

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
April 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Brenda Johnson, Chair, District 2
 Troy McKelvey, Vice Chair, Recreation
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep.
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Gordon King, Commercial Interest
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC District 2
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt.
 Brent Vadopalas, Marine Sci Alt
 Sarah Fisken, District 3, NWSC Alt.
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt.
 Solenne Walker, District 1
 Janette Mestre, District 1
 Joanie Hendricks, District 3 Alt

Absent:

Heather Burns, District 3
 Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
 Nam Siu, Marine Science
 Carol Hasse, Port of Port Townsend
 Liz Hoenig-Kanieski, District 1 Alt.

Guests: Lisa Hillier, Kate Olson, Pam Petranek,
 Barbara Moore-Lewis

Staff: Monica Montgomery, MRC Coordinator

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Brenda Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Welcomed guests, speakers, and MRC members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Monica
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Brenda noted that Pam Petranek is attending this meeting instead of Carol Hasse and will be giving the Port update. Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the agenda. Motion to approve by Neil, which was seconded by Gordon. Agenda was approved. Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the March 2022 Minutes. Betsy moved to approve, which was seconded by Troy. Minutes passed as written.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Gordon seconded. Motion passed. Betsy moved to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Troy. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
GUEST SPEAKERS Lisa Hillier and Kate Olson: WDFW Forage fish index sites	WDFW FORAGE FISH INDEX SITES What are forage fish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ecological group (not genetic), also called bait fish ○ small, highly fecund, schooling fish in the middle of the food web ○ vital link between primary producers and higher trophic level consumers ○ indicator species of ecosystem health ○ commercial, recreational, cultural importance ○ high natural variability in abundance, in response to ocean conditions ○ linked to bird declines in WA state – birds that dive and forage for fish in the Salish Sea are 11 times more likely to experience population declines than other birds in the area, e.g., Western grebe Challenges for forage fish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ climate change ○ overfishing, bycatch (schooling species are easier to overfish) ○ poor water quality (contaminants) ○ degraded habitat Common marine forage fish of WA State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pelagic spawners (anchovy, sardine, mackerel) ○ anadromous spawners (eulachon, long fin smelt) ○ nearshore spawners (surf smelt, sand lance, herring) 		

	<p>Forage fish study methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fishery dependent – catch per unit effort (CPUE) ○ abundance estimates based on fishing effort ○ fishery independent methods <p><u>Pelagic species</u></p> <p>Acoustic trawl surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ anchovy and sardine spawn multiple times in their life, eggs drift and hatch 2-4 days after spawning ○ outer coast species; Pacific sardine ○ anchovy occurs on outer coast and in Puget Sound ○ temperature driven population fluctuations ○ transects of acoustic surveys conducted from nearshore to pelagic waters from BC to Mexico ○ areas of high fish density are detected by acoustic surveys ○ net collects fish in schools, fish are collected and measured/sexed ○ continuous underway fish egg sampler – continuously samples water, gives real time ichthyoplankton data <p>Puget Sound Ichthyoplankton surveys for anchovy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sites within Puget Sound ○ ichthyoplankton samples collected using a vertical net, collected, and analyzed by WDFW/WCC ○ correlations between higher anchovy abundance (from beach seine data) and Nisqually higher steelhead smolt survival (NOAA) <p><u>Nearshore Species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ herring are lowest subtidal spawners, spawning on subtidal vegetation ○ sand lance prefer lower intertidal sandy substrate ○ surf smelt prefer upper intertidal sand-gravel substrate <p>Herring Spawning stocks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 21 stocks which spawn at discrete times/locations, January-April but some stocks spawn into June ○ three genetic groups in Puget Sound (Cherry Point, Squaxin Pass, Other Stocks) ○ WDFW herring egg surveys use a rake to collect vegetation that herring spawn on ○ egg densities on vegetation and area covered by spawn are used to estimate biomass ○ Cherry Point Stock, once most abundant, since the 1970s has declined by >95% ○ Hood Canal has driven most of the Other Stocks abundance since the early 2000s ○ commercial fishery targets sub-adult herring for bait market <p>Surf Smelt & Sand Lance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ risks to nearshore forage fish habitat from development (habitat loss, loss of riparian cover, changes to sediment supply) ○ beach surveys conducted to monitor spawning (Washington Conservation Corps process the samples collected by WDFW and MRCs) ○ samples are collected, the sample is reduced, “blue bowl” method used to extract eggs from samples instead of winnowing ○ 2 eggs or more in a sample are considered a spawning event ○ recreational smelt fishery: effort is unknown; new license requirement as of 2019 ○ creel survey developed in 2020 (did not happen due to pandemic) <p>Jefferson MRC Data Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Siri’s Cove and Adelpa Beach are current sampling locations ○ October, November, December are the spawning months for these locations ○ data is used in the WDFW Forage Fish Habitat Map used by Habitat Program HPAs (hydraulic permit application) ○ data used to lessen impact to spawning forage fish and eggs <p>Questions & Discussion</p> <p>Brent: Squaxin herring stock is small but looks stable. What actions are being taken to protect this distinct stock from the fishery?</p> <p>Lisa: Squaxin population is distinct based on timing. Commercial fishery is small portion of total abundance and is limited.</p>		
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	<p>Kate: Squaxin – spawning occurs mid-February through May. Don't know where adult fish are when they are not spawning, trying to target this with acoustic surveys. Furthest south that fishing occurs is Tacoma Narrows so likely not impacting Squaxin stock.</p> <p>Jeff: Is there productivity information for any of the beaches surveyed by JeffMRC? We have not seen mature eggs in the samples we used to analyze.</p> <p>Lisa: Eggs are staged, which gives an idea of how many spawning events have occurred. Data on egg staging is not shared by DFW in database.</p> <p>Jeff: Are the missing months from Jefferson MRC sites not received or not processed?</p> <p>Lisa: The samples have not been received.</p> <p>Betsy: Long tailed ducks, western grebe declines – caused by the decline in fish?</p> <p>Lisa: Speculation that it is connected to food supply but could have to do with warmer temperatures or movement. Many of these birds rely on forage fish for their food source and they may be going somewhere else to find food. Bird numbers have declined and so have fish (correlation, not causation).</p> <p>Bryan: Herring spawn – are there certain species of vegetation that herring prefer to spawn on?</p> <p>Kate: Sargassum is a preferred vegetation for spawn, allows for dense and aerated spawn. This year has been a large spawning event; four new areas with detected spawn, spawn all around Bainbridge Island.</p> <p>Joan: How long does it take for nearshore species' eggs to hatch after spawn? Early spawn this year for some herring?</p> <p>Lisa: Hatching is temperature dependent and affected by other environmental conditions; in general, a couple of weeks.</p> <p>Kate: Spawn has been a little later than normal. Port Orchard/Port Madison stock was a week later this year than last year.</p> <p>Solenne: DFW considerations for setting restrictions on fisheries to let populations rebound?</p> <p>Lisa: Harvest targets are extremely low for herring and smelt. Fisheries don't take full allotment each year (small bait fishery). No concerns for Puget Sound populations.</p> <p>Heidi: Spawn rates in other regions on the west coast?</p> <p>Kate: Forage fish are boom and bust species; large fluctuations in populations. Overall decline in Puget Sound. Hard to compare surveys to other states using different methods. Have not heard reports from other areas.</p> <p>Monica: Approval of proposed sites for additional index stations for the MRC to monitor?</p> <p>Lisa: There was recent concern from WDFW that WCC would not be funded. WCC has been funded by the legislature; more permanent funding will allow us to look for other index stations. Need to assess whether this will improve information that we are gaining from the project.</p>		
BoCC REPORT	<p>Commissioner Eisenhour – Update from BoCC Pleasant Harbor Master Planned Resort</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Back fees were owed to the county by the developer o Negotiated settlement with the developer o Paid half of the back fees, in the process of paying settlement <p>Shoreline Master Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Waiting to hear from DOE <p>Septage – septic solid waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Reaching capacity with county disposal, city of Port Townsend sewer system o Looking into a septage capacity study with city o Sewer outfall concerns <p>Save our Wild Salmon event this Friday at Finnriver Cidery, 5 pm</p>		
Port of PT UPDATES	<p>Commissioner Petranek – Update from Port of PT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Simms gateway project – Port and PUD working to make sure PUD can take care of powerlines and the Port can expand 10 ft into their property 	<p>Sims Gateway and Boatyard Expansion Project City of Port Townsend Washington (cityofpt.us)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Better park and ride to downtown corridor to improve walkability o Public engagement process is outlined on city website <p>Gardiner boat ramp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Funding to replace o Community meeting will be held to engage Gardiner community <p>Quilcene community planning process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Next meeting May 3rd o No desire from community to increase tourism; community is small, and tourism would have a large impact o Desire to fix what is there, make it work well for existing community <p>Point Hudson Jetty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Close to having all permits o Going out to bid for a contractor next month o Plan to start first phase this fall <p>Pump out program funding for portable pump out boat service</p> <p>Port has started in person meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PT Yacht Club o Point Hudson pavilion building starting in May (old pygmy kayak building) <p>Questions</p> <p>Solenne: What area will pump out boat service? Pam: All of Port Townsend Bay. Will take existing boat used to do no anchor zone buoys, add a portable pump out, navigate to any boats.</p> <p>Betsy: Visitor to Marine Science Center mentioned a "historic" wooden boat used to capture orcas in the 1970s at the port, slated to be demolished? Pam: Have not heard about this, will look into it.</p>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p>NWSC Update (Jeff) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Funding has been authorized by legislature – a good year to come forward with an MRC project o Talk of hybrid meetings – how to handle in person? OWL system for meetings o Forage fish training will be in Port Townsend this summer, July or August <p>Monica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o NOAA will be the federal agency overseeing funding o Uncertain but anticipating funds to be distributed as early as August, will be available for one year o Next meeting should be used to confirm projects on the MRC's list o MRC members can think about multi-year projects (new projects or expanding existing projects) 	<p>MRC members should think about projects they would like to pursue with the recently authorized funding.</p>	
<p>Administrative</p>	<p>Plankton Public Art Letter of Support (Brenda) – Plankton sculpture loan to City of PT, artist Rebecca Welti Proposal will go to the Arts Commission tomorrow MRC could publicly support this proposal. Pacific Crab Research Group will support the proposal, will send a letter of support to Arts Commission with or without MRC support. Signing the letter will constitute acknowledgement of the proposal and support for it, no commitment from the MRC.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Betsy: Hopes there will be information about the importance of plankton and an explanation of what the sculpture represents.</p> <p>Pam: It would be very valuable to have meaningful artwork in Port Townsend, especially maritime/marine related.</p> <p>Neil: Fully in support of the proposal. Would be happy to see plankton art and interpretation.</p> <p>Heidi: Lots of great artists in the community. It would be great to see maritime themed art in the community.</p> <p>MRC members agree to sending the letter of support.</p> <p>Neil moved the MRC to approve Brenda signing the letter of support in favor of the plankton sculpture by Rebecca Welti. Seconded by Troy.</p>	<p>Neil moved to approve signing the letter of support. Troy seconded. Motion passed.</p>	

CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS	<p>Forage Fish Monitoring – Jeff – Need to investigate why samples have not been delivered to WDFW. Sarah – Sampled a few weeks ago on Dabob Bay. Would like to add an index site south of current sampling location. Monica – Port Townsend sampled on March 9th, end of season. 7 years of monitoring this location.</p> <p>No-Anchor Zones (Troy) – Nothing done in March, but hopefully more diving will be done in this next month.</p> <p>Kelp Monitoring (Solenne) - Meetings have just begun since survey season is in the summer. Another meeting on the 20th 6 – 7:30 pm, to focus on Jefferson County kelp survey and data collection and review North Beach data. NWSC kelp meeting on April 14th, 3 – 5 pm. Will cover surveys and safety to prepare for upcoming survey season. Survey dates for the summer have been established. Reach out to Solenne if you want to join the meeting or want the survey schedule.</p> <p>DNR recently established the first kelp and eelgrass protection zone, near the mouth of the Snohomish River. Protection from lease or development for at least 50 years.</p> <p>Looking into proposal to establish a kelp and eelgrass protection zone from North Beach to McCurdy Point. Protection Island Aquatic Reserve provides partial protection for this area.</p> <p>Olympia Oysters – (Neil) Monica has completed permitting, to expand current site to include the big section south of the powerlines in Discovery Bay. Just waiting on final approval from DNR. Olympia oyster subcommittee meeting – schedule with Monica. Population surveys will be done before shell is added.</p> <p>Swinomish tribal community – study looking at epibenthic invertebrates, invertebrate sampling on Olympia oyster bed and adjacent mudflat. Discovery Bay lagoon site was sampled (Sequim Bay was not possible for logistical reasons). Looking at what forage is available for young salmon out-migrating on these oyster beds compared to mudflats?</p> <p>Kilisut Harbor – Want to survey Marrowstone Island side of Kilisut Harbor. Figuring out access issues for beach surveys.</p> <p>Solenne: Reach out if you need to know property ownership for different areas or parcels.</p> <p>Mapping lost crab pots (Jeff) – Signed contract ready to go for sonar surveys. Volunteer anglers lined up to test out methods using fish finders. Most activity will be scheduled for May and early June.</p> <p>Rain Gardens (Janette) – Great work party in March, half dozen people showed up to help. Good progress on maintenance needs on a few gardens in uptown PT. Next work party will be April 29th. Looking for community volunteers to conduct regular maintenance of rain gardens.</p> <p>Education and Outreach – (Brenda) Tabling at Forever StreamFest, Shrimpfest, Wooden Boat Festival, and waiting on vendor application approval from Crabfest. Inventorying interpretive signs. Meeting tomorrow to go through equipment, interpretive materials to determine what is usable and what needs to be replaced. Better update next month.</p> <p>Shoreline Landowner Outreach – (Sarah) NWSF planning to hold a workshop in Jefferson County in May. Considering adding Clallam County.</p>	<p>NWSC kelp meeting April 14th, 3-5 pm.</p> <p>Next kelp meeting via zoom, April 20th, 6-7:30 pm.</p> <p>First kelp kayak survey will be on June 24th, 8-12.</p> <p>Contact Solenne or Monica for details.</p> <p>Commissioner Franz Establishes State's First "Protection Zone" for Kelp and Eelgrass I WA - DNR</p> <p>Next rain garden work party on April 29th, 10-3. Port Townsend Rain Garden Workparty Tickets, Fri, Apr 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM Eventbrite</p>	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
MRC Roundtable/ Announcements	<p>Betsy: New Executive Director starting soon at PTMSC. Solenne: Navy proposal to train in state parks has been denied. Pam: Monthly working waterfront interview, this month interviewing third generation Quilcene resident who is a commercial troller. Advocating for Snake River dam removal. Interview will air on Friday at noon on KPTZ. KPTZ Working Waterfront podcast on the website.</p>	<p>Link to KPTZ Working Waterfront Podcast Archive: https://kptz.org/podcasts/working-waterfront/</p>	
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:01PM. Next meeting will be May 3 rd .	Janette moved to adjourn, seconded by Sarah. Motion passed.	