



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

Monday, April 2, 2018
8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Call in number: 360.370.7400 x0592

Friday Harbor Firehouse
60 Second Street - Friday Harbor, WA

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene Meeting <i>Terry Turner, Chair</i>
8:30 AM	Citizen Input
8:35 AM	Approval of Minutes <i>All</i>
8:40 AM	Salmon Recovery Updates <i>Suzanne Stoike, Puget Sound Partnership</i> Nuts and Bolts of Salmon Recovery
9:10 AM	MRC Operations Updates <i>Frances Robertson</i> MRC Website update –requirements from MRC members Marine Mammal Commission grant progress Reporting due
9:30 AM	Subcommittee Status Reports <i>All</i> Boat - Noise Impact - Frances Orcas Landing Project – Terry / Carl The Marine Stewardship Plan- Jaclyn Oil Spill Response update – Marta NWSC Update and Video – Ken Others??
10:15 AM	Questions/Citizen Input
10:30 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Event	Location	Time
4/4-4/6/2018	Salish Sea Conference	Seattle	
5/2/2018	MRC Monthly Meeting (Salmon Recovery Presentations)	FH Firehouse start location	All Day
5/3/2018	Salmon Recovery field trips	TBD	All Day
6/6/2018	MRC Monthly Meeting	TBD	9-11



Introductions

Frances Robertson, Elise Defour, Kendra Smith, Sandra Chalk, Terry Turner, Ken Carrasco, Marta Green, Megan Dethier, Christina Koons, Phil Green, Laura Jo Severson, Jeff Dyer, Jamie Stephens, Toby Cooper, Carl Davis, Suzanna Stoike, Lovel Pratt

Citizen Input

None.

Minutes

Approved – One abstention

Salmon Recovery Updates – Suzanna Stoike

Suzanna gave a presentation about the Puget Sound Partnership. She discussed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and findings from the late 1990s that saw many salmon populations added to the “endangered” or “threatened” list. The Partnership publishes *State of the Salmon* every two years. The latest information shows that two types of salmon are showing signs of recovery, but the other 26 are either not recovering or not recovering at the rate they should be to meet their recovery goals. Light snow pack and habitat loss (loss of forest cover, armoring of the shoreline, etc.) have a major impact of salmon populations. At the moment, most protection and restoration efforts are dependent on the cooperation of private land owners. The Partnership is a non-regulatory State agency whose goals related to salmon are to create a map to ecosystem recovery and to serve as the Chinook recovery organization for Puget Sound, one of seven salmon recovery regions in Washington State. Puget Sound has 15 recovery regions, known as “lead entities”. Suzanna wanted to give the group a better understanding of the role they played in the process of funding salmon recovery projects and where that funding came from. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), a combination of State and Federal funding, has a year-long grant cycle. This involves the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), a regionally prioritized list of habitat recovery. As part of the Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG), members of the MRC review proposed projects and rate them based on perceived socioeconomic value and viability. Other reviewing bodies are SRFB, the Lead Entity Coordinator (Byron), and the Technical Advisory Group. Suzanna recommended that everyone read their recovery chapter and review criteria in order to gain a better understanding of how to evaluate projects.

Christina wondered if the CAG should be focusing on funding salmon recovery projects specific to the San Juans, to which Suzanna and Phil answered that the Lead Entity for the San Juans – coordinated by Byron – served that purpose and that it was important to think on a larger scale, as all the ecosystems are connected and salmon are not only centralized in the San Juans. Terry asked about the recovery plan for the local steelhead salmon. Suzanna answered that it would have a similar footprint to the Chinook plan and that the plans will overlap, despite having some differences. She will update the group on the steelhead recovery plan. Carl wanted to know where the project ideas come from. Suzanna and Jamie answered that an RFP goes out. Potential sponsors reply with a letter of intent. If there is a gap, Byron solicits more projects. Sometimes, monies are shifted around between the different lead entities if a



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suitable project cannot be found. Toby wondered about the incentive for private land owners to participate in salmon recovery projects. Suzanna wasn't sure exactly what the incentives were, but she knew that there were certain monetary incentives for things like protection easements.

MRC Operations Updates – Frances Robertson

The MRC website needs a revamp. Frances asked that everyone send a new photo and a biographic blurb to post. She would like to get the word out about the MRC.

A grant proposal is being submitted on Monday, April 9th to the Marine Mammal Commission to get whale watch flags. This idea is based on the "See a Blow, Go Slow" campaign from North Vancouver Island. The MRC has received permission to use the same flag as that campaign, which features a more generic whale tail. Carl wondered how effective the BC effort had been. Frances replied that they did not have quantitative data, but that the program coordinator felt that it was changing the socially acceptable behavior around boating in a positive way. Carl suggested the use of streamers instead of a flag, as it would be easier to see and interpret from a distance. Laura Jo advocated summarizing the new Pacific Whale Watch Association guidelines in one document and making them available to marinas and boating clubs.

Kendra updated the group on reporting. She requested an update from Ken on the abalone project. She will make sure that there is an hours reporting sheet at the next meeting.

A discussion of what Marta did and what an LIO was followed.

Moved that Frances be a member of the LIO. Approved.

Subcommittee Status Report

Boat – Noise Impact – Frances

Frances spoke at greater length about the whale flag project. The flag produced by the Marine Education & Research Groups (MERS) and the North Island Marine Mammal Stewardship Association (NIMMSA) for East Coast of Vancouver Island would be the model. The project will work with other MRCs on Puget Sound, Be Whalewise, and NOAA. She stressed the importance of keeping the messaging consistent and simple, in order to get the message out to as many boaters as possible. Everyone at the subcommittee meeting approved the new flag design and NIMMSA said that it could be used as long as their logo was included. June is Orca awareness month, so the subcommittee would like to coordinate with that. The subcommittee discussed PWWA's new guidelines and the fact that their membership is increasing. It now includes members in Washington and BC. The subcommittee also discussed reaching out to Council to figure out what we need them to do in order to effect change with other governmental organizations and the State and Federal government.

Terry wondered if PWWA talked about permits. Kendra replied that they expected permitting to be introduced at any point. Frances added that PWWA was in favor of permitting when NOAA first suggested it. Terry suggested that a summarized version of PWWA's new guidelines be included in the dangerous rock place mat. Frances related that the subcommittee had talked about adding the Marine



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Stewardship Map, the Be Whalewise information, and the new flag to the place mat. Kendra and Frances agreed to bring a rough draft to the next MRC meeting.

Orcas Landing Project – Terry/Carl

Carl related that the subcommittee had come up with a rough draft of one sign. They are still waiting on Tribal input for the second sign. They'd like to have a third sign ready in case the input doesn't come in time. They expect to have a final draft by the next meeting to present to the group. Frances and Patti will be in touch.

A discussion ensued about an ADA ramp going in at Orcas Landing. Terry feared that the transformer would be compromised if a ramp was put in. Kendra related that the County had been going through the land use process for a few months and were hoping to get a bid out in the next few months, with a suggested completion date of August. Kendra had submitted an NTA to get funding for a better stormwater solution. The current funding is to remedy the wall and get an ADA ramp up onto the landing. That is the focus of the County funding right now. A pre- and post-project survey is a requirement for the current project. This should prove useful for addressing the stormwater issue.

The Marine Stewardship Plan – Jaclyn – skipped

Oil Spill Response Update – Marta

The Oil Spill Risk Consequences project was envisioned many years ago and then was submitted in the 2016 Action Agenda. It was to put numbers to the catastrophic loss that San Juan County would incur in the event of an oil spill. There is funding for this action at \$100,000. The project will be implemented this year. The contract is in process of being executed at the County level. A Quality Assurance Project Plan is still needed, but existing data will be used. After that, an RFP can be put out to garner bids for a specialty consultant to perform the study. Marta has spoken with two contractors that are interested in this work. The scope of work has been shared with the subcommittee and the Tribes have expressed interest in the project.

A discussion followed about the computer models that would be used and how the valuation process would be handled. Marta related the existing computer models would be used. These models show where spills would impact San Juan County's waters and shorelines. This study would focus on San Juan County and would aim to provide more justification for the need, as championed by the Department of Ecology, to get an Emergency Response Towing Vessel (ERTV) stationed nearby, possibly in Sidney. Marta has proposals in to get funding to extend the study to other counties. The current project is going to look at close to worst case scenario and then evaluate the inherent ecosystem value and the economic loss for the County's marine based economy: whale watching, property values, tourism, fishing, etc. Jamie mentioned that shellfish beds were a good example of an economic loss. Megan relayed that there was a valuation for every square meter of eel grass bed. Phil related that Vancouver did a study to determine what the loss of branding would be. Lovel recommended using a Cost Benefit and Least Burdensome Alternative analysis, which includes NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) and is a requirement of rulemakings, performed by the State, to determine how much the industries creating the risk should pay to prevent oil spills and to be prepared to respond in the event of



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an oil spill. The data used for the 2012 analysis was out of date. Laura Jo pointed out the State legislature did not approve the ERTV, but that there had in the recent past been four tugs in the area that could be commandeered for the job.

The conversation turned to the different types of oils, which now include “non-floating oils”. Lovel mentioned that the Canadian diluted bitumen crude oil that passes through the San Juans is Group 3 or 4, but is also a non-floating oil. It should initially float, but will likely submerge and sink. The Kinder-Morgan study assumed that the oil will continue to float throughout the duration of the spill scenario. Lovel related a discussion from the Northwest Area Committee meeting of the previous week where they had spoken about ways to remove sunken oil, including heating it and sucking it up with the help of divers and ROVs

NWSC Update and Video – Ken

Video held until next meeting.

Ken spoke about the last two Northwest Straights Commission (NWSC) meetings. A new Executive Director was chosen at the last meeting. The next NWSC meeting is April 27th in Friday Harbor at 10am. Ken would be willing to drive MRC members from Orcas to San Juan on his boat. Additionally, Ron, the leader of the Science Advisory Team, would like to come speak to the MRC in May about eel grass and its recovery. It was asked that he connect with Frances and possibly come in June. Ken provided an update on other MRCs.

Question/Citizen Input – None

Adjourn MRC Meeting – Meeting adjourned

CAG Meeting Convened

Mike Ramsey elected to the TAG – Approved

**MRC meeting morning of Wednesday, May 2nd. Field trips in the afternoon on Wednesday on SJI.
Thursday, May 3rd field trips on other islands. Don't forget to bring your water footgear.**

Meeting adjourned.