

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee
Virtual Zoom Meeting
January 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Troy McKelvey, Chair
Gordon King, Vice Chair
Brenda Johnson, District 2
Neil Harrington, Tribal
Sarah Fiskens, District 3, NWSC Alt.
Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep.
Nam Siu, Marine Science
Joanie Hendricks, District 3 Alt
Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC District 2
Gordon King, Commercial Interest
Solenne Walker, District 1
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend
Carol Hasse, Port of Port Townsend
Brent Vadopalas, Marine Sci Alt
Janette Mestre, District 1
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv

Absent:

Heather Burns, District 3
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt.
Roy Clark, Recreation Alt.

Guests: Lori Fleming, Jon Waggoner, David Winters, Allie Simpson, Karin Ertl, Mike Kennedy

Staff: Monica Montgomery, MRC Coordinator
Bob Simmons, WSU Extension

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Troy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Troy welcomed guests and MRC members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Monica
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Troy asked for approval/amendments to the agenda. Neil asked for a Port update to be added to the agenda. Motion to approve the updated agenda by Neil, which was seconded by Sarah. Agenda was approved. Troy asked for approval/amendments to the November 2022 Minutes. Brenda moved to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Gordon. Minutes passed.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Sarah seconded. Motion passed. Brenda moved to approve the December minutes. Seconded by Gordon. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment.		
GUEST SPEAKER Megan Moore (NOAA)	Guest Speaker: Megan Moore (NOAA) - Impacts of the Hood Canal Bridge on migrating steelhead and potential solutions to address them <u>Steelhead smolt mortality and behavior at the Hood Canal Bridge</u> Steelhead threatened in Puget Sound, with a decline in marine survival since 1990s. Recovery of listed species is a mandate of NOAA Fisheries. Acoustic telemetry has been used to track the migration of juvenile steelhead through Puget Sound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Receivers placed through the migration path o Record of individual fish migration and survival Timeline of steelhead early marine research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2006-2010 used acoustic telemetry to measure steelhead survival o 2007 Puget Sound steelhead listed as threatened under ESA o 2013 published a paper about the impact of the Hood Canal Bridge (HCB) on steelhead survival o HCB extends 15 ft under water surface o Steelhead migrate close to surface and the bridge acts as a barrier 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Smolts spent more time at receiver arrays at the bridge, were detected on more receivers, and showed more mortality than all other arrays along their migration path o 2016 nonprofit Long Live the Kings secured funding from the SRFB and WA State to conduct inter-disciplinary research at the HCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o steelhead survival and behavior (NOAA) o water quality (PNL) o hydroacoustics (PGST) o predator surveys (WDFW) o light/noise effects (PGST/PNL) o 2017-2018 tagged 500 steelhead over 2 years from Skokomish River and Big Beef Creek o Installed extensive receiver arrays at the bridge and added an array at Twin Spits o Predator identification using tags with depth sensors o 2017 and 2018, ~50% of fish that made it to the HCB did not make it past o Steelhead spent 1-2 days at the HCB, a significant amount of time (total migration from river to Strait of Juan de Fuca was only 12-16 days) o Mortalities distributed around the bridge, Sisters Rock, Port Gamble Bay o Predators appeared to target high densities of fish in corners of the bridge structure o Harbor seals are likely the most significant predator o Predation occurred along the entire length of the bridge, usually during the day o Steelhead cross under or around the bridge usually on an ebb tide (rarely on a flood tide) <p><u>Structural Modifications Testing</u> In 2021, the Assessment Team began working with an engineering firm to design modifications to improve passage and survival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2023-2024, testing modifications on steelhead survival and predator behavior o We will be testing a fillet fish guidance structure on the bridge that will fill in the corner pontoon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Structure made of HDPE piping framework, geomembrane around to keep debris and animals out, will weigh 68,000 lbs o 60 ft x 60 ft x 85 ft triangle o Control/treatment block experimental design – structure will be attached to the bridge and removed on alternating weeks during steelhead migration <p><u>Adult Salmon Research</u> In 2022 we began an adult behavior tagging study on adult Chinook and Chum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Goal is to assess whether the bridge alters migration and survival of adult salmon returning to spawning grounds in Hood Canal o Captured, tagged, and released 7 adult Chinook and 113 chum salmon <p>This project presents a unique opportunity to bring together fisheries managers and conservationists from Tribes, the state, and federal entities</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><i>Gordon: Have you looked at the structure of the old bridge? Impact of the old vs new bridge, since replacement in 2009?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Megan: Replacement of the east half was similar design, heard that it is a little deeper than it used to be. Don't have specifications on how different it is. In 2009, east half of the bridge was being replaced, and there was much less steelhead mortality that year during the tagging study (half of the bridge was gone/open for fish passage).</i> <p><i>Carol: What month is it that the fillets are going to go in and out? When the steelhead come back to spawn, are the fillets going to go to the opposite side of the bridge?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Megan: April is when the Big Beef Creek smolts start migrating past the bridge. The study will start in April and go through the middle of May (6 weeks). Adult study results will determine future actions. We only have funding for one fillet in 2023, hoping to get funding for a second in 2024. Future studies using the fillets are possible, but we are waiting to analyze data regarding adult behavior and passage at the bridge.</i> 	<p>Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment: Phase I Report linked here: https://ltk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hood-Canal-Bridge-Phase-1-Report-final-with-appendices.pdf</p>	
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BoCC REPORT	<p>Commissioner Eisenhour – Update from BoCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Still waiting on instructions and guidance from Ecology on Shoreline Master Program o Annual reorganization of committees today, appointed to all the marine-related committees and staying on the MRC o Exploring idea of a Chimacum drainage district o Currently working on derelict vessel in Port Townsend Canal, under the bridge on private property 		
Port of PT	<p>Carol Hasse – Port Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o We have not had the first Port of PT meeting this year, it will be on January 11th o Tuesday evening on January 17th at 6pm at the Chimacum Grange – meeting where the public can provide input to Commission about the possible purchase of Short Farm o Barge at the PT jetty survived the recent storms o Construction is still on schedule; vessels should be able to move back on March 1st o On December 27th at –8 am when king tide crested, because of low atmospheric pressure it was 2 feet higher than predicted. Washed over Jefferson Street to heavy haul out pad, and filled the aluminum boat building with almost a foot of water. Director issued an emergency damage proclamation, closed Jefferson Street. Currently assessing damage and working with FEMA. 		
MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	<p>NWSC Update (Jeff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Senator Murray called Lucas Hart, was able to get funding for NWSC into the budget (\$3 million dollars) o NWSC Executive Committee approved a DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) goals and statement; now working on actions to implement o Opening on the NWSC Science Committee o NWSF has set up a Salish Sea Conservation Corps program and looking for volunteers to be mentors (25-hour commitment, 5 hours per month until June) – contact Don Hunger if interested <p><i>Nam: I'm interested to hear more about the DEI initiative. Do you have any more information?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Jeff: The meeting highlights are in the email that Monica sent. Allie, do you have any comments?</i> o <i>Allie: It's in the beginning stages. We're working with a consultant to put together a survey to understand where we are as an Initiative, what the level of understanding is, and what are our goals. External as well as internal focus.</i> o <i>Nam: How can our MRC participate?</i> 	<p>NWSC Meeting Minutes DEI Vision and Goals on p 9 nwsc_120922_pre-meeting_materials.pdf (nwstraits.org)</p> <p>DEI Vision: We envision a broad, diverse, and inclusive group of individuals engaged in the health of their local ecosystems to ensure a thriving, resilient, and healthy Salish Sea. Our hope is that pursuing an equitable approach to marine conservation will engage, empower, and benefit all who inhabit the Northwest Straits.</p> <p>Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership and engagement: Achieve NWSI membership and engagement that is representative of the diverse communities within 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Allie: We will keep you updated on the process; we are working with a consultant to come up with a survey that will give us information to start.</i> o <i>Jeff: You can join the next NWSC meeting or run any comments through me.</i> <p>2022 European Green Crab Overview (Neil) Large populations in Lummi, Makah Bay, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor. New sites in 2022 – Discovery Bay and Seabeck. Trapping efforts in Sequim Bay and other areas have kept things under control.</p> <p>South Discovery Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 76 total crabs caught in 716 trap sets in 2022 = 10.6 crab/100 trap CPUE o Green crab concentrated at two sites in the bay: Long's Lagoon and mouth of Salmon Creek o Might be possible to run a trap line at these two sites over the long term o Likely two new WDFW techs based in Port Townsend to assist with trapping efforts <p>Monitoring trapping – WA SeaGrant collects ancillary data as well as identifying and removing any green crabs; Eradication trapping – don't collect data about other species caught in the trap, focus is on green crab removal</p> <p><i>Bob: WSU and Sea Grant are working together to create a volunteer program to identify European Green Crab molts. April/May timeframe for workshops. Geared toward shoreline owners and beachgoers to monitor shoreline for molts. Reports of findings will be part of the MyCoast app.</i></p> <p><i>Gordon: Read an article about someone selling live green crabs at Pike Place Market. One had eggs.</i></p> <p><i>Betsy: Marine Science Center is in the process of making acrylic models of EGC. Models will be used for teaching people to identify them.</i></p>	<p>each county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects: Deliver projects that are meaningful to and benefit the diverse communities within each county. • Staff: Create equitable and inclusive career opportunities in marine conservation through NWSI staff, internships, and staff support (consultants, etc.) positions. • Communications: Have inclusive and relevant messaging for the diverse communities in the Northwest Straits region to ensure information and materials are accessible to all. <p>Live European green crabs confiscated from seafood market; species remains prohibited in Washington Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife</p>	
CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS	<p>Forage Fish Monitoring – Jeff – (Adelma Beach) Sampled last month. Sarah – (Dabob) I did not sample last month due to the tides. Janette – (Old Ft Townsend) Did not sample last month. Will reach out soon about monitoring in January.</p> <p>Derelict Vessel Removal Program (Sarah) – Chimacum Creek derelict vessel removal estimated at \$30,000; MRC allocated \$81,000 for removals</p> <p><i>Sarah: Would it be worthwhile to put the sailboat in the PT Canal on NWSC list?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Heidi: It should be on the list. I'm working with DNR.</i> o <i>Solenne: If DNR and the County can move more quickly on this, can it happen under the MRC funds?</i> o <i>Monica: We allocated \$81,000 of congressional funds to derelict vessel removal; if there are no legal hang ups and everything lines up, we should be able to direct some of these funds toward this removal. The working group will be meeting again sometime this month to finalize prioritized vessels, so we have a small window to add it.</i> o <i>Solenne: County is an authorized public entity for reimbursement through DNR. Keep that in mind, if MRC cannot be reimbursed for the cost if they are federal funds.</i> <p>Shoreline Landowner Outreach (Sarah) – Subcommittee met today. We'll be organizing an in-person workshop, likely in March. Topics could include climate change, impacts on shoreline homes, actions that homeowners can take that don't include bulkheads, and moving houses. There may be another workshop focused on drainage. Site visits will start back up at the end of February.</p> <p>Rain Gardens (Jeanette) – Subcommittee meeting several weeks ago to plan for this year. Creating a list of possible tasks for an intern, including community outreach, support development of an adopt a rain garden program, and posting signage.</p> <p>Crabber Outreach (Monica) – Recent meeting to discuss intern roles, including dock outreach, education packet distribution, and possibly working with WDFW to process data from gear sweeps and crabber quiz as well as the opportunity to help with green crab trapping</p>	<p>Shoreline property site visit request form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SiteVisit2019-2021</p>	

	<p>Storm Surge Monitoring (Jeff) – December 27 was a king tide event. Tide gauge at the ferry didn't record it, but estimate about 12 ft. Extensive flooding at the boat haven. Will be meeting with Ian Miller (WA Sea Grant) to talk about next steps. Judy recommended the walking ramp at Chetzemoka Park – will be added as another monitoring site.</p> <p>Kelp Monitoring (Solenne) – Upcoming meetings about kelp research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o DNR meetings: Jan 10th, 10am-12pm, Puget Sound floating kelp canopy vital sign indicator (3rd workshop) o Annual data review on Jan 19th, 3-5 pm on Zoom o Jan 25th, 10-12 Helen Berry leading kelp research and monitoring work group 		
FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS	<p>Nam: I would like to have more discussion about DEI topics in future meetings - how we can engage and how it relates to our MRC. I'd like to propose a subcommittee for DEI initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jeff: Do you think it should be a meeting among all MRCS? o Nam: I was thinking a group of our MRC members that works on this issue. <p>Nam made a formal motion to start a subcommittee on DEI. Seconded by Jeff. Motion passed.</p> <p>Solenne: Has WDFW adopted the type of DEI training platform that DNR has?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nam: WDFW is doing a good job with DEI. I think we could work to increase the diversity of our MRC, not only in terms of ethnic/racial background but overall having better representation of our community. o Jeff: The NWSC Initiative is not just looking at representation within the organization but also the projects that we are choosing to do – are we excluding certain areas, groups, communities? o Betsy: I think it's a good idea to start this while the NWSC is working on it, so that we are ready to support and add to their efforts. o Neil: I think we should put this on the agenda for next month. It could be important as we are trying to recruit new members. o Gordon: An outline of where we want to go with this would be good. o Monica: Members can email me if they're interested in joining and we'll add it to the agenda for the next meeting. 	Nam made a motion to create a subcommittee for DEI initiatives. Motion seconded by Jeff. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.		
MRC ROUNDTABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Betsy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Three upcoming lectures with the PT Marine Science Center speaker series, all are held at 3 pm on Sundays at the Chapel at Fort Worden. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jan 8th Mark Johnson, spaces in architecture/climate change and building o Jan 22nd Josh Bouma, PSRF, pinto abalone o Jan 29th Kevin Long, NOSC, upcoming river restoration o Relocation of marine organisms from the south jetty will be happening sometime this summer, by volunteer divers o PSRF is looking for a hatchery manager o MLK Day, invasive beach grass removal o Sylvia, the PTMSC octopus, will be released soon <p>David Winters: Surveying salmon with NOSC. Remarkable year on Chimacum Creek, 2,000-3,000 Summer Chum. Coho run on Chimacum Creek making it up to at least Eaglemount and Fox Creek.</p>		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM. Next meeting will be February 7 th .	Neil moved to adjourn, seconded by Gordon. Motion passed.	