

# Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Jan 1, 2016 – Dec 31, 2016



Prepared by:

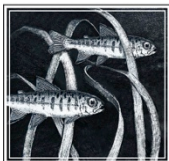
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[www.jeffersonmrc.org](http://www.jeffersonmrc.org)

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Northwest Straits Project: Jefferson MRC Operations & Projects. Task 1: 2016 Annual Report

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Jefferson County  
**Marine  
Resources  
Committee**



Northwest  
Straits  
INITIATIVE



# Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Jan 1, 2016 – Dec 31, 2016

The Jefferson MRC emphasizes on-the-ground projects and education/outreach on emerging marine resources issues. In 2016, the Jefferson MRC's activities included:

- Shoreline restoration at a local State Park
- Voluntary no-anchor zones protecting 110 acres of eelgrass & shellfish
- Rain gardens at priority stormwater outflow locations
- Olympia oyster habitat enhancements

### Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee

We are a citizen-based, volunteer committee appointed by Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. Our members come from the fishing, boating, aquaculture, environmental, marine education, tribal, and government communities. We serve the County in an advisory capacity, having no regulatory or enforcement authority.

This MRC is one of seven Marine Resources Committees affiliated with the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative (NWSI). MRCs provide local input to the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), which provides MRCs with scientific, technical, and financial assistance.

Our goal is to promote an ethic of stewardship, support science-based projects, and work in partnership with other groups and agencies to preserve and conserve Puget Sound and the Salish Sea.

The MRC and Northwest Straits Initiative provide important economic, recreational and environmental benefits to Jefferson County. The estimated value of these grants, services, etc. for 2016 was **\$668,000**. In addition to leveraging funds and collaborations with partners highlighted in this report, the Initiative also provided \$27,000 directly for derelict net removals and support of nearshore restoration outreach at the Discovery Bay Maynard Beach project.



Jefferson MRC's efforts focus on the County's shorelines in eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet and northern Hood Canal, where most of the County's 30,000 people live.

In 2016, the MRC recorded 1,877 volunteer hours, which reflects strong community interest and support for the work of the MRC

# Membership

## Jefferson MRC Members (December 31, 2016)

MEMBER NAME	REPRESENTING
Wade Crouch, Co-Chair	District 3
Ashley Mackenzie, Co-Chair	District 1
Dale Moses, NWSC Rep	Recreation Interests
Jeff Taylor, NWSC Alt.	District 2
Emily Bishop	District 1
Shannon Davis	District 1 Alt.
Andrew Palmer	District 2
Frank Handler	District 2 Alt.
Sarah Fiskén	District 3
Jackie Gardner	District 3 Alt
Gordon King	Commercial Interests
Al Bergstein	Environmental Interests
Anna Bachmann	Environment Alt.
Judy Surber	Local Govt (City of Port Townsend)
Steve Tucker	Local Govt (Port of Port Townsend)
Sam Gibboney	Local Govt (Port of PT Alt.)
Nam Siu	Marine Science
Judy D'Amore	Marine Science Alt.
Troy McKelvey	Recreation Alt.
Neil Harrington	Tribal Rep (Jamestown S'Klallam)
Chris Eardley	Tribal Alt (Skokomish)
Phil Johnson, <i>ex officio</i>	Jefferson County Commissioner



# Operations

**Goal:** MRC serves as an accessible, informed, engaged local advisory group on marine-related issues, contributing to the work of the Northwest Straits Commission and local priorities.

**NWSI Strategic Goal:** Maintain strong MRCs

## Partners & Funding Leveraged:

- 1,877 Volunteer hours (@\$28.99/hr.) **\$54,414**

## Accomplishments

**Meetings & Communication:** Monthly MRC meetings, open to the public, often included a guest speaker or special topic of interest as well as project and Northwest Straits Commission/Foundation updates. An MRC representative attended almost of the monthly NWSC meetings.

**LIOs & PSP:** The MRC worked with both of Puget Sound Partnership's Local Integrating Organizations (LIO) for our County: Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) and Strait Environmental Restoration Network (Strait ERN). Three Near Term Actions were accepted endorsed by the LIOs and included in the 2016 Action Agenda. Jefferson MRC also participated in the PSEMP Nearshore Working Group meetings.

**Grant Administration & Program Support:** MRC staff provided administrative support (grant reports; budgets, and other record-keeping), managed contracts, prepared grant applications, and provided support for MRC projects.

**Website:** In 2016, the MRC website [www.jeffersonmrc.org](http://www.jeffersonmrc.org) made the transition to a new web platform that is compatible with mobile devices. The website is regularly updated to provide information about programs, events and projects.

**Training** – Jefferson MRC members participated in trainings relevant to the MRC's goals and projects. Eighteen members attended the 2016 annual MRC conference. Three members attended forage fish survey trainings. Five members attended the 2016 Salish Sea conference in Vancouver, B.C. One member participated in two all-day NWSF crabber committee workshops. Three members participated in kelp monitoring workshops. MRC staff attended a 2-day workshop on how to share scientific data with the public.



# Fort Townsend Nearshore Restoration

**Goals:** Restore nearshore processes and habitat to shoreline by partnering with Northwest Straits Foundation and WA State Parks; improve access to the beach; engage the local community through outreach, guided walks, interpretive signs and monitoring; collect data to measure impact of restoration actions.

**NWSI Strategic Goals:**

- Education and engagement
- Shoreline and habitat protection and connectivity

**PSP Action Agenda:** Habitat Strategic Initiative (16.2 & 16.3). Shoreline Armoring Vital Sign

**Partners & Funding Leveraged:**

- \$478,000 in grants for nearshore restoration (2015-16)
- \$15,000 in grants for education/outreach (2015-16)
- WA State Parks (interpretive & local staff support)
- WDFW habitat staff (monitoring)
- 670 volunteer hours for monitoring and education

## Accomplishments

In 2015-2016, Jefferson MRC partnered with Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) and WA State Parks to improve beach access and restore nearshore habitat at Fort Townsend State Park. Construction was completed in fall 2016, removing over 1700 cubic yards of riprap and fill while improving feeder bluff and nearshore processes. The NWSF was general project manager and grant sponsor, while the MRC coordinated local community engagement and outreach.

NWSC supported the MRC's citizen science pre- and post-construction monitoring activities, in partnership with WDFW and Point No Point Treaty Council.



In 2016:

- 22 volunteers assisted with 3 on-site events (120 attendees)
- 2 interpretive signs installed
- 17 volunteers assisted with monitoring and plantings
- 5 feature articles in local newspapers, 2 KPTZ radio programs, and NWSC newsletter
- Visitor surveys continued in 2016 to measure perceptions before-and-after assessment of educational outreach (to be completed in 2017)



Funding for this shoreline restoration work came from the Northwest Straits Foundation, Estuary Salmon Restoration Program, Puget Sound Marine & Nearshore Grant Program and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

### **What's Next?**

2017 post-construction monitoring by citizen science volunteers continues in collaboration with WDFW and the Point No Point Treaty Council.



# Education and Outreach

**Goals:** Protect marine habitats and processes by increasing awareness of issues and stewardship actions, especially related to stormwater runoff, shoreline armoring, and boating.

**NWSI Strategic Goals:**

- Education and engagement
- Shoreline and habitat protection and connectivity

**PSP 2016 Action Agenda:** Sub-strategy 26.2, with high ranking for NWSF Shoreline Armor Reduction Project and Shellfish (2016-0001)

**Partners & Funding Leveraged:**

- \$15,000 (NWSF) for Fort Townsend outreach work (2015-16)
- \$49,000 (NWSF Shoreline Armoring Reduction Project) - Site visits, conceptual designs, permitting assistance and outreach in Jefferson Co.
- \$6,000 (NWSF) - Feeder bluff parcel assessment in Jefferson Co. to identify best sites for future armor removal.
- WDFW shellfish staff (Digging for Dinner)
- News coverage of MRC events and programs

## Accomplishments

The MRC's 2016 education and outreach efforts targeted specific audiences with key messages about stormwater runoff and water quality, shoreline landowner best management practices, sustainable shellfish harvesting, sea level rise and Ocean Acidification. The MRC emphasized individual actions that improve environmental conditions. Fort Townsend restoration outreach efforts are described above.

**Diggin' for Dinner:** The MRC sponsored a family-oriented program on safe and sustainable clam harvesting at Oak Bay County Park in May, in partnership with WDFW and WSU Beach Naturalists (55 participants).

**Shoreline Landowner Outreach:** MRC supported the NWSF's





SHARP (shoreline armor reduction project), which included 13 landowner site visits in Jefferson County, and assistance with 2 designs (3 properties) for armor removal. KPTZ aired 2 radio programs about shoreline armoring and local restoration projects.

**Ocean Acidification: Action at a Local Level:** In June, the Northwest Straits Commission and the MRC co-hosted a special program for local decision makers to discuss opportunities for mitigating ocean acidification. (Approx. 20 participants).

### Other Presentations & Programs

- Board of County Commissioners
- WSU Beach Naturalists (23 students)
- Olympia Oyster presentation at the Salish Sea Ecological Conference (100 attendees?)
- Rain garden workshop in conjunction with the 2016 installations (8 students)
- NOSC Citizen Action Training School (16 students).
- 2016 Wooden Boat Festival MRC booth had everyone laughing. Over 310 people stopped to talk or play the Poop Toss game (bean bags that looked like dog poop) and talk about why it's important to pick up dog poop.
- King Tide program co-sponsored with WA Sea Grant and Local 2020. 65 people learned about king tides, storm surges & climate change and how to get involved locally. City and County Commissioners and other elected officials attended. (Photo below.)
- MRC laid the groundwork to partner with the Port Townsend School District's Maritime Discovery Program, focusing on ocean acidification, shellfish and rain garden projects.

### What's Next?

Continue public outreach programs, including two neighborhood-based shoreline landowner outreach programs in the Discovery Bay area, more landowner outreach to a broader geographic area, offering Digging for Dinner programs in south Jefferson County, and expanded student participation in MRC projects.





# Voluntary No Anchor Zones

**Goals:** Protect eelgrass from damage due to boat anchors; protect shellfish beds from boat-associated impacts to water quality; and increase awareness of importance of eelgrass beds.

**NWSI Strategic Goals:**

- Shoreline and habitat protection and connectivity
- Marine species and habitats

**PSP 2016 Action Agenda:** Shellfish Sub-strategy 17.1

**Partners & Funding Leveraged:**

- \$2,250 - Port of Port Townsend
- \$286 - Free ads in 48° North magazine

## Accomplishments

MRC volunteers (assisted by contracted divers when needed) maintained, deployed and repaired 21 navigational buoys, protecting 52 acres of eelgrass beds in Port Townsend, approximately 50 acres in Mystery Bay and 8 acres in Port Hadlock. Voluntary No-anchor Zones in Port Hadlock and Mystery Bay also protect commercial and recreational shellfish beds as well as associated eelgrass meadows.

Partnerships are valuable: Port of Port Townsend provides a boat and skipper for most of our needs. Marine Surveys & Assessments discounted their professional diver fees. Compliance monitoring takes place during the Wooden Boat Festival, when hundreds of boats anchor along the Port Townsend waterfront.

Outreach efforts brought new exposure in 2016. In addition to our interpretive signs and postings on a navigational app (Active Captain), Northwest Boating had an article about Voluntary No anchor Zones in summer 2016, and an ad about the no-anchor zones ran in "48° North" magazine, as donated advertising. In a multiplier effect, a reader followed with info about the project in an "All about Anchoring" seminar at the Seattle Boat Show.

**What's Next?**

Buoy maintenance and outreach are on-going.



# Olympia Oysters

**Goals:** Enhance population in Discovery Bay and explore re-establishment of an Olympia oyster bed in Quilcene Bay. Annual monitoring data will guide future restoration work.

**NWSC Strategic Goals**

- Marine species and habitats

**PSP 2016 Action Agenda:** Shellfish Sub-strategy 19.2

**Partners & Funding Leveraged:**

- Taylor Shellfish (staff & donated Olympia oyster cultch) **\$5,150**
- WA Fish and Wildlife (staff advisory)
- Skokomish Tribe (GIS work) **\$100**
- Puget Sound Restoration Fund

## Accomplishments

In Discovery Bay, annual monitoring of the 2014 habitat enhancement project continues, with early, but encouraging indicators of success. In July 13 MRC volunteers added 80 bags of clean (not seeded) cultch, donated by Taylor Shellfish.

In Quilcene Bay the MRC began collaborating with WDFW and tribal co-managers (Skokomish and Jamestown S’Klallam) in 2016 to test feasibility of an Olympia oyster restoration project there.

**What’s next?**

Monitoring will continue for several more years at both sites. The MRC is also exploring project expansion ideas.



# Rain Gardens

**Goals:** Intercept and reduce flow of stormwater into Port Townsend Bay by constructing rain gardens in high-priority locations to increase rain absorption and intercept street run-off.

**NWSI Strategic Goals:**

- Water quality

**PSP 2016 Action Agenda:** Stormwater Sub-strategies 10.3 and 27.1

**Partners & Funding Leveraged:**

- City of Port Townsend (rain gardens) **\$3,600**
- WSU Extension (rain gardens & volunteer support) **\$7,250**
- 470 volunteer hrs (installation only)

## Accomplishments

The MRC's 2016 Bio-Retention Prioritization report identified the most important bio-retention projects in East Jefferson County. Two new rain gardens in uptown Port Townsend now intercept and reduce the amount of storm water entering Port Townsend and increase local awareness of the benefits of rain gardens to improve water quality in Puget Sound.

The MRC and its two partners (WSU Extension and City of Port Townsend) were successful at engaging community volunteers in these efforts. A WCC crew and the Native Plant Salvage Foundation provided the bulk of the labor, with community volunteers (MRC, neighbors and WSU Master Gardeners) also assisting. Community volunteers are maintaining the installations.

Over 25 people contributed more than 470 hours of site preparation, trainings, planting 870 plants and mulching. City of Port Townsend donated site work and bio-retention soils. The project was featured in 3 newspaper articles.





The MRC has had some challenges measuring rain garden effectiveness using flow meters (stormwater intercepted). It turns out that this is a challenge for many groups. A statewide monitoring team is working on this now, and we are assisting our local WSU Extension office as they continue to test and refine regional protocols.



### **What's Next?**

The MRC plans to continue working on rain garden installations at priority sites, partnering with WSU Extension, City and County on 1-2 rain garden installations each year, depending on funding.



# Monitoring & Citizen Science

**Goals:** Provide data to state and regional agencies; offer community engagement opportunities in citizen science & education about nearshore, kelp and forage fish.

## NWSC Strategic Goals

- Shoreline and habitat protection and connectivity
- Education and engagement

**PSP 2016 Action Agenda:** Stormwater Sub-strategies 10.3 and 27.1

## Partners & Funding Leveraged:

- Point No Point Treaty Council (forage fish lab work) \$600
- WDFW forage fish staff

## Accomplishments

**Bull Kelp Studies:** Jefferson MRC continues to participate in a regional effort to refine citizen science monitoring of local bull kelp beds, coordinated by the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). Regional assessment of protocols is underway. Six volunteers participated in this work.

**Fort Townsend Monitoring:** See Fort Townsend Shoreline Restoration description above. 17 volunteers were involved in this monitoring project. Lab results not yet compiled for the post-construction seasons.

## Discovery Bay (Adelma Beach)

**Forage Fish Index Site:** Monthly monitoring began in November 2016 for this new forage fish monitoring project in support of WDFW's forage fish database. Our goal is to also educate local shoreline landowners through informal conversations on the beach. Four volunteers are currently engaged in this project.

## What's next?

Continue supporting these citizen science efforts.

