

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: January 2015 (covers November & December 2014 and January 2015)

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Elections were held at the January 21, 2015 Snohomish MRC Meeting. Paul Schlenger was re-elected as the MRC Chair. Simon Geerlofs and Franchesca Perez will continue as Co-Vice chairs. Lincoln Loehr will continue as the NWSC representative with Tom Hoban as the alternate. Tom Hoban will represent the MRC at the Snohomish LIO meetings. All elected positions were passed unanimously.

Snohomish MRC is recruiting for two-three new members for a three year term that runs 2015 – 2017. MRC members and staff interviewed candidates on January 23rd and will be making a decision shortly.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

MRC staff, Kathleen Herrmann and Alyson Rae, attended the Focus on Farming Conference on November 20th, 2014. Kathleen Herrmann presented the MRC's Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area video to over 500 attendees.

MRC members and staff attended NOAA Nite in Mukilteo on November 6th and displayed the MRC booth. The event gave local citizens the chance to learn about and talk with scientists working at the NOAA Mukilteo Research Station. The event was attended by approximately 100 people.

The MRC Co-hosted the Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk on January 17th, 2015 with WSU Beach Watchers and the City of Edmonds. The Event was attended by over 75 local residents despite the inclement weather. MRC Member Susan Tarpley gave a nice overview of the MRC program.

The Snohomish MRC participated in a half-day Strategic Planning Retreat on January 21st, 2015 to develop the MRC's workplan for 2015-2016.

Several MRC members and staff will attend Sound Waters in Langley on February 7th, 2015 and display the MRC booth.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The MRC was awarded a Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore grant for \$15,000 for education and outreach for the Nearshore Beach Restoration Project. The MRC is planning to use this funding for interpretive signage and a ribbon cutting event once the restoration is complete. Signs will be placed at Howarth Park and at the nearby Edgewater Beach Park.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project –Construction is targeted for late summer/early fall 2015. Interpretive signage design and development will be contracted through a competitive RFP process.

Crabber Education – The subcommittee held a focus group with members of the Washington State Recreational Crabber Advisory Committee in December 2014. Information gathered from this focus group is helping to inform the development of a social marketing plan to reduce pot loss in Snohomish County. A second follow up focus group will be held in the coming months with the project’s target audience.

Oil Spill Subcommittee – Subcommittee members have met with Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and Department of Ecology staff over the last few months. The subcommittee has created a list of potential projects and needs to decide which to move forward. A draft letter was developed for MRC consideration to review and then send to DEM.

Port Susan Bulkhead Removal – The MRC is in the process of contracting with Anchor QEA/CGS to complete the initial tasks for the Port Susan Bulkhead Removal which includes an erosion risk assessment and identifying viable sites for bulkhead removal or soft shore restoration. A subcommittee is being formed to support this project in conjunction with the Foundation’s Shoreline Armoring Reduction Project (SHARP).

Port Susan CAP Review – The MRC hired Abby Hook of Hook Knauer LLC to complete a report card update of the strategies identified in the Port Susan CAP to document progress made in the past few years. The report card is being finalized by the Snohomish County graphics department and will be distributed to project partners and the Everett Herald.

Derelict Gear Removal – The NWSF contracted with Washington DNR to complete derelict crab pot removal in Port Gardner in January 2015. The MRC is pursuing crab pot removal around Hat Island which was surveyed in 2013.

Meadowdale Feasibility Study – MRC staff is working with Snohomish County Parks to select a design to improve Meadowdale Park beach access and salmon habitat. A recent project team meeting has determined three project alternatives to be developed for the feasibility study.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

The MRC submitted a letter of support to the City of Mukilteo to support a parcel acquisition. Acquisition of this parcel would allow for daylighting of Japanese Gulch Creek. Mukilteo City Council voted to approve the acquisition.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: February 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Snohomish MRC staff and members conducted interviews to fill up to three MRC positions. Three candidates were selected and appointment requests have been submitted to County Council for consideration.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

MRC staff, Alyson Rae, and members, Lincoln Loehr and Bob Hillmann, attended Sound Waters in Langley, WA on February 7. The one day university was attended by over 600 guests. The MRC booth was displayed at the event.

The MRC is working with the Northwest Straits Foundation to host a workshop for Port Susan shoreline landowners on March 28th.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None to report at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Oil Spill – MRC members approved a letter addressed to the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management. The letter includes information on potential projects and goals for the subcommittee. A meeting will be organized with DEM to present the letter. In addition, Rachel Pryor, a new Scientific Support Coordinator with NOAA, attended the February MRC meeting and will provide coordination among various levels of government concerning oil spills.

Port Susan Bulkhead Removal – The MRC is in the process of contracting with Anchor QEA/CGS to complete the initial tasks for the Port Susan Bulkhead Removal which includes an erosion risk assessment and identifying viable sites for bulkhead removal or soft shore restoration. A subcommittee is being formed to support this project in conjunction with the Foundation's Shoreline Armoring Reduction Project (SHARP). The MRC is working with the NWSF to coordinate a workshop for Port Susan shoreline landowners on March 28th.

Port Susan CAP Review – The MRC finalized a report card of the Port Susan CAP strategies. The report card will be distributed to project partners, the Everett Herald, and other interested parties.

Port Susan Article in the Everett Herald:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20150219/NEWS01/150219080>

Derelict Gear Removal – The MRC is pursuing crab pot removal around Hat Island which was surveyed in 2013.

Meadowdale Feasibility Study – MRC staff is working with Snohomish County Parks to select several alternatives in a feasibility study to move forward to develop conceptual design. The goal of the project is to improve Meadowdale Park beach access and salmon habitat and address an undersized culvert through the railroad. Meadowdale Park is in Lund’s Gulch Watershed and this watershed has been selected to be the focus of a Surface Water Management Study to address water quality and quantity issues affecting the area.

Sound IQ – The Sound IQ subcommittee is reviewing a draft page and will provide feedback before the page becomes public.

Forage Fish Spawning Surveys – Surveys for the 2014-2015 season were completed in February 2015. The MRC’s forage fish spawning report will be updated with current data and sediment analysis.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

The MRC provided feedback to WDFW on the Leque Island Restoration project. MRC members and staff drafted a letter and ranked the design alternatives.

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: March 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Appointment requests for three new Snohomish MRC positions were approved by County Council. Paul Clampitt, Sarah Brown, and Traci Sanderson were selected as the new MRC members.

Alyson Rae, MRC Program Assistant, completed her term with the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC). Alyson had spent one year and nine months as a WCC Individual Placement working for the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee. Snohomish County is processing the paperwork to create a temporary position for Alyson as a Communication Specialist.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

The MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation hosted a workshop for Port Susan shoreline landowners on March 28th in Stanwood. Approximately 65 people attended the workshop which included a site visit to Warm Beach led by Jim Johannessen.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None to report at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Oil Spill – On March 3rd, 2015, MRC members sent a letter to Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management (DEM) with information on potential projects and goals for the subcommittee. Subcommittee members attended a follow up meeting with DEM on March 31st and work began to plan the next steps including opening the meetings up to Washington Sea Grant and the Coast Guard.

Port Susan Bulkhead Removal –Staff are working with Anchor QEA and Coastal Geologic Services to map candidate sites in Port Susan. Staff and MRC members are developing an outreach plan. The methods that will be used in this assessment will deviate slightly from the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) project from which this project was originally modeled (NWSF Feeder bluff Restoration Assessment of Island and east Jefferson Counties). That project focused exclusively on bluff shores, while this assessment will be applied along all shoretypes found within the study area. Therefore the feasibility and benefits assessment metrics will be adjusted and refined to reflect the processes and habitats that occur within other shoretypes. A preliminary draft of these methods will be delivered to Kathleen Herrmann and project co-leads Paul Schlenger and Francesca Perez. Early review of the conceptual framework and assessment methods by technical experts and the Snohomish MRC will assure that major re-runs are not required.

The timeline of this project is well-aligned with a project with complimentary objectives led by the Northwest Straits Foundation. Certain elements of the NWSF project, such as the workshop and site visits, synergize with the goals and objectives of this project. Additional outreach to private landowners

will further compliment these efforts to obtain landowner willingness for armor removal. The draft maps and geodatabase will be used to guide targeted outreach to high ranking parcels for armor removal.

Recreational Crabber Education/Derelict Gear Removal – The MRC recreational crabber subcommittee met on March 24th to discuss several new project ideas. The committee agreed to move forward on the Instagram Photo Contest. Additionally, the MRC sent a letter to WDFW urging that state to move forward on several other ideas including an online survey/test for new crabbing licenses and adding information to Danielson crab pots. Kathleen Herrmann (staff lead) is working with Snohomish County Purchasing Department on an agreement to conduct derelict gear removal around Hat Island.

Meadowdale Feasibility Study – MRC staff is working with Snohomish County Parks to select several alternatives in a feasibility study to develop conceptual designs. The goal of the project is to improve Meadowdale Park beach access and salmon habitat and address an undersized culvert through the railroad. Meadowdale Park is in Lund’s Gulch Watershed and this watershed has been selected to be the focus of a Surface Water Management Study to address water quality and quantity issues affecting the area.

A second community meeting is scheduled for April 20th, 2015 at the Meadowdale High School. MRC member Mike Ehlebracht is the project representative, and will attend the meeting. A preferred alternative to the culvert at Meadowdale Park will be selected in early May, and then be vetted with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad and partner agencies to discuss specifics and obtain grant funding for design and construction.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: April 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

MRC staff assisted Snohomish County Parks and Recreation staff in hosting the 2nd Meadowdale Beach Park Feasibility Study Community Stakeholder meeting on April 20th, 2015. Approximately 50 people attended to hear about the three design alternatives, which aim to replace the existing box culvert under the BNSF railroad. Stakeholders then broke apart into small groups to generate feedback about the alternatives. There was a high degree of participation and enthusiasm amongst the attendees.

MRC staff and members convened for the monthly MRC meeting at Everett Community College on April 15th, 2015. Following the meeting, the members and staff attended the *Dive into the Salish Sea* event on campus. Joe Gaydos and Audrey DeLella Benedict presented their new book entitled "The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest." Attendees also watched the premier of the film "The Unknown Sea—A Voyage on the Salish." Over 200 people attended the event.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None to report at this time.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Long Term Nearshore Beach Restoration Maintenance and Management Study—Staff and MRC members are developing a project for the 2015/2016 NWSC grant. The project is titled "Long Term Nearshore Beach Restoration Maintenance and Management Study," and MRC members will present the project proposal at the NWSC Meeting on May 29th. This project aims to evaluate ways to fund and manage future nearshore restoration and maintenance efforts between Everett and Mukilteo. The Snohomish MRC will be developing and implementing a communications plan to support this project and ensure that community education and outreach provides a venue for significant citizen input.

Meadowdale Feasibility Study – MRC Staff are working with Snohomish County Parks and Project Team to select a preferred alternative for the feasibility study to move forward in the design process. The goal of the project is to improve Meadowdale Park beach access and salmon habitat and address an undersized culvert that carries Lund's Gulch stream under the railroad prism. Meadowdale Park is in Lund's Gulch Watershed and this watershed has been selected to be the focus of a Surface Water Management Study to address water quality and quantity issues affecting the area. Snohomish County Parks along with the MRC, hosted a community stakeholders meeting on April 20th to report on the study's initial findings, and to describe the three proposed alternative designs. MRC staff assisted with a stakeholder's workshop during the meeting. Many of the community members were supportive and enthusiastic about the alternative described. The project team, with input from the community meeting

and the stakeholder group, have selected Alternative 3. Snohomish County Parks Director, Tom Teigen will further vet this through Council with final determination made following BNSF meeting.

Kelp Monitoring—Snohomish County MRC staff and members will be conducting kelp surveys this summer, as a part of the NWSC inaugural kelp monitoring project. Staff are in the process of coordinating with interested MRC members, choosing sites to survey, and acquiring the necessary materials. Surveys will begin in July, and will continue into September. Kelp distribution and abundance is not well documented in Snohomish County, so MRC staff and members are looking forward to this monitoring season.

Recreational Crabber Social Marketing Project – MRC staff are developing an Instagram photo contest for the 2015 summer crabbing season to encourage crabbing BMPs to reduce crab pot loss in Snohomish County waters. Recreational crabbers can take photos while using one of the “best crabbing strategies” and post to Instagram using #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo to enter the contest. Winners will be selected every two weeks throughout the season. MRC staff are working with Snohomish County Communications staff to create outreach materials including stickers, posters, and a webpage. MRC staff and members will be present at popular Snohomish County boat launches on opening day (July 2) to get the word out.

Oil Spill Preparedness Project – MRC staff are coordinating a Regional Strategy Group meeting for late June with representatives from the MRC, Snohomish County DEM, NOAA, Washington Sea Grant, and Department of Ecology. MRC staff are developing a mailing to Snohomish County boat owners to recruit volunteers for the DOE Vessel of Opportunity program to volunteer their vessels in case of an oil spill. MRC members and staff are coordinating with DEM to hold a tabletop exercise in Snohomish County.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I– CGS has developed the criteria for assessing the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area shoreline parcels for restoration and protection. The criteria was reviewed by the MRC Port Susan Subcommittee and a conference call was held on May 4th. Revisions were provided to CGS and a revised memo including the criteria and additional definitions will be provided to the MRC next week. MRC Staff have provided a new set of high resolution aerial images to assist CGS with their analysis.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: May 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Three MRC members attended the NWSC meeting on May 29th. Sarah Brown presented Snohomish MRC's 2015/2016 NWSC grant proposal, "Long Term Nearshore Beach Maintenance and Management Study." The MRC's goal for this project is to develop long term funding and management strategies for the Nearshore Beach Restoration Project between Everett and Mukilteo.

An Oil Spill Preparedness Quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 24th. MRC members and staff will be meeting with Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management staff to discuss tabletop exercises for oil spill scenarios.

Recreational Crabbing opening day is on Thursday July 2nd. The Snohomish MRC is engaging recreational crabbers on smart tips to avoid losing crab pots. Members will pass out informational materials to crabbers on opening day. The MRC will also be promoting the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo photo contest. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of lost crab pots in Puget Sound.

The Snohomish and Island County MRCs are co-hosting a picnic, followed by a MRC meeting on September 16th. The event will take place at Clinton Beach Park on Whidbey Island.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Long Term Nearshore Beach Restoration Maintenance and Management Study—Staff and MRC members are developing a project for the 2015/2016 NWSC grant. The project is titled "Long Term Nearshore Beach Restoration Maintenance and Management Study." MRC members presented the project proposal at the NWSC Meeting on May 29th. The goal of this project is to evaluate ways to fund and manage future nearshore restoration and maintenance efforts between Everett and Mukilteo. The Snohomish MRC develop and implement a communications plan to support this project and ensure that community education and outreach provides a venue for significant citizen input.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I— CGS developed the criteria for assessing the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area shoreline parcels for restoration and protection. MRC members in the Port Susan Subcommittee reviewed the criteria and provided feedback to CGS after a meeting with CGS staff on

May 4th. CGS will send draft maps and a geodatabase to the MRC on June 19th, and a draft report on July 10th. The MRC will discuss how to use this information to select parcels and reach out to landowners for site visits.

Recreational Crabber Social Marketing Project – MRC staff are developing an Instagram photo contest for the 2015 summer crabbing season to encourage crabbing BMPs to reduce crab pot loss in Snohomish County waters. Recreational crabbers can take photos while using one of the “best crabbing tips” and post to Instagram using #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo to enter the contest. Winners will be selected every two weeks throughout the season. MRC staff is working with Snohomish County Communications staff to create outreach materials including stickers, posters, and a webpage. Local students contributed original artwork depicting best crabbing tips, which the MRC will use to promote the photo contest. MRC staff are working on a #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo webpage on the MRC website.

Hat Island Derelict Crab Pot Removal—MRC staff have working with Natural Resources Consultants to remove derelict crab pots and fishing gear around Hat Island in Port Gardner. Gear removal operations have been postponed to September 2015, at the conclusion of recreational crabbing season.

Meadowdale Feasibility Study— The project team, with input from the community stakeholder meetings, has selected Alternative 3 as the preferred design. Alternative 3 consists of the longest bridge spanning Lund’s Gulch Creek, and restores the greatest area of native habitat. The project team will meet with BNSF staff on June 18th to discuss the preferred alternative.

Snohomish County Parks submitted a proposal for a Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant, requesting \$250,000 to help fund the Meadowdale project. The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee is recommending that the Meadowdale project team be funded for the full amount requested. The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee presented this recommendation to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council on May 28th.

Kelp Monitoring—The MRC will conduct kelp surveys in partnership with the NWSC citizen science kelp monitoring project. MRC members and staff have selected three sites to survey in Snohomish County; Edmonds Ferry, Meadowdale Beach Park, and south of the Mukilteo Lighthouse. MRC members and staff have selected survey dates in July, and are gathering equipment for the surveys.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: June 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Herrmann and Traci Sanderson attended Green Shores for Homes (GSH) meetings at Padilla Bay and Edmonds on July 11th and 12th, respectively. The goal of GSH is to test technical guidelines and incentives to help landowners restore their shoreline.

Susan Tarpley, Mike Ehlebracht and Lincoln Loehr attended a Mukilteo Town Hall meeting on May 25th to hear Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson and State Representative Strom Peterson speak on the issue of coal and oil trains. Over 40 people attended the meeting to learn about the threats posed by coal and oil transport, and how legislators are working to increase oil train safety. Susan Tarpley, MRC member, commented at the meeting to inform the attendees of the MRC's work to promote and oil spill tabletop exercise. The Oil Spill Subcommittee has decided to reach out to Scott McCleary of BP to discuss ideas for the subcommittee working with industry.

Recreational Crabbing opening day is on Thursday July 2nd. The Snohomish MRC is engaging recreational crabbers on smart tips to avoid losing crab pots. MRC Members and Staff will pass out informational materials to crabbers on opening day. The MRC and Snohomish County will also be promoting the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo photo contest. MRC staff displayed photo contest information on the first floor of the Admin West building, Snohomish County campus. The goal of this project is to reduce the number of lost crab pots in Puget Sound by promoting best management practices. The MRC identified eight tips to help avoid losing crab pots:

1. Add weight to your pot
2. Check the tides
3. Check the currents
4. Use longer line
5. Use weighted line
6. Use a high visibility buoy
7. Watch your pots
8. Avoid high traffic areas

The Snohomish and Island County MRCs will co-host a picnic and MRC meeting on September 16th. The event will take place at Clinton Beach Park on Whidbey Island.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project— The Nearshore Beach Restoration Project requires additional funding to begin the construction. The project team received three bids for construction, the lowest of which exceeded the initial estimated cost by \$415,000. Snohomish County rejected the bids, and plans to rebid to determine ways to save money on the construction. The project team will conduct a value engineering session on July 8th, 2015 to discuss ways to lower the project costs and rebid the project. Janice Fahning, Interim Engineering Services Co-Manager, will attend to help assess ways to lower costs. The City of Everett has offered to provide construction management as an in-kind donation to lower costs as well.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I— CGS delivered Port Susan Armor Removal Assessment maps and a geodatabase of the MRC on June 19th. CGS applied criteria to identify shoreline parcels within the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area that would be candidates for armor removal or protection. The maps depict these candidate parcels that scored the highest in their assessment. CGS will submit a draft report to the MRC on July 10th. The MRC Port Susan Subcommittee will meet on July 13th to review the draft report, and to strategize how to arrange site visits to parcels with armor removal priority.

Recreational Crabber Social Marketing Project – MRC staff developed an Instagram photo contest for the 2015 summer crabbing season to encourage crabbing BMPs to reduce crab pot loss in Snohomish County waters. Recreational crabbers can take photos while using one of the “best crabbing tips” and post to Instagram using #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo to enter the contest. MRC staff worked with Snohomish County Surface Water Management staff to develop posters and handouts, as well as a webpage on the [MRC’s website](#). MRC staff and members will pass out informational materials to crabbers on opening day of the recreational crabbing season (July 2nd).

Meadowdale Feasibility Study— The Meadowdale project team met with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) staff on June 18th to propose the preferred alternative to the culvert at Lund’s Creek Gulch. The preferred alternative involves replacing the culvert under the railway with a bridge. The project team and BNSF staff discussed construction options, such as working in intervals when there is no train traffic or building a shoo-fly track to reroute traffic. The project team will develop a submittal for review by BNSF, including construction details and bridge design.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: July 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

None.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Herrmann, Alyson Rae and Mike Ehlebracht attended the 3rd Annual Speed Crabbing Derby on July 11th in Everett. The MRC promoted the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo photo contest to the event participants. Twenty-eight teams participated in the derby and raised \$1,400 for Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

Kathleen Herrmann, Franchesca Perez, Tom Hoban, Lincoln Loehr and Taylor McDowell attended the Northwest Straits Commission meeting on July 31st in Everett. Lincoln gave a presentation to the Commission highlighting the Snohomish MRC's kelp monitoring efforts. Lincoln described the surveys, preliminary results, and discussed suggested changes to the sampling protocol.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

The Snohomish Watershed Forum approved a \$200,000 increase in funds for the Nearshore Project from PSAR return funds. This was then submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership for formal approval.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project— The Nearshore Beach Restoration Project team held a mini-Value Engineering Session on July 7th to look for ways to reduce project costs. The project team reduced the project's scope by removing Site 2 (A Beach Nourishment Site) from the construction plans. Additionally, they further divided the remainder of the project into two portions: a base bid (Howarth Park, Site 6 and Site 9), and an alternative bid (Site 5). The City of Everett will provide staff to conduct construction management services as an in-kind donation to save money on the project. Snohomish County Staff will rebid the project on August 5th.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I—Coastal Geological Services (CGS) submitted a draft Port Susan Armor Removal Assessment report to the MRC on July 10th. The MRC met on July 21st to review the draft report, and later compiled comments to deliver to CGS. CGS delivered a revised report to the MRC on July 30th, applying the MRC's comments. MRC members and staff reviewed the results of the Armor Removal Assessment to locate candidate parcels for site visits. Alyson Rae drafted an internal Communications Plan to direct the MRC's outreach efforts towards landowners. The MRC will find three willing landowners for site visits and coordinate with CGS to complete the visits in September.

Bull Kelp Monitoring—MRC staff and members conducted Bull kelp surveys on July 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th. Kathleen Herrmann, Traci Sanderson, Lincoln Loehr, Alyson Rae and Taylor McDowell kayaked to floating kelp near Mukilteo, Edmonds and Meadowdale Beach Park. The MRC documented 14 kelp beds in total, the largest of which exceeded 15 acres in size. MRC staff are analyzing data from the surveys that will serve as baseline data to compare to data in future years. The Snohomish County MRC's kelp monitoring efforts were featured in an [article](#) in the Everett Herald on July 30th.

Oil Spill Preparedness—The MRC's Oil Spill Subcommittee met with Scott McCreery of BP Oil on July 22nd. Kathleen Herrmann, Alyson Rae, Susan Tarpley and Scott McCreery discussed oil spill preparedness in Snohomish County and where the MRC can be most effective with their efforts. The Oil Spill Subcommittee decided that it would be feasible for the MRC to coordinate an exercise where stakeholders met and discussed roles and actions in different oil spill scenarios. The MRC is also looking for ways to reach out to potential volunteers for the Washington State Department of Ecology Vessel of Opportunity program.

Recreational Crabber Education—The MRC opened the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo photo contest for submissions on July 2nd. Kathleen Herrmann, Alyson Rae, Taylor McDowell, Sarah Brown, Suzi Wong-Swint and Traci Sanderson passed out promotional materials and spoke to crabbers at the 10th Street boat launch in Everett on opening day of recreational crabbing season. The spoke with crabbers and educated them about the eight tips to avoid losing crab pots:

1. Add weight to your pot
2. Check the tides
3. Check the currents
4. Use longer line
5. Use weighted line
6. Use a high visibility buoy
7. Watch your pots
8. Avoid high traffic areas

Many crabbers have submitted photos to the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo contest. MRC staff selected the first contest winner in mid-July; the winner received a new high visibility buoy for their crab pot.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: August 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

The Snohomish MRC hired Autumn Moore-Barkus as the new Washington Conservation Corps Individual Placement. Autumn will replace Taylor McDowell as the Marine Resources Program Assistant in October.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Herrmann attended Port Susan Bay day on August 1st at The Nature Conservancy Port Susan Reserve. The event included interactive stations on climate change, birding, restoration and estuaries. Nature Conservancy scientists were on site to answer questions about the preserve.

Kathleen Herrmann attended a MRC staff meeting on August 11th at Padilla Bay. Staff from the seven MRCs and the NWSC discussed the upcoming MRC Conference and MRC involvement in the new LIO process.

Kathleen Herrmann, Lincoln Loehr, Traci Sanderson, Sarah Brown, Alyson Rae, Tom Hoban, Paul Clampitt and Taylor McDowell attended the NWSF Derelict Gear Removal Celebration on August 13th at Boxcar Park in Everett. United States Senator Patty Murray and Washington State Representative Norma Smith spoke at the event. The Celebration later moved to the Everett Yacht Club to enjoy lunch. The Snohomish MRC set up a booth with informational materials at the event.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Beach Restoration Project— Snohomish County staff rebid the project after revising the scope on August 5th. County staff opened the bids on August 25th, but received no bids. The project team will regroup and strategize for the next round of bidding, which has yet to be set.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I—Coastal Geological Services (CGS) submitted a revised Port Susan Armor Removal Assessment report to the MRC on July 30th. The MRC compiled a final round of revisions and sent them to CGS on August 17th. The MRC Port Susan Subcommittee convened on August 4th to identify which parcels to target for outreach. Kathleen Herrmann and Tom Hoban performed field reconnaissance to priority sites on August 7th. Kathleen Herrmann, Franchesca Perez, Alyson Rae and Taylor McDowell performed additional reconnaissance by boat on August 18th. Alyson Rae drafted and mailed a letter to landowners with high-ranking parcels for armor removal offering free site visits. The MRC will schedule three site visits by Jim Johannessen of CGS in September.

Oil Spill Preparedness—The MRC’s Oil Spill Subcommittee convened on August 10th in follow up of their July 22nd meeting with Scott McCreery of BP Oil. The MRC will dedicate an upcoming MRC meeting to Oil Spill Response and Preparedness. Alyson Rae contacted Andy Carlson of Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Justin Piper of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and both are interested in speaking at a MRC meeting. The MRC is also considering ways to perform outreach to vessel owners on behalf of the Vessel of Opportunity program.

Caged Mussel Study—The MRC will participate in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife’s (WDFW) caged mussel study in the fall of 2015. The MRC will fund/sponsor one site at Brackett’s Landing in Edmonds, and adopt two WDFW sites at Meadowdale Beach and Naketa Beach. The MRC is in the process of acquiring landowner permission to access the tidelands and deploy a mussel cage.

Recreational Crabber Education—The MRC continues to host the #CatchMoreCrabSnoCo photo contest to encourage recreational crabbers to use the eight tips to avoid losing their crab pots. Winners are selected biweekly. The MRC received well over 100 submissions in the past two months. The eight tips to avoid losing crab pots are:

1. Add weight to your pot
2. Check the tides
3. Check the currents
4. Use longer line
5. Use weighted line
6. Use a high visibility buoy
7. Watch your pots
8. Avoid high traffic areas

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: September 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Taylor McDowell, the Marine Resources Program Assistant, finished his Washington Conservation Corps term on September 25th. Autumn Moore-Barkus will begin on October 5th.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

Kathleen Herrmann presented at a Seascape Ecology conference at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland on September 8th. Kathleen's presentation was titled, "A Collaborative Approach to Marine Conservation Planning in Puget Sound Washington: Examples from the Snohomish County Marine Resources Program."

The Snohomish County and Island County MRCs cohosted a meeting and picnic on September 16th. Both MRCs met at Clinton Beach Park to discuss projects in the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area, forage fish and kelp monitoring, and opportunity for collaboration between the two MRCs. Twenty people from both MRCs attended the event.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Restoration Project— No update at this time.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I—MRC staff mailed a letters and informational brochures to 57 landowners in Port Susan offering free site visits by a geomorphologist. Alyson Rae received responses from five interested landowners, all of whom owned armored shoreline property in McKees Beach. Alyson Rae coordinated with Jim Johannessen of Coastal Geological Services (CGS) to schedule site visits to three of those properties. Jim met with landowners and performed the site assessments on September 15th. CGS will submit reports of the site visits to the MRC with recommendations for armor removal.

Port Gardner Derelict Crab Pot Removal—the MRC partnered with Natural Resources Consultants, Inc. to remove derelict crab pots in Port Gardner. A dive crew located lost crab pots near Gedney Island using side-scan sonar, and divers retrieved the pots. The crew removed the pots during the third week of September. Susan Tarpley and Taylor McDowell joined the crew on September 17th to observe the crab pot removal. The divers recovered 30 lost pots that day.

Caged Mussel Study—the MRC will participate in the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife’s (WDFW) caged mussel study in the fall of 2015. The MRC will sponsor one site at Brackett’s Landing in Edmonds, and adopt WDFW sites at Meadowdale Beach and Naketa Beach. The MRC is in the process of acquiring landowner permission to access the tidelands and deploy mussel cages.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: October and November 2015

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Autumn Moore began her Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) term as the Marine Resources Program Assistant on October 5th. Autumn is a graduate of Arizona State University, where she received a degree in Animal Behavior and Physiology, and is currently completing a Master's in Zoology through Miami University. Autumn spent the last two years working offshore as a protected species observer in the Gulf of Mexico. She currently volunteers with the Camano Island Beach Watchers program.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

The MRC and Northwest Straits Foundation hosted a workshop for Port Susan shoreline landowners on October 17th at the Lake Goodwin Community Club. Kathleen Herrmann and Autumn Moore attended to represent the MRC. The goal of the workshop was to educate marine shoreline landowners about the environmental benefits of bulkhead removal and soft armoring. Approximately 8 people attended the workshop.

Kathleen Herrmann, Alyson Rae, Autumn Moore and Traci Sanderson attended the Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel Presentations on October 28th at the Port of Everett. The topics of the PSP presentations were *Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)* and *the Blob* by Jan Newton and *The International Stormwater BMP Database* by Eric Strecker.

Kathleen Herrmann and Autumn Moore attended Sound Living on October 31st in Mukilteo. Sound Living presenters provided current information on various conservation projects within the Puget Sound.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

None

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Nearshore Restoration Project— No update at this time.

Port Susan Armor Removal Phase I— The Northwest Straits Foundation funded multiple site visits resulting from the MRC mailing to Port Susan landowners in August 2015. MRC staff members are working with Jim Johannessen to determine if any of the sites are feasible for armor removal or restoration.

Oil Spill Preparedness—The Oil Spill Subcommittee met prior to the November 18th MRC meeting to discuss a draft agenda and prepare discussion questions. The November 18th MRC Meeting was focused on oil spill preparedness and response. Presenters shared information on their organization's oil spill

preparedness and response efforts and included Justin Piper (Burlington Northern Santa Fe), Don Noviello (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Oil Spill group), and John Pennington (Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management).

Caged Mussel Study—The MRC is participating in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW) mussel monitoring project for 2015-2016. On October 19th and 20th, MRC members and staff assisted with the deployment of mussel cages for the sponsored Brackett’s Landing site in Edmonds, and adopted sites at Meadowdale and Naketa Beach. The goal of this project is to study water quality and pollution accumulation in mussels at various locations along Puget Sound. Mussels will be deployed until the spring, when MRC members and staff will return to retrieve the mussel cages.

Forage Fish Monitoring – The MRC is working with Dan Penttila to conduct forage fish spawning surveys at Meadowdale Beach Park from November 2015 – February 2016. MRC members and staff joined Dan Penttila for the first survey on November 19th. The samples were processed, preserved, and lab-inspected by Dan Penttila the next day. No signs of forage fish eggs were found.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc.):

MRC Monthly Report

County: Snohomish

Month/Year: January 2016 (covers November 2015, December 2015 and January 2016)

Submitted by: Kathleen Herrmann

Membership/Leadership changes (including new members, departing members, changes to chair/vice-chair, NWSC representative/alternate, staff):

Elections were held at the January 20th, 2016 Snohomish County MRC Meeting. Franchesca Perez was elected as the MRC Chair. Traci Sanderson was elected as Vice-Chair. Paul Clampitt was elected as the Northwest Straits Representative for Snohomish County, and Mike Ehlebracht was elected as an alternate representative. Paul Schlenger will serve on the executive committee as past chair. All elected positions were passed unanimously.

Keeley O'Connell resigned in December 2015, ending her 3rd term on the Snohomish MRC.

Alyson Rae's 6 month term as the Communications Specialist ended in December 2nd, 2015.

Events/Meetings (including upcoming events/meetings and/or information on meetings/events from past month such as number of participants or highlights):

MRC Staff Kathleen Herrmann and Alyson Rae, and Snohomish MRC Members Tom Hoban, Mike Ehlebracht, and Paul Clampitt attended the NWSF's Crab Pot Escapement Study Data Release on November 2nd, 2015. The presentation provided results on the effectiveness of common recreational crab pot escape mechanism success rates as well as next steps and recommendations.

Snohomish MRC Members Lincoln Loehr and Traci Sanderson, and MRC Staff Autumn Moore attended the NWSC Kelp Monitoring Workshop on December 5th, 2015. The workshop brought together various state MRCs and other experts to discuss and prepare for 2016 kelp monitoring surveys.

The Snohomish MRC hosted a day long strategy meeting to address the issue of derelict vessels and unpermitted marines with the Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services- Code Enforcement. MRC Staff Kathleen Herrmann and Autumn Moore, and Snohomish MRC Member Paul Clampitt attended the meeting. The meeting aimed to identify current efforts and next steps to removal derelict vessels and prevent future vessels from sinking.

The MRC co-hosted the Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk on January 19th, 2016 with WSU Beach Watchers and the City of Edmonds. The event was attended by approximately 40 local residents. MRC Member Susan Tarpley provided an overview of the MRC program to attendees.

The Snohomish MRC participated in a half-day Strategic Planning Retreat on January 20th, 2016 to develop the MRC's workplan for 2016-2017.

MRC Staff and Members attended a Salmon in the City event in Seattle on January 28th. The event focused on ecologically sustainable urban design and development that protect water quality in and

around Puget Sound. Scientists from NOAA Fisheries presented research on the impacts of urban stormwater on watersheds and the health of salmon.

Several MRC members and staff will attend Sound Waters on Whidbey Island on February 6th, 2016.

Funding updates (newly-awarded grants, in-kind support or other funding commitments):

MRC Staff Kathleen Herrmann, with support from MRC Members, developed and submitted three LIO NTAs:

- Cleaning up the Snohomish Estuary: Removing Abandoned and Derelict Vessels and Creosote Pilings
- Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Shoreline Armor Removal Phase 2
- Eelgrass and Forage Fish Mapping

The NTAs were submitted on Dec 3rd, 2015 to Puget Sound Partnership and are currently going through the review process.

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (SRFB) approved \$400,000 for the cost increase request for the Nearshore Restoration Project. Provided that the funding request is confirmed by Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the project will go to bid in early March of 2016.

Project Updates (progress from past month on existing project or any new projects identified):

Long Term Nearshore Beach Restoration Maintenance and Management Study— The MRC partnered with Snohomish County and NOAA to begin a preliminary assessment of nearshore marine culverts within the railroad impounded nearshore of Snohomish County. This work will highlight potential beach nourishment locations along the Snohomish County Nearshore south of Everett. The goal of this project is to create a priority ranked list of potential nearshore marine culverts that could be replaced by BNSF along the Snohomish County portion of the shoreline. If successful, this initiative may prove to be a long term solution to achieve continued nourishment in the nearshore project for the foreseeable future with limited costs to taxpayers and may be able to expand to other areas of Puget Sound. Funds were awarded in January, 2016. The MRC is currently developing a communications plan for this project.

Port Gardner Derelict Crab Pot Removal—The MRC partnered with Natural Resources Consultants, Inc. to remove derelict crab pots in Port Gardner. A dive crew located lost crab pots in Port Gardner using side-scan sonar and then divers retrieved the pots. Autumn Moore and Lincoln Loehr joined the crew on January 13th, 2016 to observe the crab pot removal.

Caged Mussel Study—The MRC will continue to support the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's (WDFW) caged mussel study. The MRC sponsored one site at Brackett's Landing in Edmonds, and adopted WDFW sites at Meadowdale Beach and Naketa Beach. The MRC will be retrieving the mussel cages on February 5th, 2016.

Other (anything not covered above, including local issues of interest to the regional group, questions to the Commission, etc):