

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
5:30 – 7:30 PM on September 1, 2026
Hybrid Meeting
Pavilion Bldg, Point Hudson (355 Hudson St.)
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Emily Buckner, Marine Science, Chair
 Jon Waggoner, Marine Science Alt
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Liz Cummings, District 1
 Frank Handler, District 2
 Rebecca Berger, District 2 Alt
 Gordon King, Commercial
 Sarah Fiskien, District 3, NWSC Alt
 Odhran Waggoner, Local Youth
 Bella Ferland, Youth Rep

Via Zoom

Brenda Johnson, District 2, NWSC Rep
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt

Absent:

Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
 Neil Harrington, Tribal, Vice-Chair
 Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
 Steve King, City of PT
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1
 Tonya Cole, Meeting Recorder

Public

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Staff

Katie Kowal – Water Resources Program Coordinator
 Jefferson County MRC/WSU Extension

Guest Speaker:***Shore Friendly Program***

Lisa Kaufman, Director of Programs, Salish Sea Alliance (formerly
 NW Straits Foundation)

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER, MISSION & INTERDUCTIONS	Emily called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and read the MRC Mission Statement and invited everyone to make a quick introduction for the new members.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda None Amendments to / Approval of Minutes - Brenda noted minor revisions to the NWSC July Meeting section of the August 2026 minutes. - Site Visits w/ State Reps section> 3rd bullet> Ellen Clark → should be Alan Clark	Jon moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sarah. Motion passed. Gordon moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Jon. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments No comments.		

	COASTAL SHOREFORMS AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY Lisa gave a brief rundown of Puget Sound shore form types (bluffs, beaches, deltas, estuaries, lagoons, barrier beaches, rocky shores) and the species dependency chain: orca → salmon, salmon → forage fish, forage fish → healthy shorelines. RESTORATION TARGETS • Sediment supply sources • Habitat connectivity • Forage fish spawning beaches • Pocket beaches/estuaries (juvenile salmon rearing) • Private properties (current focus), with opportunities for relocation COASTAL SQUEEZE Sea level rise combined with shoreline armor eliminates forage fish spawning habitat over time; natural shorelines can migrate with beach transition. CHANGING CONDITIONS: SEA LEVEL RISE, KING TIDES, AND CLIMATE CHANGE Photos showed flooding, bluff erosion, and storm damage already affecting local shorelines. SHORELINE ARMOR IMPACTS Armor causes habitat fragmentation and loss of connectivity, buries beaches and forage fish spawning habitat, reduces sediment supply and beach wrack/large woody debris, increases wave reflection and erosion, and tends to proliferate and expand over time. LANDOWNER CHALLENGES AND SHORE FRIENDLY INCENTIVES Shore Friendly addresses common barriers to shoreline restoration with matching support: • Limited knowledge of coastal processes and armor impacts → free site assessments and technical memoranda • Project complexity and concerns → free renderings and engineering design • Complex, multi-agency permitting (often 1–2 years) → free permitting assistance and submission • Project cost and implementation → grant application help (e.g., WDFW ESRP, PMEP) and cost-share options for smaller/landowner-led projects • For retreat projects: emotional attachment to place, slow-moving hazards, septic/utility relocation, and financial constraints SOLUTION: TARGETED OUTREACH Resources include the "Shore Friendly Living" stewardship guide and video series, topic guides (changing conditions, drainage, vegetation, erosion), and free workshops/beach walks for shoreline landowners. SITE EXAMPLES Examples included a Jefferson County map of building setbacks from the marine bluff crest, the Quilcene Yacht Club parking area on Linger Longer Road (Dabob Bay), and a before/after restoration example from Island County. RELOCATION TO RESTORATION A before/after example (Kolmodin Property) showed a structure relocation that returned a developed shoreline to a vegetated, natural beach. PROGRAM RESULTS Salish Sea Alliance (SSA) has restored over 1 mile of shoreline between 2012 and 2022 across multiple Puget Sound sites, including Cornet Bay, Hoypus Point, Bowman Bay, Fort Townsend, NW March's Point, West Beach Creek, Maylor Point, Clark's Point, Sunlight Shores, Seahorse Siesta, and Similk Bay. CONTACT Lisa Kaufman, Director of Programs, Salish Sea Alliance — kaufman@nwstraitsfoundation.org, 360-393-6948, www.salishseaalliance.org. Funded in part by the WDFW Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Q&A Q: How can the MRC best partner with the Shore Friendly program going forward?		
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	Lisa thanked the MRC for its long-standing partnership and suggested several ways to continue it: • MRC members can join Jefferson County site visits, where landowners allow, to help build local connection. • Members can take part in workshops and suggest topics landowners need. • The SSA, as a science-based nonprofit, can raise difficult topics such as relocation and resilience that may be hard for county government to raise. • The MRC can partner on restoration projects, including on public lands. The SSA intends to keep its partnership with the Jefferson MRC, although it is no longer directly connected with the Commission and the Initiative. Q: Do jurisdictions refer homeowners seeking armoring permits to Shore Friendly to consider softer alternatives? County and city planning departments have the program's materials and can redirect applicants, though few referrals have come in so far. Applicants must demonstrate a need for a bulkhead, and the program does not provide the documentation needed to justify one. Q: Do tribes have to approve a private landowner's hard armoring permit? Tribes are notified through the federal and county permitting processes and can comment on or object to projects. Most bulkheads now fall under federal review because the Army Corps' jurisdiction extends to the high tide line. The presenter was unsure how much weight tribal comments carry, but noted that tribes have stopped some SSA restoration projects over cultural resource concerns. A committee member said he would follow up with a land use attorney.		
ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES	Administrative Updates (Katie) PROJECT SUMMARY REPORTS Due Sept 14th • Sarah, Jon & Neil • Two more reports due by the end of the year. She will check back. OCTOBER GRANT REPORTING: • Volunteer hours needed by September 30th NO ANCHOR ZONE MONITORING AT WBF • Monitoring forms will be on the MRC table • Photos need to be taken by a MRC member once in the morning, once in afternoon. Katie thanked Frank for offering last month to take photos. • The goal is to obtain a higher number of monitoring observations that in prior years. Katie said she was open to ideas on making this happen. • Gordon offered to take photos on his way to the festival on Sunday morning; he also suggested Thursday night. • Bryan also offered to take photos via drone. • Katie said she would put the photos in the grant report.		
2026 NWSC CONFERENCE	2026 NWSC Conference (Betsy) NWSC Conference will be in PT this November and the idea was raised at the last meeting to create a Scavenger Hunt / Map for the event to highlight JCMRC projects and Port Townsend. JCMRC SCAVENGER HUNT / MAP Betsy noted that Susan Schull from Sound IQ, and Jessica from NWSC have offered to help, but they need information from us. Betsy also has a "things to do" flyer from Emily. There was back and forth discussion from the group on ideas, summarized below. MAP • The map could cover all of Jefferson County, not just downtown, and could also be used for the networking activity at the conference.		

	• A way to show what the MRC is and does--useful well past the conference. • Katie can pull together basic coordinates for all the projects and send them to Jessica and Susan. Street addresses would work too, so it doesn't have to be exact GPS coordinates. • QUESTIONS: what else the map makers need, and how many points to show (3, 5, or 8 came up, but nothing was settled). • Getting it printed before November might be a stretch, but a digital version should be doable with Jessica's and Susan's help. SCAVENGER HUNT • The idea is to give people a fun reason to check out spots within walking distance, like MRC monitoring sites (Storm Surge, Rain Garden etc...), and then add fun things like...a whale display, an art gallery with marine pieces or a good coffee shop or marketplace. • A paper handout, ideally on the back of the conference program if there's a paper one (nobody's sure yet). • The reason for it: the conference doesn't have any time built in for an MRC tour. The Science Advisory Committee is hosting a meeting that morning, and the day is jam-packed until a small window in the afternoon. • Someone volunteered to help brainstorm and loves hiding things for people to find, like tucking a gnome into the rain garden. • The map is "easy-ish" since they know what goes on it and who's making it. The scavenger hunt still needs to be figured out. ACTION • Katie will send out a Doodle poll this week to find a time for a roughly hour-long brainstorm on scavenger hunt ideas, over phone or Zoom. • Katie will put together and send the project coordinates.		
RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES	Recent Meeting Reports and Issue Updates NWSC MONTHLY MEETING UPDATE (Brenda) The meeting was held on Friday, 8/28/2026 Guest speaker: • Sunny Jardine, an assistant professor at the UW School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, gave a talk about the economics of harmful algal blooms, mostly how they hit crab fisheries along the outer coast of Washington, Oregon, and California. Brenda said it was really interesting. • The "speed dating with scientists" section of the NWSC website has a short bio on each scientist plus the resources behind their presentation. https://nwstraits.org/our-work/speed-dating-scientists DNR's proposed changes • The commission talked about DNR's proposed revisions to <u>Mooring Buoy statute</u>-- Katie sent this out a couple of weeks ago • DNR wants comments from the public and organizations. The commission decided to send a comment letter instead of a letter of support, covering the points they discussed at Friday's meeting. • The revision is mostly about redirecting some of DNR's funding. It's not a big change, but it would help them out a lot. Brenda encouraged everyone to check out DNR's public comment page and the material Katie sent. NWS Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Bill • The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative reauthorization bill has passed the House in Washington DC and should pass the Senate soon. They're hoping for a vote by the end of September. • It doesn't bring in any money on its own, but it would set up the commission as a federal agency, which would make it a lot easier to obtain funding.		

	- A few Senate supporters are reportedly going to help get some of that \$10 million. Upcoming meeting, Sept. 25th - The next commission meeting is September 25th in Island County. They're usually on Zoom, and anyone can tune in. - This meeting will have the last "speed date with a scientist" of the year. Dr. Lisa Watkins, who coordinates the Washington Sea Grant Crab Team's Long-Term Monitoring Network and Molt Search Program. You can watch her live or visit the NWSC website later.		
GRANT PROJECT UPDATES	Grant Project Updates FORAGE FISH (Sarah) Dabob - Sarah sampled in August. - Katie asked about any upcoming Forage Fish trainings; none scheduled yet. OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil) Discovery Bay and Kilisut Harbor - No update, Neil Absent. BULL KELP (Jon) Three survey events have been done to date. - Went out Aug. 15 (Jon and Brenda) - Great day, lovely water, kelp is looking good - Thu Sep 24th, AM tide (25th backup date) NO ANCHOR ZONE BUOYS (Troy & Gordon) - Troy got an email from Dale Moses that all Hadlock buoys look good - Gordon – Waggoner article was developed with NWSC, but led us to realize the NAZ buoy coordinates are off (duplicate coordinate recorded) - Next time they go out, they'll take new coordinates - Maintenance work at Mystery Bay and Hadlock buoy fields - Emily: What does cleaning the buoys entail? Pull up the buoys and scrap off the epibiota on the buoy. Annually also dive and check the chains/hardware. - Rebecca – Asked if the MRC had seen the video she had taken of the orcas playing with the MRC's buoys? EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (Betsy) WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL - Katie opened the google sheets volunteer sign-up form and people signed up for open spots - John Piatt unavailable, alternate seabird speaker has stepped in - Betsy outlined the Marine Science Alley layout and shared information on how to check in as a volunteer - Katie requested that the MRC table stay open until the end of the day, important to the festival planners SHORELINE LANDOWNER OUTREACH (Sarah) - Workshop held on Aug.19 (Wed, 5pm) in PT, was open to bluff property owners, had a great turnout - MRC helped facilitate building rental - Had an interactive activity during the second half of the event, with the goal of gauging homeowners understanding of 5 focus areas (ex: stormwater runoff/mgmt., setbacks), and using that feedback to tailor education and outreach going forward RAIN GARDENS (Neil) - Neil absent, no update Other MRC Projects NO UPDATES		

JEFFERSON CO. UPDATES AND POLICY MATTERS	BoCC / Port of PT Joint Update (Heidi and Carol absent) ABSENT No update		
MRC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE	MRC Roundtable Emily reiterated this is an opportunity for MRC members to share anything with the group going on in the community - Betsy shared the PTMSC has opened up the “wet” part of their exhibits, tank exhibits are now open at the building on the mainland - Bryan attended an event and heard the creosote pilings by the PTMSC may be removed soon – Anchor QEA working with State Parks - Jon heard on KPTZ there is a weekly presentation at Fort Flagler, and a younger ranger gave a presentation on Coastal Bluffs – focused on safety, but also connections to forage fish and larger ecological role, and had hands-on materials to view/touch - Group watched the orca video/viewed photos – thanks Rebecca!		
PUBLIC COMMENT	Public Comments None		
FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS	Future Agenda Topics None.		
ANNOUNCEMENTS	MRC Member Announcements - Frank explained the app called “What 3 words” - helpful for finding GPS locations - Send any speaker requests for next year to Emily Reminder – next month’s meeting will be in Quilcene – we will be setting up a carpool if folks would like to ride down together		
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm Big thanks to everyone for helping put back tables and chairs!	Emily adjourned the meeting.	