

CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

January 16, 2025
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting



Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

Passcode: 12345

For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

Welcome by Chair LaTrisha Suggs / Call to Order / Roll Call

- Determination of quorum

Approval of Minutes

- Review and approval of December minutes

Announcements

- [Strategic Plan for 2025-2029](#) and 2025 annual workplan now posted on website
- Recruiting for member representing the Community At-Large, Alternate representing the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Kelp kayak monitoring end-of-season data review: Jan 30 (NWSC, Jeff Whitty) – see email from Amelia for Zoom link
- Training for Open Public Meetings Act & Public Records Act – by end of January
 - Option 1 (preferred): Jan 24 @10am, County Courthouse or Zoom
 - Option 2 (if needed): [asynchronous online training](#)
- **Extra meeting in February to work on project ideas for FY 2025-27: Feb. 24, tentatively from 4-7pm (full agenda item is below)**

Committee and Project Reports if an update is needed

- NWSC monthly update – Alan Clark
- Comprehensive plans subcommittee
 - § Subcommittee: Alan Clark, Bob Vreeland, Ed Bowlby
 - § Clallam County Comp Plan update & Clallam County Climate/Hazard Mitigation Plan update
 - § Port Angeles City Comp Plan update
 - § Sequim Comp Plan update: Future of Sequim survey
- Interns – (on hiatus unless we get a new lead)
- Olympia Oyster – Chris Burns
- Forage Fish – Ed Bowlby, Alan Clark, Helle Andersen, Iona Bociu
- Elwha Beach Stewardship – Helle Andersen
- Ediz Hook Revegetation – Helle Andersen & Allyce Miller
- Sound Toxins – Nancy Stephanz
- Shellfish Biotoxins – Bob Vreeland

2025 Meetings

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September 15

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- Pinto Abalone – Jeff Ward & Alan Clark
- Pigeon Guillemot – Ed Bowlby
- Kelp surveys – Alan Clark & Jeff Ward
- Education & outreach
 - § Coasters – Ann Soule
 - § Next new displays: crab, pigeon guillemots – Ann, Amelia
 - § European Green Crab status update – Ioana Bociu
 - § Oil spill response
 - State policy on rescue tug – Mike Doherty
 - HAZWOPER oiled wildlife trainings – Ed, Alicia, Rebecca

New or special business items

- Roles and responsibilities document for discussion, potential approval
- Project development for the next biennium (10/2025 - 9/2027)
 - Special meeting tentatively on February 24
 - Development of project proposals in advance of special meeting

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- **Next meeting *Thursday*, February 20** (rescheduled due to holiday)
 - § Presenters from DNR: Cynthia Harbison on stressors to kelp and eelgrass, Bree Turner on Puget Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Development Strategy
- **Special meeting for project development tentatively February 24**
- Call for new agenda items

Public Comment *at the discretion of the Chair*

Good of the Order

Adjourn

Clallam County DCD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MRC

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485?pwd=N3dMbHRyL3l5TnpKNGtVSGtWYk5VQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

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One tap mobile

+12532158782,,85314804485#,,,,*12345# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

2025 Meetings

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Duties of Clallam MRC Officers and Members

January 2025

Duties of the Chair:

1. Provide leadership and serve as the presiding officer of the board.
2. Chair monthly committee meetings, maintain order, assist board in achieving actions for each meeting, implement Roberts Rules of Order.
3. Appoint members to subcommittees and special assignments.
4. Rule on questions of procedure.
5. Meet with MRC staff to review monthly agenda items, plan the annual cycle of monthly meetings.
6. Conduct business of the MRC between its meetings, in coordination with/as needed by County staff.
7. Sign documents of the committee.
8. Represent the organization as a spokesperson as appropriate.
9. Provide annual updates to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners.
10. Participate in annual NWSC conference.
11. Anticipate contributing up to 10 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of the Vice-Chair:

1. Act for the chair in the chair's absence.
2. Share tasks with the chair, act as a sounding board, and help with difficult decisions between meetings.
3. Liaise regularly with the chair about agenda items and current issues.
4. Address complaints made about the chairperson.
5. Provide support/coordination on MRC business between meetings.
6. Participate in annual NWSC conference.
7. Anticipate contributing up to 8 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of Field Project Leads/Co-Leads:

1. Work closely with County MRC staff on planning and implementing the project, and be familiar with reporting forms and timeline for when reports are due.
2. In coordination with MRC staff, maintain project team effectively, delegate tasks, monitor progress, identify and mitigate risks, communicate with team, make decisions, solve problems, and ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget, all while maintaining a focus on achieving project goals.
3. Make sure project gear is functioning properly and work with MRC staff to maintain as needed.
4. Follow the project QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan).

5. Submit draft yearly report using data, findings, and other information to MRC staff 3-4 weeks before reports are to be submitted to the grant entities. Reports may be needed quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on the grant requirements.
6. Respond timely to MRC staff requests for data, information, and review of documents, in addition to providing a supporting role to MRC staff and the NWSC.
7. Treat committee members and MRC staff with respect and kindness.

Duties of Members:

1. Responsible for contributing to meetings, actively engaging in at least one field or educational project team, and communicating team business.
2. Actively volunteer for two or more public education/outreach events each year.
3. Actively volunteer to serve as an officer, NWSC rep, and on advisory or other sub-committees when formed.
4. Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, depending on commitments).
5. Engage as a project lead or co-lead of existing or proposed MRC projects, obtain required training to carryout projects (ex: WDFW sampling training, HAZWOPR training) propose new projects for grant biennium.
6. Actively assist on projects when leads put out a request for help.
7. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
8. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.
9. Participate in annual NWSC conference, if possible.
10. Communicate and liaise regularly with the population or organization represented by your MRC role.
11. Communicate with your alternate regularly, especially so that they can be sure to attend meetings if you are unable.
12. Communicate with the Chair and MRC staff if you are not able to attend a meeting and if your alternate will be in attendance to fill in for you.

Duties of Alternates:

1. Communicate with the lead member representative regularly.
2. Actively assist on field and education projects when leads put out a request for help.
3. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.
4. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
5. Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, as needed).
6. Alternates are allowed to vote only when they are filling in for the lead member.

7. Alternates should try to attend monthly meetings, even if the lead is in attendance.

Duties of Northwest Straits Commission Representative:

1. Clallam County MRC representative is required to attend monthly meetings (both in-person and on Zoom).
2. Represent the Clallam MRC at the NWSC meetings.
3. Be the liaison between the NWSC and MRC staff/members.

NW Straits 2024 Conference - Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Session Worksheet

Instructions: The project wheel worksheet is broken down into steps to help you map out your project design for a new idea/or existing project. Definitions are on the back of this worksheet. Complete as much of this worksheet as you can on a specific idea, new or ongoing project you would like to discuss with the SAC. Start with your goal and use this wheel as a tool to identify what you are trying to accomplish and flag where you have questions or need guidance from the SAC.

Start here



Goal:



Outcomes:



Participants:



Outputs:



Activities:



Start here



Goal: if/when this project succeeds, [...] will happen, be known

drive assessment of whether and how project can meet the goal, or needs to be changed it in the next round

can not be achieved without specific, named

Outcomes: how the activities and outputs measurably further the goal(s) of the project.

which, once accomplished facilitate these measureable movements towards the goal

Participants: all groups (e.g., MRC staff, volunteer members, other organization(s)) directly involved in the work

can be assigned to all of the project

Outputs: any tangible products of the work (e.g., pamphlets, signage, graduates of a training program, number of invasives found, wildlife counted, acres cleaned, sites added, etc.)

directly result in discrete or countable

Activities: the tasks & actions - science, monitoring, training, presentations, etc. accomplished by the project participants



January 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

Time: 5:32 – 7:12

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

| | Member | Present? | Alternate | Present? |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Academic Community | Ed Bowlby | X | Ioana Bociu | |
| At Large | Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>) | X | Mary Sue Brancato | |
| At Large | [vacant seat] | --- | Ray Kirk | |
| Conservation & Environmental Interests | Robert Vreeland | X | Nancy Stephanz | X |
| Development Community | Christopher Rumpel | | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District I | Jeff Ward | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District II | Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>) | X | Lyn Muench | X |
| District III | Mike Doherty | | Dann May | X |
| Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe | Christopher Burns | X | Robert Knapp | excused |
| Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe | Allyce Miller | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| Makah Tribe | [vacant seat] | --- | [vacant seat] | --- |
| Marine Related Recreation & Tourism | Alicia Amerson | excused | Helle Andersen | X |
| Port Angeles City Council | LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>) | X | Navarra Carr | |
| Port of Port Angeles Commission | Jesse Waknitz | | Katharine Frazier | |
| Sequim City Council | Meggan Uecker | | Harmony Rutter | |

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boats Rental Comp), Eric Lesch (Community Boating Program), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission staff), John Worthington (Sequim resident)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:32. Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the December 2024 CCMRC minutes; Alan Clark seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- *Strategic plan:* [2025-2029 strategic plan](#) is now posted to the MRC's website.
- *Recruitment:* There are several open positions available on the MRC, please share with any good candidates who may be interested.
- *Kelp kayak monitoring data review:* There is an end-of-season data review meeting with Northwest Straits Commission for the kelp monitoring project on January 30th. MRC members and kelp volunteers are welcome.
- *OPMA training:* MRC members who need OPMA training should attend the January 24th training at the County courthouse if possible. [Asynchronous online training](#) is another option.
- *Extra meeting:* February 24th, to allow the entire MRC to work together on project development.

Committee and Project Reports

Only project leads with substantive updates were asked to provide them.

- *Northwest Straits Commission – Alan Clark:* The Commission has been working on reauthorization, but it did not come to a vote yet despite Patty Murray's support. Reauthorization efforts will continue. The Commission has been working on a new definition of the Northwest Straits Initiative which it will soon vote on, which would move away from the "three-legged stool" model and clarify the Northwest Straits Foundation as a partner and a separate organization.

Introductions Con't

Additional participants on Zoom introduced themselves.

Committee and Project Reports – continued

- *Ediz Hook revegetation – Allyce Miller, Helle Andersen:* Date firmed for March 6th planting. Local 5th graders will plant in the morning, and volunteer slots are open for the afternoon (1-3pm). Please [sign up on Clallam Conservation District's website](#) if interested. This will likely be the last planting for this project, and dunegrass will be the main species along with some other native beach plants. The site has had some mortality, but is doing well overall thanks to dunegrass' hardiness. The overall planting site is about one acre.
- *Pinto abalone – Jeff Ward:* The final report for 2024 has been submitted. Initial plans for 2025 dives have been made, for 8 dives west of Port Angeles in September.
- *HAZWOPER / oiled wildlife training – Rebecca Mahan:* An 8 hour training is scheduled for April 15 and 16 at the Elwha Heritage Center, and a flyer will be shared as soon as the contract is confirmed. The second day will be wildlife-focused, hopefully in the field.

New or special business items

- *Roles and responsibilities:* Committee members reviewed the latest version of the roles and responsibilities draft document. All sections including Duties of the Chair, Duties of the Vice Chair, Duties of Project Leads / Co-Leads, Duties of Members, Duties of Alternates, and Duties of Northwest Straits Commission Representative were discussed and edited in real time. The Committee plans to bring this revised document to a vote for adoption at the next meeting, with a request for more info on one item (Vice chair item 4).
- *Project development for the next biennium:* A special meeting is set for February 24 as a work session to develop projects, which will have a hired facilitator. The Committee held a roundtable brainstorm of brief project ideas:
 - Derelict gear / crab pot removal (potentially with Blue ROV) (Helle / Rebecca / Allyce)
 - Blue ROV for other projects (Nancy)
 - Study tsunami impacts to the nearshore (Dann)
 - European green crab (LaTrisha / Chris B)
 - Keep current projects going (Lyn)
 - Education in new Marine Discovery Center in Port Angeles (partner opportunity) (Alan)
 - Potentially including pigeon guillemot exhibit already planned (Ed)
 - Eelgrass outreach, similar to Whatcom MRC's efforts at Wildcat Cove and Jefferson MRC's No Anchor Zones (Ann)
 - Kelp outreach similar to Snohomish MRC campaign re Edmonds kelp beds (Ann)
 - Trash removal from beaches (Allyce)
 - Monitor ocean acidification, potential partner with NWIFC (Allyce)
 - Remove noxious weeds at Hollywood Beach (Allyce)
 - Monitor Freshwater Bay water chemistry (adjunct to kelp monitoring) (Alan)
 - Shoreline armoring survey (similar to work by Island and San Juan Counties)
 - Address derelict pilings (LaTrisha)
 - Crab larvae study (Chris B)
 - Monitor ocean water quality, e.g. anoxic conditions (Dann)
 - Educational mural in downtown Port Angeles or Sequim (LaTrisha)
- *Presentation:* Alan mentioned he had been asked by the Yacht Club to present to them about the MRC, and suggested the MRC should have canned presentation elements ready for similar opportunities. *Amelia will share the existing presentation from the Studium Generale with Alan to adapt.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on February 20th – note this meeting is moved from the usual schedule due to the Presidents' Day holiday. A special meeting (work session) will be held on the 24th for project development.
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

Public Comment

John Worthington from Sequim made a comment regarding the Olympia oyster restoration project, specifically its funding source, and concerns about transparency in the MRC's deliberation process.

Additional comments from Mr. Worthington, submitted as a letter prior to the meeting, are attached to these minutes.

Good of the Order

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:12.

CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

February 20, 2025
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For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

Welcome by Vice Chair Ann Soule / Call to Order / Roll Call

- Determination of quorum

Approval of Minutes

- Review and approval of January minutes

Public Comment on agenda items, limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair

Presentations

- 10 min – Bree Turner, Habitat Strategic Development Lead – Development of the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy
- 25 min – Cynthia Harbison, Washington DNR – Statewide Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Health and Conservation Plan – Elwha Unit Priority Habitat
- 20 min – Joint Q&A and Discussion

Announcements

- **Extra meeting next week for project development work session, FY 2025-27: Feb 24, 4-7pm**
- Today and next week are both “special meetings” due to atypical dates – only items on the agenda may be discussed
- Recruiting for member representing the Community At-Large, Alternate representing the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- MRC Chair & Vice Chair election upcoming in May
- Thank you everyone that participated in the OPMA training
- March 6th Ediz Hook revegetation

Committee and Project Reports if an update is needed

- NWSC monthly update – Alan Clark
- Comprehensive plans subcommittee
 - § Subcommittee: Alan Clark, Bob Vreeland, Ed Bowlby
 - § Link to current plan: [Clallam County Comp Plan update & Clallam County Climate/Hazard Mitigation Plan update](#). Please complete [Public Survey](#) if you haven't yet conveying your opinion on all or some topics (closes 3/25/25). For reference: [DCD Webpage](#)
 - § [Port Angeles City Comp Plan update](#)
 - § [Sequim Comp Plan update: Future of Sequim survey](#)

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- Interns – (on hiatus unless we get a new lead)
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- Education & outreach
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 - § European Green Crab status update – Ioana Bociu
 - § Oil spill response
 - State policy on rescue tug – Mike Doherty
 - HAZWOPER oiled wildlife trainings – Ed, Alicia, Rebecca, Nancy

New or special business items

- Letter proposed for discussion: Shoreline development along 3 Crabs Rd
- Letter received/response from leadership: Salmon restoration, from Clallam County/Sequim resident John Worthington
- Roles and responsibilities / “Duties” document – for review and potential approval
- Project development for the next biennium (10/2025 - 9/2027)
 - Special work session on February 24, 4-7pm (see emails for details)
 - Reminder: all projects need enthusiastic lead and co-lead to be chosen (will be determined at 24th work session)
 - *Preliminary project proposals, attached:* Olympia oysters, Pinto abalone, Elwha beach stewardship, pigeon guillemot, green crab (trapping on Dungeness Spit), Dungeness & Protection Island nearshore restoration, shoreline armoring, Ediz Hook debris removal, Marine Discovery Center educational signage, advisory capacity
 - *Additional projects to consider:* Blue ROV, derelict gear removal, creosote piling removal, HAZWOPER / oil spill response training, forage fish, kelp monitoring

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- **Next meeting Monday, February 24 – project planning work session**
- Next regular meeting Monday, March 17
- Call for new agenda items

Public Comment related to agenda items only (due to special meeting status) *limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair*

Adjourn

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- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

Public Comment

John Worthington from Sequim made a comment regarding the Olympia oyster restoration project, specifically its funding source, and concerns about transparency in the MRC's deliberation process.

Additional comments from Mr. Worthington, submitted as a letter prior to the meeting, are attached to these minutes.

Good of the Order

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:12.

DRAFT



PUGET SOUND National Estuary Program



Washington Department of
FISH & WILDLIFE



Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy Development

Clallam MRC Meeting
February 20, 2025

This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J89501 through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency or the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

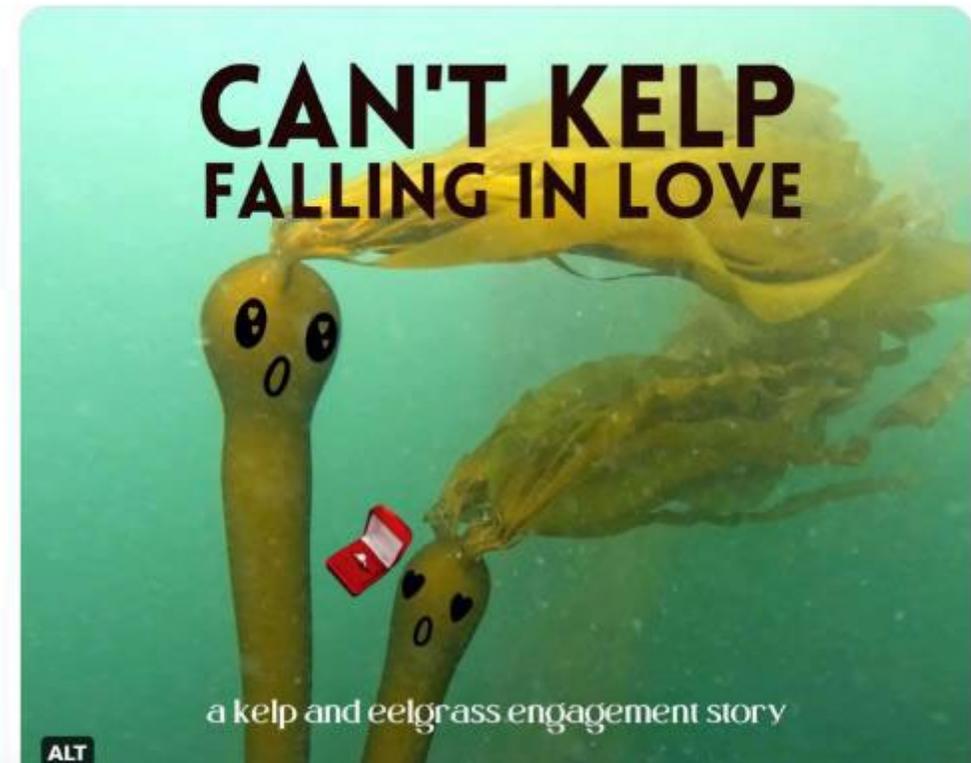
Goals for this Discussion

- Provide an overview of the Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy development process
- Gather high level input; what are the gaps in our early thinking?
- Flag specific opportunities for input and engagement



Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources
@waDNR

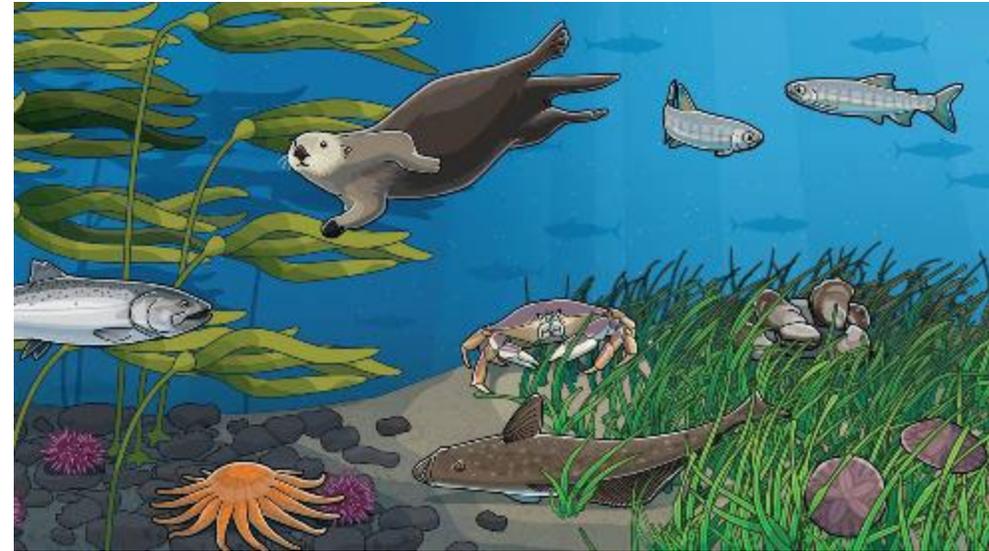
Turns out this was not what our marine ecologists meant by "promote our kelp and eelgrass engagement plan" :(



Why develop a Puget Sound Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy?

Accelerate recovery and protection of kelp and eelgrass!

- Coalesce the priorities and needs from regional recovery plans into one comprehensive strategy
- Articulate priority approaches for recovery
- Identify and guide Puget Sound investments in kelp and eelgrass conservation and recovery – aligned and sustainable
- Increase opportunities within the National Estuary Program and recovery community





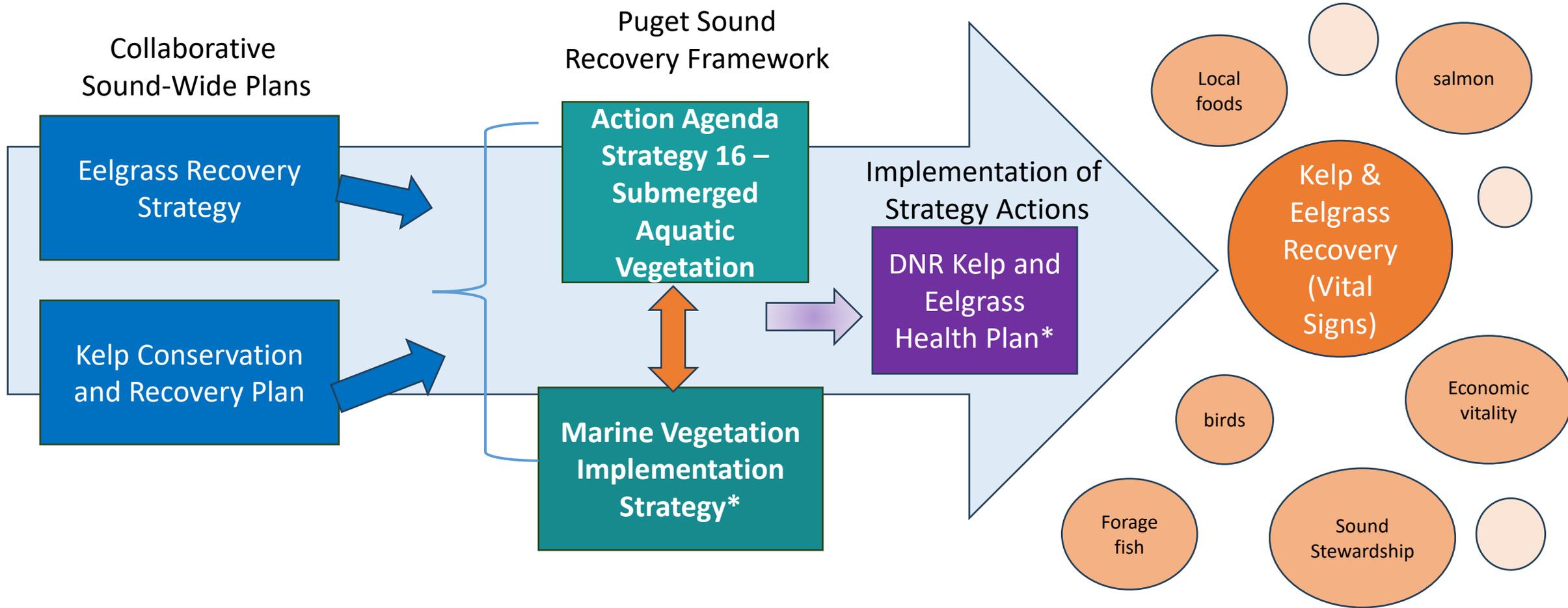
Strategy Development Approach & Timeline

Planning (May -
December 2024)

Content Development
(Jan - June 2025)

Finalize
Strategy/Reviews (July
– December 2025)

Kelp and eelgrass conservation & recovery planning



* In development



Proposed Strategies



- 1. Research & Monitoring:** Implement targeted research initiatives to understand the factors driving changes in eelgrass and kelp, with consideration of their ecological and community benefits.
- 2. Protection:** Fully implement and enforce available protections for kelp and eelgrass through existing regulations, programs, and policies.
- 3. Restoration:** Accelerate recolonization and expansion of eelgrass and kelp at sites shown to possess suitable conditions using effective methods.
- 4. Outreach & Education:** Target outreach and education to foster stewardship and collective action to benefit eelgrass and kelp conservation and recovery.



Other opportunities for engagement?



- Sign up for our email list to receive updates on the development over this year
- Upcoming workgroup and local meetings
 - We can come to you! Coffee hours, focused discussions with subset of members, joint meetings with other partners
- Provide comments to Feedback Form
- Review periods – including public comment



An underwater photograph of a kelp forest. The water is clear and greenish-blue. In the foreground, several large, dark brown kelp fronds are visible, some with long, thin blades. A thick, dark log floats horizontally across the middle of the frame. In the background, a line of trees is visible on the shore under a bright blue sky with some white clouds.

Please reach out!

Habitat Strategic Initiative

- Marine Vegetation Lead, Bree Turner: Bree.Turner@dnr.wa.gov

STATEWIDE KELP FOREST AND EELGRASS MEADOW HEALTH AND CONSERVATION PLAN

*February 20, 2025
Clallam MRC*



AGENDA

A blue-tinted background image showing a close-up of a shrimp, likely a crayfish or similar crustacean, clinging to a metal structure. The shrimp is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with its legs and body clearly visible against the blurred background of the metal structure. The overall color palette is a monochromatic blue, creating a professional and aquatic atmosphere.

- Overview of statewide plan
- Overview of focus and engagement in the Strait
- Next steps



PRIMARY GOALS OF KELP AND EELGRASS PLAN

- ① **Protect and recover** at least 10,000 acres of priority native kelp and eelgrass habitat by 2040
- ② **Identify** and mitigate stressors in priority habitats
- ③ **Monitor** distribution and trends in priority habitats



TWO-STEP FRAMEWORK: BROAD SCALE AND LOCAL PRIORITIZATION

STEP 1: STATEWIDE HIGH VALUE AREA IDENTIFICATION



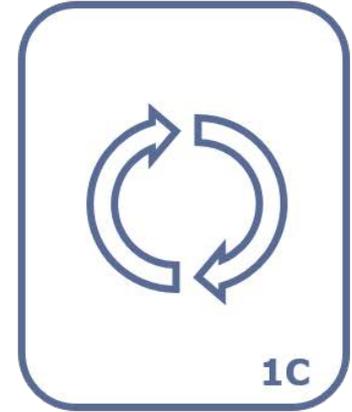
1A

SHARED VALUES



1B

HIGH VALUE AREAS



1C

REVISION

STEP 2: SUB-BASIN SCALE PRIORITY AREA IDENTIFICATION



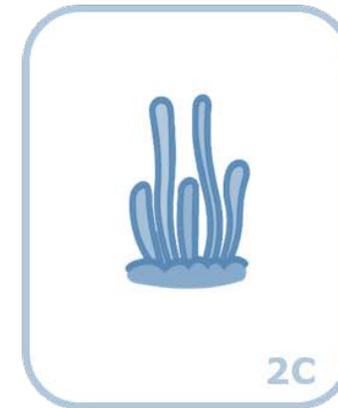
2A

LOCAL DATA



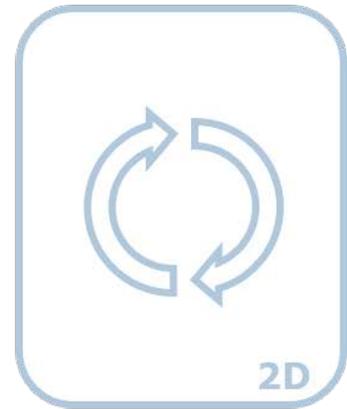
2B

SHARED ACTIONS



2C

PRIORITY AREAS

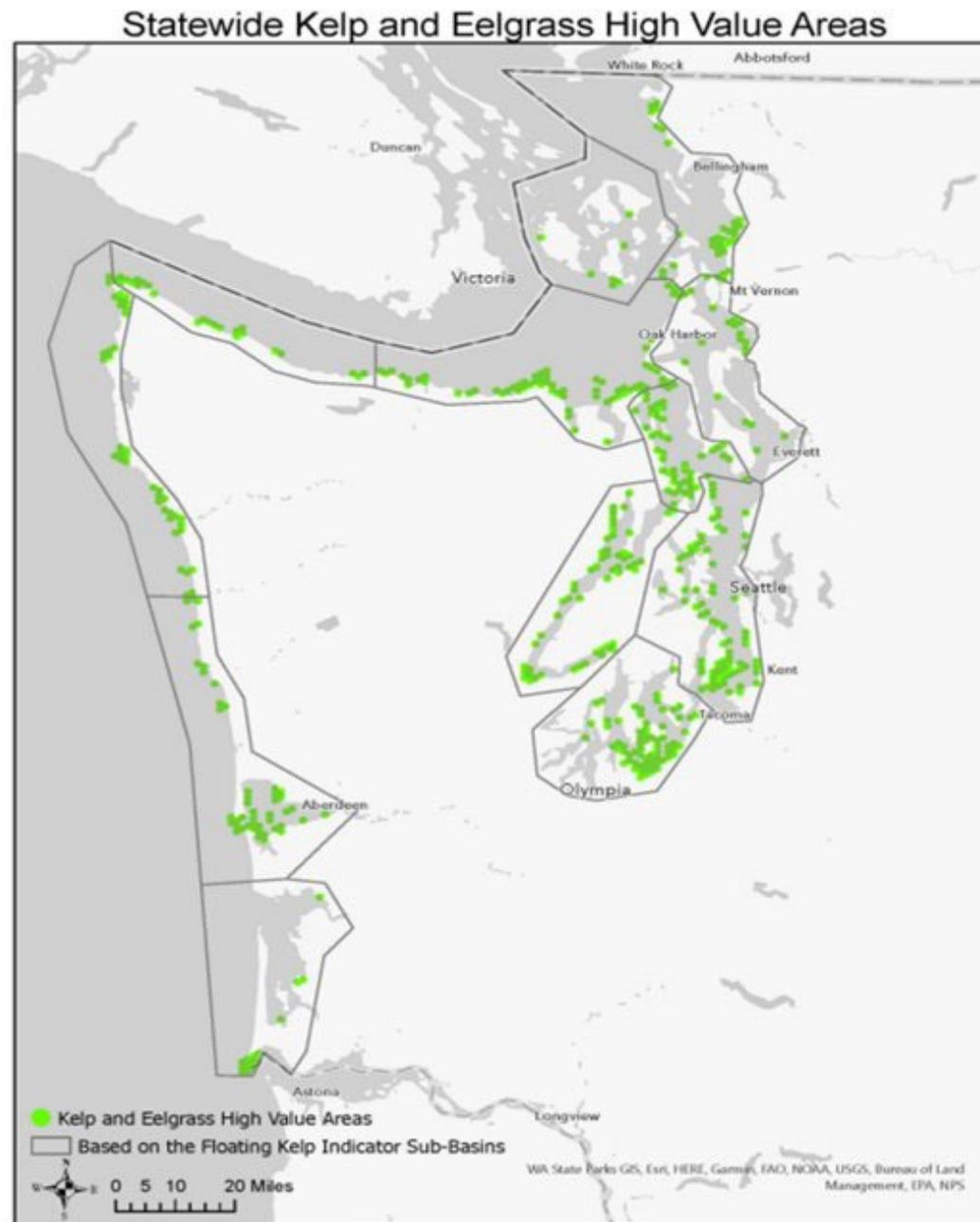


2D

REPEAT

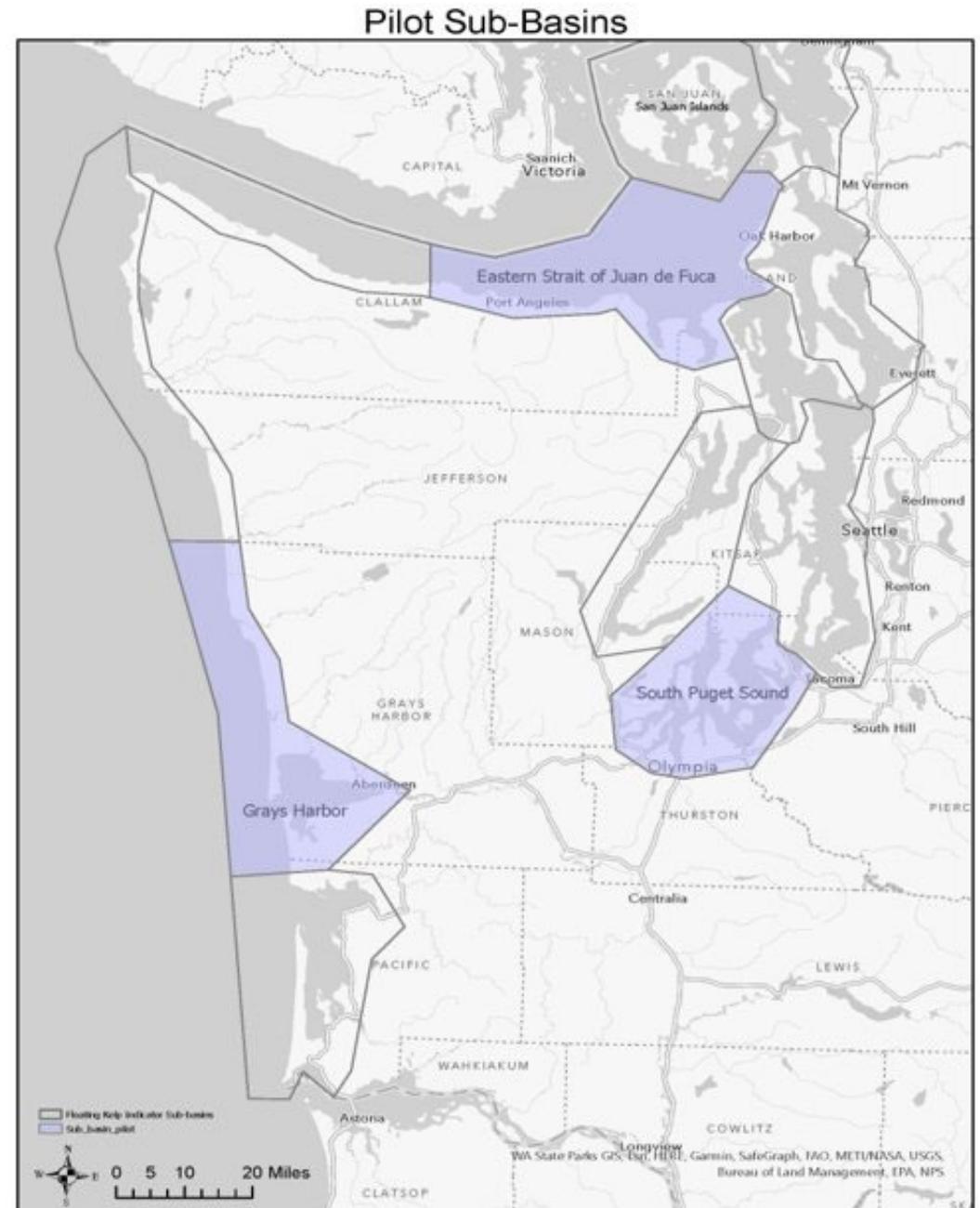
HIGH-VALUE AREAS: A STATE-WIDE FIRST STEP

- Maps ecological, economic, and cultural values
- Limited by data gaps and local context
- Will be iteratively refined through Plan

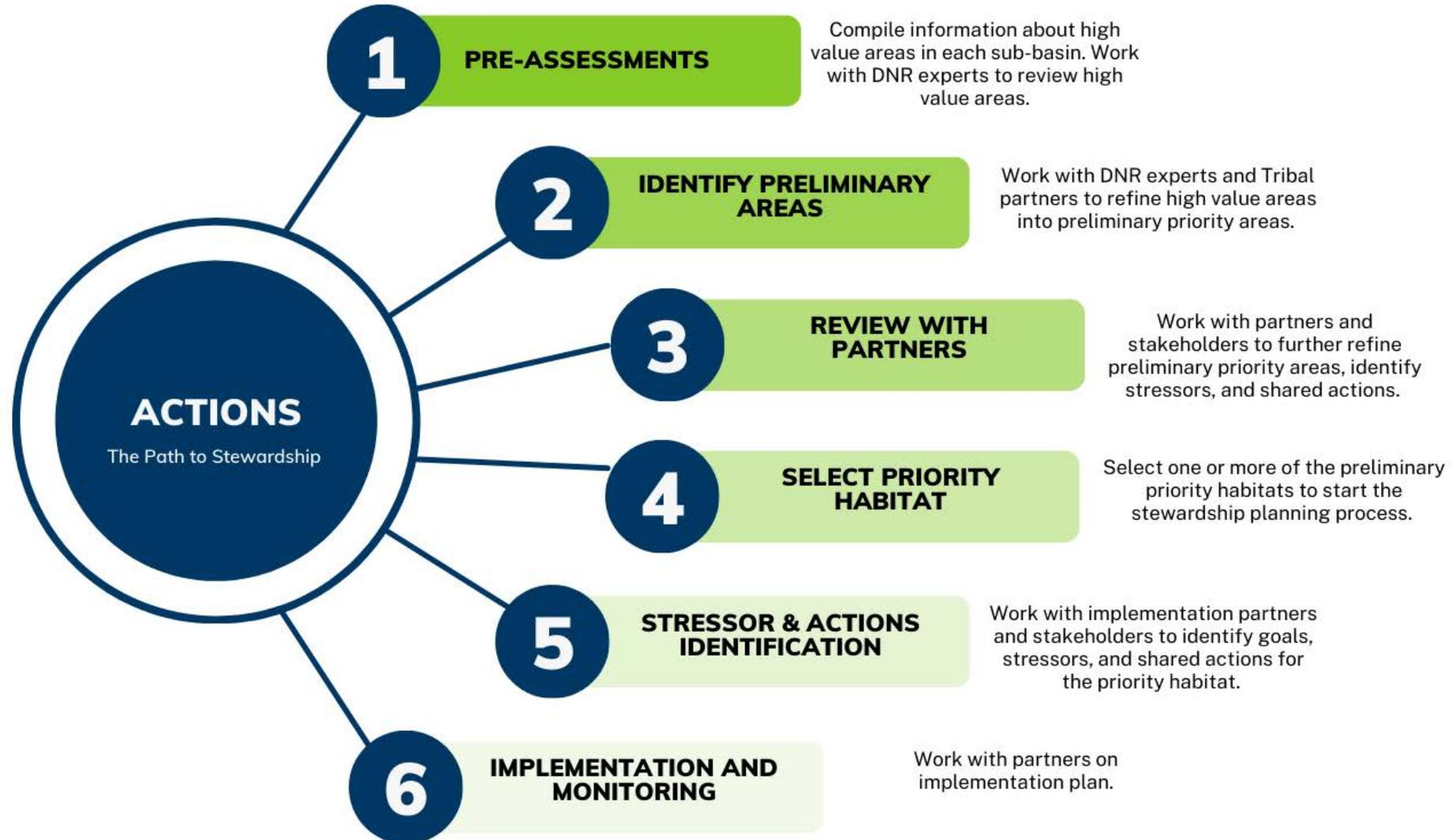


SUB-BASIN STRATEGY: PRIORITIZES LOCAL BOTTOM-UP PLANNING

- Priority habitat selected with extensive local input and data
- Action plans and goals to be developed with Tribes and partners
- Implementation reliant on partnerships and shared goals

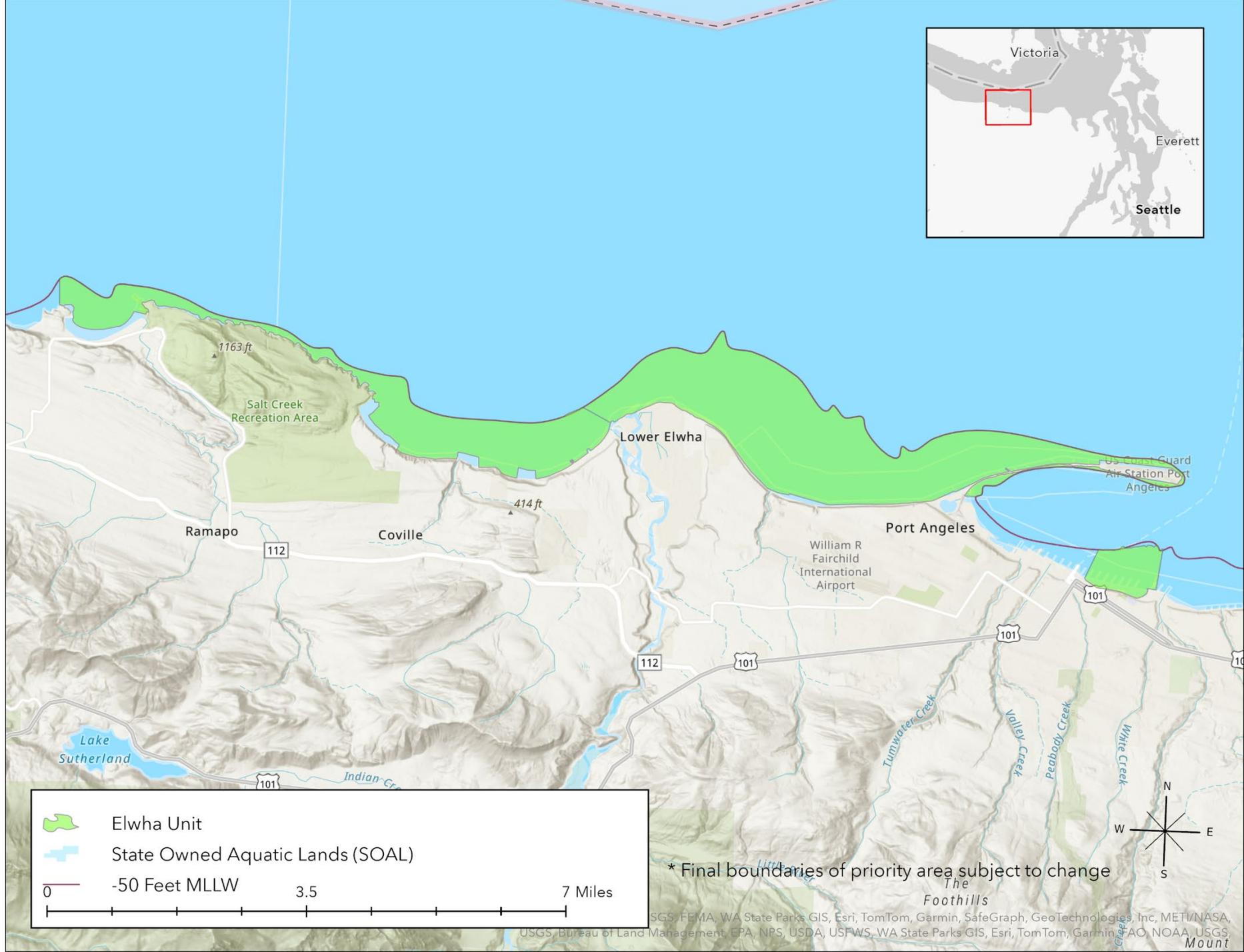


SUB-BASIN STRATEGY: PRIORITIZES LOCAL BOTTOM-UP PLANNING



ELWHA UNIT:

Priority habitat for the Eastern Strait



USGS, FEMA, WA State Parks GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, WA State Parks GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, NOAA, USGS, Mount

Summary

- The Elwha priority area is a strong example of a **kelp and eelgrass habitat mosaic** along the nearshore
- Long-term data on distribution and trends show areas of **stability and areas of decline**
- Floating kelp near Elwha River mouth was impacted by the dam removal, but has recovered in surrounding area
- Nearby ANeMoNe station offers opportunity to **track climate change indicators** in the area
- Co-located research with **many partners** in the area



STEWARDSHIP PLANNING GOALS

- **CONSERVE** healthy kelp and eelgrass
- **RECOVER** kelp and eelgrass habitat by mitigating stressors
- **RESTORE** kelp and eelgrass where feasible and appropriate

THROUGH



- Amplifying local **efforts**
- Increasing local **capacity**
- Integrating local **priorities**





STRESSORS OF KELP AND EELGRASS



PHYSICAL

- High temperatures
- Sediment
- Nutrients
- Currents and waves



BIOLOGICAL

- Animals that eat kelp and eelgrass
- Other seaweeds & invasive species that compete with or harm kelp and eelgrass
- Disease



HUMAN

- Point and non-point source of pollution
- Shoreline development
- Mooring & anchoring
- Harvest



CLIMATE CHANGE



EASTERN STRAIT STRESSORS WORKSHOP

October 2024 Elwha Unit workshop

- Gathered local Tribes, scientists, practitioners, and other interested parties in Port Angeles, WA
- Presented range of physical, biological, and human stressors, and each attendee voted on the most important
- Facilitated focused exercised and subsequent discussion regarding stressor mitigation



EASTERN STRAIT PRIORITY AREA: ELWHA UNIT

Most important stressors identified:

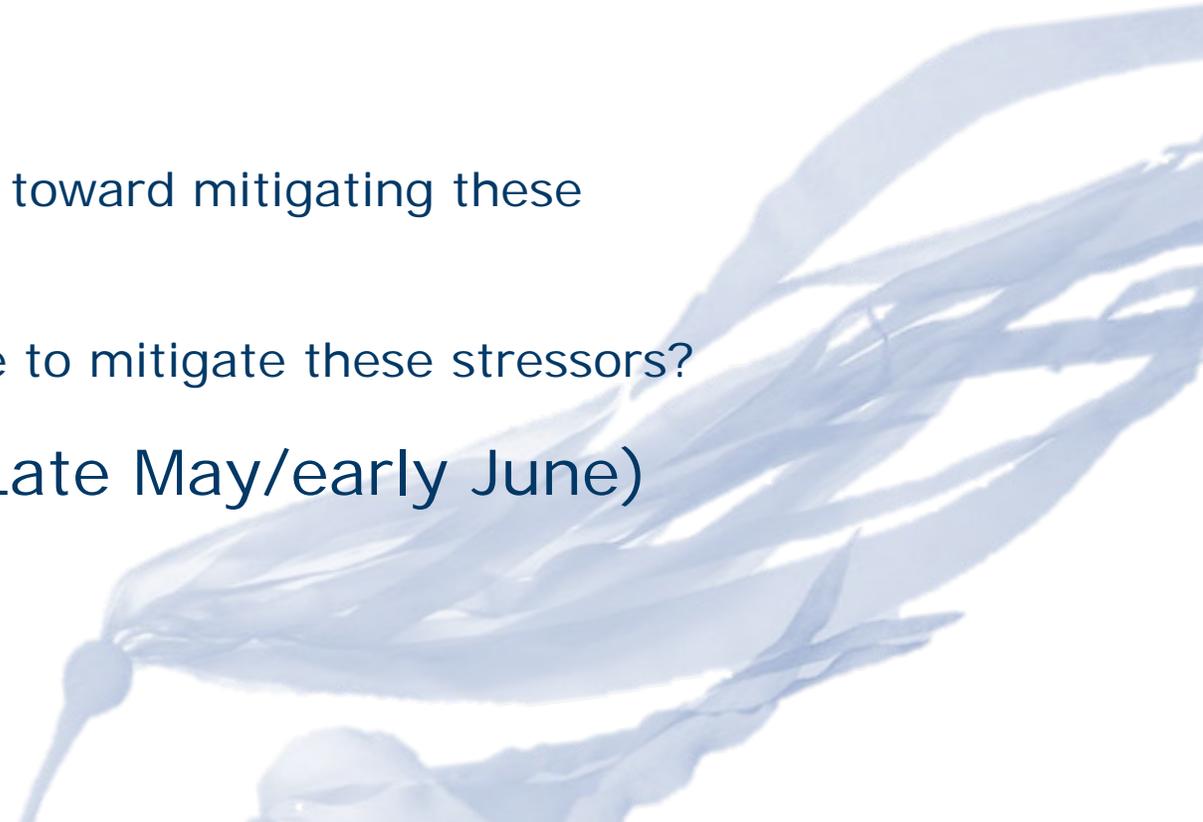
- Shoreline and upland development
- Temperature
- Substrate and benthic sedimentation
- Climate Change

Priority for action:

- Shoreline and upland development
- Temperature
- Nutrients
- Oil spills
- Sea level rise

Next Steps

- **Synthesize existing knowledge**
- **Workshop 1** (early April)
 - Review/add to current efforts in the area
 - Priority stressor mitigation -
 - How do the current efforts help us work toward mitigating these stressors?
 - What are the actions that we might take to mitigate these stressors?
- **Workshop 2 – Action Planning** (Late May/early June)



Questions

How would the MRC be interested in participating?

How can the organizations you represent participate or partner in this effort?

How can state agencies better support local kelp and eelgrass work?

CONTACTS

Cynthia Harbison

cynthia.harbison@dnr.wa.gov

dnr.wa.gov/kelp-and-eelgrass-plan



January 16, 2025

Marine Resources Committee
223 East 4th Street Suite 5
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Hello,

Attached is the best salmon restoration plan available to Clallam County decision makers.

The attached policy was developed by multiple expert agencies including the Army Corps of engineers.

No other salmon restoration plan makes sense, given that millions of dollars were already spent to develop and implement this plan and given its documented success.

The plan was to create a perfect system, and I firmly believe they did. I feel even stronger that every salmon river or creek should have this plan installed.

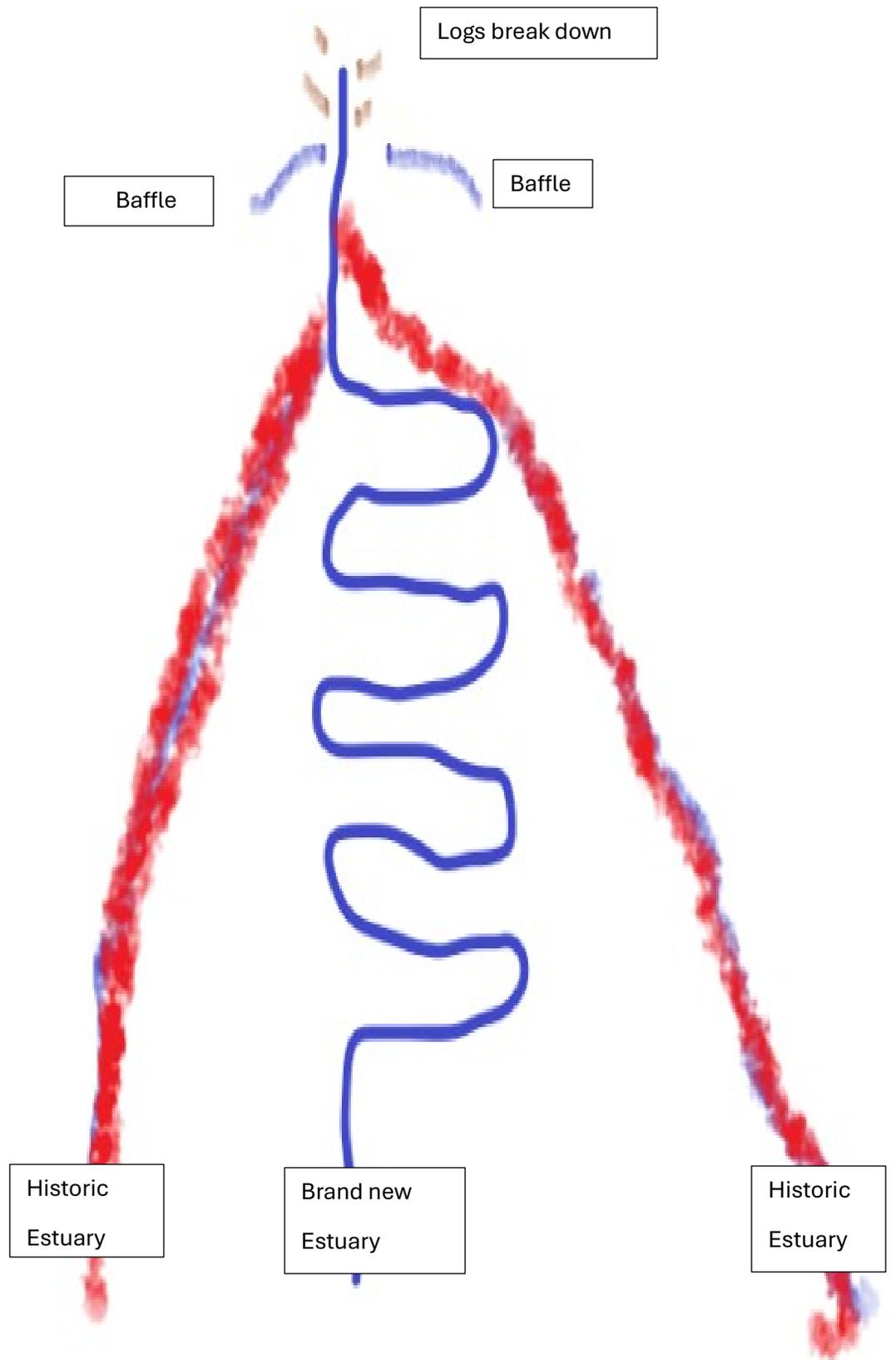
The plan was to allow log erosion at the top of the higher pitch and grade because that is where the stronger current and wind would bring them down naturally. The plan intended for the log to break down above the flat meandering part so the sediment could settle in the slower moving waters of the fixed meandering zone, where layers of composition could be ideal for laying eggs.

The channel would have baffles installed on both sides of the rivers or creek to ensure fine particles would make up the spawning area and so sediment did not build up to split the river or creek to create unwanted riffles. Logs were kept out of the meandering zone to prevent channel migration, washout and bed scour. The salmon hotel theory was viewed as hazardous.

I am formally asking the MRC, to respond to this letter. Please explain why this salmon restoration plan should not be installed.

Thanks.

John Worthington
425-919-3910



DRAFT letter for discussion re proposed hard armoring, etc. – **For MRC use only**

Date: _____, 2025

To: Clallam County Board of Commissioners
Clallam County Department of Community Development
Clallam County Planning Commission
Clallam County Public Works Department
Clallam County Hearings Examiner

From: Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

Subj: Shoreline management at Three Crabs Road

For many years the MRC has supported educational efforts regarding responsible stewardship of marine shoreline habitat for county landowners as well as permitting staff through workshops, field trips and webinars. In particular, we have advocated for the “Shore Friendly” program of the Northwest Straits Foundation which offers consultation, site visits, and potentially sources of funding to assist with revegetation and soft armoring techniques of property protection.

Despite these efforts and resources, it has come to our attention that there are actions proposed and permits under consideration by the County that deeply concern the MRC.

- To summarize our concerns: Three Crabs Road is on a stretch of beach between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and an estuary connected with the water table that extends between Meadowbrook Creek and Cooper Creek. Like all such landforms, it is a dynamic environment – and always has been, as seen in photos from a century ago:
 - [insert historic pic showing flooding]
- Sea level rise and increasing intensity of storms are two of the expected impacts of global warming and can already be measured in many areas. The northeast-facing coastline between Meadowbrook and Gierin creeks is vulnerable to storm surges coming from the east, and especially when they coincide with high, “King” tides. Residents of this shoreline have experienced more erosion in recent years, probably a result of the combined effect of more-intense storms and higher-elevation King tides. Their photos (and those from others) illustrate the increasing frequency of flooding at Three Crabs Road:
 - [insert recent pic showing flooding]
- Maintenance of the safety and environmental protection of this dynamic and fragile shoreline lies with permitting agencies ranging from the federal US ACOE and the state WDFW, DNR and Ecology, to the local: Clallam County, ideally in co-management with local tribes. Among these it’s often the local entities that are the most knowledgeable about a specific location, area, or property – or could most easily obtain new information. This is particularly true for environmental and habitat features, for development permits and proposals for structures (including septic systems), and for perspective on potential impacts on neighboring properties.

- The environmental functions of dynamic shorelines are many; protection of these functions often protects infrastructure as well. For example:
 - Wave action dissipation is a natural function that prevents vertical scouring and nearshore habitat function loss – one problem caused by bulkheads.
 - Drift cell maintenance is a normal/natural function that supplies sediment to neighboring beaches and Dungeness Spit.
 - Niche habitats found in nearshore beaches are used by species specifically adapted to the terrestrial-aquatic interface and nowhere else.
- Local governments also have the highest responsibility for adapting permitting to local conditions – through conditioning the permit, mitigating impacts, or denying a permit – and not assuming that state and federal agencies know best.
- Given that sea level is rising, an OHWM from the past used to establish setbacks isn't where it would be set today, and today's mark wouldn't be appropriate tomorrow or next year. We can't outrun it with more frequent measurements; instead, a conservative, forward-looking mitigative approach is warranted.
- Our current SMP and Comp Plan – and/or associated codes – may not be as protective as they should be since the measure and timing of impacts of climate change haven't been predictable precisely – and never will be. Yet the County is still responsible for making permitting decisions that conservatively protect both landowners and County taxpayers from risk and liability.
- Indeed, the impacts of sea level rise and more threatening storms have been known to be imminent since before the prior SMP, and the following is included in current County codes, policies, and/or plans:
 - Shoreline Residential–Intensive designations should include moderate to high density while “ensuring infill and new development occur in a manner that avoids and minimizes adverse impacts on shoreline functions”. (SMP)
 - “This Program [the SMP] should be implemented in a manner that achieves no net loss of shoreline ecological functions” and when considering new projects that could result in loss of ecological function, the County must take into account the effects of the project on downdrift resources (e.g. neighbors as well as habitat), (Ch 35.40.020)
 - “The cumulative effects that development would have when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future development”. (Ch 35.40.020)
 - “The Administrator shall prohibit any use or development that will result in unmitigated cumulative impacts”. (Chapter 35.40.030(6))
- Finally, at this time there are multiple actions and requests for actions from landowners along Three Crabs Road affected by the now-regular occurrence of flooding associated with storm surge and King tides. These actions apparently propose using traditional engineering methods that prioritize protection of limited private properties, including hard armoring and raising the elevation of the road surface.
 - First, this is not surprising. It would be very upsetting and frightening to see waves eroding one's property. Damage to one's landscaping and septic system would also be disturbing. If one had the financial means to construct better protection, they would understandably be motivated to do something as soon as possible. If one did

not have the means to hire consultants and contractors it would be that much more frightening.

- The temporary closure of one's only access road would also be upsetting; however, high tide waters subside at least partially within hours. It is also possible that emergency ingress or egress would not be affected.

MRC advisory messages:

- It is also upsetting and frightening for thousands of taxpayers to observe the destruction of the fragile environment for the expensive and temporary relief of landowners living on a dynamic shoreline. Any "solution" would be temporary since sea level rise and storm surge are on a worsening trajectory. We submit that traditional engineering will not fully protect residents from re-occurrences and that a long-term strategy to address the issues along Three Crabs Road is warranted – as soon as possible.
 - In fact, some of the current applications for bulkhead replacement or rehabilitation are for bulkheads permitted relatively recently.
- SEPA is designed to consider cumulative impacts, and hard armoring a segment of dynamic shoreline is known to cause erosion and destruction of adjacent properties almost immediately. SEPA decisions should consider neighboring properties and cumulative/long-term effects. Mitigation of impacts should start with considering avoidance. In the case of roads and homes along Three Crabs Road that means retreat or removal.
- Again, historic engineering methods like hard armoring won't resolve the new issue of indefinite, rapid erosion in the long term. What are alternatives to hard armoring? It is worth checking with state agencies for housing, infrastructure, and habitat restoration grant opportunities to help landowners with retreat, removal, or raising structures out of harm's way. This is a problem faced by every county with marine shorelines, so other collaborations may be available. Also, house insurers may start requiring landowners to take such steps and could be a source of practical advice.
 - Even though armoring of any type is considered a temporary fix for many beachfront structures, soft armoring can be less expensive to build and maintain and is much less destructive (potentially restorative) to fragile habitat.
- Also, armoring the marine shoreline won't address or resolve property flooding coming from two directions resulting from a higher sea level, estuary elevation, and/or water table during high tides.
 - Regarding regular inundation of septic systems, a regional sewer line may be needed due to the risk to human and environmental health from potential release of pathogens. Water quality grants and loans are likely available to assist that work.
- Note that retreat is not without precedent. Landowners on Rivers End Road (west side of the Dungeness River mouth) were bought out and/or structures were raised or removed. This was accomplished to benefit the shoreline habitat of the River and remove the risk to taxpayers of compensating private property owners for repeated flood damage.
- The shoreline landscape is changing as fast as development proposals are coming in. In 20 years our shorelines could look closer to the tsunami inundation maps than they do now.

- Bottom line: Band-aids including hard armoring and raising roads won't permanently solve the problems of increasing erosion and inundation and are more likely to cause new problems with both habitat and infrastructure.

This memo is primarily concerning activities we have noted in the Three Crabs Road area; however, the information is pertinent to marine shorelines throughout Clallam County. The vulnerability and fragility of beach and nearshore habitats is most recognizable but bluff shorelines are vulnerable as well due to erosion and risk to structures above.

Clallam County MRC is committed to promoting awareness of shoreline habitat functions and values and alternatives to hard armoring. Indeed, we are hosting a "Shore Friendly" training for county staff this spring, made available by the Northwest Straits Foundation – one of our state-level partners. Please reach us via our County staff coordinators:

Cathy Lear

Amelia Kalagher

Rebecca Mahan

January 17, 2025

Marine Resources Committee
223 East 4th Street Suite 5
Port Angeles, WA 98362

PROPOSED DUNGENESS SALMON RESTORATION PLAN

Hello,

Based upon the previous federal ,state and local experts findings and reports from 1970,1991 and 2003, I suggest the following plan for the Dungeness River Valley. I have attached a crude drawing to illustrate the initial proposal.

The proposal is a deluxe version of the 2003 model created and endorsed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. All log fells and decay will happen above the fixed meandering zone. The Dungeness fixed meandering zone would most likely be two or even three times as long as the 2003 model. The Meandering zone would be kept clear just like the 2003 model.

The baffles will be different in that there will be a lot more of them and larger in project size in order to add chlorine dioxide treatment and windmill pump mechanisms. Large enough to store water into smaller flood insurance friendly amounts, waiting to be pumped up stream after treatment. This system will ensure recycled water in the reservoir has been cleaned so as not to contaminate fresh water.

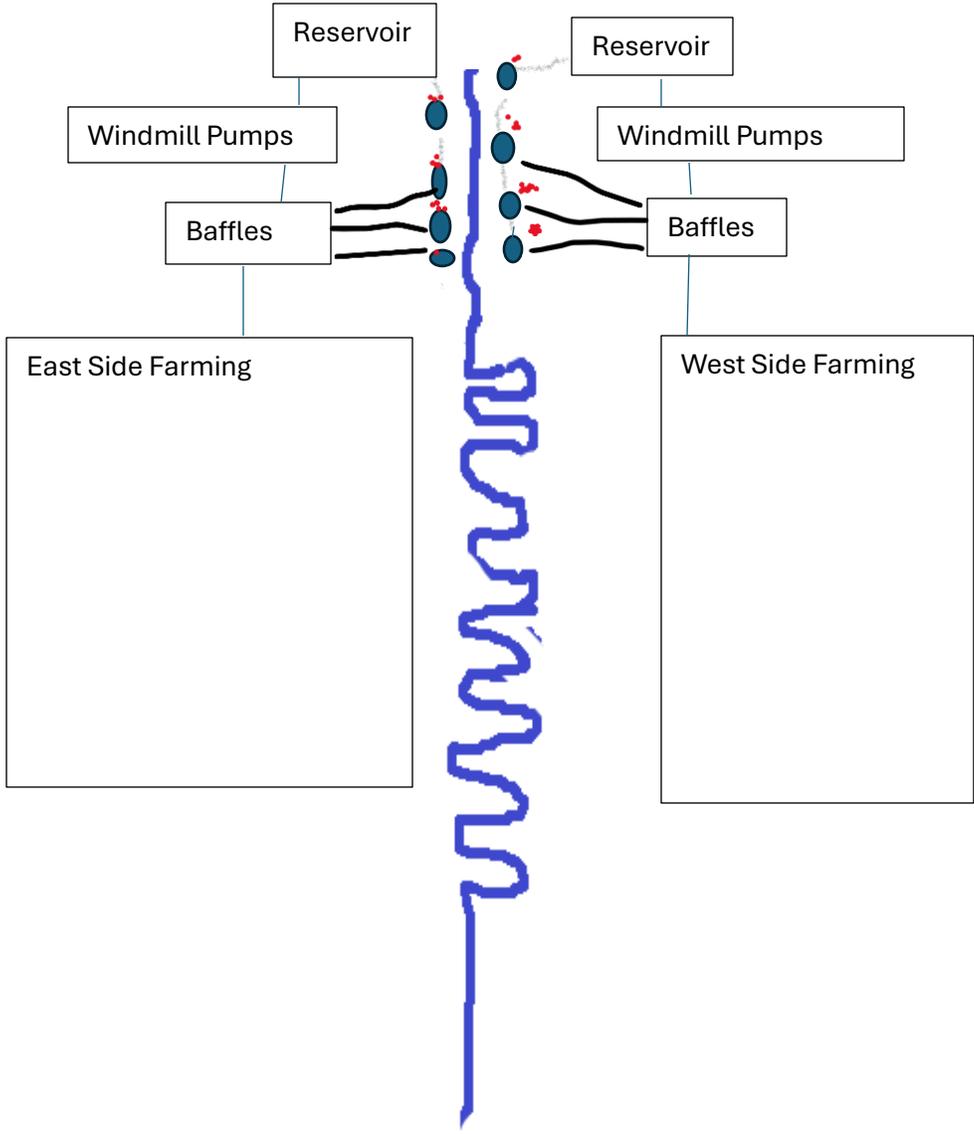
The farming area would be the catch basin for both treated water and floodwater. A separate farming area on both sides would keep valuable mineral soil available for rotation farming. I am not buying the no-till system.

This plan would maximise salmon spawning and increase farming potential pending more baffle and windmill operations.

Please give this plan consideration.

Thanks

John Worthington





January 24, 2025

Dear Mr. Worthington,

Thank you for your letter of January 16 describing a salmon restoration plan.

The Clallam Marine Resources Committee does not address salmon restoration in fresh water. The CMRC is focused on the marine environment, undertaking such projects as monitoring kelp, sea birds, and pinto abalone. The MRC strives to use best available science in its projects.

Your restoration plan may be better addressed to a salmon restoration organization.

Thank you

Ann Soule

Ann Soule
Vice Chair
Clallam Marine Resources Committee

January 17, 2025

Marine Resources Committee

223 East 4th Street Suite 5

Port Angeles, WA 98362

FISH CULVERT OR NEW STORMWATER DRAIN?

Hello,

This review is based upon expert studies from the 1970's, 1990's and 2003 and from the language in the court arguments in the fish culvert case. Based on those previously released science from the 1970, 1990's and 2003, the fish culverts were only helpful in providing access to flat meandering zones.

It is a fact that those reports concluded that access to areas with a topography grade of over 3 percent, were too steep and channeled and created undesirable water flow CFS and severely scoured any salmon beds located in those areas.

In the fish culvert case, the argument was that culverts were needed to provide access to "spawning grounds." Stating "Most of the spawning occurs on the other side of the culvert." However, that is not always the case.

One can clearly see that many of the culverts that have been installed, (Chick Coop Creek for example) have been installed in steep graded areas, that offer limited salmon spawning, based on their own previous conclusions. The creek goes up an obvious hilly terrain where the grade and CFS would scour away most of any spawning activity that took place there. Those types of culverts are obviously not leading to preferred salmon spawning locations. They are just new stormwater drains.

If the engineered Jimmycomelately model was applied to Chickcoop Creek, it would have come down just west of where the north campus is located. (The McGlothlin farm/ Long house.)

In short, they diverted the meandering of Chicken Coop to the steepest eastern portion around the north campus. That has restricted the spawning grounds of Chick Coop Creek to

the estuary out in front of the north campus. In other words, the Chicken Coop Creek culvert does not create access to a preferred spawning location, it just provides access to a suicidal spawning ground. Sure, it restored habitat, but only an undesirable one.

The salmon culvert process needs serious review and oversight.

Thanks.

John Worthington

January 18, 2025

Marine Resources Committee

223 East 4th Street Suite 5

Port Angeles, WA 98362

DUNGENESS FARMING RESTORATION

Hello,

This proposal is a potential addition to the proposed Dungeness Salmon Restoration plan.

Whereas the nautical miles, air miles and truck lane miles for agriculture are not tracked,

And

Whereas the sulfur emissions from bunker fuel emissions and diesel fuel emissions are at harmful and unacceptable levels,

And,

Whereas the loss of minerals from American food sources has helped create a health epidemic, by relying on nitrogen and potassium, or other chemicals.

And

Whereas international plots and schemes are attempting to convert farming space into open space and sowing racial divides,

And

Whereas there is a new administration coming with a new focus on healthy food sources,

And

Whereas historic restoration is too unreliable and federal grants for historic restoration ended up being used for natural restoration,

And

Whereas natural restoration is better than historic restoration or salmon hatchery facilities,

And

Whereas property protection rights have not been extended equally,

And

Whereas 75 percent of leafy greens are grown and shipped from over 1500 miles away,

And

Whereas over 70 percent of leafy greens can be grown in a northwest climate,

And

Whereas Congress is needed to regulate commerce and impose nautical mile taxes, air mile taxes, and lane mile taxes on goods from out of state and out of country sources,

Clallam County and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe find that farming in the Dungeness Valley shall be restored and optimized.

A partnership will be formed to fund and build an organic farming system that uses minerals from river water and other organic means other than nitrogen and potassium chemical sources.

The proceeds for the project will be split equally between the federal government, Clallam County and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The USDA, WSDA, and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will regulate the facility. Disputes will be settled by initiatives or referendums.

The facility will be two open field sections with mobile greenhouses relocated to a rotating flood zone where minerals have been stored over time. One operation on each side of the Dungeness River.

The baffle and windmill mechanisms will treat and process farm runoff and pumped into reservoirs for repeated use.

Facilities will be leased to farmers.

Congress will have to pass nautical mile tax, air mile taxes and assess user and impact fees to prevent price under cutting.

Please consider this proposal.

Thanks

John Worthington

Project: Launch Advisory Capacity

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to facilitate MRC member engagement with planning, permitting and other governmental processes related to shoreline/nearshore/marine development.

Participants: MRC leadership, members, staff; temporary consultant(s)

Activities:

- Establish MRC co-leads and other interested members on a new subcommittee
- Clarify roles and expectations between MRC staff and subcommittee
- Hire temporary consultant (land use planning specialist)
 - Training(s) on permitting processes (must be kept basic) – perhaps consult with Island or San Juan MRC for tips
 - Training on use of adopted Clallam MRC protocol for advisory work
 - Assess usefulness of “white paper” approach to expressing concerns (assume “Concerns list for BOCC” is adopted soon)
 - Consider whether/when MRC wants to be a “technical resource” to permitting staff
 - Interviews or other activities that introduce MRC subcommittee members with regulatory entities from County, Ecology and elsewhere (and vice versa)
 - Determine where/when in permitting process the MRC should engage
 - Shadow/support MRC subcommittee in at least one pilot that includes review and comment on a development proposal

Outputs:

- Online workspace for advisory work
 - Protocol checklists
 - Templates for comment letters, narratives for public speaking
 - Template for “white paper”
 - Template for annual report/ slideshow to BOCC
 - Folders for development activities being studied
- Current directory of appropriate point persons (planners and biologists) and boards from local, state, fed, tribal agencies/entities that work directly on proposals planned in Clallam County, including County DCD, PW, and EH and others
- Established liaison/point person from MRC for these entities

Outcomes:

- Connections with planning and permitting staffs
- Connections with BOCC and other policy makers
- Clarity of the role and capabilities of a new MRC subcommittee and other members in fulfilling our advisory responsibilities

- Clarity of the overlap with educational work

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead and co-lead:** 6-8 hours per month each
- **MRC subcommittee volunteers:** 2-4 hours per month
- **MRC staff:** 15 hours/month first year, 10/month second year (contracting, invoicing, meeting logistics)
- **Consultant:** 50-75 hours total

Estimated contract cost: \$10,000

Questions & Comments

1. Highly dependent on committed lead and co-lead
2. Very closely tied with MRC staff and operations
3. Adds a new “project” that staff and all members will need to track more closely than they do for field projects
4. Contactor must be familiar with regulatory processes, agencies and personnel on the NOP
5. This project does not require a QAPP
6. Current concerns in the process: specific wording causing delays in process, MRC being consulted after decisions are made

Project: Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges

Project Plan

Goal: Restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: Remove over 10 acres of invasive vegetation, nearshore restoration plantings; monitor; report

Year 1 – Organize volunteer crews to participate in hand pulling and/or mechanical removal of invasive Dalmatian toadflax and non-native grasses from sand spits and salt marsh habitat on National Wildlife Refuges

Year 2 – Continue removal efforts in late spring. Plant with native species.

Outputs: Removal of invasive vegetation, native vegetation plantings

Outcomes: The removal of non-native invasive vegetation will reduce competition with native species, enhance nearshore habitat quality and availability, and strengthen ecosystem structure and function. These restoration efforts will improve the ecological resilience of the co-managed National Wildlife Refuges, supporting long-term habitat health. Additionally, the project will foster community engagement by providing volunteer opportunities that connect people to conservation efforts and promote stewardship of these vital ecosystems.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 5 days to participate in invasive vegetation removal efforts and 2 days to participate in plantings

Estimated time for partners: 40 hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 10 hours?

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff: 80 hours

Estimated cost: \$15,000

Commented [GU1]: Includes cost of plants? Need to contract through county for plants

Questions & Comments

- The project areas—Graveyard Spit on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Violet Spit on Protection Island Wildlife Refuge—serve as critical habitat for marine mammals, seabirds, and shorebirds.
- Invasive vegetation, such as Dalmatian toadflax (a Washington State Class B Noxious Weed) and non-native grasses, can restrict wildlife mobility and reduce available foraging areas.
- To protect these sensitive habitats, removal efforts will focus on hand-pulling and mechanical methods like digging, ensuring minimal disturbance to native species. Biological control methods will not be used.
- The project will engage existing volunteers from the Dungeness and Protection Island Refuge Management Program, fostering hands-on stewardship and strengthening community involvement in conservation efforts.

Project: European Green Crab Control

Project Plan

Goal: Control and aim to eliminate invasive European green crab (EGC) from Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge and other locations (as needed) in Clallam County.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: JST refuge staff will lead a volunteer effort to trap and remove EGC; report

Commented [GU1]: Pass through concern

Outputs: Trapping and removal of EGC in known location on Dungeness Spit

Outcomes: Control or elimination of the EGC population on Dungeness Spit

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: depending on recruitment and participation of volunteers 7hrs/day 28hrs/ week 10 weeks- 280 hrs???

Estimated time for partners: 40 hrs/week at \$1200/week for up to 20 weeks

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 20 hours

Estimated cost: \$24,000

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on how much time we want to pay for a Biological Technician to supervise volunteers.
- Volunteers would have to go through training (including safety) by Tribe. Volunteers would likely be scheduled through existing volunteer program at the River Center and Refuge but could count as hours for MRC (?)
- If other areas are found to have EGC may be room for trained volunteers to help there.

Potential partners: City of PA Recreation Department (contact: Tim Tucker)

Submitted by Allyce Miller, representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The recreation department of the city wants to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook. You can see the attached picture to get an idea. These pieces are falling out of the shoreline as it erodes, and many pieces are already exposed. The city will supply the heavy equipment and operators to remove the big pieces. We thought the MRC could get involved by:

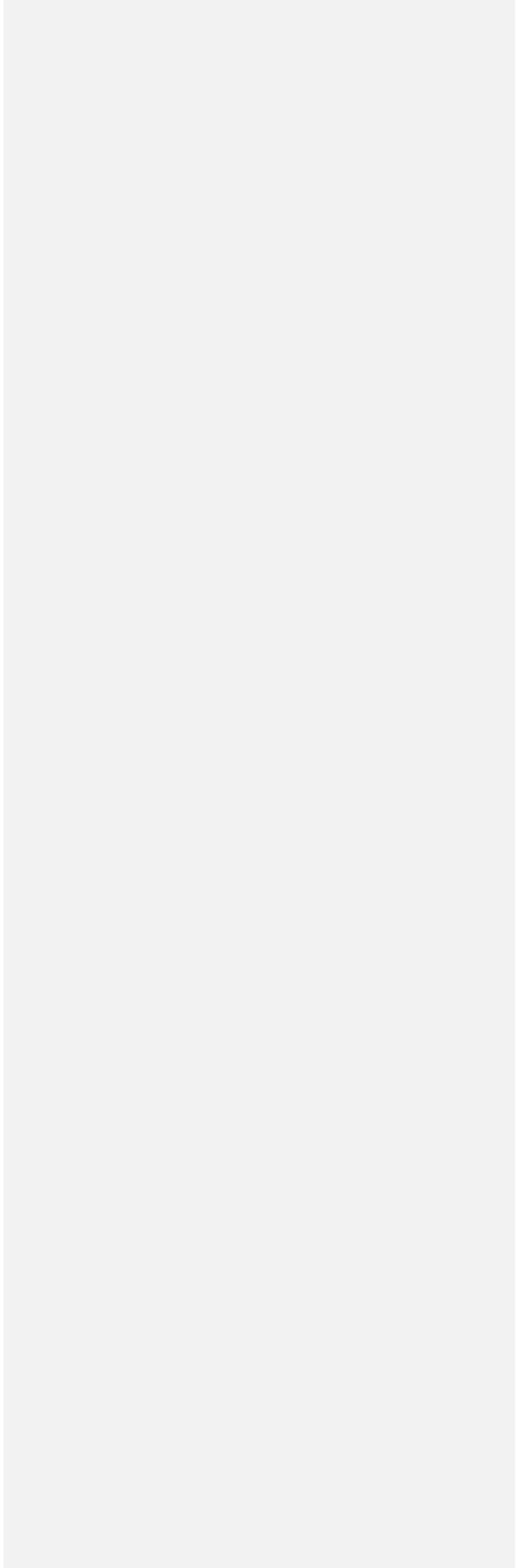
- 1) Funding the disposal of the concrete and asphalt at local disposal (~\$10k)
- 2) Organizing a volunteer event to pick up smaller pieces of asphalt and concrete (\$0)
- 3) Planting any heavy equipment access scars with native beach plants (~\$1k)

This budget needs to be refined as we figure out what cultural compliance is needed and how much there is to be disposed. This \$11k is a rough estimate for now. There's always the option of looking for other funding sources if significant cultural compliance or there is a lot to dispose of.

[Tim Tucker] also shared some long-term goals of taking out some asphalted parking and condensing parking options a bit more by the rowing club because that parking area asphalt is fast-eroding into the strait. That part still needs time and planning, so it's not ready to bring forth into the project proposal now, but FYI it is something to look forward to down the line if MRC wants to play a role.

Commented [GU1]: Pass through flag

Commented [GU2]: Likely go through Clallam Conservation District for this. Some dollars maybe needed for incidentals



Project: Elwha River Stewardship

Project Plan

Goal: To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff (Surfriders are affiliated with this project as they are paying for a second Sanikan in the parking lot).

Activities: Maintaining the dog waste station refilling dogi bags twice a month. Counting cars in the parking lot to estimate number of 2024-25 visitors. Paying Bill Plumbing for maintaining the Sanikan on the dike.

Outputs: Contract with Bill Plumbing; Purchase and distribute more than 5,200 dogi bags per year; Weekly maintenance of a well-used Sanikan (per Bill's Plumbing).

Outcomes: Provide sanitary facilities for more than 50,000 people and 9,700 dogs based on 2023-24; In addition, hundreds of students use the beach as an outdoor classroom (not part of the visitation estimate).

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 2-3 hours per month or 24-36 hours per year to maintain the dog waste station based on driving distance from Port Angeles. 20 hours to write the annual project report. Total 44-56 hours per year.

Estimated time for partners: don't know Surfriders time commitment.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 5-10 hours? Ensuring the continuation of the contract with Bill Plumbing; Checking annual project report written by the lead.

Estimated cost: \$3,200 annually – total \$6,400

Questions & Comments

- Do we want to find a cost sharing partner? (based on a question raised during the project discussion in 2023).

Commented [GU1]: Surfriders does other work in this area but is not a sponsor of MRC's work

Commented [GU2]: This project needs Science Advisory input, and follow up to be sure that protocol is followed and working out. Co-lead could assist.

Project: Kelp + Eelgrass Display at MDC (Marine Disco Center / new Feiro)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; MRC staff; Feiro staff, board, and interior/display design consultant

Activities:

- Float idea with Feiro staff, board
- Firm up connections with appropriate Feiro/MDC personnel and contractors
- Work with designers on content
- Support as needed
- Pay for display

Outputs:

- Attractive educational display (possibly interactive) installed (and/or portable?) at the new MDC

Outcomes:

- Improved understanding by all viewers of the display regarding what's important about marine vegetation and algae
- Improved relationship between MRC and Feiro/MDC

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 5 hours
- **MRC staff:** 5 hours

Estimated contract cost: \$10,000 (?)

Commented [GU1]: Timeline in flux, as funding is still in progress

Commented [GU2R1]: This project could be included in "education and outreach" bucket, and if timeline doesn't work out another display could be substituted. Confirm with Melissa @ Feiro

Questions & Comments

1. Requires agreement and collaboration with MDC project personnel
2. This project does not require a QAPP

Project: Olympia Oysters

Project Plan

Goal: Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe will work with the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee’s Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and Clallam MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff

Activities: Monitor growth and survival of Olympia Oyster restoration efforts in Sequim Bay through the performance of population surveys.

Outputs: Agreements with partners; Monitor Olympia Oyster population, growth and survival on previously restored Olympia Oyster beds in Sequim Bay.

Outcomes: Approximately 1.5 acre of Olympia oysters are monitored

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days to survey habitat

Estimated time for partners: 30 hours/yr

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 30 hours/yr

Estimated cost: \$2704.20/yr

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on survey conditions and County and Tribal staff time.
- Will surveys continue beyond 2025?
- Clarify future goals for the site with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff
- Not open to community volunteers, only MRC members (policy of the Tribe + muddy conditions)

Project: Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025

Project Plan

Goal: Monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PIGU) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.

Participants: MRC members, Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS) members and public participants.

Activities: Visual monitoring of PIGU spring through summer nesting activities, including feeding and disturbance behaviors and nesting success.

Outputs: Agreements with OPAS partner for refresher training of returning volunteers (or new training for novice observers paired with seasoned observers).

Outcomes: Continued monitoring efforts (since 2016) for Clallam County PIGU colonies along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC (or OPAS and/or public) volunteers: 1-2 hours per week from June to August (unless extended due to continued PIGU burrow activity into September)

Estimated time for partners: Minimum of 10 weeks of survey time.

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteer leads (Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato): 100 hours

Estimated MRC cost: \$200-\$500, depending if OPAS cost-shares this project with MRC for 2025 (looking more likely in 2025).

Questions & Comments

Cost variable depending on whether OPAS cost shares with MRC. This is looking more likely in 2025. This is a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Survey123 data management system.

Commented [GU1]: Bump up cost in case sign replacement is needed

Commented [GU2R1]: In the realm of several hundred dollars

PINTO ABALONE: PROJECT PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE WORK IN FY 2026-2027

Goal: Restoration of Sustainable Pinto Abalone Populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Participants:

| Organization | Role and Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) | Project oversight, participation in diver surveys and data collection, education and outreach |
| Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) | Manages project planning and implementation, conducts dive surveys, coordinates with CCMRC liaison, creates reports and manages data |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) | Technical guidance, diver survey vessel support, as needed |
| Local support vessels | Support for dive surveys, as needed |
| Local scientific divers | Support for dive surveys, as needed |

Activities:

- **Synoptic diver surveys along the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Strait) following standardized abalone survey protocols to document existing remnant abalone populations, identify potential index sites for long-term monitoring, assess areas of interest for future restoration efforts that include outplanting of laboratory-cultured juvenile abalone.**
- **Education and outreach to local Clallam County government and citizens on the importance of abalone to contribute healthy subtidal ecosystems.**

Outputs:

- **Potential improvements to PSRF/WDFW abalone survey protocols for use in the Strait.**
- **Creation of maps and survey data showing the locations of remnant populations (with limited distribution disclaimer).**
- **In collaboration with PSRF and WDFW, identification of possible locations for index sites and potential outplanting locations for abalone monitoring and restoration.**
- **Developing of briefing documents and presentation material for Clallam County government and citizens that highlight the importance of abalone restoration.**

Outcomes

- **Successful completion of this project may result in the restoration of self-sustaining populations of pinto abalone to areas along the Strait where they were extirpated by recreational harvesters.**

- **At a minimum, results from these surveys will provide valuable population data on this state-listed endangered species along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that can be used to inform marine stewardship activities, including oil spill response planning,**

Project: Shoreline Armoring Survey

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to determine where shoreline armoring currently occurs and make the information public for regulatory and restoration purposes

Participants: MRC member lead/co-lead, staff; contractor

Activities:

- Consult with Snohomish County MRC members involved in similar project
- Consult with County DCD re methods, highest need areas, how to make it most useful, etc.
- Hire aerial shoreline surveyor
 - Pilot
 - Videographer
 - Video analysis / data entry / mapping
 - Geo/biological assessment of prioritized/ relative risk of erosion
 - Prepare report
- Post videos and report online
 - Announce/ disseminate links to regulatory and restoration personnel
 - Conduct public presentation(s)

Outputs:

- Shoreline armoring survey results (map)
- Report useful to regulatory and restoration personnel

Outcomes:

- Reduced risk for armoring projects detrimental to nearshore habitat
- Better restoration outcomes over time

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead/co-lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC staff:** 10 hours
- **Contractor:** 100 hours (WAG!)

Estimated contract cost: \$25,000 (WAG)

Commented [GU1]: Tim Abbey (works with LEKT) - may be helpful with a better estimate

Questions & Comments

1. Requires buy-in from local gov'ts before it gets started
2. Mostly contracting time from MRC staff
3. Mostly just liaison and supervision time from MRC leads
4. This project does not require a QAPP (I DON'T THINK)

Duties of Clallam MRC Officers and Members

January 2025

Duties of the Chair:

1. Provide leadership and serve as the presiding officer of the board.
2. Chair monthly committee meetings, maintain order, assist board in achieving actions for each meeting, implement Roberts Rules of Order.
3. ~~Create Appoint members to~~ subcommittees and special assignments, and appoint members when necessary.
4. Rule on questions of procedure.
5. Meet with MRC staff to review monthly agenda items, plan the annual cycle of monthly meetings.
6. Conduct business of the MRC between its meetings, in coordination with/as needed by County staff.
7. Sign documents of the committee.
8. Serve as the official spokes person for the group in matters relating to the press. Represent the organization as a spokesperson, at other venues, -as appropriate.
9. Provide annual updates to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners.
10. Participate in annual NWSC conference if possible.
11. Anticipate contributing up to 10 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of the Vice-Chair:

1. Act for the chair in the chair's absence.
2. Share tasks with the chair, act as a sounding board, and help with ~~difficult~~ decisions between meetings.
3. Liaise regularly with the chair about agenda items and current issues.
4. ~~Address complaints made about the chairperson.~~ Assist chair with unresolvable communications issues.
5. Provide support/coordination on MRC business between meetings.
6. Participate in annual NWSC conference if possible.
7. Anticipate contributing up to 8 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of Field Project Leads/Co-Leads:

1. Work closely with County MRC staff on planning and implementing the project, and be familiar with reporting forms and timeline for when reports are due.
2. In coordination with MRC staff, maintain project team effectively, delegate tasks, monitor progress, identify and mitigate risks, communicate with team, make decisions, solve problems, and ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget, all while maintaining a focus on achieving project goals.

Commented [AK1]: Existing committee procedures in Clallam County? Reach out to Loni

Commented [AK2R1]: Switch to a positive outlook: e.g. assist the chair with unresolvable communication issues. etc

Commented [GU3R1]: i like that. it could evolve into "taking over" certain communication issues but i doubt that will happen.

3. Make sure project gear is functioning properly and work with MRC staff to maintain as needed.
4. Follow the project QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) and assist in developing and updating QAPP as project timelines dictate.
5. Submit draft yearly report using data, findings, and other information to MRC staff 3-4 weeks before reports are to be submitted to the grant entities. Reports may be needed quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on the grant requirements.
6. Respond timely to MRC staff requests for data, information, and review of documents, in addition to providing a supporting role to MRC staff and the NWSC.
- ~~7. Treat committee members and MRC staff with respect and kindness.~~

Duties of Members:

- ~~—Treat committee members and MRC staff with respect and kindness.~~
- ~~1. _____~~
 - ~~2. Responsible for contributing to meetings, Regularly attend meetings and participate.~~
 - ~~3. _____ Actively engageing in at least one field or educational project team, including regular project team communication and assistance when leads put out a request for help with projects and communicating team business.~~
 - ~~4. _____ Actively volunteer for two or more public education/outreach events each year.~~
 - ~~5. _____ Actively volunteer to serve, for example as an officer, NWSC rep, field project or educational team lead, or and on advisory or other sub-committees, when formed.~~
 - ~~4.6. _____ Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, depending on commitments).~~
 - ~~5. Engage as a project lead or co-lead of existing or proposed MRC projects, obtainObtain required training to carry out projects (ex: WDFW sampling training, HAZWOPR training) and propose new projects for grant biennium.~~
 - ~~6.7. _____ Actively assist on projects when leads put out a request for help.~~
 - ~~7.8. _____ Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.~~
 - ~~8.9. _____ Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.~~
 - ~~9.10. _____ Participate in annual NWSC conference, if possible.~~
 - ~~10.11. _____ Communicate and liaise regularly with the population or organization represented by your MRC role.~~
 - ~~11.12. _____ Communicate with your alternate regularly, especially so that they can be sure to attend meetings if you are unable.~~
 - ~~12.13. _____ Communicate with the Chair and MRC staff if you are not able to attend a meeting and if your alternate will be in attendance to fill in for you.~~

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Duties of Alternates:

1. Communicate with their ~~corresponding lead~~ member ~~representative~~ regularly.
2. Actively assist on field and education projects, ~~when leads put out a request for help.~~
3. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.
4. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
5. Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, as needed).
6. Alternates are allowed to vote only when they are filling in for the ~~lead~~ member.
7. Alternates should try to attend monthly meetings, even if the ~~member~~ ~~lead~~ is in attendance.

Duties of Northwest Straits Commission Representative:

1. Clallam County MRC representative is required to attend monthly meetings (~~both~~ in-person ~~or~~ on Zoom).
2. Represent the Clallam MRC at the NWSC meetings.
3. Be the liaison between the NWSC and MRC staff/members.

NW Straits 2024 Conference - Science Advisory Committee (SAC) Session Worksheet

Instructions: The project wheel worksheet is broken down into steps to help you map out your project design for a new idea/or existing project. Definitions are on the back of this worksheet. Complete as much of this worksheet as you can on a specific idea, new or ongoing project you would like to discuss with the SAC. Start with your goal and use this wheel as a tool to identify what you are trying to accomplish and flag where you have questions or need guidance from the SAC.

Start here



Goal:



Outcomes:



Participants:



Outputs:



Activities:



Start here



Goal: if/when this project succeeds, [...] will happen, be known

drive assessment of whether and how project can meet the goal, or needs to be changed it in the next round

can not be achieved without specific, named

Outcomes: how the activities and outputs measurably further the goal(s) of the project.

which, once accomplished facilitate these measureable movements towards the goal

Participants: all groups (e.g., MRC staff, volunteer members, other organization(s)) directly involved in the work

can be assigned to all of the project

Outputs: any tangible products of the work (e.g., pamphlets, signage, graduates of a training program, number of invasives found, wildlife counted, acres cleaned, sites added, etc.)

directly result in discrete or countable

Activities: the tasks & actions - science, monitoring, training, presentations, etc. accomplished by the project participants

Northwest Straits Commission Science Advisory Committee - Project Wheel



February 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time: 5:31 – 7:17

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

| | Member | Present? | Alternate | Present? |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Academic Community | Ed Bowlby | X | Ioana Bociu | X |
| At Large | Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>) | X | Mary Sue Brancato | |
| At Large | [vacant seat] | --- | Ray Kirk | |
| Conservation & Environmental Interests | Robert Vreeland | X | Nancy Stephanz | X |
| Development Community | Christopher Rumpel | excused | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District I | Jeff Ward | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District II | Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>) | X | Lyn Muench | X |
| District III | Mike Doherty | | Dann May | |
| Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe | Christopher Burns | X | Robert Knapp | |
| Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe | Allyce Miller | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| Makah Tribe | [vacant seat] | --- | [vacant seat] | --- |
| Marine Related Recreation & Tourism | Alicia Amerson | | Helle Andersen | |
| Port Angeles City Council | LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>) | excused | Navarra Carr | |
| Port of Port Angeles Commission | Jesse Waknitz | | Katharine Frazier | |
| Sequim City Council | Meggan Uecker | | Harmony Rutter | |

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Chelsea Korbolic (NOAA and other roles), Cynthia Harbison (presenter, WA DNR), Bree Turner (presenter, WA DNR), Charlotte Watts, Annabelle ByrneStrong

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Chair Ann Soule called the meeting to order at 5:31. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so the approval of January minutes was skipped.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Presentations

Bree Turner (Habitat Strategic Development Lead) presented on the development of the [Marine Vegetation Implementation Strategy](#) for recovery and protection. The goal is to accelerate recovery and protection of kelp and eelgrass through clear priorities and accelerated funding. Planning took place so far, and content is now being developed in early 2025, while strategy aims to be finalized by the end of 2025. This interfaces with the Puget Sound Action Agenda and uplifts the DNR Kelp and Eelgrass Health Plan. The work involves WDNR, WDFW and other partners and includes the following strategies: Research & Monitoring, Restoration, Protection, and Education/ Outreach. Engagement opportunities include [signing up for the email list](#), upcoming local meetings to be announced, commenting on the Feedback Form, and participating in review periods.

Cynthia Harbison (Washington DNR) presented on the [Statewide Kelp Forest and Eelgrass Meadow Health and Conservation Plan](#), particularly the Elwha Unit Priority Habitat. Step 1 of the plan is to identify priority areas at the statewide scale, and step 2 is to identify priority areas at the sub-basin scale. Their goal is to recover 10,000 acres by 2040. Cynthia reviewed the process for gathering information and data and determining priority areas. She introduced the Elwha Unit of priority habitat, with a preliminary map extending from Crescent Bay to Ediz Hook plus Hollywood Beach to Morse Creek, and shared some of the factors that led to choosing it as a priority area. She discussed the major stressors impacting this area and which are a priority for action. Next steps include two upcoming workshops (virtual in April; Port Angeles in May/June respectively) to clarify current efforts, mitigation plans for stressors, and planned actions. You can [sign up here for the plan's email list](#).

Both presentations were followed by a combined Q&A and discussion session. Discussion included:

- Projects are result of legislation from 2022
- Water quality monitoring through the ANeMoNe stations program
- The specific nature of possible actions through the plan: eelgrass is more responsive to restoration, whereas for kelp the focus is reducing stressors
- Acidification as a potential stressor
- The program's funding
- Intent for eelgrass conservation: primarily stressor mitigation, with some possible restoration opportunities
- No-anchor zones for eelgrass conservation
- Inclusion of Morse Creek in the priority area
- The extent and contents of the priority area
- Potential synergy with shoreline armoring removal
- Synergy with forage fish data (just published by NOAA)
- Outreach opportunities, including MRC coasters

- Outreach challenges; finding the right strategies that synergize

Announcements

- *Project development & selection work session, Feb 24 4-7pm*
- *Special meetings:* Feb 20 and Feb 24th are special meetings, required to stick to agenda
- *Member recruitment for a few open seats*
- *MRC Chair and Vice Chair elections:* May meeting
- *OPMA training:* Thank you to those who participated
- *March 6th Ediz Hook revegetation needs volunteers:* 3,500 plants; let Rebecca know directly but public signs up on CCD website

Committee and Project Reports

Only project leads with substantive updates were asked to provide them.

- *Northwest Straits Commission update – Alan Clark:* There will be an in-person Commission meeting in Clallam County on Friday, May 30th, which all MRC members are invited to (Caitlyn Blair is making arrangements but may ask for assistance). The Commission is working to clarify the relationship with the Northwest Straits Foundation.
- *Comprehensive plans:* Ann suggested that the survey, due March 25, should be a primary method for members to provide input for the County’s Comp Plan, but a letter is also an option. Bruce added that written comments can be shared directly with Tim Havel, tim.havel@clallamcountywa.gov, and now is a great time to do so. Bruce elaborated on the County’s current work on comprehensive plan development, with a goal of completion by end of August.
- *Sound Toxins – Nancy:* Nancy and Amelia attended the two-day Sound Toxins annual meeting in Seattle this week, along with Tamara of Feiro Marine Life Center. Two new genera of plankton associated with harmful algal blooms (*Karenia* and *Azadinium spp.*) were added to the list for monitoring this year through the Sound Toxins program, and the team was trained to identify these.
- *Olympia Oysters – Chris:* Oyster seed is in good condition.
- *Coasters – Ann:* Coasters are available to distribute.
- *HAZWOPER – Rebecca:* 2-day oiled wildlife course to be held April 15-16, which will serve as an 8-hour refresher course for those who already hold the 24-hour HAZWOPER certification. Sign up here.

New or special business items

- *Shoreline development along 3 Crabs Rd letter – Ann Soule:* Ann submitted a letter and testified today at the public hearing, sharing her concerns about hard armoring bulkheads, and turned her letter into something the MRC could also consider as a whole since more permits for additional bulkheads may be coming that could be commented on. Ann will ask for the MRC to contribute to a letter ready for the March meeting. Bruce Emery shared his thoughts on the situation and competing perspectives.
- *Letters received from John Worthington regarding salmon restoration:* John Worthington, Sequim resident, submitted letters suggesting salmon restoration project techniques. Ann Soule, Vice Chair, responded informing him that the MRC does not conduct salmon restoration work

and his suggestions would be better directed to an organization that focuses on this. No further action was taken.

- *Roles and responsibilities:* no quorum so no discussion or approval was sought
- *Project development for the next biennium:* The project development meeting will take place on Monday, February 24th. Education and outreach initiatives will be noted separately.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on March 17th.
- *Call for new agenda items:* None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjourn

Vice Chair Ann Soule adjourned the meeting at 7:17.

CLALLAM MRC SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

February 24, 2025
4:00pm – 7:00pm



In-person meeting (work session)

Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, 401 E 1st St, Port Angeles, WA
Eagle's Nest Conference Room

For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

4:00 – 4:20 Goal setting and orienting

- Introduce facilitator Nancy Slocum
- Attendees put on name tags
- Review/accept meeting norms
- Group photo

4:20 – 6:00 Project lightning talks with Q&A

- 3-5 minutes per project, 5 minutes Q&A
- Ensure lead and co-lead
- Get snacks as needed

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ediz Hook Debris Removal | Allyce Miller |
| Launch Advisory Capacity | Ann Soule |
| Shoreline Armoring Survey | Ann Soule |
| Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center | Ann Soule / Alan Clark |
| Kelp Monitoring | Alan Clark |
| Forage Fish Monitoring | Alan Clark |
| Nearshore Restoration at Co-Managed Wildlife Refuges | Chris Burns |
| European Green Crab Control | Chris Burns |
| Olympia Oysters | Chris Burns |
| Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring | Ed Bowlby |
| Elwha River Stewardship | Helle Andersen |
| Derelict Crab Pot Removal | Ioana Bociu / Christopher Rumpfle |
| Pinto Abalone | Jeff Ward |
| HAZWOPER / Oiled Wildlife Response Training | Nancy Stephanz |

6:00 – 6:20 “Dots” exercise to mark preferred projects

- Weighted 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice

- Enjoy snacks

6:20 – 7:00 Next steps

- Continuing development process for all selected projects
- Timeline details
- Thank you all for joining!
- Cleanup

Potential partners: City of PA Recreation Department (contact: Tim Tucker)

Submitted by Allyce Miller, representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The recreation department of the city wants to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook. You can see the attached picture to get an idea. These pieces are falling out of the shoreline as it erodes, and many pieces are already exposed. The city will supply the heavy equipment and operators to remove the big pieces. We thought the MRC could get involved by:

- 1) Funding the disposal of the concrete and asphalt at local disposal (~\$10k)
- 2) Organizing a volunteer event to pick up smaller pieces of asphalt and concrete (\$0)
- 3) Planting any heavy equipment access scars with native beach plants (~\$1k)

This budget needs to be refined as we figure out what cultural compliance is needed and how much there is to be disposed. This \$11k is a rough estimate for now. There's always the option of looking for other funding sources if significant cultural compliance or there is a lot to dispose of.

[Tim Tucker] also shared some long-term goals of taking out some asphalted parking and condensing parking options a bit more by the rowing club because that parking area asphalt is fast-eroding into the strait. That part still needs time and planning, so it's not ready to bring forth into the project proposal now, but FYI it is something to look forward to down the line if MRC wants to play a role.



Project: Launch Advisory Capacity

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to facilitate MRC member engagement with planning, permitting and other governmental processes related to shoreline/nearshore/marine development.

Participants: MRC leadership, members, staff; temporary consultant(s)

Activities:

- Establish MRC co-leads and other interested members on a new subcommittee
- Clarify roles and expectations between MRC staff and subcommittee
- Hire temporary consultant (land use planning specialist)
 - Training(s) on permitting processes (must be kept basic) – perhaps consult with Island or San Juan MRC for tips
 - Training on use of adopted Clallam MRC protocol for advisory work
 - Assess usefulness of “white paper” approach to expressing concerns (assume “Concerns list for BOCC” is adopted soon)
 - Consider whether/when MRC wants to be a “technical resource” to permitting staff
 - Interviews or other activities that introduce MRC subcommittee members with regulatory entities from County, Ecology and elsewhere (and vice versa)
 - § Determine where/when in permitting process the MRC should engage
 - Shadow/support MRC subcommittee in at least one pilot that includes review and comment on a development proposal

Outputs:

- Online workspace for advisory work
 - Protocol checklists
 - Templates for comment letters, narratives for public speaking
 - Template for “white paper”
 - Template for annual report/ slideshow to BOCC
 - Folders for development activities being studied
- Current directory of appropriate point persons (planners and biologists) and boards from local, state, fed, tribal agencies/entities that work directly on proposals planned in Clallam County, including County DCD, PW, and EH and others
- Established liaison/point person from MRC for these entities

Outcomes:

- Connections with planning and permitting staffs
- Connections with BOCC and other policy makers
- Clarity of the role and capabilities of a new MRC subcommittee and other members in fulfilling our advisory responsibilities

- Clarity of the overlap with educational work

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead and co-lead:** 6-8 hours per month each
- **MRC subcommittee volunteers:** 2-4 hours per month
- **MRC staff:** 15 hours/month first year, 10/month second year (contracting, invoicing, meeting logistics)
- **Consultant:** 50-75 hours total

Estimated contract cost: \$10,000

Questions & Comments

1. Highly dependent on committed lead and co-lead
2. Very closely tied with MRC staff and operations
3. Adds a new “project” that staff and all members will need to track more closely than they do for field projects
4. Contactor must be familiar with regulatory processes, agencies and personnel on the NOP
5. This project does not require a QAPP
6. Current concerns in the process: specific wording causing delays in process, MRC being consulted after decisions are made

Project: Shoreline Armoring Survey

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to determine where shoreline armoring currently occurs and make the information public for regulatory and restoration purposes

Participants: MRC member lead/co-lead, staff; contractor

Activities:

- Consult with Snohomish County MRC members involved in similar project
- Consult with County DCD re methods, highest need areas, how to make it most useful, etc.
- Hire aerial shoreline surveyor
 - Pilot
 - Videographer
 - Video analysis / data entry / mapping
 - Geo/biological assessment of prioritized/ relative risk of erosion
 - Prepare report
- Post videos and report online
 - Announce/ disseminate links to regulatory and restoration personnel
 - Conduct public presentation(s)

Outputs:

- Shoreline armoring survey results (map)
- Report useful to regulatory and restoration personnel

Outcomes:

- Reduced risk for armoring projects detrimental to nearshore habitat
- Better restoration outcomes over time

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead/co-lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC staff:** 10 hours
- **Contractor:** 100 hours (WAG!)

Estimated contract cost: \$25,000 (WAG)

Questions & Comments

1. Requires buy-in from local gov'ts before it gets started
2. Mostly contracting time from MRC staff
3. Mostly just liaison and supervision time from MRC leads
4. This project does not require a QAPP (I DON'T THINK)

Project: Kelp + Eelgrass Display at MDC (Marine Disco Center / new Feiro)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; MRC staff; Feiro staff, board, and interior/display design consultant

Activities:

- Float idea with Feiro staff, board
- Firm up connections with appropriate Feiro/MDC personnel and contractors
- Work with designers on content
- Support as needed
- Pay for display

Outputs:

- Attractive educational display (possibly interactive) installed (and/or portable?) at the new MDC

Outcomes:

- Improved understanding by all viewers of the display regarding what's important about marine vegetation and algae
- Improved relationship between MRC and Feiro/MDC

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 10 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 5 hours
- **MRC staff:** 5 hours

Estimated contract cost: \$10,000 (?)

Questions & Comments

1. Requires agreement and collaboration with MDC project personnel
2. This project does not require a QAPP

Project: Kayak Kelp Surveys (Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; Volunteer for Kayak Survey at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay

Activities:

- Attend kayak safety meetings
- Work closely with NWSC kelp project coordinator Jeff Whitty
- Participate in Kelp Kayak meetings 4X
- Review year's data with Jeff Whitty and NWSC staff at end of season.
- Process data and get info to NWSC at end of season
-
-

Outputs:

- GPS tracks of monitored kelp beds at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay
- Submission data sheets and observations of kelp bed

Outcomes:

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) in Clallam, Jefferson, Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties will complete annual surveys of canopy producing kelp beds using a field tested, boat-based protocol developed to track the density and distribution of local bull kelp populations. Surveys are done during the peak of annual growth in June/September.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC staff:** 15 hours

Estimated contract cost: \$2,500 (?)

Forage Fish Monitoring

Working in collaboration with the NWSC and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Clallam MRC will continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at 4 locations Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and beaches East and West of the Elwha River Mouth. The mouth of the Elwha River is a restoration site to and documenting forage fish use is invaluable information on temporal and spatial spawning trends by forage fish in Clallam County.

Vision/Goals: What is the vision/ultimate goal of the work? (How are you hoping the ecosystem and/or the community will change because of this project and other efforts? *

The project supports a larger Commission -sponsored forage fish monitoring program that provides a better understanding of the spatial and temporal distributions of forage fish spawning activity within the Salish Sea. The goals of the project are: document forage fish spawning events and build partnerships with tribes through shared project collaboration. The ultimate goal is to have accurate spatial population data for forage fish populations. We also hope to educate the public and County officials about the importance of forage fish .

Participants and Partnerships: Participants and Partnerships: Please include any participants and partners directly involved with the work. If none, insert n/a.

Partners include: WDFW, NWSC and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe are our project partners.

Activities - Briefly describe the main activities of your project. (The tasks and actions - science, monitoring, training, presentations, etc. accomplished by the project.

The Clallam MRC will continue monthly sampling of forage fish at Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and East and West beaches of the Elwha River. The project leads will also give a yearly public presentations at a MRC meeting and Board of County Commissioners meeting and school groups.

Outputs - What are the expected outputs of this project?

This project supports a regional project that monitors forage fish spawning habitats in the Salish Sea. The information will also provide a better understanding of forage fish ecology this knowledge will help to provide management decisions.

Outcomes - How will the activities and outputs measurably further the goal(s) of the project. (Short-term changes you envision happening as a consequence of this work or things you might start to see within the timeline of the project.

This project is part of on going forage fish monitoring so we hope to collect valuable forage fish spawning events. This data will play a role in the bigger WDFW database documenting status and trends.

Does your proposed project involve education and outreach? Yes

Does your project involve monitoring? Yes

What monitoring protocols will be used? Will the data affect a decision about marine resources? Where will the monitoring data go? Are the data contributing to a larger baseline data set?

WDFW forage fish sampling protocols will be used. The monitoring data could affect a decision about marine resources. The monitoring data will go to WDFW and contribute to their larger baseline data set.

Does your project involve restoration? Yes

Are there any permits required? If so, what are their status? Who has ownership of the project site? Has a cultural assessment of the site been completed (if applicable)? Is there any ongoing maintenance associated with the project? Permits are complete LEKT has ownership of East Elwha beach and we have a current science collection permit with the Tribe. No ongoing maintenance.

Please provide a list of deliverables (if applicable): **previous grant's information*

Year one forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan addendum 1/14/2024

Year two Forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum 1/14/2025

Project: Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges

Project Plan

Goal: Restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: Remove over 10 acres of invasive vegetation, nearshore restoration plantings; monitor; report

Year 1 – Organize volunteer crews to participate in hand pulling and/or mechanical removal of invasive Dalmatian toadflax and non-native grasses from sand spits and salt marsh habitat on National Wildlife Refuges

Year 2 – Continue removal efforts in late spring. Plant with native species.

Outputs: Removal of invasive vegetation, native vegetation plantings

Outcomes: The removal of non-native invasive vegetation will reduce competition with native species, enhance nearshore habitat quality and availability, and strengthen ecosystem structure and function. These restoration efforts will improve the ecological resilience of the co-managed National Wildlife Refuges, supporting long-term habitat health. Additionally, the project will foster community engagement by providing volunteer opportunities that connect people to conservation efforts and promote stewardship of these vital ecosystems.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 5 days to participate in invasive vegetation removal efforts and 2 days to participate in plantings

Estimated time for partners: 40 hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 10 hours?

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff: 80 hours

Estimated cost: \$15,000

Questions & Comments

- The project areas—Graveyard Spit on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Violet Spit on Protection Island Wildlife Refuge—serve as critical habitat for marine mammals, seabirds, and shorebirds.
- Invasive vegetation, such as Dalmatian toadflax (a Washington State Class B Noxious Weed) and non-native grasses, can restrict wildlife mobility and reduce available foraging areas.
- To protect these sensitive habitats, removal efforts will focus on hand-pulling and mechanical methods like digging, ensuring minimal disturbance to native species. Biological control methods will not be used.
- The project will engage existing volunteers from the Dungeness and Protection Island Refuge Management Program, fostering hands-on stewardship and strengthening community involvement in conservation efforts.

Project: European Green Crab Control

Project Plan

Goal: Control and aim to eliminate invasive European green crab (EGC) from Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge and other locations (as needed) in Clallam County.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: JST refuge staff will lead a volunteer effort to trap and remove EGC; report

Outputs: Trapping and removal of EGC in known location on Dungeness Spit

Outcomes: Control or elimination of the EGC population on Dungeness Spit

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: depending on recruitment and participation of volunteers 7hrs/day 28hrs/ week 10 weeks- 280 hrs???

Estimated time for partners: 40 hrs/week at \$1200/week for up to 20 weeks

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 20 hours

Estimated cost: \$24,000

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on how much time we want to pay for a Biological Technician to supervise volunteers.
- Volunteers would have to go through training (including safety) by Tribe. Volunteers would likely be scheduled through existing volunteer program at the River Center and Refuge but could count as hours for MRC (?)
- If other areas are found to have EGC may be room for trained volunteers to help there.

Project: Olympia Oysters

Project Plan

Goal: Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe will work with the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee’s Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and Clallam MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff

Activities: Monitor growth and survival of Olympia Oyster restoration efforts in Sequim Bay through the performance of population surveys.

Outputs: Agreements with partners; Monitor Olympia Oyster population, growth and survival on previously restored Olympia Oyster beds in Sequim Bay.

Outcomes: Approximately 1.5 acre of Olympia oysters are monitored

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days to survey habitat

Estimated time for partners: 30 hours/yr

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 30 hours/yr

Estimated cost: \$2704.20/yr

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on survey conditions and County and Tribal staff time.
- Will surveys continue beyond 2025?
- Clarify future goals for the site with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff
- Not open to community volunteers, only MRC members (policy of the Tribe + muddy conditions)

Project: Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025

Project Plan

Goal: Monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PIGU) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.

Participants: MRC members, Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS) members and public participants.

Activities: Visual monitoring of PIGU spring through summer nesting activities, including feeding and disturbance behaviors and nesting success.

Outputs: Agreements with OPAS partner for refresher training of returning volunteers (or new training for novice observers paired with seasoned observers).

Outcomes: Continued monitoring efforts (since 2016) for Clallam County PIGU colonies along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC (or OPAS and/or public) volunteers: 1-2 hours per week from June to August (unless extended due to continued PIGU burrow activity into September)

Estimated time for partners: Minimum of 10 weeks of survey time.

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteer leads (Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato): 100 hours

Estimated MRC cost: \$200-\$500, depending if OPAS cost-shares this project with MRC for 2025 (looking more likely in 2025).

Questions & Comments

Cost variable depending on whether OPAS cost shares with MRC. This is looking more likely in 2025. This is a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Survey123 data management system.

Project: Elwha River Stewardship

Project Plan

Goal: To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff (Surfriders are affiliated with this project as they are paying for a second Sanikan in the parking lot).

Activities: Maintaining the dog waste station refilling dogi bags twice a month. Counting cars in the parking lot to estimate number of 2024-25 visitors. Paying Bill Plumbing for maintaining the Sanikan on the dike.

Outputs: Contract with Bill Plumbing; Purchase and distribute more than 5,200 dogi bags per year; Weekly maintenance of a well-used Sanikan (per Bill's Plumbing).

Outcomes: Provide sanitary facilities for more than 50,000 people and 9,700 dogs based on 2023-24; In addition, hundreds of students use the beach as an outdoor classroom (not part of the visitation estimate).

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 2-3 hours per month or 24-36 hours per year to maintain the dog waste station based on driving distance from Port Angeles. 20 hours to write the annual project report. Total 44-56 hours per year.

Estimated time for partners: don't know Surfriders time commitment.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 5-10 hours? Ensuring the continuation of the contract with Bill Plumbing; Checking annual project report written by the lead.

Estimated cost: \$3,200 annually – total \$6,400

Questions & Comments

- Do we want to find a cost sharing partner? (based on a question raised during the project discussion in 2023).

Project: Derelict Crab Pot Removal

Project Plan

Goal: Train Port Angeles MRC and local community on effective derelict crab pot removal techniques using a Blue Robotics BlueROV2 and remove derelict gear around Port Angeles City Pier and other PA crabbing locations.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Consultants (Remote Coast Systems – Phil Parisi)

Activities: Acquire Blue Robotics ROV; Determine Pot Locations; Obtain Permits; Remove Crab Pots; Report & Continuation Plan

Outputs: Trained intern(s); proofed means for low-cost crab pot removal

Outcomes: Reduced harm on environment by derelict crab pots

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days for training/testing, 2 days for crab pot removal, few days for permitting

Estimated time for partners: 20-30 @ \$100/hr hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 40 hours

Estimated cost:

- BlueROV, batteries, gripper \$10K
- Hooks, lines, deployment gear \$1K
- Surveys (or data access) to determine pot locations \$4K
- Permitting
- Training Time (3 days x 5 staff x rate?)
- Pot pulling with guidance
- Intern pot pulling
- Reporting (best practices, continuation plan)

Questions & Comments

- Getting permits for removal of pots
- What is the end of life of the crap pots
- Deployment off of piers first, then a boat...
- How can operations be sustained long-term

PINTO ABALONE: PROJECT PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE WORK IN FY 2026-2027

Goal: Restoration of Sustainable Pinto Abalone Populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Participants:

| Organization | Role and Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) | Project oversight, participation in diver surveys and data collection, education and outreach |
| Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) | Manages project planning and implementation, conducts dive surveys, coordinates with CCMRC liaison, creates reports and manages data |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) | Technical guidance, diver survey vessel support, as needed |
| Local support vessels | Support for dive surveys, as needed |
| Local scientific divers | Support for dive surveys, as needed |

Activities:

- **Synoptic diver surveys along the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Strait) following standardized abalone survey protocols to document existing remnant abalone populations, identify potential index sites for long-term monitoring, assess areas of interest for future restoration efforts that include outplanting of laboratory-cultured juvenile abalone.**
- **Education and outreach to local Clallam County government and citizens on the importance of abalone to contribute healthy subtidal ecosystems.**

Outputs:

- **Potential improvements to PSRF/WDFW abalone survey protocols for use in the Strait.**
- **Creation of maps and survey data showing the locations of remnant populations (with limited distribution disclaimer).**
- **In collaboration with PSRF and WDFW, identification of possible locations for index sites and potential outplanting locations for abalone monitoring and restoration.**
- **Developing of briefing documents and presentation material for Clallam County government and citizens that highlight the importance of abalone restoration.**

Outcomes

- **Successful completion of this project may result in the restoration of self-sustaining populations of pinto abalone to areas along the Strait where they were extirpated by recreational harvesters.**

- **At a minimum, results from these surveys will provide valuable population data on this state-listed endangered species along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that can be used to inform marine stewardship activities, including oil spill response planning,**

HAZWOPER / Oiled Wildlife Response Training

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response/Oiled wildlife training: conduct workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.

Budget: \$7,000 / year

1. Coordinate with partners, plan, advertise, and conduct at least two workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.
2. Record the trainings and make them accessible online.

Where applicable, the RECIPIENT must request and receive written approval in advance by ECOLOGY's Project Manager for reimbursement(s) for meals or light refreshments. Approved request forms must be submitted with the corresponding Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR) in EAGL.

Task Goal Statement

The goal of this project is to train local residents in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response in the event of an oil spill.

Task Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this project are that at least 80 participants will be trained, and four recorded training presentations will be posted on the RECIPIENT's website.

Deliverables

- 4.1. 2024 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/15/2024
- 4.2 Meal approval form (if applicable). Submit to ECOLOGY Project Manager for approval prior to each meeting. Submit approved copy with each Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR). 1/15/2024
- 4.3 2024 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL. 12/31/2024
- 4.4 2025 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/10/2025

4.5 2025 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL.









WA DNR











Protection Island

National Wildlife Refuge

Established August 26, 1988

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior









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West Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen

Alternate Representing Marine Related Recreation and Tourism

How did the MRC Get Involved

- 2015 Port Angeles bans fireworks within city limits
- 2016 – 2018 beach clean-up after 4th of July



How did the MRC Get Involved

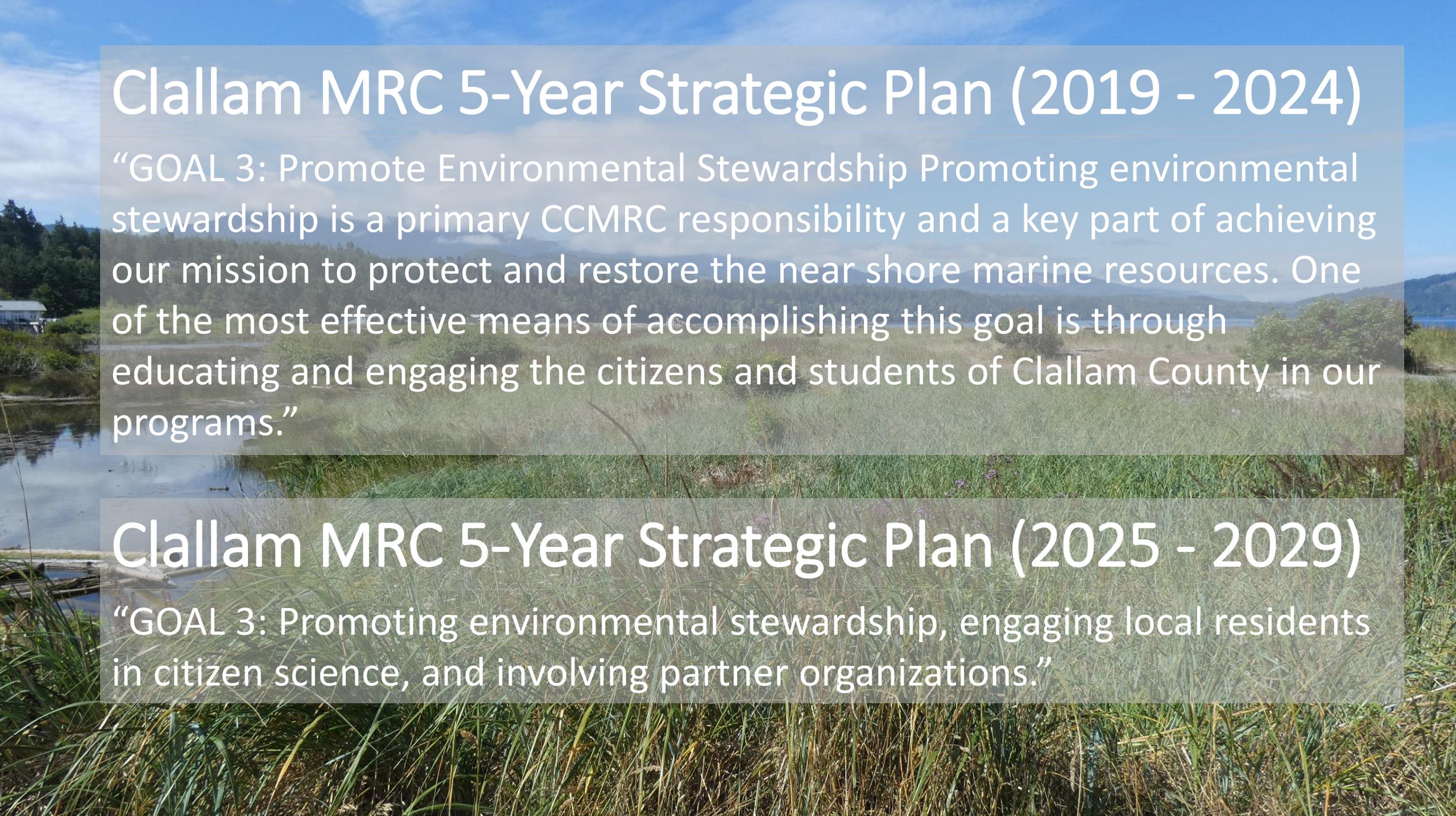
- 2016 – 2018 project for the intern program
 - 2017 intern is alarmed to see 50 dog poops on the dike access (~1,000 ft)
 - 2017 Surfriders ask if the MRC is willing to fund a Sanikan closer to the beach
- Since 2018 the MRC has funded a Sanikan and a dog waste station at the trailhead





Project Goal

To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship



Clallam MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 - 2024)

“GOAL 3: Promote Environmental Stewardship Promoting environmental stewardship is a primary CCMRC responsibility and a key part of achieving our mission to protect and restore the near shore marine resources. One of the most effective means of accomplishing this goal is through educating and engaging the citizens and students of Clallam County in our programs.”

Clallam MRC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2025 - 2029)

“GOAL 3: Promoting environmental stewardship, engaging local residents in citizen science, and involving partner organizations.”

Public Access to Beaches

- The Port Angeles community has shoreline access within the city limits at Hollywood Beach and along Ediz Hook and the waterfront trail
- Outside Port Angeles: two beaches – West Elwha Beach and Beach Lake Conservation Area - within a 10 miles radius from Port Angeles
- Favorite destination for the local community and the beach attracts surfers from Puget Sound and beyond

West Elwha Beach

- Land owned by the Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe and private residents
- The access road “Elwha Dike Road” is maintained by Clallam County



2023-24 Surveys to Answer These Questions

1. How many people and dogs visit the West Elwha Beach annually?
2. What are the visitors doing at the beach?
3. Has number of visitors and their usage of the beach changed since 2016-18?

Survey Methods



- Installation of a car counter by the Clallam County Public Works
- On-foot surveys counting number of people and dogs at the beach and categorizing what they were doing
- Visitor questionnaire – 7 questions

Car Counter

- Count on wheel contact (pneumatic counter)
- Left for 7 days
- Statistical program provides the total numbers of east and west bound cars
- Two surveys: October 23-30, 2023 and August 6-13, 2024



Estimate of Numbers of Visitors and Dogs

- Washington State Parks multiplies the number of cars by 3.5. The 3.5 multiplier was set to average the number of visitors per car and account for visitors arriving by non-vehicle options
- Use the same approach, but decided to derive a site-specific multiplier based on the on-foot surveys



Selection of Survey Dates and Times

- Randomly – used online random date and time generators (32 surveys)
- Targeted – good surf days (3 surveys)
- During forage fish spawning surveys (8 surveys)



On-Foot Surveys

- Initiated by counting the cars in the parking lot
- Counting all people and dogs along the access trail and on the beach
- Recording what were they doing
- Recorded the weather, tide and surf conditions
- Count of dog poops on the dike access trail
- The surveys usually lasted about ½ hour – linking people and dogs at the beach to the cars counted at the trailhead

Calculations of People and Dogs per Car

- Two sets of site-specific multipliers:
 - Fall/winter months (Oct. – March; 15 random surveys)
 - Spring/summer months (April – September; 17 random surveys)
- People per car were 1.60 (fall/winter months) and 1.73 (spring/summer months)
- The multipliers for dogs were 0.36 and 0.31
- Number of cars: Oct. 378 and Aug. 765

How Many People and Dogs Visit West Elwha Beach Annually?

- Fall/winter months 15,811 people and 3,558 dogs
- Spring/summer months 34,599 people and 6,200 dogs
- Total estimates 50,410 people and 9,757 dogs visiting the Elwha Beach in 2023-24
- Likely an underestimate of number of people

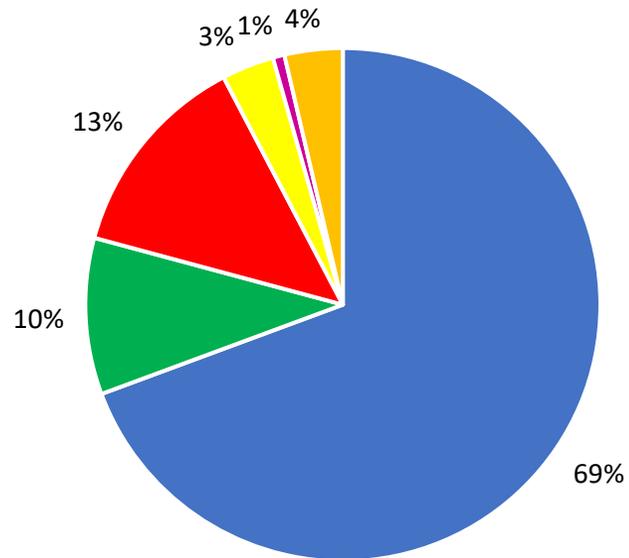
Has Number of Visitors and Their Usage of the Beach Changed Since 2016-18?

- The intern in 2018, Collin Boe, counted the cars, but stayed at the beach for 1-2 hours counting people, dogs and recording what they were doing
- 2018 averaged 12 cars (+/- 7) in the 26 surveys
- 2023-24 averaged 7 cars (+/- 5) in the 32 random surveys and 8 cars (+/- 5) during all 44 surveys



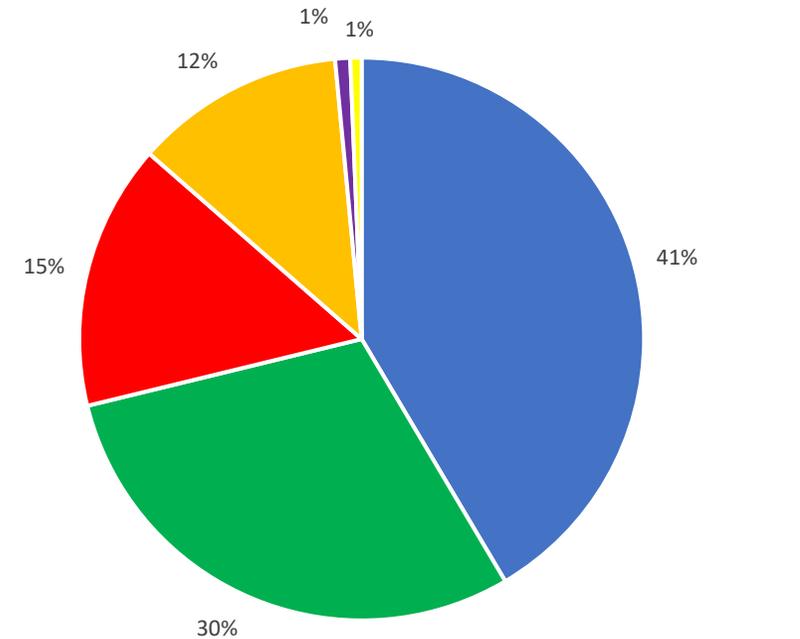
What Are the Visitors Doing at the Beach?

2023-24



- Walkers
- Sitting
- Surfers
- Fishers
- Bird Watchers
- People Playing

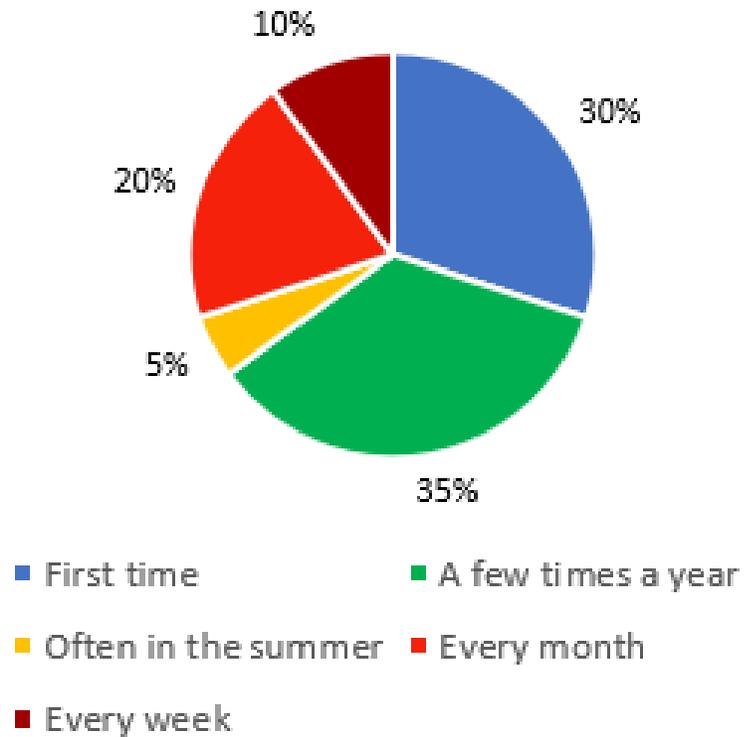
2018



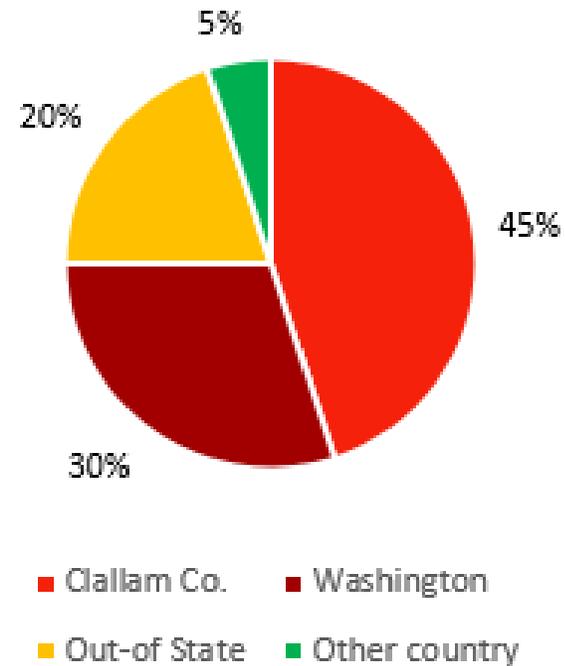
- Walkers
- Picknicking
- Surfers
- People Playing
- Swimmers
- Kit Flying

Visitor Questionnaire

How often do you come to the Elwha Estuary?

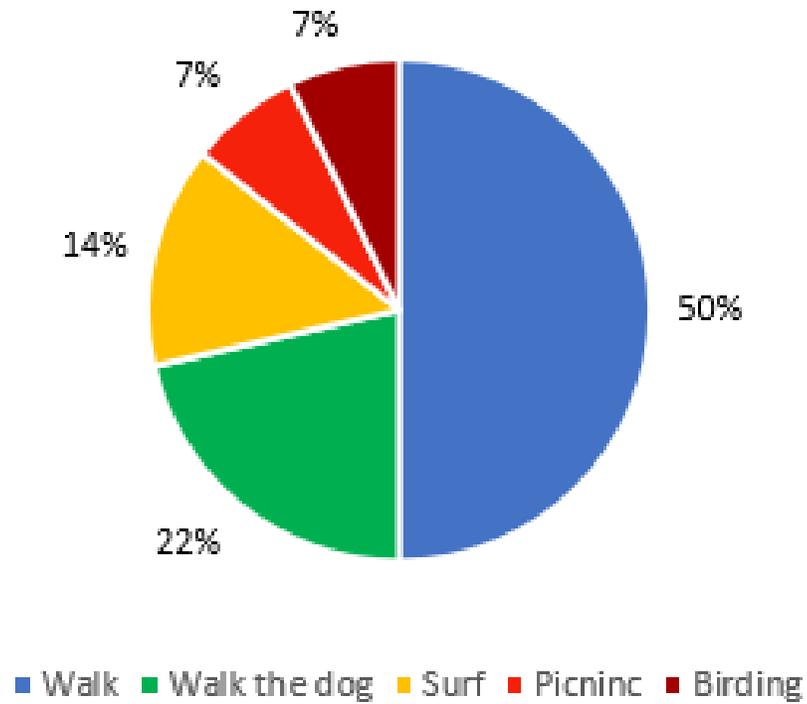


Where do you live?

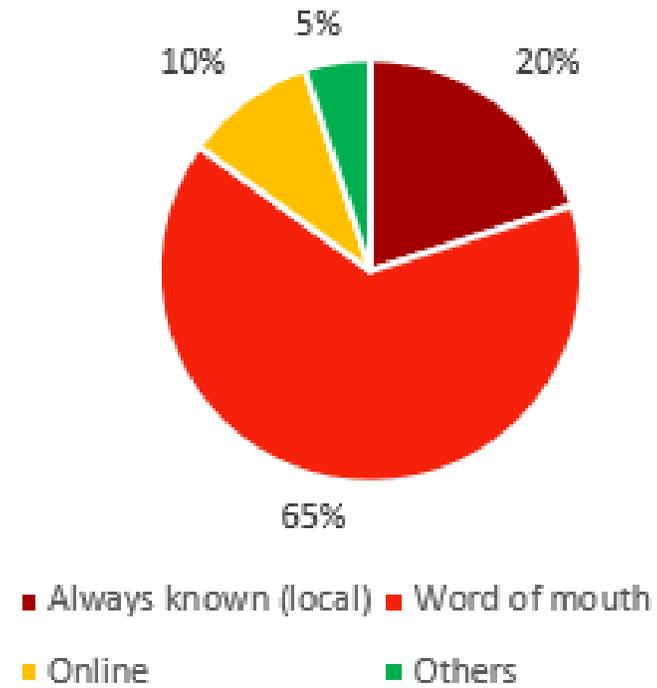


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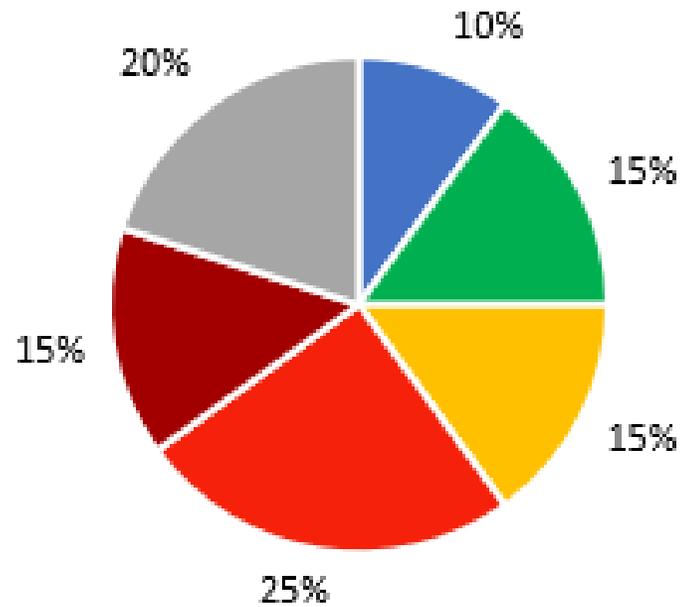
What do you usually do at the estuary?



How did you hear about the Elwha Estuary?

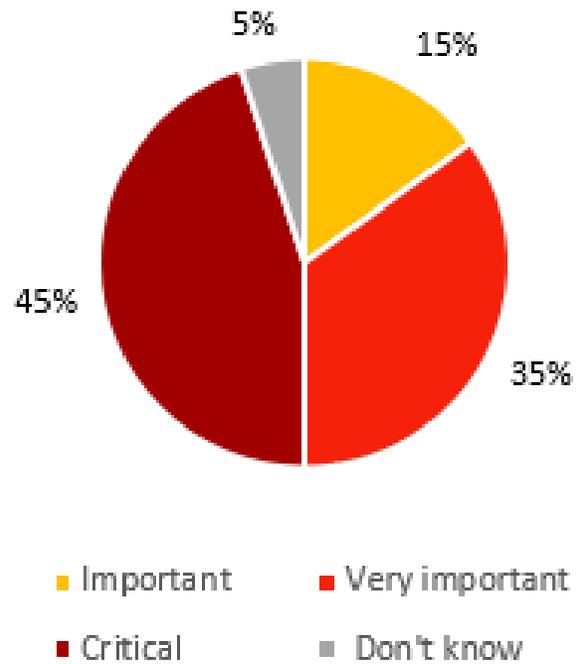


Who do you think owns the access to the estuary?

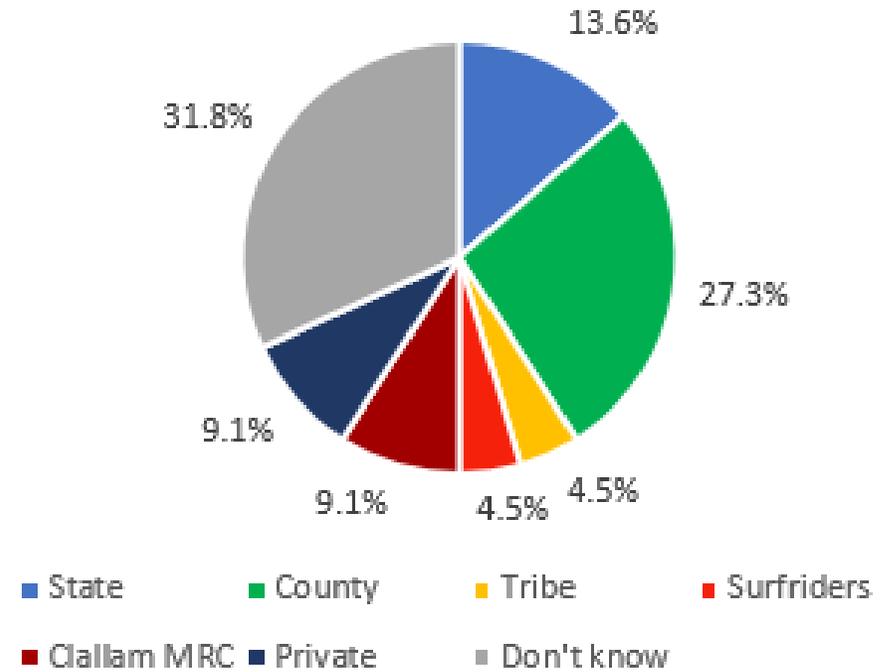


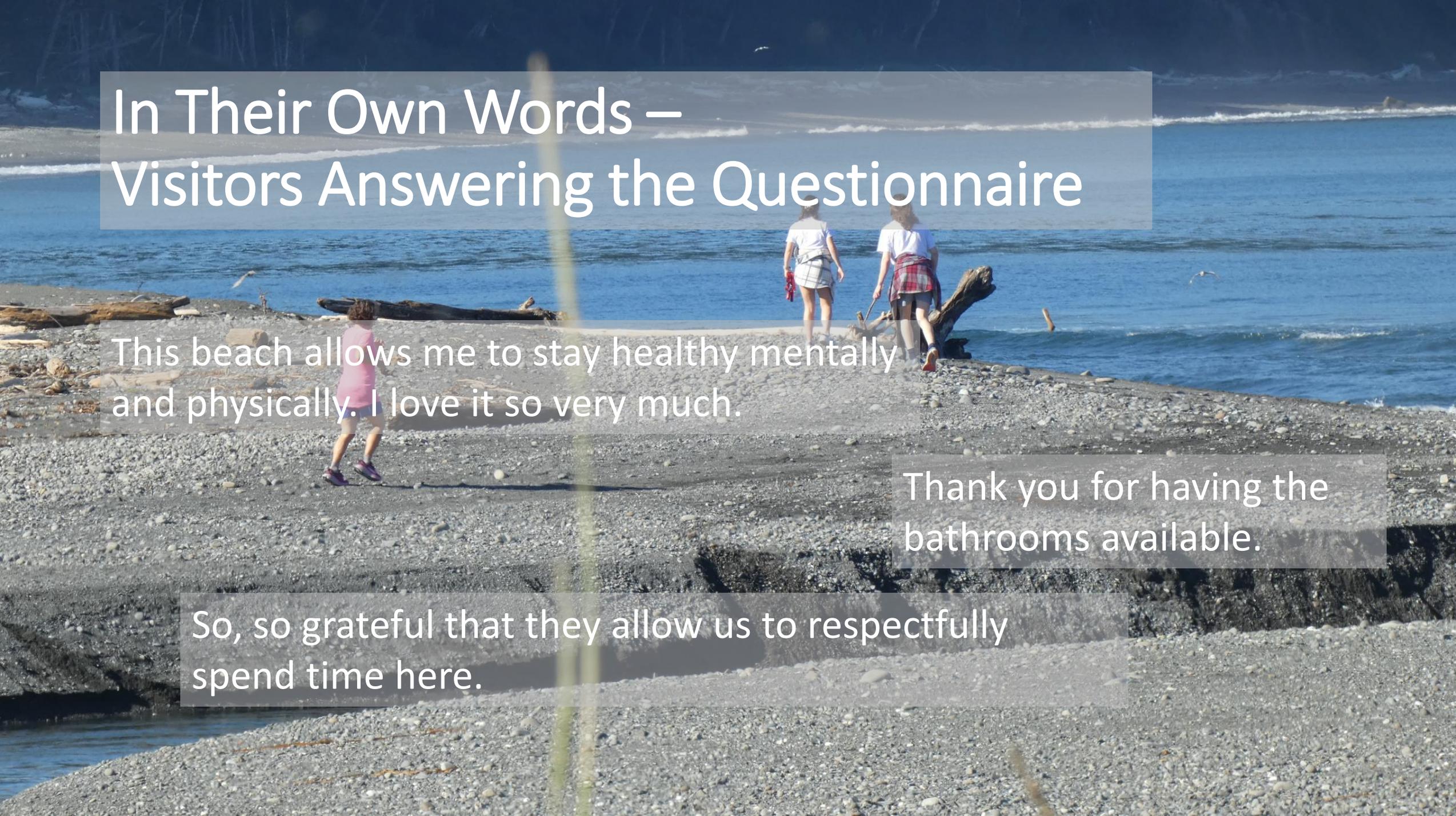
■ State ■ County ■ Tribe ■ Tribe/Private ■ Private ■ Don't know

How important are the Sanikan and dog waste station on the dike?



Who do you think maintains/pay for the Sanikan and dog waste station on the dike?



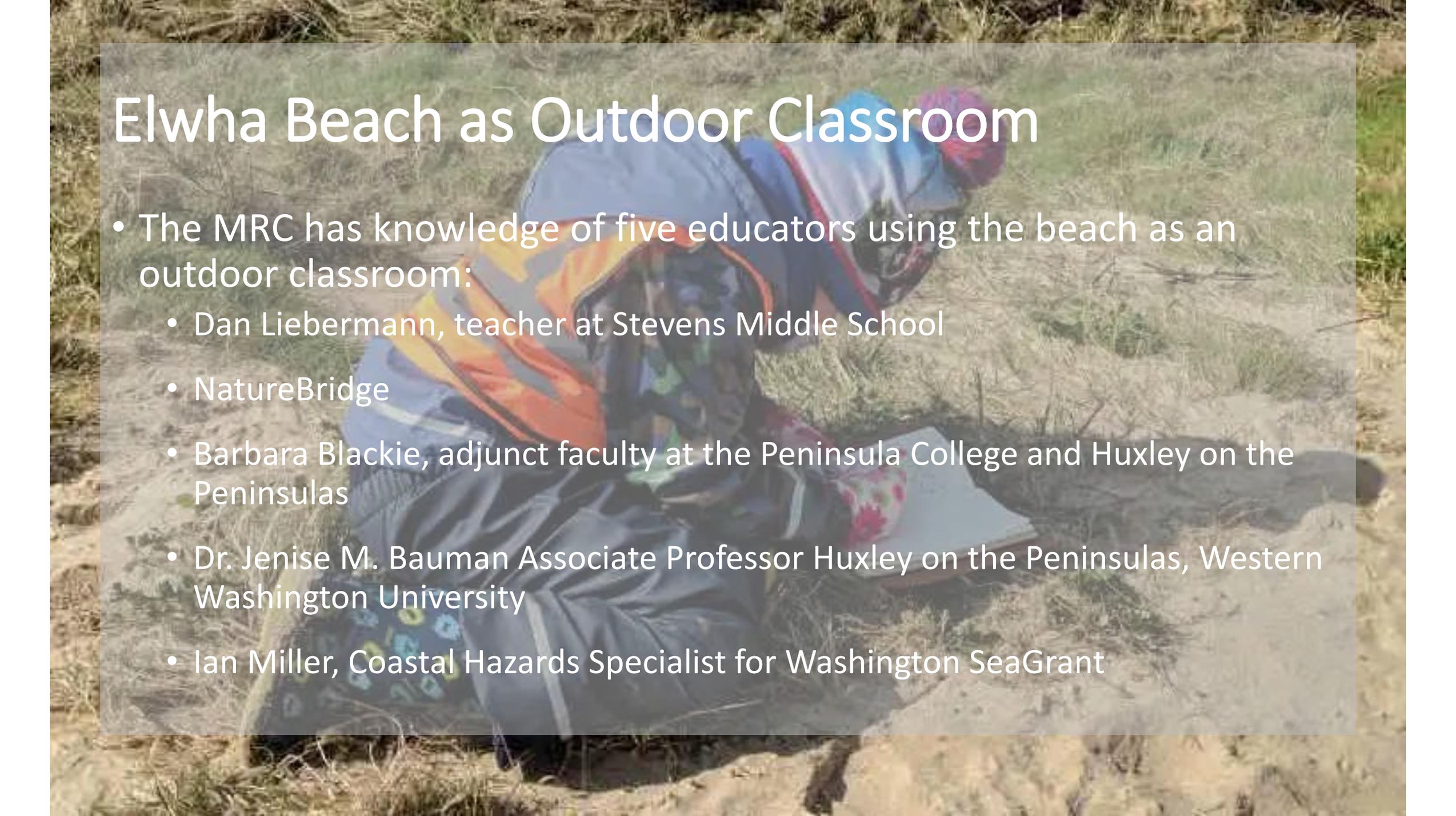


In Their Own Words – Visitors Answering the Questionnaire

This beach allows me to stay healthy mentally and physically. I love it so very much.

Thank you for having the bathrooms available.

So, so grateful that they allow us to respectfully spend time here.

A person wearing a blue and orange jacket is kneeling on a sandy beach, looking down at a book or tablet. The background shows a grassy dune area.

Elwha Beach as Outdoor Classroom

- The MRC has knowledge of five educators using the beach as an outdoor classroom:
 - Dan Liebermann, teacher at Stevens Middle School
 - NatureBridge
 - Barbara Blackie, adjunct faculty at the Peninsula College and Huxley on the Peninsulas
 - Dr. Jenise M. Bauman Associate Professor Huxley on the Peninsulas, Western Washington University
 - Ian Miller, Coastal Hazards Specialist for Washington SeaGrant

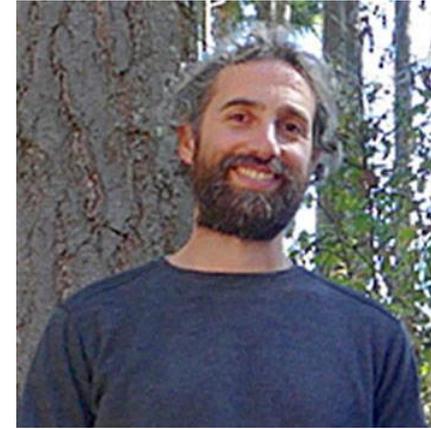
In Their Own Words



Jennifer Kidder, NatureBridge Olympic Campus Director

“Each year NatureBridge serves over 6,000 participants at our Olympic National Park campus”. “Our most popular area of study and corresponding field trip that teachers select for their classrooms of students is the Elwha River which includes a trip to the river mouth. The Elwha is one of if not our best local classrooms.”

In Their Own Words



Daniel Lieberman

“Each year as a teacher at Stevens Middle School, I take all Science 8 students on field trips to the beach and estuary. The field trips are an important part of the classes as I connect students with some of the important restoration work that occur in our area such as the restoration of the Elwha River.” “The Sanikan on the dike provides a much-needed amenity for the field trips. In addition, I see the dog waste station as an important amenity to keep the beach and estuary clean and maintain good water quality in the pond and river adjacent to the dike.”

In Their Own Words

Barbara Blackie, Faculty at the Peninsula College



“I take students on field trips to the beach and estuary. The field trips are an important part of the classes as I connect students with some of the important restoration work (and associated research) that occur in our area such as the restoration of the Elwha River.”

“I also visit this area monthly as part of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey Team. Our surveys always occur on Saturdays and it’s easy to see how useful both the dog waste station and the Sanican are to the overall hygiene and beauty of this area. Many, many dogs and people are using these important amenities, reducing dog waste on the beach, especially. It DOES improve water quality to have waste processed correctly. Please continue to support this important and valuable service to our community beaches.”

In Their Own Words



Ian Miller, Washington SeaGrant Coastal Hazards Specialist

“.....it is readily apparent that the beach at the Elwha is heavily used, use is increasing over time, and the Sanikan and dog waste station provides the only convenient access to waste disposal services in the area. Without these services I have no doubt that beach users would make use of the natural areas around the beach and estuary to go the bathroom, with the expected impacts to water quality, aesthetics and human health.”

In Summary

- More than 50,400 people and 9,700 dogs visit the beach in 2023-24
- Hundreds of K-12 students and many college students use the area as an outdoor classroom
- Main activities at the beach are walking, walking the dog and surfing
- 45% of visitors live in Clallam County; 20% of the visitors comes from out-of-state
- The number of visitors in 2018 was similar to the number of visitors in 2023-24

In Summary

- 95% of visitors thought the Sanikan and dog waste station at the trailhead was important with 45% saying it is critical
- Between September 2023 – August 2024 a total of 5,200 dogi bags were distributed at the trailhead

2023-2025 Project Budget

- \$3,200 annually – total \$6,400
 - Bill Plumbing's Sanikan service every 7 days
 - 5,200 dogi bags annually



NWSC 2025-27 Grant

- During the project discussion in 2023 at the MRC retreat a couple of questions were raised:
 - Should the MRC look for partners to share the cost of this project?
 - If yes, who should the MRC contact? Surfriders? Or other organizations? The County?
- Decision – does the MRC wish to continue the stewardship at Elwha River? And if yes, should we look for a cost sharing partner?



A wide-angle photograph of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a sandy beach is covered with numerous pieces of weathered driftwood, including large logs and smaller branches. Some green grasses are scattered among the wood. In the middle ground, a calm blue lake or bay is visible, bordered by a sandy shore. The background features a range of blue mountains under a clear sky with a few wispy clouds. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the word "Questions" in a large, white, sans-serif font.

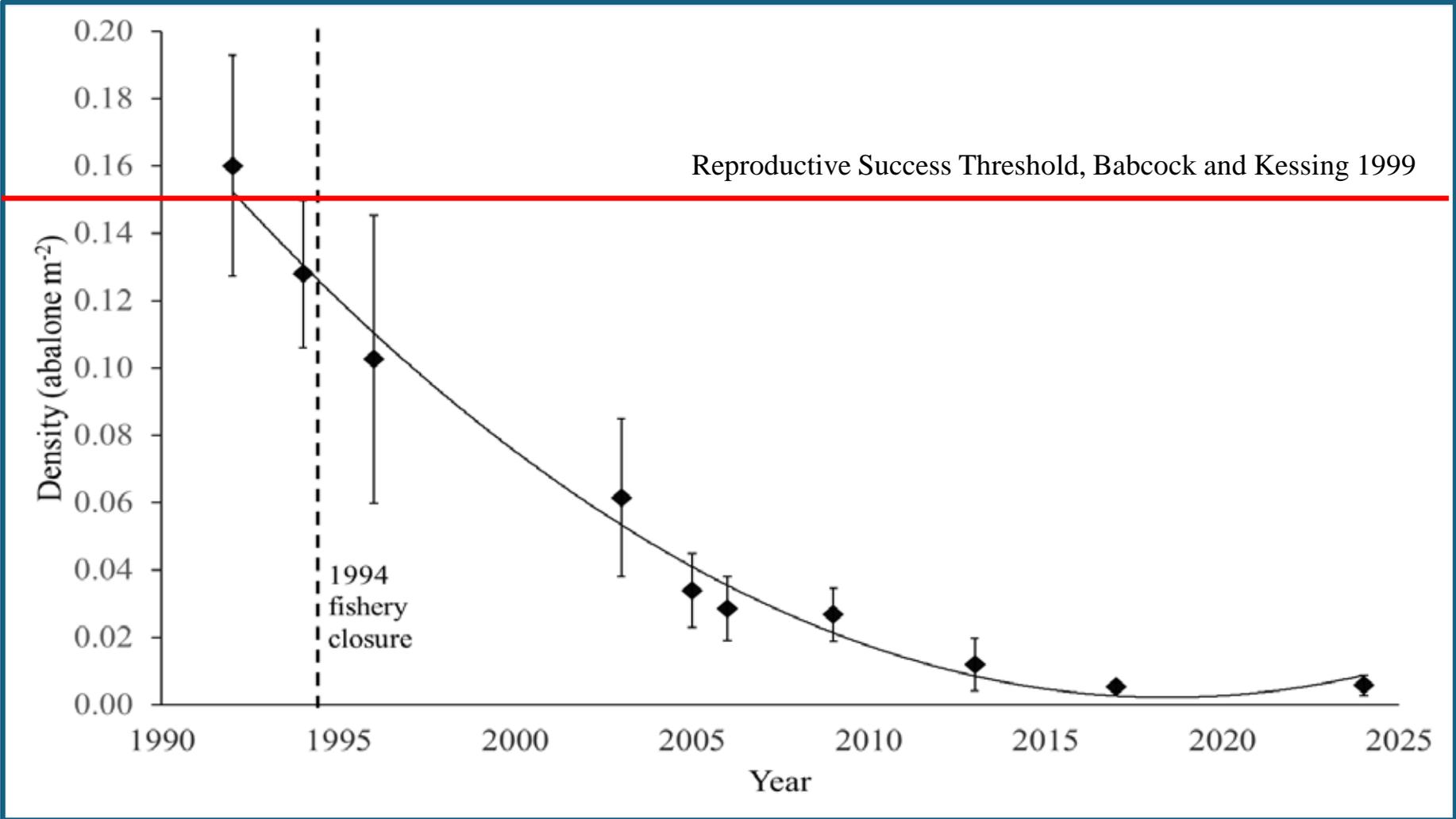
Questions



Pinto Abalone Restoration Proposal: 2026-2027



Mean Abalone Density at San Juan Island Index Stations



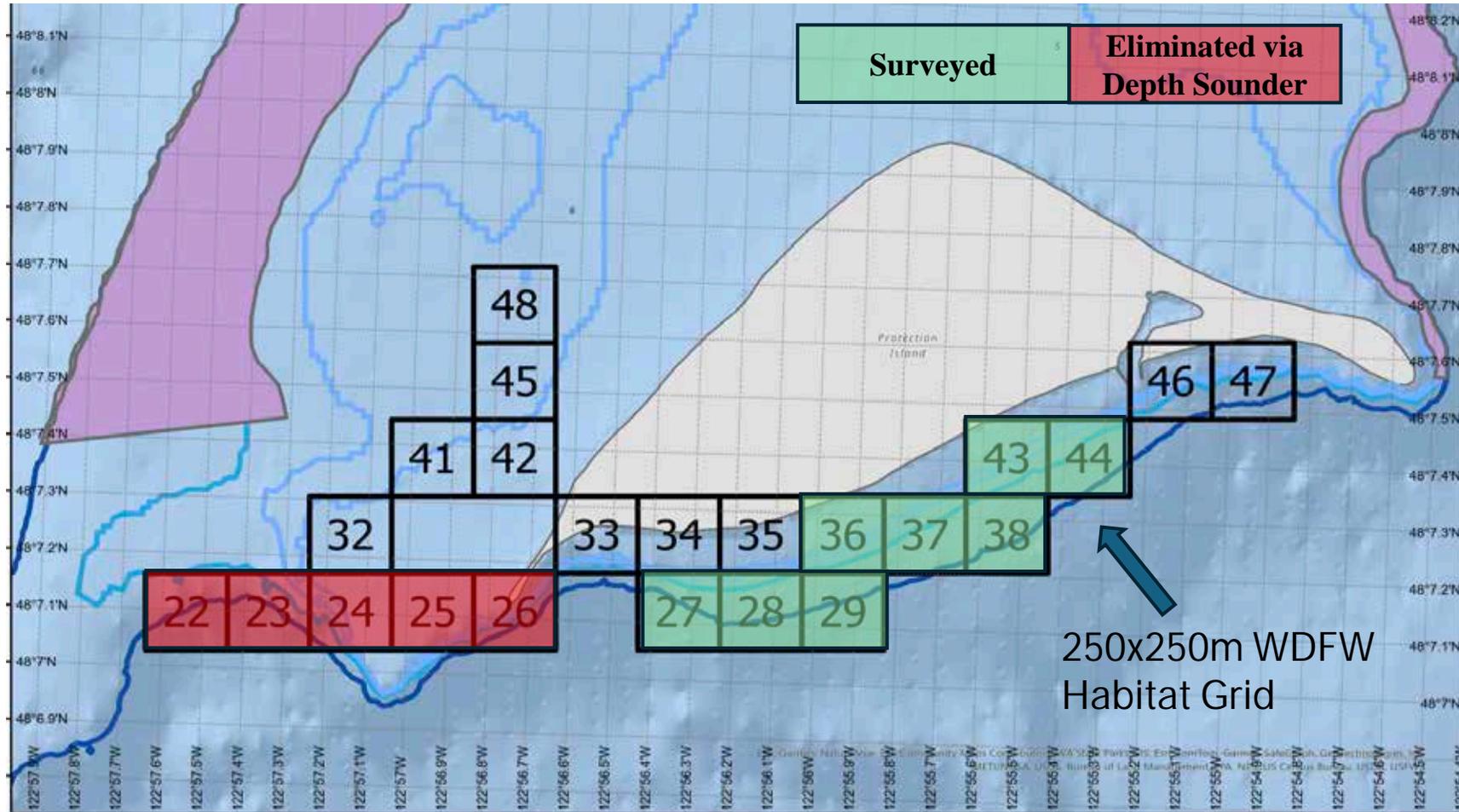
2024 Protection Island and Miller Peninsula Survey Areas

Nov 7th: 2 dives at Protection Island

Nov 8th: 3 dives near Rocky Point, Miller Peninsula

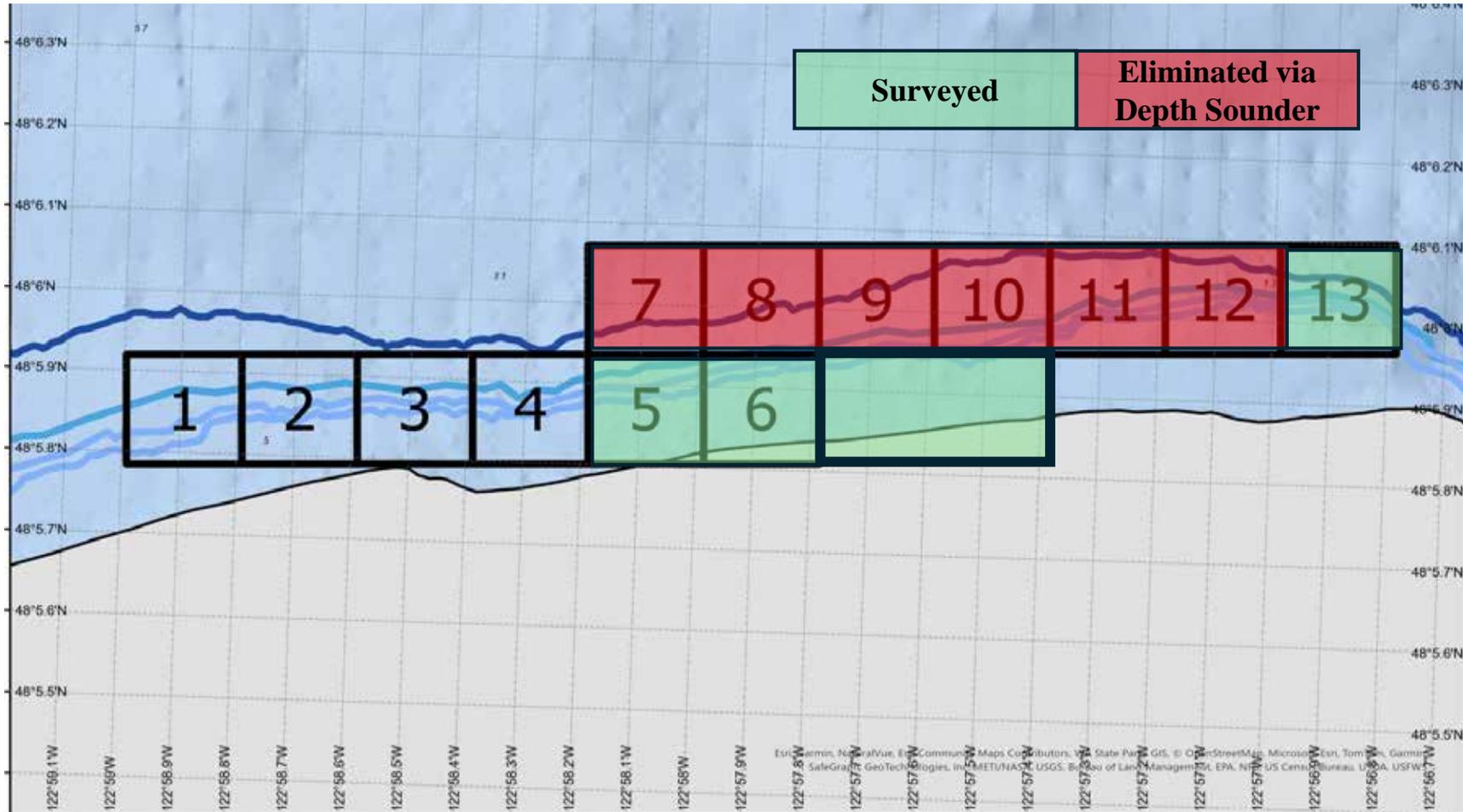


Protection Island Survey Results



No Abalone Observed
Sand/Gravel Substrate Not Suitable for Abalone

Rocky Point Survey Results

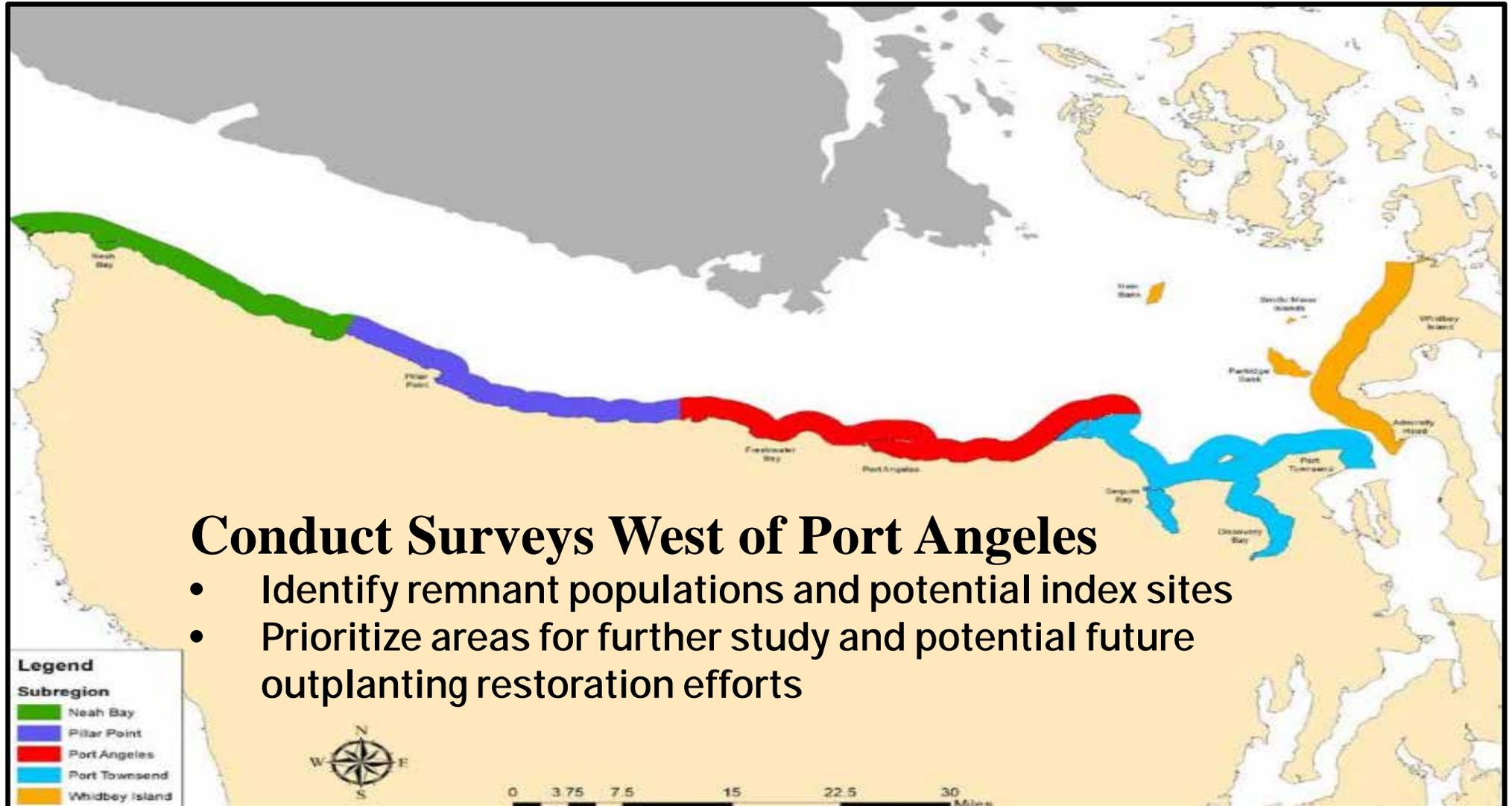


No Abalone Observed
Potential Area for Broodstock Collection

Habitats Encountered During Surveys



Proposed Activities for 2026-2027







February 2025 Special Meeting / Retreat Final Minutes

Date: Monday, February 24, 2025

Time: 4:00-7:14 PM

Location: Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, Port Angeles, Washington

Minutes prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ioana Bociu (Academic Community Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Mike Doherty (District 3), Dann May (District 3 Alternate), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2 Alternate), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Alternate), Ann Soule (Vice Chair; District 2), LaTrisha Suggs (Chair, Port Angeles City Council), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Amelia Kalagher (CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Administrative Support), Katie Kawal (Jefferson County MRC), Cathy Lear (CC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC MRC Coordinator), Nancy Slocum (Facilitator; Thrive Point Programs)

Goal Setting and Orienting

Ann Soule introduced Nancy Slocum, program administrator at Thrive Point Programs, as the facilitator for the CC MRC Retreat. Nancy assisted Vice Chair Ann, Chair LaTrisha Suggs, and CC staff to pull this special meeting together for project review and ranking. Nancy gave an overview of meeting norms: Do not interrupt, Stay on topic, Creativity encouraged, No bad ideas, Everyone is equal, and Respect time limits. Presenters would be giving brief lightning talks of about three to five minutes, with five minutes for questions. Projects were displayed around the room so that the CC MRC members could vote on them after the presentations.

Project Lightning Talks with Q&A

- Launch Advisory Capacity: Lead: Ann Soule; Co-lead: LaTrisha Suggs: *The goal of this project is to facilitate MRC member engagement with planning, permitting, and other governmental processes related to shoreline/nearshore/marine development.* Ann Soule shared a picture of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which illustrated everything that the project stood for. She explained that stewarding the Strait required work and watchdogging, and that the advisory capacity for the CC MRC could do better. The proposal included the hiring of a consultant. Although that may not be necessary to launch, there was money available, and a consultant would help get the

organization process started. Island County and San Juan County MRCs are both models in this area, as they utilize comprehensive plans, have experience with elevating community appreciation of marine resources, and have productive interactions with their own boards of county commissioners. Ann suggested that inviting those MRCs to speak to the CC MRC could be an idea. She added that the items in her outlines were flexible and welcomed feedback to modify the project. In the Q&A, Alan Clark noted that Island County has expressed interest in engaging with the CC MRC. Lyn Muench pointed out that communication with decision makers on a regular basis and in an organized manner was a neglected area. Dann May encouraged the group to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as much as possible. Ann clarified that the project still needed a co-lead, and that the estimated budget of \$10,000 was optional but spending some money on a consultant would be helpful. *Ann volunteered as lead; LaTrisha Suggs volunteered for co-lead. Ann thought that Bob Vreeland might wish to help as well. Nancy Stephanz expressed concern that the project was a little too vague. LaTrisha added that this was the concept, but it would be further developed.

- Shoreline Armoring Survey: Lead: Ann Soule; Co-lead: Dann May: *The goal of this project is to determine where shoreline armoring currently occurs and make the information public for regulatory and restoration purposes.* Ann Soule said that this looked like an important idea that could benefit County planners and be useful for organizations like the Land Trust and salmon restoration proponents. A similar survey was also done by Island and San Juan County MRCs, so those MRCs could be used as resources. Different methods could be used, including boat, plane, and aerial photography; the budget is variable depending on the method. It would be more contract management than volunteer based. During the Q&A, Alan Clark asked about the extent of the survey. Ann clarified that it could cover the full MRC area. Lyn Muench suggested coordinating with county GIS staff to mesh with their data; the work has been done before, so it would be worth reviewing data sets. Jeff Ward added that a scientist with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory conducted a boat survey with video, traveling the shoreline and recording the features. Ioana Bociu recommended referring to the Department of Ecology's Coastal Atlas; there is a GIS layer that shows hard and soft armoring and three to six years of aerial photography of all shorelines. Cathy Lear added that the County, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Sea Grant would be flying LiDAR from Cape Flattery to Admiralty Inlet. LaTrisha Suggs said that bulkheading was still happening today, both permitted and illegally, but it was not working. Bringing all the data together could help prioritize and identify sensitive areas where development should not occur and show leaders that armoring does not work. Cathy said that Island County went through its shoreline permits and discovered that a fair portion of armoring in the county was not permitted. Amelia Kalagher pointed out that Island County was very good at advisory work. Ann noted that the project could be more about compiling existing data and finding out where the gaps were. *Ann volunteered as lead; Dann May volunteered for co-lead. Ioana Bociu was interested in helping as well and thought that Department of Ecology's guidelines would be a good starting point. Dann added that almost none of the armoring systems work and end up undermining the ecology. Rebecca Mahan proposed adding an educational component to the project because most homeowners do not understand that.
- Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center: Lead: Nancy Stephanz; Co-lead: Jeff Ward: *The goal of the project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of an educational display specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends.* Alan Clark said that as Feiro Marine Life Center transitions to the Marine Discovery Center, a display about kelp and eelgrass in the new building could help build new partnerships, become more in sync with the community, and continue work with an established partner, all while

providing outreach about the CC MRC. With the educational booths the CC MRC has been setting up at events and centers, he has been thinking about how and where to bring an audience that wants to find out more about what has been presented. Ann Soule noted that they still needed to clarify things with Feiro. The new building would not be coming until 2028, so this might be preliminary, but kelp and eelgrass would be a great feature topic. During Q&A, Ed Bowlby asked about displaying the Pigeon Guillemot citizen science project, which could tie in well with the live bird exhibit that will be at the new Marine Discovery Center. Ioana Bociu inquired about an interim display before the new building was completed. Amelia Kalagher explained that the current space and capacity at Feiro is very full, but a temporary exhibit or event might be possible. With the new building scheduled to open in 2028, new development could very well still be planned for the coming biennium. *Nancy Stephanz volunteered as lead; Jeff Ward volunteered as co-lead. Jeff asked whether the CC MRC was trying to develop a place for themselves at the Marine Discovery Center, or whether a rotating display on citizen science would be better. Ann was envisioning an expensive display like the one at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, but they could consider a rotating exhibit as well. LaTrisha Suggs suggested a more intertidal exhibit, but Amelia noted that similar exhibits were already being planned.

- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Lead Alan Clark; co-lead: Chelsea Korbolic: The goal of this project is to continue CC MRC and NWSC efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Alan Clark explained that the CC MRC has been doing this monitoring since 2015, with yearly surveys in Freshwater and Sequim bays. They have been enlarging their survey areas due to interest regarding kelp restoration projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The surveys are conducted by kayaks to track the waxing and waning of kelp beds, and to identify kelp and fish species. At the end of the year, the data is reviewed with NWSC kelp specialist Jeff Whitty. At this point, volunteers only need kayaking experience to participate. Some years, they have needed to reschedule the surveys due to weather and ocean conditions. During Q&A, Amelia Kalagher asked about the \$25,000 estimated in the project plan for boat surveys. Alan clarified that this could be an added component to identify the presence or absence of kelp along the county shoreline, information which could be provided to the Board of County Commissioners or other interested groups. Mike Doherty noted that the tribes would probably be interested in this information and have their own knowledge and efforts that could help build partnerships and identify where work might be being duplicated. Alan added that they have done that with kelp restoration projects. Freshwater Bay is of interest because they have not observed serious declines there yet. LaTrisha Suggs asked how DNR's vegetation surveys might be connected. Alan said that the data is made public to be used by everyone, and that connections have been made with DNR and Friday Harbor's Marine Lab, but there was plenty of time to plug in more contacts. Currently, these surveys only cover the two locations. LaTrisha asked whether the boat survey was the only new piece to the project. Alan said it was basically new, but that they have already completed about a third of the shoreline survey. Jeff Ward added that the boat survey got as far as Whisky Creek but not all the way to the Lyre River; it adds another dimension to the project and would extend the area that they had reached previously. *Alan volunteered as lead; Chelsea Korbolic volunteered as co-lead.
- Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: Ioana Bociu: The goal of this project is to restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island wildlife refuges. Chris Burns explained that the project would be focused on removing invasive grasses in the first year and replanting the areas

with native plants in the second year. Allyce Miller clarified that the schedule is roughly to remove invasive plants from April through October, and to follow up with planting in the fall and following spring. Chris said that the area is about ten acres or more on Protection Island, and that Graveyard Spit is the main location in Dungeness Bay. During Q&A, Dann May asked about the source of the invasive plants. Chris said that cattle were brought in years ago. *Chris Burns volunteered as lead; Ioana Bociu volunteered as co-lead. Dann May offered to help with the project as well.

- European Green Crab Control: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: TDB: *The goal of this project is to control and aim to eliminate invasive European green crab (EGC) from Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge and other locations (as needed) in Clallam County.* Chris Burns explained that this would be a partnership between the CC MRC and the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge staff. During the Q&A, Cathy Lear pointed out that the project must be led by CC MRC members, but if it was valuable to the CC MRC, they could find a way to move it forward while satisfying NWSC conditions. Alan Clark noted that the NWSC has been shying away from spending money without engagement and would likely prefer to just hear about the project at the end of it without being part of it. Rebecca Mahan suggested that the CC MRC could have their own crab traps that they would be responsible for, but that could fall under the Refuge's trapping permit. *Chris volunteered to be the lead on the project and to work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's trapping program. He clarified that he had wanted to propose the project in case the CC MRC wished to participate. It would be possible for the CC MRC to sponsor some traps. Nancy Stephanz asked about working with the Sea Grant trapping program. Ed Bowlby said that he and Mary Sue Brancato worked with the Sea Grant team and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe at the Jimmycomelately site. They all follow the same protocol. Chris said that this project would work with Refuge staff and volunteers and would require a small amount of training. He added that it would be ideal if the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge held a seat on the CC MRC, so that he would not have to be the go-between. Alan said that when he speaks with County Commissioners Mike Chapman and Steve Tharinger, they always ask about EGC. Chris noted that it is an issue of growing importance and very time-consuming. Alan suggested scaling the project based on the capacity of the CC MRC. Chris explained that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's environmental biologist Neil Harrington was leading the effort, and this project would just be assisting him. Jeff Ward inquired about the estimated cost of \$24,000; Chris said that was the estimate for staff time and equipment for two years. LaTrisha Suggs asked whether Robert Knapp would be interested in being the co-lead; Chris said that Robert is quite busy, but it was possible. *LaTrisha said she could be a potential co-lead if needed.
- Olympia Oysters: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: Lyn Muench: *The goal of this project is for Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to work with the CC MRC's Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and CC MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate, and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.* Chris Burns explained that the current contract for Olympia Oyster Population Surveys goes through September 2025, but he wondered if the CC MRC wished to continue that into the future. The restoration element of the project has been completed, but the monitoring can be continued. Lyn Muench advocated for continuing the project because the survey data was always beneficial. During Q&A, Lyn asked whether this would be a smaller project than it had been in the past. Chris clarified that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's shellfish biologist Annie Raymond would continue to monitor the Olympia Oyster population and would provide the report; if more restoration was needed down the line, that could continue as well. *Chris volunteered as lead; Lyn volunteered as co-lead. Dann May asked about the impact of ocean

acidification on oyster populations. Chris said that ocean acidification tends to affect larvae the most, and since oysters are internal breeders, they have not been too impacted yet.

- Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025: Lead: Ed Bowlby; Co-lead: Mary Sue Brancato (tentative) or Alan Clark (tentative): *The goal of this project is to continue to monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PG) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.* Ed Bowlby said that the CC MRC has sponsored this project since 2016 as a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Prior to that time, Clallam County was a missing part of the Salish Sea coverage. They are looking for new recruits and volunteers as the work is all volunteer based. In the past, volunteers have been recruited from the CC MRC, the public, and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. The volunteer work takes only one hour per week and consists of sitting in a chair and watching the birds and any disturbances they encounter. The Network asks for a contribution of \$500 per year for database maintenance, but that may be cost shared with the Audubon Society, bringing the estimated cost of the project to \$250 per year. All the information goes into a regional database. During Q&A, LaTrisha Suggs mentioned that PG populations have been declining in Alaska and asked whether a decline in this area had been observed. Ed said that overall, the Salish Sea populations have been stable. The CC population has also been stable, but they have noticed that the birds are nesting earlier or later due to climate change patterns, which is resulting in different fish being fed to the nestlings. *Ed volunteered to continue to lead the project. Mary Sue Brancato might be interested in co-leading the project; Alan Clark might volunteer as co-lead and said he would let Ed know.
- Elwha River Stewardship: Lead: Helle Andersen; Co-lead: Dann May: *The goal of this project is to protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.* Helle Andersen explained that during the project discussion in 2023, a question was raised about whether to find a cost sharing partner. Surfrider is a partner on the project as they fund a second portable toilet. Helle has been leading the project. She conducted 43 on-foot surveys to count people and dogs, ask visitors to fill out questionnaires, and refill dog waste bags. Clallam County also installed two car counters in October 2023 and August 2024. The surveys found that during the fall and winter months, there were 15,811 people and 3,558 dogs; during the spring and summer months, there were 34,599 people and 6,200 dogs. The total estimates for annual visitors to Elwha Beach were 50,410 people and 9,757 dogs, but Helle thinks this is actually an underestimate because the beach is also used as an outdoor classroom for hundreds of students that were not included in the visitation estimate. The questionnaire found that everyone thought the portable toilets and dog waste bags were important. The estimated budget of \$32,000 per year includes the toilet maintenance and the dog waste bag refills. Continuing the project requires approval from the NWSC. During Q&A, Alan Clark noted that NWSC has expressed positive feedback about the project. Ann Soule asked whether it would be possible to add more education to the project, perhaps by posting weather-safe signage about the CC MRC and marine stewardship on the outside of the portable toilet. LaTrisha Suggs suggested asking Bill's Plumbing (who service the portable toilet) whether usage could be extrapolated by maintenance. Amelia Kalagher pointed out that the CC MRC would have access to the Science Advisory Committee for the next few months as a resource if desired. *Helle volunteered to continue to lead the project; Dann May volunteered as co-lead.
- Derelict Crab Pot Removal: Lead: Chris Rumble; Co-lead: Ioana Bociu: *The goal of this project is to train the CC MRC and the local community on effective derelict crab pot removal techniques using a Blue Robotics BlueROV2 and remove derelict gear around Port Angeles City Pier and*

other Port Angeles crabbing locations. Ioana Bociu explained that the focus of the project would be on marine technology and the removal of crab pots and would include purchasing a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), training, permitting, identifying sites, and the removal of derelict crab pots. Future goals could add to the scope of the project, through troubleshooting, data management, or other needs that could arise. The estimated budget included \$10,000 for the ROV and accessories, \$4,000 for surveys to determine crab pot locations, and \$1,000 for gear. Additional costs include a contractor for training, and a paid intern, but those costs are still unknown. The ROV would be used for the surveys to determine the locations of derelict crab pots, to connect hooks to the crab pots, and possibly for other efforts such as abalone and kelp surveys and engaging students in conservation. During Q&A, Ed Bowlby asked about sediment suspension; Ioana clarified that permitting would cover it, but it was necessary to consider. Jeff Ward said that he liked the project but expressed concerns about knowing how to use and maintain the equipment or having the ROV and other expensive gear go unused. He suggested approaching Blue Robotics about whether they would be interested in helping the CC MRC use an ROV for derelict gear removal in exchange for publicity. Nancy Stephanz asked if it would be possible to rent a ROV instead of purchasing one. Ann Soule inquired whether anyone had experimented with opening derelict crab pots and leaving them on the ocean floor instead of removing them and creating additional waste and associated costs. Ioana thought that it would be possible to do. Katie Kawal advised the group to consider liability insurance. Rebecca Mahan noted that the project would fall under a contractor's insurance, but purchasing their own ROV would be a different scenario. Ioana said she would investigate liability insurance. *Chris Rumple volunteered to lead the project; Ioana volunteered to co-lead.

- Pinto Abalone: Lead: Jeff Ward; Co-lead: Alan Clark: *The goal of this project is to restore sustainable Pinto Abalone populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.* Jeff Ward explained that Pinto Abalone density is below the density that scientists believe is necessary for reproductive success, and has been since the early 1990s, even after the recreational fishery was closed in 1996. Restoration efforts in the San Juans have begun to show an uptick in the population, but it is still well below necessary levels. In 2024, the WDFW announced that they thought there was Pinto Abalone in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but they did not know where. Two diver surveys at Protection Island and Rocky Point were conducted. Around Protection Island, no abalone was observed and there was no habitat identified. At Rocky Point on the Miller Peninsula, no abalone was observed; however, potential rocky habitat was found. It is not likely to be a site for restoration, but it is possible that abalone could be captured to contribute to the gene pool. Contour lines were run with a depth finder via boat, and some areas were eliminated based on unsuitable habitat. Proposed activities for 2026-2027 include a survey west of Freshwater Bay to identify remnant populations and potential index sites, and to prioritize areas for future study and restoration efforts. If successful, it could be possible to out-plant abalone in the next few years. *Jeff volunteered as lead; Alan Clark volunteered as co-lead. During Q&A, Rebecca Mahan noted that Feiro Marine Life Center was very interested in potential participation and helping to raise abalone for out-planting in the future. Jeff said that he would prefer to have local divers and the culturing done locally as well. Dann May asked about the cause of the Pinto Abalone population decrease; Jeff clarified that it was due to poaching and over-harvesting.
- Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) / Oiled Wildlife Response Training: Lead: Nancy Stephanz; Co-lead: Ed Bowlby: *The goal of this project is to conduct workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife response.* Nancy Stephanz explained that she was going to the training herself, and that this was becoming increasingly important due to the rise in vessel

traffic through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. *Nancy volunteered as lead; Ed Bowlby volunteered as co-lead. During Q&A, the issue was raised about whether the project would fall under outreach or not. Rebecca Mahan said that would depend on whether the project became more about public outreach or providing training to CC MRC members.

- Forage Fish Monitoring: Lead: Alan Clark; Co-lead: TBD: *The goal of this project is to work in collaboration with the NWSC and WDFW to continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at four locations: Cline Spit, Ediz Hook, and beaches east and west of the Elwha River mouth.* Alan Clark said that the CC MRC had been conducting these surveys since 2016 to document when forage fish spawn, which is later in the Strait than in Puget Sound. The process consists of going to the sites, collecting sand, filtering it through mesh screens, concentrating any eggs, taking samples, and shipping them to WDFW labs to be identified. Helle Andersen said they had seen very little at the Elwha beaches, but a few had been found at Ediz Hook. Alan added that Cline Spit has good numbers of surf smelt and sand lance. During Q&A, Chris Burns asked about how much this work contributed to other forage fish monitoring efforts. Helle clarified that WDFW and other organizations rely on efforts like this to add to their studies because these sites are not included otherwise. Chris asked about moving sites; Helle said the locations were already defined. Chris noted that he had seen surf smelt west of the Elwha mouth. Ed Bowlby added that this has always been supplemental to other agency efforts, but that identifying forage fish at these sites prioritized them for HAZWOPER and oil spill response efforts. Rebecca Mahan said that it also enforces shoreline management regulations. Mike Doherty added that forage fish has been a topic of interest regionally for many years. *Alan Clark volunteered to lead the project; Chelsea Korbolic and Ed Bowlby are possible co-leads.
- Ediz Hook Debris Removal: Lead: Allyce Miller; Co-lead: TBD: *The goal of this project is to work in collaboration with the Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Department to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook.* Allyce Miller explained that the Hook is a very special place that has been severely compromised by the road, Coast Guard base, riprap, and other armoring. It is supposed to be fed by the Elwha drift cell, but the armoring prevents natural processes and the human presence on the Hook has diminished native habitats. This project would assist with the removal of some of the infrastructure, including a derelict boat, concrete, and asphalt. The City's Parks and Recreation Department wishes to excavate the debris with heavy equipment but has no plan for disposal or what to do afterward. This proposal is to cover the costs of debris removal and disposal to local places, such as Angeles Concrete, who can reuse some of the debris, and to host volunteer events to pick up the smaller pieces. It would be done over two years, with the planting of native plants in the second year. During Q&A, Ioana Bociu asked about permitting. Allyce said that the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has done work with beach nourishment, so cultural compliance was covered, and the permits may still be current as well. Chris asked about the extent of the debris. Allyce said that the first step was to get what was already falling into the Strait. The group questioned whether this was a CC MRC project. *Allyce volunteered as lead; a co-lead is to be determined. Dann May and Mike Doherty volunteered to help with the project.

“Dots” Exercise to Mark Preferred Projects

Before the group voted with their dots, they discussed how to do the exercise most efficiently. Lyn Muench expressed concern that using the dots turned the task into a popularity contest. Some projects might not get any dots, but they cost almost nothing. Other projects were very expensive and might get a lot of dots but not be very feasible. The group went over the limited availability of effort, staff, funding, volunteers, and time. Suggestions included setting aside the projects that the CC MRC had been

doing for years and using the dots for only the new proposed projects, and asking whether the projects were affordable and if they could be done with available staff time. Rebecca Mahan explained that staff time is important for more than projects, and projects take a lot more time than they sound like they will. Alan Clark noted the CC MRC was already committed to some of the projects, such as Pinto Abalone and Olympia Oysters. If they chose not to continue with those projects, it would leave a hole in the monitoring data. After the group discussion, Nancy Slocum decided to take down the old projects so the Committee could vote only on the new projects. The Shoreline Armoring Survey sheet was left up but needs to be reconfigured before proceeding.

After voting, it was determined that European Green Crab Control and Ediz Hook Debris Removal both got 13 points; Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges and Derelict Crab Pot Removal both got 12 points. Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center got 9 points. Launch Advisory Capacity and Shoreline Armoring Survey both got 8 points.

Next steps included collating the results of tonight's special meeting and answering some big questions over the next four weeks regarding what of the existing projects to carry forward and what staff obligation was required. LaTrisha Suggs asked whether the group wanted to dedicate the next monthly CC MRC meeting in March to existing projects, or to developing the top new projects from tonight's meeting. Cathy Lear said that working with the leads and co-leads to refine proposals, budgets, and how to highlight the CC MRC would be important to do prior to the next CC MRC meeting. A conversation between staff on their available time would also take place prior to the March meeting. Amelia Kalagher said that staff would reach out to project leads about project development. Rebecca Mahan noted that NWSC would be refining their request for proposals between now and the next CC MRC meeting on 3/17/25. Amelia explained that it would be an active collaborative process between County staff, NWSC, and the CC MRC.

Adjournment

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM, with a CC MRC member group photo following.

CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

March 17th, 2025
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting



Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

Passcode: 12345

For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

Welcome by Chair LaTrisha Suggs / Call to Order / Roll Call

- Determination of quorum

Public Comment on agenda items, limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair

Presentations

- Don Hunger – Northwest Straits Foundation (15 minutes plus Q&A)

Approval of Minutes & Policy

- Review and approval of January minutes
- Review and approval of February minutes
- Review and approval of February special work session minutes
- Roles and responsibilities document – for review and potential approval

Announcements

- Welcome: Chelsea Korbolic (alternate representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Kelly Burger (alternate representing City of Sequim)
- Open MRC seats: member representing community At-Large, member & alternate for Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community
- HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th: [flyer link](#), [signup link](#)
- MRC Chair & Vice Chair election upcoming in May
- NWSC: April retreat, meeting in Clallam County May 30th

Committee and Project Reports *No updates this month unless requested in advance*

New or special business items

- Project development for the next biennium (10/2025 - 9/2027)
 - Please see attached spreadsheet for project information
- Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter proposed for discussion, redirect to WDFW and Ecology

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- Next regular meeting Monday, April 21
- Call for new agenda items

2025 Meetings

January 16 (Thu)

April 21

July 21

October 20

February 20 (Thu)

May 19

August 18

November 17

March 17

June 16

September 15

December 15

Public Comment *Limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair*

Good of the Order

Adjourn

Clallam County DCD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: MRC

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485?pwd=N3dMbHRyL3I5TnpKNGtVSGtWYk5VQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

Passcode: 12345

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,85314804485#,,,,*12345# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

2025 Meetings

January 16 (Thu)

February 20 (Thu)

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15

Duties of Clallam MRC Officers and Members

January 2025

Duties of the Chair:

1. Provide leadership and serve as the presiding officer of the board.
2. Chair monthly committee meetings, maintain order, assist board in achieving actions for each meeting, implement Roberts Rules of Order.
3. Create subcommittees and special assignments, and appoint members when necessary.
4. Rule on questions of procedure.
5. Meet with MRC staff to review monthly agenda items, plan the annual cycle of monthly meetings.
6. Conduct business of the MRC between its meetings, in coordination with/as needed by County staff.
7. Sign documents of the committee.
8. Serve as the official spokes person for the group in matters relating to the press. Represent the organization as a spokesperson, at other venues, as appropriate.
9. Provide annual updates to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners.
10. Participate in annual NWSC conference if possible.
11. Anticipate contributing up to 10 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of the Vice-Chair:

1. Act for the chair in the chair's absence.
2. Share tasks with the chair, act as a sounding board, and help with decisions between meetings.
3. Liaise regularly with the chair about agenda items and current issues.
4. Assist chair with unresolvable communications issues.
5. Provide support/coordination on MRC business between meetings.
6. Participate in annual NWSC conference if possible.
7. Anticipate contributing up to 8 hours a month conducting this role.

Duties of Field Project Leads/Co-Leads:

1. Work closely with County MRC staff on planning and implementing the project, and be familiar with reporting forms and timeline for when reports are due.
2. In coordination with MRC staff, maintain project team effectively, delegate tasks, monitor progress, identify and mitigate risks, communicate with team, make decisions, solve problems, and ensure the project is delivered on time and within budget, all while maintaining a focus on achieving project goals.
3. Make sure project gear is functioning properly and work with MRC staff to maintain as needed.

4. Follow the project QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) and assist in developing and updating QAPP as project timelines dictate.
5. Submit draft yearly report using data, findings, and other information to MRC staff 3-4 weeks before reports are to be submitted to the grant entities. Reports may be needed quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, depending on the grant requirements.
6. Respond timely to MRC staff requests for data, information, and review of documents, in addition to providing a supporting role to MRC staff and the NWSC.
7. Recruit and organize MRC members and/or community volunteers to assist with project execution and fieldwork as needed, working in tandem with staff.

Duties of Members:

1. Treat committee members and MRC staff with respect and kindness.
2. Regularly attend meetings and participate.
3. Actively engage in at least one field or educational project team, including regular project team communication and assistance when leads put out a request for help with projects.
4. Actively volunteer for two or more public education/outreach events each year.
5. Actively volunteer to serve, for example as an officer, NWSC rep, field project or educational team lead, or on advisory or other subcommittees.
6. Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, depending on commitments).
7. Obtain required training to carry out projects (ex: WDFW sampling training, HAZWOPR training) and propose new projects for grant biennium.
8. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
9. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.
10. Participate in annual NWSC conference if possible.
11. Communicate and liaise regularly with the population or organization represented by your MRC role.
12. Communicate with your alternate regularly, especially so they can be sure to attend meetings if you are unable.
13. Communicate with the Chair and MRC staff if you are not able to attend a meeting and if your alternate will be in attendance to fill in for you.

Duties of Alternates:

1. Communicate with their corresponding member regularly.
2. Actively assist on field and education projects.
3. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.

4. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
5. Anticipate contributing 4-6 hours a month (or more, as needed).
6. Alternates are allowed to vote only when they are filling in for the member.
7. Alternates should try to attend monthly meetings, even if the member is in attendance.

Duties of Northwest Straits Commission Representative:

1. Clallam County MRC representative is required to attend monthly meetings (in-person or on Zoom).
2. Represent the Clallam MRC at the NWSC meetings.
3. Be the liaison between the NWSC and MRC staff/members.

| New | Continuing | Project Name | MRC Lead | MRC Co-Lead | Team Members (Add'l) | Partner(s) | Annual Cost | Total Project Cost | Category | Lead Hours | Hours | Partner Agency (MRC/Community) | Volunteers (MRC/Community) | Staff Time (1 to 3) | Notes |
|-----|------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| X | | Nearshore Restoration at Co-Managed Wildlife Refuges | Chris Burns | Iona Bociu | Dann May | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, National Wildlife Refuge | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | Revegetation/Invasive Species | 80 | 40 | | | 3 | |
| X | | European Green Crab Control | Chris Burns | LaTrisha Suggs | | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, National Wildlife Refuge | \$ 24,000.00 | \$ 48,000.00 | Invasive Species (Restoration) | 800 | | | 280 hours - check and empty traps | 3 | |
| X | | Ediz Hook Debris Removal | Allyce Miller | To be determined | Mike D, Dan, Chris | City of PA, Elwha Klallam Tribe | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 11,000.00 | Debris Removal (Restoration) | | | | | 2.5 | |
| X | | Derelict gear removal (includes Blue ROV) | Chris Rumple | Ioana Bociu | Jeff Ward | Phil Parisi | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | Restoration | | | | | 3 | |
| X | | Elwha River Stewardship | Helle Andersen | Dann May | | Surfriders (sponsor another Sanikan) | \$ 3,200.00 | \$ 6,400.00 | Stewardship (Monitoring / | | | | | 2.5 | QAPP? Turn over to another entity? |
| X | | Olympia Oyster Monitoring | Chris Burns | Lyn Muench | | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe | \$ 2,704.20 | \$ 5,408.40 | Monitoring | 60 | | | 6 days - field monitoring on mudflats w/ JST staff | 1.5 | |
| X | | Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring 2025 | Ed Bowlby | Mary Sue Brancato | Alan Clark? | Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS), Salish Sea Guillemot Network/WDFW Survey 123 data | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | Monitoring | 28 | 400 | | | 2 | |
| X | | Pinto Abalone | Jeff Ward | Alan Clark | | Puget Sound Restoration Fund/WDFW (possibly Feiro Marine Life Center for future restoration) | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | Monitoring (possible future Restoration) | | | | | 1 | |
| X | | HAZWOPER / oil spill response trainings | Nancy Stephanz | Ed Bowlby | | Contractor to give training | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 14,000.00 | Education & Outreach | | | | | 2 | |
| X | | Forage fish | Alan Clark | Chelsea Korbulich / Ed Bowlby (tentative) | | WDFW, NWSC | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | Monitoring | | | | | 2 | |
| X | | Kelp monitoring | Alan Clark | Chelsea Korbulich | | NWSC | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | Monitoring | | | | | 2.5 | |
| X | | Education and outreach | Ann Soule | | | | | | Education & Outreach | | | | Festival tabling, set | 2.5 | 2 festivals max, or possible subcommittee |
| X | | Advisory work (possible subcommittee) | | | Bob Vreeland? | | | | Advisory | | | | | 2 | |
| X | | (County admin unrelated to specific activities) | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | Total \$ | 146,808.40 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Funding Ask | | | | | | | | |

Excepted from the 25-27 NWSC Request For Proposals:

MRC-Led Projects

All proposed projects must be MRC led. **An *MRC-led project* is a project that has pre-determined goals, measurable results and meets each of the following criteria.** These criteria also apply to situations where an MRC is considering taking the lead on a smaller piece of a larger project with partners:

- **The project fills a need or gap identified and prioritized by the MRC, and/or the MRC would pursue the project independent of any project partners.**
- The project has been **adopted by the full MRC** through a majority vote or other mechanism outlined by the MRCs bylaws.
- **The project has a clear outcome and project deliverable that can be solely attributed to the MRC.**
- A member of the MRC or MRC subcommittee serves as the lead for the project.
 - An MRC lead is a member or a subcommittee that:
 - § Serves as the primary point of contact and organizer/manager of a project.
 - § They may also implement the project directly.
 - § They assure the project stays on track, assure deliverables attributed to the MRC are achieved, and bring regular updates to the MRC.
 - § The MRC lead also ensures that the project outcomes reflect MRC-specific priorities, even when part of a larger project.

Partnership definition

Projects that the MRC is doing in partnership with other entities should meet the following criteria for a project partnership. Projects and programs should be/have:

- **Co-created:** Each partner has input on the project or program at the start and throughout the project. **If the MRC is entering into the partnership after the project has started, mechanisms for MRC input on goals, objectives, strategies etc. must be clearly stated.**
- **Mutually beneficial:** In which each partner **identifies the benefit to their own organization's mission and goals that will be realized through participation as a partner.**
- **Have clear actionable goals and objectives:** Identified as part of the planning process.
- **Distinct partner roles:** Establishes key roles and responsibilities for each partner.

Project criteria (subject)

MRC projects must:

- Address one or more of the environmental goals of the [Northwest Straits Initiative Strategic Plan](#).
- **Have a clear project goal identified by the MRC.**
- Clearly **identify measurable results**. Measurable results can be:
 - developed and proposed by the MRC
 - support or achieve one of the objectives in the strategic plan
 - associated with progress toward advancing ocean and shoreline actions in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- **Be managed and carried out by the MRC and directly identified as a project of the MRC by all project participants.** Funding cannot pass through to support another organization's work or operations. If a sub-contract is necessary to carry out the project, the **sub-contractor must be working under the direction of the MRC project lead(s)**.
- **Adhere to the Conflict of Interest policy included below (Page 9).**

Project criteria (procedural)

MRC projects must:

- Be able to be accomplished in the time period available and within the proposed budget (this may include additional secured funding referenced in application). If a project is one phase or component of a longer-term project, the full project should be described and the phase proposed for this funding cycle should be able to be accomplished within the time period available.
- **Include an evaluation plan that provides information to the MRC to determine whether the projects achieved desired outcomes.**
- Clearly distinguish project components where other funds will be pursued (grants submitted or planned to be submitted through another entity) to fund specific elements of the project. Clearly describe which elements of the project are to be funded by the MRC grant and which would be through other funding sources. Once MRC grants are awarded, contact NW Straits Commission staff before seeking additional funding sources for any project component.
- **If a continuing project, clearly identify how this work is different from previous years or describe why continuation of the same work is important.**

- Be reviewed and approved at a meeting of the full MRC and have an identified MRC member project lead.

Examples of projects that **do not qualify** for NWS Commission funding:

- One MRC member serves as a lead or partner on a project, but the **full MRC has not formally adopted the project as an MRC effort.**
- A proposal is made to support communications (such as signage, brochures, advertising, etc.) related to another organization's project where the **MRC is not a project lead or a lead on a project component**, as described in the definitions section in this policy.
- A project is proposed by another organization where the MRC would serve as a partner, but the **MRC itself does not have a specific role, mutual interest in the results (see project partnership definition), and no unique value brought to the project besides funds and/or volunteer time.** Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.
- A project that **does not have an MRC member leading the project** as described in the MRC-led project section.
- The MRC is proposing to be a partner on a large-scale project where there is **no distinct role (phase or project component) that the MRC can lead.** In other words, there are no outcomes or deliverables that can be solely attributed to the MRC. The work would have continued, the only contribution was MRC funds.
- A project is proposed where the **MRC's contribution is not essential to the completion of the project or project component.** Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.

Examples of projects that **do qualify** for NWS Commission funding assuming all criteria under the definitions section are met:

- Another entity develops a project and the MRC joins as a partner OR the MRC is a partner on a large-scale or ongoing project, where the **MRC has a mutual interest in the project results and a distinct role to lead.** (MRCs should use caution in partnering on large-scale projects, as the overall timeline may be outside MRC control and therefore impact the MRC component timeline.)
- **The MRC formally adopts the project**, and one or more member(s) serves as champion/lead, and maintains ongoing communication with the full MRC about the project.
- **The MRC collaborates with another partner (or partners) to develop and carry out a project.** The partner organization serves as administrative lead, while the MRC maintains a key role in managing the project or element of the project.

- **The MRC carries out a distinct phase of a project independently** (e.g. feasibility assessments), while another entity completes other phases (e.g. construction).
- **An MRC and partners carry out shared communications for a mutual project.**



February 2025 Special Meeting / Retreat Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, February 24, 2025

Time: 4:00-7:14 PM

Location: Elwha Klallam Heritage Center, Port Angeles, Washington

Minutes prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ioana Bociu (Academic Community Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Mike Doherty (District 3), Dann May (District 3 Alternate), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2 Alternate), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Alternate), Ann Soule (Vice Chair; District 2), LaTrisha Suggs (Chair, Port Angeles City Council), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Amelia Kalagher (CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Administrative Support), Katie Kawal (Jefferson County MRC), Cathy Lear (CC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC MRC Coordinator), Nancy Slocum (Facilitator; Thrive Point Programs)

Goal Setting and Orienting

Ann Soule introduced Nancy Slocum, program administrator at Thrive Point Programs, as the facilitator for the CC MRC Retreat. Nancy assisted Vice Chair Ann, Chair LaTrisha Suggs, and CC staff to pull this special meeting together for project review and ranking. Nancy gave an overview of meeting norms: Do not interrupt, Stay on topic, Creativity encouraged, No bad ideas, Everyone is equal, and Respect time limits. Presenters would be giving brief lightning talks of about three to five minutes, with five minutes for questions. Projects were displayed around the room so that the CC MRC members could vote on them after the presentations.

Project Lightning Talks with Q&A

- Launch Advisory Capacity: Lead: Ann Soule; Co-lead: LaTrisha Suggs: *The goal of this project is to facilitate MRC member engagement with planning, permitting, and other governmental processes related to shoreline/nearshore/marine development.* Ann Soule shared a picture of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which illustrated everything that the project stood for. She explained that stewarding the Strait required work and watchdogging, and that the advisory capacity for the CC MRC could do better. The proposal included the hiring of a consultant. Although that may not be necessary to launch, there was money available, and a consultant would help get the

organization process started. Island County and San Juan County MRCs are both models in this area, as they utilize comprehensive plans, have experience with elevating community appreciation of marine resources, and have productive interactions with their own boards of county commissioners. Ann suggested that inviting those MRCs to speak to the CC MRC could be an idea. She added that the items in her outlines were flexible and welcomed feedback to modify the project. In the Q&A, Alan Clark noted that Island County has expressed interest in engaging with the CC MRC. Lyn Muench pointed out that communication with decision makers on a regular basis and in an organized manner was a neglected area. Dann May encouraged the group to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as much as possible. Ann clarified that the project still needed a co-lead, and that the estimated budget of \$10,000 was optional but spending some money on a consultant would be helpful. *Ann volunteered as lead; LaTrisha Suggs volunteered for co-lead. Ann thought that Bob Vreeland might wish to help as well. Nancy Stephanz expressed concern that the project was a little too vague. LaTrisha added that this was the concept, but it would be further developed.

- Shoreline Armoring Survey: Lead: Ann Soule; Co-lead: Dann May: *The goal of this project is to determine where shoreline armoring currently occurs and make the information public for regulatory and restoration purposes.* Ann Soule said that this looked like an important idea that could benefit County planners and be useful for organizations like the Land Trust and salmon restoration proponents. A similar survey was also done by Island and San Juan County MRCs, so those MRCs could be used as resources. Different methods could be used, including boat, plane, and aerial photography; the budget is variable depending on the method. It would be more contract management than volunteer based. During the Q&A, Alan Clark asked about the extent of the survey. Ann clarified that it could cover the full MRC area. Lyn Muench suggested coordinating with county GIS staff to mesh with their data; the work has been done before, so it would be worth reviewing data sets. Jeff Ward added that a scientist with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory conducted a boat survey with video, traveling the shoreline and recording the features. Ioana Bociu recommended referring to the Department of Ecology's Coastal Atlas; there is a GIS layer that shows hard and soft armoring and three to six years of aerial photography of all shorelines. Cathy Lear added that the County, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and Sea Grant would be flying LiDAR from Cape Flattery to Admiralty Inlet. LaTrisha Suggs said that bulkheading was still happening today, both permitted and illegally, but it was not working. Bringing all the data together could help prioritize and identify sensitive areas where development should not occur and show leaders that armoring does not work. Cathy said that Island County went through its shoreline permits and discovered that a fair portion of armoring in the county was not permitted. Amelia Kalagher pointed out that Island County was very good at advisory work. Ann noted that the project could be more about compiling existing data and finding out where the gaps were. *Ann volunteered as lead; Dann May volunteered for co-lead. Ioana Bociu was interested in helping as well and thought that Department of Ecology's guidelines would be a good starting point. Dann added that almost none of the armoring systems work and end up undermining the ecology. Rebecca Mahan proposed adding an educational component to the project because most homeowners do not understand that.
- Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center: Lead: Nancy Stephanz; Co-lead: Jeff Ward: *The goal of the project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of an educational display specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends.* Alan Clark said that as Feiro Marine Life Center transitions to the Marine Discovery Center, a display about kelp and eelgrass in the new building could help build new partnerships, become more in sync with the community, and continue work with an established partner, all while

providing outreach about the CC MRC. With the educational booths the CC MRC has been setting up at events and centers, he has been thinking about how and where to bring an audience that wants to find out more about what has been presented. Ann Soule noted that they still needed to clarify things with Feiro. The new building would not be coming until 2028, so this might be preliminary, but kelp and eelgrass would be a great feature topic. During Q&A, Ed Bowlby asked about displaying the Pigeon Guillemot citizen science project, which could tie in well with the live bird exhibit that will be at the new Marine Discovery Center. Ioana Bociu inquired about an interim display before the new building was completed. Amelia Kalagher explained that the current space and capacity at Feiro is very full, but a temporary exhibit or event might be possible. With the new building scheduled to open in 2028, new development could very well still be planned for the coming biennium. *Nancy Stephanz volunteered as lead; Jeff Ward volunteered as co-lead. Jeff asked whether the CC MRC was trying to develop a place for themselves at the Marine Discovery Center, or whether a rotating display on citizen science would be better. Ann was envisioning an expensive display like the one at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, but they could consider a rotating exhibit as well. LaTrisha Suggs suggested a more intertidal exhibit, but Amelia noted that similar exhibits were already being planned.

- Kayak Kelp Surveys: Lead Alan Clark; co-lead: Chelsea Korbolic: The goal of this project is to continue CC MRC and NWSC efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Alan Clark explained that the CC MRC has been doing this monitoring since 2015, with yearly surveys in Freshwater and Sequim bays. They have been enlarging their survey areas due to interest regarding kelp restoration projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The surveys are conducted by kayaks to track the waxing and waning of kelp beds, and to identify kelp and fish species. At the end of the year, the data is reviewed with NWSC kelp specialist Jeff Whitty. At this point, volunteers only need kayaking experience to participate. Some years, they have needed to reschedule the surveys due to weather and ocean conditions. During Q&A, Amelia Kalagher asked about the \$25,000 estimated in the project plan for boat surveys. Alan clarified that this could be an added component to identify the presence or absence of kelp along the county shoreline, information which could be provided to the Board of County Commissioners or other interested groups. Mike Doherty noted that the tribes would probably be interested in this information and have their own knowledge and efforts that could help build partnerships and identify where work might be being duplicated. Alan added that they have done that with kelp restoration projects. Freshwater Bay is of interest because they have not observed serious declines there yet. LaTrisha Suggs asked how DNR's vegetation surveys might be connected. Alan said that the data is made public to be used by everyone, and that connections have been made with DNR and Friday Harbor's Marine Lab, but there was plenty of time to plug in more contacts. Currently, these surveys only cover the two locations. LaTrisha asked whether the boat survey was the only new piece to the project. Alan said it was basically new, but that they have already completed about a third of the shoreline survey. Jeff Ward added that the boat survey got as far as Whisky Creek but not all the way to the Lyre River; it adds another dimension to the project and would extend the area that they had reached previously. *Alan volunteered as lead; Chelsea Korbolic volunteered as co-lead.
- Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: Ioana Bociu: The goal of this project is to restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island wildlife refuges. Chris Burns explained that the project would be focused on removing invasive grasses in the first year and replanting the areas

with native plants in the second year. Allyce Miller clarified that the schedule is roughly to remove invasive plants from April through October, and to follow up with planting in the fall and following spring. Chris said that the area is about ten acres or more on Protection Island, and that Graveyard Spit is the main location in Dungeness Bay. During Q&A, Dann May asked about the source of the invasive plants. Chris said that cattle were brought in years ago. *Chris Burns volunteered as lead; Ioana Bociu volunteered as co-lead. Dann May offered to help with the project as well.

- European Green Crab Control: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: TDB: *The goal of this project is to control and aim to eliminate invasive European green crab (EGC) from Dungeness Spit Wildlife Refuge and other locations (as needed) in Clallam County.* Chris Burns explained that this would be a partnership between the CC MRC and the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge staff. During the Q&A, Cathy Lear pointed out that the project must be led by CC MRC members, but if it was valuable to the CC MRC, they could find a way to move it forward while satisfying NWSC conditions. Alan Clark noted that the NWSC has been shying away from spending money without engagement and would likely prefer to just hear about the project at the end of it without being part of it. Rebecca Mahan suggested that the CC MRC could have their own crab traps that they would be responsible for, but that could fall under the Refuge's trapping permit. *Chris volunteered to be the lead on the project and to work with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's trapping program. He clarified that he had wanted to propose the project in case the CC MRC wished to participate. It would be possible for the CC MRC to sponsor some traps. Nancy Stephanz asked about working with the Sea Grant trapping program. Ed Bowlby said that he and Mary Sue Brancato worked with the Sea Grant team and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe at the Jimmycomelately site. They all follow the same protocol. Chris said that this project would work with Refuge staff and volunteers and would require a small amount of training. He added that it would be ideal if the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge held a seat on the CC MRC, so that he would not have to be the go-between. Alan said that when he speaks with County Commissioners Mike Chapman and Steve Tharinger, they always ask about EGC. Chris noted that it is an issue of growing importance and very time-consuming. Alan suggested scaling the project based on the capacity of the CC MRC. Chris explained that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's environmental biologist Neil Harrington was leading the effort, and this project would just be assisting him. Jeff Ward inquired about the estimated cost of \$24,000; Chris said that was the estimate for staff time and equipment for two years. LaTrisha Suggs asked whether Robert Knapp would be interested in being the co-lead; Chris said that Robert is quite busy, but it was possible. *LaTrisha said she could be a potential co-lead if needed.
- Olympia Oysters: Lead: Chris Burns; Co-lead: Lyn Muench: *The goal of this project is for Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to work with the CC MRC's Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and CC MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate, and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.* Chris Burns explained that the current contract for Olympia Oyster Population Surveys goes through September 2025, but he wondered if the CC MRC wished to continue that into the future. The restoration element of the project has been completed, but the monitoring can be continued. Lyn Muench advocated for continuing the project because the survey data was always beneficial. During Q&A, Lyn asked whether this would be a smaller project than it had been in the past. Chris clarified that Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's shellfish biologist Annie Raymond would continue to monitor the Olympia Oyster population and would provide the report; if more restoration was needed down the line, that could continue as well. *Chris volunteered as lead; Lyn volunteered as co-lead. Dann May asked about the impact of ocean

acidification on oyster populations. Chris said that ocean acidification tends to affect larvae the most, and since oysters are internal breeders, they have not been too impacted yet.

- Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025: Lead: Ed Bowlby; Co-lead: Mary Sue Brancato (tentative) or Alan Clark (tentative): *The goal of this project is to continue to monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PG) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.* Ed Bowlby said that the CC MRC has sponsored this project since 2016 as a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Prior to that time, Clallam County was a missing part of the Salish Sea coverage. They are looking for new recruits and volunteers as the work is all volunteer based. In the past, volunteers have been recruited from the CC MRC, the public, and the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. The volunteer work takes only one hour per week and consists of sitting in a chair and watching the birds and any disturbances they encounter. The Network asks for a contribution of \$500 per year for database maintenance, but that may be cost shared with the Audubon Society, bringing the estimated cost of the project to \$250 per year. All the information goes into a regional database. During Q&A, LaTrisha Suggs mentioned that PG populations have been declining in Alaska and asked whether a decline in this area had been observed. Ed said that overall, the Salish Sea populations have been stable. The CC population has also been stable, but they have noticed that the birds are nesting earlier or later due to climate change patterns, which is resulting in different fish being fed to the nestlings. *Ed volunteered to continue to lead the project. Mary Sue Brancato might be interested in co-leading the project; Alan Clark might volunteer as co-lead and said he would let Ed know.
- Elwha River Stewardship: Lead: Helle Andersen; Co-lead: Dann May: *The goal of this project is to protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.* Helle Andersen explained that during the project discussion in 2023, a question was raised about whether to find a cost sharing partner. Surfrider is a partner on the project as they fund a second portable toilet. Helle has been leading the project. She conducted 43 on-foot surveys to count people and dogs, ask visitors to fill out questionnaires, and refill dog waste bags. Clallam County also installed two car counters in October 2023 and August 2024. The surveys found that during the fall and winter months, there were 15,811 people and 3,558 dogs; during the spring and summer months, there were 34,599 people and 6,200 dogs. The total estimates for annual visitors to Elwha Beach were 50,410 people and 9,757 dogs, but Helle thinks this is actually an underestimate because the beach is also used as an outdoor classroom for hundreds of students that were not included in the visitation estimate. The questionnaire found that everyone thought the portable toilets and dog waste bags were important. The estimated budget of \$32,000 per year includes the toilet maintenance and the dog waste bag refills. Continuing the project requires approval from the NWSC. During Q&A, Alan Clark noted that NWSC has expressed positive feedback about the project. Ann Soule asked whether it would be possible to add more education to the project, perhaps by posting weather-safe signage about the CC MRC and marine stewardship on the outside of the portable toilet. LaTrisha Suggs suggested asking Bill's Plumbing (who service the portable toilet) whether usage could be extrapolated by maintenance. Amelia Kalagher pointed out that the CC MRC would have access to the Science Advisory Committee for the next few months as a resource if desired. *Helle volunteered to continue to lead the project; Dann May volunteered as co-lead.
- Derelict Crab Pot Removal: Lead: Chris Rumble; Co-lead: Ioana Bociu: *The goal of this project is to train the CC MRC and the local community on effective derelict crab pot removal techniques using a Blue Robotics BlueROV2 and remove derelict gear around Port Angeles City Pier and*

other Port Angeles crabbing locations. Ioana Bociu explained that the focus of the project would be on marine technology and the removal of crab pots and would include purchasing a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), training, permitting, identifying sites, and the removal of derelict crab pots. Future goals could add to the scope of the project, through troubleshooting, data management, or other needs that could arise. The estimated budget included \$10,000 for the ROV and accessories, \$4,000 for surveys to determine crab pot locations, and \$1,000 for gear. Additional costs include a contractor for training, and a paid intern, but those costs are still unknown. The ROV would be used for the surveys to determine the locations of derelict crab pots, to connect hooks to the crab pots, and possibly for other efforts such as abalone and kelp surveys and engaging students in conservation. During Q&A, Ed Bowlby asked about sediment suspension; Ioana clarified that permitting would cover it, but it was necessary to consider. Jeff Ward said that he liked the project but expressed concerns about knowing how to use and maintain the equipment or having the ROV and other expensive gear go unused. He suggested approaching Blue Robotics about whether they would be interested in helping the CC MRC use an ROV for derelict gear removal in exchange for publicity. Nancy Stephanz asked if it would be possible to rent a ROV instead of purchasing one. Ann Soule inquired whether anyone had experimented with opening derelict crab pots and leaving them on the ocean floor instead of removing them and creating additional waste and associated costs. Ioana thought that it would be possible to do. Katie Kawal advised the group to consider liability insurance. Rebecca Mahan noted that the project would fall under a contractor's insurance, but purchasing their own ROV would be a different scenario. Ioana said she would investigate liability insurance. *Chris Rumple volunteered to lead the project; Ioana volunteered to co-lead.

- Pinto Abalone: Lead: Jeff Ward; Co-lead: Alan Clark: *The goal of this project is to restore sustainable Pinto Abalone populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.* Jeff Ward explained that Pinto Abalone density is below the density that scientists believe is necessary for reproductive success, and has been since the early 1990s, even after the recreational fishery was closed in 1996. Restoration efforts in the San Juans have begun to show an uptick in the population, but it is still well below necessary levels. In 2024, the WDFW announced that they thought there was Pinto Abalone in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but they did not know where. Two diver surveys at Protection Island and Rocky Point were conducted. Around Protection Island, no abalone was observed and there was no habitat identified. At Rocky Point on the Miller Peninsula, no abalone was observed; however, potential rocky habitat was found. It is not likely to be a site for restoration, but it is possible that abalone could be captured to contribute to the gene pool. Contour lines were run with a depth finder via boat, and some areas were eliminated based on unsuitable habitat. Proposed activities for 2026-2027 include a survey west of Freshwater Bay to identify remnant populations and potential index sites, and to prioritize areas for future study and restoration efforts. If successful, it could be possible to out-plant abalone in the next few years. *Jeff volunteered as lead; Alan Clark volunteered as co-lead. During Q&A, Rebecca Mahan noted that Feiro Marine Life Center was very interested in potential participation and helping to raise abalone for out-planting in the future. Jeff said that he would prefer to have local divers and the culturing done locally as well. Dann May asked about the cause of the Pinto Abalone population decrease; Jeff clarified that it was due to poaching and over-harvesting.
- Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) / Oiled Wildlife Response Training: Lead: Nancy Stephanz; Co-lead: Ed Bowlby: *The goal of this project is to conduct workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife response.* Nancy Stephanz explained that she was going to the training herself, and that this was becoming increasingly important due to the rise in vessel

traffic through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. *Nancy volunteered as lead; Ed Bowlby volunteered as co-lead. During Q&A, the issue was raised about whether the project would fall under outreach or not. Rebecca Mahan said that would depend on whether the project became more about public outreach or providing training to CC MRC members.

- Forage Fish Monitoring: Lead: Alan Clark; Co-lead: TBD: *The goal of this project is to work in collaboration with the NWSC and WDFW to continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at four locations: Cline Spit, Ediz Hook, and beaches east and west of the Elwha River mouth.* Alan Clark said that the CC MRC had been conducting these surveys since 2016 to document when forage fish spawn, which is later in the Strait than in Puget Sound. The process consists of going to the sites, collecting sand, filtering it through mesh screens, concentrating any eggs, taking samples, and shipping them to WDFW labs to be identified. Helle Andersen said they had seen very little at the Elwha beaches, but a few had been found at Ediz Hook. Alan added that Cline Spit has good numbers of surf smelt and sand lance. During Q&A, Chris Burns asked about how much this work contributed to other forage fish monitoring efforts. Helle clarified that WDFW and other organizations rely on efforts like this to add to their studies because these sites are not included otherwise. Chris asked about moving sites; Helle said the locations were already defined. Chris noted that he had seen surf smelt west of the Elwha mouth. Ed Bowlby added that this has always been supplemental to other agency efforts, but that identifying forage fish at these sites prioritized them for HAZWOPER and oil spill response efforts. Rebecca Mahan said that it also enforces shoreline management regulations. Mike Doherty added that forage fish has been a topic of interest regionally for many years. *Alan Clark volunteered to lead the project; Chelsea Korbolic and Ed Bowlby are possible co-leads.
- Ediz Hook Debris Removal: Lead: Allyce Miller; Co-lead: TBD: *The goal of this project is to work in collaboration with the Port Angeles Parks and Recreation Department to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook.* Allyce Miller explained that the Hook is a very special place that has been severely compromised by the road, Coast Guard base, riprap, and other armoring. It is supposed to be fed by the Elwha drift cell, but the armoring prevents natural processes and the human presence on the Hook has diminished native habitats. This project would assist with the removal of some of the infrastructure, including a derelict boat, concrete, and asphalt. The City's Parks and Recreation Department wishes to excavate the debris with heavy equipment but has no plan for disposal or what to do afterward. This proposal is to cover the costs of debris removal and disposal to local places, such as Angeles Concrete, who can reuse some of the debris, and to host volunteer events to pick up the smaller pieces. It would be done over two years, with the planting of native plants in the second year. During Q&A, Ioana Bociu asked about permitting. Allyce said that the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe has done work with beach nourishment, so cultural compliance was covered, and the permits may still be current as well. Chris asked about the extent of the debris. Allyce said that the first step was to get what was already falling into the Strait. The group questioned whether this was a CC MRC project. *Allyce volunteered as lead; a co-lead is to be determined. Dann May and Mike Doherty volunteered to help with the project.

"Dots" Exercise to Mark Preferred Projects

Before the group voted with their dots, they discussed how to do the exercise most efficiently. Lyn Muench expressed concern that using the dots turned the task into a popularity contest. Some projects might not get any dots, but they cost almost nothing. Other projects were very expensive and might get a lot of dots but not be very feasible. The group went over the limited availability of effort, staff, funding, volunteers, and time. Suggestions included setting aside the projects that the CC MRC had been

doing for years and using the dots for only the new proposed projects, and asking whether the projects were affordable and if they could be done with available staff time. Rebecca Mahan explained that staff time is important for more than projects, and projects take a lot more time than they sound like they will. Alan Clark noted the CC MRC was already committed to some of the projects, such as Pinto Abalone and Olympia Oysters. If they chose not to continue with those projects, it would leave a hole in the monitoring data. After the group discussion, Nancy Slocum decided to take down the old projects so the Committee could vote only on the new projects. The Shoreline Armoring Survey sheet was left up but needs to be reconfigured before proceeding.

After voting, it was determined that European Green Crab Control and Ediz Hook Debris Removal both got 13 points; Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges and Derelict Crab Pot Removal both got 12 points. Kelp and Eelgrass Display at Marine Discovery Center got 9 points. Launch Advisory Capacity and Shoreline Armoring Survey both got 8 points.

Next steps included collating the results of tonight's special meeting and answering some big questions over the next four weeks regarding what of the existing projects to carry forward and what staff obligation was required. LaTrisha Suggs asked whether the group wanted to dedicate the next monthly CC MRC meeting in March to existing projects, or to developing the top new projects from tonight's meeting. Cathy Lear said that working with the leads and co-leads to refine proposals, budgets, and how to highlight the CC MRC would be important to do prior to the next CC MRC meeting. A conversation between staff on their available time would also take place prior to the March meeting. Amelia Kalagher said that staff would reach out to project leads about project development. Rebecca Mahan noted that NWSC would be refining their request for proposals between now and the next CC MRC meeting on 3/17/25. Amelia explained that it would be an active collaborative process between County staff, NWSC, and the CC MRC.

Adjournment

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM, with a CC MRC member group photo following.

DRAFT letter for discussion re proposed hard armoring, etc. – **For MRC use only**

Date: _____, 2025

To: WA Department of Ecology
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife

From: Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (MRC)

Subj: Shoreline management at Three Crabs Road

For many years the MRC has supported educational efforts regarding responsible stewardship of marine shoreline habitat for county landowners as well as permitting staff through workshops, field trips and webinars. In particular, we have advocated for the “Shore Friendly” program of the Northwest Straits Foundation which offers consultation, site visits, and potentially sources of funding to assist with revegetation and soft armoring techniques of property protection.

Despite these efforts and resources, it has come to our attention that there are actions proposed and permits under consideration by the County **and State** that deeply concern the MRC.

- Ø To summarize our concerns: Three Crabs Road is on a stretch of beach between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and an estuary connected with the water table that extends between Meadowbrook Creek and Cooper Creek. Like all such landforms, it is a dynamic environment – and always has been, as seen in photos from a century ago:
 - o [insert historic pic showing flooding]
- Ø Sea level rise and increasing intensity of storms are two of the expected impacts of global warming and can already be measured in many areas. The northeast-facing coastline between Meadowbrook and Gierin creeks is vulnerable to storm surges coming from the east, and especially when they coincide with high, “King” tides. Residents of this shoreline have experienced more erosion in recent years, probably a result of the combined effect of more-intense storms and higher-elevation King tides. Their photos (and those from others) illustrate the increasing frequency of flooding at Three Crabs Road:
 - o [insert recent pic showing flooding]
- Ø Maintenance of the safety and environmental protection of this dynamic and fragile shoreline lies with permitting agencies ranging from the federal US ACOE and the state WDFW, DNR and Ecology, to the local: Clallam County, ideally in co-management with local tribes. Among these it's often the local entities that are the most knowledgeable about a specific location, area, or property – or could most easily obtain new information. This is particularly true for environmental and habitat features, for development permits and proposals for structures (including septic systems), and for perspective on potential impacts on neighboring properties.
- Ø The environmental functions of dynamic shorelines are many; protection of these functions often protects infrastructure as well. For example:

- Wave action dissipation is a natural function that prevents vertical scouring and nearshore habitat function loss – one problem caused by bulkheads.
- Drift cell maintenance is a normal/natural function that supplies sediment to neighboring beaches and Dungeness Spit.
- Niche habitats found in nearshore beaches are used by species specifically adapted to the terrestrial-aquatic interface and nowhere else.
- ∅ Local governments also have the highest responsibility for adapting permitting to local conditions – through conditioning the permit, mitigating impacts, or denying a permit – and not assuming that state and federal agencies know [the site](#) best.
- ∅ Given that sea level is rising, an OHWM from the past used to establish setbacks isn't where it would be set today, and today's mark wouldn't be appropriate tomorrow or next year. We can't outrun it with more frequent measurements; instead, a conservative, forward-looking mitigative approach is warranted.
- ∅ ~~Our~~ [Clallam County's](#) current SMP and Comp Plan – and/or associated codes – may not be as protective as they should be since the measure and timing of impacts of climate change haven't been predictable precisely – and never will be. Yet the County is still responsible for making permitting decisions that conservatively protect both landowners and County taxpayers from risk and liability.
- ∅ Indeed, the impacts of sea level rise and more threatening storms have been known to be imminent since before the prior SMP, and the following is included in current County codes, policies, and/or plans:
 - Shoreline Residential-Intensive designations should include moderate to high density while “ensuring infill and new development occur in a manner that avoids and minimizes adverse impacts on shoreline functions”. (SMP)
 - “This Program [the SMP] should be implemented in a manner that achieves no net loss of shoreline ecological functions” and when considering new projects that could result in loss of ecological function, the County must take into account the effects of the project on downdrift resources (e.g. neighbors as well as habitat), (Ch 35.40.020)
 - “The cumulative effects that development would have when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future development”. (Ch 35.40.020)
 - “The Administrator shall prohibit any use or development that will result in unmitigated cumulative impacts”. (Chapter 35.40.030(6))
- ∅ Finally, at this time there are multiple actions and requests for actions from landowners along Three Crabs Road affected by the now-regular occurrence of flooding associated with storm surge and King tides. These actions apparently propose using traditional engineering methods that prioritize protection of limited private properties, including hard armoring and raising the elevation of the road surface.
 - First, this is not surprising. It would be very upsetting and frightening to see waves eroding one's property. Damage to one's landscaping and septic system would also be disturbing. If one had the financial means to construct better protection, they would understandably be motivated to do something as soon as possible. If one did not have the means to hire consultants and contractors it would be that much more frightening.

- The temporary closure of one's only access road would also be upsetting; however, high tide waters subside at least partially within hours. It is also possible that emergency ingress or egress would not be affected.

MRC advisory messages:

- Ø It is also upsetting and frightening for thousands of taxpayers to observe the destruction of the fragile environment for the expensive and temporary relief of landowners living on a dynamic shoreline. Any "solution" would be temporary since sea level rise and storm surge are on a worsening trajectory. We submit that traditional engineering will not fully protect residents from re-occurrences and that a long-term strategy to address the issues along Three Crabs Road is warranted – as soon as possible.
 - In fact, some of the current applications for bulkhead replacement or rehabilitation are for bulkheads permitted relatively recently.
- Ø SEPA is designed to consider cumulative impacts, and hard armoring a segment of dynamic shoreline is known to cause erosion and destruction of adjacent properties almost immediately. SEPA decisions should consider neighboring properties and cumulative/long-term effects. Mitigation of impacts should start with considering avoidance. In the case of roads and homes along Three Crabs Road that means retreat or removal.
- Ø Again, historic engineering methods like hard armoring won't resolve the new issue of indefinite, rapid erosion in the long term. What are alternatives to hard armoring? It is worth checking with state agencies for housing, infrastructure, and habitat restoration grant opportunities to help landowners with retreat, removal, or raising structures out of harm's way. This is a problem faced by every county with marine shorelines, so other collaborations may be available. Also, house insurers may start requiring landowners to take such steps and could be a source of practical advice.
 - Even though armoring of any type is considered a temporary fix for many beachfront structures, soft armoring can be less expensive to build and maintain and is much less destructive (potentially restorative) to fragile habitat.
- Ø Also, armoring the marine shoreline won't address or resolve property flooding coming from two directions resulting from a higher sea level, estuary elevation, and/or water table during high tides.
 - Regarding regular inundation of septic systems, a regional sewer line may be needed due to the risk to human and environmental health from potential release of pathogens. Water quality grants and loans are likely available to assist that work.
- Ø Note that retreat is not without precedent. Landowners on Rivers End Road (west side of the Dungeness River mouth) were bought out and/or structures were raised or removed. This was accomplished to benefit the shoreline habitat of the River and remove the risk to taxpayers of compensating private property owners for repeated flood damage.
- Ø The shoreline landscape is changing as fast as development proposals are coming in. In ~~20~~ years-a short time our shorelines could look closer to the tsunami inundation maps than they do now.
- Ø Bottom line: Band-aids including hard armoring and raising roads won't permanently solve the problems of increasing erosion and inundation and are more likely to cause new problems with both habitat and infrastructure.

This memo is primarily concerning activities we have noted in the Three Crabs Road area; however, the information is pertinent to marine shorelines throughout Clallam County. The vulnerability and fragility of beach and nearshore habitats is most recognizable but bluff shorelines are vulnerable as well due to erosion and risk to structures above.

Clallam County MRC is committed to promoting awareness of shoreline habitat functions and values and alternatives to hard armoring. Indeed, ~~we are hosting~~ a “Shore Friendly” training [was hosted](#) for county staff ~~this spring in March 2025~~, made available by the Northwest Straits Foundation – one of our state-level partners. Please reach us via our County staff coordinators:

Cathy Lear, [at cathy.lear@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:cathy.lear@clallamcountywa.gov)

Amelia Kalagher, [at amelia.kalagher@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:amelia.kalagher@clallamcountywa.gov)

Rebecca Mahan, [at rebecca.mahan@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:rebecca.mahan@clallamcountywa.gov)

DRAFT

Collaboration and Grant Writing in Support of MRC Projects 2025



NWSF
Mission

Our mission is to restore and preserve the long-term health of the Salish Sea by fostering collaboration, encouraging stewardship and conservation, and implementing science-based restoration.



Jason Morgan



Linda Friesen



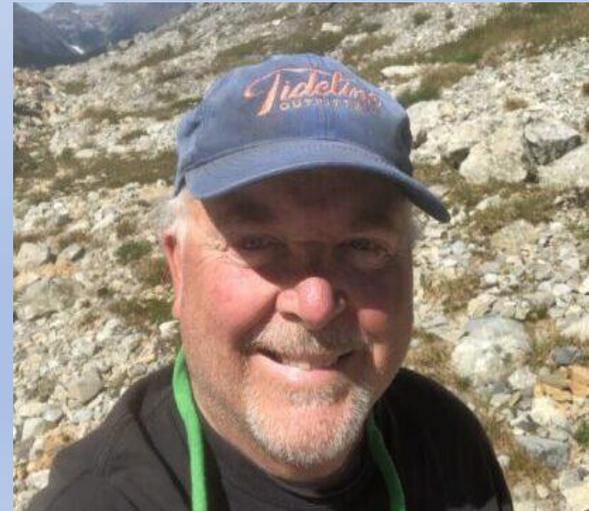
Ellen Goudie



Haley Sherman



Lisa Kaufman



Don Hunger



Erika De la Rosa



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Core
Programs



Nearshore Restoration and
Stewardship



Derelict Gear Removal



Scholarships



Shore Friendly
Landowner Outreach



Citizen Science
Monitoring

Grant Prospects 2025

| Grant | Submission Date | Amount | Funding |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Bonnell Cove Foundation | February 1, 2025 | \$5K | Passport, public education |
| Burning Foundation | Submitted 9.27.24 | \$8,500 | General operating support for fundraising |
| Charlotte Martin Foundation | Open May 1, close June 1, 2025 | \$15K | Stewardship and interns |
| Dudley Foundation | Proposal submitted 9.5.24 | \$4,500 | Stewardship projects, interns, general operating |
| Horizons Foundation | Review applications monthly. | \$10K | Stewardship projects |
| Holly Frontier Sinclair | No deadlines. (10.24) | \$15K | Stewardship and interns |
| Hugh and Jane Ferguson | Proposal submitted 9.11.24 | \$10K | Stewardship and interns |
| Marathon Petroleum Foundation | Proposal submitted 12.5.24 | \$25K | Stewardship and interns |
| Maritime Washington National Heritage Association | June, 2025 | \$10K | Passport and intern |
| MJ Murdock Charitable Trust – | Submit a Letter of Inquiry in December | \$300K | Salish Sea Internships |
| National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | Submitted 11.5.24 | \$100K | Stewardship and interns – NFWF defined “pilot” |
| Rose Foundation | March, 2025 | Up to 40K | Stewardship and interns – Skagit county |
| Seeking Health | Grants accepted until December 20, 2024 | \$10K | Stewardship and interns |
| Stillaguamish Tribe | Applications due Dec 31 | \$8K | Stewardship |



Collaboration

MRC Project Support 2024-2025

The Northwest Straits Foundation accepts project support funding requests from Marine Resource Committees year-round. Our ability to support your request depends on finding corporate, foundation and donor support for it.

We estimate it will take 6 to 12 *months* to secure funding for most projects. Some have taken 2 to 3 *years* to find funders.

Requesting Project Support



Request
Details

Project Title:

Project Location and Dates:

Lead Entity: Contact Info

Project Description: Goal; Budget; Partners

Funding Needs Amount and Date:

In-kind Type Needed (such as intern) Amount and Date:

Submitted by: MRC Contact and Date



MRC Project Funding Request 2025

Project Name:

The Northwest Straits Foundation accepts project funding requests from Marine Resource Committees year-round. Our ability to support your request depends on finding corporate, foundation and donor support for it.

When you submit this form, we'll schedule a meeting with you to review it. At that time, we'll discuss the project and assess funding potential together. If both parties agree to proceed, we'll schedule interim steps and recurring check-ins.

For questions about a project, call or email Don Hunger, NWSF executive director, cell 360-739-9909 or email don@nwstraitsfoundation.org

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Location: Project Dates: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project location is: ● The project season is: |
| Project Description: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project Goal(s): ● Project Budget: ● Project Partners: |
| Funding Needs Statement: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We Need Funding To: ● Amount Requested: ● Funds Needed By Date: |
| In-Kind Needs Statement: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We Need In-Kind To: ● Interns or Volunteers: ● Materials: ● Administrative Support: |
| Milestones Planned for Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Milestone No. 1 ● Milestone No. 2 ● Milestone No. 3 |
| Areas/questions for discussion: | List/summarize topics here. |
| Request Submitted By: Date: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MRC Contact: ● Date: |

Sample
Request
Form

Who to Contact at NWSF



NWSF Contacts

To discuss general project ideas: Don Hunger,
don@nwstraitsfoundation.org, 360-739-9909

To discuss nearshore project ideas: Lisa
Kaufman, kaufman@nwstraitsfoundation.org,
360-393-6948

To discuss derelict gear or monitoring project
ideas: Jason Morgan,
morgan@nwstraitsfoundation.org,
360-268-3800



Questions – projects,
grants, timeline?



March 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 17, 2025

Time: 5:30 – 7:51

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

| | Member | Present? | Alternate | Present? |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Academic Community | Ed Bowlby | X | Ioana Bociu | X |
| At Large | Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>) | excused | Mary Sue Brancato | |
| At Large | [vacant seat] | --- | Ray Kirk | |
| Conservation & Environmental Interests | Robert Vreeland | X | Nancy Stephanz | X |
| Development Community | Christopher Rumpel | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District I | Jeff Ward | X | [vacant seat] | --- |
| District II | Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>) | X | Lyn Muench | X |
| District III | Mike Doherty | X | Dann May | |
| Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe | Christopher Burns | X | Robert Knapp | excused |
| Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe | Allyce Miller | X | Chelsea Korbolic | X |
| Makah Tribe | [vacant seat] | --- | [vacant seat] | --- |
| Marine Related Recreation & Tourism | Alicia Amerson | | Helle Andersen | |
| Port Angeles City Council | LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>) | X | Navarra Carr | |
| Port of Port Angeles Commission | Jesse Waknitz | | Katharine Frazier | excused |
| Sequim City Council | Meggan Uecker | | [vacant seat] | --- |

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Don Hunger (presenter; Executive Director, Northwest Straits Foundation), Kelly Burger (City of Sequim, soon to be alternate on MRC) Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boat Rental Company, Surfrider Foundation)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:30. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Presentation

Don Hunger (Executive Director, Northwest Straits Foundation) presented on the work and operations of the Northwest Straits Foundation. He introduced the Foundation's staff and board members. He listed the five core programs: nearshore restoration and stewardship, derelict gear removal, shore Friendly landowner outreach, citizen science monitoring, and scholarships. The Foundation keeps a running list of private grant opportunities and looks for relevant partnerships with MRCs, accepting requests for project support year round. The Foundation has a request form including information like lead contact info, funds requested, and project description. Don clarified who to contact with project ideas: himself for general ideas, Lisa Kaufman for nearshore project ideas, and Jason Morgan for derelict gear and monitoring projects.

Discussion and Q&A continued with Don and the MRC. Some topics included intern funding, stewardship project examples, the Foundation's role as a partner, reporting requirements especially related to projects with small fund amounts, and matching funds.

Approval of Minutes & Policy

- Nancy Stephanz moved to approve January, February and February special work session minutes; Chris Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.
- The MRC briefly discussed the proposed roles and responsibilities document. Bob Vreeland moved to approve; Ed Bowlby seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the roles and responsibilities were approved.

Announcements

- *Welcome: Chelsea Korbolic (alternate representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Kelly Burger (alternate representing City of Sequim):* Chelsea and Kelly introduced themselves.
- *Open MRC seats: member representing Community-At-Large, member & alternate representing Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community:* encourage those who may be a good fit to apply
- *HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th:* there is still time to sign up. [flyer link](#), [signup link](#), Facebook event link
- *MRC Chair, Vice Chair & NWSC Representative elections upcoming in May*
- *NWSC April retreat, meeting in Clallam County May 30th:* April retreat solely for Commission members & staff, Alan planning to report back. [NWSC's regular meeting](#) will take place in Clallam County in May at Red Cedar Hall, the Clallam MRC is invited.
- *New Zoom link next month:* will be provided with next month's agenda
- *[Indigenous cinema climate showcase](#):* March 20th at Peninsula College

- [World Water Day](#): March 22nd at Hollywood Beach, S’Klallam and Lummi speakers followed by forest walk

Committee and Project Reports

None at this time.

New or special business items

- *Project development for the next biennium*: The MRC reviewed the projects that have been proposed, along with the requirements for the upcoming grant application in May. Possibilities for various projects were discussed, with an emphasis on using time and staff capacity resources widely. Alternative funding sources (particularly Strait ERN’s recent RFP) were also discussed. The Dungeness Refuge green crab project was removed from consideration by the proposed lead (Chris Burns), and all other projects are still under consideration.
- *Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter proposed for discussion, redirect to WDFW and Ecology*: Ann Soule reviewed the recent and upcoming policy actions related to Three Crabs Road, and suggested that the MRC share a letter with WDFW and Ecology. Discussion included additional MRC members/alternates to consult and decision to advise the County Commissioners and County DCD Director. The MRC came to a consensus that Ann Soule, in consultation with MRC staff, will finalize the draft letter and send to the County Commissioners, DCD Director, WDFW, WA Ecology, DOE, and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on Monday, April 21.
- *Call for new agenda items*: None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:51.

CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

April 21st, 2025
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting



NEW Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83769639254?pwd=FmcMflhkxw6df902xa2tsxu6UAHGVB.1>

Meeting ID: 837 6963 9254

Passcode: 12345

For more information about the MRC, please contact Cathy Lear at (360) 417-2361

Welcome by Chair LaTrisha Suggs / Call to Order / Roll Call

- Determination of quorum

Public Comment on agenda items, limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair

Approval of Minutes – March

Announcements

- Open MRC seats: member representing community At-Large, member & alternate for Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community
- New Zoom link for MRC meetings (see above)
- [Annual report available here](#) (October 2023 – September 2024)
- Clallam County Environmental Health seeking shellfish sampling volunteers
- Recap: Sequim Bay Yacht Club presentation Apr 9th (Alan), River & Ocean Film Festival Apr 12th (Rebecca), HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th (Nancy and Rebecca)
- MRC Chair, Vice Chair & NWSC representative election at May 19th meeting
- Olympia oyster surveys: May 15th, 16th, 28th – contact Cathy if you'd like to survey
- NWSC: meeting in Clallam County May 30th
 - Opportunity for 20 minute project presentation: possibly Pinto abalone or Ediz Hook revegetation

Committee and Project Reports - leads report only if an update is needed

New or special business items

- Project selection for the next biennium (10/2025 - 9/2027)
 - Final selection of planned projects for May grant application
 - See attached spreadsheet for project information
- Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- Next regular meeting Monday, May 19
- Call for new agenda items

2025 Meetings

January 16 (Thu)
February 20 (Thu)
March 17

April 21
May 19
June 16

July 21
August 18
September 15

October 20
November 17
December 15

Public Comment *Limited to 3 minutes per participant at the discretion of the Chair*

Good of the Order

Adjourn

Clallam County DCD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting – NEW link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83769639254?pwd=FmcMflhkxw6df902xa2tsxu6UAHGVB.1>

Meeting ID: 837 6963 9254

Passcode: 12345

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,83769639254#,,,,*12345# US

+12532158782,,83769639254#,,,,*12345# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

2025 Meetings

January 16 (Thu)

February 20 (Thu)

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 15

Excepted from the 25-27 NWSC Request For Proposals:

MRC-Led Projects

All proposed projects must be MRC led. **An *MRC-led project* is a project that has pre-determined goals, measurable results and meets each of the following criteria.** These criteria also apply to situations where an MRC is considering taking the lead on a smaller piece of a larger project with partners:

- **The project fills a need or gap identified and prioritized by the MRC, and/or the MRC would pursue the project independent of any project partners.**
- The project has been **adopted by the full MRC** through a majority vote or other mechanism outlined by the MRCs bylaws.
- **The project has a clear outcome and project deliverable that can be solely attributed to the MRC.**
- A member of the MRC or MRC subcommittee serves as the lead for the project.
 - An MRC lead is a member or a subcommittee that:
 - § Serves as the primary point of contact and organizer/manager of a project.
 - § They may also implement the project directly.
 - § They assure the project stays on track, assure deliverables attributed to the MRC are achieved, and bring regular updates to the MRC.
 - § The MRC lead also ensures that the project outcomes reflect MRC-specific priorities, even when part of a larger project.

Partnership definition

Projects that the MRC is doing in partnership with other entities should meet the following criteria for a project partnership. Projects and programs should be/have:

- **Co-created:** Each partner has input on the project or program at the start and throughout the project. **If the MRC is entering into the partnership after the project has started, mechanisms for MRC input on goals, objectives, strategies etc. must be clearly stated.**
- **Mutually beneficial:** In which each partner **identifies the benefit to their own organization's mission and goals that will be realized through participation as a partner.**
- **Have clear actionable goals and objectives:** Identified as part of the planning process.
- **Distinct partner roles:** Establishes key roles and responsibilities for each partner.

Project criteria (subject)

MRC projects must:

- Address one or more of the environmental goals of the [Northwest Straits Initiative Strategic Plan](#).
- **Have a clear project goal identified by the MRC.**
- Clearly **identify measurable results**. Measurable results can be:
 - developed and proposed by the MRC
 - support or achieve one of the objectives in the strategic plan
 - associated with progress toward advancing ocean and shoreline actions in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- **Be managed and carried out by the MRC and directly identified as a project of the MRC by all project participants.** Funding cannot pass through to support another organization's work or operations. If a sub-contract is necessary to carry out the project, the **sub-contractor must be working under the direction of the MRC project lead(s)**.
- **Adhere to the Conflict of Interest policy included below (Page 9).**

Project criteria (procedural)

MRC projects must:

- Be able to be accomplished in the time period available and within the proposed budget (this may include additional secured funding referenced in application). If a project is one phase or component of a longer-term project, the full project should be described and the phase proposed for this funding cycle should be able to be accomplished within the time period available.
- **Include an evaluation plan that provides information to the MRC to determine whether the projects achieved desired outcomes.**
- Clearly distinguish project components where other funds will be pursued (grants submitted or planned to be submitted through another entity) to fund specific elements of the project. Clearly describe which elements of the project are to be funded by the MRC grant and which would be through other funding sources. Once MRC grants are awarded, contact NW Straits Commission staff before seeking additional funding sources for any project component.
- **If a continuing project, clearly identify how this work is different from previous years or describe why continuation of the same work is important.**

- Be reviewed and approved at a meeting of the full MRC and have an identified MRC member project lead.

Examples of projects that **do not qualify** for NWS Commission funding:

- One MRC member serves as a lead or partner on a project, but the **full MRC has not formally adopted the project as an MRC effort.**
- A proposal is made to support communications (such as signage, brochures, advertising, etc.) related to another organization's project where the **MRC is not a project lead or a lead on a project component**, as described in the definitions section in this policy.
- A project is proposed by another organization where the MRC would serve as a partner, but the **MRC itself does not have a specific role, mutual interest in the results (see project partnership definition), and no unique value brought to the project besides funds and/or volunteer time.** Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.
- A project that **does not have an MRC member leading the project** as described in the MRC-led project section.
- The MRC is proposing to be a partner on a large-scale project where there is **no distinct role (phase or project component) that the MRC can lead.** In other words, there are no outcomes or deliverables that can be solely attributed to the MRC. The work would have continued, the only contribution was MRC funds.
- A project is proposed where the **MRC's contribution is not essential to the completion of the project or project component.** Further discussion would be needed with Commission staff to determine eligibility.

Examples of projects that **do qualify** for NWS Commission funding assuming all criteria under the definitions section are met:

- Another entity develops a project and the MRC joins as a partner OR the MRC is a partner on a large-scale or ongoing project, where the **MRC has a mutual interest in the project results and a distinct role to lead.** (MRCs should use caution in partnering on large-scale projects, as the overall timeline may be outside MRC control and therefore impact the MRC component timeline.)
- **The MRC formally adopts the project**, and one or more member(s) serves as champion/lead, and maintains ongoing communication with the full MRC about the project.
- **The MRC collaborates with another partner (or partners) to develop and carry out a project. The partner organization serves as administrative lead, while the MRC maintains a key role in managing the project or element of the project.**

- **The MRC carries out a distinct phase of a project independently** (e.g. feasibility assessments), while another entity completes other phases (e.g. construction).
- **An MRC and partners carry out shared communications for a mutual project.**

Project: Nearshore Restoration at Co-managed Wildlife Refuges

Project Plan

Goal: Restore nearshore habitat at the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s co-managed Dungeness and Protection Island National Wildlife Refuges

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JST) refuge staff

Activities: Remove over 10 acres of invasive vegetation, nearshore restoration plantings; monitor; report

Year 1 – Organize volunteer crews to participate in hand pulling and/or mechanical removal of invasive Dalmatian toadflax and non-native grasses from sand spits and salt marsh habitat on National Wildlife Refuges

Year 2 – Continue removal efforts in late spring. Plant with native species.

Outputs: Removal of invasive vegetation, native vegetation plantings

Outcomes: The removal of non-native invasive vegetation will reduce competition with native species, enhance nearshore habitat quality and availability, and strengthen ecosystem structure and function. These restoration efforts will improve the ecological resilience of the co-managed National Wildlife Refuges, supporting long-term habitat health. Additionally, the project will foster community engagement by providing volunteer opportunities that connect people to conservation efforts and promote stewardship of these vital ecosystems.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 5 days to participate in invasive vegetation removal efforts and 2 days to participate in plantings

Estimated time for partners: 40 hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 6 hours / month first year, 4 hours / month second year

Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff: 80 hours

Estimated cost: \$15,000

Questions & Comments

- The project areas—Graveyard Spit on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Violet Spit on Protection Island Wildlife Refuge—serve as critical habitat for marine mammals, seabirds, and shorebirds.
- Invasive vegetation, such as Dalmatian toadflax (a Washington State Class B Noxious Weed) and non-native grasses, can restrict wildlife mobility and reduce available foraging areas.
- To protect these sensitive habitats, removal efforts will focus on hand-pulling and mechanical methods like digging, ensuring minimal disturbance to native species. Biological control methods will not be used.
- The project will engage existing volunteers from the Dungeness and Protection Island Refuge Management Program, fostering hands-on stewardship and strengthening community involvement in conservation efforts.

Nearshore Restoration submitted by Chris Burns

Clallam MRC Derelict Crab Pot Removal

Training and education within Clallam County on extracting derelict pots for continued seafloor clean-up and protection of native crab species.

MRC Leads: Chris Rumble, Ioana Bociu

Partners/Advisors: Jason Morgan - Northwest Straits Commissions, Phil Parisi - Remote Coast Systems, Ben Griner - Coastal Sensing and Survey, Kara Cardinal - Inner Space Center

Timeline: Oct 2025 - Sept 2027 (update with MRC fiscal years)

Total Budget: \$25K

Year 1 - Establish

Dates: Oct 2025 - Sept 2026

Cost: \$10K

Time/Effort: Chris Rumble (60hrs/yr), Ioana Bociu (60hrs/yr), 1x Intern (1-3credits),

Assets: Renting / Contracting equipment

Key Activities:

- 1. Permits and Procedures.** The MRC will lead an effort to obtain a derelict gear removal permit for the Washington Division of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Additionally, procedures for extracting and disposing/recycling gear should be established. Generate Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for data collections.
 - a. Permit Fee = \$1000
 - b. Intern supports this task
- 2. Historical Data Review.** There is significant data available regarding derelict crab gear removal on the Olympic Peninsula. Information/data on where crab pots have been previously extracted from, crabbing hot spot areas [REBECCA MAHAN], proper and derelict gear removal methods with ROVs, available side scan data of the area should be conglomerated. With that data bank, top areas to focus on for derelict gear extraction should be identified.
 - a. Software, Data Fee = \$500
 - b. Intern supports this task
- 3. Side Scan Survey.** Side scan sonar surveys should be performed in areas identified by Task 1. These surveys should pinpoint crab pot targets, and where an ROV could be used to extract these targets. The MRC will contract this task out to partners.
 - a. 3 days of Sidescan Surveys, Cost = \$3000
 - b. Data processing and data product = \$1500
- 4. Initial Derelict Pot Removal.** An ROV - ideally, from land/piers/docks - will be used to extract crab pots. The ROV will be equipped with a gripper that holds a large fishing

hook with a separate line; the ROV sets the hook in the pot and the topside team hoists the pot while the ROV swims away. The MRC will contract this task out or purchase/rent their own equipment.

- a. 3 ROV Removal Days, Cost = \$3000
- b. Misc. Supplies (tools, nets, lines), Cost = \$500

5. Outreach. The MRC will present to the public on safe fishing practices, derelict gear, and the recent removal efforts. Footage, data, and learning from Year 1 will supplement the presentation. Coordinate with Feiro Marine Science Center.

- a. Outreach Supplies, Cost = \$500

Y1 Deliverables

- Historical data review of side scan surveys and crab pots pulled
- Sidescan maps of crab pots at local areas
- Map of where crab pots were removed (GPS locations)
- Maps of embedded crab pots (not removed), entanglement hazard
- Y1 Project Report with Data, Results, and Future Recommendations
 - Recommendation of whether to purchase ROV or continue renting/contracting

Year 2 - Extend

Dates: Oct 2026 - Sept 2027

Cost Y1: \$15K

Time/Effort: Chris Rumble (60hrs/yr), Ioana Bociu (60hrs/yr), 2x Interns (1-3credits),

Assets: Renting / Contracting equipment

Key Activities:

- 6. Renew Permits.** Renew WDFW permits as needed.
- 7. MRC ROV Procurement.** Based on lessons learned from using contracted gear, the MRC will decide on which technology to procure in order to continue the program. This could include an ROV, ROV-based side scans, and other equipment.
 - a. ROV Cost = \$8000
 - i. ROV, Newton gripper, tether, tether spool, lights, controller
 - b. Field Laptop = \$1500
 - c. Replacement components Cost = \$500
 - d. Note: if ROV + Laptop are not purchased, funds will be allocated to renting/contracting ROV equipment
- 8. Intern Hiring.** An intern should be hired in order to manage and maintain the equipment. This intern will receive training on crab pot removal techniques.
- 9. Outreach.** The MRC will lead an effort to get the public to attend 'live crab pot removal' demonstration events. This is an opportunity for the intern to be trained and begin working with the community.
 - a. Cost = \$500

10. **Continued Pot Removal.** The intern will plan, coordinate, and perform derelict pot removals. The program is encouraged to grow to a small number of diverse pilots in order to ensure a local team persists.
11. **Additional Side Scan Surveys.** As needed, conduct additional side scan surveys of areas of interest to determine derelict gear presence.
 - a. 3 days of Sidescan Surveys, Cost = \$3000
 - b. Data processing and data product = \$1500
12. **Partnering with Local Organizations.** To promote the growth of a robotics club or equivalent. This club would be to take on the responsibility of this project post MRC, thus allowing the public to become active in stewarding local waters.

Y2 Deliverables

- Transition Plan for future work to enable local organizations to lead Crab Pot Efforts
- Sidescan maps of crab pots at local areas
- Map of where crab pots were removed (GPS locations)
- Maps of embedded crab pots (not removed), entanglement hazard
- Y2 Project Report with Data, Results, and Future Recommendations

General Notes

1. Every hour of data collect can take up to ½ hr of data processing.
2. ROVs are hard to insure (not a common asset), self-insuring is common.
3. Phil Parisi will not allow use of his ROV without him present (e.g. no renting, must be a contracted day).
4. ROV Maintenance: 1hr of maintenance per usage to clean and store
 - a. See official guide <https://bluerobotics.com/learn/bluerov2-operation/#storage-between-dives>
 - b. PNNL ROV operated for 1yr, no replacement parts
 - c. Likely need replacement gripper components

Figures

Figures are from Phil Parisi joining Ben Griner aboard R/V Phoenix for a day of pot pulling.



Figure 1. ROV with gripper, holding large fish hook and separate line aboard R/V Phoenix.



Figure 2. 'Live' ROV video feed of a derelict crab pot aboard R/V Phoenix.



Figure 3. Successfully extracted derelict crab pot aboard R/V Phoenix.

Ediz Hook Debris Removal

Potential partners: City of PA Recreation Department (contact: Tim Tucker)

Submitted by Allyce Miller, representing Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe

The recreation department of the city wants to remove a lot of the concrete, asphalt, metal, and trash pieces that are littering the shoreline of Ediz Hook. You can see the attached picture to get an idea. These pieces are falling out of the shoreline as it erodes, and many pieces are already exposed. The city will supply the heavy equipment and operators to remove the big pieces. We thought the MRC could get involved by:

- 1) Funding the disposal of the concrete and asphalt at local disposal (~\$10k)
- 2) Organizing a volunteer event to pick up smaller pieces of asphalt and concrete (\$0)
- 3) Planting any heavy equipment access scars with native beach plants (~\$1k)

This budget needs to be refined as we figure out what cultural compliance is needed and how much there is to be disposed. This \$11k is a rough estimate for now. There's always the option of looking for other funding sources if significant cultural compliance or there is a lot to dispose of.

[Tim Tucker] also shared some long-term goals of taking out some asphalted parking and condensing parking options a bit more by the rowing club because that parking area asphalt is fast-eroding into the strait. That part still needs time and planning, so it's not ready to bring forth into the project proposal now, but FYI it is something to look forward to down the line if MRC wants to play a role.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 45 hours total

Ediz Hook debris removal submitted by Allyce Miller

Project: Elwha River Stewardship

Project Plan

Goal: To protect and improve water quality, contribute to nearshore habitat and species protection, and encourage community stewardship.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff (Surfriders are affiliated with this project as they are paying for a second Sanikan in the parking lot).

Activities: Maintaining the dog waste station refilling dogi bags twice a month. Counting cars in the parking lot to estimate number of 2024-25 visitors. Paying Bill Plumbing for maintaining the Sanikan on the dike.

Outputs: Contract with Bill Plumbing; Purchase and distribute more than 5,200 dogi bags per year; Weekly maintenance of a well-used Sanikan (per Bill's Plumbing).

Outcomes: Provide sanitary facilities for more than 50,000 people and 9,700 dogs based on 2023-24; In addition, hundreds of students use the beach as an outdoor classroom (not part of the visitation estimate).

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 2-3 hours per month or 24-36 hours per year to maintain the dog waste station based on driving distance from Port Angeles. 20 hours to write the annual project report. Total 44-56 hours per year.

Estimated time for partners: don't know Surfriders time commitment.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 4 hours / month

Estimated cost: \$3,200 annually – total \$6,400

Questions & Comments

- Do we want to find a cost sharing partner? (based on a question raised during the project discussion in 2023).

Elwha River Stewardship submitted by Helle Andersen

Forage Fish Monitoring

Working in collaboration with the NWSC and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Clallam MRC will continue to monitor forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at 4 locations Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and beaches East and West of the Elwha River Mouth. The mouth of the Elwha River is a restoration site to and documenting forage fish use is invaluable information on temporal and spatial spawning trends by forage fish in Clallam County.

Vision/Goals: What is the vision/ultimate goal of the work? (How are you hoping the ecosystem and/or the community will change because of this project and other efforts? *

The project supports a larger Commission -sponsored forage fish monitoring program that provides a better understanding of the spatial and temporal distributions of forage fish spawning activity within the Salish Sea. The goals of the project are: document forage fish spawning events and build partnerships with tribes through shared project collaboration. The ultimate goal is to have accurate spatial population data for forage fish populations. We also hope to educate the public and County officials about the importance of forage fish .

Participants and Partnerships: Participants and Partnerships: Please include any participants and partners directly involved with the work. If none, insert n/a.

Partners include: WDFW, NWSC and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe are our project partners.

Activities - Briefly describe the main activities of your project. (The tasks and actions - science, monitoring, training, presentations, etc. accomplished by the project.

The Clallam MRC will continue monthly sampling of forage fish at Cline Spit, Ediz Hook and East and West beaches of the Elwha River. The project leads will also give a yearly public presentations at a MRC meeting and Board of County Commissioners meeting and school groups.

Outputs - What are the expected outputs of this project?

This project supports a regional project that monitors forage fish spawning habitats in the Salish Sea. The information will also provide a better understanding of forage fish ecology this knowledge will help to provide management decisions.

Outcomes - How will the activities and outputs measurably further the goal(s) of the project. (Short-term changes you envision happening as a consequence of this work or things you might start to see within the timeline of the project.

This project is part of on going forage fish monitoring so we hope to collect valuable forage fish spawning events. This data will play a role in the bigger WDFW database documenting status and trends.

Does your proposed project involve education and outreach? Yes

Does your project involve monitoring? Yes

What monitoring protocols will be used? Will the data affect a decision about marine resources? Where will the monitoring data go? Are the data contributing to a larger baseline data set?

WDFW forage fish sampling protocols will be used. The monitoring data could affect a decision about marine resources. The monitoring data will go to WDFW and contribute to their larger baseline data set.

Does your project involve restoration? Yes

Are there any permits required? If so, what are their status? Who has ownership of the project site? Has a cultural assessment of the site been completed (if applicable)? Is there any ongoing maintenance associated with the project? Permits are complete LEKT has ownership of East Elwha beach and we have a current science collection permit with the Tribe. No ongoing maintenance.

Please provide a list of deliverables (if applicable): **previous grant's information*

Year one forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan addendum 1/14/2024

Year two Forage fish Quality Assurance Project Plan Addendum 1/14/2025

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 3 hours / month

HAZWOPER / Oiled Wildlife Response Training

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response/Oiled wildlife training: conduct workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.

Budget: \$7,000 / year

1. Coordinate with partners, plan, advertise, and conduct at least two workshop trainings for volunteers on marine stewardship and protection topics such as Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response.

2. Record the trainings and make them accessible online.

Where applicable, the RECIPIENT must request and receive written approval in advance by ECOLOGY's Project Manager for reimbursement(s) for meals or light refreshments. Approved request forms must be submitted with the corresponding Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR) in EAGL.

Task Goal Statement

The goal of this project is to train local residents in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response in the event of an oil spill.

Task Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of this project are that at least 80 participants will be trained, and four recorded training presentations will be posted on the RECIPIENT's website.

Deliverables

4.1. 2024 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/15/2024

4.2 Meal approval form (if applicable). Submit to ECOLOGY Project Manager for approval prior to each meeting. Submit approved copy with each Payment Request/Progress Report (PRPR). 1/15/2024

4.3 2024 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL. 12/31/2024

4.4 2025 Training plan and recruitment materials. Upload in EAGL. 1/10/2025

4.5 2025 Project final report including summary of trainings, list of trained participants, photos, and links to recorded sessions. Upload in EAGL.

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 5 hours / month on average

Project: Kayak Kelp Surveys (Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay)

Project Plan

Goal: The goal of this project is to enhance connections with the new Marine Discovery Center through adoption of educational displays specifically on kelp and eelgrass and local occurrences/trends. Project would also describe Clallam MRC and Northwest Straits Commission efforts to monitor, survey, and restore (future) eelgrass and kelp along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Participants: MRC project lead and co-lead; Volunteer for Kayak Survey at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay

Activities:

- Attend kayak safety meetings
- Work closely with NWSC kelp project coordinator Jeff Whitty
- Participate in Kelp Kayak meetings 4X
- Review year's data with Jeff Whitty and NWSC staff at end of season.
- Process data and get info to NWSC at end of season

Outputs:

- GPS tracks of monitored kelp beds at Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay
- Submission data sheets and observations of kelp bed

Outcomes:

Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) in Clallam, Jefferson, Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom counties will complete annual surveys of canopy producing kelp beds using a field tested, boat-based protocol developed to track the density and distribution of local bull kelp populations. Surveys are done during the peak of annual growth in June/September.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for participants:

- **MRC project lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC project co-lead:** 40 hours
- **MRC staff:** 3 hours / month average

Estimated contract cost: \$2,500 (?)

Kelp monitoring submitted by Alan Clark

Project: Olympia Oysters

Project Plan

Goal: Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe will work with the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee’s Olympia Oyster Restoration Lead and Clallam MRC Coordinator to plan, coordinate and implement the Olympia Oyster Population Surveys.

Participants: MRC members, MRC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff

Activities: Monitor growth and survival of Olympia Oyster restoration efforts in Sequim Bay through the performance of population surveys.

Outputs: Agreements with partners; Monitor Olympia Oyster population, growth and survival on previously restored Olympia Oyster beds in Sequim Bay.

Outcomes: Approximately 1.5 acre of Olympia oysters are monitored

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteers: 3 days to survey habitat

Estimated time for partners: 30 hours/yr

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 3 hours / month average

Estimated cost: \$2704.20/yr

Questions & Comments

- Cost variable depending on survey conditions and County and Tribal staff time.
- Will surveys continue beyond 2025?
- Clarify future goals for the site with Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe staff
- Not open to community volunteers, only MRC members (policy of the Tribe + muddy conditions)

Olympia Oysters submitted by Chris Burns

Project: Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring for 2025

Project Plan

Goal: Monitor Pigeon Guillemot (PIGU) nesting season as an indicator species of nearshore health.

Participants: MRC members, Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS) members and public participants.

Activities: Visual monitoring of PIGU spring through summer nesting activities, including feeding and disturbance behaviors and nesting success.

Outputs: Agreements with OPAS partner for refresher training of returning volunteers (or new training for novice observers paired with seasoned observers).

Outcomes: Continued monitoring efforts (since 2016) for Clallam County PIGU colonies along the Straits of Juan de Fuca.

Resources Required

Estimated time commitment for MRC (or OPAS and/or public) volunteers: 1-2 hours per week from June to August (unless extended due to continued PIGU burrow activity into September)

Estimated time for partners: Minimum of 10 weeks of survey time.

Estimated time commitment for MRC volunteer leads (Ed Bowlby and Mary Sue Brancato): 100 hours

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 3 hours / month average

Estimated MRC cost: \$200-\$500, depending if OPAS cost-shares this project with MRC for 2025 (looking more likely in 2025).

Questions & Comments

Cost variable depending on whether OPAS cost shares with MRC. This is looking more likely in 2025. This is a contribution to the Salish Sea Guillemot Network coordination effort with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Survey123 data management system.

Pigeon guillemot monitoring submitted by Ed Bowlby

PINTO ABALONE: PROJECT PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE WORK IN FY 2026-2027

Goal: Restoration of Sustainable Pinto Abalone Populations in the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Participants:

| Organization | Role and Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) | Project oversight, participation in diver surveys and data collection, education and outreach |
| Puget Sound Restoration Fund (PSRF) | Manages project planning and implementation, conducts dive surveys, coordinates with CCMRC liaison, creates reports and manages data |
| Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) | Technical guidance, diver survey vessel support, as needed |
| Local support vessels | Support for dive surveys, as needed |
| Local scientific divers | Support for dive surveys, as needed |

Activities:

- **Synoptic diver surveys along the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Strait) following standardized abalone survey protocols to document existing remnant abalone populations, identify potential index sites for long-term monitoring, assess areas of interest for future restoration efforts that include outplanting of laboratory-cultured juvenile abalone.**
- **Education and outreach to local Clallam County government and citizens on the importance of abalone to contribute healthy subtidal ecosystems.**

Outputs:

- **Potential improvements to PSRF/WDFW abalone survey protocols for use in the Strait.**
- **Creation of maps and survey data showing the locations of remnant populations (with limited distribution disclaimer).**
- **In collaboration with PSRF and WDFW, identification of possible locations for index sites and potential outplanting locations for abalone monitoring and restoration.**
- **Developing of briefing documents and presentation material for Clallam County government and citizens that highlight the importance of abalone restoration.**

Outcomes

- **Successful completion of this project may result in the restoration of self-sustaining populations of pinto abalone to areas along the Strait where they were extirpated by recreational harvesters.**

- **At a minimum, results from these surveys will provide valuable population data on this state-listed endangered species along the Strait of Juan de Fuca that can be used to inform marine stewardship activities, including oil spill response planning,**

Estimated budget: \$30,000 / yr for 8 dives

Estimated time commitment for project lead: 60 including boat time

Estimated time commitment for project co-lead: 10 if boat time not needed

Estimated time commitment for MRC staff: 3 hours / month average

| New | Existing | Project Name | MRC Lead | MRC Co-Lead | Team Members (Add'l) | Partner(s) | Annual Cost | Total Project Cost | Category | Lead Hours | Hours | Partner Agency | Volunteers (MRC/Community) | Staff Time (1 to 3) | Notes |
|-----|----------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| X | | Nearshore Restoration at Co-Managed Wildlife Refuges | Chris Burns | Ioana Bociu | Dann May | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, National Wildlife Refuge | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 15,000.00 | Revegetation/Invasive Species | 80 | 40 | | Restoration - planting | 3 | |
| X | | Ediz Hook Debris Removal | Allyce Miller | To be determined | Mike D, Dan, Chris | City of PA, Elwha Klallam Tribe | \$ 11,000.00 | \$ 11,000.00 | Debris Removal (Restoration) | | | | | 2.5 | |
| X | | Derelict gear removal (includes Blue ROV) | Chris Rumble | Ioana Bociu | Jeff Ward | Phil Parisi | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ 30,000.00 | Restoration | | | | Potential pot removal, outreach | 3 | |
| X | | Elwha River Stewardship | Helle Andersen | Dann May | | Surfriders (sponsor another Sanikan) | \$ 3,700.00 | \$ 7,400.00 | Stewardship (Monitoring / Restoration / Education & Outreach) | | | | Provide doggie bags, beach use surveys (people & dogs) | 2.5 | QAPP? Turn over to another entity? |
| X | | Olympia Oyster Monitoring | Chris Burns | Lyn Muench | | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 3,000.00 | Monitoring | 60 | | | 6 days - field monitoring on mudflats w/ JST staff | 1.5 | |
| X | | Pigeon Guillemot Nesting Monitoring 2025 | Ed Bowlby | Mary Sue Brancato | Alan Clark? | Olympic Peninsula Auditor Society (OPAS), Salish Sea Guillemot Network/WDFW | \$ 800.00 | \$ 1,600.00 | Monitoring | 28 | 400 | | Colony monitoring, 1 hour per week 10+ weeks in summer | 2 | |
| X | | Pinto Abalone | Jeff Ward | Alan Clark | | Puget Sound Restoration Fund/WDFW (possibly Feiro Marine Life Center for future Contractor to give training | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ 60,000.00 | Monitoring (possible future outplanting) | | | | | 1 | |
| X | | HAZWOPER / oil spill response trainings | Nancy Stephanz | Ed Bowlby | | | \$ 7,000.00 | \$ 14,000.00 | Education & Outreach | | | | | 2 | |
| X | | Forage Fish | Alan Clark | Chelsea Korbolic / Ed Bowlby (tentative) | | WDFW, NWSC | \$ 500.00 | \$ 1,000.00 | Monitoring | | | | Monthly sampling | 2 | |
| X | | Kelp Monitoring | Alan Clark | Chelsea Korbolic | | NWSC | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | Monitoring | | | | Trained kayak volunteers perform | 2.5 | |
| X | | Education & Outreach | | Bob Vreeland | | | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 | Education & Outreach | | | | Festival tabling, setup, breakdown | 2.5 | 2 festivals max, or possible subcommittee |
| X | | Advisory Work (possible subcommittee) | Ann Soule | | Bob Vreeland? | | | | Advisory | | | | Researching, gathering/drafting comments, scheduling | 2 | |
| X | | Travel & Training | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.5 | |
| X | | (County admin unrelated to specific activities) | | | | | | \$2,500 | | | | | | 2 | Budget for storage unit |
| | | | | | | | Total | \$ 152,000.00 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Funding Ask | | | | | | | | |



April 2025 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 21, 2025

Time: 5:31 – 7:28pm

Location: Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Room
Minutes prepared by Amelia Kalagher

Member Roll

| | Member | Present? | Alternate | Present? |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Academic Community | Ed Bowlby | X | Ioana Bociu | X |
| At Large | Alan Clark (<i>NWSC Rep.</i>) | X | Mary Sue Brancato | |
| At Large | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- | Ray Kirk | |
| Conservation & Environmental Interests | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- | Nancy Stephanz | X |
| Development Community | Christopher Rumble | excused | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- |
| District I | Jeff Ward | | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- |
| District II | Ann Soule (<i>Vice Chair</i>) | X | Lyn Muench | excused |
| District III | Mike Doherty | X | Dann May | |
| Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe | Christopher Burns | X | Robert Knapp | X |
| Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe | Allyce Miller | X | Chelsea Korbolic | |
| Makah Tribe | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- | [<i>vacant seat</i>] | --- |
| Marine Related Recreation & Tourism | Alicia Amerson | excused | Helle Andersen | excused |
| Port Angeles City Council | LaTrisha Suggs (<i>Chair</i>) | X | Navarra Carr | |
| Port of Port Angeles Commission | Jesse Waknitz | | Katharine Frazier | X |
| Sequim City Council | Meggan Uecker | | Kelly Burger | |

Staff and Others Present

Cathy Lear (CCMRC Coordinator, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CCMRC Administrative Support), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Angela Glore (NODC)

Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:31. Roll was called, and others introduced themselves. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, but a quorum was achieved shortly after.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Approval of Minutes & Policy

- A quorum was now present. ***Ann Soule moved to approve March minutes; Chris Burns seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved.***

Announcements

- ***Open MRC seats:*** LaTrisha announced Bob Vreeland's recent resignation and requested ideas to honor both Bob and Tim Cochnauer for their significant contributions. Bob will consider volunteering when he is able. Seats are open for member representing community At-Large, member representing Conservation & Environmental Interests, member & alternate for Makah Tribe, alternates for District 1 and Development Community. MRC members were asked to reach out to anyone who may be interested.
- ***New Zoom link for MRC meetings:*** There is a new Zoom link for the hybrid meeting starting today, which will remain the same each month going forward. Members, alternates and additional expected guests will receive a prompt inviting them to be a panelist – this simply allows video and audio during the meeting.
- ***[Annual report available here](#) (October 2023 – September 2024)***
- ***Clallam County Environmental Health seeking shellfish sampling volunteers:*** Please contact Cathy if you are interested in volunteering.
- ***Recap of recent events***
 - ***Sequim Bay Yacht Club presentation Apr 9th (Alan):*** Alan shared about his presentation to the Sequim Bay Yacht Club, which went well as a "proof of concept" with interested attendees and great questions. Alan's presentation was about 45 minutes, but he suggests under 25 minutes for similar future presentations to any group interested.
 - ***River & Ocean Film Festival Apr 12th (Rebecca):*** Rebecca attended this film festival and shared MRC posters during the educational portion.
 - ***HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife training Apr 15th & 16th (Nancy and Rebecca):*** Rebecca and Nancy both reflected on their experience taking this training. Nancy shared the [story of 20,000 rescued penguins](#) by International Bird Rescue.
- ***MRC Chair, Vice Chair & NWSC representative election:*** Elections will take place at the next monthly meeting. LaTrisha Suggs intends to run again for Chair. Ann Soule does not intend to run for Vice Chair this year, so members should consider the Vice Chair position.
- ***Olympia oyster surveys: May 15th, 16th, 28th:*** MRC members are invited to volunteer for these surveys. Chris Burns stated that the surveys may not require all three days. Members or alternates who are interested in participating should contact Cathy to sign up.
- ***NWSC meeting in Clallam County May 30th:*** The Northwest Straits Commission will be holding their regular monthly meeting in Clallam County, accompanied by a short presentation by the MRC. Final time and location details will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.

Committee and Project Reports

- *Sound Toxins program* – Nancy Stephanz: Nancy stated that today’s most recent sampling revealed poison-producing phytoplankton returning in greater numbers due to more sunlight.
- *Education & Outreach (coasters)* - Ann Soule: Ann suggested that members distribute coasters as the summer season approaches.
- *Advisory* – Ann Soule: Ann stated that the Port Angeles Comprehensive Plan is in its visioning stage, and it’s still possible to provide comments and input. LaTrisha shared some additional details about the city’s considerations regarding density and multimodal transportation. [Information and comment are available here.](#)
- *Northwest Straits Commission* – Alan Clark: Alan recently participated in a meeting with elected representatives in Olympia. The meeting was productive in reminding the officials of NWSC’s and MRCs’ mission and work. Rep Adam Bernbaum is interested in joining the MRC in the field sometime this year.

New or special business items

- *Project selection for the next biennium*: The MRC discussed the list of projects to be proposed for 2025-27, especially the new projects. The ROV derelict crab pot removal project may persist despite a change in leadership, and the nearshore restoration in wildlife refuges project is still a candidate. Discussion resulted in the following list:
 - Derelict Gear Removal (ROV)
 - Elwha Stewardship
 - Pigeon Guillemot Monitoring
 - Olympia Oyster Monitoring
 - Kelp Monitoring
 - Forage Fish Monitoring
 - Pinto Abalone Monitoring
 - HAZWOPER / oiled wildlife response
 - Education & Outreach
 - Ediz Hook Debris Removal (pending City of PA’s project plans)
- *Shoreline armoring / 3 Crabs letter*: The MRC reviewed the recently sent letter regarding the 3 Crabs Rd area. LaTrisha proposed that a permanent advisory subcommittee be established that meets regularly and would interact with DCD on topics such as this one. Members expressing interest in the recent past besides LaTrisha include Ann, Alan and Ed. DCD Director Bruce Emery shared that he agrees with many aspects of our letter and wishes to strategize about next steps; he is certain that education and outreach would be part of that. Commissioner Mark Ozias also planned to discuss the concerns with the MRC soon.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on Monday, May 19.
- *Call for new agenda items*: None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Commented [GU1]: can we summarize the results of the discussion here with a list, or a link, etc? thank you. I did not take notes on the project choices so would appreciate that.

Commented [GU2]: A new subcommittee was established at this meeting. We need to send out an email to MRC members that we have identified Ann, Alan, Ed, and are looking for a few more members to be part of the subcommittee.

Good of the Order

None at this time.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:28.

Action Items

- **Members** – consider running for Vice Chair this May.
- **Members and alternates** – share open MRC positions with those you think may be interested.
- **Members and alternates** – coasters are available to distribute going into the summer season.
- **Members and alternates** – contact Cathy if you are interested in surveying Olympia oysters (May 15th, 16th, 28th).
- **Amelia** – ensure final time and location details are announced to members prior to the May NWSC meeting in Clallam County.
- **Cathy** – reach out to Jeff Taylor of the Jefferson MRC for information and guidance from their ROV derelict gear removal project.
- **Cathy** – reach out to members as needed for project leadership and proposals.
- **LaTrisha and Ann** – discuss next steps for advisory subcommittee.

Commented [GU3]: Feel free to move or change this addition as appropriate