies. Several MRC members indicated interest and the MRC is awaiting response from WDFW for next steps.
- Keeley O'Connell announced a regional Coastal Blue Carbon workshop is being planned in the coming months. This will be an invitation only workshop for about 15 attendees. A larger conference will be held after a few of these smaller workshops are completed.
- Draft preliminary 30% designs for the Snohomish County Nearshore Restoration Project have been circulated for review.
- Kathleen Herrmann has organized a meeting with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) on August 23<sup>rd</sup> to update BNSF staff on the Nearshore Restoration Project. BNSF has been collaborating with the Nearshore project team for several years and has indicated support for the project.

## **NWSC Update**

Tom Hoban reported that the focus of the last NWSC meeting was funding for the NWSC and local MRCs. In addition, the Northwest Straits Foundation received \$3.5M to spend, in partnership with WDFW, on derelict gear removal. Tom recalled that with past funding, around 4,500 derelict nets along with 2,700 crab pots have been removed around the state. The next NWSC meeting will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at Padilla Bay.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 for the MRC Picnic.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting DRAFT Meeting Summary

September 18, 2013 6:30-8:30PM

3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Simon Geerlofs Thomas Hoban Keeley O’Connell Paul Schlenger Susan Tarpley Brent Hackney Lincoln Loehr Franchesca Perez, Phone</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Cathy Stanley, Excused Bob Hillman, Excused</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Alyson Rae, Snohomish County MRC Program Assistant</p> <p>Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The August 21, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 27, 2013: NWSC Meeting, Everett Community College</li> <li>• September 28, 2013: Stanwood Shellfish Fair</li> <li>• November 9, 2013: Sound Living, Everett Community College</li> <li>• November 22-23, 2013: MRC Conference, Bellingham, WA</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tom Hoban opened the MRC meeting with a quorum at 6:35 pm.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements**

Lincoln Loehr made a motion to approve the August 21, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Tom Hoban. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Recap of Tour for Rick Larsen**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Kathleen Herrmann, along with Snohomish Surface Water Management Director Debbie Terwilleger, led a tour for Congressman Rick Larsen. The tour was also attended by Marc Daily, Interim Director of Puget Sound Partnership, Jen Steger with NOAA's restoration program, Curtis Tanner with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ginny Broadhurst Executive Director of Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), and Snohomish County staff Brett Gaddis. The tour was focused on habitat restoration efforts in and near densely populated urban centers. The tour included a visit to Howarth Park, site of the Snohomish MRC's Nearshore Restoration Project, and a boat trip in the Snohomish Estuary to visit Smith Island and learn about other restoration projects in progress. The last stop of the day was to visit to the new

City of Everett rain gardens near 14th and Lombard that were developed in partnership with WSU Extension and Snohomish County Conservation District.

### **MRC Fall Activities**

- October MRC Meeting, October 23, 2013 – Snohomish County Campus, Admin East, 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room
- Sound Living, November 9, 2013: The MRC will sponsor Sound Living and host a display. Susan Tarpley and Alyson Rae volunteered to staff the MRC display. The MRC will pay the registration fees and lunch cost for any MRC members who want to attend.
- The November MRC Meeting will be rescheduled to a date after the MRC conference, likely the first week of December. Alyson will work to schedule a new date.
- Starlight Beach Walk, winter 2014: MRC members expressed interest in participating in this event. Chrys Bertolotto wants to hold a similar event in Mukilteo. Susan Tarpley will be the MRC lead for coordinating both the Edmonds and Mukilteo beach walk events. One of the Starlight Beach Walks has been subsequently scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 7 PM at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park.

**Forage Fish Spawning Survey Update-** Paul Schlenger, Franchesca Perez and Alyson Rae  
Forage fish spawning surveys will be conducted monthly from October – February. Training with WSU Beach Watchers will be held on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The first sampling days are scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. MRC members were encouraged to participate and sign up for sampling and winnowing shifts.

### **Nearshore Restoration Project Update-** Kathleen Herrmann

Kathleen will attend a Mudslide Working Group meeting on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Amtrak headquarters in Seattle to present the current status of the Snohomish County Nearshore Restoration Project and opportunities for future collaboration. Kathleen and Dave Lucas are working to develop a three way inter-local agreement between Snohomish County, the Port of Everett, and the City of Everett. Dave is working with real estate and property management to secure needed permissions for beach nourishment on non-county properties. On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, Kathleen, Dave Lucas, and Paul Schlenger attended a meeting with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) representatives to discuss the Nearshore Project and a new \$16 million grant that BNSF and Washington Department of Transportation have for slope stability work.

### **Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Update-** Kathleen Herrmann and Tom Hoban

A joint meeting was held in July 2013 with the Keep Port Susan Healthy Team and the MSA Advisory Team. After the meeting, Chrys Bertolotto and Kathleen Herrmann discussed the effectiveness of the joint meeting and agreed that it was a great experiment; however the topics vary enough that in the future the two groups will hold back to back meetings rather than a long joint meeting. The MSA Advisory Team is looking for a project representative from the Tulalip Tribes and is also discussing how to maintain and track progress on all organization's projects relating to the MSA. Debbie Terwilliger, SWM director, supports the official designation of the Marine Stewardship Area. She has directed Kathleen to brief the Public Works Subcommittee in January 2014. A coalition of Island County and Snohomish County groups are working on implementing a marine riparian vegetation planting program. Kathleen and Alyson developed a Coastal Landowners webpage and are putting the finishing touches on a mailer to Port Susan residents. MRC members suggested the following revisions to the mailer:

- Change soft shore armoring photo to a project that is a few years older. Perhaps Jim Johannessen would have a good Samish Island photo.
- Identify photo locations in label.

- Change line breaks on front panel.

**Puget Sound Partnership Local Integrating Organization (LIO) - Kathleen Herrmann and Tom Hoban**

Kathleen participated in the Habitat Near Term Action (NTA) subcommittee. The next LIO meeting is Tuesday, September 24, 2013 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The committee has narrowed the list of original NTSS to 29 for review.

**Mussel Watch- Lincoln Loehr**

Data from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) caged mussel study should be available soon. Data has been received for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) mussel watch study from the 2012-2013 season. Lincoln and Alyson will be working to analyze and incorporate this new data into the mussel watch report. The NOAA mussel watch program held a meeting in September 2013 in Washington DC to discuss changes to the program. Jennifer Lanksbury of WDFW attended in person with Alan Mearns and Lincoln joining by phone.

**Meadowdale Beach Project Update- Kathleen Herrmann**

Snohomish County Parks is revisiting improving public access and salmon habitat at Meadowdale Beach Park. Kathleen and Dave Lucas will attend a scoping meeting with Parks staff to discuss a feasibility study.

**NWSC Update**

MRC members and staff met with Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC director and SWM director, Debbie Terwilleger, for an annual meeting. Ginny discussed the Commission priorities for 2013-2014. Kathleen reviewed the draft grant contract and the MRC project overview for the coming year, including a shoreline protection incentives project. MRC reappointment requests were sent to council for Lincoln Loehr, Simon Geerlofs, Cathy Stanley, and Franchesca Perez. MRC staff also discussed removing the Marine Resources Committee sunset date in County code. Debbie updated meeting attendees on the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Services District Reassessment. The County is working on a comprehensive tax change but are confident they will be able to make the change. Tom Hoban and Alyson Rae attended the NWSC MRC chair/staff meeting. One of the topics of the meeting was the incorporation of MRC data into the Sound IQ database. MRC members expressed interest in exploring adding Snohomish MRC data. Paul Schlenger will be the MRC lead for this project.

**MRC Conference**

The MRC Conference will be held in Bellingham on November 22-23, 2013. Kathleen has been asked to give a plenary presentation on Collective Impact and a presentation on nearshore restoration. Other session topics include ocean acidification, sea level rise, metrics for restoration projects, and rockfish. Alyson will forward registration information to MRC Members. MRC members will collectively create a Snohomish County basket for an auction to be held at the same event. Paul Schlenger will be the lead for coordinating procurement of basket items.

**Announcements**

- Chrys Bertolotto reported that the schedule has been set for Sound Living and MRC members were encouraged to register. The keynote will be a Points of Hope panel featuring various speakers moderated by Betsey Peabody.

- Chrys announced that Norm Baker will give a talk in Mukilteo on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 focusing on rockfish.
- Brent Hackney attended a Shrimp Advisory Meeting. Meeting attendees discussed the potential buyback of commercial shellfish licenses. The State wants to buy back 5 of the 18 existing commercial licenses, valued at \$200,000 per license, by adding an endorsement fee and tax on recreational licenses.
- Keeley O'Connell announced that National Estuary Week is the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:31.**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**October 23, 2013 6:30-8:30PM**

**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b> Simon Geerlofs Thomas Hoban Keeley O’Connell Paul Schlenger Susan Tarpley Brent Hackney Lincoln Loehr Bob Hillmann Cathy Stanley Franchesca Perez</p> <p><b>Absent</b> Susan Tarpley, Excused</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b> Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff Alyson Rae, Snohomish County MRC Program Assistant</p> <p>Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Snohomish County Beach Watchers Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation Steven Liedlich, Citizen</p>
<p><b>Summary of Decisions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The September 18, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary was approved.</li> <li>• The MRC approved the crab pot removal project in the Port Gardner Study Area with a contingency for Hat Island.</li> <li>• The MRC approved conducting the Nearshore Cultural Resources Assessment before the end of 2013.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 26, 2013: Port Susan Open House, Tulalip</li> <li>• November 9, 2013: Sound Living, Everett Community College</li> <li>• November 22-23, 2013: MRC Conference, Bellingham</li> <li>• January 27, 2014 and February 26, 2014: Starlight Beach Walks, Edmonds and Mukilteo</li> </ul>	

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tom Hoban opened the MRC meeting with a quorum at 6:37 pm.

**Approval of MRC Meeting Summaries and Announcements**

Simon Geerlofs made a motion to approve the September 18, 2013 MRC Meeting Summary. The motion was seconded by Lincoln Loehr. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Crab Pot Removal in Port Gardner**

Brent Hackney presented a project proposal from Natural Resources Consultants (NRC) for a derelict crab pot survey and removal in Port Gardner. Based on previous surveys and removals, NRC estimates approximately 100 to 150 pot targets will be found in the Port Gardner study area. The side scan sonar and pot removal is estimated to take about one week of work from NRC. In addition to the standard data collected during derelict crab pot removals, NRC will also

collect data on each derelict pot and its components to determine the cause for pot loss. This will help focus future education efforts.

MRC members discussed the timing of the crab pot removal in order to avoid requiring a crab fishery closure. Cathy Stanley reported that there will be a softshell closure in mid-late December for commercial fishing during which the MRC could complete this project. If NRC is unable to utilize all of the funding allocated for this project in Port Gardner, MRC members agreed funds should be utilized to scan and/or remove derelict gear near Hat Island.

**Motion to approve moving forward with a derelict gear project in Port Gardner with contingency for Hat Island: Simon Geerlofs. The motion was seconded by Cathy Stanley. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### **Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) Crab Pot Escapement Study**

Joan Drinkwin reported that the NWSF submitted a proposal to study the effectiveness of crab pot designs. This study will help to prevent loss of crab pots and also minimize the impact of these pots on the marine environment if they are lost. When the NWSF receives notice about funding for this project, Joan will attend a future meeting to discuss the involvement of the MRC in this project.

### **Nearshore Cultural Resources Assessment**

Kathleen Herrmann reported that Snohomish County is required to perform a Cultural Resources Assessment before beginning construction on the Nearshore Restoration Project. A cost estimate of \$21,345 for the assessment was determined by Snohomish County Environmental Services. Kathleen proposed completing this assessment before the end of 2013 to utilize current funding.

**Motion to approve the Nearshore Cultural Resources Assessment: Franchesca Perez. The motion was seconded by Lincoln Loehr. All were in favor and the motion passed.**

### **Mussel Watch**

Lincoln Loehr gave an overview of the current status of the mussel watch project. TDI-Brooks International Inc., the lab that analyzes the mussels, might have some samples from the last season that have not yet been analyzed. Alyson or Kathleen will check in with TDI on the status of these samples and if they could be analyzed before the end of 2013.

MRC members discussed expanding the scope of the mussel watch project to provide more context and make the information more accessible and relevant to citizens. A Mussel Watch subcommittee meeting will be held to discuss education and outreach opportunities for the mussel watch project in addition to further studies to investigate the cause of project findings.

### **IGNITE Presentation for MRC Conference**

Each MRC is invited to give an IGNITE presentation at the MRC conference in November. Franchesca Perez volunteered to give the presentation. Kathleen and Alyson provided the MRC with a draft presentation focusing on urbanization in Snohomish County. MRC members and staff discussed additional ideas for presentation topics and photos. Franchesca will take the MRC comments and finish developing the draft presentation. The draft presentation will be emailed as a PDF to MRC members for input before finalizing the slides.

## **NWSC Update**

Tom Hoban reported on recent changes at the NWSF including the hiring two new staff. Joan Drinkwin reported that the Northwest Straits Initiative will be unveiling a new joint logo for the NWSF and NWSC. Tom encouraged MRC members to read the NWSC materials that are emailed following NWSC meetings to keep up to date on other MRC's projects and events.

## **Announcements**

- Kathleen Herrmann announced the Salish Sea Conference will be held in Seattle on April 30 - May 2, 2014. Abstracts will be accepted starting November 1, 2013.
- Chrys Bertolotto announced that the Beach Watcher Class of 2013 will have a graduation ceremony on Friday, October 25, 2013. Tom Hoban will attend the event.
- Cathy Stanley announced the Washington Department of Health recently concluded a survey of Possession Sound which resulted in the proposal for two new growing area classifications for commercial shellfish.
- Keeley O'Connell announced that NOAA released their Federal Funding Opportunities which includes funding for six Washington state projects, one of which is the Smith Island Project in Snohomish County.
- Keeley O'Connell announced that she will be presenting Coastal Blue Carbon at Sound Living. In addition, two small workshops will be held, one in Washington and the other in Oregon, in January 2014 to discuss the findings. A larger meeting will be held in March or April 2014.
- Susan Tarpley reported that there is evidence of a sea star wasting disease event which has been documented in Washington State. For more information or to report presence or absence of wasting disease at a specific location, visit <http://www.eeb.ucsc.edu/pacificrockyintertidal/data-products/sea-star-wasting/index.html> or contact [jack.ingle@lifesci.ucsb.edu](mailto:jack.ingle@lifesci.ucsb.edu).

## **8:34 Adjourn**

# Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

**December 5, 2013 6:30-8:30PM**

**3000 Rockefeller Ave, Snohomish County Campus, Everett WA 98201  
Admin East Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 6A02**

<p><b>MRC Members Present</b>                  Thomas Hoban                  Paul Schlenger                  Susan Tarpley                  Brent Hackney                  Cathy Stanley</p> <p><b>Absent</b>                  Bob Hillmann, Excused                  Simon Geerlofs, Excused                  Lincoln Loehr, Absent                  Keeley O’Connell, Excused                  Franchesca Perez, Excused</p>	<p><b>Staff, Presenters, and Others</b>                  Kathleen Herrmann, Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff                  Alyson Rae, Snohomish County MRC Program Assistant</p> <p>Chrys Bertolotto, WSU Snohomish County Extension                  Craig Wollam, WSU Snohomish County Beach Watcher                  Karen Stewart, Snohomish County SWM                  Whitney Neugebauer, Sound Action</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 16, 2013: Snohomish County Boards and Commission Volunteer Appreciation Open House, Snohomish County Campus, 5-6pm</li> <li>• December 18, 2013: MRC Holiday Party, 5-7pm, Anthony’s Woodfire Grill</li> <li>• January 27, 2014 and February 26, 2014: Starlight Beach Walks, Edmonds and Mukilteo</li> </ul>	

**LIO Near Term Action Presentation**

Karen Stewart, Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO (Local Integrating Organization) Coordinator, gave a presentation on the structure of LIOs throughout Washington State and the status in Snohomish County. As part of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Action Agenda, the goal of each LIO is to create a list, of new or existing projects called Near Term Actions (NTAs). If approved, the NTAs will be listed on the PSP website and the status of each NTA will be updated quarterly. The Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO combines WRIA 5 and WRIA 7. For the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO, 16 recommended NTAs have been submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership for review. Recommended NTAs will be a higher priority for upcoming funding opportunities.

**MRC Conference Debrief**

Susan Tarpley led a discussion on the MRC conference held on November 22-23, 2013 and attended by nine Snohomish County MRC members and two staff. MRC members commented on the wide range of attendees and presentations including Senator Kevin Ranker and the West Coast Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, Will Stelle. The Ignite presentations, given by representatives from each MRC, were also well received; providing insight into the people and projects of other MRCs. As a result of discussions held at the conference, MRC members expressed interest in exploring future educational programs focusing on recreational rockfishing and shrimping. The MRC will discuss these opportunities at a future meeting.

MRC members also discussed new target audiences for MRC projects. Suggestions included involving youth in MRC projects and supporting curriculum development for other organizations such as the Everett Community College ORCA Program. MRC members suggested looking at how we can build onto existing organizations or projects to expand our reach and increase our impact without starting at the beginning with each project.

### **Mukilteo Multimodal Project Comment Letter**

MRC members reviewed the draft comment letter for Mukilteo Multimodal Project. Susan Tarpley will write an introductory paragraph and make edits to the letter and Kathleen Herrmann will call Patricia Love to inform her of the letter. Kathleen will the letter via email after Susan has finished the editing. A majority of MRC members must approve the letter for it to be submitted on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Salish Sea Conference Abstracts**

Abstracts for the Salish Sea Conference are due on December 23, 2013. Kathleen Herrmann and Paul Schlenger are submitting an abstract titled “Large-Scale Shoreline Restoration along the Railroad Corridor of Puget Sound: An Example in Snohomish County Forged by Creating Partnerships”. Paul is also working on creating an abstract about how hard shoreline armoring can be utilized when soft shore armoring isn’t a realistic option. Robyn Du Pre, Executive Director of the Northwest Straits Foundation, and Kathleen Herrmann are submitting an abstract titled “Reducing Negative Impacts of Shore Armoring through Targeted Landowner Outreach, Incentives, and Planner Education”.

### **Announcements**

- Chrys Bertolotto awarded Tom Hoban and Susan Tarpley with 1,000 hour and 500 hour pins, respectively, for their service to Snohomish County and WSU Extension Beach Watchers.
- The MRC Holiday Party will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Brent Hackney will research and book a location.
- Kathleen Herrmann reported that Faith Haney is working on a Port Susan video for the MRC. Faith has visited Kayak Point and will shoot the remaining footage the third week of December.
- Kathleen reported that Coastal Geologic Services, Inc. (CGS) will conduct a LiDAR/GIS analysis of the marine shoreline located within the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) in Snohomish County. The position of the crest of all shoreline bluffs and the most waterward point of primary structure (residential house or other large building) located on waterfront parcels will be digitized to inform future restoration and shoreline management planning.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) staff contacted Kathleen regarding participation in a Leque Island Stakeholder Committee. The committee will provide input to WDFW regarding selection of a long-term preferred alternative design for Leque Island. More information on the project is available at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/skagit/leque\\_island\\_project.php](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php)
- Snohomish County Boards and Commission Volunteer Appreciation Open House is scheduled for Monday, December 16 from 5 to 6 pm in the public meeting room on the Snohomish County Campus.
- Kathleen was contacted by WSU Extension staff, Hallie Harness, regarding a Chasing Ice Film Screening. WSU Sustainable Community Stewards are hosting a screening of the film and are seeking advice, recommendations, and educational booths to be present

on this day as well. Alyson Rae and Susan Tarpley will attend a meeting with the planning group on December 10 to learn more about the opportunity.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.**