

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Port Commissioners Bldg.
333 Benedict Street
Port Townsend, WA
May 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Emily Bishop, District 1
Wade Crouch, District 3, Co-Chair
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Alt.
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
Andrew Palmer, District 2
Jackie Gardner, District 3 Alt.
Sarah Fiske, District 3
Gordon King, Commercial Interest
Al Bergstein, Environment
Steve Tucker, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend
Judy D'Amore, Marine Science Alt.
Troy McKelvey, Recreation Alt.
Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
Neil Harrington, Tribal

Guests:

Betsy Carlson, Ron Hayes, Dave Croonquist, Roy Clark

Absent:

Ashley Mackenzie, District 1, Co-Chair
Shannon Davis, District 1 Alt.
Anna Bachmann, Environment Alt.
Sam Gibboney, Port of Port Townsend Alt.
Nam Siu, Marine Science
Kate Dean, *ex officio*, BOCC
Dale Moses, Recreation, NWS Representative
Chris Eardley, Tribal Alt

Staff:

Cheryl Lowe, Robert Simmons, Tim Weissman

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Co-Chair Wade Crouch called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. There was a round of introductions as guests were present. Guest Introductions: Betsy Carlson (PTMSC) passed around "Seafood watch cards".	A quorum was present.	All members – please sign in and record volunteer hours by project.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA . APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Wade asked for amendments to the agenda. Kate Dean is in DC so there will be no BoCC report. Cheryl referred members to recent emails re: green crabs. Wade asked for amendments to/approval of the Minutes.	Neil Harrington moved to approve the agenda as amended. Jeff Taylor seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Tucker moved to approve the April minutes as is, seconded by Neil Harrington. Motion passed unanimously.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Betsy Carlson announced that DNR creosote removal has been funded for the next few years. PTMSC Protection Island cruises are starting up. They'll be counting eagles.		
ADMINISTRATIVE	Background Discussion: 2018 Halibut Season Cheryl noted that Commissioner Dean has asked MRC to provide input on the issue. She introduced Dave Croonquist from the Olympic Peninsula Salmon & Halibut Coalition who came to provide an overview. Dave referred members to information emailed previously. He said: Halibut seasons are driven by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) with the 2A Catch Share Plan (CSP) for WA, OR, and N. CA. There have been on-going discussions with WDFW staff for a number of years about the need to look at restructuring the recreational halibut fishery in Washington waters. The Puget Sound halibut fishery has gone from 70+ plus day seasons prior to 2008 down to a 3-day season this year with a 64,000 lbs quota for Puget Sound. The reduced season raises safety concerns and impacts local economies. They (North Olympic Salmon and Halibut Commission) recommend: 1) Reallocating the recreational share of the sable fish fleet incidental take; 2) Set an annual limit of six for recreational halibut with no pound limit or set dates. They have been getting communities to sign local resolutions – and passing them along to the State. He suggested MRC provide	Motion: Judy Surber moved "Compose a letter to the Jefferson BOCC expressing concern on impact to economy - request information on rationale for state limitations and rationale for opposing Commission's request."	Cheryl to craft a letter per the motion.

	<p>input to the state for the PFMC process. Timing: They are trying to influence the 2018 season. May 11 is first deadline for comments for the PFMC meeting in June followed by May 25 for supplemental comments to be given to the Commission. During Q&A, MRC members asked a variety of questions re: proposed size limits (none proposed); data on the health of the industry; monitoring, etc. Several members agreed that we would like to hear the State's perspective and obtain more data.</p> <p>MRC Use of Google Groups- Cheryl referred to her previous email. There has been some concern about the use of Google Groups for on-line conversations, and she reminded the group of open public records requirements. Other MRCs do not use Google-Groups. She suggests: G-Groups be used to share announcements and articles but not to allow comment. Gordon would prefer not to post if people cannot comment because some articles are not sound science. Options were discussed.</p> <p>Group consensus was to drop Google Groups and switch to group email for Administrative items. Bob will explore new forums that provide an opportunity to share educational articles and includes an option for a discussion platform (e.g something offered by WSU Extension and open to any marine practitioners in County who want to participate (or even outside the County).</p> <p>Cheryl asked for input on how to plan/schedule discussion of relevant topics. Al responded, since there is no imminent decision pending on net pens, he is not in favor of having it on an MRC Agenda. There are other forums and websites available. He suggested Green Crab as future topic. Neil offered to give that presentation. Neil asked for Olympia Oyster update and discussion to also be on a future agenda. Members can suggest future agenda items to Cheryl.</p> <p>Cheryl passed around Save the Date postcard for next MRC Annual Conference.</p>	<p>Andy Palmer seconded and offered a friendly amendment – “there is concern that the state does not have a clear handle on the recreational fishery” which was accepted. Amended Motion Passed with Sarah and Neil abstaining.</p>	<p>Cheryl to discontinue MRC Google Groups.</p> <p>Bob to explore new forum for sharing articles & discussion platform (e.g. County marine practitioners/WSU).</p> <p>Future agenda: Invasive Green Crab</p> <p>Members can suggest future agenda items to Cheryl.</p>
<p>Current and Upcoming Projects</p>	<p>Project Status Reports:</p> <p>1). Forage Fish (Jeff and Cheryl) Adelpa Beach group has been sampling since late fall. Continuing to look for surf smelt and sand lance eggs through the summer. Samples are assessed by volunteer Amy Does and then sent to WDFW lab for quality control. Lab has asked to see all samples. For the Fort Townsend SP monitoring, volunteers sample in the fall and winter only. Based on one full year of sampling there, Point No Point Treaty Council lab says no reason to continue summer sampling since no activity found.</p> <p>2) Oly Oyster - On Sunday, Neil, Gordon, and Chris went to Quilcene to check out last year's test plots in preparation for monitoring this spring. There are definitely Oly Oysters that survived from last year. Based on a casual inspection, mortality rate is about 40-70%, some due to drills. They plan to add more seeded cultch to this same spot later in May 2017. Habitat looked good to Neil.</p> <p>Cheryl added: In Quil last year MRC put out 10 bags seeded cultch (wild) in the test plots, plus had 50 bags overwintering at the Taylor Shellfish hatchery. Reconnaissance was to see if we should put out more bags at Quil site. Consensus was to do a second year of seeded cultch.</p> <p>In Disco Bay, there was reconnaissance of original Oly population near the Maynard Beach lagoons. Team had the idea is to add more clean cultch next to existing native population. We need to determine if that is allowed and if permits are required (DNR or WDFW land). Group discussion ensued. Gordon offered to provide more clean cultch for Disco Bay if it wanted.</p> <p>3) Outreach (Cheryl/Tim) - Focus on Digging for Dinner May 13 Quilcene and June 9th in Dosewallips. 30 have already registered for Quilcene. Limit 50 participants. Free event. Looking for volunteers for distributing posters and for helping at both events.</p> <p>4) No Anchor Zones – Team's goal is to install buoys by Memorial Day.</p> <p>5) Rain Gardens (Bob) - Waiting on City for Sign permit and for</p>		

	<p>Parks Director to get Council approval on design for Chetzamoka. In late May, he and Tim will work with students on plantings. June installation is planned. Wooden Boat School has not decided if they want a rain garden. He asked that the School decide by May 15 to allow us time to make another selection if needed.</p> <p>6) Kelp Monitoring (Judy D./Jeff) - Attended NWSC workshop to discuss future for kelp monitoring in NW Straits. Goal is to determine if we are seeing changes/disease and collaborate with researchers on stressors, etc. Discussed temperature, nutrients, citizen science, photography/satellite imagery, collaboration with PT Marine Science Center, etc. For Jefferson MRC - North Beach is being monitored by DNR. Thinking about reconnaissance in July to identify other sites. Lucas organizing a kelp conference call. More kayakers needed.</p>		
Recent Meetings Report	<p>NWSC April (Cheryl/Jeff) - Cheryl will email minutes. Each MRC presented on new projects. Highlights - Island Country eelgrass monitoring methods now testing use of sonar. Jeff added Snohomish MRC outreach with student photography which may link with our King Tides efforts. San Juan MRC presentation was on oil spill trainings with emergency prep.</p> <p>Jefferson County Planning Department (Sarah) - Cheryl, Bob, Sarah met April 15 with Planning Department. 90% of their permitting is for residential permits. Armoring is typically for repairs vs. new. They got a grant to do no net loss workshops for realtors and contractors, which were successful. They need more staff for enforcement. Discussed Square One and desire to refresh it. MRC offered to provide resources for the displays. In the next year, they'll be laying out schedule for SMP Update. CAO update is underway but they did not talk about it.</p>		
Public Comment	Any word on EPA funding? Nothing new. Contingent of Puget Sound folks in DC this week. Neil reported a 1% cut for the rest of this fiscal year.		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	<p>Steve suggested adding time for Derelict boats/gear report for next agenda.</p> <p>Port meeting next Wednesday 1:00 -Artificial reef discussion by Scuba Alliance on how they can co-permit an artificial reef next to the Point Hudson jetty.</p>		Future agenda item: Derelict boats/gear
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM		