

# CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

December 16, 2024  
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 November minutes

## **Announcements**

- Training for Open Public Meetings Act / Public Records Act – by January if needed

## **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 – Tim Cochnauer
- Olympia Oyster – Chris Burns
- Forage Fish – Tim Cochnauer
- Elwha Beach Stewardship – Helle Andersen
- Ediz Hook Revegetation – Helle Andersen & Allyce Miller
- Sound Toxins – Nancy Stephanz
- Shellfish Biotoxins – Bob Vreeland
- 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

## **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

- HAZWOPER oiled wildlife trainings – Ann, Tim, Chris, Ed, Alicia, Mike (still need lead)

**New or special business items**

- 2025 workplan – attached draft, staff will submit in early January
  - Submit comments to Amelia by Jan 3
- 2025-2029 strategic plan – subcommittee has produced the attached draft for MRC discussion and approval
  - *Call for a motion to approve*
- Roles and responsibilities – attached draft for MRC review
  - Submit comments to Amelia by Jan 3
- Project development for the next biennium (9/2025 - 9/2027)
  - Decision on process and timeline for 2025-2027 project development

**Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- **Next meeting \*Thursday\*, January 16** (rescheduled due to holiday)
  - § All 2025 meeting dates available in agenda footer
- 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**

**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)

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April 21

May 19

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July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

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November 2024 Draft Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, November 18, 2024

**Time:** 5:30 – 7:25

**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	Timothy Cochnauer	X	Ray Kirk	
Conservation & Environmental Interests	Robert Vreeland		Nancy Stephanz	X
Development Community	Christopher Rumble		[vacant seat]	
District I	Jeff Ward		Lance Vail	
District II	Ann Soule ( <i>Vice Chair</i> )	X	Lyn Muench	X
District III	Mike Doherty	X	Dann May	X
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	Christopher Burns	X	Robert Knapp	X
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Allyce Miller		Justin Stapleton	
Makah Tribe	[vacant seat]		[vacant seat]	
Marine Related Recreation & Tourism	Alicia Amerson		Helle Andersen	X
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		Harmony Rutter	

**Staff and Others Present**

Cathy Lear (Ex-Officio, Clallam County Habitat Biologist), Rebecca Mahan (CC MRC Coordinator, CC Habitat Biologist), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Lucas Hart (Northwest Straits Commission staff), Sasha Horst (Northwest Straits Commission staff), Dr. Kellie Carim (US Forest Service), Keylani Suggs, Brandon Sampson (Wet Dog Boats)

## Welcome / Call to Order / Roll Call

**Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:30.** Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

## Public Comment / Approval of October Minutes

**Ed Bowlby moved to approve the September CC MRC minutes; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Presentation – Dr. Kellie Carim, eDNA and Lamprey

Dr. Kellie Carim was briefly introduced, and she presented her work on lamprey and eDNA. Members and attendees followed up with a few questions for Dr. Carim.

## Presentation – Lucas Hart, funding outlook

Lucas Hart, Director of the Northwest Straits Commission, presented to the group on the status and outlook of funding in the political landscape. The current strategic plan will decide the upcoming biennium of funding, and approximately \$200k of funding per year will be available for each MRC. The federal FY25 budget will determine whether another round of funding is available from NOAA, and NWSC is investigating the possibility for more state resources as an alternative. The group discussed various possibilities to develop political will for NWSC and MRCs.

## Announcements

- *Northwest Straits Commission conference recap:* Several members and staff attended the conference on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and positive reflections were shared.
- *Studium Generale presentation:* The presentation will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>. \*All members, especially project leads, are encouraged to attend to represent the MRC and help answer potential questions.
- *Training for Open Public Meetings Act / Public Records Act:* Training is required for all new members or those who require a refresher. \*Amelia will provide an email with details.
- *Welcome new member and alternate:* Dann May (alternate representing District III) and Alicia Amerson (representing marine related recreation and tourism) have joined the MRC.

## Committee and Project Reports

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

- *NWSC monthly update:* \*Rebecca will distribute the link to Northwest Straits Commission digital conference materials.
- *Strategic plan subcommittee:* LaTrisha gave an update. The subcommittee plans one more meeting in early December and will then present the draft plan to the entire MRC.
- *Comprehensive plan subcommittee:* The subcommittee plans to distribute a letter to jurisdictions to seek a place at the table in comprehensive planning discussions, but the current timing in these planning processes has made this difficult. The subcommittee needs to establish an additional meeting and next steps.

- *Pinto abalone*: Rebecca Mahan relayed an update from Jeff Ward, who was out sick. Dives took place on two main areas of interest, which found potential habitat though abalone were not found. Divers got great quality footage with a GoPro camera. 2025 dives will focus on areas west of Port Angeles, where there is anecdotal evidence of abalone sightings.
- *Olympia Oysters*: Chris Burns gave an update, including counts of spat in bags at the restoration site and single oysters still being raised for the restoration site.
- *Sound Toxins*: Nancy gave an update. There have been a few recent observations of harmful genera, particularly *Dinophysis* and *Alexandrium*, but not at extreme levels. Chris Burns noted there have been some recent toxins in mussels.
- *Education*: Ann shared that \*a new lead is needed for the oil spill response training project, to plan HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife response trainings in 2025. Videos also need to be produced and shared for this project. Ann reminded the group that the oil spill task force meeting is taking place on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- *Priority concerns list for BOCC*: LaTrisha reintroduced the draft list of concerns, opening the floor for discussion and comments by the MRC at large. Several MRC members and alternates shared and discussed specific feedback to be addressed in the next iteration. \*The executive officers will incorporate this feedback into the next draft.

#### **Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- *Next meeting*: The meeting will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- *Call for new agenda items*:
  - The 2025 draft workplan will be presented for comment in December.
  - Projects for the next biennium can begin to be planned. Rebecca pointed out the flowchart attached to the agenda as a guide for project planning.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

#### **Good of the Order**

There were no good of the order items at this time.

#### **Adjourn**

*Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:25.*





# CLALLAM COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

## 5 Year Strategic Plan, 2025-2029

### INTRODUCTION

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) is a volunteer organization established by the Clallam County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) as an advisory committee ([Resolution 58-1999](#)) with a mission to “address local marine issues related to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, recommend remedial actions to local authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies...”.

The CCMRC is one of seven Marine Resources Committees supported by the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1998 following the recommendations of a blue-ribbon committee created by U.S. Senator Patti Murray and U.S. Representative Jack Metcalf (Murray-Metcalf Commission). Our funding comes from federal and state grants administered by the [Northwest Straits Commission](#) (NWSC). In addition to collaborating with the NWSC, the [Northwest Straits Foundation](#), and other MRCs, CCMRC and its members also work closely with many local and regional partners, including Tribes. For detailed information and a full list of our valuable partners/collaborators, see [our website](#).

### VISION STATEMENT

CCMRC’s vision is a healthy marine ecosystem for future generations.

## MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

To achieve the vision by:

- 1.) Protecting marine ecosystems through monitoring and restoration.
- 2.) Using science to support decision making, to educate, and to advise the public and elected officials.
- 3.) Promoting environmental stewardship, engaging local residents in citizen science, and involving partner organizations.
- 4.) Implementing projects and activities that are collectively agreed upon by the CCMRC and championed by individual members.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

### **Monitoring to Deliver Measurable Science that Informs and Reduces Uncertainty:**

- **Kelp monitoring:** CCMRC monitors floating kelp beds at three locations to provide valuable information on the annual spatial distribution of floating kelp communities in CCMRC will complete surveys during the dominant growing months, typically July-August. Data are provided to the Northwest Straits Commission and Department of Natural Resources.
- **Pigeon guillemot monitoring:** Using existing survey methods of the Salish Sea Guillemot Network protocol, the CCMRC conducts weekly pigeon guillemot breeding colony surveys annually during the summer months. The goals of this project are to monitor and improve understanding of nearshore health by monitoring pigeon guillemots as an indicator species and to promote community science contributions to regional research.
- **Forage fish monitoring:** In collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), CCMRC monitors forage fish spawning on a monthly basis at four beaches, and provides the samples to WDFW for analysis.
- **Olympia oysters:** In partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and WDFW, the CCMRC monitors Olympia oyster populations annually in Sequim Bay.
- **Pinto abalone surveys:** In 2023-2024, the goal is to identify Pinto abalone populations and identify possibilities for future restoration, in partnership with Puget Sound Restoration Fund and WDFW.

### **Restoration that Addresses Conservation Challenges:**

- **Olympia oysters:** The goal of this project is to bolster recruitment and support self-sustaining populations of Olympia oysters. This could be augmented by providing additional substrate for settlement through habitat enhancement using blank Pacific oyster shells and supplementing with hatchery-produced Olympia oyster seed.
- **Pinto abalone - possible future restoration project:** The CCMRC's current survey efforts of the endangered Pinto abalone aim to expand the regional body of knowledge, and may suggest contributing to Salish Sea restoration efforts.



### **Education and Outreach to Engage Communities and Amplify Science:**

- **Elwha stewardship:** The CCMRC provides a Sanikan and dog waste bags at the West Elwha Beach, with a focus on reducing human and dog waste entering the waterway. This includes routine surveys of people and dog use of the beach to understand trends over time.
- **HAZWOPER & oiled wildlife rescue training:** The goal of this project is to train local residents in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) and oiled wildlife response, to bolster the community's capacity to respond in the event of an oil spill.
- **Catch More Crab:** CCMRC members educate the public through the Northwest Straits Foundation's "Catch More Crab" program, encouraging crabbers to use techniques that prevent gear loss and resulting marine life mortality.
- **Derelict vessels & gear:** The CCMRC may participate in regional efforts to prevent and/or remove derelict fishing and boating gear, especially derelict vessels and crabbing gear, to reduce the threat posed to marine ecosystems by this debris.
- **Shore Friendly:** The CCMRC supports a statewide program by the Northwest Straits Foundation promoting sustainable shoreline management by reducing hard armoring like seawalls. The MRC participates by facilitating workshops for shoreline landowners about soft armoring options and the science of healthy shorelines.
- **Festivals / coasters:** The CCMRC continually engages in community outreach and education events. Some events return for many years in a row, while some are unique one-time opportunities to reach out to the community. Educational coasters featuring marine life and issues are distributed at these events and local venues, linking the public to more information.
- **Public presentations:** The CCMRC takes available opportunities to engage with the public through presentations on our work. This may include presentations to local affinity groups, students, the community at large, the BOCC, and other organizations or governments.
- **Interns:** The CCMRC aims to further education and career development of local students in marine science and conservation through offering internships as appropriate.

### **Advisory Work to Prepare our Community for Environmental Changes:**

- **Elected official updates:** The CCMRC provides input to the BOCC and the Director of Community Development, prioritizing our current list of top concerns for the marine environment.
- **Planning:** Provide comments on local Comprehensive Plans, Climate Resiliency Plans, and Hazard Mitigation Plans.
- **Advisory:** The CCMRC advises on project proposals of concern to the CCMRC through its adopted advisory process.

### **Support Community Projects that are led by our Partners:**

- **Sound Toxins (Feiro Marine Life Center, Washington Sea Grant):** “a monitoring program designed to provide early warning of harmful algal bloom events in order to minimize both human health risks and economic losses to Puget Sound fisheries”
- **Shellfish Biotoxin Sampling (Clallam County Environmental Health):** shellfish sampling for the Washington State Department of Health determines whether beaches must be closed for shellfish harvest during blooms of toxin-producing plankton.
- **Green crab molt search (Washington Sea Grant):** “Molt Search aims to support broader participation in early detection along inland Washington’s shorelines by teaching volunteers simple, standardized steps for searching and reporting on the presence (and absence!) of European green crab molts.”
- **EGC European Green Crab trapping (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Washington Sea Grant):** MRC members participate in regional efforts to trap invasive European green crabs.
- **Revegetations and beach cleanups:** The CCMRC may assist our partners with these efforts incidentally in the coming years.

## OPERATIONS

The CCMRC meets as a whole monthly to discuss project lead reports, upcoming events, NWSC updates, potential new issues and business, and speaker presentations. Regular meetings are advertised and the public is invited to attend. Every other year, the CCMRC reviews and updates its project plans and funding for the next biennium.

CCMRC staff are employees of Clallam County and administer grants and coordinate committee operations. CCMRC membership appointments follow representation policies found in authorizing documents and last four years, with no renewal limitations; open positions are advertised and approved by the BOCC. Our website lists current members and includes a document describing CCMRC roles and responsibilities.

The NWSC hosts a conference every year which offers a chance for CCMRC members to learn from and network with MRCs from the other counties and the NWSC [Science Advisory Committee](#) on field projects, outreach techniques, and more. This event fosters collaborative stewardship of the marine and nearshore environment and is motivational, especially for newer CCMRC members.

Monitoring projects follow Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) approved by the Washington Department of Ecology. With the help of NWSC we keep up with the state of the science and invite experts in new technologies to educate us about those techniques. Recent presentations have included:

- Underwater robotic system (BlueROV)
- Environmental DNA (eDNA) studies

- Aquaculture technologies

#### MOVING TOWARD 2029

The CCMRC will use this plan to continue monitoring and restoration of the marine environment, education and outreach, and advisory work to prepare our community for environmental changes.

## **Duties of Clallam MRC Officers and Members**

December 2024

### 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 board 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.

### 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.

### Duties of Project 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 gear for your project is functioning properly and work with MRC staff to maintain as needed.
4. Follow the QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) for your project.
5. Submit 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, communicating project team business, actively engage in the business of at least one project team.
2. Actively volunteer for two events or more annually for the MRC booth at public education/outreach events.
3. Actively volunteer to serve on sub-committees when formed.
4. It is anticipated that members will contribute 8-10 hours a month as needed.
5. Actively assist on projects when leads put out a request for help.
6. Stay current on environmental issues and changes impacting the nearshore and community.
7. Be good stewards and promote strong partnerships within our community.
8. Participate in annual NWSC conference.
9. Communicate and liaise regularly with the population or organization represented by your MRC role.
10. Communicate with your alternate regularly so that they can attend meetings if you are not able to. Communicate with the Chair and MRC staff if you are not able to attend the meeting and if your alternate will be in attendance to fill in for you.

#### Duties of Alternates:

1. Communicate with the lead member and assist them with their project.
2. Actively assist on 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. It is anticipated that alternates will contribute 4-6 hours a month as needed.
6. Alternates are allowed to vote only when they are filling in for the lead member because the lead is not able to attend the meeting, and has informed the chair and MRC staff that they are not able to attend and the alternate will be in attendance for the meeting.

# 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