

# Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Jan 1, 2017 – Dec 31, 2017



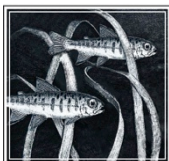
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[www.jeffersonmrc.org](http://www.jeffersonmrc.org)

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Jefferson County  
**Marine  
Resources  
Committee**



# Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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The Jefferson MRC emphasizes on-the-ground projects and education/outreach on emerging marine resources issues. In 2017, the Jefferson MRC's activities included:

- Monitoring kelp, forage fish and shoreline restoration projects
- Voluntary no-anchor zones protecting 110 acres of eelgrass & shellfish
- Rain garden installations to treat stormwater
- Olympia oyster enhancement and monitoring

### 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 for 2017 was **\$100,570**. Our community also donated volunteer time, services and materials to MRC projects, valued at an additional \$60,000.



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 2017, the MRC recorded 1,626 volunteer hours, which reflects strong community interest and support for the work of the MRC.

# Membership

## Jefferson MRC Members (December 31, 2017)

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)
Kate Dean, <i>ex officio</i>	Jefferson County Commissioner



# Operations

**Goal:** MRC serves as an accessible, informed, and 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:

- 1,626 Volunteer hours (@\$28.99/hr.) **\$47,134**

## 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 all 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). Jefferson MRC made progress on their three Near Term Actions (NTAs) in the 2016 Action Agenda. Jefferson MRC is now collaborating with partners on several 2018 NTA proposals.

**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:** The MRC website [www.jeffersonmrc.org](http://www.jeffersonmrc.org) 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. Twelve members attended the 2017 annual MRC conference. Five members attended an Olympia oyster workshop. One member participated in a Marine Debris Workshop sponsored by NOAA and WA Sea Grant in early December 2017.



# Fort Townsend Nearshore Restoration

**Goals:** Restoration was completed in 2016 in partnership with Northwest Straits Foundation and WA State Parks. Post construction monitoring in 2017 (and continuing in 2018) will help help measure changes following 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:**

- WA State Parks (interpretive & local staff support)
- WDFW habitat staff (monitoring)
- 122 volunteer hours for monitoring and stewardship

## Accomplishments

In 2017, the NWSC supported the MRC's citizen science post-construction monitoring of forage fish spawning, visitor surveys and beach character changes, in partnership with WDFW and Point No Point Treaty Council. Visitor surveys looked at what people learned by reading the interpretive signs and whether beach access had improved. Visitor surveys showed more park visitors reporting easier beach access and learned something after reading the new interpretive signs.

In 2017:

- 26 volunteers assisted with monitoring and plantings
- Over 200 forage fish eggs were found in beach samples collected by citizen scientists, indicating increased use of this site by spawning surf smelt in 2017.

### What's Next?

2018 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:**

- \$26,570 (NWSF) – Shoreline Landowner site visits, outreach and Opportunity Fund support for seasonal Program Assistant.
- WDFW shellfish biologists support (Digging for Dinner)
- News coverage of MRC events and programs

## Accomplishments

The MRC's 2017 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 (86 participants).

**Shoreline Landowner Outreach:**

MRC supported the NWSF's SHARP (shoreline armor reduction project), which included 12 landowner site visits in Jefferson County in 2017, and assistance with two designs for armor removal.



**Ocean Acidification: Action at a Local Level:** In August, the MRC joined the PT Marine Science Center in assisting the PTSD's Maritime Discovery Program with a 2-day teacher-training to help teachers from first grade to high school incorporate ocean acidification concepts into their 2017-18 curriculum planning.

### **Other Presentations & Programs**

- Board of County Commissioners
- WSU Beach Naturalists (25 students)
- 2017 Wooden Boat Festival MRC booth with new Passport to Adventure with kids activities at 9 different booths.
- Educational efforts to prevent lost crab pots in local waters with information placed at crabbing supply venues and an on-the-dock volunteer outreach effort at the beginning of crabbing season.

### **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:**

- \$500 - Port of Port Townsend
- \$1300 – Taylor Shellfish licensed diver

## 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 2017. 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 & staging assistance)
- WA Fish and Wildlife (staff advisory)
- Puget Sound Restoration Fund (advisory)

## Accomplishments

In Discovery Bay, annual monitoring of a habitat enhancement project continues, with strong indicators of success.

In Quilcene Bay the MRC continued collaborating with WDFW and tribal co-managers (Skokomish and Jamestown S’Klallam) in 2017 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 for \$10,959 total value:**

- City of Port Townsend (donated site work, etc.) **\$3,198**
- WSU Extension (rain gardens & volunteer support) **\$1,228**
- Over 225 volunteer hrs **\$6,532**

## Accomplishments

Two new rain gardens—one in Port Townsend and one in Port Hadlock—now intercept and reduce the amount of storm water entering Port Townsend Bay and increase local awareness of the benefits of rain gardens to improve water quality in Puget Sound.

The MRC and its 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.

Community members, including an OPEPO class, contributed more than 225 hours of site preparation, trainings, planting and mulching. City of Port Townsend donated site work and bio-retention soils for the Chetzemoka Park site.

### What's Next?

The MRC plans to continue working on rain garden installations at priority sites, partnering with WSU Extension, City and County on one or two rain garden installations each year, depending on available 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 section above.

**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. Sand lance eggs have been found in the 2017 sampling effort.

**What's next?**

Continue supporting these citizen science efforts.