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| MRC Members Present Julie Schlenger, Chair  Sara Maxwell, Co-Vice Chair  Natasha Coumou, Past-Chair  Tim Ellis, NWSC and LIO Rep  Phil Salditt  Richard Strickland  Dawn Presler  Heidi Stewart, Alternate  Franchesca Perez  **Absent**  Cory Champagne, Alternate  Andrew Gobin  Brie Townsend, Co-Vice Chair  Allan Hicks  Elisa Dawson, SWM Senior Planner and MRC Staff | **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**  Lincoln Loehr – Citizen  Amy Rodriguez – Citizen  Becky Paserella – Citizen  Tom Teigen - Snohomish County  Avery Maverick - Citizen |
| **Summary of Decisions**   * The MRC approved the July 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 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 July 2025 meeting summary. Phil Salditt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MRC Conference – Caitlyn Blair

Caitlyn talked about the 2025 MRC Conference to be held on November 7-8 in La Conner. She encouraged members to register and to check the conference website. The conference will be hosting a digital art show. Attendees can submit photos at the conference website.

The MRC took a head count of members planning to attend and reminded everyone to register via the link provided by NWSC.

2026 Workplan Process – MFA Consultants

The consultants from MFA discussed the results of the one on one interviews and some suggestions for the MRC to think about as they head into planning for 2026, including highlighting the 5 year strategic plan and using it as a guide.

The October MRC retreat was discussed and the MRC approved extending the meeting by one hour to ensure enough time to complete the 2026 work plan, so the meeting will be from 4:30pm -7:30pm.

Marine Ecology Intern Presentation – Cali Weber

Cali presented on her work as the Marine Ecology Intern for this summer. She covered things like kelp monitoring, forage fish, stream monitoring, and her work with both the water quality subcommittee and nearshore subcommittee.

Cali encouraged folks to leave comments and their feedback on the draft Possession Sound report card. The MRC discussed the statement referring to hydro power and plans to continue the discussion at the next water quality subcommittee meeting.

The MRC complimented all of the work Cali has accomplished and were excited that she is extending her internship through the end of the year.

Project Updates/Announcements – All

* **NWSC – Tim Ellis** 
  + Tim Ellis is looking for a successor for his position as a representative for the NWSC.
  + Registration for the 2025 MRC Conference is live for MRC members and staff, click here to register! Please visit the website for information on registration, hotels, meals, and the agenda. Please do not forward registration to anyone. Registration closes October 7!
  + Conference attendees may invite a guest to attend the keynote dinner on November 7. If you are interested in bringing a guest, please fill out the information on the registration form. If you have questions, email Caitlyn Blair (info@nwstraits.org).
  + There will be a conference session focused on Reaching your MRC’s Full Potential where MRCs can share successful strategies and identify barriers and opportunities in reaching MRC’s full potential. MRC members are encouraged to think about and/or discuss the themes below prior to the conference to come ready for the interactive session. If you have questions, please reach out to Sasha (horst@nwstraits.org).
    - Rebuilding/sustaining capacity – What strategies does your MRC use to recruit/retain/ orient members?
    - Balancing member/staff roles – Does your MRC have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for members and staff?
    - Project selection/prioritization – How does your MRC ensure that the slate of projects is aligned with member interest and capacity? How does your MRC determine when to sunset a project?
    - Engaging with contractors/consultants – When and how does your MRC determine when consultant support is needed? Does your MRC have guidance for the use of consultants?
  + The Collaborative Networking session will include a lightning round of presentations on projects, then round table networking. MRC members are encouraged to share about project successes, lessons learned, and other project related material. If your MRC is interested in participating, reach out to Jessica Owens (owens@nwstraits.org). Materials are due by September 19.
  + The Port of Bellingham, Whatcom MRC, Whatcom County, Nooksack Indian Tribe, WA Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), WA Dept. of Ecology, NW Straits Commission, and other partners hosted a free vessel turn-in recycling event, which is still underway. The event is part of DNR’s vessel turn-in program to prevent derelict or abandoned boats and protect marine habitats. 29 vessels were turned in, 22 were deconstructed and recycled. The remaining boats are awaiting testing to deconstruct. The event will wrap up in the next few weeks.
  + Snohomish MRC is hosting an outreach event focused on kelp and eelgrass of Mukilteo and Hat Island. The event will be September 10 at Rosehill Community Center. Learn more about the event and RSVP here!
* **LIO – Tim Ellis** 
  + The LIO finalized their Healthy Shorelines Action Plan and the document is available on the Snohomish County website.
* **Kelp Monitoring – Brie Townsend**
  + Monitoring of Hat Island, Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Meadowdale were completed throughout July, Aug, and Sep. Mukilteo and Meadowdale monitoring transects did not have kelp beds and thus were only monitored in July. Edmonds had two beds and was monitored in both July and Aug. Hat Island was monitored in all three months due to increases in kelp seen later in the season last year.
  + Reports of kelp near the Mukilteo ferry terminal were confirmed and the subcommittee plans to work with NWSC to determine eligibility and safety of potential future monitoring.
* **Marine Vegetation Event – Julie Schlenger**
  + The event went well with speakers from the NWSC, PSP, and the MRC speaking about eelgrass and kelp to an audience of 84 members of the public. Pre and post surveys were given to attendees to determine what was learned and how they heard about the event.
  + MFA is working on the event plan/report deliverable for the grant due at the end of September.
* **Oil Spill Preparedness and Prevention Update – Julie Schlenger**
  + Julie Schlenger replied to a call from Ecology for potentially transporting materials, but no action was needed.
  + Ecology offering a HAZWOPER training on Nov 8
* **Forage Fish Monitoring – Joycelyn Blue and Julie Schlenger** 
  + Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Aug 25, Sep 23
  + Howarth – Aug 21, Sep 19
  + The WDFW training is occurring on October 8th from 9am – 4pm at Padilla Bay. Current forage fish volunteers were forwarded the email to sign up.
* **Beach Watcher/Beach Cleanup – Jonathan Robinson**
  + September 20th at Kayak Point is the ETAP event. Dawn Presler is coordinating on behalf of the MRC.
  + Salmon education at Meadowdale – Sep 25 3-5pm and Oct 11 10:30 – 12:30am
* **Derelict Vessels update – Joycelyn Blue**
  + Two vessels have been removed this year the small boat at Pigeon #1 at the Port of Everett and the vessel on the marshland near Ebey Slough.
  + Sara Maxwell sent a doodle poll to the subcommittee to begin the work on the 2026 grant.
* **NWSC Conference Networking Activity – Joycelyn Blue**
  + The project information outline is due end of week Sept 19. This year the activity again involves each MRC, selecting one project to feature at a station. Conference participants will rotate throughout the stations so that everyone has a chance to learn about work happening in other areas and find areas of common interest.
  + Need an MRC member volunteer to be present a project and create project outline to get to Jessica Owens at NWSC by Sep 19. Description of tabling and items for the project outline were included in the meeting packet. Phil Salditt volunteered to lead the presentation for the conference.
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Forage fish monitoring
    - Picnic Point and Meadowdale – Sep 23
    - Howarth – Sep 19
  + ETAP beach cleanup at Kayak Point – Sep 20 10:30am – 12:30pm
  + MRC Oct meeting will be a closed meeting for the SnoCo MRC yearly planning retreat
* **Other Updates?**
  + Julie Schlenger and Phil Salditt presented to the Port of Edmonds the 2024 MRC annual report on Sep 8.
  + NSWF is currently looking for folks to serve on the board, please reach out to Phil Salditt if you are interested.
  + Q3 volunteer hours are going to be due at the beginning of October. Please keep an eye out for the email and respond in a timely manner.
  + 2025 year report – subcommittee leads please begin thinking of how you would like to adjust your pages and think of photos that may be good
  + Supplies – if members have supplies requests, please work together to collate into one document and provide detailed information including item, quantity, links, and description of purpose to staff. Staff will then compare to budget and see what is possible.

**The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.**