

RESOLUTION NO. 23-1999

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING THE SAN JUAN COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the marine waters of San Juan County represent an unparalleled resource of enormous environmental and economic value to the people of the region now and for future generations; and

WHEREAS, despite the considerable research and regulatory efforts, previous efforts have failed to protect natural habitats and fish and wildlife populations adequately within these waters; and

WHEREAS, species of fish, shellfish, seabirds, mammals, and marine invertebrates have undergone substantial declines in regional population abundance in recent years, in part, because the inventory of nearshore habitats has reached critically low levels, and existing restorative measures are clearly inadequate to replace lost habitats; and

WHEREAS, it is the scientific consensus that efforts should focus on habitat preservation, on assessment and conservation of stocks of fish, invertebrates, birds and marine mammals, on reducing waste disposal and contaminated runoff, and on developing compatible environmental regulations on both sides of the international boundary with Canada; and

WHEREAS, the human population of northern Puget Sound and the Georgia Basin is projected to increase significantly in the next twenty years, and will place increased pressure on our ability to sustain the quality and productivity of the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to actively promote local protection and restoration of the county's marine resources by supporting research, education about these waters, and regulation of activities on and in these waters; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners had established a Marine Resources Committee for a limited term by its Resolution No.35-1996 and extended the term to July 1, 1999, by Resolution No.3-1997; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission was established on October 1, 1998, to provide an ecosystem focus on the marine resources of the Northwest Straits, help mobilize science to focus on key priorities, and to guide and provide resources to county Marine Resources Committees; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission has determined that county-based Marine Resources Committees can provide the foundation of scientifically sound, locally supported marine conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, active county participation in a northern Puget Sound program is the best available tool to ensure counties in the Northwest Straits area are constructively engaged in effective marine conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission and/or participating entities may provide

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MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE - Page 2 of 2

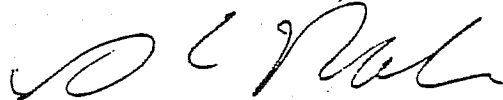
financial assistance and technical expertise to participating local governments to use for planning, revision of city and county ordinances if necessary, and scientific study; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to continue the activities of the Marine Resources Committee on behalf of San Juan County as well as to participate in membership on the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission;

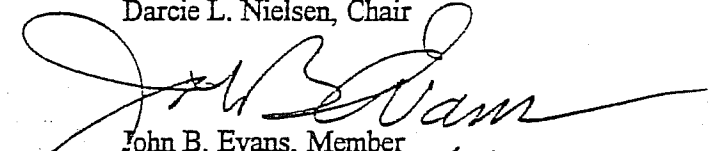
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby reauthorize the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee and endorses its participation on the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission, and does hereby charge the Committee as described in Exhibit A.

DONE THIS 10th day of March, 1999.

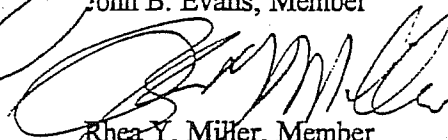
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Darcie L. Nielsen, Chair



John B. Evans, Member



Rhea Y. Miller, Member

Attest: Si A. Stephens, Auditor and
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board

by: 

Lillian Hamel, Deputy

Exhibit A to Resolution No. - 1999

Purpose

To achieve the protection and restoration of the marine resources of San Juan County and to do so in furtherance of the benchmarks for performance as identified in the August 20, 1998, report to the convenors by the Murray-Metcalf Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission.

Powers and duties

The Marine Resource Committee (MRC) shall:

1. Advise the Board of County Commissioners about research, educational and regulatory measures necessary to protect and restore the marine resources of the county.
2. Promote specific projects necessary to achieve the protection and restoration of the marine resources of the County.
3. Advise the BOCC about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote consistent cross-border conservation, protection and restoration of marine habitats and resources.
4. Help assess marine resources problems and the need for preventive or corrective measures in concert with governmental, non-governmental, tribal, recreational and commercial interests.
5. Help identify implications, needs, and strategies associated with the recovery of Puget Sound salmon and other marine species and habitats in and around the County; and do so in concert with the above-mentioned entities.
6. Work with the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program and other entities to enhance and make public the scientific baseline and monitoring program for the marine environment /ecosystem of the County.
7. Annually identify current actions and the need for additional measures and seek funding sources appropriate to accomplish tasks identified by the Committee that exceed the County's own ability to fund adequately.
8. Work closely with the Board of County Commissioners and the county planning function to establish and implement local marine conservation, protection and restoration initiatives.
9. Coordinate with the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.
10. Reach out to the public and other key constituencies on the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources and how marine protected areas (MPAs) can play an important role in habitat protection.

Reporting

The MRC shall report to the BOCC on the status of all projects, external funding and the projected funding needs for the following year, by August 1 of the current year. Such report, together with funding needs that are not supplied by the County, shall be forwarded to the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission not later than February 1 of the following year.

Membership

There shall be no more than twelve and no fewer than nine members of the MRC to establish a quorum of voting members for any action by the MRC, which quorum for voting purposes shall be a simple majority of the membership.

In addition to the San Juan County Planning Director (or equivalent) the MRC should include representation by the following sectors of the local community to the extent possible:

- Commercial fishers
- Recreational fishing, kayaking, whale-watching or wildlife-observing tour operators
- Marine science practitioners, educators or researchers
- The Town of Friday Harbor
- Port officials from San Juan, Lopez, and/or Orcas Islands
- The public at large

The MRC chair shall be selected by a majority of the MRC membership. MRC members shall also select a representative to the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission by a majority vote.

Terms

Other than the Planning Director, members shall serve staggered four year terms.