

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee  
 Port Commissioners Bldg.  
 333 Benedict Street  
 Port Townsend, WA  
 April 4, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Emily Bishop, District 1  
 Wade Crouch, District 3, Co-Chair  
 Shannon Davis, District 1 Alt.  
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Alt.  
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.  
 Sarah Fiskens, District 3  
 Al Bergstein, Environment  
 Anna Bachmann, Environment Alt.  
 Steve Tucker, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend  
 Nam Siu, Marine Science  
 Judy D'Amore, Marine Science Alt.  
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation Alt.  
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend  
 Neil Harrington, Tribal

**Absent:**

Andrew Palmer, District 2  
 Jackie Gardner, District 3 Alt.  
 Ashley Mackenzie, District 1, Co-Chair  
 Sam Gibboney, Port of Port Townsend Alt.  
 Gordon King, Commercial Interest  
 Kate Dean, *ex officio*, BOCC  
 Dale Moses, Recreation, NWS Representative  
 Chris Eardley, Tribal Alt

**Guests:**

Lucas Hart, Betsy Carlson, Duane Stapel, Lee Merrill, Nan Evans, Wendy Feltham, Roy Clark, Ali Redman, John Redman, John Conley, Luzi Pfenninger, Amy Johnson, Katherine Jensen, Karen Childers, Rich Childers, Tony Buener, Matthew Stephens, Ruth Blyther, Mara Dotson

**Staff:**

Cheryl Lowe, Coordinator  
 Robert Simmons, WSU faculty

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Co-Chair Wade Crouch called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. There was a round of introductions as guests were present.	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. Kelp was added under project status.  Wade asked for amendments to/approval of the Minutes.	Neil Harrington moved to approve the agenda as amended. Shannon Davis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  Al Bergstein moved to approve the March minutes as is, seconded by Jeff Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None		
GUEST SPEAKER	<b>Bob Sizemore, WDFW, Status of Pinto Abalone in WA State</b> - Bob has worked for WDFW for 23 years; he's been a diver for 40 years. Recently, he was promoted to PS Shellfish Manager. His presentation focused on Pinto Abalone - Historic overview; population status and trends; supplementation and recovery.  Bob gave a brief overview of range, habitat, and feeding habits. The pinto abalone has cultural value to native populations and is valued for harvest. The species is vulnerable to exploitation.  Rise of Pinto Abalone Fishery – In 1979 WDFW started to survey. Species was abundant in 70's and early 80's. Estimated 35,000 harvested yearly. Early 90's sushi sea charters added another pressure. 1990's BC began to regulate commercial fishery and eventually closed recreational fishery. In 1996 Alaska closed its commercial fishery. Recently, the species was considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act.		

	<p>Bob described methods, timing, and frequency of stock monitoring. He shared a chart of changes in abundance; from .15 density per square meter in 1982 to nearing zero today (despite the close of the recreational fishery in 1994). Reproductive density - they are broadcast spawners. If less than .15 abalone per meter, research shows risk of collapse. We've been way below that for the last 20 years, with a gap in monitoring surveys due to budget cuts). Canada has seen similar decline.</p> <p>Bob shared results of size structure surveys (1979 to 2013). Based on these results, the animals counted year to year are the same animals as they mature. Few recruits indicate an unhealthy population.</p> <p>WDFW also looked at abalone abundance in surveys of Red Sea Urchin Index Stations - these show similar trends. (Q&amp;A: There is no clear evidence that the two species compete).</p> <p>Survey Conclusions: trend of declining abundance. Five of ten stations have no sightings of abalone. Not seeing juveniles for last 20 years. Population aging to extinction. Working hypotheses of decline is due to over-harvest.</p> <p>Recovery methods:  1) Translocation- not very successful  2) Supplementation: Remote propagation facilities to supplement native stocks - that's the focus now. Following national guidelines for repopulating native stocks.</p> <p>2002 captive breed stock program began with NOAA support. 2014 recovery plan. Other partners include SeaDoc, PSRF, WWU, UW etc. Breed stock is reared at the Mukilteo research station (they may relocate to NOAA's Manchester facility). Bob described the transplanting methods - Juvenile outplants are tagged and separated by family. Loaded in tubes with predator screens for transplanting. Two new outplant sites this year for a total of eleven active sites in the San Juans. This year 5,000 animals transplanted. Mortality rate about 80% in first year. Better after first year. They are seeing outplant sites reaching density of .40. They are being mindful to keep genetic diversity. They also do larval outplants which have a similarly high mortality rate.</p> <p>Challenges: hatchery limitations (not raising enough); genetics; optimizing outplant efforts; protecting from illegal harvest; allocating survey effort.</p> <p>Q&amp;A: Bob responded to questions regarding education and outreach efforts; spawning density; spatial locations of outplant sites and index sites. PTMSC has been involved with feeding trials, increasing capacity of hatchery, and use of volunteers.</p> <p>What can MRCs do to help? Outreach to dive community and community at large so they do not harvest abalone. WDFW has materials. Base line surveys are needed. Bob also noted a lack of information about the abalone's preferred habitat. It was suggested that divers could be asked to help inventory abalone populations.</p> <p>Betsy Carlson noted the PTMSC is seeking ALEA funding to raise abalone.</p>		
ADMINISTRATIVE	<p><b>MRC 2018 Project Planning -</b>  Members conducted a dot vote to determine, if our funding is cut, which projects are our highest priority? Cheryl summarized the six options: Outreach, No Anchor zones, Olympia Oyster, Rain gardens, forage fish, kelp. We plan to submit the complete list, but if funding is cut, this helps figure out what to cut.</p> <p><b>Program Assistant Update</b> (Cheryl)- The group welcomed Tim Weissman, new Program Assistant. Tim is from Ohio. He did an internship with PTMSC over the summer and is currently working part-time with Jefferson DOH.</p> <p>Cheryl noted we are still awaiting County approval of the contract with NWSF for Tim. She recapped his 3 primary tasks - expanding digging for dinner, working with students on the rain gardens and crabber outreach.</p>		
Current and Upcoming Projects	<p><b>BoCC report</b> – none, as Kate was unable to attend.</p> <p><b>Project Status Reports:</b>  1) Olympia Oyster – (Cheryl) Friday 4/21 training open to all. Be sure to sign up. Neil recapped recent field visit to lagoon</p>		

	<p>restoration site in Discovery Bay. Good news, a tremendous amount of Olympia Oyster setting there. He suggests more cultch in that area.</p> <p>2) Outreach - (Cheryl) - In addition to Oly Oyster training, forage fish training workshop next Monday 4/10.</p> <p>3). Raingardens (Bob) Awaiting City permit to erect signs. Today, he met with City staff at Chetzemoka site to look at location for rain garden there. OPEPO students to help with planting. Bob estimated about 80% survival of plantings in the two recently installed rain gardens.</p> <p>4) Kelp - Judy D'Amore and Jeff to attend a workshop on protocols. Jeff seeks clarification on how the data will be used and who will collect it. Emily clarified, originally the NWSC was going to gather the data and begin monitoring some local beds. Anecdotal information indicates that kelp beds are declining – thus an interest to collect data and monitor. Nam sees value as a citizen science effort - data will be useful in time. Establishing the protocols is also valuable.</p>		
Recent Meetings Report	<p><b>NWSC March Web-Ex (Dale)</b> - See Dale's summary emailed previously.</p> <p><b>Strait ERN March 17 (Cheryl)</b> - Cheryl attended March 17 meeting. No new info on WSP armoring at Fort Worden. Cindy Jayne presented "dashboard tracking" of voluntary efforts to implement measures recommended in the NOPRC&amp;D Climate Adaptation Plan. Re: future of PSP funding, there was much speculation. Neil added that the President's skinny budget essentially zeros out PSP and Sea Grant. Sarah noted that the second half of 2017 budget also needs Congressional approval.</p> <p>Cheryl has arranged a meeting with Patty Charnas, Jefferson County DCD Director, for April 14. Shannon and Sarah will join her.</p>		
Public Comment	Betsy PTMSC announced 4/8 Marine Debris Training 10 AM.		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	<p>4/12 7pm Hirst Decision on water rights at Chimacum Grange.</p> <p>Derelict vessel in Willapa Bay still leaking fuel. See news on ECY oil spill website.</p> <p>4/11 QUU Next Thursday 4-5:30 Anna Bachmann to present Rivers of Eden: Protecting Water in Iraq.</p> <p>4/24 Squamish "With a Water View: Shore-friendly beach and bluff properties" 7.5-hour course for real estate brokers.</p> <p>Point Hudson Breakwater jetty - Nam reiterated interest in relocating species on the jetty. He recently spoke with Scuba Alliance group who are experienced with permitting and relocation. They dove the site; next step is for the Scuba Alliance to present to Port Commissioners at their meeting May 10 at 9:30 am. Many ideas were shared for future partnerships and presentations.</p>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.		