

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

May 19, 2021 6:30-8:30PM

Meeting conducted via conference call/video

MRC Members Present Mike Ehlebracht, Chair Natasha Coumou, Co-Vice Chair Tom Doerge, Co-Vice Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep. Laura Gurley Julie Schlenger Sara Maxwell Kip Killebrew Brienne Townsend Andrew Gobin Michael Kundu	Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Alex Pittman, SWM Planner and MRC Staff MRC Ex-Officio Members Susan Tarpley, Citizen David Bain, Citizen Others Jon Baker, Citizen Phil Salditt, Citizen Eric Adams, Citizen Dana Oster, NWSC Barbara Bennet, Island MRC Jonathan Robinson, WSU Beach Watchers Matt Pouley, Tulalip Tribes
Summary of Decisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The MRC approved the April 2021 meeting minutes.• The MRC approved the 2021-2022 NWSC Grant Application.	
Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Snohomish LIO Implementation Meeting May 20• MRC 2020 Annual Report to County Council: May 25• Snohomish Estuary Pilings Collaborative Meeting: May 26• Port Susan Project Presentation to NWSC: May 28• Port Susan Joint Committee Meeting with Island MRC: June 9• Forage Fish Monitoring: June 15 & 16• Next MRC Meeting: June 16 at 6:30	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Mike Ehlebracht opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 6:30PM. Due to COVID-19 related stay-at-home orders, the meeting was held via conference call/video.

Mike introduced himself and asked for self-introductions of the meeting participants.

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the April 21, 2021 MRC Meeting Summary. Kip Killebrew seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC 2021-2022 Grant Draft Application

Sara Maxwell and Alex Pittman facilitated a conversation and solicited input and feedback on the Port Susan Report Card Update Grant Application for the NWSC. They first provided a brief overview of the proposed project and the discussion from the April 2021 MRC meeting.

Alex then walked the MRC through the updated application draft. In particular, the made note of revisions which were made as a result of last month's discussion and comments received from Island MRC and NWSC staff. Special focus was given to responses related to outcomes and deliverables.

Alex then provided a brief overview of the proposed grant budget.

Sara and Alex then provided a brief overview of next steps. Both the Snohomish and Island MRCs will be presenting the Port Susan project to the NWSC on May 28th. The joint Snohomish-Island Port Susan team will meet in early June for a final discussion of the complementary applications prior to submittal to the NWSC.

Before closing, Sara and Alex emphasized that this is a unique opportunity for the MRC to leverage grant dollars to move meaningful projects forward. Feedback provided by the MRC now will be used to develop the final application, which will be submitted to the NWSC in early June.

The grant application was approved for submittal to the NWSC by consensus.

Earth Day Review and Plastic Free Salish Sea Next Steps

Mike Ehlebracht and Elisa Dawson provided a recap of the MRC's Earth Day Shoreline Cleanup Event and presented the following information from the MRC.

Earth Day Final Stats:

- 900 pounds of total trash picked up
- 554 pounds delivered to drop off stations. Drop-off breakdown:

Type	McCollum	Campus	Monroe	Arlington	Edmonds	Total
Plastics	12	9	5	6	30	62
Metals	5	3	59	12	34	113
Glass	12	9	7	24	14	66
Organics	11	0	13	4	7	35
Dog Poop Bags 48 dog bags	2	3	9	2	7	23
Other	14	29	14	186	12	255
Total	56	53	107	234	105	554

- 53 people delivered trash to drop off locations
- 350+ additional pounds of trash were collected by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources WCC crew, Mike Ehlebracht, and three other individuals who emailed Elisa.

WSU and the MRC have a meeting scheduled for May 20 to discuss the following:

- What went well
- What could be improved
- EPA's Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol and effort to list trash under the stormwater permit
 - <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/best-management-practices-tools>
- Ideas for future clean up events
- Other ways to reach out about the Plastic Free Salish Sea Campaign
- Other comments/thoughts

Mike and Elisa noted that anyone is welcome to join the May 20 meeting. Mike opened a discussion to solicit ideas and input for next steps on Plastic Free Salish Sea outreach. MRC Members provided feedback on their involvement in this year's initial shoreline cleanup event and provided ideas for improving events like these moving forward. Suggestions included doing reconnaissance of potential shoreline locations and focusing efforts on areas that need cleaning up and setting of drop-off locations near these sites. Members also suggested engaging with students and kids, creating some sort of a competition or a treasure hunt with prizes, and discussed other opportunities for holding more in-person events and making it more of a community engagement event.

Elisa suggested working with WSU on continued shoreline cleanups and is working on adding this idea to the Reimbursable Services Agreement (yearly contract) SWM has with WSU. The yearly contract focuses on stormwater pollution under the NPDES permit, and the shoreline cleanup idea and using the Escaped Trash Assessment Protocol would be a good fit into this contract.

Survive the Sound Review

Elisa Dawson provided a brief recap of Survive the Sound, the interactive online game based on salmon migration through the Puget Sound hosted by Long Live the Kings. Snohomish MRC members had been encouraged to join the game on a team hosted by the Northwest Straits Initiative (NWSI).

Final Stats:

- We had 34 people on the NWSI team, only 3 fish from our team survived.
- 7 total fish made it to the finish line of the 48 fish you could choose from.



- Screenshare website: [Survive the Sound - Fish Tracking](#)

Project Updates and Announcements

- **LIO:** There has been no LIO meeting in the last month. The next LIO meeting is scheduled for May 20. Tim and Elisa will attend.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** Tim reported that the full notes from the April 30 NWSC meeting are included in the MRC meeting packet but made note of several items. Tim reported on the NWSC's efforts to track and catch European Green Crab in Drayton Harbor, and that UW is pursuing DNA tracking of green crab captures. Elsa Schwartz is the new NWSC Chair and Tom Cowen is the new Vice-Chair. The Salish Sea Stewards received 41 applications, and there are 39 registered in the newest class.
- **Puget Sound Day on the Hill:** Tim reported that Puget Sound Day on the Hill is virtual this year. This is a series of virtual events where MRC Members are encouraged to take some time to interact with our members of congress and talk about Puget Sound Recovery. MRC Members are welcome and encouraged to attend and when you register you can ask questions ahead of time of our representatives. Last session is Friday May 21.
- **Kelp Monitoring:** Tom reported that the kelp season kick-off meeting, hosted by the NWSC, was held on May 6. Scheduled monitoring dates for July and August include the following:
 - **All Three Sites:** July 12, 13, and 14, with back-up dates of July 21, 22, 23.
 - **Edmonds Round 2:** August 9 or 20
 - **Hat Island (SWM Staff):** August 10 or 18

Julie and Alex are signed up for a kayak safety class on June 5. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund is coordinating a Kelp Expedition and will be in Edmonds on July 19 for some monitoring work.

- **Derelict Vessels:** Elisa provided an update of the County's Derelict Vessel plans for 2021. The plan is to go to bid on three boats in July. Elisa and Alex will go out in late June to capture updated photos of the three boats planned for removal. A notice to mariners will be required for the removal of the *Confusion*, due to its location in a high-traffic area.
- **Pilings Phase 2:** Laura reported that the pilings stakeholder meeting is scheduled for May 26. At this meeting the stakeholders will discuss the current status and information on the pilings and discuss ideas for possible removal. Ben Cooksey with DNR reviewed lease information for the five focus areas identified by the MRC and found few instances of lease information complicating our understanding of piling ownership within the focus areas. Alex is working on pulling maps of the County's pilings. While the County doesn't own many creosote pilings, there are high priority pilings owned by the County. Alex and Elisa will be working internally with SWM over the next few months to identify possible County projects.
- **Forage Fish:** The MRC is monitoring two sites at Meadowdale, two sites at Picnic Point, and two sites at Howarth Park on a monthly basis. Volunteers are permitted and must follow the current mask and/or social distance requirements. The next sample events are scheduled for June 15 and 16. Contact Alex if you would like more information on these opportunities.
- **NWSC Letter of Support Request:** Elisa included a copy of the final letter signed by the County Executive and Council in the meeting packet. Elisa noted that the County has sent letters like this in the past, and this letter is to support an effort to increase federal funding levels to the NWSC.
- **NWSC Shoreline Master Plan Request:** Barbara Bennett of Island MRC and Dana Oster discussed an ad hoc workgroup they are forming to discuss possible shared strategies for MRCs as they provide input on their County's Shoreline Master Plan Updates, and to solicit any interested MRC members to join.
- **MRC 2020 Annual Report Presentation to Council:** Mike will be presenting the MRC's 2020 Annual Report to Snohomish County Council on May 25.
- **Crabber Education & Outreach:** Laura & Elisa discussed the initial planning discussion that occurred on May 13. MRC Members were asked if there was interest in hosting in-person outreach activities for opening day this year, given the easing of COVID cases and restrictions. Several folks (Laura Gurley, Brie Townsend, Kip Killebrew, and Phil Salditt) expressed interest and availability for volunteering. Opening day is expected to be on or near July 3, though we won't know for sure until mid-June.
- **August MRC Picnic:** Elisa also opened it up to the MRC to see if there was interest in hosting an in-person, outdoor event for the August MRC Meeting/Picnic. There was a general consensus of interest in tentatively moving forward with this plan.

Kip Killebrew made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Natasha Coumou seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.