



Clallam County Marine Resources Committee

September 2024 Final Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 16, 2024

Time: 5:31 – 7:01

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

Members and Alternates Present

Alan Clark (At Large Representative; NWSC Representative), Christopher Rumble (Development Community Representative), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community Representative), LaTrisha Suggs (Port Angeles City Council Representative; Chair), Robert Vreeland (Conservation & Environmental Interests Representative), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation & Environmental Interests Alternate), Jeff Ward (District I Representative), Lance Vail (District I Alternate), Mike Doherty (District III Representative), Katharine Frazier (Port of Port Angeles Alternate), Tim Cochnauer (At Large Representative)

Others Present

Rebecca Mahan (Clallam County Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Amelia Kalagher (CC MRC Administrative Support), Bruce Emery (CC Director of Community Development), Phil Parisi (Robotics researcher, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, guest presenter), Dann May (Peninsula College Professor)

Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions

Chair LaTrisha Suggs called the meeting to order at 5:31. Roll was called, and a quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment / Approval of June Minutes

Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the August CC MRC minutes; Mike Doherty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

- *Annual project reports:* *Project leads should work with staff as needed to finalize, final reports due September 30.
- *Forever Streamfest:* September 21
- *Dungeness River Festival:* September 27
- *November Northwest Straits Commission conference:* November 15-16

- *Informational items:* LaTrisha Suggs reminded members about several informational items.
 - *PNNL micro-grid and Marine Renewable Energy*
 - *Project Macoma*
 - *Sequim Comp Plan Update*
 - *Port Angeles City Comp Plan update*
 - *Clallam County Comp Plan update*
 - *Clallam County Hazard Mitigation Plan update: Climate Resiliency survey*
 - *Rescue tug / oil spill response – no specific update this month*
 - *Green crab – no specific update this month*

Committee and Project Reports

- *Shellfish biotoxins:* Bob Vreeland continues routine sampling. The most recent sample was over the limit for safe consumption.
- *Pinto abalone:* First survey dates are set for October 10th and 11th. The specific survey sites will be directed by Puget Sound Restoration Fund.
- *Pigeon guillemot:* The final monitoring for the season is taking place this week. End-of-season reporting is underway.
- *Sound Toxins:* Two new volunteers joined this week at Feiro Marine Life Center. There has been a gradual decrease in the amount of toxin-producing plankton over the last few weeks.
- *Strategic plan subcommittee:* The subcommittee met last week and is working on updating the strategic plan. Updates will soon come to the MRC as a whole.

New Business

- *Working list of areas of concern for BOCC:* The group continuing discussing areas of concern that could potentially be included on a list, requested by the BOCC during the annual MRC presentation on August 5th. Discussion focused on narrowing down the list, with the following areas identified for priority further discussion. Full notes on this working list are attached to these minutes.
 - Changes observed in the local environment through MRC projects
 - Shoreline armoring / shoreline risk
 - Tanker traffic and potential accidents
 - County GIS capabilities
 - Aquaculture

This list will be discussed and developed further at the next meeting. *Amelia will provide updated notes on this list to MRC members.

- *Studium generale presentation:* The MRC will give a studium generale presentation at Peninsula College in the coming months. The date is not yet confirmed, but may be December 5th.

Discussion of next meeting date and agenda

- *Next meeting:* The meeting will take place on October 21st.
- *Call for new agenda items:*
 - Nancy Stephanz proposed a recap on Streamfest and Riverfest, and an update on studium generale planning.

Good of the Order

- *Studium generale / youth member:* Mike Doherty proposed that the upcoming studium generale could be a good opportunity to recruit a youth member, and members briefly discussed the potential for adding a youth member.
- *Comprehensive plan subcommittee:* LaTrisha Suggs formed a subcommittee focused on monitoring comprehensive plan development and organizing MRC input, initially focusing on the current processes in Clallam County, the City of Port Angeles, and the City of Sequim. MRC members Alan Clark, Bob Vreeland, and Ed Bowlby volunteered to form this subcommittee. Dann May (current applicant to the MRC) stated that he may join if he is confirmed as an MRC member. *Mike Doherty requested that Rebecca send updates when comment deadlines are approaching for strategic plans.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Presentation

Robotics researcher Phil Parisi gave a presentation titled “User Friendly Marine Robots”. The presentation focused on what situations robots are useful in for marine research, new technological developments that are making marine robotics more cost-accessible, and the technological capabilities of two specific robots. The two models focused on, and demonstrated in person for the MRC and those in attendance, were the BlueBoat autonomous surface vessel and the BlueROV2 remotely operated vehicle for underwater operations.

Adjourn

Chair LaTrisha Suggs adjourned the meeting at 7:01.

Action Items

- Project leads should work with staff as needed to finalize annual project reports. Final reports are due September 30.
- Mike Doherty requested that Rebecca send updates when comment deadlines are approaching for strategic plans.

Attachment:

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee
Draft Areas of Concern – 2nd revision
September 16th, 2024**

This list is an in progress DRAFT and working document. It represents ideas being developed by one or more members of the Committee. Nothing on this list should be taken to represent the opinions of the Committee as a whole.

For further consideration as potential priority issues:

- Changes observed in the local environment through MRC projects
 - Kelp beds
 - Pigeon guillemots
 - Olympia oysters
 - Forage fish
 - Biotoxins
 - Potential evidence of climate change impacts
 - Related impacts like hypoxia, acidification, toxic blooms
 - Integration with regional concerns and partners (e.g. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary)
 - Caveat of the scope of MRC data/projects: MRC observations alone are not evidence for climate change impacts, but they can be linked to larger trends, references and models
- Shoreline armoring / shoreline risk
 - Seawalls, berms
 - Unpermitted shoreline armoring
 - Intersection with treaty rights
 - Shoreline design assistance, Shore Friendly program
 - Regulatory environment in nearshore zones, notice to title / clouding title
 - Education to the public, Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines
- Tanker traffic and potential accidents
 - First responder training/planning in the face of oil spills
 - Ships carrying unknown, potentially harmful substances such as mineral oil
- County GIS capabilities
 - Integration with DCD and Planning
 - Working real-time maps that MRC and staff can interact with
- Aquaculture
 - May become an increasingly relevant topic in future years

Not identified as priority concern, or not approachable by the MRC at this time:

- No net loss as a policy principle
- Tsunami preparation
- Growth Management Act: shoreline and climate elements
- Shoreline management: emphasis on future development
- Eelgrass beds
- Tide gates
- Culverts
- Tires/6PPD
- Chemical pollution
- Reducing emissions in the face of climate change
- Air quality
- Water quality
- Biotxin sampling for safe shellfish harvest (County DOH)
- Chemical pollution pertaining to safe crab harvest
 - Particularly in Port Angeles Harbor
- Invasive species
 - Green crab
- Sea level rise / flooding
- Derelict gear removal
- Private ownership of the nearshore
- Need for education to address many of these concerns