



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

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

8:30 AM-10:30 AM

Call in number: [1 \(360\) 370-0599](tel:13603700599)

Brickworks, 150 Nichols St

Friday Harbor, WA

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene Meeting <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven, Chair</i>
8:35 AM	Approval of Minutes <i>All</i>
8:40 AM	Introduction of new member Jeff Dyer: <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
8:45 AM	MRC Project updates for August 5 minutes per leader <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning and Promoting Marine Stewardship: Carl Davis 2. SRKW project: Frances Robertson 3. Reducing pollution of marine water: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Clean Up - Laura Jo Severson (Frances) MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! 4. Orcas landing experience: Carl Davis (Frances & Patti) 5. Restoration: Shellfish, reducing invasives - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Crab Update: Laura Jo Severson • Mussel survey – Carl Davis • Kelp survey: Karin Roemers-Kleven
9:15 AM	NWSC Update: Christina Koons
9:25 AM	MRC Operations update; Frances Robertson MRC Conference – Nov 16 – 17, 2018 MRC Grant opportunities – NFWF grant update MRC Website and Social Media pages
9:35 AM	History and purpose of the MRCs; Tom Cowan
10:05 AM	Citizen input
10:10 AM	Adjourn MRC meeting
10:10 AM	Convene CAG meeting
10:10 AM	Salmon recovery plan scope: (Suzanna Stoike) CAG vote on annual workplan
10:30 AM	Adjourn CAG meeting

Attached Documents:

- July 11 MRC meeting minutes
- July 2 Vessels Sub-Committee notes
- San Juan Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery SOW summary.
- NWSC June and July meeting minutes

SAN JUAN COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES Committee (MRC) and Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 1, 2018, 8:30 – 10:30am

Brickworks Events Center

150 Nichols Street, Friday Harbor, WA

Members Present: Karin Roemers- Kleven – Chair, Phil Green, Kendra Smith, Laura Jo Severson, Megan Dethier, Christina Koons – Vice-Chair, Carl Davis, Terry Turner, Kendra Smith

Members Absent: Patti Gobin, Ivan Reiff, Jeff Friedman, Byron Rot, Lovel Pratt, Jeff Dyer, Jamie Stephens

Staff: Frances Robertson – Marine Program Coordinator, Marta Green – Puget Sound Recovery Coordinator, Suzanna Stoike – Puget Sound Partnership,

Citizens in Attendance: Tom Cowan – guest speaker

****Denotes pre-meeting reading material sent to members with meeting agenda**

Convene MRC Meeting: Karin Roemers-Kleven, chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

Citizen Input: None.

****Approval of Minutes:** Marine Resources Committee Meeting from July 11, 2018. Motion to approve meeting minutes with corrections was made by Kendra; motion seconded by Phil. Minutes approved by seven members, abstained by two.

Introduction of new member Jeff Dyer: Karin reported that Jeff Dyer has been approved by the county council as the newest member of the San Juan County MRC. Jeff has worked as a captain on large vessels and as a renewable energy contractor, and has been a citizen of San Juan County for more than 30 years. He is very interested in the “Plastic Free Salish Sea” project and projects that focus on protection of the Southern Resident Killer Whale populations. Welcome Jeff!

MRC Project Updates:

Planning and Promoting Marine Stewardship: Carl reported that he would like the MRC to figure out who should take this project on. The MSA (Marine Stewardship Area) plan is over 10 years old and needs to be updated. There are no maps in the plan documents to communicate where sensitive areas are, and maps are the most relevant thing to integrate into land use. Frances noted that the update has been written into the grant cycle for next year (October 2018 – October 2019.) The MRC needs to take a look and see where things need to be edited. The MSA plan is on the MRC website. Marta also noted that the MSA plan and the Protection

and Recovery plan should complement each other and not overlap efforts, as the Protection and Recovery plan came from the MSA plan.

Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) Protection: Frances gave an update on MRC efforts. About 150 Whale Warning flags have been distributed now. About 80% of the US whale watching companies in the Salish Sea are flying the flags when they are near whales. One Canadian company is using the flag. Enforcement boats are also flying the flags. San Juan County Park is flying one, and some residents of the west side of San Juan Island are also flying them from land. There has been a lot of press because of the situation with J35 and her deceased calf, and there have been a lot of photos with enforcement boats, like Soundwatch, flying the flag. 5,000 Whale Wise inserts have been distributed in the last month. And there were 150 responses to the pre-season survey. The next survey will be in September. There will also be signs printed for display on docks. Karin feels that there needs to be more boater education about the issues facing the SRKW community. Outreach also needs to spread to neighboring counties and to the Seattle area. Tribes are still interested in being involved with efforts as well. Megan suggested that the MRC should contact Lynn Jacobson with the Seattle Times and get information about the Whale Warning flags to her, as a story about San Juan County's program could reach a lot of people. And it could bring attention to all species of whales in the Salish Sea, not just the orcas.

Reducing Pollution of Marine Water: Laura Jo reported that she has been working with other volunteer groups on this, and that she will have a meeting with the Soroptimists about this topic. The biggest problem volunteers are facing is what to do with marine debris after it is collected. Kendra noted that there are a couple of beach clean ups coming up: August 9th is the student beach cleanup with the Youth Conservation Corps., and they could use some help from MRC members. August 13th there is a beach cleanup on Orcas Island. Kendra will send out information about these cleanups to MRC members.

Orcas Landing Experience: Frances gave an update on the outreach project at Orcas Landing. She showed drafts of what the signs will look like and asked for feedback from MRC committee members. She also noted that she is waiting for feedback from Patti, who was unable to attend this meeting. Kendra suggested removing all the logos and adding them in a separate panel at the base of the sign. Phil suggested a key for the picture to identify species. Laura Jo suggested creating a postcard with the image and selling them as a fundraiser.

Green Crab Update: Laura Jo reported that there have been a couple of European green crabs caught in survey samples in Westcott Bay, and none yet at the beach at Cattle Point. She also noted that 80-90% of the crabs that have been collected are male. Frances asked Laura Jo to get photos of monitoring efforts so they can be put on the MRC website and in the annual report.

Mussel Survey: Carl reported that he is Ken Carrasco's assistant for this project, and the project will be starting soon.

Kelp Survey: Karin reported that she attended two Northwest Straits workshops on the kelp monitoring project. The south sound has lost an estimated 80% of its bull kelp. Around San Juan Island, kelp is disappearing as well. More studies are needed to determine the true extent of bull kelp loss in San Juan County. Phil added that he had been doing the kelp surveys for the past few years, and that these surveys are just a drop in the bucket. We need more studies on the health of the kelp, not where the kelp is or isn't. Better methods and appropriate

equipment are needed as well. Megan added that the state does aerial surveys of all the kelp beds, and the data are available on line. She reminded everyone that the aerial surveys do not tell the whole story of what is going on under the water, and that other, natural processes may be occurring and affecting surface kelp.

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Update: Christina reported on the NWSC. She attended meetings in June and July (by phone), and got an update on what projects other MRCs are involved with. There is a lot of good work being done around the sound that focuses on kelp monitoring, forage fish monitoring, Pidgeon Guillemot monitoring, water quality monitoring, shellfish monitoring, vegetation enhancement, eel grass monitoring, education and outreach, and volunteer engagement. There is also a film being put together by filmmaker Florian Graner that will be used to help educate children. This year's Salish Sea Stewards class had 26 graduates. That program has amassed 21,112 volunteer hours since 2012. Christina extended an invitation to committee members to join her for a field trip to see the Manchester Olympia Oyster facility on August 21st. There is also a celebration for Long Live the Kings on the Lundgren property on Orcas Island on August 25th from 11am – 3pm. The annual NWS conference will be at Fort Warden from November 15th – 17th. Frances will let MRC members know about travel costs and what may be covered.

History and the Purpose of MRCs: Tom Cowan, from the NWSC executive committee, talked to MRC members about how the NWSC and SJC MRC came to be. The creation of the NWS and MRCs came from a failed attempt to create a national marine sanctuary (NMS.) In 1982, Tom was elected to the county council. Back then, there was recognition of Puget Sound as an important natural resource, but there was also degradation of it. When a national marine sanctuary was proposed for Puget Sound, the proposal was met with strong resistance. None of the other 13 national marine sanctuaries that are overseen by NOAA had communities around them, and therefore did not have the same concerns. Citizens of Puget Sound were worried that the creation of a national marine sanctuary would lead to fishing and boating being banned. There was a lot of hysteria surrounding the proposal. In 1994 all seven counties that surround the Puget Sound formally opposed the creation of the NMS. Two county council members voted yes, and Tom was one of them. He wanted to see a draft plan before he officially opposed the plan. In 1996, the San Juan County Commissioners wanted to show people that the citizens of San Juan County can set up and protect the local environment. John Evans created the San Juan County MRC. The MRC was charged with advising the county council about marine issues, helping guide policy, and taking on projects to help protect the MSA. In 1997, Senator Patti Murry and Congressman Jack Metcalf appointed a blue ribbon committee to create models for ecosystem protection. It was a very diverse committee that had members with varying viewpoints. Tom was asked to monitor this committee. The group met weekly in Anacortes, and after one year agreed that a consensus building, bottom up process would work best. San Juan County stepped up and said the MRC is this model. Other MRCs and the NWSC were created. In October of 1998, the Northwest Straits Initiative was created and approved by congress because of the bipartisan efforts. Within one year, the other six MRCs were appointed and operational. The MRCs gave local communities the ability to prioritize local needs. In the initial congressional authorization, there was a built in national evaluation that would take place after five years. Bill Ruckelshaus decided after only four days of evaluation to expand the program. The San Juan County MRC then took on creating the MSA. It got off to a rocky start, as some tribes felt like the MSA trampled tribal rights. The MRC worked with the county council to create the MSA in 2004, and eventually the MSA Plan in 2007. In 2006 the NWS budget was cut in half. Now, Senators Patty Murry and Kevin Ranker

are working to get the budget doubled. And volunteers have been key to the NWS Initiative's success.

MRC Operations Update: Frances gave an update on the NFWF grant. The MRC got the grant. Funds will go towards analyzing the effectiveness of the SRKW warning flags. Projects for a 1 to 1 match include expanding the education and outreach efforts for the whale warning flags program. Soundwatch also needs support for education and outreach efforts. There is about \$140K in match. Kendra added that a land owner has agreed to allow a hydrophone to be placed off their property on Eagle Point. This will be funded by the ECHO (Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation) program, a Vancouver Fraser Port Authority-led initiative aimed at better understanding and managing the impact of shipping activities on at-risk whales. Some of these funds could go to management options for this project in the future. There may be another \$80K ask for next year as well. Kendra asked MRC members to consider allowing San Juan County to pursue funding for SRKW initiatives. Collectively, the group agreed. Frances also reported that there are new statistical techniques emerging that will produce more thoughtful ways of figuring out where no go zones for the SRKW should be, allowing for different management options for different stakeholders.

***Motion to adjourn MRC meeting:** Motion to adjourn the MRC meeting made by Megan, Seconded by Kendra. Motion approved unanimously.

MRC Meeting Adjourned at 10:29 am

Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group,

Watershed Regional Inventory Area (WRIA) #2 Meeting

Wednesday August 1, 2018

Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene Salmon Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting: Meeting called to order by Karin Roemers-Kleven, chair, at 10:30am.

Citizen input: None.

Salmon Recovery Plan Scope: Suzanna Stoike with the Puget Sound Partnership reviewed the salmon recovery plan scope. The scope of work is for the Salmon Recovery Lead Entity position, currently held by Byron Rot. The Salmon Recovery plan is like a three legged stool. It includes the lead entities, the citizen's advisory groups (CAG), and the coordinators. The plan is negotiated on a state cycle on a two year contract. San Juan County is working with about \$123K. Suzanna asked the CAG to consider the plan and decide if the plan represents what the CAG wants to see happen in the next two years. Discussion followed. Kendra commented that she feels that more of Byron's time should be spent on project management, not just getting the word out about policy. The review process for projects takes too long and needs to be streamlined. She would like to see more support for getting work done on the ground. Suzanna explained that Byron's position is as a process manager, not as a project manager. The details of his contract should be worked out between him, San Juan County, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO.) This plan has to be approved by the CAG and signed before projects can get funded.

*A motion to approve Byron Rot to submit the salmon recovery plan scope to GSRO was made by Megan, seconded by Phil. Motion approved unanimously.

***Adjourn Salmon Citizen's Advisory meeting and reconvene MRC meeting:** Motion to adjourn the Salmon Citizen's Advisory meeting was made by Kendra, seconded by Megan. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:48am.

