

Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

May 21, 2025, 4:30-6:30PM

Meeting Location: Zoom

MRC Members Present Julie Schlenger, Chair Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep Phil Salditt Franchesca Perez Richard Strickland Allan Hicks Heidi Stewart, Alternate Absent Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair Cory Champagne, Alternate Andrew Gobin Dawn Presler	Staff Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff Joycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC Staff MRC Ex-Officio Members David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member Others Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers Sasha Horst – NWSC Laura Gurley – Port of Everett Tom Teigen - Snohomish County, DCMR
Summary of Decisions • The MRC approved the April 2025 meeting summary.	
Upcoming Events • Beach cleanup at Picnic Point – June 11 • ORCA Student Showcase – June 12 • Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – June 21 • Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25 • June 18 MRC Meeting will be at the Snohomish County campus	

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 stulagʷábš (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 April 2025 meeting summary. Natasha Coumou seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Derelict Vessel Final Grant Proposal – Derelict Vessel Subcommittee

Natasha Coumou and Allan Hicks will co-lead the Derelict Vessel Assessment project. Allan Hicks presented to the MRC the derelict vessel scope of work: The Snohomish County Derelict Vessel Assessment project aims to address the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels in Snohomish County's marine waterways. The project will create a framework for information needed on the issues and constraints of derelict vessel removal, gather a database of information on Vessels of Concern in Snohomish County using the framework, and create a final report with profiles of specific derelict vessels that can be used to inform their future removal. The outputs of this project will be used to inform Authorized Public Entities who can remove vessels in Snohomish County with the goal that this information will help identify and prioritize removal efforts within their respective jurisdiction, resulting in timelier and more coordinated removal.

The MRC discussed the intended use of the assessment for other authorized public entities and the ability of the framework to be adapted for other vessels in the future. The group discussed building upon work completed at larger scales, such as that of the NWSC and DNR, and that this project is focused on being hyper-local and specific to Snohomish County vessels. Any further comments were requested to be in by 5/26/25, so they could be addressed prior to the 5/29/25 deadline.

Marine Vegetation Final Grant Proposal – Marine Vegetation Subcommittee

Julie Schlenger and Dawn Presler will be co-leads for the next two years of marine vegetation work. Julie Schlenger presented the proposed marine vegetation scope to the MRC: With the increasing amount of information available about the current status and issues facing kelp and eelgrass, the Snohomish MRC sees a need to communicate Snohomish County specific information in an easily understood manner to our local citizens and government officials. The MRC will build upon previous marine vegetation work by continuing outreach to local community groups and updating local marine vegetation data. In 2026, the MRC plans to conduct outreach to identified community groups and create relevant outreach materials. In 2027, the MRC will contract with DNR to survey a portion of the Snohomish County shoreline to update marine vegetation information.

The MRC discussed the previous marine vegetation monitoring and reports completed in contract with DNR. The subcommittee assured the group that similar analyses would be completed so that the two data sets could be compared. The goal of the monitoring was emphasized to be to keep the data consistent with the previous monitoring as well as with other marine vegetation monitoring happening across Puget Sound. Any further comments were requested to be in by 5/26/25, so they could be addressed prior to the 5/29/25 deadline.

Kayak Point Sign Review – Natasha Coumou

The Tulalip Tribes' graphic design department is working on drafts for all 9 of the interpretive signs that will be installed at Kayak Point Park. An initial review of the general signage design was completed by the MRC at the February 2025 meeting. Natasha presented updated drafts of the signs for MRC members to review. Comments on the signs included a discussion about the addition of the MRC logo, which staff and Natasha are going to follow up on. The MRC requested to see the

final versions of the Tulalip Tribes signs to be able to ensure supportive but non-repetitive messaging.

Next steps are to have comments from the MRC given to the graphics department of Tulalip Tribes and have a second draft completed for the June meeting. Natasha is going to share a link for MRC members to leave comments on a shared document. Comments are requested to be in by June 4.

Marine Summer Intern Update – Elisa Dawson

The intern position has been offered and accepted by Caliana Weber, and undergrad student in UW Marine Biology program. She will be starting her internship on June 16 and continuing until school resumes in the fall. 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.

Elisa Dawson gave a summary of the previous two interns, the projects the 2025 intern will work on, and the role of MRC intern advisor. The water quality subcommittee met this week and Richard Strickland gave a summary of the discussion about the ORCA data and working towards a report card for Possession Sound. Richard Strickland volunteered to work as a mentor for the report card portion of the intern project. Elisa asked if any MRC member was interested in acting as a mentor for the nearshore subcommittee and the shoreline armoring project. She requested interested folks reach out to her in the next week.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

- **NWSC – Tim Ellis**

- Alan Clark was elected Chair and Jamie Stephens was elected the vice-Chair of the NW Straits Commission. Many thanks to Tim Ellis, outgoing chair, for his service the last two years.
- Senator Murray and Representative Larsen have reintroduced the NW Straits Initiative reauthorization bill. Senator Cantwell and Representative Randall are cosponsors. To learn more see the press release.
- The May 30 NW Straits Commission meeting will be held at the Dungeness River Nature Center in Clallam County. Additional details and the agenda will be available the week of the meeting on our Events page. If you have questions contact, Caitlyn Blair (blair@nwstraits.org).
- The 2024 Impact Report is currently the second most visited page on the NW Straits Commission website! If you are interested in sharing the report or reading it yourself, click [here](#) or contact Jessica Owens (owens@nwstraits.org).
- Skagit MRC has released a Native Olympia Oyster Restoration StoryMap, available on their website!
- Snohomish MRC's 2024 Annual Report is available on their website!
- There will be two Kayak Kickoffs for 2025 MRC kelp monitoring volunteers, the first will be at Padilla Bay from 10:00 – 2:00 PM on May 2, and the second one will be at the WSU Jefferson County Extension Office in Port Hadlock from 1:00 – 4:00 PM on May 14. There will be multiple kayak safety trainings for MRC kelp

monitoring volunteers at Bowman Bay, Fidalgo Island on May 31 and June 1, and at North Beach, Port Townsend on June 7 (two classes per day). Registration has closed for all events but if you have any questions or would like to attend the kickoff or safety training, please contact Jeff Whitty (whitty@nwstraits.org) asap.

- **LIO – Tim Ellis**
 - The LIO met on May 6 to discuss possible direct funding through Ecology for 6PPD research on BMPs, the upcoming Stormwater SIL Funding, and an update on the Healthy Shorelines Action Plan.
 - The LIO is working on a Marine Nearshore Plan that they are requesting input and review from the MRC. A workshop is being held on June 3 and Tim plans to attend. The nearshore subcommittee is meeting on June 2 to discuss this information.
- **Policy Recommendation Updates – Natasha Coumou, Andrew Gobin, Water Quality Subcommittee**
 - The Critical Areas Regulations Amendment 3 has passed and thus a policy recommendation from the MRC is not moving forward.
 - The Water Quality Subcommittee has not yet met to discuss the recommendation related to an inventory of unpermitted shoreline armoring and enforcing existing regulations.
- **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
 - No updates
- **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger**
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – May 15, June 25, July 17; Howarth – May 10, June 21
- **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. Staff will look into the vessel reportedly sunk near Howarth Park.
- **ORCA Partnership update – Elisa Dawson**
 - Snohomish County and ORCA are discussing steps for continued collaboration.
 - The Marine Water Quality subcommittee met and are continuing to work towards a marine report card utilizing the ORCA data.
- **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
 - Olympic Beach education walk on May 26
 - The second quarter cleanup is Wed June 11 from 11am – 12:30am at Picnic Point
- **Upcoming Events**
 - Beach cleanup – June 11
 - ORCA Student Showcase – June 12
 - Forage fish monitoring
 - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – June 25
 - Howarth – June 21

- MRC June Meeting will be at the Snohomish County campus
- **Other Updates?**
 - Julie Schlenger, Brie, and Richard hosted a table educating about marine vegetation at the Edmonds Watershed Festival on May 3. 161 people visited the table and learned about nearshore habitat and forage fish.
 - Franchesca Perez will be attending the UW Ocean Acidification symposium on May 28.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.