

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

June 18, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM

Meeting Location: Snohomish County Campus
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, WA. 98201.

MRC Members Present Julie Schlenger, Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Richard Strickland Allan Hicks Dawn Presler Heidi Stewart, Alternate Absent Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Cory Champagne, Alternate Andrew Gobin Franchesca Perez	Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member Others Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers
Summary of Decisions • The MRC approved the May 2025 meeting summary.	
Upcoming Events • Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – June 21 • Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17 • July 18 MRC Meeting will be held online via Zoom.	

Welcome and Introductions

MRC Chair Julie Schlenger opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

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

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

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

Approval of MRC Meeting Summary

Tim Ellis made a motion to approve the May 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Welcome Cali, Snohomish County Marine Ecology Intern – Elisa Dawson

Elisa Dawson introduced Caliana Weber, an undergrad student at the University of Washington who started her internship on June 16, 2025.

Cali Weber is a Marine Ecology Intern for Snohomish County Surface Water Management. She is a senior at the University of Washington studying marine biology with a minor in data science. Cali grew up in Chicago but moved to Seattle because of the amazing ecosystems surrounding the area. Outside of school/work she loves to go diving, skiing, backpacking, or basically anything outside as well as make ceramics. Prior to joining Snohomish County, Cali has helped graduate students researching kelp forests both through scientific diving and analyzing microscope photos. She also had the privilege to study abroad in Croatia, doing research on bottlenose dolphins. She is excited for the opportunity to help shape conservation and learn along the way!

Her priority focus throughout the internship will be to move forward the shoreline armoring project by helping to develop a scope of work for a shoreline armoring assessment. She will work with the nearshore restoration subcommittee on this work. Caliana will also work to continue project progress of the Possession Sound marine report card and will work with the water quality subcommittee to do so. She will also participate in forage fish monitoring, kelp monitoring, and other MRC activities. If MRC members have ideas about other activities for her to get involved in, please reach out to Elisa.

Marine Vegetation Updates – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee

The summer 2025 Monitoring Schedule to kelp monitoring in Snohomish County was presented to the MRC.

- July: Mukilteo July 7, Edmonds July 8, Meadowdale July 9. Backup dates: 21, 23, 24
- August just Edmonds: August 7. Backup 8 or 22
- MRC Members should reach out the Elisa if they are interested in future training for Kayak Kelp Monitoring.
- Kelp Monitoring via boat @Hat Island:
 - July 10 or 22
 - August 6 or 20
 - September 4 or 18
 - MRC Members should reach out if they are interested in attending the boat tours of the Hat Island kelp bed.

Next the MRC reviewed the draft outreach materials for the event. Consultant MFA has created drafts of the two outreach one-pagers to be reviewed by the MRC. These were in the meeting packet and the marine vegetation subcommittee took comments from the MRC. These comments will be provided to MFA and updated finals will be created. Any final comments need to be turned in to Joycelyn by Monday 6/23.

Finally, the Grant's outreach event has been planned for September 10, 2025. The Point Elliot room has been reserved from 2-9PM. The marine vegetation subcommittee will be discussing timing of

the event, speakers, and logistics at their next subcommittee meeting MRC members are asked to put the event date in their calendars and plan to attend. Dawn, Julie, Richard, and Phil all noted their availability for that date.

Kayak Point Sign Review – Natasha Coumou

Natasha Coumou was unable to attend the MRC meeting. Elisa reported that the Tulalip Tribes' graphic design department is working on updated drafts for all 9 of the interpretive signs. Initial reviews of the general signage design were completed by the MRC at the February meeting, and drafts were reviewed at the MRC meeting in May. Natasha will follow up with the MRC on next steps.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**

- Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC. The new representative would take over the position starting in January 2026.
- Clallam MRC shared a great presentation about processes the MRC created to determine when to advise their county commissioners on local issues. For more information, please see the Clallam MRC [website](#) or e-mail LaTrisha Suggs (lsuggs@jamestowntribe.org).
- The Anchor Out of Eelgrass social media campaign is live! Please visit the website at AnchorOut.org and follow the campaign on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Threads](#)!
- Save the Date: 2025 MRC Conference, November 7-8 at Maple Hall in La Conner! The MRC Conference [website](#) is live, please visit the website for information on hotels, speakers, and registration information. We can't wait to see you there!
- NW Straits Commission reviewed the draft strategic plan at the meeting. NW Straits Commission staff will incorporate edits and begin drafting an implementation plan. The NW Straits Commission aims to have approval by the June NW Straits Commission meeting.
- Hansi Hals, Natural Resource Director with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe shared remarks about projects and initiatives that Jamestown S'Klallam is working on and spearheading. Currently, Jamestown is working on restoration at the mouth of the Dungeness River, invasive species control, stewardship panning, marine water quality, sea level rise, biotoxin monitoring, algal blooms, Olympia oyster population assessments, and European Green Crab trapping efforts at several sites. For more information about natural resource projects with Jamestown S'Klallam, visit their [website](#).
- Jake Beattie, CEO of the NW Maritime Center, presented on the Blue Schools Initiative. The Blue Schools Initiative aims to connect students with the maritime world to educate them about and prepare them for maritime careers. For more information about the Blue Schools Initiative, visit the NW Maritime Center [website](#).
- The Port of Skagit was awarded the 2025 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Washington Public Ports Association for their role in the vessel turn-in event in

collaboration with NW Straits Commission and other partners. For more information please visit the [press release](#).

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - The LIO is working on a Marine Nearshore Plan that they are requesting input and review from the MRC. The Nearshore Subcommittee met on June 2 to discuss this information with LIO staff and gave their input prior to the workshop on June 3. Tim was unable to attend the June 3 workshop but is working with the LIO to get the MRC member comments incorporated. A next draft is expected later this summer.
- **Crabber Outreach Summer 2025 – Brie Townsend**
 - Brie has gotten the permit from the Port of Everett for crabber outreach. WDFW has announced July 3 – September 1 as crabber opening for area 8-2.
 - If members are interested in volunteering for crabber outreach, please reach out to Brie.
- **Water Quality Subcommittee:**
 - Richard showed the Lunds Gulch report card by SWM and the data from ORCA as examples of the information the subcommittee is working to build from. The Marine Water Quality subcommittee will meet on Tuesday 6/24 to discuss how to turn the ORCA data into the form of the SWM report cards.
- **Policy Recommendation Updates – Natasha Coumou, Andrew Gobin, Water Quality Subcommittee**
 - Julie is willing to take on editing the advisory letter. Richard will co-lead with Julie.
 - They will have a draft available in October for MRC review. The goal would be to finish the letter by early November while the Snohomish County Council is reviewing their budget cycle.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - Escort Tug rules are on the final review.
 - Oil Spill draft 1-pager is ready for review. Julie requested time for review at the July MRC Meeting, and staff will add the draft flyer to the meeting packet for July.
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale –June 25, July 17
 - Howarth –June 21
 - Joycelyn is following up to see if there is a WDFW training being held in 2025.
- **Derelict Vessels update – Elisa Dawson**
 - The third meeting for a vessel turn in event in February 2026 occurred on May 21. Representatives from Snohomish County, Port of Everett, DNR, and the NWSC, MRC subcommittee, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe attended.
 - Two vessels identified for removal this year the small boat at Pigeon #1 at the Port of Everett and the vessel on the marshland near Ebey Slough. Vessels were posted on 6/18. A work order is being posted by Snohomish County purchasing to get a contractor on board for removal.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
 - ORCA hosted their student showcase on 6/12, Elisa, Joycelyn, Tim, Richard, David, and Dawn attended.

- Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration we are waiting to get an updated scope of work from ORCA.
- The Marine Water Quality subcommittee met and are continuing to work towards a marine report card utilizing the ORCA data. ORCA has been invited to attend the 6/24 Marine Water Quality Subcommittee meeting.
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
 - The second quarter cleanup was Wed June 11 from 11am – 12:30am at Picnic Point. Dawn attended
 - The next cleanup will be September 20th at Kayak Point where the ETAP protocol will be completed.
- **August Picnic** – Elisa requested at least one MRC Member to help lead the picnic planning. There are no volunteers at this time. An email will be sent soliciting a volunteer, otherwise the picnic will be cancelled for 2025.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25
 - Howarth – June 21
 - MRC July Meeting will be held online via Zoom.
- **Other Updates?**
 - None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.