

**Jefferson County
Marine
Resources
Committee**

**Officers/
Executive Committee:**

Emily Buckner, Chair
Neil Harrington, Vice Chair
Jeff Taylor, NWSC Rep
Sarah Fisken, NWSC Alt

MRC Members:

Janette Mestre, District 1
Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1
 District 1 Alt - Vacant
Brenda Johnson, District 2
 Jeff Taylor, District 2
Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
 Sarah Fisken, District 3
 District 3 - Vacant
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Cons Alt
 Carol Hasse, Port of PT
 Gordon King, Commercial
Emily Buckner, Marine Science
Jon Waggoner, Marine Science Alt
 Heidi Eisenhour, BoCC
Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
 Steve King, City of PT
Neil Harrington, Tribal Rep
 Local Youth - Vacant

Staff:

Katie Kowal, MRC Coordinator
 Water Resources Program
 Coordinator
c/o WSU Jefferson Extension
 121 Oak Bay Rd
 Port Hadlock, WA 98339
www.jeffersonmrc.org
jeff.co.mrc@gmail.com

Tonya Cole
MRC Meeting Recorder

Tues, January 6, 2026

5:30-7:30PM

Hybrid Meeting

WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)

Zoom link: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/97019789946>

MEETING AGENDA

5:30 Call to Order, Mission & Introductions

5:35 **Guest Speaker:**

Update from Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Natural Resources Department on their projects and activities
*Neil Harrington, Environmental Biologist,
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe*

6:15 Amendments to/Approval of Agenda

Amendments to/Approval of December 2025 Minutes

6:20 Public Comment

6:22 Port Update

6:27 BoCC Update

6:32 **Recent Meeting Reports & Issue Updates**

- NWSC Monthly Meeting update (Jeff)

6:35 **Vote:** Update Bylaws Sect. 7 – Voting (see meeting materials)

6:45 **Vote:** 2026 Annual Workplan approval

6:50 **Vote:** NWSC Rep

7:00 **Discussion: Letter of Support**

Dabob Bay Natural Area Trust Land Transfer

7:10 **Grant Project Updates**

- Forage Fish (Dabob, Quilcene Marina – Sarah)
- Olympia Oysters (Neil)
- Bull Kelp Monitoring (Emily)
- Eelgrass Buoys (Troy)
- Rain Gardens (Janette)
- Education and Outreach (Brenda)

7:16 **Other MRC Project Updates**

- Shoreline Landowner Outreach (Sarah)
- Satellite Imagery (Jeff)
- Storm Surge (Jeff)
- ROV Crab Pots (Tim)

7:20 Public Comment

7:22 Call for Future Agenda Topics/Speakers

7:25 MRC Member Roundtable/Announcements

- Shoreline Armoring subcommittee
- BOCC Advisory subcommittee

7:30 Adjourn

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

January 20, 8:30am-9:30am – MRC Executive Committee Meeting

January 30, 10am-3pm – NWSC Monthly Meeting ([Meeting details here](#))

February 3, 6pm-8pm – Hybrid MRC monthly meeting at Pavilion Building (355 Hudson Rd, Port Townsend, WA)

2nd Wednesdays at 1pm and 4th Wednesdays at 5:30pm – Port of PT [Meetings](#)

Mondays, 9am – Jefferson County BoCC [Meetings](#)

Fridays, 12pm – [BoCC on KPTZ \(91.9\)](#)

Ongoing projects in Jeff. Co:

- [Pleasant Harbor MPR](#)
- [City of PT SMP update](#)
- [Jefferson County SMP update](#)
- [PT sewer outfall](#) (not up to date)
- Port of PT sea level rise mitigation project
- [Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project](#)

2026 Monthly Meeting Dates

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	3	3	7	5	2		4	1	6	3	1

About the MRC

The Jefferson Marine Resources Committee is an advisory group to the Board of County Commissioners and part of the regional Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. Members are citizen volunteers committed to protecting and restoring our local marine habitats.

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Annual Work Plan: Jan - Dec 2026

Project		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
MRC Admin	Members			MRC annual presentation to the BoCC.	Quarterly Volunteer hours (Jan, Feb, Mar) due by April 1.			Quarterly Volunteer hours (Apr, May, Jun) due by July 1.			Quarterly Volunteer hours (Jul, Aug, Sep) due by October 1.		Quarterly Volunteer hours (Oct, Nov, Dec) due by Dec 21.
	Staff	Progress Reports due. In-Kind Match Report & County L&I volunteer hours due January 15. Work on BoCC presentation.	Work on BoCC presentation. Work on 2025 Annual Report. Work on hiring process for new 0.325 FTE staff position.	Finalize 2025 Annual Report. Support for MRC annual presentation to the BoCC.	Progress Reports Due. In-Kind Match Report & County L&I volunteer hours due April 15. 2025 Annual Report Due.			Progress Reports Due. In-Kind Match Report & County L&I volunteer hours due July 15.			Progress Reports, In-Kind Match Report & County L&I volunteer hours due Oct. 15.	Work on 2027 Annual Work Plan (due Jan), presentation to the BoCC (due Mar), and Annual Report (due Apr).	Progress Reports, In-Kind Match Report & County L&I volunteer hours due Dec. 31. Finalize WSU 2026 Annual Report. Finalize 2027 Annual Work Plan.
	All - Regional Meetings, Trainings, Conferences			Strait ERN LIO quarterly meeting.			Strait ERN LIO quarterly meeting.			Strait ERN LIO quarterly meeting.		NWSI Annual Conference.	Strait ERN LIO quarterly meeting.
Forage Fish Monitoring	QAPP due. Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina. Continued discussion re: Fort Worden Pier.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Annual Project Summary Report due.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Annual WDFW training.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.	Monitoring of Dabob, Quilcene Marina.
Bull Kelp Monitoring	QAPP due.			NWSI kelp kayak update meeting. Subcommittee meeting to plan season and schedule any needed safety and protocol training.	Check all gear to prepare for monitoring. Hold a practice session if needed. NWSC Kayak safety training.	Monitor kelp beds and input data in KoBoToolbox.	Monitor kelp beds and input data in KoBoToolbox.	Monitor kelp beds and input data in KoBoToolbox.	Annual Project Summary Report due.		End of year NWSC-MRC 2026 data QC review meeting.		
Eelgrass Protection No-Anchor Zones	Subcommittee meeting to discuss monitoring data collection.			Swap winter floats with summer spar buoys. Install new buoy at PT Waterfront.	Monitor boater compliance.	Monitor boater compliance. Check Port Hadlock buoys for needed maintenance.	Monitor boater compliance.	Monitor boater compliance.	Monitor boater compliance at Wooden Boat Festival. Annual Project Summary Report due.	Monitor boater compliance.	Swap summer spar buoys with winter floats.		
Olympia Oyster Restoration	Subcommittee planning meeting. 2026 QAPP due. Start spring 2026 Permit renewals (HPA, USACE, DCD)	Brainstorm workplan for Kilisut Harbor restoration with PSRF and WDFW. Submit permit renewals.					Conduct population surveys at North & South Powerlines. Data input and analysis.		Annual Project Summary Report due.				

Project		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Rain Gardens		Meet with WSU Master Gardener Coordinator to coordinate 2026 volunteer work.		Rain Garden Work Party. Rain Garden assessments and plan for 2026 RGWP schedule/maintenance.	Rain Garden Work Party.	Rain Garden Work Party. Rain Garden renovation as needed.	Rain Garden Work Party. Rain Garden renovation as needed.			Rain Garden Work Party. Rain Garden renovation as needed.	Hire gardener for maintenance. Rain Garden renovation as needed. Subcommittee meeting to discuss Adopt-a-Rain Garden program.	Hire gardener for maintenance. Rain Garden renovation as needed.	Annual Project Summary Report due. Hire gardener for maintenance.
Ed & Outreach	Admin			Subcommittee meeting to discuss 2026 Outreach Plan.	2026 Outreach Plan due.							Subcommittee meeting to work on 2027 Outreach Plan.	Annual Project Summary Report due.
	Searching for Seaweed	Plan for Searching for Seaweed. Reach out to speaker (Nam).			Promote Searching for Seaweed.	Hold Searching for Seaweed.							
	Digging for Dinner	Plan for Digging for Dinner event and reach out to speaker (Camille).	Recruit 4-5 MRC members.	Promote Digging for Dinner event.	Hold Digging for Dinner event.								
	Crabber Outreach			Begin planning crabber workshop – secure speakers.	Reach out to East Jefferson Search & Rescue about crab pot sale dates. Continue planning crabber workshop.	Promote crabber workshop.	Assemble and distribute crabber packets. Hold crabber workshop (end of June).	Conduct dock outreach opening day.					
	Shoreline Property Owner Outreach (NWSF)						Work with NWSF to plan shoreline landowner outreach workshop.		Promote shoreline landowner outreach workshop.	Host shoreline landowner outreach workshop.			
	Wooden Boat Festival: Speaker Stage	Secure speakers for speaker stage at Wooden Boat Festival (WBF).			Register for WBF. Finalize speaker schedule.	Recruit MRC members to volunteer at WBF.		Promotion for Science Stage- social media, email partners, website.	Promotion for Science Stage- social media, email partners, website. Confirm speakers.	Wooden Boat Festival speaker stage event. Send thank-you's. Post WBF recap meeting.			
	Tabling Events		Register for Connectivity Fair.	Submit application for Shrimpfest. Table Connectivity Fair.	Recruit people for Shrimpfest sign-ups. Register for WBF table.	Recruit people for Shrimpfest sign-ups.	Table Shrimpfest.			Table Wooden Boat Festival.			

Vote: Remove Vote by Ballot from MRC Bylaws

Why do we need to remove voting by ballot?

Voting by “secret ballot,” aka a ballot vote held in secret/without public witness, is against the rules of the OPMA (MRC Bylaws 5.5). Upon further discussion with Jefferson County legal re: the open ballot procedure we used at the 12/02/25 MRC meeting, legal has advised we vote by **voice only**, and decision making be decided by **simple majority**.

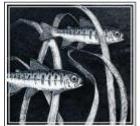
Motion to be made:

- I move to send a recommendation to the BOCC that the MRC amend its bylaws with the replacement language below:

Current language	Replacement Language
3. Officers - Election of Officers – Succession	
3.2 Nominations of officers, the NWSC representative and NWSC alternate are from the floor and, where more than one nomination to an office is received, voting will be by open ballot . Election of any officer, NWSC representative and alternate requires a majority of a quorum of the December meeting of the MRC or whenever the vote is held.	3.2 Nominations of officers, the NWSC representative and NWSC alternate are from the floor and, where more than one nomination to an office is received, voting shall be pursuant to section 7 . Election of any officer, NWSC representative and alternate requires a majority of a quorum of the December meeting of the MRC or whenever the vote is held.
7. Quorum - Voting	
7.1. The decision-making approach of the MRC will be by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the MRC will recognize a simple majority vote. Any dissenting opinions will be recorded and included in the meeting summary.	7.1. The decision-making approach of the MRC will be by a simple majority vote, which shall be done in an open public meeting.
7.2 A simple majority of the total of the voting members currently appointed to the MRC constitutes a quorum for the conduct of MRC business. If all positions are filled then a quorum shall be 7 members. Voting is by voice vote, except where specified differently in these rules. Alternatively, the MRC itself may require a ballot or roll call vote. In lieu of an absent member, a member's designated alternate, if present, will be included in the quorum tally.	7.2 A simple majority of the total of the voting members currently appointed to the MRC constitutes a quorum for the conduct of MRC business. If all positions are filled then a quorum shall be 7 members. Voting shall be by voice vote.

Jefferson MRC – Voting Protocol for Officer positions (Following OPMA, led by Chair)

1. Public comment prior to discussion – (new rule as of 2022) (can be satisfied by public comment at start of meeting, as long on agenda prior to discussion and posted 24hrs before meeting)
2. MRC Discussion
 - Name open positions and address any questions on roles/responsibilities
 - Call for nominations from the floor
 - Members can nominate either themselves or other members
 - Call for a motion to approve the slate of nominations (1st, 2nd)
 - If seconded, call for a vote using the method described below
 - If not seconded, resume discussion until ready for a second call for a motion
3. MRC Vote on slate of nominations
 - a. By Simple majority
 - i. By voice for all in favor/opposed, dissent recorded in Minutes
 - b. For all votes:
 - Silence gives consent in any vote; a dissenting vote must be clearly demonstrated



December 17, 2025

Kenny Ocker

TLT Program Manager
MS 47014
Olympia, WA 98504
360-810-1217 (cell)
kenny.ocker@dnr.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Ocker,

The Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee strongly supports DNR's 2025 Trust Land Transfer (TLT) proposals #1 and #2 to permanently preserve approximately 2,600 acres of timber trust lands that remain within the Dabob Bay Natural Area boundaries.

In 2024, DNR approved an expansion of the Dabob Bay Natural Area's boundaries from 7,735 acres to 11,200 acres to better protect the forests, streams, wetlands, and fish and wildlife of the Dabob Bay ecosystem, including globally rare forest types.

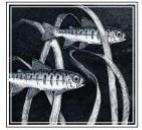
The TLT proposals will allow DNR to transfer state lands within the boundary from commercial timber management (or even possible sale), to permanent protection as part of the Dabob Bay Natural Area. This transfer will help ensure long-term conservation of state lands, habitats, and water quality that are essential to maintaining the health of the marine ecosystems in Dabob Bay. Intact forests preserve soil integrity by stabilizing soils and preventing damaging surface water runoff from inundating the nearshore habitat with excess sediment loads and turbid waters. Protection of upland forest directly prevents downstream impacts to local shellfish and fishing economies; important nursery habitat for juvenile chinook, coho and chum salmon and a diversity of marine fish found in Dabob Bay; and the recreational areas found there, as they depend on clean water and a healthy nearshore environment.

The Marine Resources Committee, created by the Northwest Straits Commission, is an advisory committee for the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners. Our members represent a variety of stakeholders with interests in the marine resources of eastern Jefferson County. The stakeholder positions represented include recreation, commercial, environmental, marine science, tribal, residents, youth, city of Port Townsend, and elected officials from Jefferson County and the Port of Port Townsend.

We support this Trust Land Transfer because it will protect and preserve upland habitat critical to the health of the nearshore environment of Dabob Bay. This uniquely undeveloped watershed surrounding Dabob Bay provides significant recreational, commercial, and ecosystem services and the Marine Resources Committee strongly supports its protection.

Sincerely,

Jefferson County Marine Resources Council



**Jefferson County
Marine
Resources
Committee**

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee

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