



**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &**  
**CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, January 9th, 2020

8:30 AM-10:30 AM

CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Call in number: 1 (360) 370-0599 Conference ID: 285694

Town of Friday Harbor Fire Station

Upstairs meeting room

266 Second Street, Friday Harbor

**Agenda**

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of December meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>Membership New Year and New Decade Goals</b>
9:15 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons/Laura Jo Severson</i>
9:25 AM	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> Volunteer Hours for Q1 (October – December 2019) Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference participation Speaker ideas for 2020
9:40 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales <i>Frances Robertson</i></li><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i></li><li>• MSA plan revision: Megan Dethier / Lovel Pratt<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Survey for information collection</li><li>b) Next subcommittee meeting</li></ul></li></ul>
10:10 AM	<b>Any Other Business</b> Kelp Recovery Plan for Puget Sound – public comment period WDFW Oyster water quality project proposal San Juan County Stewardship Network membership participation
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• San Juan Salmon Recovery Chapter Update Kickoff Meeting- Jan 22</li><li>• Update on active projects</li><li>• 2020 SRFB RFP</li></ul>
11:00 AM	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

Attached files: December minuets, Kelp Recovery Plan

January 9, 2020

MRC & CAG Meeting Minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Marta Green, Phil Green, Kailey Guenther, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers- Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith, Christina Koons (on the phone)

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge

8:33 AM Convene Meeting

*Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

8:35 AM No citizen input

8:35 AM Acceptance of December meeting minutes

Lovel suggests a change to section regarding NOAA scoping process, top of page 3: remove the phrase "if they can be based on Washington State's..."

Lovel moved to approve with this amendment, Phil seconds, none opposed. Minutes approved.

8:39 AM Membership New Year and New Decade Goals

*Frances Robertson*

Everyone shares an achievement from the past year/goal for coming decade

(see Addendum to the January 9 minutes for the full set of members' responses)

ACTION ITEM: Jeff will find out if Richardson property on Lopez is for sale

- Laura Jo's Idea for a poster: a person wrapped up in plastic (*caption: if you were the one who got entangled wouldn't you be more careful?*)

ACTION ITEM: Carl to work with Laura Jo for the 'plastic-entangled' poster idea. Kailey volunteers.

ACTION ITEM: Jeff to discuss ideas about funding streams for ERTV effectiveness analysis with Lovel

ACTION ITEM: Kendra needs someone on Orcas to help develop/manage an MRC information board

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will make the SMP (Shoreline Master Plan) available for MRC to review.

ACTION ITEM: Need 'frequently-hit-rocks' and MSA map available by this coming season. Distribute with Discovery Pass or Be Whale Wise flag? could incorporate Critical habitats (eelgrass, no-anchor)

[Include somewhere in the minutes] Lovel distributed the Friends of the San Juans' updated anchor out of eelgrass handout and information about [Sound Waters University](#).

9:23 AM NW Straits Commission update

*Christina Koons/Laura Jo Severson*

Ideas surrounding the need to establish a funding system to support the county's marine program were discussed: Need to add funding sources to support marine programs in SJC. Organizations like SeaDoc have raised a lot of money in recent years, largely because of situation with SRKW's. Need to figure out best ways to do that. Find private donors, figure out budget, not compete with other organizations

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will contact Christina regarding funding subcommittee meeting soon

9:35 AM Announcement about upcoming event

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Karin will be a speaker at Sound Waters ('a one-day University') in Langley on February 1. Sign-up is inexpensive. Many topics including PFSS, climate change, sea level change, sessions are 75 minutes.

9:38 AM MRC business

*Frances Robertson*

- Volunteer Hours for Q1 (October – December 2019)

Frankie has everyone's hours, thank you, only Jeff Friedman. Karin still planning to speak with him. We still have one open space on the MRC with Terry's resignation.

Karin: interested in engaging big harbors, FH or RH, they have gas stations & a lot going on

ACTION ITEM: Kendra and Karin will discuss the possibility of Karin on the CWAC

Carl: do we want a general appeal or are we targeting specific people/groups to be members?

Karin: specific targets. Eg; we've had a harbor rep in the past but don't anymore. Look at where we need representation, then ensure the person has time to volunteer beyond just attending meetings.

Kendra: should there be a specified amount of required volunteer work? Target number of hours, at least as something to strive for, could be different for people with day jobs vs. those without

- Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference participation, Vancouver BC April 20-22<sup>nd</sup>

Karin will present PFSS poster, Abigail will present MSA poster, Frankie will present whale warning flag efforts. Also Carl's PFSS video. Lovel will present on the Salish Sea Vessel Traffic Projections Confirmed attendants: Lovel, Phil, Laura Jo, Karin (wants registration but can pay hotel) & Cathleen. Jeff Dyer also wants to go. Laura Jo and Abigail will share hotel room, Frankie & Kari Koski (a Salish Sea Hero) will share a room (hoping to fund Koski's registration from NOAA).

We'll get early registration which closes end of January. Will book a block of hotel rooms

Kendra: that's also the week of Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, activities here (Clean-up on the 18<sup>th</sup>)

- Speaker ideas for 2020

Tulalip for February, also Lisa presenting about shore-friendly season (that'll overlap with LIO).

Taylor Shedd at some point. Karin wants to invite Scott Pearson (pinnipeds) he prefers March/April.

Question for Megan: any post-docs or grad students want to talk to the MRC?

Kailey: what about SeaDoc? Seems like they have some new research

10:09 AM Project Updates

- Southern Resident Killer Whales

*Frances Robertson*

We'll do some dock talks in June, also use youth volunteers who were great last season. We have approx. 750 flags left. Boat shows will get rid of a lot (100-200 each at Seattle and Anacortes). These two big boat shows are part of the Marine Trade Association, they provide our space for free.

Outreach plan for 2020 to put signs up, help from neighboring MRC's to build a database of all county facilities in 7 counties that could use signs as 'prompts'. These prompts are most effective as close as possible to the behavior we want to change. Also locate signs other places.

ACTION ITEM: Carl volunteers to contact private marinas on Orcas Island to secure permission to put up signs. The signs are aluminum with two pre-drilled holes to hang or fasten.

Outreach plan to also include some dockside efforts but not every weekend. No surveys this year.

NOAA last analyzed boat numbers in the SJI's in 2010 =100K boats. Now 10 years later, think how many flags we need so at least 10% of boats have flags + land-bank-based flags. We need

Soundwatch to continue taking data on flag numbers to analyze effectiveness. Boaters were less receptive at RH (except yacht rendezvous)

Note: if you want to volunteer for the Boat Show, please contact Taylor Shedd. At the boat show, we represent the Be whale Wise program (MRC + County as partners)

- Plastic Free Salish Sea

Karin Roemers-Kleven

Working on a dedicated website, should be a general resource for our county. We aim to have that done before the Salish Sea Ecosystem conference in April. We're also discussing the creation of toolkits for projects that other communities can take on that we've already taken on.

Frankie: we have some help budgeted in for that. Katie Fleming will be writing a description and sending to contacts at WWU, looking for a student to bring those toolkits together

Karin: we've been hanging back on plastic bag ban while County Council was busy with budgeting, we've been waiting for State to come out with its Bag ban so we can work together with it.

Kendra: I have a meeting about that next week with Heckey's, ready to challenge pre-emption by the State. The SWAC has already approved language for a complete ban. And we're changing erosion control regs for the County. New requirement for only biodegradable erosion control (i.e. no plastic or derivative fencing). Currently erosion control market is dominated by plastic.

Commented [FR1]: ??

- MSA plan revision:

Megan Dethier

a) Survey for information collection – survey was revised/simplified. Frankie will send it out shortly for review, please send comments back quickly. As responses come in by end of January, Abigail will sort through them to identify short presentations/topics for the workshop. While reviewing surveys, we'll simultaneously plan the workshop throughout Jan/Feb, solidify attendance. Save-the-date went out in October, we'll follow up with responses

b) Next subcommittee meeting – next Friday Jan 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### 10:10 AM Any Other Business

- Kelp Recovery Plan for Puget Sound – public comment period ends third week of January

ACTION ITEM: Phil to draft comment on behalf of MRC. Frankie/Kendra will distribute to MRC

- WDFW Oyster water quality project proposal

WDFW wants MRC to sponsor the site, costs \$3K. BUT we've heard that other MRC's struggle to get reporting data from WDFW. WDFW has been funding the Eastsound site so far.

Q: what is the purpose of the study? A: use mussels to measure potential water pollutants

Carl: if we solicited funds to establish our own project, we could add sites we've had in past

Megan: it's a lot of cost and input for not much payback in terms of usable data.

Carl: It has been going on for 20 years seems useful to continue. I'll continue volunteering,

Frankie: we can tell WDFW we're glad to keep taking data but not to 'sponsor'.

ACTION ITEM: Karin would be willing to volunteer to collect mussels on SJI, Jeff on Lopez

- San Juan County Stewardship Network membership participation



This has restarted, Frankie went to one meeting in December. Does MRC want to keep on participating? Do we have a representative who wants to attend the meetings?

Stewardship Network sponsors green drinks, aims to network and not duplicate efforts. In the past they've organized for same area at the fair, shown videos on the ferry. Coordinator is Amy Nestler

Marta: right now they don't have capacity to take on projects, they are an advocacy group – presenting comments to council. Stephanie represents the LIO to the Stewardship Network

- No one volunteers to represent MRC at Stewardship Network. Frankie will attend sometimes

10:37 AM Adjourn meeting

Lovel moves to adjourn, Cathleen seconds. MRC meeting adjourned

10:37 AM Convene CAG meeting

Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair

Salmon Recovery

- San Juan Salmon Recovery Chapter Update Kickoff Meeting: Jan 22 at 10am in FH at Heritage bank  
Sam has convened a subcommittee, includes 3 CAG members (Carl, Cathleen, Phil) & TAG members  
We'll start review of 15-year-old chapter and begin to outline the process of the update

- Update on active projects

Active monitoring and amendment requests:

->Mackaye harbor, got more funding that will help in terms of management and moving it along

->KWIAHT amendment request for sand-lance project. There are lots of restriction for monitoring-based project, any monitoring project is technically viewed as regional so there's more scrutiny.

Needs to go through broader state-wide review. SO in future, when considering monitoring-based project realize that it won't just need to withstand local scrutiny.

Marta: Some entities are better-suited to fund research and monitoring, others more appropriate for education – that's why coordination is so important

KWIAT project links with other sand-lance work, i.e. research on sand-wave patterns etc.

-> Crescent Beach project (feasibility analysis) that we partially funded – reminder that the partial funding was 'borrowed' from 2020 allocation. So Byron still needs to apply but it's essentially already approved, there will be minimal review.

Kendra: we'll be highlighting this particular road to Council this year due to erosion issues

- 2020 SRFB RFP

Still scheduled for May 6-7 all-day site visits. Sam sent out a timeline for the Grant Round. This is a big one, there will be more projects than last year. May 7<sup>th</sup> is also the MRC meeting

Sent out press releases and RFP's earlier this week. We have approx. \$2million to grant out. Friends will propose, Land Bank, Preservation Trust, etc. Letters of Interest due Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> (one page). Two weeks later meet with TAG on March 4<sup>th</sup> – rather than presentations, this will be a question/answer session, targeted feedback. Final proposal due April 24<sup>th</sup> (2 weeks before site visit). After site visit, there will still be opportunity to tweak things. July 2 – scoring meeting, combined TAG & CAG.

Question: are projects always physically doing something or can they be education-based?

Sam: no, mainly restoration and acquisition. 10% can be for monitoring

10:56 AM Adjourn CAG meeting

Cathleen moves to adjourn, Laura Jo seconds. Meeting adjourned

**\*Event Announcements:**

- Green Drinks next Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at Bluewater Grill
- Next Tuesday 1/14: Bruce Nyden, recently back from Indonesia, will show his underwater photos at the Sailing club. Food (potluck), cocktails provided. Start food at 5:30pm, presentation at 6:30pm.



**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
**MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &**  
**CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, February 6th, 2020

8:30 AM-10:30 AM

CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Call in number: 1 (360) 370-0599 Conference ID: 285694

The Grange,  
Friday Harbor

**Agenda**

<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
<b>8:35 AM</b>	<b>Citizen input</b>
<b>8:40 AM</b>	<b>Acceptance of January meeting minutes</b>
<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Phil Green</i>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> MRC Reference Manual update progress MRC Social Media Comment letters update
<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales – The Boat Show Report <i>Frances Robertson</i></li><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i></li><li>• MSA plan revision: Megan Dethier / Abigail Ames/Frances Robertson<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Progress with survey &amp; interviews</li><li>b) Workshop plan and registration</li><li>c) Request for MRC assistance –what will be needed</li><li>d) Next subcommittee meeting</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> Speakers invited for 2020
<b>10:10 AM</b>	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SRFB Grant Round</li><li>• Salmon Strategy update</li></ul>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Presentation on Shoreline Hardening project by Lisa Kaufman</b> Nearshore Program Manager for the NW Straits Foundation, Presentation is joint with the LIO meeting and will run until ~11:30, lunch will be available after to those who wish to stay.

Attached files: January minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Marta Green, Phil Green, Kailey Guenther, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Abigail Ames, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Sam Whitridge

**Public:** Laura Ferguson

8:33 AM Convene Meeting

*Christina Koons, Vice-Chair*

8:34 AM Citizen input – none

8:34 AM Acceptance of January meeting minutes

Cathleen moves to accept –with Lovel’s additions, Megan seconds. All in favor, none opposed.  
January Minutes accepted.

8:35 AM **NW Straits Commission update**

*Phil Green*

Presentation by the Whidbey Island host on sea-level rise, presentation on Sound water stewards. Skagit has a form of Beachwatchers’ program; we used to have it here. Do we want to restart that? The program starts with 100 hours training. Skagit stewards is the same as Sound water stewards.

ACTION ITEM: Phil will find out more specific info (any paid staff?) and get it to Frankie.

New level of business membership for the foundation, there’s a new member from San Juan County: Emily Shaler. Her expertise is in marketing. ACTION ITEM: invite her to a MRC meeting  
- Christina went last year to the Puget Sound Day on the Hill, call went out in January to attend this year

- Kelp recovery plan – DNR will take the lead on continued progress

- Frankie has sent out two forms with questions for MRC’s – one regarding the retreat in the Fall and one regarding the symposium coming up on April 3 at Padilla Bay.

8:43 AM **MRC business**

*Frances Robertson*

- MRC Reference Manual update progress – last updated 2007, Frankie working to update now. Need to update some parts of the business rules, that will go through council.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will send these around and we can vote on them at next meeting.

- MRC Social Media – Frankie calls for help. None offered.

- Comment letters update – Council sent letters for the Humpback critical area plan and for the Kelp recovery plan.

8:45 AM **Project Updates**

- Southern Resident Killer Whales – The Boat Show Report

*Frances Robertson*

Last week at boat show 50 flags and 300 brochures distributed, Jeff D. and Laura Jo helped. Frankie gave out all remaining metal port signs. Plans to review verbiage with the Be Whale Wise partnership and more BWW material is due to be created for the coming season.

- Nobeltec nav will put no-go zones on their apps, they'll also put eelgrass no-anchor zones. Frankie will talk to Tina about which areas to ID as eelgrass. Frankie met Daniel Joram, Nobeltec rep, at the Seattle boat show.

-We finished the storyboard that Hilary was working on, THANKS Megan and others for proof-reading.

- Plastic Free Salish Sea: *Karin Roemers-Kleven*
  - Karin gave a presentation this past Saturday at Sound Waters, it was a great success.
  - Jeff D and Frankie met a sales rep from the Seabins project at the Seattle Boat Show. They have one in Oak Bay, one in Port of Vancouver. It's a pump, sucks in water and filters out garbage, approx. 1 ton a year just from waters in the marina. Larger marinas would need multiples of these. Should we look into funding from NOAA marine debris program to run pilots in the main marinas in SJC?  
RH Marina likes the idea. Jeff contacted Oak Bay marina to see if they recommend it. Units are \$5800 each. For each one sold they give 10% to nonprofit.
  - The subcommittee voted to cancel the Talking Trash workshop on Lopez, so Frankie will amend that out of the budget. Karin will discuss this more at next meeting
- MSA plan revision: *Megan Dethier / Abigail Ames/Frances Robertson*

Made progress, made a brief survey based on Lovel's suggestions, sent to folks in SJC with knowledge of marine resources. We have 28 responses, we sent out to 60  
Marine Managers' Workshop is March 10-11<sup>th</sup> at FHL. Need help from MRC as moderators  
*Kailey, Cathleen, Christina, and Lovel* volunteers. *Laura Jo* offers to help with food

#### 10:00 AM **Any Other Business**

Speakers invited for 2020: - Tulalip coming next meeting to talk about treaty rights.  
- Rich Childers to talk about effects of climate change (ocean acidification) on crab,  
Any ideas for other speakers? Kailey: Jeff Hogan, outreach and science education.

Kendra: an old project that I want to mention – Orcas Landing is still moving forward.  
If anyone is interested in participating, we have money for a sign that will be an MRC info board.

Kendra passes out one idea for a Marine Program funding strategy – SJI's Marine Discovery Pass for a **Marine Program** Enterprise Fund. Need to schedule next meeting of finance subcommittee:  
*Kailey, Ivan and Christina*

An enterprise fund is a specific class of fund, usually requires an oversight body (i.e. the MRC) to review and approve budget, require county code to establish along with its authorities  
We want to pursue something that doesn't go into county general fund, but stays in the program.  
To build up a program and manage it effectively, need that certainty/consistency: could it be some kind of slip tax, discovery pass? Something associated with the boater/user to target that dynamic and its role in utilizing the marine resource. With enterprise fund you need to be very clear about the nexus between fund collection and the fund use. Eg. With the Discovery pass that the State runs pays for parking at the State site, it's also a visitor use pass, funds go to maintain the State parks. There is currently no requirement for a Discover Pass for moorage at marinas, just a moorage fee.

We can't tie directly to boater registration without going through State Legislature.

Lovel: I urge you to go through the state so that this is memorialized

Kendra: perhaps we could build some momentum and then go that route. The fundamental question is whether or not we're tying it to licensing. also want to bring awareness to the fund. We're using it to restore marine habitat, pick up trash, recover derelict vessels etc. It's not a tax it's a fee for service. Figuring out how to message that.

Another idea is to solicit fees from non-boat operators (i.e. kayak renters and whale-watchers), needs further discussion with the subcommittee. Discuss pros and cons of varying strategies

ACTION ITEM: please review this document and bring ideas to the subcommittee

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will email copies of this Draft, PLEASE do not forward

In order to be successful you need some critical mass, eg. The flag project.

overflights/counts done in May-September 2006 and 2010 found approx. 100K boats in the SJL's.

ACTION ITEM: Kendra will share these reports on boat numbers

More discussion of estimates of number of boaters/'marine patron' in marine discovery pass plan

10:14 AM Adjourn MRC meeting. Lovel moves to adjourn, Carl seconds, meeting adjourned

10:15 AM Convene CAG meeting

*Christina Koons, Vice- Chair*

Jenny DeGroots is a potential new TAG member. She attended chapter update meeting. TAG is in favor, needs CAG approval. MOTION: Laura Jo moves to accept Jenny to the TAG, Lovel seconds.

Kendra: we should have a County technical representative on the TAG. I nominate Byron Rot. He would recuse himself during any conflicts of interest (as Tina Whitman currently does)

Carl: we're nominating Byron because he's a scientist with freshwater expertise

Lovel: I don't think it's appropriate to reserve a seat for the county

Christina calls the question: Everyone in favor of the motion, none opposed. Motion passes

MOTION: Byron nominated for the TAG by Kendra, Cathleen seconds. All in favor, motion passes

Byron: read about the **Crescent Beach** project on the handout.

This project was only partially funded last round, now need to make a decision to move forward, project will expire by June 2021 so no time to work through next grant process, need assurance of funding to hire a consultant to complete the project, look at opening up tidal lagoon from existing small culvert, replace with larger culvert or bridge, and interact with stakeholders and residents.

MOTION: Carl moves that we approve the proposal as submitted in earlier grant round to be funded fully, in the amount of \$62K, in this next grant cycle, without needing to be resubmitted for approval Lovel seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

10:30 AM

MRC meeting reconvenes

ANNOUNCEMENT from Laura Jo: 'Transitions' a group that works to make residents self-reliant and less dependent on fossil fuels. The Anacortes group is working to be fossil-fuel free by 2023

Meeting March 1 at Mullis Center, 3-6pm if interested please come

ANNOUNCEMENT from Marta: there will be a meeting in Olympia regarding funding a study similar to the one in Canada, analysis of ERTV effectiveness. Our state rep is interested in funding this

MOTION by Christina to accept Laura Jo's resignation as alternate representative for the NW Straits meeting and appoint Phil as the new alternate rep. This would allow him to vote when he attends. Lovel seconds, all in favor. Motion passes.

10:36 AM Lovel moves to adjourn, Kendra seconds, meeting adjourned.

*See LIO February 6, 2020 SJC LIO minutes for a summary of Lisa Kaufman's presentation at 10:55am*



**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
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8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

The Grange,  
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**Call in number: 1 (360) 370-0599 Conference ID: 285694**

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8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of February meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons, Phil Green</i>
9:00 AM	<b>Tulalip Tribes and the San Juan Islands</b> – <i>Colin Wahl and Patti Gobin</i>
9:45 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales –lets make some plans of what we want to do!!</li><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea: <i>Frances Robertson/Jeff Dyer</i></li><li>• MSA plan revision: Megan Dethier / Abigail Ames/Frances Robertson<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Workshop planning</li><li>b) Progress with survey &amp; interviews</li><li>c) Request for MRC assistance –what will be needed day of</li></ul></li><li>• Green Crab monitoring efforts and opportunities.</li></ul>
10:15 AM	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> MRC Reference Manual update progress
10:20 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:20 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Christina Koons, Vice-Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SRFB letters of interest</li></ul>
11:00	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

Attached files: February minutes



**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Megan Dethier, Jeff Friedman, Phil Green, Kailey Genter, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge

8:33 AM      **Convene Meeting**      *Christina Koons, Vice-Chair*

8:33 AM      **Citizen input**      *none present*

8:33 AM      **Acceptance of February meeting minutes**

Christina suggests one change – from ‘chair’ to ‘vice chair’ next to ‘Convene CAG meeting.  
Laura Jo moves to accept with that change, Cathleen seconds. All in favor, minutes accepted.

8:34 AM      **NW Straits Commission update**

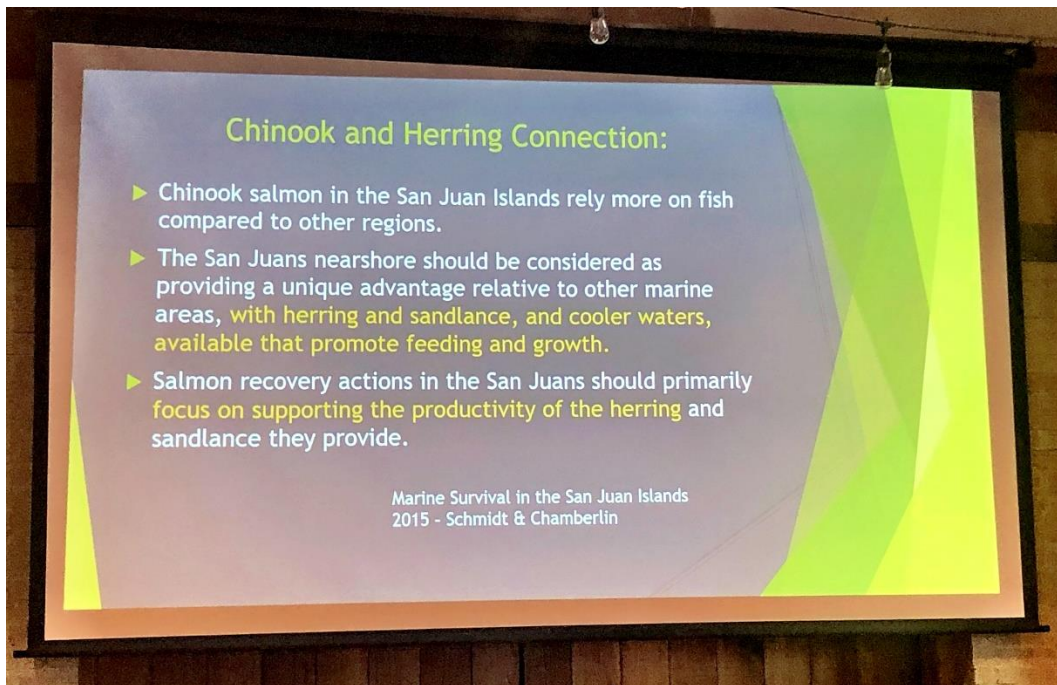
*Christina Koons, Phil Green*

NW Straits Initiative retreat March 26-27. Christina will attend, maybe also Phil  
Christina will send around survey questions for MRC’s again, please complete and respond  
Planning for upcoming conference in DC. Lucas is seeking to meet with elected officials and inform them about MRC work. MRC 2-year project proposals due April 10. Jennifer Grimm designated as Laura Blackmore’s alternate on the commission. focus on European green crab response.

8:40 AM      **Project Updates**

- Southern Resident Killer Whales

Dockside outreach plans. Frankie seeking volunteers May 14-17 for boat show. Still have approx. 400+ flags. Opening Day parade May 3 in Port of FH. Laura Jo is attending and can bring flags  
ACTION ITEM: Christina will check with Orcas yacht club. Frankie to contact George re: rendezvous  
Taylor Shedd still working remotely and being funded for another 6 months, no plans following that.  
Lovel: possible State orca coordinator in salmon recovery which is part of the governor’s office.  
Discussion: subcommittee to interact with state government to ensure the County’s needs are being met? SJC is the epicenter for orcas. Is whale watch industry in touch with Soundwatch and County?  
Jeff: very collaborative, in touch daily on the water. We communicate all of our sightings to them  
Lovel: Soundwatch issues a report annually, reports 2011-2018 on website, at bottom of the page: <https://whalemuseum.org/pages/soundwatch-boater-education-program>  
Ivan: these are just vessels which we’ve been hammering for years. Now what about salmon/prey?  
Frankie: Be whale wise is a trans-boundary partnership targeting recreational boating community.  
Jeff Dyer has been putting up signs on Lopez, Carl will put them up on Orcas.  
On the subject of outreach/education, I’m working with Kailey to bring Jeff Hogan and killer whale tails into the schools here. Relatively inexpensive, \$5-7/kid, brings education/activities to kids. We have money for a pilot on SJI this year. Tentatively scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, either 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Christina: I wish we could get media to focus on each island on prey-related issues, bring attention  
Lovel: for prey availability, one of the best to do is better permitting for shoreline development.  
Kendra: recommendation that shoreline review go through the marine program not planning dept.  
\*\* Get CHINOOK and HERRING Connection slide from Frankie and include in minutes



Kendra: studies show salmon are feeding on forage fish before migrating out to sea.

Level: seems like County isn't ensuring shoreline development doesn't impact salmon/forage fish

Kendra: need to use the latest data, review and ID gaps and make recommendations. Fine for unpermitted work needs to be more significant, not just to the landowner but also to the contractor

Level: should be that license is revoked. If a fine, then it needs to be huge

Kendra: we don't require a business license in this county so we'd need to work with the State.

could establish education program first for contractors, require certification to work in nearshore. I need to go back and look at recommendations made to council in last round and why

Sam: salmon sub-group formed out of the TAG to look at salmon recovery strategies. Working on chapter but could also draft a recommendation to the council regarding the permit review process

**ACTION ITEM: Level and Kendra volunteer to help Sam and subgroup draft a recommendation**

Level: Tina says Initial data ready by April 15 (for presentation at Salish Sea conference)

Sam: let's meet after those data come out

Kendra: let's try to push this through before November

Frankie: I will work killer whale tails into the budget for this year and next year

- MSA plan revision

*Megan Dethier/Frances Robertson*

Frankie reviews attendance (47) and schedule. Goal: to inform the update of the MSA plan

Day 1: biodiversity targets in the MSA plan with monitoring trends, knowledge gaps, and threats.

Day 2: Socio-cultural session, threats and stresses and new management efforts

**ACTION ITEM:** let Frankie know ASAP if you're planning to attend

- Green Crab monitoring efforts and opportunities.

How the project works: training and learn to ID the crabs. traps in a permanent spot at low tide. keep bucket of crab-bait in freezer. need to recruit more people, [crabteam@uw.edu](mailto:crabteam@uw.edu), [grason@uw.edu](mailto:grason@uw.edu) Next new member training in Padilla Bay March 19<sup>th</sup>, refresher March 17<sup>th</sup> in FH.  
\* Register on the homepage <https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/getinvolved/>  
Sample starting May. Tide charts color-coded to show best days. Bait and set traps. ID and sex crabs  
ACTION ITEM: Frankie will post about this on MRC facebook page since trainings are coming up soon. She'll also send it out to the stewardship network. Can also send it to the Whale Museum

9:58 AM **MRC business**

*Frances Robertson*

MRC Reference Manual is being updated by Frankie, she has sent around a draft.

ACTION ITEM: review and send comments to Frankie by the end of this month!

Lovel has specific comments, she will send to Frankie

10:01 AM **Oil spill prevention and preparedness subcommittee report**

Lovel Pratt

subcommittee: Lovel, Carl, Christina, Jeff, Marta and Frances

Next step in securing the positioning of an ERTV (Emergency Response Towing Vessel) in the San Juans (for accident and oil spill prevention) is an ERTV effective analysis. Dept. of Ecology not mandated to do that until 2023. Want to secure LIO funding for that project, opportunity to access those funds now. Presentation on April 2 at the LIO meeting, the project will be presented seeking local NTA funding.

Lovel: we have a work plan, do we need a motion to update that?

Christina: we're in support and the MRC has already mandated the subcommittee to do this work.

ACTION ITEM: homework from Frankie, think about projects for next year!

Killer whale tails, MSA completion, PFSS will continue (maybe test sea-bins, \$5800 each)

10:19 AM **Adjourn meeting**

Kendra moves to adjourn MRC meeting and convene CAG, Phil seconds

10:19 AM **Convene CAG meeting**

*Christina Koons, Vice-Chair*

grant round is officially underway. Met yesterday and heard from 11 presenters regarding Lol's.

### **Salmon Recovery**

SRFB letters of interest -6 different sponsors with 11 Lol's, including 3 acquisition projects. Now TAG reviews and comments. Formal proposals due end of April. Site visits may 6 & 7

Q: is the eelgrass proposal just an extension of last year?

A: Yes, pilot project last year funded by PSAR but they haven't received that money yet.

Sam: on the topic of prey/salmon the shoreline acquisitions are a good opportunity for improvement. We have \$651K being paid back after a funding trade with NOPAL

Kendra: our goal is to continue momentum by having more projects ready from public works. If we get funded we'll move forward with work on those while building the next set. Building the pipeline

Sam: we need to report back to partnership about that pipeline by end of July. RCO grant manager wants a planned project forecast list that they'll take to the legislature to secure more funding for salmon. The projects that don't go forward out of these 11 will still go on that list

ACTION ITEM: Sam will get Tina's info regarding previous KWIAT work

KWIAT submitted a monitoring project which is viewed differently in this process. can't use more than 10% of allocation for monitoring.

It's possible that 1 or 2 of these may not go forward based on initial review but most are strong.

Q: about Cascade creek project – are they working with us?

Kendra: CWAC has excluded nearshore actions from their funding model, but we could shuffle capital improvement if it can't be funded through SRFB. Coho preserve is at mouth of cascade creek. They're trying to restore instream flow. but have yet to secure commitment from Rosario.

Site visits in May, Joint CAG/TAG scoring meeting on July 2. Is quorum an issue due to the holiday?

Sam: scores can be sent in advance. Final ranked list due mid-August. Need 8 for a quorum.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out the calendar invite for July 2

Sam: salmon chapter update (recovery strategy). We had an initial subcommittee meeting. Scoping: who do we need at the table, what work has been done in the last 15 years since previous chapter. PSPartnership is contracting with Susan Oneill, used to be with long live the kings. She's not going to use all the funding she had to work with first 3 MRC's, so she'll likely be able to help us

From that meeting: the plan is to use those funds to get her to next meeting, get her support. Goal to iron this out by end of this year, and finalized within first half of next year, finalized June 2021.

10:44 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**

Level moves to adjourn, Kendra seconds.



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, April 2nd, 2020  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual meeting via Zoom  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://zoom.us/j/454251693>  
Meeting ID: 454 251 693

**Agenda**

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven (Chair)</i> <b>Check in with all present</b>
8:45 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:55 AM	<b>Acceptance of March meeting minutes</b>
9:00 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons, Phil Green</i>
9:15 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MSA plan revision – workshop recap and next steps</li><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea – website status, alternative GICU ideas</li><li>• Southern Resident Killer Whales – outreach opportunity status, proposed alternative efforts</li></ul>
10:00 AM	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> MRC Grant amendment – amount of project funding available, project ideas Q2 Volunteer hours
10:15 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on TAG review of SRFB Letters of Interest</li><li>• May 6-7 SRFB Site Visit Planning</li></ul>
11:00	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

Attached files: March minutes

**Upcoming MRC Meetings:**

[May 6-7th: Salmon Recovery field trips -2 days]

June 4th: Joan Drinkwin – Derelict Gear removal efforts in San Juan County –Military dive team is coming back!

July 2nd: Salmon Recovery project review

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Friedman, Phil Green, Kailey Genther, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith,

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Kelsey Kittelson, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Sam Whitridge, Abigail Ames, Jamie Stephens

**Public:** Cynthia Smith, Beth Tate, Marcus Reaves (WDFW), Laura Rivas (PSP)

8:34 AM **Convene Meeting**

*Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

8:34 AM **Citizen input**

Cynthia Smith from Lopez for past 4 years – interested in MRC agenda items, wants to sit in.

Beth Tate is here from SJI – works with Jen-Jay inc., environmental consulting based on Orcas.

8:38 AM **Acceptance of March meeting minutes**

Lovel made edits, Frankie will send those around so everyone can see them & weigh in.

MOTION: Karin moves to table approval of minutes to next meeting, Megan seconds, all in favor.

8:40 AM **NW Straits Commission update**

*Christina Koons*

NW Straits met (virtually) on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Puget Sound Day on the Hill is postponed. New video series Salish Sea Fresh, connecting marine ecosystem health with sustainable seafood – focused on food. MRC's are encouraged to apply for opportunity fund, deadline is May 8. November 13-14 annual conference at PT Maritime center. Dana Oster from NW Straits commission released the final plan for kelp conservation and recovery.

MRC Mondays – organized by Dana Oster, for MRC members around Salish Sea to meet virtually, monthly/bi-monthly to discuss projects, talk about ideas and where they need support.

Laura: although Puget Sound day on the Hill has been postponed, Partnership is still writing a letter of support to send to congress. If interested sign by April 14, ask Laura if you have any questions

8:53 AM **Project Updates**

- Plastic Free Salish Sea – website status, alternative GICU ideas

Frankie: The plastic industry is lobbying for single-use. But many argue for paper because virus stays on plastic longer. Also discussion of single-use plastic gloves and masks that aren't discarded properly, becoming a public health hazard or end up in marine environment

Website status: still waiting for contract to come back and get signed. Hired research assistant, Kelsey Kittelson, she's with conservation district. "Leave no trace" effort, a great way to unite terrestrial and marine efforts. She's working on the PFSS toolkits

- MSA plan revision – workshop recap and next steps

Subcommittee met virtually yesterday, discussed follow-up from Marine Managers' workshop.

Workshop recap: in-person gathering, around 45 people, many locals. People from Olympia, various state agencies. It was a great summary of where we are and summarizing new concerns

Q: what were some new concerns?

A: things that weren't on radar when original MSA was written: Decline of the SRKW population, marine disease, invasive species – all of these are larger threats than we knew a decade ago

- Southern Resident Killer Whales – outreach opportunity status, proposed alternative efforts

Previously discussed a pilot this year of Killer whale Tails (run by Jeff Hogan), and then by next year expanding to the whole county. Focused on grades 4-5. Now that's unlikely, postponed to next year. This year instead we can use those funds for something we had planned to do next year – a boating safety and info kiosk at County parks that would include Be whale wise and kelp information.

MOTION: Kendra moves to use outreach funds for a boater education kiosk at county park, Christina seconds. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes

9:09 AM     **MRC business**

*Frances Robertson*

MRC Grant amendment – amount of project funding available, project ideas Q2 Volunteer hours

Frankie is preparing second quarterly report also grant amendment to next year's budget. Shows draft MRC budget for 2020-21, Highlighted project funds available for current project costs Funding for MSA plan for another community workshop next year

Kailey: will Killer Whale Tails still be possible for next year?

Frankie: yes we still have the funding based on estimates we worked out with school districts.

We have few funds for actual project costs, but can still engage in projects that don't require costs.

i.e. green crab surveys, outreach on docks, beach clean-ups, the mussel work Carl is spearheading.

Karin: let's talk on Monday in PFSS subcommittee about big island clean-up and social distancing.

Kailey: it seems like the green crab team is also on hold, couldn't achieve their trainings

Kelsey Kittelson: For the Great Islands clean up, Stewardship is focused on an earth-month challenge – can be walking and cleaning in neighborhoods or just using less water or less lights on.

ACTION ITEM: Kelsey will send poster to Frankie to distribute as soon as it's ready, AND Frankie will send Kelsey MRC and PFSS logos to put on the poster

9:24 AM     Adjourn meeting

9:24 AM     Convene CAG meeting

*Christina Koons, Chair*

### **Salmon Recovery**

- Report on TAG review of SRFB Letters of Interest

TAG met in early march, heard about 11 letters of interest. Applications due April 22.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send the summarizing spreadsheet via email to the committee

Spreadsheet shows preliminary scores of green/yellow/red on far right. KWIAHT proposal was tagged largely red (due to monitoring plans), has already been communicated to project sponsor

Last week at Salmon recovery council meeting, announced that allocation will not be officially approved until their July meeting. The formula could change due to concerns about the economy.

Level: will proposals submitted take into account the difference between what funding is available vs. what they're asking, and will applicants include requests with range of possible funding?

Sam: that's part of the process, shifting around and making as much fit as possible. Trying to get applicants to reduce their ask as much as possible, keep partial-funding options on the table. Working with project sponsors to come up with additional match. Some initial asks will be reduced.

- May 6-7 SRFB Site Visit Planning

In-person on-site visits unlikely. Lead entities around the sound are moving to virtual site visits.

Sam has communicated Best Practices for Project Presentations for May 6-7 virtual tour to sponsors.

Lovel: we rely on TAG to do the majority of technical evaluation. Is there any additional material they could provide us to help make our decision?

Sam: I'll run that by the TAG. We'll have videos, photos, drone footage if available to show sites.

Some sites have been visited before, like MacKaye and Agate so there is some familiarity.

We have May 6 & 7 blocked out and 10 presentations. Since we won't be going into field, each project gets more time. Still break them up into two days and have presentations all mornings.

Megan: presentations should be 20 minutes. Then allow 10-15 minutes for discussion/questions.

Next steps following site visits – TAG review May 19<sup>th</sup>. Then July 2 is joint scoring meeting, then August meeting will look at ranked list and adjust accordingly.

By July 2 we may not have allocation officially approved, may need to tweak in August

Other quick updates:

-chapter process has contract in routing process through the county to get some coaching support.

Plan for 'virtual' kick-off meeting in early May. May be some PS partnership support available later this fall. Still moving forward with the plan for a draft available by end of this year or early in 2021

- also discussion in subcommittee last month to provide recommendations on shoreline issue.

Planning to wait until Tina's work is done on change analysis, then plan to convene subcommittee

9:52 AM Adjourn CAG meeting

*Christina Koons*

Any other comments or concerns about how MRC will operate and what will be happening?

Jamie: the new normal is staying in place, it will take patience not to get into these projects. A lot of things are on pause until we get the go-ahead to congregate. As far as funding the State has had to do a lot of emergency actions. That's where pessimism comes from at Salmon Recovery Council

Short term: controlling influx of cases, food/rent/utility assistance

Longer term: on 3 big islands work on recovery efforts and how to come out of this

Kendra: from my perspective it's important to have virtual meetings and continue communicating.

Q: what essential services are continuing in county?

Jamie: Most are happening remotely. Field crews: roads, parks – they are out doing projects readjusted to maintain social distancing. Courts are pretty much shut down, limited in what they're doing. Planning and permitting still working, mostly computerized. The health dept. is full on right now with emergency operations center. Council meets remotely.

Q: what is the county declaration about visitors? I heard that all vacation rentals need to stop operations and that visitors are not to come to islands, also no temporary moorage

Jamie: that's all true and also closed to camping in line with governors' order. Stopping all non-essential travel. We have low capacity here for medicine. All four of first positive tests were from people coming here and self-quarantined right away. Yesterday two additional positive tests.

Now all the orders are through April, but there seems to be hints that may be extended.

Christina: LIO meeting coming up, is that open for public to listen in?

A: yes, starts at 11am same zoom id



10:05 AM    Adjourn meeting

Laura Jo moves to adjourn, Lovel seconds. Meeting adjourned



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, June 4th, 2020  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycagkp85>  
Meeting ID: 829 3563 9203  
Password: 428585

## Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of March, and April meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:00 AM	<b>Invited speaker: Derelict Gear Removal in the San Juans</b> – <i>Joan Drinkwin, Natural Resources Consultants Inc.</i>
9:30 AM	<b>MRC business</b> <i>Frances Robertson</i> MRC Reference Manual Membership Officer Elections
9:45 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk and westside marine spatial planning project.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Need for life jacket donations</li></ul></li><li>Plastic Free Salish Sea – COVID-19 waste reduction press release and tool kit update</li><li>MSA plan revision – final workshop report publication, data collection efforts, mapping effort.</li></ul>
10:00 AM	<b>Eelgrass protection outreach</b> – <i>Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans</i> Request for MRC support of efforts.
10:15 AM	<b>Any Other Business</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Update on SRFB Grant Round</li><li>Planning for July Grant Scoring Meeting</li><li>San Juan Chapter Update progress report</li></ul>
11:00 AM	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

Attached files: March, April and May minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Jeff Friedman, Phil Green, Kailey Genter, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Patti Gobin, Kendra Smith.

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Abigail Ames, Kelsey Kittelson, Marcus Reaves, Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge.

**Public:** Alan Chapman, Robert Cornell, Joan Drinkwin, Lucas Hart, Jason Morgan, Dana Oster, Monica Shoemaker, Beth Tate, Tina Whitman.

8:33 AM     **Convene Meeting** *Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

Introductions. Karin acknowledges these times (covid and injustices). Our work as the MRC is extremely important. Hopefully this is an opportunity to find more volunteers while people are engaged.

8:43 AM     **Citizen input** *none*

8:44 AM     **Acceptance of March and April meeting minutes**

Christina moves to approve, Carl seconds. All approve, none opposed. Both minutes approved.

8:45 AM     **NW Straits Commission update** *Christina Koons*

- MRC symposia held Thursdays, Christina urges participation, and it's a chance to hear about how projects are implemented, eg. Buoys off of PT to avoid anchoring in eelgrass. SJC presenting in July.
- Met recently, working on relationship with Dept. of Ecology and elected officials. Science advisory committee continuing their work, science advisory panel for whale watch program.
- NW Indian fisheries commission signed on to help recovery revision statement
- Puget Sound day on the hill has been converted to a virtual event. Informative, valuable networking.
- NW Straits Foundation has secured funding for shoreline monitoring work for next 2 years.

*Question:* are NW Straits MRC symposia being recorded?

*Dana:* yes, and notes/chat discussions/presentations are saved. Sasha can give access.

8:52 AM     **Invited Speaker: Derelict Gear Removal in the San Juans** *Joan Drinkwin*

*Joan:*

- Severe problem in Puget Sound due to the capacity for rocky habitats to catch nets. Impacts of lost fishing gear is a global problem. Global Ghost Gear initiative (NRC and DNR are members), lost gill nets and crab pots continue to kill animals and damage habitat and vessels.
- NW straits identified this as a priority in 2001. Worked to establish a reporting program, removal started in 2002 with divers down to 105' deep. Every removal includes scientific data collection.

- Research projecting out long-term impacts shows positive cost benefit for removing shallow water nets and pots.
- In SJC removed over 2250 nets. But can't reach nets deeper than 100', mostly on west side of SJI.
- Potential impacts to deep-water rockfish, costs for removal can be up to \$30K/day.
- Enter the US Army dive team last summer, the Army 569<sup>th</sup> Engineer Dive Detachment from Virginia using WADNR funding and a local King County vessel.
- Shows video of army diving.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZtLBVyJjUU&fbclid=IwAR2IYL5sDErBY6CyDNVvnMd1yX4MmxDJhZRxenqrfpGSG0UAI\\_DHbePIEEk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZtLBVyJjUU&fbclid=IwAR2IYL5sDErBY6CyDNVvnMd1yX4MmxDJhZRxenqrfpGSG0UAI_DHbePIEEk)
- They had selected 41 of all nets to target. Last year got 31 of the target nets, also found two newly lost nets. This year working with 86<sup>th</sup> army dive detachment. Still unsure of plans due to covid restrictions. Project scheduled for July. Developing a covid mitigation plan. Vessel will follow whale wise protocols like last year, remains offshore, divers transport daily via USGC small boat from FH.

*Captain Cornell:* one of 5 operational dive commanders for this mission. The innovative readiness training program established in 1993 aims to provide mission-ready forces through military training to provide key services, in this case to the SJI communities. Recompression chamber must be on site. Covid risk: Entire detachment is being tested, so far zero infections. Taking all measure to protect from spread. Transport via military aircraft, divers sanitize personal equipment

*Monica from WA DNR:* Aquatics restoration, support deep-water derelict removal and partnership with DOD and NRC. Program started 2003. Derelict creosote pilings structures, large debris. MyCoast launched in 2018. App download on phone, photograph and report debris found on shore. Cleanup shorelines in SJI's: 2019 removed 85Klbs. debris. And 767Klbs. creosote removed since 2014  
[www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/restoration/deepwater-derelict-net-removal](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/aquatics/restoration/deepwater-derelict-net-removal)

*Question:* do you know the dates for dives in July?

*Cornell:* gear arrives in WA July 1, load vessel etc. dive ops begin July 6. Conclude on July 24.

*Q:* how do you locate nets?

*Joan:* mostly reporting response program. Some side-scan sonar. Derelict nets on this project mainly identified through sonar, also some drop-cam surveys, some left from shallow-water net removals

9:23 AM **MRC business**

*Frances Robertson*

- **MRC Reference Manual**

Distributed revised manual to all members. Frankie will finalize next week and send around pdf.

- **Membership**

One vacancy on committee. Also Lovel's, Kailey and Jeff's membership renewed for another term. We haven't scheduled any interviews with applicants yet. Anyone interested should contact [mrc@sanjuanico.com](mailto:mrc@sanjuanico.com), Frankie can provide an application. We continue to accept applications. Considerations - skills for projects, representation of marine resource use within the community

- **Officer Elections**

For Chair and vice-chair, if anyone has an interest or in nominating a fellow member, please speak.

*Karin:* I nominate Christina, she is articulate and has a good vision. I'd be willing to serve as co-chair

*MOTION:* Cathleen moves to make Christina new chair. Phil seconds

*Phil:* now we'll still need a vice-chair. NW Straits rep is also an elected position. Can she do both?

*Christina:* If needed I can do both. NW straits commitment can be shared. Once covid ends, travel to meetings takes time and expense. I'd like us to have flexibility with how we attend in future.

*Phil:* they voted to extend webex meeting to 3 hours. We are hosting meeting in August so no travel. ALL IN FAVOR of motion to elect Christina as chair, none opposed. The motion passes.

MOTION: Laura Jo moves to make Karin the vice-chair, Cathleen seconds. ALL IN FAVOR, Karin is vice chair

## 9:39 AM     **Project Updates**

### • **Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk**

At the April meeting we approved using some funds to help County parks produce a boater safety kiosk. Shows example kiosk at Eagle Cove, has large sign with Boater Safety information. Also Be Whale Wise, KELP, Whale Flag, and Westside Voluntary no-go zone. Trying to make signage engaging

- Need for life jacket donations

Want to have a life vest station to ensure boaters are properly equipped (similar to the Port of FH) PLEASE let Frankie know any ideas about donations. Planning to ask Yacht and sailing clubs.

ACTION ITEMS: Laura Jo will send out request in newsletter, Carl will check with Orcas yacht club

Plan to have signage finished by the end of June, kiosk up sometime in July

ACTION ITEM: we'll put a bin outside SJ Public works for lifejacket donations

**Westside Marine Spatial Planning Project** - Acoustic monitoring deployed Memorial Day, will continue active data collection through Labor Day. Preliminary results for foraging habitat due mid-June. Also working with Confluence to develop surveys and focused interviews, user group engagement surveys due in June. Plans interrupted by covid, now set for fall. Jeff F. has been helpful in gathering list of whale watch operators, we'll send them survey via email. Questions look at different management options, get an idea of spatial needs, users vs. forage data

*Question:* how deep are acoustic buoys?

A: range from 23' to deepest one 200'+ at Eagle Cove

Q: are questions going out to residents different than other interest groups? will they be publicized?

A: Yes, some questions are the same and some are specific to each group

ACTION ITEM: Once we get next draft of questions back from Confluence Frankie will circulate it to MRC but it will be a short turn-around for review, we want to get these out by the end of June.

### • **Plastic Free Salish Sea – COVID-19 waste reduction press release and tool kit update**

The PFSS steering committee created a guide to rate choices as good, better, or not-so-good to help people decide if they really need plastic. Intern Kelsey has created a poster.

*Kelsey:* I'm working on the toolkit which is a guidebook for individuals/businesses. Aims at plastic reduction in personal lives but also in business models, for event-planning, etc. June 25<sup>th</sup> is the target for end-product. Now polishing up each section, sending it out for review to committee. It'll be available on website as a link and as a pdf to download. Press release date for start of July.

### • **MSA plan revision – final workshop report publication, data collection efforts, mapping effort**

Published Marine managers report, distributed to all who attended and to all invited. We asked everyone to identify top three threats and knowledge gaps for each target we discussed.

ACTION ITEM: If you haven't participated yet, please do – Frankie will be sending out survey.

Abigail has begun interviews with regional scientists, especially those we weren't able to include in the workshop. Drafting conservation targets this month while continuing efforts to fill data voids. We are starting to wrangle county's GIS data layer related to different areas we work on in environmental marine resources. That'll make it easier to see what we have and what missing, not sure yet on timeline but hope to have that this summer then will reach out to partners to find missing data layers. Abigail will continue helping with this as research assistant through July.

**10:12 AM Eelgrass protection outreach**

*Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans*

In 2003, Friends with DNR and FHL mapped deep-water edge of eelgrass throughout SJC. That helps break out eelgrass into depth classes which is informative to boaters. After initial mapping, pilot project 10 years ago with anchor-out boater guide. That map had 3 depth classes. Current program runs through 2022, focus on herring spawn grounds. Herring are critical to food web. Herring spawn is predominantly on eelgrass in SJC. That's a new focus of the updated guide. Print and online resource guide available. Includes information on pump-out stations, public mooring buoys, whale-watch guidelines as of 2019, derelict gear hotline, etc. <https://sanjuans.org/greenboating> Request for MRC support of efforts as a formal partner. Not financial, but share resources. Community workshopping: protecting herring spawn grounds just off of Eastsound. Like Port Townsend, linear shoreline easy to designate. Eastsound planning review committee wants to advance this as a pilot project. We have funding to help upgrade buoys, some designs are more eelgrass-friendly than others. We've done upgrades for 16 private owners (to screw-anchor type), put in mooring buoys in places as a safe alternative to anchoring. We want whole MRC involvement. Love the signage on the County park kiosk, it would be great to include eelgrass information there

Note: People all over False Bay at extreme low tides this time of year and there is a lot of eelgrass. People walking right on it, dogs loose, etc. Is there any target for beach-walkers education?

*Megan:* an informal save-false-bay group, including Drew Harvell and Kim Sundberg, wants to implement additional signage, more surveys. Adjacent to lab's property other places like Parks Bay and Blind Bay, those would be great for anchor-out buoys at appropriate depth. This is an important task for the MRC where we can make an actual difference, ecologically important low-hanging fruit.

*Question:* if you anchor shallower than 25' will you avoid eelgrass?

A: That's usually a great rule of thumb. Eelgrass can grow up to 30' but in high current areas

**10:34 AM Adjourn Meeting**

Laura Jo moves to adjourn, Carl seconds. Meeting adjourned

**10:35 AM Convene CAG Meeting**

*Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair*

**Salmon Recovery**

- Update on SRFB Grant Round

This is the home stretch. Thanks for virtual site visit participation. Since then, review process. TAG met for preliminary evaluations, sent comments to sponsors to strengthen proposals. They evaluated benefit to salmon, likelihood of success, and cost/benefit analysis. Two projects were cleared, four conditioned/need more information, and two are projects of concern.

- Planning for July Grant Scoring Meeting

Final proposals due June 19<sup>th</sup>, at that point Sam will send all information to CAG and TAG along with score sheets and then 2-week turnaround before scoring meeting. Final review on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be a new process: combination of TAG and CAG scoring to better integrate technical and socioeconomic aspects. Sam will send out emails with proposal info and instructions. Everyone should send Sam scores ahead of time for optimal efficiency.

*Question:* for projects of concern, have sponsors indicated if they want to continue going forward? And if they don't will we have extra money for other projects

A: Judd Cove will go forward, there was a nearshore and freshwater component. That proposal will be overhauled, freshwater part may become a design or be removed, if so it will likely be cleared. The Buoy bay was cleared by TAG but not by SRFB. Given the price tag, over \$400K, the review panel felt benefit to salmon wasn't enough and potential risk too great.

Now have 250K more requested than we have, if that project drops we'd have enough for all else – a few project sponsors could increase budgets if needed. important to use all funds on the table.

- San Juan Chapter Update progress report

We are moving forward, had a kick-off meeting last week, discussed elements we want to include. Second meeting next week to review draft work plan, when that's ready will share it with CAG. CAG members Phil, Cathleen, and Marcus were all at that meeting, important liaisons to MRC.

10:56 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**

Kendra moves to adjourn, Lovel seconds. Meeting adjourned.

**San Juan County Lead Entity**  
**SRFB Grant Round 21**  
**CAG/TAG Scoring Meeting**

Thursday, July 2nd, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87580131854?pwd=SWxqU3Q2UExYMUpydjZoNTArU3pTdZ09>

Meeting ID: 875 8013 1854

Password: 671231

Attend by phone:

+1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 875 8013 1854

Password: 671231

**Meeting Agenda**

TIME	TOPIC
<b>8:30am-8:35am</b>	<b>Welcome and Overview</b>
<b>8:35am-8:55am</b>	<b>MRC Business</b> ( <i>Christina Koons</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Approval of June Meeting Minutes</li><li>- MRC Volunteer Hours Reporting</li><li>- False Bay Visitor Surveys</li></ul> <b>CAG Business</b> ( <i>Sam Whitridge</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Agate Beach Design Cost Increase Request (18-1776)</li></ul>
<b>8:55am-10:15am</b>	<b>CAG Scoring of 2020 SRFB Proposals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- (<a href="#">20-1562</a>) Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1508</a>) Hunter Bay Acquisition</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1506</a>) Cascade Creek Flow Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1505</a>) Judd Cove Shoreline and Stream Enhancement Project</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1062</a>) Agate Beach County Park Shoreline Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1043</a>) MacKaye Harbor Beach Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1040</a>) Jackson Beach Restoration Design</li></ul>
<b>10:15am-10:20am</b>	<i>Break</i>
<b>10:20am-12:30pm</b>	<b>TAG Scoring of 2020 SRFB Proposals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- (<a href="#">20-1562</a>) Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1508</a>) Hunter Bay Acquisition</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1506</a>) Cascade Creek Flow Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1505</a>) Judd Cove Shoreline and Stream Enhancement Project</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1062</a>) Agate Beach County Park Shoreline Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1043</a>) MacKaye Harbor Beach Restoration</li><li>- (<a href="#">20-1040</a>) Jackson Beach Restoration Design</li></ul>
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Adjourn Meeting</b>



**CAG Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Kailey Genter, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**TAG Members in Attendance:** Jenny DeGroot, Ray Glaze, Gene Helfman, Judy Meyer, Mike Ramsey, Marcus Reaves, Melinda Rowse, Kimbal Sundberg, Tina Whitman, Todd Zackey, Cynthia Smith

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge

**Public:** Beth Tate, Emily Dexter

8:30 AM **MRC Business**

*Christina Koons*

- Approval of June Meeting Minutes, Phil moves to approve, Kailey seconds. All in favor.
- Frances requests that MRC members report Volunteer Hours as soon as possible
- False Bay Visitor Surveys, thanks Cathleen & Karen for help – seeking other volunteers, during low tides
- Plastic Free Salish Sea will be launching kits in July

8:35AM – No public comment. Adjourn MRC meeting, convene CAG meeting

8:36 AM **CAG Business**

*Sam Whitridge*

- Agate Beach Design Cost Increase Request (18-1776)

Lead entity request, Sam reviews total request and discussions with PS partnership to find out whether this money would be coming out of this year's allocation (if so we have extra funds to cover it)

Question re: project management amount, \$7500 – is that to supplement Environmental resource manager?

*Byron:* I don't have funding now to participate in this project, this would allow me to keep working on it.

Brief discussion regarding design for the stairs/ beach access. Project must be wrapped by end of September.

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve the cost increase, Cathleen seconds. All in favor. (Kendra abstains)

8:47 AM **CAG Scoring of 2020 SRFB Proposals**

*Sam:* CAG scores on socio-economic, TAG on technical. I sent materials for review and criteria for evaluation.

- When there's a conflict of interest on a proposal, Sam will put that individual in the Zoom 'waiting room'.

- ([20-1562](#)) Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point

Friends of SJ on Shaw Island. Lovel is a conflict, Tina has jumped off the call until TAG portion at 10:20AM.

It's not addressing seawater rise, seems inevitable it will flood again (that affected one score negatively)

- ([20-1508](#)) Hunter Bay Acquisition (SJ County Land bank proposal)

Concerns: Funding request is most of property value, seems like it should be an acquisition not an easement. When the Land Bank owns easements with successive property owners over time can present challenges.

There's liability for the costs the public would need to spend to defend future disputes, and the fact that the Land Bank could (hypothetically) treat infractions with a fine and let the infraction itself stand detracting from conservation value. Surprised to see no endowment associated with the easement, that's standard for maintaining conditions and defending the property if necessary

Benefits: good direct effects for herring spawn. But conservation easement on the land seems like a very indirect effect because the property only owns down to MLLW and the herring habitat is about 5' below that.

- ([20-1506](#)) Cascade Creek Flow Restoration (Land Bank)

Kendra recused because SJC matches funding. Jenny DeGroot also recused with a conflict.

Question: why wasn't climate change incorporated, is this an attempt to purchase water that won't be there? If there's a question about whether humans or fish get water that's an ongoing debate.

-If there's public access to this site there should be some signage - public benefit, understanding about restoration, etc. That's where the socioeconomic benefit is  
- As a preserve this has a lot of socio-economic benefits

- ([20-1505](#)) Judd Cove Shoreline and Stream Enhancement Project

This was indicated by the review panel as a project of concern and then reworked. No recusals.

- No culvert in the budget but it's in the text. It seems that it was removed from the proposal  
- Good proposal but no socioeconomic impacts mentioned

- ([20-1062](#)) Agate Beach County Park Shoreline Restoration

Last 3 are all Public Works so Byron is recused in the waiting room, Kendra is departing the meeting.

We talked earlier about the design cost increase, this is the Restoration proposal we were discussing.

- if there's a plan to add informational/ interpretive signage it would meet with high scores

- ([20-1043](#)) MacKaye Harbor Beach Restoration, (no discussion just scores)

- ([20-1040](#)) Jackson Beach Restoration Design, (no discussion just scores)

Sam shares screen and reviews current ranking based on CAG scores. TAG scores are weighed more heavily.

9:38 AM Adjourn CAG meeting, break

10:23 AM **Reconvene meeting**

*Sam Whitridge*

Process question: does CAG need to stay silent during TAG discussion?

Answer: no, this is an open, public meeting. Comments welcome. Emily Dexter is here, landowner

Jamie: public meeting means they have access to the record, not necessarily the right to participate

Sam: since majority of non-TAG here are CAG members who have reviewed the proposals comment is fine.

Conflicts of interest: let's declare them now and Sam will put them into the 'waiting room' as needed:

Cascade Creek – Jenny DeGroot will be recused, Shaw Island and also Judd Cove – Tina, Last three - Byron

10:30 AM **TAG Scoring of 2020 SRFB Proposals:**

- ([20-1562](#)) Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point (Tina goes into the waiting room)

Nice design, removes rock and creosote from a large area that forage fish use in a high priority region.

Landowner is on board and aware of future flooding issues.

- ([20-1508](#)) Hunter Bay Acquisition

Benefits: herring spawn nearby but no evidence of salmonids. High priority area for conservation. Good confluence of freshwater stream and shoreline riparian habitat, good freshwater component.

herring spawn nearby - sites positive for forage fish nearby to south, high priority spawning area

Good acquisition project that fits in well with Hunter Bay being embedded in larger area. Owner is willing to extinguish development right and we get the property for less than title fee.

Concerns: can the Land Bank enforce a conservation easement? Wish we had better data on the beach, but at least part of the area is good for forage fish and herring just offshore

- ([20-1506](#)) Cascade Creek Flow Restoration (Land Bank project, Jenny goes into the waiting room)

Benefits: Where else in the county do we have salmon spawning? Good demonstration area, educate public about water issues and how they affect spawning fish, we look good defending this site. It's so important to protect flow in Cascade Creek and impressed with work Land Bank has done. This is the best chance to get the water and the purchase of inflow monitoring.

Concerns: Score depends on whether it's purchase or lease. That wasn't cleared up between presentation and now. Not certain Orcas Water holding will sell right. Several reviewers said they would *only* be in favor of a purchase and not of a lease, with the condition that we're purchasing a portion of the senior water right. Land Bank said they would just pursue communication with other water rights holders, no commitment toward further purchases doesn't guarantee flow in low flow years. There's a lot of uncertainty around water rights issues. There was no MOU or landowner awareness agreement. Needs discussion of drought/climate change. Travesty that we need to buy water rights to maintain enough flow in a stream for fish. But we're not maintaining sufficient flows for fish unless we buy it

Question: if we make it a condition that it must be a purchase, will that give Land Bank more leverage?

There's a lot of support for this on Orcas, just worry that it still wouldn't give enough water at the right time

Sam: I'm hearing that the majority of you would switch to green if this was a purchase

RESPONSES: ...and more positive feedback from water rights owner, and some competent legal work done

Q: What would happen to this money if we don't use it for this?

Sam & Byron: it comes back to our pot to be redistributed, there's a certain time window in which to use it

- (20-1505) Judd Cove Shoreline and Stream Enhancement Project

(Let Jenny back in to the room, send Tina to the waiting room)

Benefits: good project, fixes an historical error. Cost benefit is good, at minimum armor removed and bonus if stream mouth goes in and then you get a micro-estuary in there. More justification for the marine aspect. One reviewer said, 'Like the shoreline, I view the freshwater part as an extension of nearshore restoration. They're doing wetland restoration by putting the stream back. First, this is fairly inexpensive – high bang for buck. I don't think it's a good use of public funds to do more design work.'

Concerns: Design not thorough, not defined enough. Poorly presented, especially the freshwater aspect. culvert replacement? Hard to understand without being there on site. Proposal said they were scaling back, costs reduced because they're moving to a non-fish-passable culvert. Smaller culvert without as much engineering. I appreciate that they scaled project back but it should be entirely shoreline for this project. Hard to believe that stream is passable to anadromous fish. Too much of a vertical bank up to stream unless we get more information to support idea that fish can access/use that stream, more costs for that than for the shoreline portion. This doesn't look like a cutthroat stream even though they say it could be.

Sam: Do we want conditions?

Most reviewers want to take the stream part/freshwater component out. If it is included, do they need a feasibility study for the stream and is there a potential to use part of the money to do that feasibility study and fund the marine part? Must determine if the stream part is SRFB fundable before encouraging sponsor to go through with that. Could consider the lower stream work as part of the nearshore habitat -that's not how it's presented, but that's the only way we could fund a stream like this

11:49am short break

11:57am reconvene

- (20-1062) Agate Beach County Park Shoreline Restoration

Project is well-vetted, straightforward, long-term benefits etc. County/parks/highway/private landowner all in it together. Great that there's money in the budget for signage. This is a good example of taking an action in response to projected climate change and sea level rise.

A lot of concern about the stairs given high-energy environment. But any change would be an improvement. Review panel wanted more information on the planting aspect, should be resolved - the area provided for planting was an issue, now it's wider. water will be trucked in for first couple of summers for irrigation.

- ([20-1043](#)) MacKaye Harbor Beach Restoration

Benefits: Improves habitat for one of the few known sand lance spawning beaches, great landowner involvement, great redressing of past bad acts against landowners. Armor removal is a great improvement to the site. They addressed concerns we brought up last round

Concerns: A few reviewers said they wish the project would take out the whole groin.

Needs interpretative signage here because it's a public boat launch.

Beach nourishment material seems more suitable for smelt than for sand lance.

- ([20-1040](#)) Jackson Beach Restoration Design

Benefits: good interconnection with county park, nearby nature trail, high visibility - lots of visitors. important project, adjacent to sand lance spawning, cleaning up old debris will be a big improvement. There's a huge creosote dock structure out there, LIO has some extra money so it's possible they can combine the piling removal with some of that funding which comes from EPA.

Concerns: not convinced this will have a lot of benefit for salmon. Some questions about what's possible in terms of being able to move big rocks out of intertidal. questions about the temporary barge use

12:30 Sam shows spreadsheet and reviews initial ranking based on all scores. Cascade creek and Judd Cove were yellow so Sam will communicate that to Land Bank and follow-up.

ACTION ITEM: when scores are finalized Sam will send them out to CAG and TAG

Rankings are due August 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll finalize list at August meeting. More work required on at least three of these over the next month.

Kim: thank you Sam! You made this process easier

12:36 ADJOURN



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, August 6th, 2020  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 825 0563 4540

Passcode: 860708

Call in number:

+1 253 215 8782

## Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i> <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b> <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people, who have taken care of these Islands since time immemorial</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of July meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:00 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monthly beach cleans, GICU participation</li></ul></li><li>MSA plan revision –</li><li>Orcas Landing – <i>Kendra Smith</i></li><li>Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk &amp; westside MSP project.</li><li>Grant applications – what we're applying for.</li></ul>
9:30 AM	<b>County Marine Program &amp; MRC Resilience - Christina Koons</b> What do you want to see in the marine environment in the future? Where should the MRC focus and what should the County prioritize? What do you want to engage in? e.g. Outreach and education, monitoring,  How the MRC's work influences the county over the next few years will impact the future.
10:15 AM	<b>Any Other Business</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review/Approve SRFB Ranked Project List</li><li>- Salmon Recovery 4 Year Workplan</li></ul> San Juan Chapter Update progress report
11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b></li></ul>

Attached files: July minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Kailey Genther, Marta Green, Pema Kitaef, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt (departed meeting at 10:00), Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson; Kendra Smith; Beth Tate (awaiting appointment)

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Kate Harris, Lucas Hall, Lucas Hart, Marcus Reaves, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Sam Whitridge

8:31 AM **Convene Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

Open meeting with the following statement: "Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation."

8:31AM **Citizen input**

*none*

8:32 AM **Acceptance of July meeting minutes**

Megan moves to accept July minutes, Laura Jo seconds. All in favor. July meeting minutes accepted.

8:45 AM **NW Straits Commission update**

*Christina Koons*

-Presenting to the commission in October about science advisory committee actions around whale watch license program, Christina recommends all attend end of October, very relevant to SJ county

-Pivot from 1-2 MRC symposia to an online symposium. Each symposium has featured one of 7 counties, spend several hours talking about details of projects, focus on one MRC

-Puget Sound day on the hill turned into multiple virtual days, all should have received invitations

Lovel: I'm on the advisory committee for the Commercial Whale Watch Licensing Program rule-making. My understanding is that at the Dec. 3-4 WDFW commissioners' meeting their will be an opportunity for public comments regarding the commercial whale-watch licensing rules. ~~public testimony opportunity on one of those days.~~

Christina: thanks, MRC should comment

8:44 AM **Project Updates**

- Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched, Monthly beach cleans

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

We have a dedicated web page now with tool-kits and tips for being plastic-free.

Amy Cadwell is organizing regular beach clean-ups, this Saturday is the next one

Kendra: we should quantify how much of that is happening, helps solid waste plan which funds PFSS

ACTION ITEM: Christina and Carl will discuss that

The website will have a beach adoption interaction piece in phase 3

Jeff Dyer interested a subcommittee meeting; Karin: Please join us if you're interested

ACTION ITEM: Karin will let Jeff know details of next meeting (Tuesday before MRC meeting, usually 1pm)

- MSA plan revision

Organizing strategies identified in original plan. Input from Sam & Tina regarding salmon, Kendra regarding clean water and storm water. Next year focus on socioeconomic aspects

Kendra: we brought in public works GIS coordinator, she's now on environmental resources team

- Orcas Landing

*Kendra Smith*

Plants are doing well. Need to replace benches in coming week, we can use volunteers. Interpretive displays coming by September. Still need more help for building stairs etc.

Carl: I'll help if I can, and I may know someone who can donate and provide lavender. I can also contact the Orcas garden club, maybe they want to sponsor a plot; Christina: I'll also help

Kendra: planning to work on it more this winter/spring so that next season it'll be done

Carl: what if there was a community ecological bulletin board with volunteer opportunities?

Kendra: that was in the grant, planned for the north side of the building

- Southern Resident Killer Whales – County Park Kiosk & Westside MSP project

Boater safety kiosk is being constructed, complete by end of summer. Be whale wise signage is simplified.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will email pdfs of the signage there

Frankie is working see if there is a way to compare reactions to the new simplified sign vs. the old one.

Thanks to Carl for getting the signs up around Orcas and Jeff for doing it around Lopez

Marine spatial planning effort on west side – surveys went out to whale watch and kayak guides, working on recreational fishers and boaters. Plugging away on outreach and messaging, webinars

- Grant applications – what we're applying for

We want the marine program to be viewed as important as solid waste. This is where boater services and protection of marine environment comes into play. New donation button on web-page within a few weeks

Frankie: recreational boating community. I've asked George Harris, head of NW Marine Trade Association and the Waggoneer's Cruisers guide to see if they would talk at one of our meetings. As Kendra mentioned, SJ's is full right now. 200 boats anchored in Sucia. Even when mooring buoys are available, they're not suitable for larger boats. It's been suggested that we need a network of around 2000 buoys in popular spots where 80% are reservable by a phone app. It's a huge sector that we're not thinking about in terms of users in the marine environment.

Karin: New boaters using marine resources for the first time should be our focus

Frances: we applied to a Pew charitable trust for funding to plan and coordinate efforts for eelgrass protection. For example, restoration effort in Westcott Bay. Mike Ramsey wants protection buoys out there.

We want to coordinate, find out what protections are most effective and engage the boating community.

Beth Tate: my organization already received some money from Rick Hughes to identify locations where people are anchoring where we could install mooring buoys, we have identified up to 40 sites. These are geo-referenced on maps. We also have estimates of numbers of buoys possible at each site

Kendra: If there are opportunities for folks to get permits those come with information for boaters

Level: in terms of preventing anchoring in eelgrass and increasing mooring buoys MRC should connect with

Friends. Jefferson County MRC has had a great success with [their positioning of buoys to mark eelgrass/voluntary no anchor zones](https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/voluntary-no-anchor-zones/) (<https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/projects/voluntary-no-anchor-zones/>) funding their mooring buoy program

We have the issue of oil spill response resources. Important to continue to protect county marine programs.

Kendra: its 2021 that we need to worry about more than 2020, we'll let you know when that comes up.

Christina if you could speak up as chair of the MRC meeting at that next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: that meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Christina will attend to speak for funding for SJC's marine resources

## 9:30 AM County Marine Program & MRC Resilience

Christina Koons

What do you want to see in the marine environment in the future? Where should the MRC focus and what should the County prioritize?

Go through participants and hear statements about what people have in mind. Some ideas:

- outreach and education, so people who live here know more about the marine environment



- ensure the marine environment is viewed as an essential island service, like roads. Find stable funding and show people the value so not dependent on the grant cycle. Still thinking about the discovery pass idea.
  - Is academic research collaborating well with citizen science groups? more communication between entities
  - help people become more self-reliant in terms of food, develop a system to make our island self-sufficient.
  - outreach and making sure people feel like park rangers for their island, key to protecting and restoring
  - education and outreach, in schools. Maritime-related inventory of economic benefits and jobs. the idea of a lecture series into the fall. It'll be more challenging to connect people in the fall when weather is bad
- Frankie: 1. I put in the grant for next year to do series of workshops (webinars) for helping to share who the MRC is and what we're doing in the SJ's, we can start discussing those in the Fall. And 2. For school outreach, it would be good to gather organizations that have curricula (Friends, Seadoc) maybe a couple of MRC members can do some info gathering, identify what's being covered in classrooms and what are gaps.
- stewardship, education and outreach. moving away from tourism. the idea of boater permits to visit islands as a revenue stream
  - more communication between entities. MRC's have great data which we collect and compile. the idea of collaboration between private entities and MRC
  - The labs has a fully-engaged science outreach program on SJI in both public school and spring street.
  - importance of communication between agencies.
  - stewardship, that was one of our original missions for the MRC. We need more infrastructure to make it easier for visitors to do the right thing (eg. Buoys like in Port Townsend)
  - work on fish recovery and protection, working with more MRC's
  - more maritime work, less tourist-based.
  - more marine education for public, wish we had a small community-based aquarium here

10:37 AM Adjourn MRC Meeting

10:38 AM Convene CAG Meeting

*Sam Whitridge, Chair*

Sam: I have a few items for review, final stage is to submit our ranked list to the State by next week  
(Sam shares screen with summary spreadsheet)

#### Salmon Recovery

- Review/Approve SRFB Ranked Project List:

Hunter Bay was not funded going forward. Sam has developed a list of key elements project sponsors must include in the future so that proposals can be more robust.

Where remaining funding is going: \$35K to Friends to extend sand lance surveys another year, and \$79K to phase 2 of the Crescent beach feasibility study that we weren't able to fully fund last year.

MOTION to adopt final ranked list as presented by Sam: Carl moves to accept, Kendra seconds. All in favor.

Kendra: this is a great example of why we need to have a marine program, with Sam and Byron here to facilitate and arrange all this. Otherwise money available at the state level couldn't be implemented here

New requirement this year: RCO is requiring all entities to provide a project list of what's needed for salmon recovery. We'll need to fight for funding but this is a great exercise, represents what we might be able to get done over next grant round 2021-22. This list needs to be submitted to State by the end of next week, going into the State database, 'Salmon recovery portal'. But this is not a final list, doesn't mean a commitment to these particular projects – still need lead entity approval by TAG

MOTION to approve list of planned projects as presented by Sam: so moved by Megan, seconded by Laura Jo. All in favor of the motion, it passes

11:07 AM Adjourn CAG meeting



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, September 3rd, 2020  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 7767 9651

Passcode: 640422

Call in number:  
+1 253 215 8782

## Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i> <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b> <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of July meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons</i>
8:55 AM	<b>Marine Stewardship Area Plan Update: Progress and Next Steps</b> <i>Abigail Ames (MRC Research Assistant), Frances Robertson, &amp; MSA Update subcommittee</i>
10:00 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>)</li><li>• SRKW Outreach &amp; Education (<i>Frances Robertson</i>)</li></ul>
10:15 AM	<b>Any Other Business/MRC Member news and comments</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> -WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Strategy Update -2021-2023 Lead Entity Funding Reduction
11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b></li></ul>

Attached files: August minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith,

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Abigail Ames, Marta Green, Frances Robertson, Sam Whitridge,

**Public in attendance:** Christine Minney, Dana Oster, Ryan Palmateer, Cindy Wolf

**8:35 AM Convene Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.*

Welcome newest member Beth Tate. And County Council seat district 1 and 2 candidates are here.

**8:35 AM Citizen input**

*none*

**8:36 AM Acceptance of July meeting minutes**

Kendra moves to approve amended minutes, Megan seconds. All approve, none opposed.

**8:37 AM NW Straits Commission update**

*Christina Koons*

Christina will pass along minutes from last week's NW Straits meeting. The MRC symposium has wrapped, 7 MRC's presented about their work over 14 week period, it's all recorded and available. Communications audit – updated plan coming up soon to help in how we represent ourselves.

**8:43 AM Marine Stewardship Area Plan Update: Progress and Next Steps**

*Abigail Ames*

Abigail, research assistant with MRC for the past year and a half, delivers presentation:

In 2004 SJ County council created Marine Stewardship Area encompassing all SJI's, MRC designated to write management plan. Today focus on biodiversity targets among 7 different habitat types.

March 2019-> present: Evaluated MSA strategies/objectives, built contact database/gathered knowledge (core group of researchers and managers), then hosted Marine Managers Workshop in mid-March 2020, data from workshop used to update biodiversity targets and identify top strategies  
Armored shores: monitoring efforts have been limited. Since 2007, armoring increased and eelgrass habitat decreased. No invasive species poses big threat currently but need to monitor (green crab, sargassum). Issues of run-off, increased pollutants, forage fish health, high quality spawning habitat.

Kelp & eelgrass: foundational species. Approximately 100 miles of shoreline in SJC is eelgrass habitat. There's been decline in local densities especially due to eelgrass wasting disease. Primary concern with kelp is bull kelp. There have been regional declines in last decade, 36% loss

Bottom fish: lingcod and greenling. Lingcod has increased fishery pressure recently but still ok.

Rockfish closed in 2010 after population collapsed in 70's. Shorter lived species liked Quillback and copper are doing better, for longer lived like yellow eye and bocaccio it will take much longer to see progress. Adults live deep, but juveniles live in shallow habitats that are threatened by habitat degradation. WDFW plans to have a large-scale population estimate by 2021

Subtidal communities: focus on sea cucumbers, red urchins, and scallops. Sea cucumbers have been overharvested and poached, WDFW is adjusting quotas. Pinto abalone had huge collapse over a

decade ago, recently listed as endangered in 2019. New strategies being tested for restoration. knowledge gaps: habitat use, community structure, biodiversity, increasing vessel use impacts  
Pacific Salmon and forage fish: chinook, coho, pink, sockeye, chum, herring, pacific sand lance, surf smelt. Habitat issues for juveniles which support adult populations. Knowledge gaps: Local variations in habitat & water quality, predator interactions, forage fish population dynamics  
Marine Birds: revised this target to marine birds to include black oyster catcher (previously intertidal)

Recent trends from DFW, Pelagic cormorants and goldeneye populations increasing

Rhino auklets stable but recent mortality events associated with 2018 heat blob

Marbled murrelets are federally listed as endangered but not included in original MSA plan. These birds don't nest in SJI's but forage here so this habitat is essential to their well-being

Forage fish are an important component of marine health & wellness. Knowledge gaps around how forage fish species interact with birds, bird interactions with humans such as increased commercial and recreational vessel use, small oil spills, and increased predation by bald eagles restored here

Marine Mammals: Killer whales include endangered southern residents (decreased from 86 in 2007 to 73 now) and threatened transients. Calf survival higher for TWK than for SRKW. Knowledge gaps: availability/accessibility of prey, vessel impacts, population dynamics and TWK vs. SRKW differences.

Baleen Whales, humpback, minke and gray: Humpback and grays both increasing

Knowledge gaps: impact of ship-strike and gear entanglement, impact of forage fish populations

Other odontocetes: include harbor porpoise (increasing) and dalls porpoise (populations unknown)

Pinnipeds: Steller sea lions, California sea lion, northern elephant seals, harbor seals. First three populations are increasing, harbor seal population leveled out and stabilizing. Knowledge gaps: pinniped species and their prey, also entanglement, ship-strike, and human access to haul-out sites

Next steps:

Abigail is summarizing data. Frankie is doing same for socioeconomic and cultural targets, and specifically how human-related targets relate with biodiversity. Then finalize the updated plan.

Acknowledgements to key supporters, the MRC MSA Subcommittee included Megan D, Tina Whitman, Kari Koski, Phil Green, Christina Koons, and Lovel Pratt. Abigail thanks the MRC

## QUESTIONS

Ivan: about TKW –are you aware of 2019 population study by DFO? that reported 309 individuals growing at 4.1percent since 2012 added 100 calves since then

Cindy: about water quality issues – could you talk about most pressing needs?

Kendra: with freshwater we have a CW utility and ongoing projects to address stormwater runoff. Target streams that have livestock use and low-quality ponds to repair riparian conditions and flow. We're also street-sweeping and cleaning catch basin to minimize flushing of pollutants with rains.

I'm curious about impacts about a lot of boats in shallow bays where there's fine sediment.

Turbidity seems to be up in those areas, would be good to get more monitoring in those systems

Frankie: Jeff Gaeckle wonders if some of eelgrass wasting disease is related to water quality.

Another concern related to boating is whether the no-discharge zone is being adhered to. There has been a lot of use this summer especially with the border closed, uptick in use at Roche Harbor pump-out. What are boaters doing in areas where there aren't those facilities?

Regarding vessel noise there is work on that and impacts on marine mammals. Hydrophone run by whale museum and SMRU and acoustic recorders on West side to better understand impacts of smaller vessels, especially as we go forward with marine spatial planning.

Also work to prevent oil spills. In terms of vessels we have both the noise and spill issues.

Lovel: In terms of vessel impacts, noise can affect fish as well as mammals. With risks of oil spills from large commercial vessels, probability is low but consequences would be catastrophic. Impacts could last for decades depending on material so prevention is paramount.

Marta: a workshop in 2016 determined that the positioning of a rescue tug for a disabled vessel, similar to the one at Neah Bay, in our waters would be a major risk mitigation measure. Investing in a tug here would avoid huge costs. We've launched a phase of the project yesterday of modelling logistics and garnering public support.

#### 9:46 AM **Project Updates**

##### • **Plastic Free Salish Sea Launched**

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

We have toolkits for businesses/schools/individuals. Information at [www.plasticfreesalishsea.org](http://www.plasticfreesalishsea.org)

Now want to be more relevant on a daily basis, more than island cleanups a couple of times year.

In last subcommittee meeting we heard from Mark Ingham, county waste management coordinator about plastic types: only #1 and 2 are recyclable here. We need to rely on reuse and refuse.

Reminder: great island cleanup Sept 29-October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will pass on info about that to ensure participation by helping to clean different beaches

Christina: are there beach cleanups on each Island? how do I find the person organizing on Orcas?

Frankie: we'll post that info on the PFSS website, that'll be the central place for getting information

Karin: the vision is to ensure we aren't adding more plastic and hope our local ripple creates a wave into the future. We want to connect with the other 6 MRC's about this and collaborate. To that end we have participated in various MRC gatherings to talk about this, want more collaboration in future

Christina: has the NW Straits organized a way for MRC's to talk about Plastic-free, mini-symposium?

Dana: working on that now, we plan to follow up the virtual symposium with more targeted sessions including PFSS. Similar with Lovel and Marta for oil-spill consequences (Jefferson and Clallam are interested). Looking now at other topics to follow up on. Please contact me with specific suggestions

##### • **SRKW Outreach & Education**

*Frances Robertson*

This summer has been different, no dock talks. Whale warning flag sign is up at Port of FH and RH every weekend, at Lopez too. Whale flags continue to go out, boats are flying the flag, especially whale watch vessels. The boater safety kiosk at County park will be finished tomorrow.

ACTION ITEM: have an informally/socially distanced opening. It's right by the boat launch.

Already talked about the coastal acoustic bouys (CABS) as part of Marine spatial planning effort, those are due to come out. We lost one CAB this summer. Some challenges due to current.

Oceans Initiative using data from 2003 to 2019, a team this summer tracking killer whales on West side and behavioral responses to vessel traffic etc. Contracted by WDFW.

Social data collection is underway, surveys went out to whale watch and kayak operators. West side resident survey postcard reminders arriving week after next. Still working on surveys to recreational fishing community and to local sailing/yacht clubs. Next user group is commercial fisherman

Kendra: I also want to mention some work with the tribes regarding cultural awareness on West side. Opportunity for county employees, project managers and other interested public to hear from Tribes on their feelings regarding tribal treaty rights, land and water use, etc. bring about a higher level of cultural awareness. hoping to set that up late October early November probably via zoom

ACTION ITEM: let Frankie know you're interested in being included we'll gather names to contact

**10:13 AM Any Other Business/MRC Member news and comments**

Christina received invitation to participate in Puget Sound Partnership vital sound survey from Oregon University. Seems related to work with the MSA plan, she'll report back about

Lovel: two updates, First a letter drafted to Inslee that 41 organizations have signed about large capacity Roberts Bank container ship terminal. Environmental review process found impacts on chinook salmon from Frasier, also to SRKW. We're asking Inslee to oppose the project and that if Canada moves forward to request additional mitigations, including an ERTV positioned in the Islands. Tankers are required to have tug escorts, safety precautions built in, but container ships have no such requirement. Frances has that letter and can share it, we also have a take action link on the Friends of San Juan home page (with ways to contact ministers in Canada, etc.)

I also report that we initiated a pledge prompted by news that 3 SRKW are pregnant, we commit to giving them more space in hopes they can successfully birth live calves. There are similar pledges from both recreational and commercial boaters. I can send press releases about that

ACTION ITEMS: include both documents mentioned by Lovel as attachments to these minutes

Karin: At Eagle Cove some behavior we can't reach. There's an increase in private boaters. Fishers come in very close to the whales. We need to give space to the little ones and maternal groups.

Lovel: Reports at Lime Kiln of boats too close, vessels going too fast, DFW not on the scene.

Ivan: Pro-operators are giving SRKW extra space. Unfortunately we are the only boat slowing down in the half mile zone. This year I've seen some of the worst behavior in 17 years. Many recreational boaters, especially on weekends. There is much more work to do to educate public, not enough enforcement. And the average boater doesn't know what 100 yards or half a mile looks like on the water. I wonder if message should be more "if you see a whale or a whale warning flag, slow down and avoid the area period". Because public also can't identify different whales.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will confirm that enforcement number and post it on the MRC website

**10:37 AM Adjourn Meeting, Convene CAG Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

• **WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Strategy Update**

Over a million of funding this round, we approved our final list in August. September 16<sup>th</sup> is the final approval meeting to review projects from all over the state

Includes list of projects that are ready-to-go for 2021 and 2022 grant rounds, that process is wrapped up state-wide and sending 80 million total request to State legislature for projects that could be implemented over next 6 years. This is an effort to improve communication/transparency.

• **2021-2023 Lead Entity Funding Reduction**

Another update: 15% cut to our operating budget over coming years, represents \$146K reduction  
Moving forward with Salmon recovery chapter strategy update, meeting monthly with consultant.

**10:46 AM Adjourn CAG Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

Meeting adjourned, reconvene MRC. Other discussion: discuss zoom retreat?

Frances: likely November or December, please send ideas to Christina and me. I can send out a survey for priority topics. This will be where we set our priorities for the grant round.

-> In addition to Christina and Karin, Lovel and Kendra also interested in helping plan MRC retreat

ACTION ITEM Frankie will be in touch with those four to plan MRC retreat and potential times

10:54 AM **ADJOURN MRC Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, October 1, 2020  
8:30 AM-10:30 AM  
CAG Meeting 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 1052 3285  
Passcode: 180378

Call in number:  
+1 253 215 8782

## Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting</b> <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i> <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b> <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
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8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update</b> – <i>Christina Koons</i>
8:55 AM	<b>Project Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Great Islands Clean-up (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>)</li><li>• SRKW – update on data collection efforts for the westside MSP project (<i>Frances Robertson</i>)</li></ul>
9:15 AM	<b>A conversation with Mark Bunzel and the Waggoners Cruising Guide: What COVID-Boating in the San Juan Islands has taught us.</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Any Other Business/MRC Member news and comments</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Adjourn meeting</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Convene CAG meeting:</b> <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i>
	<b>Salmon Recovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WRIA 2 SRFB/PSAR Funding</li><li>• Review of San Juan County Salmon Recovery Strategy Update</li></ul>
11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b></li></ul>

Attached files: September meeting minutes, and WA State Academy of Sciences report on the Commercial Whale Watch License proposals, draft CWWL rules



**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith,

**Ex-officio and County support staff:** Frances Robertson, Jamie Stephens, Sam Whitridge

**Public:** Mark Bunzel, Amy Nesler, Dana Oster,

**8:34 AM Convene Meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.* And welcome to our guests, Amy Nesler, Jamie Stephens, and Mark Bunzel

**8:35 AM Citizen input**

*none*

Christina reads email from Judith Chovan: “consider protecting the SRKW population by asking whale watch operators to voluntarily and temporarily suspend viewing to protect whales.”

Megan: we’ve discussed this before, I feel good about regulations that are in place now

Ivan: a lot of energy spent on the licensing program this year, it’s disheartening to be held responsible when we’re on the water to educate public, alerting other boats (CG, recreational, etc.)

Lovel: there was no intent to demonize commercial operators, obviously we have a big problem with recreational boaters. The pledge to protect Southern Resident orcas is for members of the public and recreational boaters, in addition to commercial whale watch operators. I spoke at last DFW commission meeting to ask for more enforcement

Christina: thanks for comments, Karin and I will respond. It’s good someone reached out to the MRC

**8:47 AM Acceptance of September meeting minutes**

Megan moves to approve the September minutes, Phil seconds. All in favor, minutes are approved.

**8:48 AM NW Straits Commission update**

*Christina Koons*

The commission met recently, good talk from science advisory. Participation from NOAA. Ron Thom led a group to collect data on noise related to SRKW and marine mammals (that was sent to MRC).

European green crab update: 203 crabs in Drayton Harbor. Team on Lummi Peninsula have caught more than 1000 green crab. We should discuss this and possible continued/increased monitoring.

Jeff D: I’ve been monitoring on south end of Lopez at Mud bay. Possible to have a site on Orcas?

Kailey: I’m on Westcott Bay team, we’ve found 2-3 adults in the past but none this year

Christina: next month Cecilia Gobin will report on hatcheries. Anyone can participate

**8:56 AM Project Updates**

- Great Islands Clean-up

*Karin Roemers-Kleven*

Began Monday, week-long event, follow Covid guidelines. Sign up and waiver on Salish sea website

- SRKW update on data collection efforts for the westside MSP project

*Frances Robertson*

October 2 at 2pm, opening of boater safety kiosk. County park manager Toby will be there

ACTION ITEM: Ivan remind Whale watch association owners, only received 11 of 42 surveys

Westside efforts: 6 of 7 kayak companies have responded. 80 residents have responded  
Surveys have been sent out to recreational boaters, begin interviews with commercial fishermen

**9:00 AM A conversation with Mark Bunzel and the Waggoners Cruising Guide: What COVID-Boating in the San Juan Islands has taught us**

Annual Waggoners Guide covers area from Olympia to Ketchikan. This year, boaters were stopped at Canadian border. SJ's absorbed activity intended to cruise north. In late May San Juans opened up and some places, like Sucia, were inundated. Too many boats and anchors, possibly caused some damage. Many anchorages, marinas, and mooring balls were full. Boat sales were up 33%. Need to provide more recreational boating locations and mooring balls. Also more stern-ties: in areas with rock walls drill in a chain 5-8' long. Boat ties stern to chain and anchors off bow, boat won't swing. Can increase capacity for boats in places like Matia. This year boats tended to stay longer.

Opportunities for education now during off season and at what will probably be a virtual boat show.  
QUESTIONS

Megan: Researchers are trying to quantify the impacts of all those boats. Not just anchoring but tossing waste overboard, not using pump-outs, bottom paint. Likely many negative effects

Mark: Boaters know not to pump out but we don't have enough stations. Problem with funding for pumpout boats which don't have a place to put it in SJ's after they take it from recreational boats. The sewage problem is very basic. Our systems, with exception of FH and RH, are so antiquated they can't handle the concentrated solution that comes out of boats. State not likely to help a local utility Kendra: the Marine program is looking at that, Marine Infrastructure Strategy Team "MIST" to go to stakeholders and look at factors around different locations to figure out the buoy issue.

It would be helpful for us if you could communicate these issues to boaters – let them know to pump out on mainland, fill up with water on the mainland, and trash management

Lovel: Westcott bay is full of boats and that's the location of local industry shellfish farm and recreational shellfish gathering. I worry about impacts from increased boater activity. Is there consideration for limiting access to areas where boats congregate to address density?

Mark: No, boats 'self-police' when a place is completely full. More mooring balls would set that cap.

Christina: questions around regulatory authority, who decides Westcott Bay gets mooring buoy? If there's revenue generated, shouldn't county benefit and not just DNR? Where is the oversight?

Mark: there are overlapping jurisdiction, there isn't just one. Boaters set standards for themselves.

Kendra: DNR regulates placement of buoys. The county can install for approx. \$3000 and then follow with maintenance. Water ways considered part of road-ways, that's another possible funding source

Jeff: room for improvement with WA boater operator card? just a one-time testing, no checking in

Amy Nestler: I want to help through our website and portals with information about visiting by boat

Mark: yes we should link our sites to each other, we can also work with marinas

**9:58 AM Any Other Business/MRC Member news and comments**

Thanks to those who have sent volunteer hours. Now in reporting phase for last quarter of year.

Planning MRC retreat for December, split over the 2-3<sup>rd</sup>, please check your availability

ACTION ITEM: retreat planning committee will meet next week to plan

Christina: new business from NW straits commission about messaging - Importance of an onboarding process for MRC, new member meet with Marine Manager/several other members

Kendra: Check out the kelp wall at Orcas landing. Working on signage soon

Frankie is going to manage our eelgrass buoy project, a few buoys need to be installed by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>  
At Jackson Beach we were awarded grant. Looking at mitigation crediting for in-water structures.

- Register for Great Islands Clean up (GIC) at [www.plasticfreesalishsea.org/events](http://www.plasticfreesalishsea.org/events)

Karin: GIC this week, asking for pictures of items found, email to [mrc@sanjuanco.org](mailto:mrc@sanjuanco.org)

Another piece of new business, False Bay – I'm concerned about north side of beach where there's an estuary, smelling bad, having a hard time. Should MRC take False Bay on as a special project?

Kendra: plan to remove hard armoring and eventually the road. We got the grant to fence the cows out of False Bay Creek, that should help. We know there's bacteria and we're working to get rid of it.

Dana: I've been working with Frankie and Tina on proposal for a voluntary no-anchor zone for 2 years of funding. 4 counties want to follow Jefferson in a regional collaboration, use consistent messaging/branding/monitoring. Hopefully monitor eelgrass beforehand and then recovery. We'll need guidance from each MRC regarding methods & who should be involved. There's a need for no-anchor buoys and mooring buoys. Our partners in BC are also putting in buoys, just like the whale flag we're trying to work with trans-boundary partners. Please take a look at map of where sites have been suggested and let us know if you have other ideas: <https://arcg.is/1Wy4Dm0>

Planning for two buoys for Westcott Bay by next season

Christina: why is the eelgrass no-anchor zone voluntary?

Frankie: compliance comes down to regulatory jurisdiction, complexities over enforcement rights  
This strategy can be effective to keep boaters out of an area. Plans to confirm with vessel counts.

Frankie: Children of the Setting Sun production company have created some short films. Salmon People posted to MRC facebook page. They're making a short film the whale flag project

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will set up a screening for the spring, interest for SJI and Orcas Islands

Frankie: also, Larsen is interested in visiting an MRC site October 23<sup>rd</sup>, plan to meet on West side to discuss several projects (whale flags, PFSS, MSA). Any other ideas? We want MRC members there

Christina: I can participate on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Phil: what about the new kiosk at the county park? It's great for birds

10:41 AM **Adjourn Meeting**

10:42 AM **Convene CAG meeting**

*Christina Koons, Chair*

**Salmon Recovery**, 2020 grant round is done. SRFBoard final approval in September, our whole project list was approved. Jackson Beach, Crescent Beach phase 2 and the two Friends of SJs projects are officially funded and should be contracted soon. PSAR projects are approved but funds aren't allocated until funding is approved by legislature in 2021.

Around new year we'll move into our 2021 grant round which will be much lighter, no PSAR funds  
We continue to make progress on our local salmon recovery chapter strategy update.

One more update: an existing active Friends of SJs project funded back 2017 is currently being implemented on Sucia, Mud bay salt marsh restoration, Sam shares a photo

10:53 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE &  
CITIZEN'S SALMON ADVISORY GROUP**

Thursday, November 5, 2020  
8:30 AM-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 857 9289 2064  
Passcode: 754500

Call in number:  
+1 253 215 8782 US

## Agenda

8:30 AM	<b>Convene Meeting <i>Phil Green</i></b> <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b> <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
8:35 AM	<b>Citizen input</b>
8:40 AM	<b>Acceptance of October meeting minutes</b>
8:45 AM	<b>NW Straits Commission update – <i>Phil Green</i></b>
8:55 AM	<b>MRC house keeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retreat planning</li><li>• Reporting</li></ul>
9:05	MRC Member news and comments
9:15 AM	MRC discussion regarding WDFW Commercial Whale Watch Regulation Rule options Does the MRC want to make a recommendation to Council?
10:15 AM	MRC discussion with guest Jacques White on proposed hatchery policy changes and impacts to San Juan County.
11:00 AM	<b>Adjourn MRC and CAG meeting</b>

Attached files: October meeting minutes, October meeting material packet including WDFW draft commercial whale watch license rule options

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Cathleen Burns, Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Jeff Friedman, Kailey Genther, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff

**Ex-officio, County support staff, and Members of the Public:** Kelly Balcomb-Bartok, Katie Harris, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Kendra Smith, Jacques White, Sam Whitridge

8:33 AM **Convene Meeting**

*Phil Green, Chair*

Begin with Coast Salish Acknowledgement: *Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.*

8:34 AM **Citizen input**

*none*

8:34 AM **Acceptance of October meeting minutes**

Megan moves to approve the October minutes. Lovel sent in one change, maybe it wasn't received Phil: we'll table this until this later in the meeting

8:35 AM **NW Straits Commission update**

*Phil Green*

Welcome by Debra Lekanoff. Carbon tax, used to create green infrastructure, SJI could apply for those funds. State has \$4.5 billion shortfall. Laura Blackmore reported 15% cut, largely to science and monitoring. NW Indian fishers commission announced that report is on their website. Laura Rivas: clarification about the partnership cut - we are cutting some monitoring, but not losing any capacity that we have put into the system. No actual loss of service, just not the planned growth

8:55 AM **MRC housekeeping**

Retreat planning for December – 10 MRC members completed the doodle poll, Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> with morning and afternoon sessions works best. Frankie shares some of the planning committee's ideas for topics. Please consider other topics and recruitment, new expertise and increase diversity ACTION ITEM: Frankie will send out list of topics as a draft agenda and get feedback before meeting

8:55 AM **Return to Acceptance of October meeting minutes**, with inserted sentence by Lovel Megan amends motion to include this addition, Kailey seconds. All in favor, minutes approved

8:48 **MRC member news and comments**

Carl: thanks for all the publicity, Lovel's article on the work at Sucia, thanks to the Friends of SJ's Lovel: there's a video by the Preservation Trust <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRHpbpZfFoE>

8:50 AM **MRC discussion regarding WDFW Commercial Whale Watch Regulation Rule options Does the MRC want to make a recommendation to Council?**

Frances sent a link to the draft rules, presents a brief summary showing options to start discussion: Advisory Committee created two proposals, Science Panel reviewed both. From these WDFW drafted two options -Option A and Option B that were then made available for public comment.

Public comment open until December 5<sup>th</sup>. Options A and B: License application process, business must be registered in WA, alternate operators can be included under a license. Reporting and training requirements, annual training for license holders due to come online May 2021.

Area Limitation: westside area ¼ from shore and ½ mile from shore at Lime Kiln State Park

Vessel limitation: July-Sept just 3 motorized vessels in vicinity of SRKW, shoulder season 1 vessel

Ivan: but these rules don't apply to recreational vessels, so should read '1 professional operator'

Frankie: thanks for that clarification

Option A and B have different temporal limitations. Option B has shoulder season rules for weekends, recognizes change in light levels for Fall, and specific timing for key summer season  
For kayaks, specific rules: Cannot launch if SRKW within ½ mile of launch location, just stay 100 yards of shore in westside no-go zone, cannot paddle/position in path of SRKW

#### **MRC discussion:**

Lovel: great summary of draft rules as they were filed. DFW had intended to have option A be filed differently, also asking for comment on the idea of 7 days a week in addition to 4-days-a-week

Frankie: that isn't clear on their website

Ivan: the rules work well on paper, if the whales were always in the same place. In reality it's complex and changing. SRKW rarely here and not concentrated on west side. Enforcement isn't there and can't deal with the scene. It's important for professional boats to be there to model behavior for recreational boaters. If there are days when we're not there it's a detriment to SRKW

Phil: it's unenforceable without having a timekeeper there. If it's going to be self-regulated, how is that different from now? The fact that it only applies to commercial operator seems like a mistake

Christina: what's our responsibility as the MRC to help educate private boaters? I think the rules are the best WDFW will come up with given the circumstances and what are next steps?

Lovel: at this point the decision to adopt the rules is with the WA State commission for Fish and Wildlife. The rule could have adaptive iterations as management is applied.

Rule-making must use best available science. There are situations where commercial boats have intervened on behalf of SRKW but not conclusive evidence that they provide a sentinel benefit.

Ivan: there's no science supporting days of the week restrictions. Unfortunately for the sentinel role there's only one year of data from Soundwatch that shows a positive trend. As professional operators it's not that we shouldn't be regulated it's that this is too complicated and unenforceable

Kendra: how could it be simplified to achieve what you're proposing?

Ivan: limit number of vessels within a ½ mile of SRKW and amount of time each vessel can be there

Lovel: this rule-making is specifically about licensing for commercial operators, but this MRC could reach consensus on recommendations to address recreational boater impacts

Kendra: in the current proposal, could we take out the part on specific dates?

Lovel: the rules had to reduce the daily and cumulative impacts to the whales. This was an attempt on the part of WDFW to do that by limiting viewing to certain hours of day and days of the week

Kendra: I don't see how it's enforceable. whatever gets established for commercial whale watching, the next step is to address recreational boats, need to think about parallels and possible compliance

Kailey: and we can only choose an option A or B or are they open to additional ideas?

ACTION ITEM: Frances will follow up with WDFW to find the answer to that question

Kelly Balcomb-Bartok: I suggest MRC respond in favor of Pacific Whale Watch Association best practices, closure zones on the west sides, and recognize sentinel role of the commercial fleet supported by Soundwatch data. Laws are working, distance is being observed, captains cooperating.

Kendra: would Association want to cap number of new vessels? Address potential of new operators  
 Ivan: when professional operators on the licensing committee brought the idea of restricted licenses up it was shot down by other members. I think that is an important long-term solution.  
 Jeff Dyer: has anyone addressed the tasking the sentinel role as part of the rule-making process?  
 Frankie: no because the science panel didn't find evidence of that sentinel role  
 Lovel: the panel says this needs more research, could be part of the adaptive management process  
 Ivan: we believe we present an educational role out on the water that helps protect SRKW  
 Lovel: as flawed as the process might be, it's underway. DFW is adopting regs by Jan 1. For the proposals submitted as drafts for public comment, the enforcement branch of DFW has signed off.  
 Kailey: do we all personally submit comments to Frankie, max one page?  
 Kendra: send comments to us at County. Frankie will write public comment letter that includes them  
 Phil: and let's set a deadline of next Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Frankie: the comment period for WDFW ends 5<sup>th</sup> of December, but I'll present to Council on 11/17  
 ACTION ITEM: if you want to provide comment email directly to Frankie by Wednesday Nov 11

**10:20 AM MRC discussion with guest Jacques White on proposed hatchery policy changes and impacts to San Juan County**

Jacques: When Chinook were listed as threatened in 1999, hatchery production identified as an impact. My organization aims to recover wild salmon, we run two hatcheries, one on Hood Canal, and one on Orcas Island focused on chinook for SRKW and experiments to increase resilience. In 2009 WDFW adopted hatchery reform policy that included a scientific review, adaptive management and monitoring, and improved operations. Between 2009-today,  
 -wild chinook have not recovered. Some populations have continued to decline  
 - SRKW have also continued to decline, less Chinook availability throughout their range  
 There used to be 38 distinct populations/runs of Chinook in Puget Sound, now just 22; loss due to dams, habitat loss, and competition. Long Live the Kings is concerned about lack of genetic diversity because that plasticity is what allowed Chinook to survive throughout many conditions. Commission saw hatchery production as an issue for SRKW. There was a proposal to increase hatchery production in the SRKW task force. This policy was put forward based on best available science. Performance measures and adaptive management proposed in original policy were deemed unacceptable. Changes recommended in original hatchery reform policy hadn't been implemented. This summer the Commission wrote a new reform policy, it's on their website. Problems:  
 -doesn't rely on input from WDFW technical, hatchery staff and fishery managers, and the hatchery scientific review group for whom the goal is to prevent extinction of existing runs. But that's counter to the state goal of producing enough fish to support the fishery despite threats to wild stocks.  
 -there are no numeric goals for recovery or genetic impact on wild populations in the new policy  
 -no metrics to tell if we're making progress or if the new policy is a success  
 Sent a letter to the Commission requesting they make it more prescriptive. Need efforts to maintain wild populations and to examine hatchery system going forward to increase diversity and resilience  
 Kendra: where can we see your letters?  
 Jacques: in the documents sent along with these meeting materials, the pdf titled 'public comments'  
 The Department likely to issue a revised version of the policy for public comment within the month  
 ACTION ITEM: Sam will alert MRC/CAG about this and then decide if we want to submit comment

11:00 AM    **Adjourn Meeting**



## **Hatchery discussion background material**

Proposed Hatchery Policy Changes:

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/public\\_review\\_draft\\_policy\\_c-3619\\_080120.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/public_review_draft_policy_c-3619_080120.pdf)

Summary article by Puget Sound Institute:

<https://www.pugetsoundinstitute.org/2020/10/controversy-flares-up-over-proposed-policy-revisions-for-state-salmon-hatcheries/>

Public comments on proposed changes to date:

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/c-3619\\_combined\\_public\\_comment.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/c-3619_combined_public_comment.pdf)

Review of hatchery reform science in Washington State:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02121> (full report downloadable at this link).

## Commercial Whale Watch License Draft Rule Material

### WDFW Rule making webpage

Includes summary of process and links to all pertinent documents. I have also attached pdfs of the initial draft draft rules and of the revised two options for the draft rules that are now open to public comment.

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/orca/rule-making>

### Summary of the two options for discussion from the WDFW webpage above

There are [two options under consideration](#) and available for [public comment](#).

- [Option A](#) includes a three-month July-September season for motorized commercial whale watching of SRKW with two, two-hour periods per day where viewing SRKW is allowed at closer than one-half nautical mile (limit of 3 motorized commercial whale watching vessels per group of SRKW). In the final stages of drafting the proposed rule, text that would limit viewing to Friday-Monday was inadvertently included in Option A. WDFW is seeking comments on Option A as filed. The public is also welcome to comment on the possibility of daily viewing during those months.
- [Option B](#) adds a shoulder season of two months on either side (May/June and October/November) of the main season. The shoulder season is Saturday-Sunday viewing only (limit of 1 motorized commercial whale watching vessel per group of SRKW) and the main summer season viewing (July-September) is Friday-Monday (limit of 3 motorized commercial whale watching vessels per group of SRKW). For days that allow viewing of SRKW, there are two, two-hour periods.
- *Note:* The seasons described in Options A and B only apply to the *viewing of SRKW by motorized commercial whale watching vessels* and do not restrict the viewing of other whales or marine mammals.
- Both options propose formalizing the 'no-go' zone on the west side of San Juan Island ([currently voluntary](#)) for motorized commercial whale watching vessels (100-yard corridor along the shore for kayaks). The no-go zone is included in both alternatives. It would apply year-round regardless of SRKW presence.
- License application processes, reporting and training requirements, kayak-focused measures, and AIS requirements are present in both options.

## Establishing the commercial whale watching license and restrictions on commercial viewing of southern resident killer whales in WAC

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These are draft rules shared for initial public feedback prior to the official release of the draft rules on October 21 and the formal comment period, which will run from October 21-November 13, 2020. In addition, comment will be taken at a public hearing during the Fish and Wildlife Commission's meeting on December 4-5, 2020.

If you wish to comment on this early draft of the rules, you may do so at two virtual feedback sessions: October 7, 2020 (1-2:15pm PDT, [register here](#)) or October 8, 2020 (9-10:15am PDT, [register here](#)). Participation in the virtual meetings is preferred, but those who cannot attend may submit comments online by 5pm PDT on October 8, 2020 ([link to comment form here](#)). Please visit WDFW's commercial whale watching [rulemaking webpage](#) for resources about the rulemaking process including information about additional comment opportunities.

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### **New WAC chapter 220-460 Commercial whale watching.**

#### **New WAC section 220-460-010 Definitions**

##### **Definitions – Commercial whale watching.**

"Commercial whale watching" shall be defined as the act of taking, or offering to take, passengers aboard a vessel in order to view marine mammals in their natural habitat for a fee.

##### **Definitions – Commercial whale watching designated primary operator**

"Commercial whale watching designated primary operator" shall be defined as the person identified on the application to operate the commercial whale watching vessel.

"Alternate operators" shall be defined as individuals besides the designated primary operator who are designated to operate the vessel on behalf of the whale watching business.

##### **Definitions – Commercial whale watching vessel operators.**

"Commercial whale watching vessel operators" shall be defined to include operators of commercial vessels and kayak rentals that are engaged in the business of commercial whale watching. The term "operators" shall be used to identify designated and alternate operators conducting the business of commercial whale watching.

##### **Definitions – Commercial whale watching vessel.**

"Commercial whale watching vessel" shall be defined as any vessel that is being used as a means of transportation for individuals to engage in commercial whale watching.

For the purpose of this chapter, "vessel" includes aircraft while on the surface of the water, and every description of watercraft on the water that is used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water.

"Motorized commercial whale watching vessel" shall be defined as any vessel with an engine being used as a means of transportation for individuals to engage in commercial whale watching, regardless of whether the engine is in use. This definition includes sailboats with inboard or outboard motors.

“Non-motorized commercial whale watching vessel” shall be defined as any vessel without an engine being used as a means of transportation for individuals to engage in commercial whale watching. This definition includes human-powered watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards.

**Definitions – Group of southern resident killer whales.**

“Group of southern resident killer whales” is defined as an assemblage of southern resident killer whales wherein each member is within one-half nautical mile of at least one other southern resident killer whale. Any individual(s) farther than one-half nautical mile constitute separate groups.

**Definitions – Vicinity.**

For the purposes of these rules, “vicinity” is defined as one-half nautical mile from any one southern resident killer whale. References to “vicinity” in this chapter do not permit operators to approach a southern resident killer whale closer than the statutorily defined distances in RCW 77.15.740.

**Definitions – Vicinity instance.**

Each time any commercial whale watching vessel operating under a license enters within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale will count as one vicinity instance associated with that license.

**Definitions – Automatic Identification Systems (AIS).**

AIS refers to a maritime navigation safety communications system standardized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), that--

- (1) Provides vessel information, including the vessel’s identity, type, position, course, speed, navigational status and other safety-related information automatically to appropriately equipped shore stations, other ships, and aircraft;
- (2) Receives automatically such information from similarly fitted ships, monitors and tracks ships; and
- (3) Exchanges data with shore-based facilities.

**New section WAC 220-460-020 Commercial whale watching licenses – Application process and deadline - Exception.**

- (1) **(Note: This provision will go into effect February 1, 2021.)** A commercial whale watching license is required for commercial whale watching motorized vessel, sailboat, and kayak operators.
- (2) Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and possess a driver’s license or other government-issued identification number and jurisdiction of issuance
- (3) Applicants must be authorized to conduct business within the State of Washington.
- (4) The commercial whale watching license application must include the following information regarding the whale watching business.
  - a. The applicant must identify the whale watching business:
    - i. Business name, type of business, (i.e., sole proprietor, partnership, corporation), all associated business owner(s) full name(s), physical address, mailing address,

- email address, telephone number, and social security numbers of all business owners.
- b. The applicant must identify and confirm the whale watching business is registered to conduct business within the state by providing the Unified Business Identifier (UBI) Number.
- (5) The commercial whale watching license applicant must also designate an operator for each motorized or sailing vessels or kayaks engaging in whale watching activity.
- a. The applicant must identify the operator's:
    - i. Name of the associated business, full name, date of birth, social security number, gender, hair, eyes, weight, height, physical address, mailing address, email address, and telephone number.
- (6) On the commercial whale watching license application, the applicant must designate all commercial whale watching vessels to be used while engaging in commercial whale watching.
- a. The applicant must indicate either motorized or sailing vessels or kayaks on the application.
    - i. If motorized or sailing vessels are selected, then the applicant must select the appropriate option for the passenger capacity on the designated vessel.
    - ii. If kayak is selected, then the applicant must select the appropriate option for the number of kayaks engaging in whale watching activities.
- (7) The applicant may designate alternate operators to be listed on the whale watching license.
- (8) An application submitted to the department shall contain the applicant's declaration under penalty of perjury that the information on the application is true and correct.
- (9) Applications must be completed and submitted online through the commercial licensing system, or by mailing the application to:
- a. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Attn: Commercial License Sales  
P.O. Box 43154  
Olympia, WA 98504-3154
- (10) If the required fields are blank or omitted from the application, then the department will consider the application to be incomplete, and it will not be processed.

**New WAC section WAC 220-460-030 Commercial whale watching license cards - Replacements.**

Upon lawful application, a commercial whale watching license in the form of a license card will be issued by the department.

The fee to replace a license that has been lost or destroyed is twenty dollars.

**New WAC section 220-460-040 Commercial whale watching licensing business organizations – Operator designation.**

- (1) Any person that holds a commercial whale watching license and is a business organization may designate other persons associated with the business to act on behalf of the license holder to update the business information within the organization's account and/or operate a designated vessel.,

- (2) In addition to the designated operator, a license holder that is a business organization may designate an unlimited number of alternate operators.
- (3) A license holder that is a business organization may substitute the designated operator by surrendering the whale watching license card, re-designating the operator under the criteria provided for in this section and paying the replacement license fee provided for in RCW 77.65.050.

**New WAC section 220-460-050 Whale watching vessel designation requirements.**

- (1) Chapter 77.65 RCW requires commercial whale watching operators to designate the vessel(s) to be used for whale watching tours. It is unlawful to engage in commercial whale watching activities unless:
  - a. The licensee has designated all commercial whale watching vessels to be used, regardless if using a motorized or sailing vessel, or kayak to guide tours;
  - b. The department has issued a commercial license to the licensee showing the vessel so designated;
  - c. The vessel operator has the commercial license for the current calendar year in physical possession.
- (2) The licensee does not have to own the vessel being designated on the license.
- (3) For motorized or sailing vessels, the licensee must provide current United States coast guard certification inspection documentation which allows the designated vessel to carry more than six passengers.

**New WAC section 220-460-060 Whale watching vessel substitutions - Fees.**

- (1) The holder of a commercial whale watching license may substitute the vessel designated on the license or designate a vessel if none has previously been designated if the license holder:
  - a. Surrenders the previously issued license to the department;
  - b. Submit to the department a substitution application and application fee that identifies the currently assigned vessel, and the vessel proposed to be designated;
  - c. Submits vessel substitution fees corresponding to the size of the vessel.

**New WAC section 220-460-070 Whale watching alternate operator license requirements.**

- (1) A person who is not the license holder may operate a motorized or sailing vessel designated on the commercial whale watching license only if:
  - a. The person holds a commercial whale watching alternate operator license issued from the department, and
  - b. The alternate operator is designated on the underlying license.
- (2) Only an individual at least 16 years of age may hold an alternate operator license.
- (3) Commercial whale watching license holders must maintain an accurate record with the department of designated alternate operators. The commercial whale watching license holder must confirm the utilization of a whale watching alternate operator and identify the alternate by entering the alternate's full name and date of birth in the business account through the commercial licensing system.

- (4) An individual may hold only one alternate operator license. Holders of an alternate operator license may be designated on an unlimited number of commercial whale watching licenses.

**New WAC section 220-460-080 Expiration and renewal of licenses.**

- (1) Commercial whale watching licenses expire at midnight on December 31 of the calendar year for which they are issued. Licenses may be renewed annually upon application and payment of the prescribed license fees.

**New WAC section 220-460-090 Commercial whale watching general provisions.**

- (1) No operator of a commercial whale watching vessel may violate any of the restrictions in RCW 77.15.740.
- (2) It is unlawful for an operator of a commercial whale watching vessel to approach, in any manner, within three hundred yards of a southern resident killer whale.
- (3) It is unlawful for an operator to position a commercial whale watching vessel in the path of a southern resident killer whale. This includes intercepting a southern resident killer whale by positioning a vessel so that the prevailing wind or water current carries the vessel into the path of the whale.
- (4) Pursuant to RCW 77.15.815, it is unlawful to engage in commercial whale watching if a person is not in possession of all licenses and permits required, including a valid commercial whale watching license for the current calendar year.

**New WAC section 220-460-100 Areas closed to commercial whale watching.**

- (1) It is unlawful for operators of motorized commercial whale watching vessels to operate one-quarter mile from shore from Mitchell Point to Cattle Point on the west side of San Juan Island or within one-half mile of Lime Kiln Point State Park. Operators of non-motorized commercial whale watch vessels must stay within one hundred yards of shore within this zone except when safety conditions preclude it.
- (2) Modifications or additions to closed areas may be issued by the department by rule.

**New WAC section 220-460-110 Limits on number of vessels in the vicinity of southern resident killer whales at once.**

- (1) It is unlawful for more than three motorized commercial whale watching vessels at a time to be within the vicinity (as defined in this chapter) of any one group of southern resident killer whales.
- (2) It is unlawful for an operator of a motorized commercial whale watching vessel to enter the vicinity of a group of southern resident killer whales that contains a calf of under one year of age or a whale showing signs of illness or injury.

**New WAC section 220-460-120 Time limitations on watching southern resident killer whales.**

- (1) It is unlawful for an operator of a motorized commercial whale watching vessel to approach within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale between October 1 and June 30.

- (2) It is unlawful for an operator of a motorized commercial whale watching vessel to approach within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale outside the hours of 11am to 1pm and 3pm-5pm from July 1 through September 30.
- (3) If any motorized commercial whale watching vessel designated under a commercial whale watching license enters within the vicinity of a southern resident killer whale between 11am and 1pm, no vessels operating under that license may enter the vicinity of southern resident killer whale between 3pm-5pm on the same day.
- (4) If an operator enters within one-half mile of a group of killer whales outside of the provisions in this section, after taking reasonable measures to determine whether the killer whales were southern resident killer whales, and then identifies the whales as southern resident killer whales, the operator must:
  - a. Immediately safely reposition the vessel to be one-half nautical mile or farther from the southern resident killer whales.
  - b. Report the location of the southern resident killer whale(s) to the Whale Report Alert System.
  - c. Accurately log the incident, including measures taken to determine whether the whales were southern resident killer whales, following the provisions of WAC 220-460-150 and submit the log to WDFW within 24 hours of the incident.

#### **New WAC section 220-460-130 Non-motorized commercial whale watching vessels.**

- (1) Tours involving any other non-motorized watercraft used for the purposes of commercial whale watching, such as kayaks, are subject to these requirements.
- (2) Licensed tour operators must prevent all vessels in their tour group from disturbing southern resident killer whales. All vessels in the tour group must adhere to the following requirements:
  - a) It is unlawful to launch if southern resident killer whales are within one-half nautical mile of the launch location.
  - b) Vessels are prohibited from paddling, positioning, or waiting in the path of a southern resident killer whale. If a southern resident killer whale is moving towards the vessels, the vessels must immediately move out of the path of the whale.
  - c) If vessels inadvertently encounter a southern resident killer whale, they must immediately move all vessels to as close to shore as possible and secure themselves, or raft up close to shore or in a kelp bed and stop paddling until any and all killer whales have moved to at least 400 yards away from the vessels. Rafting up is defined as manually holding vessels close together, maintaining a tight grouping.

#### **New WAC section 220-460-140 Commercial whale watching compliance and reporting**

- (1) **(Note: This provision will go into effect January 1, 2022.)** An automatic identification system (AIS) must be fitted aboard all motorized commercial whale watch vessels. The AIS must be capable of providing information about the vessel (including the vessel's identity, type, position, course, speed, and navigational status) to state and federal authorities automatically. Operators must maintain the AIS in operation at all times that the vessel is on the water.
- (2) **(Note: This provision will go into effect May 1, 2021.)** All motorized and non-motorized commercial whale watching license holders and alternate operators must complete annual



WDFW training on marine mammals, distances on the water, impacts of whale watching on marine mammals, and southern resident killer whale-related rules and reporting.

- a. At completion of training, license holders must demonstrate adequate understanding of course materials.
- b. It is unlawful for an operator to operate a commercial whale watch vessel without completing the training for the current calendar year.
- c. Naturalists and others who work upon commercial whale watching vessels but are not license holders are encouraged to attend.

(3) **(Note: This provision will go into effect May 1, 2021.)** All motorized and non-motorized commercial whale watch license-holders shall maintain accurate logs on each instance a vessel operating under a license enter within one-half nautical mile vicinity of southern resident killer whales and submit copies of the logs to WDFW.

- a. Logs must include license holder name; vessel operator and staff names and roles; vessel name; port(s) of departure; departure time(s); return time(s); number of passengers; location(s) (Lat/Long) of southern resident killer whales encountered; time(s) entering and departing the one-half nautical mile vicinity of southern resident killer whales; time(s) entering and departing within four-hundred yards of southern resident killer whales; and qualitative details of southern resident killer whale encounters including whale identification, whale behavior and health, other vessel behavior, and any operator behavior- including contact with other boaters or government entities- and resulting outcomes.
- b. Information from the logs shall be submitted to WDFW on the following schedule:
  - i. All vicinity instances in July must be reported by August 15.
  - ii. All vicinity instances in August must be reported by September 15.
  - iii. All vicinity instances in September must be reported by October 15.
  - iv. Vicinity instances that happen outside of the permitted hours and days described in WAC 220-460-120 must be submitted within 24 hours.
- c. Accurate logs must be submitted for every vicinity instance, even if the vicinity instance falls outside of the rules defined in this chapter.
- d. Logs must be provided for inspection on request of WDFW law enforcement.

(4) All motorized commercial whale watch license-holders must log accurate, complete sighting information to the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS) upon entering within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale.

#### **New WAC section 220-460-150 Penalties**

- (1) Commercial operators in violation of WAC 220-460-090 will be issued a fine of \$500.
- (2) Operators out of compliance with WAC 220-460-100, WAC 220-460-110, WAC 220-460-120, WAC 220-460-130, or WAC 220-460-140 will be issued a fine of \$100 pursuant to RCW 77.15.160. Violations of these WAC may alternatively be pursued criminally under RCW 740
- (3) No commercial whale watching vessels will be allowed in the vicinity of southern resident killer whales for the remainder of the month if the total number of civil or criminal citations or referrals issued for violations of the provisions in this chapter reaches or exceeds three during that month.

- (4) An operator will not be permitted within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale for the remainder of the year if the total number of civil or criminal citations or referrals issued to that operator for violations of the provisions in this chapter reaches or exceeds two during the year.
- (5) Any commercial whale watching license associated with five or more civil or criminal citations or referrals in one calendar year of any of the provisions in this chapter will not be permitted within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale for the remainder of the year and the following year.
- (6) If any commercial whale watching operator does not log a vicinity instance or fraudulently reports the details of a vicinity instance:
  - a. No vessel associated with the license will be permitted within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale for the remainder of the year.
  - b. The operator will not be permitted within one-half nautical mile of a southern resident killer whale for the remainder of the year and the following year.