Snohomish County Marine Resources Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary
January 21, 2026, 4:30-6:30PM
Meeting Location: Online

MRC Members Present
Julie Schlenger, Chair
Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair
Brienne Townsend, Co-Vice Chair
Phil Salditt
Richard Strickland
Heidi Stewart
Becky Passarella
Dawn Presler

MRC Members Absent
Cory Champagne (Sara Maxwell Alternate)
Natasha Coumou (Heidi Stewart Alternate)
Allan Hicks

MRC Ex-Officio Members
David Bain, MRC Ex-Officio Member

Staff
Joycelyn Blue, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff
Cali Weber, SWM Marine Ecology Intern

Others
Jonathan Robinson – WSU Beach Watchers
Erik Young – Citizen

Summary of Decisions
MRC approved the November 2025 meeting summary.

Welcome and Introductions

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

Brie introduced herself and asked for self-introductions from the meeting participants.

After introductions, Julie Schlenger read the Snohomish County Tribal Acknowledgement.

"We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku mehu (Sauk-*Suiattle Tribe), the stulag*ʷ*ábš (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

Sara Maxwell made a motion to approve the November 2025 meeting summary. Dawn Presler seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

MRC Annual Elections – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger

Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger led the MRC through the proposed roles, and MRC Members were asked to provide any additional nominations. The final proposed Executive Committee, Representative, and Ex-Officio MRC roles that were submitted to be approved by consensus were:

Chair: Julie Schlenger
Vice-Chair/Co Vice-Chairs: Brie Townsend and Sara Maxwell
LIO Representative: Phil Salditt
LIO Alternate: Heidi Stewart
NWSC Representative: Phil Salditt
MRC Ex-Officio Members: David Bain

Since Phil currently serves on the Foundation board, he is going to check with the Foundation and NWSC to ensure his being representative would not be viewed as a conflict of interest. Assuming there is no conflict, Phil has been voted as NWSC rep for the MRC

Prior to the MRC Meeting, Sara Maxwell had requested that Cory Champagne serve as her formal alternate again for 2026 Additionally, prior to the MRC Meeting, Heidi Stewart had requested that Natasha Coumou serve as her formal alternate for 2026.

Julie Schlenger made a motion to approve the proposed Executive Committee, Representative, Ex-Officio, and Alternate MRC roles. Richard Strickland seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Annual Report Discussion – Natalie Sacker and Vivian Ericson, MFA Consulting

In collaboration with the Snohomish Marine Resources Advisory Committee (MRC), Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA) will assist in the development of the 2025 Annual Report. This year, the Annual Report will continue to be made collaboratively on Canva, and MFA will assist in the creation of the Annual Report.

Natalie led the MRC through a presentation on why the annual reports are created, who the MRC's audience is, and how the MRC will work together with MFA to create the report. Natalie presented on the template and Canva format that the MRC would be using and how MFA will be supporting this effort. Additionally, Natalie did a quick run-through of how to edit the Annual Report Canva document. The MRC is expected to work within its subcommittees to create the first draft of their sections by February 13th. There will then be a round of review, and the MRC Subcommittee edits will be due February 25th. After this, MFA will adjust any small edits and give the members back a final version for feedback due March 4th. At the March 18th MRC meeting, the MRC will vote to approve the final so that the final annual report will be ready by March 31st.

MRC SharePoint – Cali Weber

To facilitate easier sharing of files and subcommittee collaboration within the County records system, Cali and Joycelyn have created an MRC Sharepoint page. This system will be used only by MRC members and Snohomish County staff. Cali presented the sharepoint and MRC members will be granted access via a link in their email.

Cali also presented the template for meeting summaries. Subcommittees are recommended to use this when taking notes at their subcommittee meetings.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

NWSC – Joycelyn Blue

- NWSC meeting on January 30 in Skagit County

LIO – Phil Salditt

- Meeting on February 5, focusing on the Stormwater Action Plan

Derelict Vessel MRC Grant – Allan Hicks & Sara Maxwell

- Working on finalizing and populating the framework with vessel information
- Meeting on Feb 2

Marine Vegetation MRC Grant – Julie Schlenger & Dawn Presler

- Currently scheduling subcommittee meeting

Forage Fish Monitoring – Phil Salditt & Julie Schlenger

- Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Dec 9, Jan 26
- Howarth – Jan 24
- Heidi is currently doing a study of larva forage fish and would like to be notified if eggs are seen or suspected

Shoreline Armoring – Phil Salditt & Heidi Stewart

- LIO is allocating funding for a regional shoreline assessment that is similar to the SOW developed by the subcommittee
- Subcommittee plans to work on how the MRC may want to utilize the report and how to share it
- Subcommittee meeting Feb 12

Water Quality- Richard Strickland

- Possession Sound report cards are available on the MRC website

Outreach – Dawn Presler

- Subcommittee met on Jan 12 and discussed outreach events outlined in the annual workplan as well as newsletter topics, deadlines, and audiences
- Working with Beach Watchers on dates of upcoming beach cleanups

Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention – Julie Schlenger

- Local emergency planning committee April 16

Beach Watchers

- Edmonds Starlight Beach Walk –January 28, 6:30 - 8:00 PM at Olympic Beach Park
- MRC will provide hot chocolate and cider. Dawn Presler is assisting with set up and headcount at the event. All MRC members are encouraged to attend.

New MRC Members– Joycelyn Blue

- Becky Passarella has been officially appointed to the MRC for District 2
- Heidi Stewart has been officially appointed to the MRC for the Tulalip Tribal representative seat
- Julie Schlenger has been renewed for District 3, 3rd term
- Sara Maxwell has been renewed for District 4, 3rd term
- Paperwork for Anya Voloshin is being completed for appointment as the Stillaguamish Tribal representative

Upcoming Events

- Starlight Beach Walk – Jan 28
- Forage fish monitoring
  - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Feb 19
  - Howarth – Feb 21
- MRC February 18 meeting will be online

The meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.