|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| MRC Members PresentBrie Townsend, Co-Vice ChairSara Maxwell, Co-Vice ChairNatasha Coumou, Past-ChairTim Ellis, NWSC and LIO RepPhil SaldittRichard StricklandAllan HicksDawn PreslerHeidi Stewart, AlternateFranchesca Perez **Absent**Julie Schlenger, ChairCory Champagne, AlternateAndrew Gobin | **Staff**Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC StaffJoycelyn Blue, SWM Planner and MRC StaffCali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern**MRC Ex-Officio Members**David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member**Others**Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach WatchersNicholas Mirra – MFANatalie Sacker - MFABecky Passarella – CitizenTom Teigen – Snohomish County |
| **Summary of Decisions*** The MRC approved the June 2025 meeting summary.
 |
| **Upcoming Events*** Forage fish monitoring at Howarth – July 26
* Forage fish monitoring at Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17
* No Aug MRC Meeting, the annual Picnic will be held instead
 |

**Welcome and Introductions**

MRC Co-Vice Chair Sara Maxwell opened the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting at 4:30PM.

Sara 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 June 2025 meeting summary. Brie Townsend seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Strategic Planning Review and 2026 Workplan Process – MFA Consultants

The MFA consultants are currently working on reviewing and capturing feedback from the MRC members about the yearlong strategic planning process conducted in 2024. These reflections will be utilized as the 2026 workplan is developed. A survey was sent to all members in early June and follow up conversations are occurring via phone calls. Half of the MRC has had their interviews and Nicholas Mirra reminded everyone to sign up for their calls in the next week.

Natalie Sacker provided a summary of the marine vegetation work thus far and updates regarding the promotions for the September 10th marine vegetation event. MRC members were asked to think about locations where they may be able to put up posters advertising the event. MRC members were also asked to determine how they can volunteer during the event. Folks are needed to help set up, during the event, and tear down afterwards.

**Beach Watchers Update 2025 – Jonathan Robinson**

Jonathan Robinson – Beach Watchers Program Coordinator – Washington State University

Jonathan is a Marine Ecologist with an emphasis in intertidal ecosystems and over a decade and a half of experience working in the field.  Educated through his youth on the Oregon coast, a bachelor’s degree from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, a master’s degree from Western Washington University and a decade of work as a Senior Faculty Research Assistant at Oregon State University. He learned an abundance of information that he is now able to share in educating others about the environment he enjoys so greatly. When not working at the beach, he enjoys time outdoors hiking and gardening with his wife, three children and yellow lab.

Jonathan presented on the Beach Watchers, giving a short summary of the program and discussing the trainings held in 2025. He also highlighted upcoming events and encouraged MRC members to attend.

The Beach Watchers are under contract with Snohomish County and are required to accomplish the following tasks per current contract:

* 2025 Beach Watcher training, at least 12 new registrants, and an end of training evaluation
* A brainstorming meeting with available MRC members and staff for ideas and topical priorities for the next year’s training
* Intertidal surveys at Meadowdale and Picnic Point
* Beach education events, beach cleanups, and Meadowdale Beach and Restoration education days

MRC Members are encouraged to attend and participate alongside Beach Watchers at our upcoming events:

Meadowdale Beach Park – salmon run education

Sep 25 2-3pm

Oct 11 10:30-11:30am

ETAP Beach Clean Up - Kayak Point

Sep 20 10:30 -12:30

The MRC discussed ways to engage folks for the Beach Watchers training. The 2025 registration for this training was 6 people, significantly low compared to past trainings. Jonathan explained the ways the training was advertised, including a variety of online and in print ads. The MRC discussed the majority demographic of the Beach Watchers, early retired folks, and how to reach them. Another group, college students, and ways to reach them were discussed.

Oil Spill Fact Sheet Review – Dawn Presler

Dawn has worked on an oil spill fact sheet to be included in the Everett Yacht Club monthly newsletter. The audience for this is the boating community and thus not too technical and focused on what they can do to help the environment. The draft has been reviewed by the Oil Spills subcommittee already. The MRC discussed the fact sheet and with a few small adjustments the MRC approved the fact sheet. Dawn will add the MRC logo and utilize it in both the Everett Yacht Club newsletter and outreach to other boating and yacht clubs offering the fact sheet.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

* **NWSC – Tim Ellis**
	+ Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC. The role requires someone to attend the monthly meetings, held on Fridays alternating online and in person. This person would participate at the regional level and vote to represent the Snohomish Marine Resources Committee.
	+ Speed Date with a Scientist: Fiona Beaty presented on her research while at University of British Columbia. She works in service of community and Indigenous-led marine stewardship throughout the coastline of British Columbia. Fiona’s presentation titled: Centering Community Values in Marine Planning highlighted how social sciences can provide opportunities to elevate and integrate community values in marine planning processes. More details and information on this research are available in the Emerging Issues Publication: Centering Community Values in Marine Planning.
	+ Applications are being accepted for the Whatcom Vessel Turn-in Recycling Event until July 15 (deadline extended!). For more information, please see the flyer.
	+ The July NW Straits Commission meeting will be in Bellingham at the Whatcom County Civic Building on July 25, 2025 from 10 – 3 PM. Stay tuned for the agenda and materials and reach out to info@nwstraits.org if you have any questions.
	+ The NW Straits Commission approved the 2025-2030 strategic plan. The plan was developed over a six-month process and is intended to be an internal tool to guide NWSC staff in prioritizing actions that advance the Commission’s mission to: “protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the NW Straits region by supporting Marine Resources Committees and advancing their community-driven priorities.”
	+ Island MRC will be hosting Representative Rick Larsen at Keystone Preserve on Camano Island for a site visit. Island MRC representatives will be participating.
	+ NW Straits Commission welcomed Jason Lim, Puget Sound Partnership alternate, and Daniel Duncan, NW Straits Commission Veterans Conservation Corps Intern.
	+ Cecilia Gobin, NW Indian Fisheries Commission, shared that the public comment period for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) proposal to reissue and modify nationwide permits (NWPs) is currently open and will close on July 18th, 2025. The proposal was published in the Federal Register on June 18th, 2025.
* **LIO – Tim Ellis**
	+ No updates
* **2025 – 2027 Grant Updates - Natasha Coumou/Allan Hicks, Julie Schlenger/Dawn Presler, Staff**
	+ Comments were received from NWSC on the grant proposals and staff have been reviewing them. The majority of the comments are things to be considered as the projects are implemented and staff are working on responses.
	+ Grant funding is currently still being determined, but the MRC does not foresee being unable to do the work they scoped.
* **Crabber Outreach Summer 2025 – Brie Townsend**
	+ Crabber education was conducted by Brie and Phil at the Port of Everett boat launch on July 5 and 6. They handed out informational materials, crab gauges, and bait hooks. They spoke with 122 crabbers
* **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
	+ July 7 and 8 Mukilteo and Edmonds were monitored. Mukilteo did not have a kelp bed. Edmonds dive park bed was a bit small, the big bed looked healthy, and the nearshore bed was not present.
	+ Hat Island was monitored by staff and Becky Passarella on July 10. The beds were quite large.
	+ The subcommittee plans to attend the NWSC regional kelp meeting on September 30.
* **Water Quality Subcommittee Update – Richard Strickland and Cali Weber**
	+ The Water Quality subcommittee is working on a marine report card specific to Possession Sound. The goal of this outreach material is to communicate to the public about the marine health using the data from ORCA, specifically temperature and dissolved oxygen. The report card will also discuss the collaboration between ORCA, the MRC, and Snohomish County and have a section saying how people can help marine health.
	+ Cali has been working on a draft report card and is currently seeking feedback from the subcommittee members.
* **Nearshore Armoring Update – Cali Weber**
	+ Cali has been working researching all that would be potentially involved in a nearshore armoring study and developing a draft scope of work that could be utilized to hire a contractor.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
	+ None
* **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue**
	+ Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17, Aug 25
	+ Howarth –July 26
* **August Picnic – Elisa Dawson**
	+ The picnic will take the place of our August meeting. Richard has offered to host the event at his house. Brie will be sending out a sign up for potluck style food.
* **Upcoming Events**
	+ Forage fish monitoring
		- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – July 17, Aug 25
		- Howarth – July 26
	+ MRC Aug there will be no meeting, annual picnic instead – Aug 20
	+ Beach Clean Up ETAP at Kayak Point – Sep 20
* **Other Updates?**
	+ None

**The meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.**