

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Pete Rose, Ken Sebens, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Russel Barsh, KWIAHT

Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program (KELP)

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy/Yellow Island

Linda Lyshall, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

Amy Windrope, San Juan Initiative (SJI)

**Presentation:** Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program by Margen Carlson, Doug Myers, and Jeff Dillon

**Upcoming Events**

- Stewardship Network meeting, January 13th, 1-3 pm, Friends of the San Juans conference room
- MRC regular meeting, January 20th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Deadline for comments to NOAA on the proposed vessel rule extended to January 15th
- Deadline for EPA grant submittal, January 26th
- 6th Annual Marine Managers Workshop, March 1 & 2, Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jim Slocomb at 8:30 am. He explained that the ferries are running very late this morning, delaying the arrival of Chair Kit Rawson and others. Jim introduced new MRC member, John Aschoff, as a long-standing volunteer extraordinaire. John said that he lives on Orcas and has worked on several on-the-water projects with Soundwatch and other local organizations. Kit Rawson arrived at 9:10 am and took over as Chair.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 12/16/09 meeting were approved with corrections.

**2010 Work Plan:** Mary Knackstedt circulated copies of a draft Work Plan for 2010, noting a concern for the considerable amount of work it contains, much of it requiring contracts and other project management. She said that Vicki Heater has suggested a review of MRC/Water Resources Committee joint work before the WRC's work sunsets for this last period (funding runs to mid-2011); Vicki is interested in doing a water quantity assessment, including an evaluation of the sufficiency of available water supply for wildlife. Barbara Rosenkotter suggested looking at the False Bay watershed study.

Jim Slocomb said that this has already been identified as an over-allocated resource. David Loyd said that the monitoring plans show that a lot of work has already been done and Barbara wondered if the WRC could provide some financial support for the monitoring plan.

There was discussion on how to distribute feeder bluff information...e.g. presentation to the County Council, signage on specified properties. Development of an MRC strategic plan was discussed and it was agreed that the lead on this will be the MRC Chair and Coordinator; ideas included a half-day retreat or 1 or 2 dedicated MRC regular meetings to allow for the strategic plan to be completed for inclusion in the quarterly presentation to the Council in October. The idea of a complete website overhaul was scrapped in favor of keeping it up to date and providing important links. The Local Integrating Organization work plan element was discussed; there was concern for the scheduling and time needed for LIO meetings.

Mary said that Hilary Culverwell has agreed to facilitate the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Marine Managers Workshop scheduled for March. Amy Windrope noted a correction to the Work Plan that the San Juan Initiative recommends that the County and the Puget Sound Partnership convene the implementing agencies and the Policy Group once at the end of 2010 and again in 2012.

The 2010 subcommittee makeup was reviewed and modified. Steve Revella's name was added to the Executive and Planning subcommittee; Lynn Danaher will work on the Salmon Group.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the draft 2010 Work Plan be adopted. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mary will be presenting the Work Plan to the County Council on January 26<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed that it would be useful for MRC members to attend.

**Local Integrating Organization update:** Steve Revella said that it was decided that the MRC have 2 representatives on the LIO.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that Jonathan White and Steve Revella represent the MRC on the LIO. The motion passed unanimously.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Rockfish Committee report:** Since Kit will not be available to attend the next meetings of the committee, Mike Kaill and Steve Revella will fill in for those times. Kit said that the committee provided a briefing notebook and the first meeting, and the next one on January 13, will focus on WDFW's proposed rule changes for the 2010-2011 season. The January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will begin the review of the draft Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan. Copies of MRC's 12/31/09 letter to WDFW, commenting on the proposed EIS for the proposed Plan, were circulated.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White reported that NWSC's retreat is scheduled for mid-February. In an effort to reduce the use of paper, all reports and such will be distributed electronically. The MRC discussed testing out this resource/waste reduction effort here as well.

**San Juan Initiative:** Copies of SJI's 12/2/09 letter to the County Council were distributed. Amy

Windrope reiterated SJI's recommendation that the County and PSP convene the implementing agencies and the Policy Group once at the end of 2010 and again in 2012 to look back at changes to the shoreline, for example, to determine if objectives are being achieved and, if not, to take corrective action. A method to research whether there are any bulkheads without permits is necessary, Amy said; Laura noted that shoreline permits allow 5 years for construction to occur. The LIO could serve as the accountability piece. Mary said that she will add details for the related tasks to the 2010 Work Plan, hoping for potential funding from PSP. Amy said that it is great that the MRC will be helping to track results of implementation of SJI's recommendations.

Linda Lyshall said that she will be presenting to the County Council on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The January 15th deadline for submitting comments to NOAA on the proposed vessel rule was discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful to put a link on the MRC webpage to the MRC report; since the report reflects community discussions (representing a diversity of perspectives, beyond economics, gathered in public meetings), it would also be good to have it included as part of the NOAA record. It was suggested that individual MRC members submit their comments, noting that the MRC report was available on the webpage. Another option is for members to ask Lovell Pratt and Howie Rosenfeld what the Council might recommend to assure that the MRC report does become part of the record. It was reasserted that the MRC's recommended limited entry piece is essential as is the recommendation to allow the community to come up with its own details. This will be noted in the 2010 Work Plan.

There was discussion on ways to improve the process of working with the County Council in order to eliminate duplication of work and to encourage acknowledgement of MRC work. John Aschoff suggested that to improve communications and the working relationship with the Council, messages should be straightforward. The importance of more interpersonal connection was noted as well: Jonathan and Tina will maintain a relationship with Gene Knapp, David and Laura with Bob Myhr, Lynn and Barbara with Rich Peterson and Howie Rosenfeld, David and John with Richard Fralick, and Jonathan and Laura with Lovel Pratt. Jonathan will draft some talking points for the next MRC meeting. As a housekeeping detail, Mary Knackstedt will email members the draft ordinance/resolution (revised since the County Charter came into effect). It was noted that the Council adopted Uniform Business rules last year that apply to all committees.

**Presentation:** Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNER)

Margen Carlson explained that PSNER is a large-scale effort to study the possibility of the Army Corps of Engineers' involvement in the restoration of Puget Sound. The Corps uses a general investigative process to collaboratively decide if there is national interest in the restoration and protection of particular water resources. PSNER and partners are looking at Puget Sound nearshore to assess interest and will then work to convince the Corps and Congress to allow those areas to receive construction authority and funding for major projects (\$5 to \$50 million for large acreages). A series of assessment questions includes a look at base levels, conducting change analyses using data from the relatively undisturbed environments of the 1850's up to conditions of 2006. At the process level, it will be determined how these physical changes have affected Puget Sound ecosystems. This will lead to a strategic needs assessment of the most problematic changes and projects of future risk. Doug Myers said that a portfolio of recommendations will be assembled with a set of initial major projects to be funded. Projects will be culled from MRCs, salmon recovery work, etc. For example, the PRISM

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database structure was used to assemble a nearshore database, filtering 600 projects down to 200+.

Jeff Dillon said that new projects could be added over time. Doug added that projects could be bundled using broad descriptions over processes (e.g. projects taking place in everywhere that railroads cross over estuaries could be bundled as a railroad retrofit project). Jim Slocomb noted that the very loose data from the San Juans has changed dramatically. Jeff said that the geo database can integrate such changes (e.g. shore zone modification). Margen said the Corps has a policy to not own land; therefore, funding for acquisition is limited. However, Corps standards for protection on property being restored is high. Jeff added that the protection aspect will be highlighted as a critical component, implemented by local sponsors.

The PSNER guests will continue the discussion by joining the science subcommittee meeting following this meeting.

**Citizen comments:**

Karrie Cooper reported that KELP, Soundwatch and SJC Parks are planning to extend outreach to kayakers and to do land-based monitoring. She will send the 7-page KELP report. KELP is working with the newly formed San Juan Island Kayakers Association, made up of 4 companies, to figure out plans for next season.

Russel Barsh said that data results for 2009 identified 5,000 juvenile salmon prey items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Jim Slocomb (Acting Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Kit Rawson, Pete Rose, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program (KELP)  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy/Yellow Island  
Amy Windrope, San Juan Initiative (SJI)

**Presentation:** Puget Sound Watershed Characterization by Stephen Stanley, WA Department of Ecology (DOE)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, February 3rd, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- 6th Annual Marine Managers Workshop, March 1 & 2, Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jim Slocomb at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 1/6/10 meeting were approved as read.

**Outreach subcommittee report:** Barbara Marrett said that Karrie Cooper was selected as Campaign Coordinator at the January 13th meeting of the Stewardship Network and EcoNet. An oversight committee (Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Stephanie Buffum) will determine when to release funds to Karrie. It was suggested that an ad for the “Short Run to the Sea” campaign will be run in the Journal on some regular basis; each ad will include a locally-vetted fact and a recommended personal action to address that impact. Other topics at the meeting were the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) process, the NOAA report, and this year’s Sustainable Living Fair. Barbara said that several islanders have registered to attend the Storming the Sound conference in La Conner on January 29th.

Jeff Hanson said that an Orcas contingent is involved in this year’s planning of the “Sustainable San Juans: Sustainable Living Orcas Fair” that will be held on May 1st at the Village Green, Eastsound. There will be displays on issues related to sustainability and the annual Good Steward awards will be presented. Jeff said that the request for Award nominations will be out soon. He explained that since no lunch will be provided the event will be no cost; food will be available from local vendors at the Farmers Market that opens on the Green the same day as the Fair.

**Science/Monitoring subcommittee report:** Ken Sebens said that the latest version of the monitoring plan will be out soon with updates planned for once or twice a year. Mary Knackstedt said that she will have a job description for a monitoring coordinator ready by the February 3rd meeting.

**2009 MRC Annual Report:** Copies of the Report were distributed and all agreed that Jeff had done a great job producing it. Jeff said that it should be a useful tool for the committee. There was discussion about highlighting the value of volunteer time, including that of MRC members, for the benefit of the County Council. Jim will present the Report to the Council on January 26th with this in mind; he will also elaborate on the issue of funding...noting that there were no county funds for the MRC in 2009 and listing grant funders. Jeff said that Janna Nichols, a professional underwater photographer, was happy to donate her photographs, including the cover, for the Report.

**Motion:** Laura Arnold moved, and Steve Revella seconded, that the Report be approved for submittal to the County Council. The motion passed unanimously.

**NOAA report:** Barbara Marrett said that Jonathan White presented a compelling proposal to the County Council to include the MRC report and draft cover letter with their comments to NOAA on proposed vessel regulations. Following discussion, the Council agreed to do so with edits to the cover letter. The MRC report differs from the Council's comments in that it requests that if NOAA moves ahead with a no-go zone, then the San Juan Islands community will have the opportunity to develop a community-based alternative. Barbara said that there will be no implementation this year of NOAA's proposal.

There will be more discussion at the next MRC meeting on its relationship with the Council. It was noted that the Council's agreeing to include the MRC report highlights the importance of early and frequent one-on-one conversation with individual Council members, particularly when such discussion directly ties in with Work Plan items.

**6th Annual Marine Managers Workshop:** Tina Whitman said that the Policy subcommittee met to discuss content of the workshop, scheduled for March 1st (full day) and March 2nd (half-day) at Friday Harbor Labs. Tina gave a brief history of past workshops, noting that they have provided a unique opportunity for representatives from various federal, state, county, and tribal entities that have regulatory or some sort of ownership of marine resources to get together to share data and to better define the problems. The goal of the workshops has been to improve collaboration and effectiveness. Adaptive management was the theme of last year's workshop and this year's theme will be implementation of Puget Sound Partnership's(PSP) Action Agenda for San Juan County, with a focus on improving protection efforts. Day 1 morning sessions will include background and new information, introductions with highlights on each agency's work, and presentations (e.g. changes to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Hydraulic Permit Approval process; salmon recovery update). There will be break-out sessions in the afternoon. Day 2 will focus on implementation of the SJC Action Agenda, with a panel of key players sharing data and committing to specific work.

Tina said that a report on the Workshop will follow. Mary will send out last year's report. John Aschoff said that the report could provide a good record of diverse opinions. Tina said that 40 or 50 people are expected to attend this year. Mary said it would be good to inform the County Council to "save the date," to invite them to attend and to participate on the panel. Phil Green suggested that an

update on the state's Rockfish Conservation Plan would be welcomed.

**MRC Funding Opportunities:** Mary circulated copies of her outline on grants and other potential funding activities. The EPA grant application includes three elements of sustainable building: tailored on-site technical assistance (partnering with the San Juan Islands Conservation District) for builders and land owners in Eastsound on Orcas Island and Westcott/Garrison Bays on San Juan (including cost share installation of low impact development/LID features); installation of a constructed wetland in Eastsound to treat stormwater (partnering with Public Works which owns the property on Village Green); building local capacity for sustainable development (partnering with the SJC Health Department, Conservation District, and Brian Rader, SJC Pollution Prevention Specialist).

Mary noted that Public Works' participation is needed to guarantee the required 33% match money for this grant. The third element will develop LID elements for local building and stormwater codes; a Clean Water District will be established to provide sustainable funding; and training for private and public professionals will be provided. A planner will need to be hired to get through the public process, Mary said.. Lynn Danaher noted that Historic Friday Harbor's construction/rehabilitation guidelines include incentives (e.g. requirement for 50% less parking space) for installation of LID elements. Helen Venada said the Friday Harbor Historical Preservation Review Board is planning a green building workshop for builders, local planners, etc. in April.

Mary explained a second grant opportunity through the Green Shores Program, partnering with the City of Seattle and WA Sea Grant. The Program would rank and certify residential shoreline development with 12 projects in Seattle (lakeside urban) and 8 in San Juan County (marine rural) being proposed. The application will be revised to apply to new residential construction. SJC's role could be to hire a part-time coordinator to develop incentives and promotion.

A third funding opportunity is a restoration project through WA DOE's spill program (Bob Fritzen). Partners include DOE, Department of Transportation, UW Green Futures Lab (architectural research, see <http://greenfutures.washington.edu/>). Mary said that a green infrastructure at ferry terminals is being proposed that could include raingardens, stormwater planters, etc. (not infiltration); these improvements would have huge visibility in areas where the polluted runoff problem is obvious. Interpretive material and monitoring are part of the proposal. Barbara Marrett said that the Port of Friday Harbor is interested in such restoration.

**Presentation: "Puget Sound Characterization and Assessment Project"**

Stephen Stanley, Aquatic Ecologist for DOE, said this project, using a watershed/landscape-scale approach, can serve as one of the tools in Shoreline Master Program and GMA updates, in Acquisition and Restoration Actions, Alternative Mitigation, and other local work. The project is funded by US EPA with \$1.4 million. The comprehensive approach includes a Sound-wide assessment of freshwater and nearshore processes as well as of wildlife habitat. The purpose is to identify threats and stressors, to share data with planners and resource managers, and to monitor results. Stephen noted that results of current monitoring show that we have not been successful to date in protecting resources. Project objectives are to help bridge gaps between science and application; to work within a watershed planning framework; to characterize/prioritize/take action/monitor; to identify and prioritize areas for protection, restoration, and development to assure the least impact to processes. Areas will be rated by

importance and level of impairment. Data will be produced and displayed in a manner that is useful to local governments, the tribes, NGOs, and agency planners.

The product for Phase 1 of the project, due spring 2010, will be a Watershed Condition Index for water flow processes in 3 landscape groups (mountainous, lowland, coastal with, for example, similar rainfall, groundwater movement, and geology) within each WRIA. Products for Phase 2, running from spring 2010 to June 2011, include the integration of outputs from other process models (e.g. wildlife index, water quality models for stormwater and nutrients, PSNERP Change Analysis). Details will be provided for an Orcas example (coastal and lowland landscape groups) and local input will be sought for peer review.

Stephen said that the Issaquah Creek characterization for corridor restoration provides an example of success. With cooperative planning, forest clearing and impervious cover were limited to protect upper watershed processes. The floodplain was restored, addressing a historical flooding problem. Snohomish County and non profits worked together to add 15,000 more acres of protected watershed area. Stephen said the reason this example worked so well is that the solutions had value for people and aquatic resources. There was long-term involvement and cooperation by key individuals from agencies and non-profits and there was careful planning of the right elements at the right time.

Data layers will be released to local planners. Thurston and Kitsap Counties are the first to do their updates. Stephen said a state Watershed Team is needed to provide ongoing technical assistance to locals, ideally with EPA support. The goal is to develop restoration and protection strategies for the PSP Action Agenda. Mary noted that recent history shows that San Juan County has serious limitations that prevent moving forward despite the fact that it has to most to protect!

Richard Strathmann asked if anyone had details on the County Council discussion to develop its own Best Available Science criteria for the CAO process. Tina said the Council wants more (peer-reviewed?) science for wetlands but there is no funding at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Barbara Marrett, Pete Rose

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stephanie Buffum, Friends of the San Juans (FOSJ)  
Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program (KELP) and ECO Net outreach coordinator  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy/Yellow Island  
Shireene Hale, SJC Community Development & Planning  
Kyle Loring, FOSJ  
Dan Vekved, SJC Public Works

**Presentation:** FOSJ Salmon Recovery Project update by Tina Whitman

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, February 17th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- NWSC Retreat, February 25-26th,
- 6th Annual Marine Managers Workshop, March 1st & 2nd, Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Kit Rawson at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 1/20/10 meeting were approved as read.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White reported that the main topic of last Friday's meeting was a discussion on tentative agenda items for the February 25-26th NWSC Retreat. These include the challenging relationship with NOAA; Jonathan explained that NWSC's funding is earmarked through NOAA. NWSC is exploring a more permanent relationship with NOAA. Sea level rise and its possible impacts to NWSC projects is another likely topic for the Retreat. Jonathan said that representatives from the various MRCs typically give briefings on their annual activities at the Retreat but he is suggesting that each MRC focus on one success and discuss obstacles to their less successful efforts.

Members agreed that the orca rule comments process qualified in both these categories; monitoring plan work and coordination/outreach successes were also mentioned. This discussion will be continued

to the next regular MRC meeting. Jonathan said that NWSC reauthorization has passed the House and is now buried in a Senate bill that's stuck right now; he added that Senator Murray is working on it and Ginny Broadhurst is optimistic about the outcome.

**State Rockfish Advisory Group update:** Kit said that review of the draft Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) rockfish conservation plan has been delayed; in response to comments, the revised draft now extends the conservation area to Cape Flaherty and the public comment period has been re-opened. Next Wednesday's meeting of the group is 1 of 3 remaining meetings focused on the draft plan. Kit reminded everyone that the MRC will need to send a substitute in his place or send in any additional comments. WDFW's final draft will be released to the public on March 15<sup>th</sup> for a 30-day comment period. Kit said the group dynamic is interesting with a spectrum of points of view from various agencies and tribes. He added that the Coastal Conservation Association representatives are interested in artificial reefs and noted that there is research challenging proposed depths. Joe Gaydos' paper on the topic is available on the MRC website and it is important for the advisory group to be aware of the research, Kit added. Mary said that she will attend the next meeting if no else can. Phil Green asked if the goal of the group is to narrow down the list of alternatives.

**County Council update:** Jim reported on his presentation to the Council highlighting elements of the MRC's 2010 Work Plan and Annual Report. He said the meeting was interesting and friendly and the Council seemed to listen well. Jim asked, at Lovel Pratt's suggestion, if the Council had specific priorities in the Work Plan, noting that rockfish issues could be contentious and that the MRC is looking forward to continued participation in the CAO update process. There was discussion about MRC's "boundaries" with agreement that its original mission was marine-oriented but that the committee was later directed to include uplands (interpreted to mean up to 200' from the beach). It was also noted that the MRC consistently brings money and jobs to San Juan County. Jim said the Council adopted the Work Plan. The Council expressed some confusion regarding whether any funding was "earmarked" for projects like the Deer Harbor Bridge replacement. Barbara Rosenkotter clarified the local process for allocating Salmon Recovery funding. There was discussion on the level of light transmission for docks, although, as Laura Arnold pointed out, this issue is not formally a part of the Work Plan. Where is the WDFW process on this?

Kit said that the MRC Annual Report, as prepared by Jeff Hanson and others, is excellent and is being distributed to many people, including 20 to go to NWSC, the local stormwater group, and the Marine Managers workshop attendees. Jeff said it costs \$1-3/copy and Mary was directed to have 100+ more printed. The Report is available on line and will be linked to the MRC website.

Jonathan White said that he and other MRC members had a good conversation with Councilperson Lovel Pratt on MRC interface with the Council, particularly on policy and legal issues. He asked the MRC to discuss talking points and main messaging today. Part of our role as an advisory committee to the Council is clearly known but other aspects of our role are not as clear and it's in those areas that we get into a bind. The Aquatic Reserve and orca issues are good examples of MRC undertakings that challenged our working relationship with the Council. The NOAA process, with its hiccups, turned out to be an encouraging example of how to proceed in the future. After our urging, the Council submitted an addendum letter (their original one omitted some critical MRC points) with the full MRC report attached. Jonathan suggests that the MRC formalize 2 or 3 additional one on one meetings per year with the Council (separate but in conjunction with the already established quarterly reports made to the

Council). Jim suggested that members report back to the MRC. He added that an “us versus them” attitude is not productive; learning how to break this down is a suitable topic for the upcoming Compass workshop. Laura said that this attitude is perpetuated by a lack of background knowledge up front. The structural relationship with the Council was also discussed and Tina Whitman asked about the Council's role in implementation efforts such as those for the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA). It was agreed that a working relationship has to be a two-way street. Jim noted the Council's history of blowing off the work of advisory committees and county staff.

Laura recommended that the MRC provide a heads up for the Council on upcoming issues spelling out possible ways that the Council could help the process. For instance, after the Marine Managers workshop, data provided to the Council could help them contribute to the shoreline characterization and inventory process which is not a policy decision. There was consensus that a re-structuring could turn attitudes around to work for the Council and the MRC. Steve Revella agreed that positive heads up conversation, along with the quarterly meetings, are useful; he asked for a revisit of MRC members assigned to talk to specific Council persons.

Kit said that he feels strongly that protection of the resources in the San Juan Islands is of national and international concern; he added that if the Council does nothing, someone else will! Richard Strathmann said that it was news to Lovel that the MRC was established as an experiment in lieu of a National Marine Sanctuary; he echoed that we need to work locally on conservation and recovery or others will be left in control. Barbara repeated the message that if local response is lacking then enforcement by others could be imposed. To prepare for the one on one talks with Council members, Laura suggested that the MRC discuss issues to be covered at quarterly meetings with the Council during the MRC regular meeting before the quarterly. Kit noted that his presentation to the Council in April will be his last act as MRC Chair.

There was discussion about the requirement per County rules that the Director of the Community Development and Planning Department (recently-appointed Rene Beliveau) be a member of the MRC and about a Council representative acting as liaison.

**Letter of support for Puget Sound Partnership's ECO Net grant:** Jeff circulated copies of a draft letter from the Stewardship Network of the San Juans, a sub-network of the Puget Sound-wide Education, Communication, and Outreach Network (ECO Net) to Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). He explained that PSP is applying for outreach education and stewardship funds (\$6 million over 5 years) to provide funding for regional efforts through sub-regional groups. The letter details local commitment to work on cooperative outreach sections of the PSP Action Agenda for San Juan County. The local ECO Net will get \$15-20,000 this year from PSP and could get \$25-35,000/year through this grant. Mary will be meeting with Pete Rose to discuss proposed local funding commitments.

**Presentation: “Friends of the San Juans Salmon Recovery Project update”** Tina Whitman presented an overview of recent habitat restoration projects and preliminary results of the shoreline modification inventory. She noted that some of the work was funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Restoration project updates: Tina showed before and after photographs of the restoration project at Shoal Bay on Lopez Island in 2008, noting that property owners have documented the return of surf

smelt following the removal of the concrete and creosote log beach structure. In 2009, extensive rock was removed from the Turn Point salt march and upper beach on San Juan Island and suitably sized forage fish spawning substrate was put back in. Also in 2009, a rebar/concrete tide gate was removed from Shoal Bay Lagoon, adjacent to the location of the 2008 restoration, that widened and opened up the tidal channel to improve water quality and fish passage. Tina added that there seems to be good success with the replanting of native plant species as well. 2009 work also included the removal of 13 creosoted pilings in the Barlow Bay intertidal/subtidal area.

Tina said there is potential for larger scale projects in Barlow Bay, especially with the continued support of neighbors, the Tulalip Tribes and SJC Public Works. Multiple projects within the Barlow Bay Community Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration project are planned for 2010/11; a Smugglers Cove Road Beach Nourishment project (documented surf smelt habitat) is scheduled for 2010; and, work to reconnect the Neck Point coastal wetland to the marine environment is planned for fall of 2010 on Shaw Island.

Local excavators and contractors, all of whom were working on beach habitat restoration projects for the first time, were used for these projects. WSU Beachwatchers were involved in the Shoal Bay assessment (fish seining and insect traps) work through Tina Wyllie-Echeverria's grant. Mary noted that a systems approach to regional restoration will be supported by federal dollars. Money for local monitoring work is an ongoing challenge. Stephanie Buffum said that the water-side creosote removal in Barlow Bay saved thousands of mobilization dollars by being piggybacked onto other projects in the area .

Shoreline modification inventory: Tina said that Jim Slocomb was hired as a private contractor to lead field and database elements of shoreline modification inventory work. 400+ miles of marine shoreline were surveyed from boats for 45 days between April and June of 2009 to identify and prioritize potential future restoration projects. Six community volunteers and two undergraduate interns from Clark College and Friday Harbor Labs were key to the project's success. Tina added that while not all shoreline modification is bad, many modifications do impact habitat and many are avoidable. Development patterns were noted that could help lead to better political decisions and better informed structure designs in the future, she said.

Modification type, materials, size, current condition, design, and tidal elevation were recorded. Tina showed preliminary results from the database in the categories of armoring (710), docks (472), improved boat ramps (70), marine railways (55), jetties/marinas/breakwaters (50), groins (32), buoys and floats (1,914), pilings (116 grouped, 425 individual), and miscellaneous structures (patios, hot tubs, etc.)(191). Stormwater outflows, stairs, and smaller tide gates were not included in the survey because there are so many of them but associated armoring over 5' in length was mapped. Tina said that there are 18 miles of armored marine shoreline in the San Juans on 1,096 tax parcels (¼ of all shoreline tax parcels). 49% of all the non-rocky soft shoreline parcels have armoring. Richard asked what the purpose could be for armoring in sheltered bays (Garrison and Westcott, for instance); associated with residential development, there seems to be a perception of and over-reaction to a need to prevent erosion, Tina said. She said that such modification buries habitat and interrupts natural shoreline processes such as sediment movement.

In comparing SJC inventory results with other areas with similar inventory data, Tina pointed out that

there are 4 modifications per mile for San Juan County's 400 marine shoreline miles; 3 modifications per mile for Hood Canal/ east Jefferson County (369 marine miles); and 30 modifications per mile on Bainbridge Island's 53 shoreline miles. While just 4% of the total shoreline miles in San Juan County are armored, the percentage increases to 22.5% when you look at just soft shore (sand gravel beaches), comparable with Hood Canal and East Jefferson County and Whatcom County (excluding the city of Bellingham) which also has 18% armored shores and less than 10% rocky.

Inventory data will hopefully be used to improve future efficiency and effectiveness of protection and restoration and to inform political change, Tina said. She gave a brief summary of conclusions: SJC shoreline is not as undeveloped as we think (it is suburban, not rural); the majority of impacts are concentrated on sand/gravel beaches; significant restoration opportunities exist; and, significant protection challenges lay ahead. Next steps include the Restoration Priorities Analyses using GIS, targeted outreach to landowners, and sharing results with local and regional planners. Some inventory data is available now with more coming over the next few months.

There was discussion about how to keep the survey results current; permit analysis was suggested but there is no system at the non-permit level. Tina said that feeder bluff and salmon information will be added as it comes in. Jim will present the results to the Marine Managers Workshop in March. Stephanie said that making the data available to local staff and the Council was important since it can contribute to Shoreline Management Program update work.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Pete Rose, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Johannes Krieger, Michael Durland, Richard Strathmann

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Russel Barsh, KWIAHT  
Melissa Ferris, WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Joanne Gustafson, DNR  
Mike Kaill  
Les Soland, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist  
Terry Whalen, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist  
Amy Windrope

**Presentation:** Derelict Vessel Removal Project update by Terry Whalen

**Upcoming Events**

- 6th Annual Marine Managers Workshop, March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday Harbor Labs
- MRC regular meeting, March 17th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kit Rawson at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Mike Kaill said that he is very frustrated about the continuing pollution in Friday Harbor stormwater, as evidenced by consistently unacceptable surfactant readings in the Spring Street Aquarium. Recent readings measuring surfactant in 20 to 30 times diluted silt were approximately 1.0 ppm (“two-thirds of the way to killing trout”). Bottomfish in the Aquarium are dying off. Mike has been told by Town of Friday Harbor officials that the Town has done due diligence. For one thing, Mike said, apparently, traps have not been cleaned in a few years. Also, oil-grit scrapings from Spring Street recently measured 4.2 ppm although, Mike said, the Town usually reports its sampling results at 0 ppm at the stormwater outfall. This is because surfactant is typically associated with silt, and event-driven sampling (i.e. rain), when relevant amounts of silt-surfactants are present, is needed to get a true picture. Mike added that the last Memorial Park upgrade was a missed opportunity to address the problem by installing raingardens, for instance, which would reduce stormwater volume and toxicity. MRC members agreed there is a problem here...a serious political issue. Laura Arnold pointed out that

if this problem exists in Friday Harbor it will also show up in Eastsound.

It was agreed that it is time for the MRC to make formal note to the Town that a problem exists and that action is needed. Mike will draft a letter outlining the problem and possible solutions (to be vetted with the MRC at its March 17th meeting). An ad hoc committee on the issue was formed: Johannes Krieger, Lynn Danaher, Brian Rader, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Marrett. MRC members will then attend the following Town meeting, with press invited, to participate in citizen access time. Barbara Marrett said that the Port of Friday Harbor has interest in this issue as well.

David Loyd read a blog excerpt from two small citizen science groups working with the Big Picture project. Seining costs, the need for federal permits, and the goal of zero mortality were discussed in the blog. David said that the groups have developed effective techniques to meet their goals.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 2/3/10 meeting were approved as read.

**Outreach subcommittee/Stewardship Network update:** Jeff Hanson said that the letter of commitment to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) for inclusion in the grant application was submitted with a few changes and with 12 local groups signed on. The letter reinforced the importance of local level work and support to do the work. Jeff said that Karrie Cooper has been hired to coordinate the outreach effort to spread more general awareness of the stormwater problem here; the 3-month ad campaign will address problems with vetted facts and solutions. The website for the May 1st Sustainable San Juans event on Orcas Island is up (<http://www.stewardshipsjc.org>); Jeff said the event is an opportunity for businesses and local groups to get the word out about their good work.

Mary Knackstedt said that she and Kit recently talked to the new county stormwater group and were encouraged that they want to stay involved in getting the word out about polluted runoff. Jonathan White said that he was asked to write a section for the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce brochure focused on the Marine Stewardship Area.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan said that Mary attended the recent NWSC staff/Chair workshop; there was a lively conversation listing various MRC shared issues (e.g. tribal, Council, community relationships). The theme of the February 25th/26th NWSC retreat will be regional projects.

**Rockfish:** Mike Kaill attended the last meeting of the state group and was impressed with the variety of views and disciplines represented. His suggestion for permanent no-take Marine Protected Areas, based on key species or group of species, was well received. A special meeting focused on MPAs is scheduled before today's state group meeting. Mike said there was some discussion on enhancement programs; interactions with native groups, which have their own national status and management agendas; and, the derelict gear problem, noting that commercial fishermen don't mark their gear or use locators. Kit said that lots of material is coming out about the rockfish situation. He is not able to attend today's meeting but said that Phil Green, who is on the MRC rockfish subcommittee, offered to sit at the table and has good information to bring to the group. Ken Sebens said that the MRC rockfish report contains information on data gaps, etc. Kit said that the issue of the role of tribes in resource management warrants future MRC discussion. He added that resource conservation is not negotiable although there is one resource with multiple managers.

**Marine Managers Workshop:** Mary outlined a draft agenda. Tina Whitman explained that the workshop theme will be implementing the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda for the San Juan Islands area...with a focus on protection. She briefly discussed the panel makeup, invitees, and plan for break-out sessions. Tina said that the workshop could help in preparing for the Shoreline Master Program update, taking advantage of the presence of representatives from DNR, WA Department of Ecology (DOE), and People for Puget Sound, for instance. Mary said that she will prepare a proceedings document to record the event.

Lynda Lyshall from PSP will discuss the proposed Local Integrating Organization (LIO) structure and work to identify priority local work areas. Jonathan suggested that someone from Jefferson County be invited to participate to share insights. There was discussion on the SMP update and its relationship with the Action Agenda work. It was suggested that the new Director of SJC Community Development & Planning (Rene Beliveau) be invited to the Workshop.

THERE WILL BE NO REGULAR MRC MEETING ON MARCH 3rd.

SJC Administrator, Pete Rose, confirmed that the Best Management Practices for ferry landings have been sent out. With regard to the Derelict Vessel Removal Program, Pete said that he hopes Jim Slocomb's ideas get some kind of legs. It has been an issue for the county to float money for removal of larger boats and it would be good to see a proposal on towing them to a safe place; it has been difficult for the county to get money reimbursed by the DNR program, Pete added. [He left the meeting at this point.]

**Presentation: "Derelict Vessel Program"**

Terry Whalen said that A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist saw a need for derelict vessel removal in this area back in 2004 with the sinking of the Panther in Beaverton Cove, San Juan Island. There was no funding for this first project, suggesting a need for DNR to get involved in derelict vessel recovery, removal, and disposal. A-1 wrote the original proposal for the project. DNR charges \$1 to \$5 to boat owners to cover costs of the current program.

Terry said there is several years' accumulation of sunk vessels in Beaverton Cove. More than 50 boats/floats have been taken out. A-1 has responded to about 250 calls per year. Terry explained that SJC Public Works originally helped with paperwork to implement recovery, a service taken over by SJC Health Department until 2008 when the county withdrew completely. He thanked Jim Slocomb for his help throughout the effort.

Terry said he is stressing today that the results of no action are that costs grow exponentially and environmental damage continues. Sunken or sinking vessels create navigational hazard, destruction of marine habitats, and pollution (from gasoline/ diesel/ hydraulic fluid/ paint/ solvents/ batteries/ garbage/ debris).

Melissa Ferris said that too often boat owners take no responsibility and, although this abandonment is now a criminal misdemeanor (per WAC 332-52-155), there has been no enforcement in San Juan County. The Derelict Vessel Act outlines responsibilities of boat ownership and existing rules for anchoring and mooring. Melissa suggested posting this information in local newspapers, online, and in local marinas. There were questions about the SJC Sheriff's office role.

Terry noted that prevention from sinking is the key to better protection of our fragile marine ecosystems (e.g. oyster beds, herring and surf smelt spawning areas) and that navigational hazards and pollution present possible huge liability for the county. Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) solvent, for instance, commonly used on boats, continues to pollute years after vessels sink in our small bays and coves. Terry proposed that the real solution would be for the county to take a proactive stance, requiring political will, public awareness, and enforcement of existing rules.

Melissa said that DNR has spent \$170,000 in the last 13 months to recover vessels that have sunk in San Juan County. She said that a maintenance program is needed to stop vessels from sinking; this could include monthly monitoring and documentation of all vessels anchored and moored. One proposal is to tag vessels without current registration and those that are in obvious state of disrepair or danger of sinking. Terry agreed that we have the tools and legal means to accomplish this today! Melissa suggested a look at the Bainbridge Island example; notice of boats with expired registrations could be publicized before monthly surveying, baselines could be established, and enforcement could be increased to proactively reduce the number of sinking vessels. She added that combining programs from multiple agencies would be helpful.

Jim said that there seems to be fundamental structural problems with the existing program and that San Juan County itself needs to get out of it; the program, he said, needs to be regionalized and a bidding process for contractors needs to be established. A relationship between DNR and property owners could help reduce sinking incidents which, Jim added, would require legislative reform to allow DNR to do a better job. San Juan County has a good track record, Jim said.

Melissa said that the best outreach to citizens happens when the County is involved. The program has hired a second full-time staff person which indicates a recognition that the program is important. Administrative costs are capped; the program is funded at \$600,000 this year for Puget Sound with a \$1.8 million 2-year cycle. Response has been vessel-by-vessel up to now, Melissa reported. Outreach to Ports has included the suggestion that derelict boats be crushed rather than auctioned off. She emphasized the role of enforcement and said that regular updates on vessels and developing a priority list are useful actions. There need to be consequences and local and DNR enforcement need to work together to make that happen.

An ad hoc MRC subcommittee to focus on the issue of derelict vessels was formed: Lynn Danaher, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Port of Friday Harbor Harbor Master Tammy (?), Jim Slocomb, and Steve Revella will join Melissa in the effort. Barbara suggested a presentation to Port Commissioners. There was discussion on the existing interlocal agreement with the Town of Friday Harbor, the Port, and the County and on whether the MRC Workplan needed to be amended to include this work.

Melissa confirmed that a derelict vessel within an Aquatics Reserve would have priority for removal, all other factors being equal. There is a one-page reporting form for derelict vessels on the DNR website; the existing list needs to be updated, Melissa added.

**Proposed monitoring activities for 2010-11:** Mary said a monitoring coordinator could be hired by the end of March; monitoring is a contract deliverable per language in the NWSC grant. A monitoring strategy is due by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. She distributed information outlining the tasks and approach for the coordinator position.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that Mary be directed to proceed with filling the monitoring coordinator position. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

It was agreed that regional MRC projects for the NWSI retreat (e.g. Ecosystem funding to help with derelict vessel monitoring) would be moved to email discussion. There was consensus that discussion on the criteria and process for considering funding for incoming project proposals and for ongoing project maintenance needs be moved to the next regular MRC meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Jim Slocomb (Vice Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Pete Rose, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Mike Kaill  
John Manning, SJC Health & Community Services  
Louisa Nishitani  
Shann Weston, WSU Beachwatchers  
Terry Whalen, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist

**Presentation:** Russel Barsh, "Update on KWIAHT Juvenile Salmon Project"

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, April 7th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor

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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jim Slocomb at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Mike Kaill said that he continues to be frustrated about the pollution in Friday Harbor stormwater, as evidenced by continued unacceptable surfactant readings in the Spring Street Aquarium over the last three years. He said he heard some feedback that Town of Friday Harbor officials are upset about his recent letter to them that outlined the issues and suggested future corrective actions. Mike's conclusion is that most of this pollution is localized, coming from vehicle drippings on Spring Street; the Town seems to feel that it is getting all the heat even though stormwater pollution occurs all over the County. Mike noted that Low Impact Development raingardens installed on 10th Street in Seattle addressed a similar pollution problem and, in fact, absorbed all the rainwater that would have entered the stormwater system there. Mike said he was disappointed not to have had a most positive response to his letter that asked for cooperative proactive measures to be taken. He added that there already seems to be strong reaction to the draft public education efforts coming out of the local "Puget Sound Starts Here" campaign.

Mike said that although sediment samples (that take a long time to analyze) indicate a toxicity that is killing Aquarium creatures, WA Department of Ecology (DOE) needs data that will hold up in court as

measurable violation...such as data on turbidity (not surfactants). Turbidity measured 81 turbidity units, following the last rain event, Mike said; a reading over 50 units represents a DOE violation. Following discussion, the MRC encouraged Mike to continue his important work and agreed to help with outreach to educate the public on the issue. It was acknowledged that “We all drive cars and we’re all part of the problem.” The question arose: Is the Town’s pollution worse than what might be found at Fisherman Bay on Lopez Island or in Eastsound on Orcas Island? The issue will be an agenda item for the next MRC regular meeting.

Pete Rose said that the County Council is driving the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update process with its recent resolution to hire a scientist to write a definition of Best Available Science for the Council’s adoption. Pete said that Paul Adamus, who came highly recommended by the DOE wetlands office in Bellevue, was selected and a contract is awaiting completion. Defining BAS for the CAO update, for wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas only, will be a 30-day process and Pete will be issuing an announcement letter. He added that there will be a local call for scientists to participate in the process which will start in 2 or 3 weeks.

David Loyd presented a \$1,000 check from the Waldron Community Meeting to Russel Barsh to help replenish chemicals needed for his water quality testing.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan said that the recent NWSC Retreat was very helpful and more staff and MRC Chairs were present than in past years. He encouraged all MRC members to make attendance at the Retreat part of their yearly efforts; “the more contact with NWSC, the better.” Retreat topics included discussions on challenges, ability to network and to get things done, strengths, funding, recruitment of young people, and ways to build more synergy. Mary Knackstedt said that there seems to be more movement towards regional projects. Jonathan said the next meeting will be held on Friday in the Port Angeles area.

**EcoNet/Outreach subcommittee report:** Barbara Marrett discussed the “Short Run to the Sea” campaign, noting that Mike Kaill’s efforts have not been in vain since awareness of the problem has increased. A series of newspaper ads for the campaign will contain a list of facts that will be vetted and documented on specific aspects of stormwater quality, as well as suggested solutions to address the problems. The facts list will be forwarded to the MRC for review. Jeff Hanson said that this is a relatively low-key campaign that is gaining momentum with interesting projects like film festivals and a series of articles as key deliverables.

Barbara said that Liz Illg explained that the Scenic Byways Program has funding for a corridor management plan to include safety, history, and amenities; she is looking for text, images, and graphs.

**Derelict Vessel Removal Project update:** Barbara Marrett said that funding for the program is not just a local issue and suggested that legislators be lobbied for local funding and/or that Puget Sound Partnership get involved. The NWSC recognizes that derelict vessels in Puget Sound are a regional problem and a presentation to the whole Commission is being planned. Barbara said that John Manning, Terry Whalen, and Joan Ruth Baumann met with the ad hoc subcommittee. Pete said that DNR is urging counties to pursue boat owners to recover the costs of removal. The project would require 4 to 10 hours/week of staff time, costing the county between \$10,000 and 20,000/year (including staff time); the county would also need to float a \$30-40,000 loan to pay contractors in a

timely manner since DNR reimbursement (90% of costs) can take 3 to 6 months. The loan creates another problem for the county in that it crosses budget years. John Manning said that there is no staff time to take owners to court in order to recoup money; he added that 90% of the problem is funding and 10% is DNR. Barbara said that the county as lead agency could hire an outside contractor. She added that having a monitoring program to check on current boat registrations would save money; \$3 of each registration fee goes to the program's funding.

Pete said that this is an issue where the outcome is not controversial but the challenge remains that the county's organizational capacity is less now than in 2008. Terry Whalen reiterated that getting boats out of the water before they sink would save tens of thousands of dollars. He added that 5 boats were removed here in the last 12 months and that San Juan County could set a precedent for what happens in other counties to protect all of Puget Sound waters.

**Selection of MRC Chair:** Jim said that Chair election is scheduled for the first meeting in May. The Executive subcommittee will develop a list of nominations to present to the MRC at its April 7th meeting.

**Funding requests to the MRC:** Mary presented a draft outlining a process for responding to funding requests. She noted that unallocated funds span the period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011. The outline was adopted as written by consensus.

**Regional MRC projects:** Jonathan reported on the list of regional project ideas. He said that by next December 90% of the legacy of derelict nets will be removed from Puget Sound waters above 100-foot depths; the project could sunset since there is so little fishing currently and there are fewer nets below 100 feet. Crab pot removal has been dropped from NOAA's priority list. Jonathan said it would be worthwhile for the MRC to look for opportunities to work with other MRCs as well as with NWSC. Tina Whitman suggested that the Derelict Vessel Removal project be added to the regional projects list along with a monitoring component. Jonathan said that the recreational guidebook, "State of the Straits," is a good example of effective outreach; it is sold at a self-sustaining level. Mary asked if more detail on the regional projects was available from NWSC. Barbara Rosenkotter wondered how outreach efforts could be leveraged.

**Presentation: "Update on KWIAHT Juvenile Salmon Project"**

Russel Barsh said that this is the second report on the salmon study begun in 2008; the first report was presented to the Salmon Habitat Conference last year. The study addresses the question: What do juvenile salmon eat?

Russel said that pilot studies from 2006-07 showed that outbound juvenile Chinook from throughout the Salish Sea converge on the San Juans in the summer. Salmonids from the south end of Lopez Island and from Cowlitz Bay on Waldron Island were collected using standard methods by KWIAHT with local volunteers. Using non-lethal gastric lavage, 15,000 prey items were collected and counted; fin clips were collected to identify streams-of-origin genetically. The objective of the study was to examine the extent to which human activities in uplands (wetlands, woodlands, shorelines) affect salmonid prey sources. Russel said that the Big Picture Project probably undersampled Chinook because it seined relatively close to shore, while KWIAHT seined in water 10-20 feet deeper. He pointed out that wild Chinook, as well as some hatchery

Chinook are listed as endangered species.

What do these salmonids eat along our shorelines? How much of their food comes from the open water? From the beaches? From uplands? Beaches and uplands appear to be an important source of prey (midges, flies, wasps, ants) in the 2009 study. The same stocks on Lopez and Waldron appear to use the water differently (e.g. more terrestrial-sourced prey was consumed on Waldron, with a significant increase in September). More than half of the crustaceans consumed by juvenile Chinook are larval crabs that live in the nearshore. Do hatchery fish behave differently? “Yes, no, and maybe!” Hatchery fish are more oriented to hunting on the surface (for bugs) and consume more terrestrial prey than their wild cousins. Since juvenile Chinook appear to spend several weeks in the islands, if not longer, island resources make a significant contribution to their growth and survival. Russel added that KWIAHT is studying insect diversity and sources using pan traps along beaches and wetlands

Salmonids of all sizes arrive over the summer and on average they eat more fish as they grow larger, but still rely heavily on other prey as well. Salmonids within one feeding aggregation (same day, same bay) tend to eat a wide range of different prey. Russel said that it remains unclear whether this represents individual preferences, as seen in mammals and birds. With only two years of data at this point, the question remains as to how much dietary patterns may vary from year to year. Do coho and chum compete in the same feeding aggregations? Do other fish compete with juvenile Chinook for prey? Chinook are more oriented to fish and terrestrials. Greenlings and Pacific Cod juveniles have distinctive prey preferences, hunting on the bottom and near the surface, respectively.

Russel reiterated that uplands are an important source of food for salmonids. He said the study will continue for one more year and that all three years of research have only cost the Salmon Recovery Funding Board \$72,000.

**Recent funding requests (totaling \$6700) for monitoring/research:** Mary said that Russel Barsh has requested funding for mass spectrometer tune up for detecting phthalates in water; he also requested funds to do bioassays on 20 products to develop a list of surfactants; Mike Kaill requested \$700 for equipment to continue developing a list of chemical pollutants in local stormwater. Mary said that the monitoring subcommittee has already had consensus on the first 2 proposals.

**Motion:** Tina Whitman moved, and David Loyd seconded, that \$500 be kept in reserve for monitoring and \$700 for outreach with the balance going to the three projects discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Ken Sebens

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Roma Call, Puget Sound Partnership  
Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program 9KELP)  
Jack Cory, islandguardian.com  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Brian Rader, SJC Pollution Prevention Specialist  
Terry Whalen, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist

**Presentations:**

Mike Kaill, "Proposal for Follow-up on the Spring Street Stormwater Issue"

Tom Cowan, "Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative's Derelict Fishing Gear Program"

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, April 21st, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Sustainable Living Fair, Orcas Island, May 1st and 2nd, <http://www.stewardshipsjc.org>

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Kit Rawson at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 3/17/10 meeting were approved as read.

**Derelict Vessel Removal Project update:** Barbara Marrett read the letter she received from Terry Whalen stating that he had met with the County and DNR regarding moorings and has had no response to his follow-up telephone or email messages in which he offered his services as project manager. His letter also suggested that he would take on the financial responsibility and would deal with the collections issue if the County gave its blessing. Barbara circulated the photograph attached to Terry's letter of a sunken sailboat currently in Garrison Bay. Barbara said there seems to be competition for the salvage contract.

Terry Whalen said that Thomas Tillman of Orcas Island, a Coast Guard Auxiliary member and sector leader, is willing to come to an MRC meeting to discuss the issue. Laura Arnold suggested that the MRC recommend to the County Council when its report on the project is scheduled to be presented

(the Tuesday before the next regular MRC meeting) that the Council meet with DNR and other parties and issue an RFP. Terry said that he will participate in a video conference on the topic in Sedro Woolley this Friday.

Discussion followed. Jack Cory suggested that MRC members make personal contact with the Council and, particularly, Milene Henley, to discuss the issue before the Council presentation. Barbara said that there has been a meeting of the MRC subcommittee with Pete Rose and John Manning regarding funding stumbling blocks. Terry reiterated that he has offered to carry the financial burden and to take on administration of the program with some creative accounting. He asked the MRC for its help, noting that money is not really the problem since 90% of the costs are covered by the state and he would pick up the remaining 10% and get rid of the collection portion. Terry said that being proactive with monitoring would save lots of money.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan said several coastal MRCs are getting up and running (Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific); he distributed a related brochure.

**EcoNet/Outreach subcommittee report:** Jeff Hanson said that the “Short Run to the Sea” campaign’s third article, “Nature Filters ~ Roads Don’t,” has been released to the public (ad in today’s Journal) and has been posted to <http://www.shortruntothesea.org> (a “water quality website”). Guest commentaries by Jonathan White and Joe Gaydos will follow dealing with pollutants and responding to the question: “How much science do we really need?”.

Jeff reported that there has been good response from organizations that will provide displays for the Sustainable San Juans 2010 event on Orcas. He added that nominations are needed for the Good Steward awards (due Friday!); selections will be made next week. Mary Knackstedt said she would look into the MRC’s nominations from last year.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board 11th Round:** Barbara Rosenkotter explained that the proposed process is a little different this year and the timeline is accelerated. She circulated copies of the draft outlining this year’s plan, noting that \$300,000 is available to allocate for salmon recovery projects. Barbara said that both the local salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the MRC salmon recovery subcommittee have recommended funding: (1) the remaining \$141,000 portion of the original 2009 grant request for the Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration Project construction phase; (2) ~\$160,000 to pull together the data sets and multiple assessments completed for San Juan County by distributing a targeted Request for Proposals (RFP) outlining the requirements of the project. Barbara added that this “putting it all together project” will create a model by pulling together all the data layers in a cohesive story in order to identify priorities for future protection and restoration projects and to update the local work plan. She said that the process can be accelerated by using the allocated portion of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds for the Thatcher Bay project and the targeted RFP project.

Discussion followed. Barbara clarified that other proposals could still be submitted for potential funding. Proposals are due by May 24th; proposers will present on June 18th; and, the MRC will meet to review and score proposals on July 7th.

**Motion:** Laura Arnold moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the MRC accept the

draft recommendation of TAG and the MRC Salmon Recovery subcommittee to issue a targeted RFP for up to \$160,000 for the “putting it all together project.” The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Jim Slocomb moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the MRC accept the rest of the TAG/MRC subcommittee recommendations as presented today. The motion passed with 6 in favor, 4 opposed, and 2 abstaining.

**Presentation:** “Proposal for Follow-up on the Spring Street Stormwater Issue”

Mike Kaill distributed copies of his outline of the problem’s history and proposed proactive response. He noted that all automobile fluids (gasoline, oil, grease, antifreeze, hydraulic fluid, etc.) contain surfactants (detergents) that are potent and stable. He has sampled the thick black residue on the street surface of Spring Street and found it to be very high in surfactants (4.1 ppm after 40:1 dilution); 1.5 ppm kills rainbow trout. Mike said that rain, not showers, will pick up silt and carry it into stormwater, resulting in visible plumes in the Harbor. The Spring Street Aquarium has been the “canary in the coal mine” for two years now, he added. Mike is now conducting an informal toxicology test, using anemones.

SJC Public Works has told Mike that if positive action taken in the Town of Friday Harbor would provide a worthwhile example for such response at other county sites. Mike said that more data is needed for Eastsound on Orcas Island and sites on Lopez. His proposed action includes building raingardens in the lowest two blocks of Spring Street to process stormwater before it reaches the shoreline. Mike noted that this is a very preliminary “back of the envelope” plan, made after informal discussion with 2020 Engineers that will be refined. This plan for raingardens could take up four parking spaces and a strip of the pavement at the nearshore curb of Memorial Park, which should not interfere with traffic or the seating area under the tree.

Discussion followed on the possible roles of the MRC and of the Town of Friday Harbor in such a project. It was agreed that both entities would do well to be engaged as part of the solution and that it would serve as good PR. Mike said that although the Town is meeting WA Department of Ecology (DOE) sampling requirements, the problem is not being addressed; he emphasized that involved agencies agree that event driven sampling is needed. Brian Rader pointed out that previous excavation on lower Spring Street revealed a substrate of solid rock so that an alternate plan to installing raingardens there should be considered. Mary said that the scope of work in the county’s grant with DOE calls for installation of demonstration raingardens. Mike asked MRC members to consider lobbying Town and County Councils to move forward on this. Jim pointed out that water quality is a NWSC benchmark.

**Motion:** Tina Whitman moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the MRC take on the topic of stormwater in San Juan County, starting with working with the Town of Friday Harbor on proactive solutions, as a pilot project that would serve the whole county as a model. Jim and Lynn Danaher added the amendment that the MRC commit to raising funds for such a project. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Laura suggested that the MRC start pulling together sampling data for Fishermans Bay on Lopez and Eastsound on Orcas.

**Puget Sound Partnership update:** Roma Call introduced herself as the new Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for San Juan County; Linda Lyshall is moving on to complete her doctorate degree. Roma said that she is impressed with how well MRC members and interested parties work together. The Local Integrating Organization process is underway and a meeting is scheduled for May. The proposed structure is being reviewed by the County Council and the tribes and will be forwarded to the Leadership Council for their approval on June 17th. Mary asked about the process for filling the San Juan Action Area vacancy on the Ecosystems Coordinating Board and other members agreed that good representation is needed as soon as possible.

**NWSC Benchmark Account 2010 funding:** Jonathan presented a summary, explaining that the goal is to fund 1 to 3 MRC restoration, protection, or stewardship projects with the \$130,000 in the Account. He noted that SJC received NWSC funding for the feeder bluff project. There will be a presentation on April 23rd for all the MRCs to vet proposal ideas and to explore possible collaborative efforts.

Mary said that among the ideas from the MRC Retreat were a community ecological guide and a “State of the Northwest Straits” publication. Another idea is a collaborative stormwater project to develop a rural community (i.e. rocky coastal) model/case study; Mary said that Island County has initiated a major bioremediation stormwater project. Proposals are due in June.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Johannes Krieger seconded, that the MRC highlight a stormwater project in San Juan County for NWSC Benchmark funding; the motion was amended to also consider other ideas that may come out of the April 23rd meeting. The amended motion passed with one member opposed.

Other ideas suggested were derelict vessel removal, outreach for the Shoreline Master Plan update and policy/enforcement on the documented shoreline armoring in the county.

**Shoreline Master Program Library:** Kit suggested continuing this conversation by email.

**Presentation:** “Update on Northwest Straits Initiative’s Derelict Fishing Gear Program”  
Tom Cowan said that derelict fishing gear was identified as an issue in 1995 and as a priority in 1999. The early focus for removal, begun in 2002 by the Northwest Straits Initiative, was gill nets; safety and removal protocols were developed and regulatory barriers were addressed. Tom said the current multi-source funded program includes removal, outreach, and prevention. Crab pots have also been removed. The focus shifted to nets in high priority areas in 2007. A reported 70% of all rocky reef habitat in the Sound is located in the San Juan Islands, snagging nets over the years of historic and current gillnet fishing and making the Islands the highest priority for removal. Tom said that 1,117 nets (including some seine nets) have been surveyed in the south end of Lopez and the west side of San Juan Island.

In July of 2009, the federal government awarded the project \$4.6 million in economic stimulus funds. The project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act fund is to be completed by December 2010 includes the recovery of 3,000 (90%) of the remaining legacy derelict fishing nets from Puget Sound, the creation of 30 living wage jobs, and refinement of the reporting system and database.

Tom said there are now 4 fully-mobilized removal vessels targeting high priority areas: the Bet-Sea, Twila Dawn (tribal), Survey II, and Tenacious. 55% of the high priority shorelines have been surveyed;

2,874 nets have been removed; 2,000 crab pots were removed (prior to ARRA funding); 400+ acres of habitat have been restored; and, 13 Puget Sound areas are now totally free of derelict nets. Tom reported that 192 marine species (~150,000 animals) caught in derelict gear have been documented; thousands of these were commercially viable species. In a 2-week glimpse of time, thousands of birds, marine mammals, and fish (including ESA listed salmon and rockfish) died in these nets. Long-term implications from the legacy gear include the loss of over an estimated 100,000 birds and fish and 2 million invertebrates each year. There is research looking into recovery of the lead lines off gill nets. Although torn nets have no value, with an estimated 15-20 nets lost each year, some of them might be returnable to their owners.

It was agreed that a local presentation on crab pot mortality would be useful; an estimated 12,193 recreational and commercial pots are lost each year and 22 crabs per pot are killed each year. Commercial value of killed crabs is \$861,000 per year. The numbers may be higher since caught crabs decompose or are consumed in less than 2 weeks time. Salvage of the recovered pots is minimal.

Tom reported on the monitoring efforts for habitat recovery in cleaned areas. He said that 75-90% of kelp recovers in one growing season; sediment processes are restored in scoured areas; eelgrass is slower to recover. Outreach on prevention (including crab pot escape cords education) and on reporting of lost gear is increasing. Lost or abandoned nets and pots can be reported by calling 1-800-477-6224 or at <http://www.derelictgear.net>. The website also has photo and video galleries and weekly progress reports with a map of cleared areas. Tom said that removals under the FY2008 SRFB grant made for a significant improvement in the situation.

Tom's presentation will be posted to the MRC website. There are plans to design an ongoing removal project and there are new techniques now that enhance SONAR detection of derelict nets. Tom said that the project will host the head of NOAA Fisheries on one of the project's boats on Earth Day.

Kit reiterated that removal of derelict gear is a priority for Puget Sound Partnership. He added that now that areas are being cleared of this material it is important to get the word out to prevent new recruitment of lost gear.

**County Council Questionnaire for Advisory Groups:** Kit asked for input from members (Questionnaire with rough draft answers emailed). He will prepare a final response for review at the next regular MRC meeting.

**Kayakers Education and Leadership Program (KELP)** update: Karrie Cooper said that KELP continues to work with Soundwatch on improved education outreach for the coming season. SJC Parks has developed its first launch permit from the west side of San Juan Island; it will be free to local residents and will cost \$7/day/vessel or \$35 for a seasonal pass to others. The Whale Museum has contracted to do the required vessel code of conduct training that Parks will get out to the public; there will be an MRC presentation on the training later. The commercial kayak companies have partnered in these efforts through the San Juan Kayakers Association.

David Loyd said that he attended the Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR) meeting last night that offered an excellent presentation on residential wastewater treatment systems (septics). David said that the speaker emphasized that clay and wetland areas are a bad location for such systems and he

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included a discussion on surfactants, biodegradables, etc.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that there is the SJC Water Resources Committee has a concern with a proposal regarding the water element of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update that could limit certain water rights.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program  
Jack Cory, [www.islandguardian.com](http://www.islandguardian.com)  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Pete Rose, SJC Administrator  
Les Soland, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist  
Terry Whalen, A-1 Marine & Vessel Assist

**Presentations:**

1. Lincoln Bormann, SJC Land Bank Director: Update on salmon recovery projects
2. Ed Hale, SJC Public Works, Utilities Manager: MRC input for SJC stormwater projects

**Upcoming Events**

- Sustainable Living Fair, Orcas Island Village Green, May 1st, <http://www.stewardshipsjc.org>
- MRC regular meeting, May 5th, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Green Boating workshops: May 5th, 7-9 pm, Mullis Senior Center, Friday Harbor; May 6th, 12:30-2:30pm, Lopez Library and 7-9pm, Senior Center, Eastsound
- MRC progress report to County Council, May 18th

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Kit Rawson at 8:30 am.

Tina Whitman circulated a copy of a poster announcing the free series of Green Boating workshops, sponsored by the Friends of the San Juans, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, The Whale Museum, and the Stewardship Network of the San Juans, scheduled for May 5th and 6th; the poster includes the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) logo. Tina said that a team of volunteers will provide Best Management Practices education on how to protect water quality, marine mammals, and eelgrass habitat.

Kit Rawson said that there have been different interpretations of the recent Bill Ruckelshaus' article in the Wall Street Journal that he sent to MRC members and the Council. The point of the piece was that

the citizens-based bottoms up approach is the best way to address current environmental issues and, he added that the MRC is a good working example of that. However, as Ruckelshaus made clear, this approach will only be successful if it includes hard work on the part of the citizen participants and strong leadership and support on the part of government and the private sector. He commended the MRC members and community partners for their hard work and said that he will continue to make the case for strong support from political and private sector leaders.

Barbara Rosenkotter pointed that the Earth Day op piece in today's Journal calls out two local challenges: addressing the die-off of animals in the Spring Street Aquarium, the "canary in the coal mine," with proposed raingardens to address the runoff pollution resulting in the loss of a few parking spaces ("...but isn't it worth it?"); and, the need for local agencies to take the lead on removal of derelict vessels.

Mary Knackstedt said that Roma Call told her that Chris Davis from The Nature Conservancy has been chosen to fill the environmental representative vacancy on the Ecosystem Coordination Board. Mary added that Bob Kelly is still the representative for the San Juan Action Area. Mary and Kit suggested that the Local Integrating Organization (LIO), once it is formed and functioning, would be the appropriate forum to discuss how the San Juan County portion of the Action Area can best be represented on the ECB.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 4/7/10 meeting were approved with corrections.

**EcoNet/Stewardship Network report:** Barbara Marrett reported that last week's meeting discussed Dr. Adamus' contract with the county to pull together the water science for the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update process. Others are encouraged to provide him with resource information. The "Short Run to the Sea" campaign's fifth article is now running, with suggestions to have the articles published in the Islands Guardian and San Juan Islander online papers. Barbara added that the articles are available at <http://www.shortruntothesea.org> and there were suggestions to have them linked to other websites (County, MRC, Parks, etc.) Next week's article, written by Robin Jacobsen, will be on septic systems. Could this valuable information be brought to the schools somehow? It would be helpful to get the Green Boating workshops information out to marinas, community calendars, etc. Fiona Norris (Director, San Juan Nature Institute) and Cindy Hansen (Education Curator, The Whale Museum) will coordinate the Green Tent for this summer's County Fair. Jeff Hansen said that 22 organizations, to date, will have booths at the Sustainable Living Fair on Orcas.

**Rockfish update:** Kit said that he sent around the new state-issued draft Rockfish Conservation Plan for review. He said that Ginny Broadhurst is concerned that it misrepresents what the MRCs and the NWSC are doing and suggested that everyone review it. The May 5th meeting of the state's rockfish advisory group has been moved to June 9th when Kit is not available to attend; Phil Green will attend and represent the San Juan MRC.

**MRC nominations:** Jonathan White was nominated for Chair and Steve Revella for Vice Chair. Nominations for the delegate and alternate to NWSC monthly meetings were postponed to allow for further conversation with Jonathan. Elections will be held at the next MRC meeting.

**Derelict Vessel Removal Project update:** Barbara Marrett distributed copies of draft MRC

recommendations for managing derelict vessels in San Juan County. The draft includes a program overview, a list of County issues (collection, i.e. if a vessel is seized, the county would be tasked with going after the owner to recoup removal costs; lack of resources, a real stumbling block; float money, i.e. a lag time of 6 months for salvage payment; and, cost of administration) as well as MRC draft recommendations for the County Council. Terry Whalen said he is willing to help with the first issue and that another contractor has offered to carry the float money. Terry suggested that the program could be run inexpensively if in-kind donations counted. He asked that the MRC recommend that San Juan County bring the program back by resolution or consensus and get the RFP prepared. Terry said that he spoke with Auditor, Milene Henley, about some of the accounting issues; he said that Milene and Melissa Ferris are willing to be on a subcommittee of the County Council.

Following discussion on the proposed MRC recommendations in the draft, it was agreed that they be revised and brought back to the next regular MRC meeting and then to the Council on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion:** Tina Whitman moved, and David Loyd seconded, that draft recommendation #2 be deleted; Barbara Marrett added the friendly amendment to add that the MRC encourage County Administration to draft the RFP to hire a contractor to administer the program. The amended motion passed unanimously.

Pete Rose said that he will put the MRC on the Council's May 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for 1:15pm to discuss the derelict vessel issue. Pete noted that there will be Council discussion on May 11<sup>th</sup> on the report from the Blue Ribbon Committee on the LIO issue.

**CAO update:** Pete said that Paul Adamus has been contracted to do a synthesis of CAO-relevant Best Available Science on wetland studies to adjudge sensitivity in those that could be developed (e.g. recommendations to reduce/extend buffers) and on wildlife habitat; the Council is calling for local submissions. Dr. Adamus will also examine data layers, coordinating with existing inventories. Pete said the Council will have a discussion on the topic next Tuesday at 2 pm; Steve Revella said that he will attend the meeting.

**Presentation: Update on salmon recovery projects**

Lincoln Bormann said that this is one of a series of presentations on the salmon recovery projects started in 2006 by the Land Bank and continued in 2008 with a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant. Lincoln showed slides of the Deer Harbor shoreline restoration project on Orcas Island, noting that the concrete pool was removed as well as a dug well, creosoted wood, and a dock. The 2-acre property is one of the last undeveloped lands in Deer Harbor and was due to be subdivided for 2 houses. Removal of the pool, which was last used in the 1950s, along with some of the bulkhead returns the shoreline to its natural condition. There was discussion about the area being a popular mooring place and about impacts of adding mooring buoys in this high energy area. DNR studies show that one issue with anchoring is that disturbance can introduce invasive species, a situation that applies here as well as on other sensitive areas in the islands. There was interest in whether forage fish and eelgrass would be replanted. Alternatives to anchoring were discussed.

Lincoln said that the second project, acquisition of a stunning parcel on Watmough Bay that is one of the last undeveloped parcels, along with an adjoining property, on the Lopez Island Bay. The purchase by the Land Bank in partnership with the San Juan Islands Preservation Trust from the Watmough

Bight Bay Association will provide good protection for the Bay. The owner of the adjoining piece donated part of it to the Trust which was then transferred to the Land Bank. Lincoln said the Stewardship Plan will allow for low impact recreation; no timber harvest; monitoring for invasives; coordinated management with Bureau of Land Management properties; pedestrian access only; leashed pets only; and no facilities. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Big Picture project is sampling Watmough for salmon with results due in July. She said that Deer Harbor was not a documented forage fish site before the restoration but could be revisited now to be monitored.

**MRC meeting schedule:** The MRC previously committed to hold at least one meeting each on Lopez Island and Orcas Island per year. It was proposed that site visits to other islands' projects (e.g. Shoal Bay projects on Lopez and Cascade Creek project on Orcas), along with an agenda specific to a respective island, would be conducive to good attendance on these islands. Another suggested topic is the new juvenile salmon data. Jack Giard will be presenting pre-season salmon planning at the next regular MRC meeting, which will be held in Friday Harbor.

Tina said that there will be a crab meeting at the Orcas Senior Center on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, with two Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife representatives attending; the San Juan and Lopez crab meetings were well attended. Richard Strathmann suggested scheduling and advertising the specific time for presentations at MRC meetings to encourage attendance. The committee agreed to modify the agenda format in the future such that presentations will be scheduled for a specific time during the meeting.

**NWSC Benchmark Account draft proposal (due in June):** Mary said that the NWSC is interested in regional projects that involve an inclusive geographic area (i.e. beyond San Juan County), having measurable results and potential for leveraging for additional resources. Mary said the NWSC agenda for Friday's meeting includes a brainstorming on proposals and an opportunity to assess other MRCs interests. She distributed copies of the draft San Juan MRC proposal that fits with MRC protection strategies and addresses NWSC benchmarks. Mary said that local volunteers can be pulled in to write SJC Low Impact Development (LID) recommendations into the development code for public review; this will make LID available, not required, with Code support. Puget Sound Partnership will fund the effort and WSU Puyallup will do an LID training in the San Juans, with the MRC helping to fund and promote it. Community Development & Planning (Colin) has a list of LID projects to do over the next few years and projects could move up the list. Mary said that a case study could be put together on stormwater management, especially for rural communities. Island and Jefferson Counties (Langley, La Conner, Coupeville) are doing LID projects. Johannes Krieger said the Town of Friday Harbor is discussing stormwater upgrades. David Loyd suggested highlighting monitoring to justify projects, especially to encourage partners.

**Presentation: MRC input for SJC stormwater projects**

Ed Hale gave an update on the stormwater committee's work; its one task is to advise the County Council on stormwater priorities, he said, using three criteria: health and safety; property damage; environmental damage. 100 projects are listed now, 4 of which have an environmental component only. All involve treatment and are water quality-related (e.g. monitoring at Mud Bay). Ed said that ferry parking areas and landings are not on the list at this point. Kit said that the MRC could help define "environmental damage," especially for marine-related impacts. David said that the MRC has useful data to offer the committee and the Public Works Department. Tina asked if the criteria are data-

driven and Ed said that not at this level of detail at this time.

Richard asked if there is any money available for benthic sampling in the Port of Friday Harbor, in Eastsound or in Fisherman Bay in order to get an idea of impacts. Mary said that the WA Department of Ecology plans to do some sediment sampling in the San Juans in open areas. David said that KWIAHT has a school program doing benthic core samples. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the “putting it all together” project prioritizes areas for restoration and protection; a complete broad-scale analysis is due by February. Tina said that the MRC science subcommittee and the salmon Technical Advisory Group could look at Public Works' projects. Ed said this was a good idea and the citizens committee could also benefit. They will go back to the Council every July for a listing of new projects. Ed will get a copy of the Stillwater monitoring plan to the MRC. Ed said there is \$50,000 per year in the Public Works budget for monitoring. David said the MRC is hiring a person today who could help Public Works with monitoring, reiterating that property damage occurs on both public and private lands. Ed will re-visit the MRC with updates on specifics. Barbara Marrett suggested a ranking system similar to that used in salmon project funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 8:30 -10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Kit Rawson (Chair), Laura Arnold, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy  
Susan Key

**Presentations:**

Jack Giard, Fraser River Panel, Pacific Salmon Commission. Report on Fraser River salmon runs.

**Upcoming Events:**

MRC Workshop on Crab Biology and Management, May 17, 7 – 9 PM, Orcas Island Senior Center  
MRC progress report to the County Council May 18, 11:00 AM  
MRC regular meeting, May 19, 2010, 8:30 – 10:30 am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Kit Rawson at 8:30 am.

Tina Whitman announced Green Boaters workshops being held on May 5 and 6 on Lopez and San Juan Islands. She also reminded members of the crab workshop scheduled for May 17 at the Orcas Island Senior Center.

Barbara Rosenkotter consulted with the MRC about changing the schedule of the second MRC meeting in June. She asked that the salmon project proposal presentations take place on Friday, June 18 instead of the regularly scheduled MRC meeting on June 16 at the Islanders Bank.

**Motion:** Laura Arnold moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that we move the June 16 MRC meeting to June 18. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 4/21/10 meeting were approved with corrections.

**ECO-Net/Stewardship Network report:** Barbara Marrett said the group applied to the Puget Sound Partnership for \$2,400 to enable the San Juan Nature Institute and Kwiaht to develop an educational curriculum that can be used in the classroom and training opportunities for the general public which

spins off the *Short Run to the Sea* campaign. A tile with a link to the website with campaign materials was sent to the Island Guardian and the San Juan Islander. Jeff Hanson gave an update on working with the Orcas Angels to help them manage charity car washes to reduce pollutants—using low surfactant soaps and sand bags to divert runoff to planted areas.

**Northwest Straits Commission report:** Jonathan White said that his term as Chair of the NW Straits Commission is ending in May. Terry Williams from the Tulalip Tribes was chosen as the next Chair and Lenny Corin from Island County MRC will be the Vice Chair. Jonathan encouraged MRC members to attend NW Straits Commission meetings for the opportunity to learn about its work and the nuts and bolts of the MRC network.

**Selection of officers:** Jonathan White was nominated for Chair at the 4/21/2010 MRC meeting. He declined the nomination due to work load. Kit Rawson called for new nominations. Jonathan White nominated Steve Revella. Tina Whitman seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for chair. Steve accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected MRC chair. Jim Slocomb nominated John Aschoff for vice chair. There were no other nominations for vice chair. John was unanimously elected as vice chair, subject to his acceptance, since he was not present. Jonathan White stated that he was willing to continue to serve as the representative to the Northwest Straits Commission and Barbara Marrett agreed to serve as the alternate.

**Presentation: Fraser River salmon runs**

Jack Giard said that sockeye runs on the Fraser River have shown declines during the last three cycles. No commercial fishing on the Fraser was allowed during the last two cycles. Ocean impacts do not appear to be responsible. The pre-season forecast was 10.4 million fish and actual came in at 1.457 million. Fishing was curtailed, including the Tribal allotment. Spawning in the upper river is not the problem, overall spawning success of 98% was seen. Escapement was 1,033,000—the lowest seen since 1977. Pink runs have been phenomenal with the highest number of fish seen in this century. They forecasted the run at 11 million. They stopped counting at 15 million and set the estimate at 19.5 million fish, which may have been closer to 30 million. The Campbell River which usually has 50,000 to 60,000 fish had 400,000 fish. The Fraser River usually has 200 million smolts in a good year—some think it could reach a billion fish. This huge run of pinks is occurring throughout the region. On the US side of the border, the Green River usually has 50,000 to 100,000 fish and estimated 400,000 in 2009 while the Puyallup River usually has 40,000 to 50,000 fish but had 750,000 fish. \$4.37 million of fish were caught last year off the west side of San Juan Island. Size of pinks has been smaller through several cycles, they have been going down in size but up in numbers. They appear to be going further up the Fraser River to spawn. There is some concern about over-spawning and whether the ocean can support the fish.

Why are sockeye numbers down? The Canadians are convening the Cohen Commission in June to investigate this question. They plan to look at several factors including sea lice and disease from fish farms, illegal removal from the Fraser River, sewage, pollution, and toxic algae blooms which have been observed in the Georgia Strait in recent years. Some clues from acoustical tags show that 80% of the sockeye go north up the Georgia Strait when they emerge from the Fraser River while 50% of pinks go south through the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It appears that many juvenile sockeye do not survive their trip north through the Georgia Strait.

Jack outlined the prospects for this year's run. He said there shouldn't be a problem with river migration since the snow pack is good. Sea surface temperatures in recent years have been cold and favorable to fish, even with slight warming recently seen in some areas. The prediction for 2010 is

conservatively estimated at 11 million fish. Jack said the results from the Cohen Investigation should be available on the internet if the MRC would like to track that that effort. Jack was encouraged to return to the MRC for an update in a few months.

**Sustainable San Juans:** Jeff Hanson said this was the third year of the event, sponsored by the Stewardship Network. The first year was directed at the environmental community but now the public is the target. This time the fair was held later in the year and was timed to coincide with the opening day of the Orcas Farmers Market. There were 25 booths set up to educate the public. Lincoln Bormann and Russel Barsh gave presentations. Awards were presented to six citizens. Footage of the Sustainable Living Fair can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ourlittleisland>.

**Grants:** Mary Knackstedt said that EPA awarded the proposal that the MRC applied for on behalf of the county. The \$700,000 grant will fund a constructed wetland in Eastsound to manage stormwater runoff, integrate low impact development in county development and stormwater codes, pilot a technical assistance program for property owners in two areas. Coordinated assistance offered by the Pollution Prevention Specialist, On-site Sewage Specialist and Conservation District will be provided to property owners and businesses in the Fishing/Ship bay basin and Westcott/Garrison bay basin. The grant will also allow the county to come up with a strategy for long term funding for technical assistance and will fund a transboundary workshop on managing growth in Island communities. She said that she told the County that she would work with EPA to develop the contract for the project but would pass the project management to them for implementation.

Jonathan White outlined the benchmark fund discussion at the NW Straits Commission meeting on April 21. The NW Straits Commission is offering about \$160,000 to MRC to fund a project involving more than one MRC, gets people engaged, has relevance regionally and outside the region, slows down the rate of change in the ecosystem and is not related to derelict gear removal. He gave a list of project ideas that came out of the meeting but said that nothing emerged that everyone agreed met the criteria. Mary Knackstedt said that the stormwater proposal that the San Juan MRC brought to the discussion didn't generate much interest. She said that she talked to Jefferson County MRC members during a break and they hatched an idea to enlist Shore Stewards and Beach Watchers to plant native vegetation buffers along shoreline properties. This idea didn't seem to generate much interest either. Tina Whitman suggested that encouraging property owners to retain native vegetation was preferable since restoration is not as successful. Barbara Rosenkotter said that she thought of all the things that shoreline property owners could do, retaining or planting native plant buffers was probably the most important. Mary asked for input from the group if they would like her to put together a proposal by the June 10 deadline. David said he thought that monitoring to connect the marine and terrestrial ecosystems would be a good prospect. Kit suggested that the MRC discuss ideas for a proposal at the next meeting.

**Monitoring Coordinator:** David Loyd introduced Susan Key, recently hired by the MRC to coordinate monitoring. Susan said she would be working with several MRC members, the science/monitoring subcommittees and others in the community to get a collective vision of monitoring priorities based on the County's legal requirements and the kinds of information that resource managers and decision makers need. A monitoring/science subcommittee meeting was scheduled after the MRC meeting to provide guidance for Susan's work.

**NOAA Vessel Survey:** Kit Rawson said that Lynne Barre has contacted the MRC to let us know that NOAA intends to do a vessel traffic survey in the San Juan Islands building on the project that the MRC sponsored in 2007 with Jeff Dismukes. Mary Knackstedt said that Lynne asked if the MRC

could give input for the project but NOAA will contract the work directly instead of working through the MRC.

**Local Integrating Organization:** Kit Rawson said that Roma Call from the Puget Sound Partnership forwarded a report on the structure of the Local Integrating Organization which was developed by the committee last fall. The LIO is on the County Council agenda for discussion on May 11.

**MRC report to the County Council:** Kit Rawson said that the MRC is on the County Council agenda for May 18 at 11 am to provide a quarterly progress report and provide the MRC's recommendations on the derelict vessel program. He offered to give the report and will work with Mary to develop a short PowerPoint. He will introduce Steve Revella as the new Chair. Barbara Marrett suggested that Terry Whalen may be able to provide pictures for the derelict vessel presentation. Kit asked for suggestions for other topics for the progress report. The group suggested that Kit describe the funding and resources that the MRC has brought to the County.

**Kit's farewell:** Kit thanked the members for their help to him during the years he served as Chair. He said he has valued the time he has worked with the MRC and intends to continue to serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Mary Knackstedt

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella(Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Lynn Danaher, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Jim Slocomb

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

John Calogero, Soundwatch  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Chris Jones  
Mike Kaill  
Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator  
Kari Koski, Soundwatch  
Kim Sundberg, Salmon Recovery Technical Advisory Group  
Dona Wuthnow, SJC Parks

**Presentations:**

Wild Fish Conservancy Salmon Recovery Projects, Mary Lou White  
Kayaker Code of Conduct Training, Karrie Cooper, Kayakers Education and Leadership Program (K.E.L.P.)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Stewardship Network meeting, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm
- Olympia Oyster Training, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Seal Rock Forest Service Campground, Brinnon
- Salmon Recovery Grant projects and RFP presentations, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-5pm, Islanders Bank
- Thatcher Bay site visit, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am
- TAG/Salmon subcommittees project and RFP review meeting, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am to noon CDPD office

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Mike Kaill said that he learned a lot about raingardens at the Green Low Impact Development (LID) Retrofit workshop he attended in Monroe recently. Many stormwater issues discussed were similar to those addressed by the Spring Street project proposal here and Mike added

that, after describing our situation, other attendees thought that the only solution for Spring Street would be a series of small raingardens to begin stormwater infiltration and treatment starting at the beginning of the flow. Mike said he visited demonstration raingardens of various size and design in place at the Monroe Fairgrounds and was encouraged by what he saw and learned.

Chris Jones, who recently met with Brian Rader and Jeff Hanson, explained that his business, CJ's Mobile Wash in Arlington, promotes waterless car wash products.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 5/5/10 meeting were approved with Jack Giard's corrections.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that Carl Anderson of the WA Department of Ecology Spills Program has been attending San Juan County Marine Manager workshops over the years and, as follow up to one of the workshop's action items, presented the MRC with copies of various spill prevention handouts and decals. This workshop outcome will be included in the next MRC quarterly report to the County Council.

**Outreach subcommittee report:** Karrie Cooper said she will forward the PowerPoint she created on marine stewardship for Soundwatch's Boater Education Program (see download available on the Whale Museum's website: <http://www.thewhalemuseum.org>) to Mary Knackstedt for use by the MRC; it highlights what makes the San Juan Archipelago special and the Marine Stewardship Area plan and was done under the "Short Run to the Sea" contract. Recent Green Boating workshops, presented in partnership with the Friends of the San Juans, focused on what boaters can do now to be good stewards.

Jonathan White said he will create and distribute a draft template to serve as an introduction to the MRC; he'll use it at Thursday's Crab Management Workshop on Orcas.

Barbara Marrett said there are two new "Short Run to the Sea" articles on the website: one by Joe Gaydos and Jonathan White on Puget Sound health and the other by Shona Aitken on carwash alternatives. Barbara said there is an EcoNet requirement to measure the effectiveness of the campaign and asked for ideas; EcoNet is also seeking nominations for a new coordinator.

**Monitoring subcommittee report:** David Loyd said that Susan Key, newly-hired Monitoring Coordinator, outlined her plans at last week's meeting. There will be a brainstorming session after today's meeting on broadening representation.

**Presentation: "Wild Fish Conservancy Salmon Recovery Projects"**

Mary Lou White said that the Conservancy has been conducting studies on watershed and stream channel structure and function as well as on water typing in the San Juan Islands. She noted that freshwater inputs affect downstream processes; other impacts are caused by cracks in dams and culvert failure, for instance. Mary Lou said that San Juan County's 80% population growth over the last 20 years is the highest in the state and that development impacts require protection of existing habitat and natural function of streams and watersheds.

Mary Lou explained that the old system set up by WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for water typing (per WAC222-16-031) includes study of the shoreline, fish bearing waters, and non-fish bearing waters. Stream classification identifies where fish are found in the water way, its condition,

physical features, and use. Mary Lou said that the reasons for water typing include verification/correction of existing regulatory maps; protection of misidentified fish habitat under existing laws; and, development of foundation for recovery efforts.

With grant funding, water typing was done on Orcas and San Juan Islands between 2003 and 2008 as part of the assessment study for the SJC Salmon Recovery Plan; the study surveyed streams to document distribution of fish and fish habitat. With recent budget restrictions, there has not been much help from WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mary Lou said. Landowners were contacted (some through San Juan County's WSU Beachwatchers) with a request for access to a water way on their property and for permission to add basic information to the water type assessments and mapping information on the webpage, <http://www.wildfishconservancy.org>. Mary Lou ran through the webpage, noting that cover, barriers, waterfalls (features located with the help of LIDAR and Google Earth) are some of the layers on the site's interactive GIS maps. A list of fish species documented in the county's freshwater systems is included on the site. Mary Lou said that the top restoration projects identified are: Garrison Creek, False Bay, Mountain Lake Wildlife Feasibility System, Cascade Creek, West Beach culvert replacement. She said that ditches present a difficult issue in the stream survey project; for instance, she found Coho last week in a channel that goes dry in the summer. The resident cutthroat trout found in Garrison Creek are unique, she added. Mary Lou suggested that the impacts of hatchery fish warrant closer study. Kim Sundberg asked if fish are being planted by landowners and if island systems can support salmon. Is water being impounded? Kim noted that access issues can result in stream gaps. He said that we need to build a better case for protection and recovery with the Critical Areas Ordinance update being such a big issue here.

Mary Lou said that 50 potential streams were identified on Lopez Island where there are more tidegates at the mouths of creeks than on Orcas or San Juan. Typically, no anadromous fish species are found where tidegates are present. Do landowners impact channels? Mary Lou said that the preference is to work with owners on protection and recovery. A future study could utilize placement of tagged fish. Tina Whitman pointed out that sea water intrusion is a landowner concern here. She asked if prioritization could involve tax benefits.

### **Presentation: “Kayaker Code of Conduct Training”**

Karrie Cooper, Coordinator of the Kayaker Education and Leadership Program, presented the actual 10-minute education now being provided to boaters and kayakers at San Juan County Park on the west side of San Juan Island. Natalie introduced herself as a recent Humboldt State graduate in marine biology with a strong interest in marine conservation; she is assisting in this summer's boater education at the Park. Karrie distributed copies of the “Kayaker Code of Conduct;” this brochure, printed on waterproof paper, includes an MSA map and a review of relevant laws and guidelines to increase awareness of boater/kayaker's behavior related to sharing the waters with orca and other wildlife. The goal is to reduce vessel disturbance to orcas and other wildlife and to respect refuge sites. Kit Rawson said that the minute you put your boat in the water you are a steward of the San Juan Islands Marine Stewardship Area. He thanked SJC Parks employees and others for taking on extra work to further protection.

Karrie outlined the basic elements of the new SJC Parks-issued vessel launch permit system, operational between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>: Campers at the County Park on San Juan Island pay \$7 per stay for unlimited launches; other visitors pay \$7 per day or \$35 for a seasonal permit with

unlimited launches; there is no charge to County residents who show proof of primary residence. All permit applicants receive the basic one-time KELP training. Karrie said that 50 permits have been issued so far this year; multiple vessels are each marked with a colored tag after the permit is issued. Commercial companies have been under permit for years but there are additional terms this year requiring all guides to be trained and then to provide training for every guest boater. The San Juan Island Kayak Association (of which MRC member, Johannes Krieger, is a founding member) has been a collaborator in the new permit education effort. Every permitted boater signs a pledge reminding them that they are in an MSA and acknowledging that they have been informed of regulations. Mike Kaill suggested that the new rockfish regulations be emphasized; Karrie asked if there was other new information that should be incorporated.

Karrie said she is looking for additional funding to support this ongoing effort and for additional educators. She also requested that photographs showing correct kayaker behavior be sent to her and she encouraged word of mouth outreach to spread the word on the need for this education since there has been some resistance out there.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Benchmark Fund proposal:** Steve explained that there is about \$163,000 available for regional projects with a proposal deadline of June 10<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on the fact that there likely is no staff time to support any additional projects at this time. A motion to move the derelict vessel recovery project forward, with regional partners, failed because of time constraint issues and likelihood of possible other funding sources.

**Motion:** Jonathan White moved, and Laura Arnold, that the MRC pass on the NWSC benchmark funding at this time. The motion passed unanimously.

**Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery (PSAR) Supplemental Salmon Recovery Project requests:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that Surfboard Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)-funded projects that run into budget overages can apply for supplemental SRFB monies. The PSAR-funded Big Picture Project needs additional support for implementing improved sampling methods and for incorporating historical data and new software to analyze the data. Barbara noted that she is bringing this issue to the MRC as the Citizens Advisory Salmon Recovery group. PSAR local-level funds are all spent and there will probably be no future PSAR funds; therefore, Barbara is asking other regions to tap their unused funds to cover the 6% increase in the Big Picture budget. Barbara asked for MRC input on the idea of trading futures on SRFB funding, for instance, and on whether a process for such situations needs to be created. Kit said that we need more details to assure fairness. Discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

**Debriefing on MRC progress report and derelict vessel recommendations to the County Council:** Kit said the recent presentation to the Council was well received by the Council and well attended by MRC members. Before the MRC presentation, Council member Gene Knapp gave an overview of the responses from 18 (of 27 total) advisory committees to the Council's questionnaire, noting that they all know their legal basis and, therefore, the Council did not need to do anything to establish that. Kit pointed out, however, that the MRC's basic document still needs to be updated, as the MRC requested the Council to do in responding to the questionnaire. The MRC's recommendation to restart the derelict vessel recovery program in San Juan County was well received by the Council. However, final action on the matter was moved forward to the next Council agenda pending budget review by staff.

Tina asked whether the new SJC Community Development and Planning Director will fill the required MRC membership slot.

**Local Integrating Organization update:** Steve said the Council's discussion to support LIO has been postponed to next Tuesday.

**Citizens' comments:** Mike Kaill said that Brian Rader was asked by the Town Administrator, King Fitch, to make site visits to restaurants, following a recent sudsy spill on the street. Foam has been seen coming from downspouts, as well. Brian is distributing informational posters to each restaurant; "Menu for Cleaner Environment" instructs employees on Best Management Practices for cleanup procedures. Mike said that the 3.9ppm surfactant reading at the Larson Building may represent an episodic event that includes the sustaining surfactant levels from streets. Moss preventives and removal chemicals seem to be a current pollution issue.

Phil Green said that the old MSA map being used by K.E.L.P. in its educational brochure is not accurate; there is no biological reserve around Yellow Island. He suggests a new, corrected black and white map is needed for the next printing.

Chris Jones said a study recently done with the Arlington School District showed that the schools could save 80,000 gallons of water per year by washing buses with waterless cleaning products.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 2, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, David Loyd, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Richard Strathmann

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Roma Call, Puget Sound Partnership  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator  
Kevin Ranker, WA Senator

**Presentation:** “Derelict Crab Pot Mortality Study,” by Jeff June

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, Friday June 18th , 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor = review of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) project proposals

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 5/19/10 meeting were approved with Kit Rawson’s edits.

**Crab Meeting Report:** Jonathan White said the meeting on Orcas was well attended with 35 attendees, including 7-8 high school students. Rich Childers and Don Velasquez helped to provide a lively talk that made a complex layered subject logical and interesting, Jonathan said. Tina Whitman, who was thanked for organizing the event, said that there seemed to be an understanding of the rationale for related regulations and that the meeting successfully linked science to policy, a good fit for the MRC. One message from the meeting is that slanders seem to want to crab anytime they want to but feel increasingly restricted. Rich proposed limiting the number of open days in the San Juans while extending the season; Jonathan said this could work and there was positive feedback from the audience for the idea. Steve Revella pointed out that July 4th is the period of most violations here. There was a request to hold a community meeting about shrimping.

Senator Kevin Ranker said there is a WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) proposal to give 100% of the commercial harvest allocation to recreational crabbing but he feels this needs to be justified since there is a serious lack of data and management. David Loyd said that the San Juans are

outside of the territory so current openings are horrible for us; he proposed buying out non-tribal licenses somehow. A year-round opening sounds good but is not practical on the ground. Jonathan said that the numbers of out-of-county crabbers is increasing. Kevin said that if we want to preserve a working waterfront at all we need to consider the economics of commercial crabbing.

**Monitoring subcommittee report:** David said that there was a small update from Public Works and the Stillwater Group at the last meeting of the subcommittee; a draft of the stormwater management plan is expected by the 4th. Mary Knackstedt said today's subcommittee meeting includes a look at the latest draft.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan said that possible theme topics for the November NWSC MRC conference (to be held at Rosario on Orcas Island) were discussed at the last meeting held at the new NWSC office in Port Townsend. One idea for the two-day conference was the theme, "Salish Sea: Past, Present, Future." Jonathan suggested that the conference could be oriented around a broad thinking symposium looking at past and present awareness of issues, challenges, benchmarks along the way, and successes and then projecting 50 to 100 years into the future. He said that the MRC 101 member training could be reinstated at the conference, which is for MRC members and others; Jonathan strongly encouraged better SJC MRC member attendance, to emphasize our being part of a larger network. Jonathan asked what could be improved to promote better attendance; some issues expressed were subject matter and location. Jim Slocomb suggested that the training be aimed at more experienced MRC members, an "MRC 110;" he added that he has appreciated technical hands on presentations and workshops. Jonathan said that the Northwest Straits Foundation is willing to help with funding and wants to hear about proposals.

**Presentation: Derelict Crab Pot Mortality Study**

Jeff June, of Natural Resources Consultants, said that crab pot mortality has been studied since 2002 in Puget Sound. The Stillaguamish Tribe has been an active partner in the study and has put up \$50,000. Although the Tribe has no marine fishing rights, it monitors juvenile salmon growth in Port Susan; 70% of the diet of the juvenile salmon is crab larvae and both resources have been in decline. Crab is important for the entire ecosystem, Jeff said. David said that there was a crab hatch here 6 to 8 weeks ago and the window when crabs are available in the San Juans is narrow.

Jeff reported that crab pots are routinely lost in both commercial and recreation fisheries. Regulations require that pots be equipped with escape cords but an estimated 20% of pots are not. The goal of the study was to look at how many crabs are caught in derelict pots and at what their fate is over a year or until the pots degrade. 24 simulated derelict pots were deployed, half in Dungeness Bay and half in Port Susan to study catch, mortality, and escape rates. Pots were numbered and placed at depths of 30' and 60' with escape cords. Divers did weekly sampling until the bait was gone and then sampled every two weeks; crabs were also marked with numbers.

Over a 12-month sampling period, 1,077 crabs were caught, 421 escaped, 500 were dead, and 156 were alive. Catch declined overtime with a spike during the last 2 periods. The average crab survival in pots was 51.5 days with the minimum being 6 days. Sunflower stars are the major source of crab mortality in simulated derelict pots. 12,193 pots are lost per year in Puget Sound; 80% of those with escape cords stop fishing after 90-143 days and 20% of the illegal ones without cords continued to fish up to 2 years. Each lost pot with a cord kills 10 crabs; pots without cords kill about 30 crabs. 180,000 crabs,

recreational and commercial, are killed yearly by derelict pots with a lost crab value of \$744,296 at the commercial level and \$2.8 million at the recreational level (\$61 loss/pot, commercial; \$235/pot, recreational value).

Jeff recommends using 100% cotton, smaller diameter escape cords (1/8" to 1/4")...they will not deteriorate during the course of a season; he said that a 1/16" diameter is most preferable (similar to kite twine). As another alternative, Steve said that he leaves the escape hole open. Jeff also suggests not fishing in marine transit zones; weighting pots so they won't relocate in high current areas; assuring that float line is adequate for the depth; using multiple floats in high currents; not setting pots too close together to prevent buoy entanglement. Jeff reminded crabbers to report lost pots to the NWSC derelict gear reporting site (<http://www.derelictgear.org>). Most pots, he noted, are lost in recreational fisheries.

Recent legislation includes changes to the escape cord regulations. Enforcement officers can now issue citations for any illegal pots on a boat during crabbing season. The \$2.50 endorsement fee on crab licenses has gone to data entry on reporting cards; the balance is reallocated to derelict crab pot removal work. To protect the crab fishery, Jeff said that specific education needs to be highlighted (e.g. escape cord information circulated to recreational crab pot sellers).

There was discussion on sediment typically being released by pots. Abandoned property rights apply to retrieval of lost pots, including formal notice. Jeff said that there is a good effort to give away unclaimed pots and those remaining are recycled.

**NWSC Benchmark projects update:** Jonathan recalled MRC discussion on a possible benchmark project being the publishing of a booklet for San Juan County similar to Island County's "Getting to the Water's Edge." He said that proceeds from the sale of Island County's booklets have easily covered costs of publication (most of the work was done by volunteers). Jonathan said that information on access to the water and education on marine conservation issues for the San Juan Islands could be included in a regional booklet, with other MRCs partnering to reduce cost. Other partners might be WSU Beachwatchers, UW Labs, Friends of the San Juans, Sea Doc Society. It was noted that a similar book by Terry D'Amico is being sold locally. Another suggestion was a series of booklets for the Salish Sea with a template main text for all the MRCs. Mary will write up a draft proposal; she noted that the proposal fits the Benchmark criteria but the MRC might not want to be the lead. Could there be other funding? A scope of work could be developed this winter.

**Keystone Certificate Program:** John Aschoff distributed an outline describing UW's Certificate Program in Environmental Management, the Keystone Program. He said that graduate students with diverse skills can team up to work with community partners to define an interdisciplinary project with regional environmental relevance. John was contacted by Tikvah Weiner, the Program Coordinator, who has been invited to speak to the MRC at its July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting; the fall project starts in October and winter project in January, each lasting about 6 months.

John pointed out the benefit for the MRC to partner in an appropriate project, providing good funding leverage while fostering relationships with UW students and adding value to existing Work Plan items. Island County MRC has worked with the Keystone Program and found it a good match. There was discussion on which Work Plan projects might fit (e.g. tracking progress on the San Juan Initiative recommendations to the County Council; Marine Stewardship Area land use monitoring). Mary will

review the Work Plan and report back. John asked that members send him their ideas.

**MRC meeting schedule:** The next regular meeting to be held on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> will be dedicated to review of salmon recovery project proposals. There was discussion on the agreement to hold meetings on islands other than San Juan; a meeting with Indian Island volunteers for Orcas Island and restoration project field trips for Lopez Island were suggested, with possible scheduling on Saturdays. Mary asked that members get their ideas to her by the next meeting.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) meeting on San Juan Island:** David and Steve will attend the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Friday Harbor on BLM's San Juan County Resource Management Plan to provide MRC input. Tina will be tracking the draft plan as it develops; the MRC policy subcommittee will also provide follow up for MRC review of ideas on management approaches. It was noted that a review of the MSA plan and of the County parcel map would be good suggestions to pass on to BLM. Mary will forward the MSA Plan to BLM and draft a letter to the agency, pointing out the usefulness of the Plan's conservation targets.

John said that NOAA is planning to do another vessel survey in connection with the San Juan Island West side proposed regulations. He asked what questions need to be answered. It was suggested that the PowerPoint on the University of Victoria student survey of vessel traffic be presented at an MRC meeting, including transboundary protocol proposed by Darcy Gray. Jeff Dismukes' 2006 study was also noted. Jim Slocomb said that one hole in the data is the large commercial vessel traffic. It was agreed that the MRC could help with the tracking, with NWSC support, at the appropriate time.

**County Council/Island Trust meeting:** Mary said that she will brief Shireene Hale on topics for discussion at the meeting, including a transboundary workshop (EPA grant) and the Green Shores certification project.

**EPA grant update:** Mary said that more detail has been requested on the Eastsound stormwater project. Questions arose about funding the wetlands study and about removing all technical assistance funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, June 18th, 2010, 9:00-12:45p.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Ken Sebens

**Staff:** Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada (to 9:30am)

**Guests:**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) / Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) – Jim Brennan, Patty Michak, Mike Ramsey  
Salmon Recovery Technical Advisory Group (TAG) - Chuck Schietinger, Judy Meyer, Kim Sundberg, Gene Helfman  
Salmon Recovery Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) - MRC members  
Sally Hawkins, GIS intern for Friends of the San Juans  
Alison Studley, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Joan Drinkwin, Northwest Straits Foundation

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, Wednesday, July 7th , 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 9am.

**Citizen comments:** Kit Rawson suggested a future MRC agenda item to discuss ways to get information on shoreline planning out to the community.

**Proposed process for evaluating supplemental requests for salmon recovery projects:**

Barbara Rosenkotter provided background on the issue, noting that a pot of supplemental money is usually made available through the SRFB process for project budget overruns, for instance. For Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery (PSAR) projects, however, there is no such supplemental funding available. Barbara submitted a proposal that would establish a process for reviewing and evaluating supplemental requests.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the proposal be adopted. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously, with amendments.

**Proposal from Skagit Watershed:** Barbara Rosenkotter clarified that the Skagit Watershed has

offered to provide a loan of ~\$47,000, from their PSAR funds, for the Skagit River System Cooperative Fish Utilization study (“Big Picture” project) supplemental request; the loan would be paid back through a future grant funding round. Barbara also noted that a supplemental request has also been received by KWIAHT. Both supplemental requests will be reviewed by the subcommittee made up of 3 MRC members and 3 TAG members. The subcommittee members are: Steve Revella, David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Kim Sundberg, Chuck Schietinger, and Judy Meyer.

**Review of Round 11 SRFB Projects:** Laura Arnold disclosed, for the record, that she participated in development of the Request for Proposals solicitation document for the Friends of the San Juans (FOSJ) proposal. She noted that she was surprised to see her name listed as a technical advisor in the project proposal and did not participate in development of the project proposal. Laura said that, if the project is approved, she would agree to continue as an advisor with the stipend as provided in the proposal. She will be available today to answer questions but will not participate otherwise in the discussion. Tina Whitman confirmed that Laura had nothing to do with setting up the proposal.

Jim Slocomb disclosed that he also will not be voting on this proposal, due to his participation in its development.

At 9:30 am, the projects review process began; recorder Helen Venada left the meeting.  
Submitted by Helen Venada

Project proponents provided PowerPoint presentations regarding their projects and answered questions:

Tina Whitman from Friends of the San Juans for their RFP response titled “Wild Salmon Recovery in San Juan County;”

Alison Studley from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group for their project titled “Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration Implementation;”

Joan Drinkwin from Northwest Straits Foundation for their project titled “WRIA2 Derelict Gear Fishing Net Removal.”

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 7, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Vice Chair), Laura Arnold, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Steve Revella, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Emily Davis, Friends of the San Juans intern  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Shireene Hale, SJC Community Development and Planning  
Kat Hoffman, WA Sea Grant  
Ann Jarrell  
Laura Jo Severson  
Tikvah Weiner, UW Program on the Environment

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, July 21st , 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Outreach subcommittee meeting, July 21st at noon
- Science subcommittee meeting, July 21st
- Stewardship Network meeting, July 21st
- San Juan County Fair, August 18th – 21st

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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Aschoff at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** David Loyd said that as a sometimes journalist he is charged with verifying facts and uncovering truths. In that vein, he said that he wanted to publicly clear up a rumor that has circulated that the MRC contract with Russel Barsh has not been fulfilled as specified. Barbara Rosenkotter said that she also investigated the rumor and found that Russel's record is fine with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board with no indication of any issues whatsoever.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 6/2/10 and 6/18/10 meetings were approved.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan said that Tina Whitman and Kyle Loring did a great presentation on shoreline modification at the Bellingham meeting. There was also a brief discussion on the Benchmark Account and whether funding could be spread among all three proposals

that have risen to the top. Discussion included the guidebook, “Getting to the Water’s Edge.”

**Executive subcommittee update:** Laura Arnold said that the group met last week; one topic was the reminder to MRC members to inform the Coordinator and Chair when not able to attend meetings. Kit noted that the MRC needs to move forward with formalizing its resolution. Laura confirmed that she has not heard back from Pete Rose on this issue and Kit suggested voicing the concern with Councilman Gene Knapp.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board proposals update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that she will, in the future, build a feedback loop into the proposal timeline. Following the Technical Advisory Group’s review, the final MRC review of proposals will be postponed until the July 21st regular meeting.

**NWSC Benchmark Account update:** John Aschoff said that he reviewed the five proposals and found them all to be good ideas. He reported on each: (1) Island County’s proposal for accessing data was not funded since it did not offer a regional perspective; John said that the NWSC will help all MRC’s with the profound need to provide better access to regional-level data, working first with Island County. (2) Whatcom County’s proposal to remove large woody debris from Chuckanut Creek was also not funded on the grounds that it is not regional. (3) The joint proposal from Island and Snohomish Counties was allocated about \$99,000 to put together a stewardship plan for Port Susan. (4) Jefferson County received funding for several Discovery Bay restoration projects that are located in two counties. (5) Skagit County has been training kayakers and a large volunteer force to help with a spartina survey; the proposal to export the project to other counties and Canada was granted \$30,000.

John said his lessons learned from the review were that it is important to write a paragraph in a proposal describing the region and issue clearly and, secondly, to explain the project’s exportability to other counties. Jonathan said the NWSC had a long discussion on providing partial funding for proposals and still being able to assure success. Kit invited everyone to the next NWSC meeting to be held on July 30th at Tulalip.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) boater survey:** John reported that NOAA’s boater vessel traffic survey will continue through Labor Day, with a focus on the west side of San Juan Island. Volunteers are needed to complement the survey with ground observation for three locations on the west side. Survey results will add to Jeff Dismukes’ earlier survey, providing data that will allow for policy based on fact, John added. Phil Green said that Barbara Bennett from UW has 10 years worth of data from marina operators as well as other useful statistics.

**EcoNet update:** Jeff Hansen said that EcoNet has invoiced Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) for its grant activities, including the “Fish Friendly” car washes on Orcas Island and the “Short Run to the Sea” articles; press coverage continues through local online media. The theme of this year’s County Fair is also “Short Run to the Sea.”

Informational signs about eelgrass protection have been posted at boat ramps and docks. Jeff said there was discussion on how best to use the next round of PSP EcoNet funding (\$15-20,000) for new projects; one idea was to support effective implementation of updated Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) elements. His other work will include getting back to the MRC basics: website maintenance, distribution of printed materials, providing for loan of displays,

publishing meeting notices, etc. Mary Knackstedt said that ideas for County Fair outreach for the Green Village include holding a scavenger hunt and scheduling presentations on topics such as environmentally-sound crab harvest practices.

**“Getting to the Water's Edge” guidebook:** John said that Island County Beachwatchers did the bulk of the research for their local booklet, “Getting to the Water's Edge.” The idea of publishing a similar guidebook for San Juan County got good reception at the EcoNet meeting, he added. NWSC will do a funding proposal to cover professional costs for MRCs to develop their own guidebooks. Jonathan White said that he will forward the link to Tracy Johanssen's report on the importance of ground-truthing every site mentioned in such guidebooks. He added that Ginny Broadhurst is very much behind the idea and there seems to be regional momentum. Barbara Marrett said that her experience has been that distribution of books has to be assured so that they actually get out into people's hands. Kit pointed out that shoreline access is important to people to the point of being a controversial, legal issue in San Juan County; he asked if a project like this is included in the 2010 Work Plan. Kat said it would be interesting to see how a guidebook could complement SMA work. She added that Deborah Purce, a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow from WWU, has updated shoreline public access points in Washington for the Department of Ecology’s online Coastal Atlas; the update will be available soon ([http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/atlas\\_home.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/atlas_home.html)) and Deborah could do live presentations on the information. Phil Green wondered how printed information could be updated with changes in rules, etc.

John said this concept for a local guidebook would provide good outreach; it could include practical information on shoreline access as well as informative stewardship essays. Ken Sebens suggested that there may be people at UW Labs willing to review the material; he asked about copyright. (Island County's Beachwatchers have rights to their guidebook.)

**Islands Trust (B.C. Canada)/ SJC Council meeting report:** Shireene Hale said that she and three SJC Council members attended an Islands Trust meeting three weeks ago. Islands Trust is, in part, a planning organization, she said, providing for long-range planning for the Gulf Islands and for review of highly sensitive environmental projects. The Gulf Islands have a population of 25,000 with 18-20 planners, including representation from all the Islands! The Trust's Mack Fraser and Chris Jackson said that they are excited to be working together with San Juan County's MRC on the two new EPA grants. The Trust has some funding for the Green Shores for Homes Program and is interested also in affordable housing and accessory dwelling issues. Brian Rader's work on pollution prevention was recognized as being helpful for improving environmental protection in the region. Laura said that the Council should be reminded that meeting with the Trust is very worthwhile to both groups and our Council would be well advised to attend the full two-day meeting sessions in the future. Kit asked how the Trust's work was funded (by the Province? federally?) Tina said that Martha's Vineyard has a transboundary planner on its planning commission and there are other good working models out there.

Mary and Kat met yesterday with Mark Fraser from the Trust to discuss the Green Shores for Homes partnership. Mary said that this EPA grant project to establish a certification program for sustainable shoreline residential development will be spearheaded by the City of Seattle for Lake Washington; San Juan County MRC and Islands Trust will work on a marine focus for the Program. Kat will coordinate the four-year effort; she said that Archipelago Marine Research of Victoria, B.C. will write the criteria for residential single family shoreline sustainable development, using a tailored approach. The

project's additional shoreline characterization, as well as appointment of a technical team and advisory group, will complement SMA work and the continuation of San Juan Initiative work. Mary said that the second EPA grant with the SJ Islands Conservation District will provide for a transboundary workshop down the road on how to manage growth; it will not only have regional value but will build capacity for technical assistance to landowners and will work with Public Works to build a constructed wetlands in Eastsound.

**UW's Program on the Environment and the Keystone Project:** Tikvah Weiner, coordinator of the Program, said that 250 to 300 undergraduate and 20 graduate students at UW have participated in the Keystone Project, an environmental management certificate program. Program classes draw students from a wide variety of degree programs, from law, to public policy, to science, to engineering. Along with studies in environmental policy and marine science applications, the Keystone Project is offered in the fall and winter quarters each year to 4 to 6 students who work with organizations, businesses, and agencies on specific tasks. For example, Keystone students helped the Island County MRC to compile data and conduct interviews and surveys with stakeholders for the Penn Cove water quality study. Other projects included working on defining standards for what a "green" restaurant in WA would look like, for the WA Restaurant Association, and, for Seattle City Lights, students working on how best to use renewable energy funding, created Sun Dawg, a mobile television unit to supply energy for large public venues. A phytoremediation project with Island County is scheduled for next year.

A community partner is obliged to provide \$7500 in funding to cover faculty time. A project proposal needs to be well defined, clear, and deliverable, including how it fits in with the group's overall strategy. The next Keystone session begins the last week of October. Barbara Rosenkotter suggested a potential project related to CAO and SMP updates, using social marketing and science, to help develop ways of convincing people that "there IS a problem" so that they might be more motivated to seek or support solutions. Ken said that there are courses being offered at the Labs that are relevant to, for instance, development buffers and other social change in marine issues.

Kit asked what other ideas might come out of Work Plan tasks that are not getting done at this point. Mary will review progress on the Work Plan for the next MRC meeting, as well as possible funding opportunities (e.g. EcoNet, Russell Foundation). Kat said that inventory data on Lake Washington's shoreline residences (a pdf), assembled by a Keystone project, was cited as very useful in the Green Shores grant application.

**Best Available Science for the Shoreline Master Program update:** Kit said that the definition for Best Available Science is referenced on the website. There was consensus for the MRC to help gather actual reports and then to delegate the science subcommittee to vet them. The science subcommittee will hold its meeting after the July 21st MRC meeting. BAS for the Marine Stewardship Area and the Monitoring Plan will be collated; Ken asked that credible, actual documents with citations be sent to him by the end of next week. A CD of the documents will be made available, along with a cover letter in triplicate and a list of contents.

**How to get shoreline planning information to the public:** Kit said that WA Sea Grant's Jim Brennan has proposed presenting a draft list of written source references to the Bainbridge Kitsap regional library system. Topics include what shorelines look like with an emphasis on process/not human benefit (i.e. natural history) in order to have informed citizens contributing to shoreline

protection discussions. The Fisherman Bay model was noted. Laura Jo Severson, volunteer coordinator for the San Juan Island Public Library, suggested that the Library's highly educated volunteers could put together an annotated list. Laura said that information on shoreline processes needs to be updated and reproduced. Tina suggested Library displays on shoreline natural history, with an emphasis on cumulative impacts of a growing population. Johannes suggested using new media, such as YouTube and local cable TV. The value of face-to-face discussion, with active listening, was also noted. The MRC outreach subcommittee will meet at noon on July 21st.

Barbara Rosenkotter stressed that a quorum is required for the MRC regular meeting on July 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), John Aschoff, Laura Arnold, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Rene Beliveau, SJC Community Development & Planning Director (to 9:30 am)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, August 4th , 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- San Juan County Fair, August 18th – 21st
- “Local integrating organization” oversight committee meeting, August 26th, 1 to 4:30pm (location to be announced)

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 7/7/10 meeting were approved as read.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan White said that the NWSC will do a presentation at the Puget Sound Partnership meeting on July 29th in Mount Vernon; Ginny Broadhurst and Kathy Fletcher will be in attendance and Jonathan will present on the work of the MRCs.

**Outreach subcommittee/EcoNet update:** Jeff Hanson said that there will be a meeting today at noon to discuss the new round of EcoNet grant funding (application for collaborative proposals is due soon); the County Fair and representation on the “local integrating organization” will also be on the agenda. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that the “LIO” has a new name (unknown at this time) and that Roma Call has set up the first meeting of the group now that the tribes are on board. The group’s oversight (accountability) committee will meet on August 26th from 1 to 4:30pm (location to be announced); Steve and Jonathan will attend.

**Science subcommittee update:** Ken Sebens said that reports and publications related to the Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) call for Best Available Science are being compiled.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board proposals final recommendations:** Barbara Rosenkotter gave a brief review of the proposals and the Technical Advisory Group’s scoring and comments. She distributed scoring sheets and asked for written comments from MRC members to be turned in to her

either today or later. Barbara read the description of what constitutes a conflict of interest, based on MRC by-laws. Tina Whitman left the meeting at this point due to her conflict of interest in the Friends of the San Juans' (FSJ) proposal. Laura Arnold disclosed that she discovered that her name was listed on the FSJ proposal as a technical advisor; she said she would listen but not participate in today's discussion. Jonathan said, that as a member of the Northwest Straits Foundation Board, he would recuse himself from voting on that particular proposal. Discussion followed and the three proposals were ranked: (1) Friends of the San Juans' "Wild Salmon Recovery in San Juan County;" (2) Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group's "Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration Implementation;" (3) Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation's "WRIA2 Derelict Fishing Net Removal."

**Motion:** Jonathan White moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the above list ranking proposals be approved. Discussion included comparison of the cost of restoration vs assessment projects. The motion was passed, with Laura Arnold abstaining, and with the agreement that should there be any additional funding available through this process that it would go to the derelict gear project.

**Supplemental funding requests:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that the science subcommittee has recommended supplemental funding for the Skagit River System Cooperative's project to assess juvenile salmon habitat and for KWIAHT's project on juvenile salmon prey base protection.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Johannes Krieger seconded, that the supplemental funding requests be granted. The motion passed unanimously.

**Low Impact Development in Friday Harbor:** Johannes said that the Town Council seemed interested in the proposal to develop a system of raingardens on Spring Street. There were some concerns, for instance how to formalize a sustainable maintenance program (with WSU Master Gardeners, for instance). Johannes will follow up; he pointed out that there would be no parking spot loss in the Town. Mary will forward the professional design proposal to members. Johannes will present more on the topic at the next MRC meeting.

**MRC Strategic Plan:** Mary said she will forward a draft to the committee for review; the plan is due to be completed by the end of the year.

**Mid-year Work Plan review:** Copies of the 2010 Work Plan were distributed. Mary noted that she was impressed with the progress that has been made or is underway. She briefly discussed each element of the Plan. There was discussion about how to move ahead on the task to support and track implementation of San Juan Initiative's recommendations. Tina suggested that the policy subcommittee work on this and develop a list of actions for MRC review at the next meeting; Mary asked that members took a look at SJI's recommendations before the meeting, noting that a presentation is to be made to the County Council by the end of the year. She noted that another task to be addressed is finalizing a plan that outlines MRC's role in the case of a large oil spill in the Islands. Mary discussed the MRC's financial resources, including an explanation of the new funding requests (Kayak Code of Conduct printing and the UW Keystone project).

**Comments for WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) draft Strategic Plan (2011-2017):**

Mary noted that the comment period ends July 23rd. She said that Kit relayed his recommendation for

general comment that it is DFW's task to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Mary and Kit will draft MRC comment including mention of the Marine Stewardship Area Plan, Salmon Recovery Plan, technical support for the County, and enforcement.

**Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) nomination:** Steve said that Bob Myhr has been nominated for Puget Sound Partnership's ECB. Mary added that Pete Rose is drafting a letter to request appropriate representation for San Juan County.

Mary announced that the San Juan Island Prevention Coalition has been working with the Sheriff's Office to provide a Pharmaceuticals Take Back Program for the county. The Sheriff will provide the first collection event of narcotic (i.e. controlled) medications at each of the pharmacies on Orcas, Lopez, and San Juan Islands on Wednesday, August 4th; these will be followed monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. The Prevention Coalition has asked if the MRC is interested in having its logo added to promotional materials; members agreed that this is appropriate use of the logo.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 4, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), John Aschoff , Laura Arnold, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Elizabeth Anderson, SJC Public Works  
Rene Beliveau, SJC Community Development & Planning  
Tim Blanchard  
Stephanie Buffum, Friends of the San Juans  
Jack Cory, Island Guardian  
Jerry Gonce  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Patty Miller  
Laura Jo Severson  
Jamie Stephens

**Presentation:** “Tribal Treaty Rights and Natural Resource Management” by Kit Rawson

**Presentation:** “US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration and Recovery Funding Programs” by Rich Carlson

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, August 18th , 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- San Juan County Fair, August 18th – 21st

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Phil Green, who has been an alternate for the MRC at the state rockfish committee meetings, presented Kit Rawson with a hat and certificate of appreciation from the WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW).

Barbara Rosenkotter said that renewal of the San Juan Islands Conservation District \$5 per parcel fee will be presented at the County Council hearing on August 31st at 10:45 am. She suggested that MRC members show their support for funding renewal, noting that the Conservation District provides an

important opportunity for homeowners to get hands-on, on-site technical resources that encourage them to do the right thing.

**Motion:** John Aschoff moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that the MRC write a letter of support. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Knackstedt will draft a letter of support.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 7/7/10 meeting were approved with Barbara Rosenkotter's correction.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) report:** Jonathan said that the presentation on MRC work at last week's meeting in Mount Vernon was well received. He added that a highlight of the meeting held at the impressive Tulalip Administration Building was a presentation by WA Department of Ecology Planner Jon Neel on large oil spill response preparedness for Puget Sound. Mr. Neel mentioned the recent response by the Neah Bay tug to a potential leak near Port Townsend from an articulated tug/barge carrying 8 million gallons of diesel and aviation fuel; this was the first call out of the response tug since it was reinstated in July. 7 of the 10 large Navy oil skimming vessels are now down in the Gulf of Mexico, leaving Puget Sound perhaps under-prepared for a large oil spill. Jonathan said that John Neel is available to speak here. There was discussion on local control in a response and recovery effort in the case of an oil spill in island waters. Mr. Neel reportedly acknowledged the challenges and said that Ecology is amenable to mending the relationship with San Juan County response planners in order to plug in local capacity. SJC Emergency Management Director, Brendan Cowan, has addressed communication planning in which the MRC could act as liaison between the state and the county. Mary will contact Mr. Neel to request that he speak here, noting that this is a missing piece in local oil spill response planning, a task in the MRC Work Plan. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that oil spill preparedness has been designated a County Council priority.

Jonathan circulated crabbing educational information that is being distributed at launch sites in Snohomish County.

**WDFW Strategic Plan, 2011-2017:** Mary presented a draft letter to WDFW submitting MRC comments on the agency's strategic plan (due August 6th). The draft includes a broad critique of WDFW's proposed mission statement, noting that it appears to be a watered down version of the current mission statement. The letter also suggests that supporting communities with technical assistance as they update their land use regulations (e.g. Critical Areas Ordinance) should be a WDFW priority. The letter supports the HPA fees proposal and effective enforcement of fishing rules and harvest management; it also states that Marine Protected Areas/Marine Stewardship Areas help to improve networking for ecosystem-based management.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and John Aschoff seconded, that the draft letter be submitted as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Salmon project funds update: Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) will consider the release of additional funds at their meeting next Wednesday. San Juan County could be allocated as much as \$35,800. She reminded members of the agreement with the Skagit Watershed to support the San Juan County supplemental funding requests with a loan from its

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds (PSAR). The Skagit Watershed has requested that if additional SRFB funds are released, then the MRC could pay down the loan with those funds. Another option would be to proceed with applying the additional funds to the derelict gear removal project as the MRC had decided during their final ranking of projects. Discussion followed on funding specifics.

Motion: Kit moved, and Laura seconded, that any payback funds be used towards the loan payment, and if any is left over, to apply it to the derelict gear project. The motion failed to pass, with 4 aye votes and 4 nays.

Motion: Jonathan moved, and Barbara Marrett seconded, that 90% of any additional funds be applied to the loan and 10% to the derelict gear project. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presentation: “Tribal Treaty Rights and Natural Resource Management”**

Kit Rawson presented copies of a bibliography and of “Discovering Our Land: Orca Whale,” an article from a recent Tulalip newspaper. Kit said he is a non-Indian employee with the Tulalip Natural Resource Department working as the Conservation Science Program Manager for almost 25 years. He said that the tribes’ story is our story. Kit said there have many opportunities for cultural interaction between San Juan County residents and the tribes, mentioning in particular the warm welcome that tribal families have received from Islanders since the Canoe Journey first visited here in 2002.

Local tribes are involved in local implementation of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Action Agenda. In explaining why the tribes are there to help, Kit presented a brief history of the more than 10,000 year tribal presence in the Puget Sound area (400-700 generations of ancestors). Following glacial retreat, people, forests, wildlife, fish and all other life returned; this return is honored each year with the First Salmon Ceremony that welcomes back returning salmon and ensures a good run. Kit said that people have always been a part of the ecosystem and if the ecosystem ceases to function, culture dies. Tribal people believe that water is their land. Harmony, respect, and balance are time-honored principles.

May 18, 1792 was the occasion of the first contact with white people according to Lt. William Broughton’s Log. The seamen anchored in Griffin Bay and fished at Flat Point in the “magic islands;” they traded for meat at Blind Bay and saw people and canoes all over. Tulalip predecessors were signers of the 1855 Point Elliott Treaty in which the tribes received small reservations, small monetary payments, and protection by the U.S. government in exchange for giving up title to their lands and the right to make war on the U.S. The tribes retained aboriginal rights to a portion of the natural resources from fishing, hunting, and gathering. Ceded lands included Medicine Creek, Point Elliott, Point No Point, Neah Bay and Quinault. The Treaty describes the tribes’ right “...to fish at **usual and accustomed** grounds and stations...in common with all citizens of the territory....”

Kit said that the basis of Indian law has been defined as a 3-legged stool: sovereignty, trust and responsibility, and treaty rights. Most of the current tribal governments were formed between the 1930’s and 1940’s. There were increasing conflicts over fishing during the 1960s and Billy Frank, Jr. of the Nisqually Tribe was jailed 50 times while trying to uphold his people’s rights. Billy Frank, Jr. has been Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for the past 22 years.

<http://www.nwifc.org>

The Boldt Decision (U.S. v Washington, 1974), after review of all previous cases, attempted to fill in missing pieces: the term, “**usual and accustomed**” (**U&A**) fishing grounds and stations, was defined;

“in common with all citizens of the region” means 50-50 sharing of harvestable resources; and, co-management authority and responsibility were re-affirmed. Kit said that rights as defined in the Treaty and Boldt’s Decision are based on Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution. 7 tribes have U&A rights in the San Juans; the Tulalip are active in Snohomish, Stillaguamish, Island and San Juan watersheds. The principles of co-management are that the tribes and state share authority and responsibility for the resources; there is one shared resource (requiring shared data and management objectives and joint management plans); and, the tribes and state are self-regulating (i.e. each promulgates and enforces its own regulations).

The Tulalip tribe is active today in hatchery production (12 million salmon/year), stock assessment, harvest management, habitat restoration, and habitat protection, with tribal work in the San Juans as well. Kit noted that fish from the Snohomish River come to the San Juans. He mentioned the regional collaborative efforts to recover depleted fish resources: U.S./Canada management forums, fishery sampling, habitat and fish assessments, restoration projects, salmon recovery groups, MRCs, MSA plan development, and the San Juan Initiative. Kit said the tribes are now involved in the full cycle of management. The challenge remains to maintain tribal traditions in the modern world and retain resources that support the culture (religion/identity). Kit pointed out that there will be a good sockeye run starting this Friday morning...the first good one in 3 years!

Kit said that generally the status quo is declining, due both to caught fish and to habitat loss; “no net loss” is not good enough anymore. He added that tribal presence and stability should be honored and that we can work together.

**Presentation: “US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Restoration and Recovery Funding Programs”** Rich Carlson, who works out of the Lacey office in the Puget Sound Coastal Program, said that the agency works to protect marine, as well as other, resources. He circulated information on the Island Marble Butterfly; the rare butterfly has been found in the San Juans and may be the only viable population left in the world.

Rich said he wanted to notify the MRC of funding availability and distributed copies of USFWS’s information with specifics on its funding programs. The agency’s website further describes the 5 programs available (4 in the San Juans); see “tools for landowners” at <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo>.

The Puget Sound Coastal Program, for example, support programs that restore tidal hydrology and derelict gear removal; Partners for Fish and Wildlife Programs serve to restore upland habitats by replacing culverts, restoring riparian habitat, decommissioning logging roads; the Recovery Program, for instance, helps to implement conservation actions from federal recovery plans for listed species and restoration strategies from state recovery plans to prevent listing candidate species; the National Fish Passage Program includes projects to address fish access to quality habitat; and, the Western Native Trout Initiative implements conservation actions.

Rich said that the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative (a transboundary effort) is working to address climate change by studying how to help species to adapt.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 18, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), John Aschoff, Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Karrie Cooper, Kayaker Education and Leadership Program  
Brendan Cowan, SJC Emergency Management  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Mike Kaill, SJC Stormwater Committee  
Susan Key, Monitoring Coordinator  
Julie Knight, Islands Oil Spill Association  
Laura Jo Severson  
Amy Trexell, The Whale Museum

**Presentation:** “Oil Spill Response in San Juan County” by Dale Jensen (WA Department of Ecology Program Manager), John Neel (WADOE Policy and Legislation Lead), and Carl Anderson (Hazmat Spill Response, Bellingham)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, September 1st, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- MRC regular meeting September 15th, 2:00-4:00pm, Eastsound Fire Hall, Orcas Island, to be followed by a monitoring showcase and roundtable discussion on the community monitoring effort from 4:15 to 5:00pm
- NWSC staff meeting for MRCs, September 28th, Padilla Bay
- MRC regular meeting, October 6th, Islanders Bank Annex, followed by monitoring presenters
- Field trip to Shoal Bay, Lopez Island, October 20th, 10:00am, followed by the regular MRC meeting at 1:30pm
- NWSC/MRC Conference, “Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future,” November 5th and 6th, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Michael Durland circulated photographs, taken at highest tide, of the new 150’-long fish ladder at the Deer Harbor estuary on Bob Conner’s property. The contractor did a very good

job, Michael said, and “if there’s water, the fish will come.” He pointed out that there is water six months of the year.

Jonathan White said that he has just returned from two weeks in the Bay of Fundy where there is an established ecosystem partnership group. He said that people he met there were excited about San Juan County’s MRC work and want to hear more.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 8/4/10 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):** Mary Knackstedt said that she cannot attend the NWSC staff meeting for the MRC to be held on September 28th at Padilla Bay; she asked if anyone else could attend. Jonathan noted that this is an opportunity to see what the other MRCs are doing. The agenda includes a roundtable on regional issues of concern and an NWSC presentation.

**Outreach/ Stewardship Network/ EcoNet update:** Barbara Marrett reported that the August 11th meeting covered discussion of County Fair exhibits and scheduling of presentations at the Green Village; there will also be a daily “EcoQuest” event with prizes. Barbara said that KWIAHT has submitted a proposal for funding through the “Puget Sound Starts Here” program; Susan Key, as MRC Outreach Coordinator, has also applied for this funding to conduct outreach for SJC Public Works’ Low Impact Development projects and the Town of Friday Harbor proposed raingardens. Jeff Hansen said that the “Short Run to the Sea” presentation for the County Council is a dry run for Stephanie Buffum’s August 24th presentation to the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) implementation committee on how well the EcoNetwork is functioning and meeting goals.

Mary Knackstedt distributed copies of her draft briefing on the priority Action Agenda strategy for presentation to the San Juan LIO Accounting Oversight Group (AAOG) later today; Mary said that MRC member comments have been integrated into this draft and other ideas are also welcome. She briefly reviewed the draft strategies and Steve Revella added that MRC member input is important since this is the first input to the LIO. The NWSC is putting together a section on the Derelict Gear Removal Program.

**Monitoring Coordinator update:** Susan Key thanked David Loyd, Chair of the monitoring subcommittee, Ken Sebens, Laura Arnold and Mary Knackstedt and others who contributed to preparation of the strategies before deadline. Mary will email the report to members; the next monitoring group meeting topic will be during the September 15th meeting on Orcas Island. Susan presented a summary of action items for June 2010 to June 2011.

Scheduled upcoming events with a focus on monitoring include:

September 15th, Eastsound Fire Hall, Orcas Island (lunch provided by WSU Beach Watchers) – Following 30 minutes of regular MRC business, there will be a monitoring roundtable featuring work by WSU Beach Watchers, Kwiaht and the “Marine Health Observatories.” Volunteers and students from Waldron, Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Islands involved in the community monitoring efforts will share their data and summarize their work; a roundtable discussion will follow facilitated by Shann Weston. The discussion will focus on tailoring the Island County Beach Watchers’ model to fit our local needs, opportunities to partner that may lead to funding, and priorities for 2011.

October 6th, Islanders Bank Annex, San Juan Island – regular MRC business followed by additional presenters that are in the process of being scheduled.

October 20th, field trip to view the restoration work completed by the Friends of the San Juans at Shoal Bay, Lopez Island, which has had a strong monitoring component and includes future monitoring needs (lunch provided by MRC) – Tina Whitman and Tina Wyllie-Escheveria will present an overview of the work; additional presenters may be scheduled. A regular MRC meeting will follow at the Community Center in Lopez Village.

November 5th and 6th, NWSC/MRC Conference, “Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future,” Rosario Resort, Orcas Island - This will be an opportunity to share regional concerns and issues. November 6th includes a concurrent session on monitoring. Susan noted that monitoring funding is limited despite the goal to collectively clean up Puget Sound by 2020. Topics will include the relationship of monitoring to adaptive management; the regional need for a QAQC process; the collective need for a monitoring infrastructure (updatable website accessible by location and topic, summary of results, link to monitoring efforts); funding opportunities based in partnerships; outreach to landowners, businesses and other citizens on the impacts of their lifestyle choices to the health of Puget Sound. Susan said that more people are needed in the monitoring effort and the involvement of trained volunteers is critical. She added that the Conference will reflect the goal of developing and clarifying the common regional vision, as there are common infrastructure and data sharing needs could gel now into funding proposals.

Ken Sebens suggested inviting Joe Gaydos of the SeaDoc Society to present on the REEF program at one of the meetings. The UW Labs will do a presentation at the San Juan Island meeting. David said that monitoring is an evolving dynamic and that citizens who get involved want to hear how their work is being used.

Susan said that boats and vehicles are needed for the September 15th meeting on Orcas and the October 20th meeting on Lopez to work around the ferry schedule.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that the Salmon Recovery Workshop will focus on monitoring, sharing information gathered from earlier monitoring meetings in particular, as well as adaptive management work. She said that monitoring needs include freshwater, upland, and nearshore resources; overlaps and who is responsible for these pieces need to be identified.

Susan said she is working with the SJC stormwater committee, Ed Hale, SJC Utilities Manager, and the Town of Friday Harbor to assure that monitoring of Friday Harbor is built into plans; all are interested in a collective effort. Susan reported that the Spring Street raingardens project is moving forward as per Johannes Krieger’s good work; the Chamber of Commerce, other businesses and realtors are being invited to participate in training to do basic water quality monitoring before and after stormwater enters and departs the raingardens. Susan said there will be press releases and articles on the monitoring events and, with a growing list of partners, progress is being made.

Mike Kaill, who is on the SJC stormwater committee, said that the total focus so far has been on Public Works’ projects. He has suggested the topic of forming an education and outreach subcommittee for the next meeting’s agenda (September 1st) and he is trying to get the Town involved. Mike said that he

is drafting a 3-page paper on the science of pollution in stormwater and why monitoring is a valued component. The paper covers surfactants in detergents and conveyance chemicals in herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers that ride on silt carried by stormwater but removed by raingardens. He said that the Port of Friday Harbor reported a large plume of suds following a recent rain, suggesting continuing lethal contamination. Ken said that testing of suds in Beaverton Creek has revealed no cause and there is the possibility that this foam could be a natural condition resulting from tree saponics, for instance.

Mary wondered if the stormwater committee might be interested in some sort of partnership with the MRC (as part of the 2011 Work Plan) and Mike said he'll suggest this as an agenda topic. Ken said that we need a quantitative handle on the condition of marine resources. Mike added that he needs help over the next two months with before and after testing to establish levels of surfactants.

**Presentation: “Oil Spill Response in San Juan County”**

Dale Jensen, WA Department of Ecology (DOE) Program Manager, defined state agency roles:

DOE is responsible for vessel and facility spill prevention, oil spill preparedness, oil and hazmat response, and natural resources damage assessment; WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the lead trustee for fish and wildlife; and, the WA Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) covers derelict vessels and state aquatic lands.

Dale said that the Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) in the San Juans is a vital partnership in oil spill prevention and response; local knowledge allows for good pre-planning strategies. He said his dream of having a great baseline on hydrocarbon data has a long way to go. The 2005 “zero spill” state goal is a challenge with 20-40 billion gallons of oil moving around Puget Sound each year (there is no inland or offshore oil production in Washington); prevention and preparedness work is designed to meet the worst case oil spill. The 3,000 spills reported each year in the sound represent the lowest spill rate in the U.S. Very rapid and aggressive, well-coordinated response efforts, along with adequate equipment and personnel, are needed to help to contain the source of the spill and to minimize impacts to natural resources and local economies. DOE is working with federal and industry partners on an integrated 3-D response.

Dale said that restoration efforts are helped by natural resources assessment. He added that prevention includes boarding and inspecting covered cargo and passenger vessels, inspecting oil refineries and marine terminals, inspecting oil transfers, investigating causes of vessel and facility spills, and taking action to eliminate intentional waste oil being dumped by ships. The Neah Bay Emergency Response tug has been state-funded for the last 10 years but, since July, is now industry-funded. The Area Plan covers Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (“oil has no boundaries”), as well as the transboundary areas of British Columbia (West Coast State Task Force). Response also includes methamphetamine drug lab clean ups, chemical spills, and oiled wildlife care.

Lessons from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster, 4/20/10, Gulf of Mexico (205 million gallons of crude): Dale said a contingency plan requires dedicated equipment. Washington was able to move equipment and people to the area while maintaining minimal preparedness here; we want other areas to have adequate resources to meet spills, Dale said. Our state’s dispersant policy allows for pre-designated areas where dispersants can be used but they have never been deployed here; WA’s stockpile

of Corexit dispersant was sent to the Gulf and 800,000 gallons were used in the wellhead with another 1-2 million gallons used on the surface. This unprecedented use of dispersants has led to unknown toxicity in marine and nearshore resources. Ten million feet of boom and 40,000 workers were deployed in this huge area of impact (3,850 square miles by May 19th) to respond to the largest spill in the history of the petroleum industry; 50,000 gallons are still unaccounted for. There were storage and disposal problems for the recovered oil and other wastes. Researchers report that the BP spill still poses a health threat to workers, fishermen and coastal communities.

Dale said that shorelines here would be impacted almost immediately by a large spill! One compartment of a tank ship (holding 1 million gallons) could cover Puget Sound.

John Neel (WADOE Policy and Legislation Lead) said that the San Juan Islands are at risk for major and catastrophic spills with huge consequences. The volume of heavier crude moving through Rosario Strait area is increasing; 90 tankers out of the Port of Vancouver carrying heavy Alberta crude are projected for next year. In our cold waters, evaporation rates are slower and we have much greater tidal rates; recovery rates are low. NOAA's listing document for Puget Sound southern resident orcas states that oil spills are the greatest threat to the orca population!

Prevention efforts include state pilots out of Port Angeles, cooperative vessel traffic service (US Coast Guard and Canadian), state tug escort requirements (at least one tug per single or double-hulled tanker), emergency response tug at Neah Bay, US Coast Guard and DOE ship inspections, Canadian vessel traffic management. Conducting practice drills is part of preparedness. Neil said that San Juan County needs to be a full member in response planning and implementation.

Carl Anderson (Hazmat/Oil Spill Response, Bellingham) said that a Unified Command plan is in place for the San Juans; preparedness also includes industry contingent plans and response contractors. Carl thanked IOSA and The Nature Conservancy for dependable, effective responses. Outreach and educational materials are available at fuel docks and the Beachwatchers training in April focused on spill awareness. The State Spill Response Team has been deployed for local fires and spills. Carl discussed funding challenges, noting that there is a gap between the barrel tax revenue that refineries pay and accounting appropriateness; the fee is partially reimbursed by the state for non-domestic use gallons. Carl will be meeting with Senator Kevin Ranker tomorrow for discussion on this top priority issue. He said that he appreciates local partnership and this active community.

Mike Kaill said that it is reported that oil is still present 6-8" down in the gravel on beaches in Alaska--20 years after the Exxon Valdez spill.

Dale said that there is a link to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan that includes state policy on dispersant use in Washington at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills.spills.html>; the policy is expected to be scrutinized and revised and local input for San Juan County policy on dispersant use is sought. New oil recovery technology is on the horizon and has been used in the Netherlands.

Ken asked what information on natural resources would be most useful in monitoring plans (such as freezing sediment cores to develop baseline petroleum hydrocarbon chemistry of sediments). Data in DOE's Baseline Study Program for the San Juans, done in the 1970's, needs to be updated. David said the tribes are leading on environmental assessment and he proposed that the MRC develop a wish list.

Susan asked for letters supporting Beach Watchers' role in oil spills (Shann Weston's position is now half-time and could be cut in the fall).

Mary said that County Councilperson Lovel Pratt dropped off a copy of a draft white paper, "For Improved Oil Spill Prevention and Response," a proposed priority for the legislation list. Barbara Marrett asked if derelict vessels removal is part of the proposed legislation. She said that identifying vessels before they sink would cost much less than clean up and recovery after sinking. There is no local "prevention" money and the property rights issue is a concern.

Mike Kaill said he will send a copy of a peer review paper on breakdown products of surfactants combining with endocrine disruptors to create metabolic syndrome and other health problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Richard Strathmann, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Barbara Bennett  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow/Low Island  
Cara Gresham, San Juan Island Prevention Coalition

**Presentation on False Bay Creek** by Russel Barsh, Kwiaht

**Presentation on Sand Lance** by Gary Greene, Marine Geologist from the Center for Habitat Studies

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting September 15th, 2:00-4:00pm, Eastsound Fire Hall, Orcas Island, to be followed by a monitoring showcase and roundtable discussion on the community monitoring effort from 4:15 to 5:00pm
- AOC/LIO meeting, September 17th, 1:15 to 4:30pm
- NWSC staff meeting for MRCs, September 28th, Padilla Bay
- MRC regular meeting, October 6th, Islanders Bank Annex, followed by monitoring presenters
- Field trip to Shoal Bay, Lopez Island, October 20th, 10:00am, followed by the regular MRC meeting at 1:30pm
- NWSC/MRC Conference, "Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future," November 5th and 6th, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Citizen comments:** Barbara Bennett introduced herself as a student in the UW School of Marine Affairs; she is conducting research for a paper on public participation in killer whale planning. She noted that the whole community here has rallied to weigh in on the planning effort. A national council has published a paper that can provide best processes for comparison. Phil Green added that two students at Friday Harbor Labs are doing a similar study on protection of Yellow and Low Islands; he has their contact information.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 8/18/10 meeting were approved with a correction.

**Outreach/EcoNet update:** Jeff Hanson said that one or two proposals from each local EcoNet can be submitted for dissemination grant funding; a letter of intent is due by September 10th. Kwiaht has proposed an Amphibian Watch program. Also, Susan Key, Mary Knackstedt and he are proposing a tie-in with the Low Impact Development raingardens project in the Town of Friday Harbor; technically, Jeff added, this is a proposal from the MRC. One of its components is to provide outreach and education around urban stormwater with interpretive displays at each of the proposed raingardens, explaining how they work and their respective specific effects; training for local businesses and realtors would also be provided on general stormwater issues and possibly monitoring; posters will be made with custom information for each raingarden (e.g. distance to the Harbor and distance to stormdrains) with “Puget Sound Starts Here” and “Short Run to the Sea” branding; articles will follow for submission to local newspapers, the “In Home” real estate magazine, and newsletters. Jeff said that one caveat is that this proposal will not be submitted if there is no real promise of forward movement by spring of next year; it may not be realistic to expect the raingardens to be installed this fall. We currently have a functioning raingarden at Friday Harbor High School and the focus could be moved there instead.

Tina Whitman suggested doing outreach now, laying groundwork for all of these projects, including those in Eastsound. Barbara Rosenkotter suggested submitting the proposal to serve as a placeholder if nothing else. Jeff said that he has received the go-ahead for MRC’s outreach effort regarding raingardens.

**Letter to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):** Mary drafted a letter on the agency’s management plan for Protection Island and the San Juan Islands Natural Wildlife Refuges. She said this is a good opportunity to partner with the agency on some of the goals of our Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Plan and it is very important for USFWS to hire a manager for the refuges. Barbara Marrett and David Loyd said there may be push back on the Turn Island use restriction to camping for non-motorized vessels only. Phil said that refuge goals take precedence over local historical uses.

**Motion:** Tina Whitman moved that the letter be sent to USFWS as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**Derelict Vessel Removal Program:** Barbara Marrett said that reinstatement of the program here comes down to people in the County willing to have the program run again if the MRC covers our 10% of the budget (~\$10,000). In-kind services are key to reducing local expenditures; a .25 FTE staff person would be needed to handle the program from start to finish. The program in Kitsap County is run by a code enforcement officer paid out of a nuisance fund.

**Accountability Oversight Committee (AOC) meeting:** There was lots of discussion on process and the need to include advocacy groups at the first meeting of the AOC.

**Medications Take Back Program:** Cara Gresham, intern for the San Juan Island Prevention Coalition, said that the national collection program of pharmaceutical drugs to provide for safe, environmentally friendly disposal and to keep kids from abusing them has been instituted in San Juan County. The first monthly collection netted 35 pounds of medications on San Juan Island, 18 pounds

on Orcas, and 11 pounds on Lopez. The next collection will be held today from 10am to 2pm at Friday Harbor Drug.

**Presentation on False Bay Creek:** Russel Barsh reported on recent study of the False Bay Creek freshwater fish and prey, significant contaminants to the system, and their sources. There were once salmon in the system, he said. Issues now include water quality and quantity, research being done for Washington Water Trust by Kwiaht. Some chum fry were found, as well as sticklebacks and reticulated sculpin, just above the tidal prisms; studies were done on what these indicator species were eating. The system has a lot of capacity but also a lot of ponds that impede summer flow. Cattle in the area affect the ammonia/nitrogen balance and toxic levels are sometimes found in San Juan County.

Contaminants (source indicators) include road runoff that carries internal combustion engine by-products (polyaromatic hydrocarbons-PAHs); home/garden pesticides and herbicides (pyrethroids such as bifenthrin); and, legacy/industrial chemicals (such as polychlorinated biphenyls - PCBs - from electrical transformers and other sources). Emerging threats are nonionic surfactant adjuvants and plasticizers, with no clear method to measure them.

Russel said there is twice the amount of chemicals in sediment as in the water itself. The biggest pollution source for fish is from road runoff! 20-40 parts per billion (ppb) in fish of PAHs, for instance, is a serious concern. We need to re-think how we handle runoff in the county. Toxicologists are concerned with the amount of PAHs found in the environment, especially since we don't have a good way to measure their endocrine disrupting function. We know that locally-sourced contamination (run off) produces measurable toxic loading in fresh water fish and invertebrate prey and that runoff seems to be the largest source. We need to increase summer flows and bioremediation along roads, to eliminate "red list" pyrethroid use, and to reduce all outdoor spraying.

**Presentation on Sand Lance:** Gary Greene, Marine Geologist from the Center for Habitat Studies, said he's interested in which subtidal habitats are used by sand lance, a common or key forage fish in the Northwest. Minke whales and other marine mammals, as well as 26 species of sea birds, and commercial fish, including ling cod, eat sand lance. Sand lances reach a maximum age of 7 years, maturing in 2 years, and spawning in September and October. Sand lance are found in large numbers in San Juan Channel, burrowing into everything although they prefer a substrate in the range of "35" (sieve size); a sand lance population off of Sucia Island, a popular salmon fishing area, looks promising. Current study includes brain size, biometrics, and geomorphology (waves, etc). Gary said there is a need to identify and map habitat types, to validate data, and to monitor habitat.

Tiny Wyllie-Echeverria's research, "Deep Water Pacific Sand Lance – Habitat Evaluation and Prediction in the Northwest Straits," confirms that sand lance prefer "35" medium sized grain to burrow into (it is more difficult to penetrate compacted sediment). Sand lance behavior over a 24 hour period showed that 70% of the fish burrowed, 19% were swimming, 7% rested, and 4% were poking out of the sand (lots of variability).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Submitted by Barbara Marrett and Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 1:30-5:30 p.m.  
Orcas Island Fire Hall  
Eastsound WA 98245**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), John Aschoff, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Lynn Danaher, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Russel Barsh, Kwiaht

Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator

Shann Weston, WSU Beach Watchers Coordinator

[Also see attached list of monitoring showcase attendees]

**Monitoring Showcase and Community Roundtable (see attached notes)**

**Upcoming Events**

- NWSC staff meeting for MRCs, September 28th, Padilla Bay
- MRC regular meeting, October 6th, Islanders Bank Annex, followed by monitoring presenters
- Field trip to Shoal Bay, Lopez Island, October 20th, 10:00am, followed by the regular MRC meeting at 1:30pm
- NWSC/MRC Conference, "Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future," November 5th and 6th, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island

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The non-quorum meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 1:30 pm. Steve welcomed guests and introductions followed.

**Membership update:** Steve announced that Richard Strathmann has resigned his membership. His many years of service were acknowledged and Richard will be presented with a t-shirt reading, "Best Available Scientist." Mary Knackstedt said that Adam Somers said that he will submit a letter of interest in MRC membership to the County Council.

Kit Rawson gave an update on the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s Aquatic Reserve's program. He said that Smith and Minor Islands, including a large chunk of the northwest side of Whidbey Island, have been proposed for designation as an Aquatic Reserve. DNR's Kyle Murphy reported that there were 318 public comments in support of the draft management plan; Kit said that the first public input session was a very civil meeting.

By way of background, Kit said that the San Juan MRC made a major effort in 2006-2007 to work with DNR to initiate a community discussion of DNR aquatic reserves in San Juan County. However, he added, the initial public meetings turned extremely acrimonious and the County Council placed a gag

order on the MRC, forbidding further discussions of the topic of aquatic reserves with DNR. As a result, there have been no further discussions with DNR regarding designation of aquatic reserves in any part of San Juan County.

Kit said that, at this point, there are now DNR aquatic reserves designated or under development in Whatcom, Skagit, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam counties. In other words, every county in the Juan de Fuca/Georgia Strait area, with the exception of San Juan, is participating in the aquatic reserve program. Barbara Marrett suggested that the Stewardship Network/ECO Net submit a press release to present the facts on Aquatic Reserves designation to the public.

David Loyd said that San Juan County is a Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) and those in attendance today are the “first people,” like the “first salmon.” He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending and for their work.

**Marine Spatial Planning:** Kit said that the state is developing framework and policy for marine spatial mapping in preparation for a Senate hearing in early October. Public input is being sought with five formal comment sessions in September (Seattle, Friday Harbor, Padilla Bay, Tacoma, West Port). He said that at issue is federal planning (for energy, oil, etc.). A draft report and recommendations from an emergency team, the State Ocean Caucus, are available. This will be an agenda topic for the hearing to be held immediately after the NWSC's meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Friday Harbor Grange.

**Stormwater planning:** Mary said she received a call from Ed Hale, SJC Utilities Manager, requesting help from the MRC in prioritizing basins for stormwater planning purposes. The Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee (CSWAC) is also involved in the process (e.g. conveyance, treatment options). Public Works' stormwater projects are underway in Eastsound and Fisherman Bay, with MRC input; MRC input will then be sought on environmental aspects of other watersheds in the county. It was suggested that the MRC science subcommittee send a representative to the next CSWAC meeting (October 6<sup>th</sup>), focused on groundwater mapping.

**NWSC:** Jonathan White explained that the Northwest Straits Conservation Initiative was formed as a response to the lack of a marine sanctuary in our region; the San Juan County MRC was established and served as the first model program for the seven additional MRC's that now send representatives to the NWSC. Jonathan said that NWSC's September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in Friday Harbor will discuss oil spill response for Puget Sound. He extended an invitation to everyone to attend the yearly NWSC Conference, on Orcas Island, on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Senator Kevin Ranker will be a speaker.

**Outreach subcommittee:** Barbara Marrett said that the Puget Sound dissemination grant was discussed at the last meeting; proposals for funding consideration include Kwiaht's Amphibian Watch and the MRC's outreach efforts for the proposed Friday Harbor raingardens. A question raised at the meeting was how to incorporate advocacy groups, such as Common Sense Alliance, into the Local Integrating Organization. Scheduling the next Sustainable San Juans event on Lopez Island was also discussed.

### **Monitoring Showcase and Community Roundtable (see attached notes)**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm  
Submitted Helen Venada

## COMMUNITY MONITORING SHOWCASE AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Attendees:

LOPEZ:

Charlie Behrke  
Susan Mucke  
Amanda Wedow  
Beverly Zapalac

ORCAS:

Nancy Alboucq  
Barbara Bentley  
Tim Blanchard  
Marta Branch  
Rusty Diggs  
Margie Doyle  
Ellen Edwardsen  
Sheldon Gregory  
Andria Hagstrom  
Anita Holladay  
Andrea Hutchins  
James Lobdell  
Patty Miller  
Carolyn O'Day  
Gulliver Rankin  
Margot Shaw  
Ali Sher  
Marcia Spees

SAN JUAN:

Erin Corra  
April Ford  
Peter Goddu  
Cynthia Hubbard  
Margaret Johnson  
Robin Kodner  
Margaret Langlie  
Dennis Linden  
Geneva Mottet  
Kim Secunda

WALDRON:

Donna Adams  
Fred Adams  
Camilla Loyd  
Barry Martin  
Glen Riley

YELLOW/LOW:

Phil Green

???

Diane Keller-Bauer  
Jenny Rose

Shann Weston introduced the session, announcing that there would be presentations by Russel Barsh, Susan Key, and volunteers from Waldron, Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan Islands engaged in community monitoring efforts, followed by a roundtable discussion. Mary Knackstedt, MRC Coordinator, spoke about the recognized need for monitoring coordination, noting that much of the monitoring underway here is being done through citizen efforts. The MRC, therefore, has scheduled today's regular meeting on Orcas Island, its October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on San Juan Island, and its October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on Lopez Island to include sessions on community monitoring. The NWSC Conference in November will also include discussion on community monitoring. Mary said that over the next few months, the MRC will work on developing its 2011 Work Plan, to include ways to add value to community efforts. She also pointed out that the MRC has been working on a Monitoring Plan. Susan Key, Monitoring Coordinator for the MRC, said that most of the attendees today are involved in gathering data.

Shann presented a slideshow illustrating what trained citizen monitors have been doing over the last few years; she noted that a picture tells a thousand words. Photos from Waldron Island, Indian Island (off Eastsound), Port of Friday Harbor, South Beach and Jackson Beach, Lime Kiln State Park on San Juan, Camp Orkila on Orcas, Shaw Island, the, San Juan County Fair and UW Labs...all depicted citizens actively involved in observing and learning about these "places of the heart" in order to help protect them. Shann pointed out the varied ages of the volunteers who are involved in spartina removal, study of other invasives, microplastics in the marine environment, biodiversity work, island geology, prey, larval and seaweeds science, and laboratory work. Results of this community science will be shared with local and state agencies. The role of WSU Beach Watchers is to form core groups of volunteers that receive 100 hours of training in exchange for 100 hours of community service.

Shann said the Indian Island, a Bureau of Land Management property, has provided a great example of community/citizen science in action. Volunteers of the Indian Island Marine Health Observatory have stayed committed for years, recognizing that their job is to gather good data that can be provided to the community and to government agencies, as well as to go beyond science to provide education and outreach; the boss is the place, Shann noted. Visitors to Indian Island, both locals and tourists, are invited into the ongoing exploration of the Island's ecology. Volunteers ask their own questions to guide their work; this has been an important lesson learned from Waldron Island volunteer monitors, Shann said.

A common conception is that "from awareness comes action," Shann said, but there can be many missteps along the way due to lack of structure or training or of becoming overwhelmed. The Marine Health Observatories and other volunteer efforts have shown that action first can lead to awareness! An example of this can be seen in stormwater education where intimacy with marine critters and good baseline data can then lead to an awareness of stormwater runoff impacts on particular places.

Shann observed that today is the first time that these volunteers have come together in one room to introduce them to the MRC, to report on their respective preliminary results, to learn about other areas' community science work, and to begin to put the pieces together.

Susan Key presented slides of some of the many successful community monitoring programs from bioregions around the world. Included were the South Australian Bush Water Watch Program, the Makely Pacific Islands International Waters Project, Ecuadorean Amazon tribal/youth/community research, student restoration projects in the Maldives, the 3,825 recreational divers trained in

monitoring biodiversity in the Italian Mediterranean, Eastern Canadian marsh monitoring and nature mapping, Alaska's Coast Walk program that arose out of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Wild Utah Riparian Monitoring Program, Waikiki Hawaii's Reef Watch; pictured also were Pacific Northwest programs monitoring the health of the Salish Sea including the REEF diver program and Skagit County's Monitoring Program by Samish Tribe members and other volunteers, with Public Works and Department of Ecology staff, to clean up and improve water quality in the Skagit River basin.

San Juan County's monitoring program is part of a growing worldwide citizen-driven effort to teach ourselves, to help agencies and researchers with their protection and restoration work, and to lead to more public awareness of problems in the marine environment and of related human impacts, Susan said. The need for reliable, accurate data using Best Available Science cannot be undervalued, she added. One common thread of all the global efforts is that communities are asking the questions that drive the research and work. This framework for far-reaching national and international efforts is helping to develop tools necessary for sustainable development; it is also providing field experience and inspiration to young people to seek more education leading to related careers.

Questions that arise:

How can human communities improve their use of natural resources?

What can be done if/when statutes are violated?

What do we have in the San Juan Islands?

What do we need to replicate locally (e.g. recruiting more people; funding for coordination; more restoration demonstration projects)?

How can we continue to spread awareness of local problems (e.g. that harmful algal blooms are increasing in our waters; that each of us is a custodian of our stormwater runoff, streams, marshes, wetlands, and coastal beaches; that the Islands need more preparedness for major oil spill response; that our physical and economic health depend on a healthy environment).

How can we develop templates from around the planet to support real world problem solving?

Susan said that she is very much encouraged by the local grassroots efforts growing here and thanked everyone for their work and dedication.

**San Juan Islands Marine Health Observatory Network:** Russel Barsh said that the volunteer workforce in the San Juan Islands network is now made up of 100+ people in five programs; the citizen-based effort has been building and growing over the last five years providing real science training to volunteers and results that will be useful to scientists and policymakers. The marine environment (habitat) in the Islands is degrading and has been heavily impacted by human development and activity; it is in need of restoration.

The Waldron Island citizen science program began in 2005 as a pilot and has provided a template for the programs that followed. Waldron is a salmon and rockfish nursery, Russel said, where herring genetics are also being studied; it is in need of restoration.

The Lopez Community Salmon Team was organized in 2007 to study and inventory the salmon nursery, salmon prey, including insects, and seabird populations.

In 2009, the Indian Island Marine Health Observatory began to look at human impacts to the relatively

intact ecosystem of this BLM land off of Eastsound on Orcas Island. Areas of study include climate- and human-forced change, key fish and invertebrate species, the eelgrass meadow system, sediment quality (a key issue) and the chemistry of the bay. Eastsound, Russel said, is a center for larger, more frequent algal blooms.

The Friday Harbor Marine Health Observatory also started up in 2009 at the Port of Friday Harbor, where the docks accumulate organisms; volunteers have been focused on larval settlements to see what is trying to live there. Continuous underwater videography of the eelgrass bed is an exciting future project there. Russel said we now have very good year-round data of Port waters. Friday Harbor data is on resident and migratory species (climate change indicators); some species are not replacing themselves, Russel said. Volunteers were excited to discover that we have one seahorse species in the Islands, the Bay Pipefish, which is a key indicator species that needs healthy eelgrass habitat.

The Fisherman Bay Marine Health Observatory began in 2010 in this most polluted area in the Islands; the Bay is now a hypoxic zone (devoid of oxygen) with significant fish and eelgrass population loss. Russel asked how we can get excited about an ecosystem that is already dead. The bottom of the Bay looks grim, he said, but seabirds and water fowl are still there in numbers! There are about 75 species of seabirds and 70 upland species documented so far, although fish populations are disappointing. Human impacts on bird life are being studied, as well as sediment quality. Marine-adapted weasels have been spotted!

The San Juan Islands Archipelago has very high biodiversity, Russel said; site-specific, but linked, websites and field guides are being developed. The citizens monitoring network is working with the Chambers of Commerce here and is linked to local school programs (with 180 K-12 students, the “next generation”). Russel hopes to be able to hire more high school students as paid technical interns. Volunteers receive specialized training to build independent community expertise, using vigorous quantitative methods. Drivers of change as well as their responses in the ecosystems are being studied and monitored. One notable result is the evidence of a seasonal shift from marine to terrestrial prey for marine life here. There are other significant and tangible results, Russel added, in this conservation in action effort.

Indian Island Marine Health Observatory: Barbara Bentley spoke of her experience as a volunteer. She said the Beach Watchers and friends have formed a core volunteer team in partnership with Kwiaht, Orcas Island schools, BLM, the SJC Land Bank, and San Juan Nature Institute. The health of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Orcas Island are being assessed with Indian Island providing a microcosmic study site. Impacts from the town of Eastsound on the beach are also being monitored; threats to the sensitive Indian Island environment are polluted street runoff as well as human visitation (people walk across the tumolo from Eastsound at low tide). Barbara reported the good news that a constructed wetlands project is coming that will treat the street runoff; pre- and post-installation data should prove to be interesting. Outreach to residents and visitors alike to protect nesting oyster catchers on Indian Island was well received. Fostering responsible marine stewardship is the goal. The first Annual Report to the Community will be at the Orcas Center on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ali Sher, studying marine science at Orcas High School, said that she has been submitting newspaper articles and doing species inventories. Marta Branch, a teacher at Orcas High School and the Oasis

Alternative School, said her students are deeply involved in this real world experience; they will be the future decision makers. Andria Hagstrom talked about her son, Quinn, who has been a dedicated volunteer, gathering Indian Island information to develop the website, <http://www.indianisland.info>. Rusty Diggs and Marcia Speers have been involved in visiting businesses on the Eastsound waterfront and in monitoring the numerous plastic production pellets that end up on the beach. Marcia said, “We nurture that which we know.” Anita Holladay pointed out that the impact of one day's visitors to a beach can set marine species back for years.

Friday Harbor Marine Health Observatory: Dennis Linden, Peter Goddu, Margaret Langlie, and April Ford reported that they are finding more diversity at the Port than was previously known.

Fisherman Bay Marine Health Observatory: Susan Muckle said she appreciates looking closely at the world of animal behavior and its interrelated nature. Amanda Wedow said that everything comes from the ocean and goes back to the ocean. Charlie Behnke said the monitoring effort will provide a valuable link with local policymakers.

Waldron Citizen Science Program: Camilla Loyd said she appreciates the training by experts that volunteers receive; the experience is providing a prototype for scientists and citizens educating each other. Camilla said there are 90 years of records in the Waldron Library of natural history observations by citizen residents; she hopes that more interviews will be done to harvest and record local knowledge.

Amphibian Watch: Geneva Mottet said that the terrestrial habitats and migration routes of rare amphibians and turtles on the Islands are being studied. Volunteers are removing invasive bullfrogs, creating a baseline, and doing research. Russel said this pilot project will, hopefully, inspire a county-wide Amphibian Watch to inspire proposed EcoNet grant funding (re runoff).

Kit said that this monitoring effort and example of citizen science in action is providing leadership for the Puget Sound Action Agenda work!

Patty Miller and Gulliver Rankin of the Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee said that CSWAC has one role: to implement water quality improvement measures. Patty added that she looks forward to CSWAC and the volunteer monitoring groups working together and sharing results.

Mary Knackstedt asked how the MRC could better support the work. She said that a long-term vision of the NWSC includes a study of commonly-used cleaning and personal grooming products (e.g. shampoos) to test their biodegradability and to identify the least toxic of them.

NEEDS identified by the group:

- funding for a Marine Health Observatory volunteer coordinator and training materials, presenters, and workshops
- ongoing recruitment and training of volunteers
- funding for printed materials (species lists, etc.) and lamination
- funding for supplies (e.g. lab reagents) and equipment (e.g. 120foot seines)
- funding for technical support (help in choosing methodology and protocols, train volunteers)

- database; data layers for county GIS
- funding or volunteer for data entry
- storage for equipment; office space
- funding to test household products to find least toxic (for solutions)
- demonstrate that Community Science has a foundation in solid protocols and QAQC
- join with commercial interests to generate funding
- harnessing of Indian Island program as a key to implement changes by residents (products used, property management choices) and visitors (beach behavior)
- interview older island residents for their ORAL HISTORY
- information on bioswales
- work with upland landowners re LID

Marta said that a private donor is providing funding for Orcas public school students to study science; she suggested that an alternate source of funding is needed, beyond WSU Beach Watchers, to keep the monitoring effort going. Shann commented that Beach Watchers has funding for training through 2011. Russel said that \$25,000/year is needed to run the whole network, including money for equipment and publications.

Patty Miller said that the stormwater regulations adopted by County Council for SJC were based on urban King County's regulations; she suggested that the County needs to ask the state to fund a rural manual and suggested that citizens relay this to the Council. Also, SJC Public Works uses the state protocol in order to get state money; this is seen as insufficient.

Susan thanked everyone for participation today to foster the growth and development of the network. She asked that other ideas be emailed to her at [susankey2012@gmail.com](mailto:susankey2012@gmail.com).

Notes submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 6, 2010, 8:30-11:00 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Russel Barsh, Kwiaht  
JoanRuth Baumann  
Stephanie Buffum-Fields, Friends of the San Juans  
Shireene Hale, SJC Community Development & Planning  
Colin Maycock, SJC Community Development & Planning  
Laura Jo Severson  
Shann Weston, WSU Beach Watchers

**Ecosystem Monitoring Presentations:** Introduction by Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator; San Juan Nature Institute programs by Fiona Norris; University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories programs by Jenny Roberts and Ken Sebens; SJC Groundwater Mapping Project by Vicki Heater, Health & Community Services Department

**Upcoming Events**

- Field trip to Shoal Bay, Lopez Island, October 20th, 10:00am, followed by regular MRC meeting and monitoring presentations/roundtable at Lopez Community Center
- NWSC/MRC Conference, "Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future," November 5th and 6th, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island
- MRC Annual Retreat, December 15th, Friday Harbor Labs

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 9/1/10 meeting were approved as read; minutes of the 9/15/10 meeting were approved with the addition that it was a non quorum meeting.

Steve Revella announced that an alternate is needed to attend the Puget Sound Partnership AOC implementation committee meetings and Barbara Marrett volunteered.

**Spring Street raingardens (Low Impact Development) proposal:** Johannes Krieger reported that

the next step lies in King Fitch's court; the Town Council has recognized that the Administrator's workload is very full at this time and prioritizing projects is a must. A copy of King's 9/7/10 letter to Mary Knackstedt was circulated, informing the MRC that he will not be in a position to manage the proposed raingardens project. Mary Knackstedt said that she has appealed to SJC Utilities Manager, Ed Hale, for help with preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the project; she noted that the monitoring piece has become complicated. Pre-monitoring is recommended (through the winter's especially heavy flow periods) so that construction has been pushed forward to next spring. Johannes said that King has been supportive of the project and there is lots of enthusiasm from the full Town Council as well; as long as funding and political will remain, the project should move ahead. The project is to be funded by a Department of Ecology (DOE) grant; Mike Kaill and Susan Key will continue their involvement. The proposal's value as a front and center demonstration project is acknowledged and it will provide an opportunity to increase general awareness of LID applications for islanders and visitors. Mary circulated copies of an email from DOE's Bellingham office stating that this project and its monitoring component could become a prototype for other communities in the San Juans and elsewhere; the email from Kurt Baumgarten outlines basic monitoring plan components and offers DOE staff expertise as well as existing protocol.

Laura Arnold said that establishing a baseline will help to provide a model for other projects of how to conduct monitoring, acquire funding, and use data. Mary said she is concerned about the Town not taking on management of the project since it is located on Town turf. Barbara Marrett reported that the outreach subcommittee discussed how to do outreach for this project, likely through EcoNet; they will keep this proposal on their radar, although outreach for the raingardens at Friday Harbor High School and Eastsound could also be promoted. Johannes said that the WSU Master Gardeners have agreed to provide ongoing maintenance for the Town project, with its ultimate structure implemented through the MRC and local businesses. He noted that the Town never committed to preparing the RFP.

There was discussion about whether it was proper for the County to help with preparing an RFP; it was suggested that a contract include a monitoring plan. Susan Key said this is an excellent grant opportunity for the Town to be involved in, with DOE providing technical support and a training session for businesses. She said that with Mike Kaill and the Friday Harbor Marine Health Observatory's interest in the project, its moving forward is predicated on continued Beach Watcher funding. More funding is likely for monitoring efforts, Susan added. Mary said that adding a Public Works engineer and hiring off the Small Works roster for downtown Friday Harbor work would be added benefits.

Barbara Marrett said that she noticed that several stormdrains in Town were completely clogged following the big rain event of 3 or 4 weeks ago. The one in front of Friday Harbor High School overflowed and flooded the street and yards. She said that stormdrain basins in the Town need to be cleaned out! This is especially needed to assure accurate monitoring.

**“Puget Sound Starts Here” (PSSH) Dissemination Grant update:** Jeff Hanson reported that ECO Net's proposal, “Rain Gardens are a Welcome Rest Stop on the Short Run to the Sea,” has been approved for partial funding, with stipulations, up to \$5,000. The Amphibian Watch proposal was not funded. Copies of Puget Sound Partnership's 9/24/10 letter outlining the stipulations were distributed: trainings for businesses and realtors were not approved for this grant funding; the PSSH logo must be prominently displayed on posters and interpretive signs at the raingardens; newspaper and magazine display ads were approved, but not articles. Jeff said this grant may not be a good fit with local “Short

Run to the Sea” efforts and recommended that it not be accepted with the intent of working towards future, more inclusive, funding.

Discussion followed. Comments included that although the concept of PSSH is fully supported, PSP seems to want prominence without putting in the work (which could “muddy the water”) and parameters for continued relationship need to be set; the timing is politically challenging (i.e. association with PSP); PSSH does not resonate as well here as on the mainland. Laura noted that the Town’s sign regulations include a rigorous approval process.

**Motion:** Kit Rawson moved, and David Loyd seconded, that the MRC adopt Jeff’s recommendation to say no to this particular grant. The motion passed with Barbara Marrett opposing.

Shann Weston noted that the San Juan Island’s Visitor Bureau is marketing the Island as the heart of the Salish Sea; she added that reference to “Puget Sound” rather than Salish Sea is confusing to residents and visitors alike.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White reminded everyone about the November 5th and 6th conference at Rosario Resort; several members and others present today will be attending. Jonathan said that the theme is based on taking a philosophical as well as detailed scientific look at where we were fifty years ago, where we are now, and where we’re going. He said that some prominent magazine reporters who wrote about the area years ago will be attending. There will also be presentations on monitoring and on ocean acidification as well as “101” and “102” training sessions for MRC and NWSC members. Mary said that the MRC and Susan Key have pulled together a work session on the role of monitoring volunteers in adaptive management.

Jonathan said that the recent meeting in Friday Harbor on oil spill preparedness included conversation on chronic and catastrophic oil spill response and impacts; he added that we need to hone in on the details, specific roles, and how best to support the effort with an eye to coming up with concrete next steps. Jonathan asked that the MRC stay in the conversation.

**Membership update:** Lynn Danaher has resigned her membership. Adam Somers has declined membership at this time. Barbara Bentley of Orcas Island has expressed interest in membership; she has a strong academic background as well as volunteer history. Mary will request that the County Council post the membership openings.

**Oil Spills Preparedness discussion:** Jonathan said that Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) is a model for other communities; no other successful programs have yet been established. David added that the bottoms up approach works best and IOSA has a dynamic outreach program. Barbara Marrett said that the recent symposium at Roche Harbor, “Holes in the World,” was both discouraging and hopeful. There have been no big repercussions to oil companies responsible for catastrophic spills; the political system that protects them and allows for more drilling is unchanged, Barbara said. On the positive side, Fred Felleman told the group that there is now more money for tug response. He emphasized that more people need to get involved in the policy process. Barbara added that we need to change how politicians are funded (i.e. not by “big oil”)! Susan pointed out that we must have a good baseline of resources and conditions before a big oil spill here.

Susan said the upcoming NWSC/MRC conference at Rosario Resort will work on a strategic vision for using volunteers to guide adaptive management efforts. Speakers from DOE, NOAA, PSP, and WA Sea Grant will join Senator Kevin Ranker and members of the Tulalip and Swinomish tribes in a discussion and summary report on the topic to move forward.

### **ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE**

**San Juan Nature Institute programs:** Fiona Norris presented a brief history of the Institute and invited everyone to SJNI's 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner this weekend. She said that there are four core programs: the ongoing science lecture series; adult workshops; young naturalist trainings; and, "Partners in Science." SJNI has had a strong partnership with UW Friday Harbor Labs; FHL and other scientists spend time in local school classrooms.

Fiona said that funding for the pilot "Salmon in the Classroom" program this year has come from public donations and for "Biodiversity of Crescent Beach" 2006 program from the Orcas Island Community Foundation and the Russell Family Foundation. The Crescent Beach property studied by the SJNI program is owned by the Land Bank; this is where the highest number of invasive purple varnish clams have been documented (per Dr. Claudia Mills). One finding was that bent-nose clams appear to have been displaced by the invasive purple varnish clams. Fiona said that classroom time learning to recognize shells of the various clam species has been invaluable and she is very proud of the students for their diligence. A recent plankton study was done on Indian Island where results of phytoplankton and zooplankton counts were recorded.

The "Hydrology of the Buck Wetland" program, in partnership with Kwiaht, brought 5<sup>th</sup> grade Earth Science students into the field to student water movement through the watershed system. Potential stormwater runoff from an OPALCO storage area was also examined. Results indicating that there are high concentrations of cadmium, copper, and chlorine in the water have been confirmed by subsequent study; Fiona said the source could be the electrical cables and other equipment or batteries in storage or could be a natural phenomenon. USGS personnel confirmed that bedrock so close to the surface could be the source of this element.

Orcas Island 6<sup>th</sup> grade students studied the "Biodiversity of an Indian Island Beach" in 2008. The ratio of various shells on the beach was studied to find if marine animals are scattered throughout the beach or are found in zones. The clam *Nuttalia obscurata* was also identified on the Indian Island beach. Fiona said this was a great exercise in collaboration and concentration for the students and for their accompanying parents as well.

The challenges of these school programs are to match the school timetable with the tides, summer vacation, and consistent funding. The opportunities are student enthusiasm, the annual infusion of new students and the good team of teachers that has been built. Fiona said she'd like to see monitoring protocols developed for all to follow so that results would be put to use.

**Friday Harbor Labs K-12 Science Outreach Program:** Jenny Roberts said the Program was established in 2001 as a unique partnership for the Labs and local schools. The goal has been to raise awareness of local environmental problems and to get more people involved in solutions by engaging students and teachers in field work. The Program's watershed water quality monitoring project is historically the biggest monitoring program here, funded by a state Department of Ecology (DOE)

grant initially and then picked up by FHL, an SJNI turf grant, Spring Street International School, Friday Harbor schools, Russell Family Foundation, and San Juan Islands Conservation District (through a continuing tax assessment). One purpose of data resulting from ongoing monitoring on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands is to serve as an early warning of water quality impairment for property owners, the SJC Health Department and DOE; the SJC Water Table Committee and the Citizen Stormwater Advisory Committee are also interested in these results. Data can help to assess non-point pollution sources within watersheds to inform owners about Best Management Practices.

Data parameters include pH, dissolved oxygen, Fecal Coliform, flow, turbidity, temperature, aquatic insects, and nitrate and phosphates (on a meets or doesn't meet guidelines basis).

Jenny reported that 16 watershed sites in the county were sampled between 2002 and 2008: 6 sites in 3 watersheds on San Juan Island and 5 sites in 5 watersheds on Orcas Island are sampled every 6 to 8 weeks; 5 sites in 4 watersheds on Lopez Island are sampled once a month throughout December and April when water is present. All protocol and equipment meet DOE Water Quality Assurance Project requirements. With funding cuts, the sites are still being sampled but less frequently.

Jenny presented a quick overview of results and said there is more detail, with maps and criteria standards, on the website: <http://www.depts.washington.edu/flk12/index.html>. Information is also available on the Conservation District's webpage: <http://www.sanjuanislandscd.org> ("Water Resources/Water Quality").

Other FHL K-12 programs: Argyle Beach has been surveyed by 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students since 2001 (results shared w/ Dr. Mills) and the eelgrass bed at Jackson Beach has been studied by 4<sup>th</sup> grade students for fish presence since 2001. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are surveying the Friday Harbor marina area and Friday Harbor High School and Spring Street International School students have been involved in monitoring the presence of non-native mussels in Westcott Bay since 2002. Griffin Bay School has offered a course in watershed health and stream analysis since early 2009, in conjunction with the state's Joint Effort to Monitor the Strait of Juan de Fuca (JEMS) which began in 1999; with less funding now, sampling occurs less frequently and continued funding is being sought.

Ken Sebens added that these K-12 programs have provided hands on laboratory experience as well as field inquiry to many local students. With the end of SJI Conservation District funding in April 2009, there is now less sampling; two half-time positions were reduced to one half-time so that it is critical to find other funding. A partial list of other citizen monitoring projects includes university undergraduates doing unfunded research; graduates working in K-12 classes (National Science Foundation-funded); undergraduates working in three intertidal sites since 2007 (a program well worth expansion but with no outside funding now); a high quality undergraduate pelagic system apprenticeship program that collects data on fish, invertebrates, etc. (with links to JEMS); Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria's monitoring of several seagrass sites, especially where seagrass is in decline (funded, but also with volunteers and some students); and a sub-tidal study with trained divers looking at whole communities deposition.

Susan interjected, "Imagine what we could do if more of UW focused on adaptive management."

**SJC Groundwater Mapping Project:** Vicki Heater presented preliminary findings of the project and distributed handouts showing county-wide groundwater contours (using LIDAR data), existing well locations, and water basin boundaries. She pointed out that within basins groundwater levels vary a lot

due to glacial till and basins don't all share the same aquifers. Seawater intrusion (a phenomenon when there is not enough dynamic pressure) is part of the monitoring in the Eastsound water source and all of North Lopez (both under Urban Growth Act regulation).

Changes and trends over time have been documented in two annual reports over the last three years. Groundwater models and a good foundation have been built but funding remains a concern. Data collected is designed to be fed directly to those making policy development decisions. Information on False Bay Basin will be adopted by DOE in its water rights designation process. Providing fish habitat and supplying agriculture irrigation are acknowledged as some of the beneficial uses of water besides human consumption. The SJC Comprehensive Plan's water element addresses these uses and tries to determine actual demand needed. This information will become part of the water rights program in SJC. Vicki said that the Town of Friday Harbor hopes to increase the size of its Trout Lake dam in the future, subject to such information. Stream typing is part of the mapping project. In a collaborative study with the MRC and Agricultural Resources Committee (ARC) these questions are being asked: What are the number of designated agricultural acres in a given basin? How many exempt wells are there? How many feet/miles of stream are there? Agriculture is categorized as industrial use, leaving lots of water without regulatory control, Vicki said. The False Bay Water Trust will be looking to acquire water rights as well and a pilot water rights process will begin there this winter.

Vicki said that there are 400 existing and newly-applied for individual exempt wells on record in SJC (actual count is more like 1,000, she noted); these can produce up to 5,000 gallons/day and most development is on exempt wells with more and more wells on required monitoring.

Vicki said the mapping program allows for systems-wide careful review. There is also opportunity to partner with the Town of Friday Harbor, using science to measure risks, benefits, and priorities.

Susan pointed that salmon recovery depends on nearshore health in the context of fresh water input to the nearshore.

### **Roundtable discussion:**

Susan said the monitoring strategy is due to be updated around March of next year with MRC input on how to move forward. The MRC will also be looking at how monitoring programs fit into its work planning. She outlined these questions:

What important resource management questions need to be addressed (level of toxins, baseline determination, key species like seagrasses)?

How can monitoring results best be conveyed to resource managers, the public, property owners, policy makers?

What level of QQC (Quality Assurance and Quality Control) can be communicated to landowners? To the Town and County to affect land use decisions?

If the public and local jurisdictions make changes by adopting land use rules, would the program capture improvement?

How can we tailor program elements to better manage shared resources?

Kit said that he is concerned that the great stuff being done by lots of people may not be put together, thereby losing benefit. He said that the MRC and he himself could help contribute to add value. Kit is also concerned with the Big Picture database goal of conveying information. Susan said that this

concern and desire are shared by all the MRCs.

Barbara Rosenkotter said it is important to quickly identify critical pieces that need to be monitored. She added that EPA grants are coming through PSP, probably in the spring. We need to answer: What is needed to do in San Juan County? Why? What are the priorities?

Susan said the nexus point is now with indicators being identified through PSP, DOE, Salmon Recovery process and their overlap.

Barbara Marrett said that areas of major impacts are located where sewage outfalls spill out to the Strait.

Russel said that the QAQC process requires identifying what the question is, indicators, and then the method where QAQC begins; monitoring programs can then be reviewed for sufficient adequate sampling and data collection. Changes also need to be measured and recorded. Russel would like the appropriateness of method and sampling design to be discussed so that they will be reliable for decision makers. Tina Whitman agreed and said this needs to be on a Puget Sound-wide level.

David noted that the effort is driven by volunteers, over 1000 of them in the Marine Stewardship Area; he suggested that we take care of them.

Mary emphasized that local and regional data needs include set protocol that all the Marine Health Observatories can use. She asked where these are intersecting? Mary said the value of the MHOs' work over time is to provide an institutional framework and that the MRCs need a strategic vision on monitoring. How can these programs be sustained in times of fluctuating funding? How can we convince funders, elected officials and others of the value of citizen/community monitoring?

Tina said that it would be worthwhile and important to provide regional tracking so that volunteers can know that their results are being used in developing local policy. Russel added that there have been a number of requests to MHO teams from federal, state, and local agencies for data (e.g. NOAA is interested in the Eastsound phytoplankton results and Port Townsend has expressed interest in the microplastics study here). He said that community projects can, therefore, negotiate to assure that their good results will be integrated.

Shann said that citizens (young and older) are the inhabitants of place; they may not always initiate projects but they are shaping what partners do (e.g. with developing baseline inventories). For instance, there is a regional need for crabber outreach. The tendency is to pursue science and outreach separately, she said, so there is a need to sell funders the concept that these are one effort. The goal is to elicit behavior change. David said that these citizens are influencing science; we're on the cutting edge.

The October 20th MRC meeting on Lopez includes a 10:00am to noon tour of Shoal Bay guided by Tina Wyllie-Echeverria and Tina Whitman then lunch at the Lopez Community Center, followed by a regular MRC meeting and monitoring presentations/roundtable.

Mary said that Patty Miller told her that the Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee asked the MRC

to help with basin planning priorities and process. The MRC needs more information; she will be meeting with SJC Utilities Manager, Ed Hale, later today. Public Works has three priorities: capital projects, basin planning, and monitoring. Patty thinks that monitoring is important to learn where to site capital projects, Mary said. There will be further discussion at the October 20<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting.

**MRC Annual Retreat:** The 1-day Retreat will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at FH Labs. The Executive subcommittee will discuss potential agenda topics.

There will be no MRC meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> due to the NWSC Conference on November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 10:00am to 3:30pm  
Shoal Bay and Lopez Community Center, Lopez Island**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Charlie Behnke	Bob Myhr, SJC Council
Karrie Cooper, EcoNet Coordinator	Jim Patton
Tom Cowan, Northwest Straits Commission	Dandy Porter
Kitty Dolan	Robin Reid
Laurie Glen	Dennis Rosenman
Gene Helfman	Dan Silkiss
Kay Keeler	Elsie Silkiss
Ed Kilduff	Amanda Wedow
Holly Lovejoy	John Whetton
Judy Meyer	Cathy Wilson
Susan Muckle	

**Shoal Bay Tour presenters:** Tina Whitman, Friends of the San Juans; Tina Wyllie-Echeverria, UW Friday Harbor Labs

**Ecosystem Monitoring presenters:** introduction by Susan Key, MRC Monitoring Coordinator and Shann Weston, WSU Beachwatchers Coordinator; Joe Gaydos, Sea Doc Society, REEF Program; Robin Kodner, UW Center for Environmental Genomics; Jack Giard, Pacific Salmon Commission

**Upcoming Events**

- Regional NWSC/MRC Conference, “Puget Sound: Past, Present, Future,” November 5th and 6th, Rosario Resort, Orcas Island
- MRC regular meeting, November 17th, 8:30-10:30am, Islander Bank Annex, Friday Harbor  
**[November 3rd meeting is canceled.]**
- MRC Annual Retreat, December 15th, Friday Harbor Labs

\* \* \* \* \*

Tour of Shoal Bay Restoration Project, 10am to noon

The regular MRC business meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 12:30 pm.

Kit Rawson provided a brief history of the Marine Resources Committee. The San Juan County MRC, was formed in 1996 by the County Council, as an alternative to a federal marine sanctuary, with regulatory oversight by the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). The 15 members of the MRC (appointed by the Council and mostly volunteers) advise the Council on marine issues; the San Juan County model has been replicated in six other Washington counties. Kit noted that tribal members, as co-managers of the resource, are encouraged to serve on MRCs. Mary Knackstedt said that MRC projects, beyond advisory work on marine issues, include sponsoring scientific and research work; serving as the citizens advisory group for the salmon recovery program; and, providing outreach and education. MRC funding has come from federal grants through the WA Department of Ecology (DOE) and NWSC. Mary added that the MRC is recognized as a successful, decision-making, local, up-from-grassroots level (not top-down), program.

**Citizen comments:** Tom Cowan said that the NWSC Derelict Gear Removal Program has received \$4.8 million to complete the derelict fishing nets recovery work started in 2002; the program is ahead of schedule and should be wrapped up by December. 3600 remnants of nets have been removed, covering 800 acres of habitat...a 75-80% removal rate. Tom said there are 700 to 800 net remnants still out there (with average size equivalent to three times the size of an average house); funding is being sought to continue the recovery work. Shallow nets are found down to 100'; deepwater net recovery is funded primarily with an interest in rockfish population survival.

Holly Lovejoy, a local commercial fisherman, said that she has been involved with the grassroots monitoring effort here that has provided three years of good scientific data. She encouraged the MRC to advocate for continued funding for citizen-based monitoring.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 10/6/10 meeting were approved.

**MRC meetings Fall and Winter Schedule:** Mary distributed copies of a draft overview schedule. She emphasized that the regular MRC meeting on November 3rd will be canceled since the NWSC/MRC Conference is scheduled for November 5th and 6th. The executive subcommittee will meet during the Conference to discuss the MRC Annual Retreat agenda. At the November 17th MRC meeting, Jeff Dismukes will do a presentation on the second phase of the NOAA vessel traffic study; on December 1st Colin Maycock will discuss the County's work on the Shoreline Master Program update; and planning for the 2011-13 grant cycle will be a topic at the MRC Annual Retreat on December 15th.

**Proposal to re-start the SJC Derelict Vessel Recovery Program:** Barbara Marrett said that the Program was abandoned in 2008; at that time funding, including some in-kind, came from the County, the Port of Friday Harbor, and the Town of Friday Harbor with 90% reimbursement by the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In a recent brainstorming meeting with County Auditor Milene Henley, local vessel salvager Terry Whalen, and The Whale Museum Board of Director's president Val Veirs, Milene said that if \$5,000 could be raised annually, with a two-year commitment, then the program could start up again. Barbara said that the Power Squadron has agreed to donate \$1,000 and Islands Marine Center on Lopez, Jensen's Shipyard, and the Port of Friday Harbor are also pledging to make donations. She requested that the MRC partner with the Squadron to raise the

balance of the \$5,000, to help with writing the Request for Proposals for a contractor to administer the program, to commit to report to donors, and to donate \$1,000. Donations would be tax-deductible and would be managed through the Power Squadron. The Program would start up in July of 2011. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Barbara Marrett moved, and Tina Whitman seconded, that the MRC partner with the Power Squadron to encourage San Juan County to re-up the Derelict Vessel Recovery Program and that the MRC commit to raise the \$5,000 per year for two years, prepare the RFP, report to funders, and contribute \$1,000 per year from its grant program. The motion passed unanimously.

**MRC Membership:** Mary said that the two MRC member vacancies are now posted on the web and that Barbara Bentley and Greg Dietzman have expressed interest.

**SJC Stewardship Network update:** Barbara Marrett reported that the Network will meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm at the Islanders Bank Annex. The November 17th meeting will discuss Puget Sound Partnership regional solutions programs, including local EcoNet outreach strategies.

Jeff Hanson said, by way of background, that the Network held its first Stewardship Fair in 2008 with displays and booths by island environmental groups and green businesses; good steward awards were also featured. This year's Fair will be held on May 14th on Lopez Island in combination with the first Farmers Market of 2011; there will be a Marine Health Observatory component as well. Jeff said he is soliciting helpers to sign up now.

The regular MRC meeting ended at 1:00pm.

## ECOSYSTEM MONITORING PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE

Shann Weston announced that recruitment for the 2011 WSU Beachwatchers' class is underway. Susan Key introduced today's monitoring presenters, noting that a roundtable discussion would follow.

Dan Silkiss of Lopez Island said that he has been involved in the Hummel Lake and Swift Bay early watershed planning projects. The outfall at the Richardson fuel dock has also been studied for salmon spawn potential. Dan said that Kwiaht's technology is cutting edge in researching juvenile salmon occurrence in the San Juans. He added that he would appreciate more transparency from other monitoring groups in sharing results; there has been very little such feedback so far.

**Presentation on "Sea Doc Society REEF Program monitoring:"** Joe Gaydos of Sea Doc Society spoke on the local citizen monitoring program for fish and invertebrates. He explained that the program is run under the local chapter of the Reef Environment and Education Foundation (REEF), a national non-profit organization that enlists, educates, and enables volunteer SCUBA and snorkel divers through annual free classes to be good ocean stewards and citizen scientists. The goal is to interface citizen science with public outreach. Species count data and photographs collected during "roving dives" are used to build the database available at <http://www.REEF.org>. Joe said that this high quality data is collected by divers ranked by skill and experience into four levels.

There have been 150 dive sites (750 dive hours) in San Juan County, including all of the Bottomfish Recovery Zones. Data was used in published peer-reviewed papers and has been used by the National Marine Sanctuary program and other groups to track fish and some invertebrates. One value, especially to an ongoing monitoring program, is the recording of trends over time.

"Advanced assessment" dives can identify priority dive areas, Joe said, and the Advanced Assessment Team could come to the San Juans to review webpage results and convey this information to the public and resource managers. Joe added that this is great QAQC for citizen scientists. The Team would require \$5-8,000 per year for boat charters and data analysis (~100 dives annually, 10 divers doing 2 dives per day for five days).

Ken Sebens said that the only comparable local data is from the 10 years of work in the subtidal zone (Big Picture) and he encouraged having the Advanced Assessment Team work here to help track changes. Kit asked about the cost of data input and whether there is software available to help get information back to volunteers. David noted that there has been ongoing data collection by COAST.

**Presentation on "Monitoring phytoplankton and local toxic algal blooms:"** Robin Kodner ([rkodner@u.washington.edu](mailto:rkodner@u.washington.edu)) said that she has completed her PhD work in toxic algal blooms and phytoplankton dynamics at the UW School of Oceanography. Her phytoplankton research includes general community surveys over space and time to provide a baseline (the last of which was done in 1925). Plankton is the basis of the food chain, important in both global and local carbon cycles, and as an indicator of water quality. She noted that plankton are very different from plants and very different from each other. Robin said there is not much known about phytoplankton here; FHL students use molecular ecology to study community structure and dynamics (a great educational tool).

Robin's work also involves monitoring for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) to determine what

conditions foster them; sampling protocol uses abundance data, DNA/RNA sequencing, and nutrient and toxin analysis. Robin said that sampling has been ongoing off the Friday Harbor dock on a weekly basis for two years now. New results indicate that every site is unique; that adjacent sites share related populations; and that cell abundance is most closely correlated to the tides. She is looking for genetic triggers for algal toxins. Robin said there is an opportunity for expansion of surveys through various organizations taking samples (e.g. Soundwatch). Big changes can occur over small amounts of time.

Robin recommended using the SQLshare Relational Database service developed by the eScience Institute to allow researchers to upload their data in table format and then run relational database queries on it ([www.sqlshare.com](http://www.sqlshare.com)). She said this is an easier way to store and share your data and to get answers to research questions right now; specialized queries for monitoring purposes can be created (e.g. bird sightings and toxin concentration on fish counts).

David said that Waldron Island volunteers are doing a zooplankton study; he asked if anyone on Lopez Island is interested in working with them. Robin offered that she is available for training, including how to use computer resources.

Presentation: “Monitoring by commercial fishermen” Jack Giard said that the smoking gun in the commercial salmon fishery has been the last three year cycle on the Fraser River. He noted that the Pacific Salmon Commission ([www.psc.org](http://www.psc.org)) has been using reef net boats for 50 years to monitor the numbers of pinks and sockeye coming through the San Juans and Lummi Island. He said that the Fraser River is the biggest salmon-producing river resource in the world! There has been a slow decline in sockeye over the last 20 years and millions of dollars have been spent over the last few years to analyze data from Haro Strait (west side of San Juan Island), the southern end of Salmon Banks on Lopez Island, and Rosario Strait (between the San Juan Islands and Lummi Island) to determine why they were not coming back. This concern was reported by managers and biologists on the Commission’s Fraser River Panel.

Jack said that the largest recent El Nino (warm water) event in 2005-06 witnessed the dying off of herring and the yellowing of eelgrass; there were several El Ninos here in the 1990s. Commercial fishermen have noticed gold/brown “sewage” on nets and on smolt, particularly in Georgia Strait, in conjunction with El Nino events (from fish pens?). The Cohen Commission in British Columbia said that there had been virtually no commercial fishing (spawning yes, fish no).

10.4 million sockeye had been projected this year. The question is why this biggest sockeye run in 97 years on the Fraser occurred? Transmitters on smolts indicate that there has been the highest percentage of fish coming back since 1950 and 1954. The perfect storm in last year’s fishery occurred because of the great smolt count and good food supply, resulting in the biggest catches on the west side of San Juan Island.

With regard to algae, Jack said that blooms seen in the daytime on the surface would end up 50-60’ be

low the surface by evening; when the algae die off, anoxic conditions are created. This is a major player when fish are going out of the River. In colder conditions, there is less algal bloom. Do agriculture and sewage outfalls contribute to blooms, Jack asked?

Jack said that monitoring by commercial fishermen occurs from mid-July to mid-August, six days a week, with one goal being genetic identification; he noted that this information provides a great resource. The San Juans, Jack said, are key to the success of salmon populations here (migrating in both directions); therefore, the Islands need to stay as pristine as possible. A 30-35 million run of pinks coming back, an all-time record, is expected next year.

Monitoring Roundtable session: Kit reiterated that there is a need for more transparency of data sharing between groups (tribes, County, FHL, Kwiaht, etc.). Tina Whitman asked if the MRC could help facilitate getting reports out as an outreach and volunteer informational tool. Robin offered to sit down with those who want specific setup information for the SQL software in order to shape a data repository. Mary said that other MRCs are also interested in this concept and she hopes to facilitate a special regional meeting this winter.

Kit asked how to fund monitoring efforts over the long run to keep the momentum going; how can we get the biggest bang for the money? How can local people be inspired to stay involved overtime? Barbara Rosenkotter said that monitoring efforts, especially in nearshore restoration work, are critical. Tina Whitman added that volunteer coordination is also needed, as well as consistency in notation. Laurie Glen of Waldron Island said that seeing results is inspiration to keep going; she asked how to make the database available for locals in a useful form. It is very important for volunteers to know if organizations are working effectively together, sharing resources creatively, and working on the same goals. It was suggested that, similar to the recent realtors training on land use, all constituents of the community (e.g. the local construction industry, etc.) should be invited to participate in this data sharing effort. There will be a Salmon Nation (Kwiaht et al.) meeting on Lopez on January 15th.

Karrie Cooper said that reports could be shared through Stewardship Network meetings; she added that the Network is made up of a broad range of local environmental organizations interested in land and marine issues and seeks ongoing recruitment of new members. Meetings occur on various islands.

Shann asked if it is important for volunteers to get in on the ground floor of projects. She also wondered how to best utilize different types of volunteers.

The meeting closed at 3:30 pm.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** David Loyd, Barbara Marrett

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Ed Bailey	Craig Green
Barbara Bentley	Mike Kaill
Sandy Buckley	Susan Key
Karrie Cooper	Kari Koski
Debbi Giles	Laura Jo Severson
Sharon Grace	Shann Weston

**Presentations:**

**“Quantification of Summer Season Marine Vessel Traffic Pressures in the San Juan Islands” by Jeff Dismukes**

**“Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Outreach Plan” by David Ward**

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- MRC Annual Retreat, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am to 4:30pm; dinner 5:00pm; holiday party 6-10pm, UW Friday Harbor Labs

\* \* \* \* \*

Chair Steve Revella opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 10/20/10 meeting were approved as read.

**“Quantification of Summer Season Marine Vessel Traffic Pressures in the San Juan Islands”**

Jeff Dismukes said that the aerial survey done between June 12<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries was a follow-up to the 2006 survey. Objectives of this survey were to provide information to County managers regarding vessel usage patterns; to propose new regulations (e.g. seasonal no-go zone off the

west coast of San Juan Island and adjacent areas to support development of a final regulation and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis; and, to evaluate ground-based monitoring.

Fly-overs were done over 19 days, with randomized survey dates slightly skewed towards weekends and holidays, two 3-hour flights per day at 12-1600' altitude (lower and slower than in 2006), and by sections to avoid double counting. Records were kept of vessel "type" (power, sail, paddle, kayak, tour, commercial container and interisland cargo, recreational and reef net fishing, crab fishing); "status" (underway or moored); and, "activity" (sport fishing, etc.).

John Riley, Chief Flight Crew, explained that a 50-square meter grid was used for photo counts and GIS placement of four main harbors and other difficult to count areas to create panoramas, with zoom-in capability. Jeff said that raw counts of the statistical and data analyses shared similar data spread with the 2006 results but with greater maximum numbers (200/flights in 2006; 1600+ in 6 flights in 2010). Compared to 2006, there were significant increases in cargo and sail counts in 2010. A closer look at the proposed no-go zone (NGZ)...from north of False Bay to Mitchell Bay and up to ½ mile offshore...was done on the morning of August 24<sup>th</sup> this year, a particularly high usage day. Vessels counted within the proposed NGZ: kayaks, 61% of all counted; commercial fishing boats 12-16% of all counted (mostly moored or power-downed while transiting) and 40% of all on weekdays (not many of weekends); recreational fishing boats, 27% of all (weekdays). Whales were often seen in and out of areas with fishing boats. Eagle Point appears to be a popular fishing spot. Average total density was consistent with the 2006 pilot project, many areas at maximum concentration, suggesting that harbors and bays are reaching carrying capacity.

Jeff concluded that higher resolution and more accurate data collected at lower altitudes would be useful (but more costly); the 2010 results are consistent with 2006 results although the average total boat count increased by at least 7%; the primary users of the proposed NGZ are kayakers (whale watch tour boats were rarely seen in the NGZ). Whales were seen during 9 out of 12 flights, 39% of the time without tour boats (e.g. in very early season and not on the west side of San Juan Island). Jeff said there are other opportunities to view whales other than in the NGZ. It is not possible, he added, to accurately predict or monitor zonal or the full extent of vessel traffic with randomized ground observations. He recommended that comparable studies be carried out at least every three years.

Kari Koski said that Soundwatch data (10 hours/day studies) shows that the highest concentration of whales was located in the NGZ. Whale concentration is decreasing here, she added, and pods are more spread out and in different areas. She requested that reports from land-based sightings (e.g. by tourists) of orcas be sent to her. Results are often event-based and there is much variability. Kari will do a presentation for the MRC in the near future.

### **“Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Outreach Plan”**

David Ward said that he will give a preview of his presentation for the Stewardship San Juans meeting to be held later today. He explained that he is the regional stewardship program manager for PSP which is taking a unique communications approach to estuary restoration efforts. David talked about PSP's 4-5 year strategy (with EPA funding) to coordinate messaging with various community organizations that may have different objectives and different methodologies and to help integrate implementation of the Action Agenda. On-the-ground recovery actions are needed to shift the social paradigm; “awareness” alone does not change behavior or solve problems, David said. The target audience is the 4.3 million people who live, work, or visit in Puget Sound...many of whom do not typically think about the health of eelgrass, kelp, or salmon populations, kayak/orca interactions,

stormwater impacts, water quality, etc. There is a general misperception that Puget Sound is healthy, perpetuated by media showing pristine views.

David gave an example of the need for infrastructure, including sustainable funding, to change behavior. A free program offered to generators of yard waste allowed them to drop off the material in a designated area of a gravel pit to discourage burning. The material was removed once a month to a composting facility. When the funding ran out after two years, the burning behavior returned. Shann Weston said that the WSU Extension system created 4-H and other programs in the post-Dust Bowl period as a way to change behavior.

**San Juan Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Implementation Committee (IC) update:** Steve reported that he and Jonathan attended the inaugural meeting of the San Juan LIO IC as MRC representatives. Rene Beliveau, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens and Barbara Rosenkotter were also there as representatives of other groups; John Aschoff was in attendance as an MRC alternate. Barbara Rosenkotter has been appointed Chair of the IC and has a lengthy to-do list, including providing a proposal on how to prioritize ongoing work and whether to recommend a change in IC representation.

**Spring Street Raingarden Proposal update:** Johannes Krieger said that Boundary Waters and 2020 Engineering have been selected to provide engineering and design of the raingardens; a contract is being prepared and construction could be underway in six to eight weeks. Mary said that the Department of Ecology requires a plan for pre-and post-construction monitoring.

**Basin Planning Prioritization:** Mary said that Ed Hale, SJC Utilities Manager in Public Works, asked the MRC back in September to provide some input into Public Works' and the Citizens Stormwater Advisory Committee's (CSWAC) work to prioritize basin planning. At CSWAC's November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Barbara Rosenkotter, Susan Key and Mary discussed how to provide that input as well as input on stormwater monitoring. Public Works is working on a three-pronged approach: capital projects, basin planning prioritization, and a stormwater monitoring plan.

The definition of a "basin" is based on receiving waters. Greg Sutherland of Public Works has developed a GIS-layered and LIDAR-based map of the 10-50 identified basins. Mary received an email from Patty Miller who is on the CSWAC stating that Public Works wants the MRC to begin participating in the prioritization process to help develop environmental criteria and the rationale for basin ranking. MRC and CSWAC members were asked to submit their top five from the list with their reasons for the selection by November 22<sup>nd</sup> and to participate in further discussion on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Kaill said that the CSWAC members were tasked with identifying their top three basin choices for the three major ferry-served islands; Public Works plan will be submitted to contractors and needs to define and observe consistencies.

Tina Whitman said that the MRC needs to assure that all monitoring data included in the process is accurate and up to date and that Public Works should be encouraged to coordinate its three prongs carefully to allow for more input. She added that more quantitative data is coming soon and newer mapping information should be acknowledged. Laura Arnold noted that one of the County Council's legislative priorities is to deal with SJC exceptions to the urban model for stormwater management. She added that the basins proposed for monitoring in the Public Works draft plan provide useful comparitors for stormwater in rural areas and what passes for urbanized areas in the islands. Laura, Jim Slocomb, and Kit Rawson will put together a response. Susan Key noted that there is a bigger link, beyond monitoring, between the MRC and CSWAC.

**MRC Annual Retreat:** Mary said the Retreat will be held at the UW Friday Harbor Labs on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The morning session will be from 9am to noon, followed by lunch, and an afternoon session from 1-4:30pm; dinner and holiday party will follow until 10pm. There was brief discussion on proposed agenda topics.

**MRC Website:** Mary said that the NWSC is offering more support for MRCs to update and overhaul their websites to be more consistent with theirs. Sasha Horst said she'd be willing to do a presentation and training.

**Oil Spill Task Force:** Mary distributed copies of an email from John Cambalik, PSP Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator, requesting MRC review of draft letters to Senator Maria Cantwell and Chairperson Kongsgaard. The drafts are from the Strait of Juan de Fuca Ecosystem Recovery Network (Strait ERN), the Local Integrating Organization in preparation for its full meeting on December 3rd; comments are due by December 17<sup>th</sup>. John will do a presentation to provide more information to the MRC in the near future. Michael Durland, Laura Jo Severson, and David Loyd (?) will help to keep the County Council updated on the issue since oil spill preparedness is one of their legislative priorities.

**MRC Strategic Plan:** Steve said that the draft needs good editing and will be an agenda topic at the Retreat. Laura and Kit will work on the mission and goals sections.

**NWSC:** Jonathan thanked the attendees of the recent Conference for the great SJC presence and excellent presentations; all agreed that it was a very good conference. He said that books with the "Sea Change" DVD are now available and are a great outreach tool.

Kit said that Jeff Davis of WDFW presented an overview of the HPA program to the Puget Sound Recovery Implementation Technical Team(RITT). One item of note was that Jeff clearly stated that provision of technical support for local GMA and SMA updates is a duty of the WDFW Habitat Division. Kit will forward the PowerPoint to Jim Slocomb for dissemination to interested MRC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 1, 2010, 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Annex Community Room  
225 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Mary Knackstedt, Barbara Rosenkotter, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Rachel Benbrook, People for Puget Sound

Karrie Cooper, SJC EcoNet Coordinator

Sally Hawkins

Colin Maycock, SJC Community Development & Planning (CDP), Senior Planner

Doug Myers, People for Puget Sound

Laura Jo Severson

Greg Sutherland, SJC Public Works, GIS Team

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC Annual Retreat, December 15th, 9:00 am – 4:30pm, UW Friday Harbor Labs (Commons)
- MRC Holiday Party, December 15th, 6:00-10:00pm, Friday Harbor Labs (Commons)
- MRC regular meeting, January 5, 2011, 8:30-10:30 am, Islanders Bank Annex, Friday Harbor
- Marine Managers Work Session, February 28th & March 1st, 011, UW Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30 am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 11/17/10 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White said the next NWSC meeting will be held on December 10th.

**Salmon Recovery Program update:** Barbara Rosenkotter noted that a replacement is needed for Bob Myhr's position on the Salmon Recovery Council; Bob also served on the Ecosystems Coordination Board. Barbara will bring this issue to the attention of next year's County Council Chair, Lovel Pratt.

**Outreach/EcoNet update:** Jeff Hanson reported on David Ward's presentation at the last Stewardship Network meeting on Puget Sound Partnership's overall strategy for the next few years; basically, PSP will focus on behavior change and awareness campaigns. David Loyd added that the concept of "social

capital” was discussed and Jeff said that “Olympia may not have much but we do.” The strategy is to demonstrate the right things to do and provide the means to do them, as much as possible. Jeff asked that members send him any input they might have for the state-level meeting next week.

**Budget discussion, Spring Street Raingardens Project:** Mary noted the WA Department of Ecology (DOE) requirement to monitor for effectiveness of the raingardens to filter street pollutants, adding that any such Low Impact Development (LID) project here has to contend with the issue of being built on bedrock. Installation is estimated to cost between \$36,000 to \$40,000 and will begin in spring of 2011. Mary said that Russel Barsh (of Kwiaht) submitted a draft scope of work (copies distributed), proposing to use the lab at Friday Harbor Labs and to work with Friday Harbor High School students in sampling and testing for the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), surfactants, zinc (from tires), and copper (from brake pads). The estimated cost will be about \$7,000, including professional time, lab facilities, and supplies. The proposal includes an educational component; monitoring would include measurement of microbes at the time of installation and then of root mass (microbe habitat) later.

Most of the funding for this would come from the DOE grant (to be spent by June 30, 2011) with some future MRC funds (~\$2800) obligated for one year of pre- and post-construction monitoring. MRC members agreed that the proposal from Kwiaht was a good deal and that the project, located in high visibility (albeit challenging) sites, would serve as a great pilot for bigger future raingardens here and would treat stormwater runoff better than what is available now. Johannes Krieger said the pros outweigh potential problems; he emphasized that the construction contract needs to include completion of the construction. All agreed that a long-term commitment from the MRC is needed and that it would be important to communicate results to the Town and public. Mary proposed that the raingarden at Friday Harbor High School and the newly-constructed LID site in Eastsound could also be added to the monitoring effort and that monitoring could be extended beyond one year if funding is available (through e.g. NWSC?). The Action Team has reported on results from other similar projects (in Bellingham, for instance). Jonathan and David will check on other case studies.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Jonathan White seconded, that Mary move ahead with the draft proposal from Russel Barsh. The motion passed unanimously.

**Strategic Plan 2011-2016 draft update:** Steve said that review of the draft (copies distributed) would be a short item at the upcoming Retreat and asked that members come prepared with their comments.

**MRC Retreat format:** Mary presented copies of the format which include a survey for members and others that could help inform the MRC of ideas on future direction, projects, roles, etc. Mary asked members to think about the role and scope of coordination in light of funded and staffed work to be done by the Implementation Committee and the Stewardship Network. She also asked for input on the MRC’s future involvement in regional projects. It was agreed that the Retreat dinner would be potluck.

**Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update:** Colin Maycock said that the SMP is a set of zoning regulations for shoreline development, with shoreline defined as 200' landward of ordinary high water mark. He summarized the process for updating the SMP, noting that Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58, was passed by the Legislature in 1971 and re-affirmed by public

referendum in 1972. Its goal is “to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines;” the SMA's broad policy gives preference to uses that protect the quality of water and the natural environment, that are “water-dependent,” and that preserve and enhance public access or increase recreational opportunities for the public along shorelines.

Colin said that the SMA directs local governments to develop their own SMPs and that joint planning by state and local jurisdictions is required. The SMA also empowers the state Department of Ecology (DOE) to review and approve local SMPs. San Juan County's SMP has not had a thorough overhaul since 1994, Colin said; the state has mandated that the update be completed by 2013 (CDP hopes to complete it by the end of 2012). The key concept of the SMP, Colin said, is to promote no net loss of ecological functions and values necessary to sustain shoreline natural processes; both micro- and macro-mitigations are provided for. The starting point for the update is a description of today's (2010) conditions as a baseline; the process will include an inventory, analysis, goals, and re-analysis.

Colin summarized DOE's six-phased approach (with most of the work to be done by contractor, The Watershed Company) as follows:

- delineate the jurisdictions of shoreline;
- inventory and analyze;
- develop goals;
- analyze cumulative impacts;
- tweak regulations to offset potential impacts;
- submit draft plan to local adoption process and to DOE.

There was discussion by MRC members. Colin said that the 2009 LIDAR and 2010 aerial data will be used in developing a baseline. Barbara Rosenkotter noted that much of the relevant data has been created by the MRC and salmon recovery and Laura Arnold added that the MRC role will be in the characterization of shorelines based on the inventory and in the cumulative impact analysis.

Colin said that DOE and consultants' contracts are now under review by the county risk management and Prosecuting Attorney's offices. The planning process is expected to cost \$800,000 but only \$180,000 has actually been assigned at this point. The Norton Arnold Group (that conducted the Marine Stewardship Area plan public participation process) has been selected to develop a public participation plan that will be submitted to the County Council in January. Stakeholder meetings are being set up now and FAQs will be developed for the county website. Summit meetings for Lopez, Orcas, and San Juan Islands are set for March to help explain what the SMP is and to garner public comment about data gaps, goals, and policies; there may be a second round of summits in the summer, depending on Critical Areas Ordinance update progress. Colin said that the CAO update process is separate now from the SMPs but could be done concurrently, the advantage being that when the final set of Best Available Science is adopted for CAO these scientific findings could be used for the SMP, thereby strategically derailing unproductive contention.

Barbara Marrett asked if there is a mechanism for enforcement of SMP regulations and, if not, why spend time and money on an update. She added that there are now no repercussions for “doing the wrong thing,” hence the need for implementing the San Juan Initiative recommendations. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the MRC needs a jurisdictional primer to know how the enforcement pieces fit

together. Kit Rawson said that there should be linkages to Salmon Recovery Plan implementation and that DOE has been looking at ways this can be accomplished in SMPs. Barbara Rosenkotter announced that there will be a workshop with the Salmon Technical Advisory Group in January regarding results of the Fish Utilization (aka "Big Picture") project. These results will also be presented at a workshop in February. Jim Slocomb asked about the interplay with Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) biological opinion and Colin said that there are no federal regulations yet (e.g. for floodplains, sea level rising, other climate change). Barbara Rosenkotter noted that FEMA as agreed to update flood maps for San Juan County and has provided a draft ordinance. Greg Sutherland said that FEMA is flying lots of LIDAR now but that SJC with its low population has low priority; it could be between 2013 and 2015 for a map to be produced.

**MRC vacancies:** There are now five applications for two vacancies. Steve explained that the County Council has asked for MRC input and will make its decision on Thursday. There was discussion about past MRC input when the MRC was part of the interview process. The Executive and Membership subcommittees were empowered to inform the Council that, for the future, the MRC could make a more informed recommendation if they could first attend the interviews. It was agreed that it would be excellent if the vacancy left by Richard Strathmann could be filled with someone with his science and policy skills.

**Derelict Vessel Removal Program update:** Barbara Marrett reported that the County Council-approved 2011 budget includes \$5,000 for the Program (with the MRC contributing \$1,000 of that per year for two years). Barbara said the approval would not have happened without the help of Mark Forlenza of the Power Squadron and the many donors who added their financial support; this is an example, she said, of the value of members knowing the community and working with islanders who know how to make things happen (a great partnership between the MRC and the community!). Funding for the Program will be an ongoing struggle. Barbara added that, although 90% of the funding comes from dedicated state sources, they could be swept away in light of the state's budget crisis. The State's Derelict Vessel Program money will be added to in July and the SJC Program will likely not be very active before that. It was suggested that good press is needed for each vessel haulout to keep the issue in the public eye, linking the effort to local jobs. Mary said she heard that SJC Administrator Pete Rose may manage the Program. She sent a draft RFQ to Pete, along with a white paper. The MRC is tasked with writing an annual report for the Council and the public on the Program's progress (with photographs).

John Aschoff pointed out that both the Derelict Vessel Removal program and the Spring Street raingardens project are community-initiated ideas that the MRC helped to actualize.

**Citizen comments:** Karrie Cooper said that the San Juan Initiative had money to add content to the county website for shoreline property owners; "Living Along the Shoreline" has a Q&A section on related current county policies. Karrie is hoping that the MRC will help to keep this information current (e.g. with preliminary information on the SMP process and material of interest to realtors). She said that Stan Matthews, SJC Communications Manager, needs content to do the update. Mary noted that there will be an MRC web design upgrade in 2011, with NWSC help.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Submitted by Helen Venada