



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

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

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

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Meeting ID: 867 1052 3285
Passcode: 180378

Call in number:
+1 253 215 8782

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene Meeting <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i> Coast Salish Acknowledgement <i>Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal and treaty rights that has been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
8:35 AM	Citizen input
8:40 AM	Acceptance of September meeting minutes
8:45 AM	NW Straits Commission update – <i>Christina Koons</i>
8:55 AM	Project Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Great Islands Clean-up (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>)• SRKW – update on data collection efforts for the westside MSP project (<i>Frances Robertson</i>)
9:15 AM	A conversation with Mark Bunzel and the Waggoners Cruising Guide: What COVID-Boating in the San Juan Islands has taught us.
10:15 AM	Any Other Business/MRC Member news and comments
10:30 AM	Adjourn meeting
10:30 AM	Convene CAG meeting: <i>Christina Koons, Chair</i>
	Salmon Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WRIA 2 SRFB/PSAR Funding• Review of San Juan County Salmon Recovery Strategy Update
11:00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjourn CAG meeting

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

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

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

Public: Mark Bunzel, Amy Nesler, Dana Oster,

8:34 AM **Convene Meeting** *Christina Koons, Chair*

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

8:35 AM **Citizen input** *none*

Christina reads email from Judith Chovan: “consider protecting the SRKW population by asking whale watch operators to voluntarily and temporarily suspend viewing to protect whales.”
Megan: we’ve discussed this before, I feel good about regulations that are in place now
Ivan: a lot of energy spent on the licensing program this year, it’s disheartening to be held responsible when we’re on the water to educate public, alerting other boats (CG, recreational, etc.)
Lovel: there was no intent to demonize commercial operators, obviously we have a big problem with recreational boaters. The pledge to protect Southern Resident orcas is for members of the public and recreational boaters, in addition to commercial whale watch operators. I spoke at last DFW commission meeting to ask for more enforcement
Christina: thanks for comments, Karin and I will respond. It’s good someone reached out to the MRC

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

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

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

The commission met recently, good talk from science advisory. Participation from NOAA. Ron Thom led a group to collect data on noise related to SRKW and marine mammals (that was sent to MRC).
European green crab update: 203 crabs in Drayton Harbor. Team on Lummi Peninsula have caught more than 1000 green crab. We should discuss this and possible continued/increased monitoring.
Jeff D: I’ve been monitoring on south end of Lopez at Mud bay. Possible to have a site on Orcas?
Kailey: I’m on Westcott Bay team, we’ve found 2-3 adults in the past but none this year
Christina: next month Cecilia Gobin will report on hatcheries. Anyone can participate

8:56 AM **Project Updates**

- Great Islands Clean-up *Karin Roemers-Kleven*
Began Monday, week-long event, follow Covid guidelines. Sign up and waiver on Salish sea website

- SRKW update on data collection efforts for the westside MSP project *Frances Robertson*
October 2 at 2pm, opening of boater safety kiosk. County park manager Toby will be there

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karin: GIC this week, asking for pictures of items found, email to mrc@sanjuanco.org

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

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

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

Planning for two buoys for Westcott Bay by next season

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

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

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

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

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

Christina: I can participate on the 23rd

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

10:41 AM **Adjourn Meeting**

10:42 AM **Convene CAG meeting**

Christina Koons, Chair

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

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

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

10:53 AM **Adjourn CAG Meeting**