

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
August 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Brenda Johnson, Chair, District 2
Troy McKelvey, Vice Chair, Recreation
Neil Harrington, Tribal
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep.
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Brent Vadopalas, Marine Sci Alt
Sarah Fiskén, District 3, NWSC Alt.
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt.
Janette Mestre, District 1
Joanie Hendricks, District 3 Alt
Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC District 2
Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
Nam Siu, Marine Science
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt.

Absent:

Carol Hasse, Port of Port Townsend
Heather Burns, District 3
Liz Hoenig-Kanieski, District 1 Alt.
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt.
Solenne Walker, District 1
Gordon King, Commercial Interest

Guests: Steve King, Keith Hansen, Jon Waggoner, Jason Morgan, Ella Ashford, Tom Thiersch, Kris, Jessie Page

Staff: Monica Montgomery, MRC Coordinator
Bob Simmons, WSU

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 and MRC members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Monica
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the agenda. Motion to approve by Neil Harrington, which was seconded by Bryan DeCaterina. Agenda was approved.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Bryan seconded. Motion passed.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Brenda asked for approval/amendments to the June 2022 Minutes. Neil– Amendment to the June minutes: Olympia oyster restoration cultch will be spread on the lagoon site, not powerlines site. Betsy Carlson moved to approve with corrections, which was seconded by Joanie Hendricks. Minutes passed with corrections.	Betsy moved to approve the June minutes with corrections. Seconded by Joanie. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Tom Thiersch– Request as the chair of the local ferry advisory committee: Seeking a new applicant to fill a vacant position, 4-year term, appointed by county commissioners to serve. Looking for a commercial interest representative. Position is posted on the county website.		
GUEST SPEAKERS Jason Morgan, NWSF removal efforts in Port Townsend Bay. Ella Ashford, Sea Dragons ROV survey and removal efforts in Discovery Bay.	Guest Speakers: Derelict Crab Pot Removal Efforts Jason Morgan, NW Straits Foundation Jefferson & Clallam Derelict Crab Pot Project Funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program – project goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clear >5,200 acres of marine debris o Halt continued mortality of Dungeness crab in derelict pots o Document impacts of derelict pots o Establish an effective and measurable outreach campaign o Reduce number of pots lost annually In 2019-2021, removed all pots in Dungeness and Port Townsend Bays each year and surveyed the next year Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In-person and virtual workshops o Dockside education o Social media o Distributed educational materials o Press releases 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2,700+ individuals reached <p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 752 derelict crab pots removed o 17,920 lbs of marine debris removed o 5,644 acres cleared o Estimated 11,280 Dungeness crab saved annually o Port Townsend Bay – increase in lost pots 2020 to 2021 (62 to 81 pots) o Dungeness Bay – 43% decrease in lost pots 2020 to 2021 (37 to 21 pots) o Port Townsend Bay – 31% increase in lost pots 2020 to 2021 (62 to 81 pots) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o *11% increase in license sales in that period (22,068 licenses), perhaps due to the covid pandemic and increase in people recreating o More tourism in Port Townsend Bay compared to Dungeness o Outreach has been focused on local community, not tourists (boaters who may be passing through PT) <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In-person and virtual crabber workshops o Expand outreach to tourism community o Expand outreach to commercial crabbing fleets (31% of pot loss) o Boater education (51% of pot loss attributed to vessel strike) o Gear malfunction education (32% pot loss due to gear malfunction) o Consider continuing removal efforts on annual or bi-annual basis (as funding allows) <p>Ella Ashford, PT Sea Dragons Derelict crab pot recovery using an ROV (remotely operated vehicle) and community science</p> <p>Goals for work with the MRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Recover derelict crab pots greater than 100 ft depths using an ROV and launch community outreach and education efforts o Ocean stewardship and education – for students and broader community o Create a low cost ROV with the functionality of research or industrial ROVs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Custom ROV has a 2.5 hour battery life, low light camera, hydraulic manipulator o Summer 2021 project testing – crab pot successfully recovered at 25 m o Feasibility testing at Adelma Beach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Practiced retrieving derelict crab pots o Decreased visibility with late summer algal bloom <p>2022 work with MRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Used coordinates of potential derelict crab pots from MRC contracted side scan sonar surveys o Filtered derelict pots by depth (ROV has 200 ft diving capability) o Most pots near Cape George were >200 ft, out of range (total 92 pots at Cape George) o Located 6 pots: removed 3 pots, left 2 that had significant marine growth and/or safety hatch open and left 1 due to on-the-water conditions <p>Future Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Test ROV in locating crab pots without use of known coordinates from side scan sonar surveys o Engage other robotics teams to conduct similar work in their own communities o Upgrade ROV capabilities to dive to deepest pots at 400+ ft <p>Jeff– Recovered just a few pots because we ran into the start of the crabbing season. Question for Jason – did you leave pots that had marine growth in Port Townsend Bay? Were the pots we came across new since 2021?</p> <p>Jason– Yes, we removed pots in 2021 so the ones you came across were new. Not aware if any pots were left in the bay, but at times the divers will leave pots ensuring they are disabled. Did removals on days that crabbing was closed during the crabbing season.</p>		
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	<p>Heidi– Has never set pots in more than 80 ft. Do the pots migrate somehow to those deeper depths?</p> <p>Ella– Significant currents near Cape George prevented use of the ROV. Our hypothesis is that people crab in shallower depths, don't realize there is a shelf, or pots get pulled deeper by the currents.</p> <p>Jason– Gear loss happens in areas of high current, steep slopes. People also crab at those depths especially in the late season.</p> <p>Betsy– What do you do with the pots you retrieve?</p> <p>Ella– Pots that are not usable are trashed, those that are usable go to a search and rescue fundraiser.</p> <p>Jeff– One pot was claimed by the owner, the other two were trash.</p> <p>Janette– What makes a pot derelict? Lost its buoy, or some other definition of "derelict"?</p> <p>Jason– Derelict fishing gear is lost, abandoned, or otherwise discarded. No longer under someone's ownership. We are not allowed to pull gear that has a buoy on the surface (WDFW has the authority to do that and prevents a lot of gear from becoming derelict).</p> <p>Roy– If ropes and buoys are submerged underwater, you are allowed to remove them. Idea for card holder for fishing license – could have a QR code on the back linking to educational videos.</p>		
BoCC REPORT	<p>Commissioner Eisenhour– Update from BoCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community development staff have been meeting with Ecology regarding Shoreline Master Plan; Ecology will be sending comments soon, will restart legislative process, which includes public process (MRC and county commissioners) o Dept of Community Development hired a planning manager o Pleasant Harbor updates: staff have been meeting with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe as well as other tribal staff to discuss a water quality monitoring program; recognizes a backlog of money owed to the county by the developer – fee ordinance in development o Derelict vessel removal – hoping to hear back from Sea Grant and DNR about a vessel recycling program 		
City of PT UPDATES	<p>Steve King– City of Port Townsend Water Treatment Plant & Sewer Outfall Update</p> <p>North Beach/Chinese Gardens Lagoon Discharge Pipe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Outfall pipe extends ~900 feet offshore o Existing pipe is concrete and iron, leaking, built in 1950s/60s o Needs to be upsized for the future o Reclaimed water from wastewater plant distributed offshore to minimize pollution o Working on a nutrient removal program o General sewer plan update – alternative to proposed replacement pipe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Proposal to build a parallel pipe to continue to work during construction of new pipe o Concerns over trenching for new pipe (impacts to eelgrass and kelp bed) o In-situ pipeliner – new pipe inside of old, seal up the old pipe without having to replace; Difficult to operate, hasn't been done successfully reliably in underwater environment o Put a new pipe inside old – reduce flow o Option for consideration – emergency event overflow discharge into Chinese Gardens (treated water), during storm events the discharge will go to Chinese Gardens instead of outfall pipe <p>Nam– Appreciate alternatives to the previous cut and cover technique that we had concerns about. Likes the direction of the alternative plan for discharge to Chinese Gardens. Idea floated years ago to use Chinese Gardens as a 'remediation' pond. Chinese Gardens is a wetland, and there could be impacts to the wetland, but this sounds preferable to digging up eelgrass and kelp beds. Thoughts to incorporate plant</p>		

	<p>communities (bio-retention pond) in Chinese gardens? Question about the nutrient reduction program – are we heading towards tertiary treatment?</p> <p>Steve– We are embarking on monitoring to understand how the plant is working, and we have unique opportunities with aeration ditches to change the way they operate to remove nutrients. Consultants are evaluating the plant to analyze the nutrient reduction potential of changing operations. Heading toward reclaimed water makes sense in the long term for Port Townsend.</p> <p>Neil– On average, how often is there a combined rainfall/surge that would require discharge to Chinese Gardens?</p> <p>Steve– We are monitoring the water levels at the treatment plant against the tide to understand this better.</p> <p>Jeff– Question for Nam: trends in kelp at North Beach, declines around the sewer outfall?</p> <p>Nam– The pipe was exposed and leaking for a short period, quickly fixed under an emergency permit. Outfall effluent has been there for so long, I would hesitate to point to anything for short term changes in kelp. There's no reference site for comparison (natural change vs anthropogenic change).</p> <p>Bob– Discharge to Chinese Gardens Lagoon might be a great option, especially if it will be so infrequent. Have you investigated direction drilling as an option if this is not allowed by Ecology?</p> <p>Steve– Yes, there are a few large boulders at the site that pose a risk. Would prefer a less risky option.</p>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p>NWSC Update (Jeff) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, passed away last week. Very influential, widely recognized leader for collaboration with the tribes. Firm in his passions for marine environments. o Upcoming NW Straits Initiative Collaborative Conservation Workshop on September 16th at Padilla Bay. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Monica – Opportunity for MRCs to showcase a project, workshop held in lieu of the annual MRC conference. ROV project would be great to showcase. o Derelict vessel removal meeting today, attended by many MRC members. Starting to work out identification of vessels to be removed 	<p>NW Straits Initiative Collaborative Conservation Workshop RSVP by August 18th https://fs21.forms.site.com/nwstraits/05y4jj0qcx/index.html</p>	
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p>Administrative Updates (Monica) –</p> <p>Status of congressional funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o As of June meeting, NOAA staff person appointed to administer funds; shortly after meeting, submitted a budget which you can access in shared Google Drive o Anticipating funds to be will be available Jan – Dec 2023 <p>Revisit discussion of in-person meetings</p> <p>Nam– I would advocate for in-person meetings with the right precautions. While we have warmer long days, we could test out an outdoor hybrid meeting.</p> <p>Brenda– How much more difficult would a hybrid meeting be for support staff?</p> <p>Monica– Outdoor meeting would be challenging with technology involved for hybrid meeting. May not be possible for September meeting.</p> <p>Heidi– 4-6 weeks ago, BoCC decided that while Jefferson County is in high transmission range for Covid according to the Public Health Dept they will shift to virtual meetings.</p> <p>Monica– Would doing an outdoor meeting without a hybrid option be possible?</p> <p>Brenda– We need to have virtual options for those who don't feel comfortable attending.</p> <p>Monica– Can continue with virtual meetings and will practice using the OWL.</p>		

<p>NWSF APP Jessie Page</p>	<p>NWSF Passport to Marine Adventure (Jessie Page) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o App designed to get public outside to local beaches o Information about local beaches on the app o A way for people to learn about work of the MRCs o Users earn and redeem points and get discounts from local businesses <p>Three sites in Jefferson County currently on the app: PT rain gardens, NW Maritime center pier, Fort Townsend State Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To be added – Mystery Bay, Point Wilson, Shine Tidelands, Dosewallips State Park o Sites selected for spatial diversity and local activity of MRCs o Seeking environmental education content, photos of the sites, tips, recreational activities for the app o Looking for more businesses to connect with (outdoor gear, guiding, restaurants, cafes, bookstores) <p>Betsy – You could consider reaching out to the PT Marine Science Center for a potential reward site.</p>	<p>Send tips for Passport Sites in Jefferson County to page@nwstraitsfoundation.org</p> <p>Send reward site recommendations to friesen@nwstraitsfoundation.org</p>	
<p>CURRENT & UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p>Forage Fish Monitoring – Jeff – Sampled on July 31st Sarah – Sampled on July 22nd</p> <p>Forage fish training with WDFW in June. Good refresher for the group.</p> <p>No-Anchor Zones (Troy) – Last Sunday, Bryan, Gordon and Troy were out in the field. 4 shellfish buoys maintained in Port Hadlock. Lined buoys up on original permitting coordinates. New anchor for one, one buoy needed to be replaced. The others were dragging down with marine growth. Mystery Bay will be serviced next.</p> <p>Kelp Monitoring (Brenda) – Last week, MRC members and 3 other volunteers conducted survey. Since June, bed has grown quite a bit. Julia Ledbetter from DNR joined the group, compared DNR protocols with MRC protocols.</p> <p>Olympia Oysters (Neil) – Gordon and crew spread shell at the Lagoon Site in June. Conducted another survey at the North Powerlines Site (original site). Some numbers to share – northern site, estimated 79,000 oysters. Nice size distribution. High density to south of powerlines where oysters drifted – estimated 35,000 oysters in that section. Larger, 3-acre area of south parcel – not many oysters counted. Probably baseline of 11,000-12,000 oysters.</p> <p>In total, combining area north and south of powerlines, on 0.6 acres – 114,000 oysters that are different size classes, reproducing.</p> <p>Rain Gardens (Janette) – Another successful work party. Two gardens per day is the limit. Good idea to do a maintenance program this time of year. Identified a new garden for installation in September.</p> <p>Organizing another work party on August 17th, 10-12:30. Meeting and the Lincoln and Adams rain garden. Will be spreading mulch and weeding.</p> <p>Education and Outreach (Brenda) – Speaker series event co-hosted by PT Marine Science Center and MRC. Talk highlighting the value of studying Dungeness crab to inform harvest practices and regulations. Emily Buckner (PSRF) was key speaker, joined by Liz Tobin (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe) and Katelyn Bosely (WDFW). Followed by an in-person light trap demonstration that was well attended the next day.</p> <p>Represented MRC at Forever StreamFest in Port Angeles. Monica and Frank tabled. More Clallam County focused than Jefferson County, so may not sign up again.</p> <p>Wooden Boat Festival – Sept 8-11. Sign up to help table.</p>	<p>Next kelp survey at North Beach will be on August 26, 8am-12pm. Let Monica or Solenne know if you would like to join.</p> <p>Rain Garden Work Party Aug 17: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/august-port-townsend-rain-garden-workparty-tickets-395278467537</p> <p>Recording of the PTMSC-MRC speaker series presentation, PNW crab research group: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iz8eEPq74zE</p> <p>Wooden Boat Festival sign-up: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15TCj4MZxO16S-XDHWLiLUAuBNVtD3tk/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109670498436905692290&rtopof=true&sd=true&urp=gmail_link</p>	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>None.</p>		

<p>MRC Roundtable/ Announcements</p>	<p>Judy– Climate Action Committee (city and county) working on reducing emissions and coming up with adaptation strategies. Recently published a report on forest carbon sequestration modeling in East Jefferson County. Considering a similar study for help carbon sequestration modeling – would MRC members want to be involved?</p> <p>Bob– Upcoming Stream Stewards training will run 5 weeks; meets on Tuesdays starting Sept 20th. Hybrid model includes virtual presentations to view on your own time coupled with related in-person field trips on Tuesdays 9am-12:30pm.</p> <p>Monica– Community member shared concerns related to derelict vessels tied to unpermitted mooring buoys in Mystery Bay.</p> <p>Invitation from North Pacific Coast Committee to participate in their annual conference (hybrid) in September.</p>	<p>Climate Action Committee Forest Carbon Modeling Report: https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/13920/JeffCo_GHG_Inventory_Forests_Trees_2001_2016_Report_Approved_02_08_22_no_attachments</p> <p>Stream Stewards Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-fall-stream-stewards-class-registration-371395202047</p> <p>Coastal MRC Summit Information: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dirc0SYadA12BFkhlzPuljdD1sfPtahB/edit</p>	
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM. Next meeting will be September 6th.</p>	<p>Troy moved to adjourn, seconded by Neil. Motion passed.</p>	