



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

Thursday, November 4, 2021  
8:30 AM-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)  
Meeting ID: 841 6455 5477 / Passcode: 050285  
Call in number: +1 253 215 8782 US

## Agenda

<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons</b> <b>Coast Salish Acknowledgement</b> <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 have been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
<b>8:40 AM</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> <b>Approve October MRC meeting minutes – Christina Koons</b>
<b>8:55 AM</b>	<b>NWSC meeting report to the MRC – Christina Koons</b>
<b>9:05 AM</b>	<b>MRC Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MRC Retreat planning</li><li>• Federal funding possibility – potential projects and utilization of funds (Action required)</li></ul>
<b>9:20 AM</b>	<b>MSA Plan – Overview of effort to update the plan to date – Frances Robertson</b>
<b>9:45 AM</b>	<b>Cargo vessel near miss incident – Lovel Pratt</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Projects and other news</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPIC session 4</li><li>• Plastic Free Salish Sea – new County Solid Waste Program Coordinator</li><li>• Derelict Vessel Prevention Surveys</li><li>• Public comment on Pinto Abalone Recovery Plan. (Action required)</li></ul>
<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Member news and any other business</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting – Christina Koons</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>CAG updates/business – Sam Whitridge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• San Juan chapter update review</li></ul>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Adjourn CAG meeting</b>

Attached: October MRC minutes

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Carl Davis, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Lovel Pratt, Ivan Reiff, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Kendra Smith

**Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public:** Angela Broderick, Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst, Kat Moore, Tony Parkin, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Sam Whitridge

8:34 AM **Convene Meeting, Coast Salish Acknowledgement** *Christina Koons*

*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 have been passed down from generation to generation.*

8:35 AM **Public Comment** *none*

8:36 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC** *Christina Koons*

External Relations Committee working on authorization with various congressional offices, Patty Murray. NWSI symposium on Climate Change, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Rachel Aronson presentation, director of "Quiet Sound", working on impacts of noise in PS, focus on large ships. <https://maritimeblue.org/quiet-sound/>

8:38 AM **Approve October MRC meeting minutes** *Christina Koons*

MOTION: Jeff moves to approve October meeting minutes, Phil seconds. All in favor, minutes approved.

8:39 AM **MRC housekeeping** *Frances Robertson*

- MRC Retreat Planning

Annual Retreat on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30am-2pm at Brickworks, in person. Focus on Marine Stewardship Plan – threats, management strategies and actions in strategic plan. We invited Julia Parrish and Tessa Francis to present.

- Discussion of what to review to prepare for retreat, Frankie will provide overview of MSA plan progress

- we can invite NWSC staff, like Lucas, and plan to invite Tina since she's been part of MSA update subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: now that we have a date and Brickworks is booked Frankie needs to send out invitations

8:48 AM **MSA Plan – Overview of effort to update the plan to date** *Frances Robertson*

Over 2020, hosted Marine Managers' Workshop in March to identify and draft the biodiversity targets. Received updates on status of key species and habitats. Identified knowledge gaps and threats. Developed two new chapters to the plans including Strategies/Strategic Actions. Survey following the workshop, supplemented with reports and peer-reviewed literature. Plan includes map of Critical Habitat & Protected Areas, plan to make public web map to toggle between different layers/areas. If you see something missing let Frankie know!

ACTION ITEM: everyone can add comments in the google doc

Kendra: truly critical habitat does not include public access like camping, human impact activities

Megan: that's a good point, one threat that kept coming out in our MSA plan was public access, trampling, etc.

Key goal of this chapter is to create map in which layers can be turned on and off. Chapter looking at relevant management efforts and plans (list of various plans), also transboundary efforts.

ACTION ITEM: if other efforts/resources would be useful additions, please add those in if you see them

Remaining effort to finish the plan is drafting the core threats to the MSA, management strategies/actions

Christina: Island County (Whidbey & Camano) published 'Getting to the Water's Edge', by Sound Water stewards. I'll purchase a copy for the County, bring to retreat, maybe SJC wants to publish a similar booklet to describe the MSA plan.

Sound Water Stewards, <https://soundwaterstewards.org/web/>.

Getting To The Water's Edge. <https://www.swsmarketplace.org>.

Phil: Ecology website showing shorelines with public access. But many errors like hours to Yellow Island access

ACTION ITEM: Phil will send Frankie the link to Ecology's map

State of the Salish Sea publication is reasonably priced, can also be downloaded for free, Sasha sent MRC a copy. Partnership released State of the Sound as well that might be a good resource - <https://stateofthesound.wa.gov/>

At retreat: finalize threats and discuss strategic actions and management needs, tangible actions. Then over next year – less presentations at MRC meetings/more discussions on this. Layout of work on MSA plan over next 6-8 months. Aim: full plan ready for peer review in June, compile reviews in July and present to council in August

9:11 AM Federal funding– potential projects and utilization of funds (Action required) *Frances Robertson*

Ideas to commission by November 10<sup>th</sup> with budget e.g., increased staff for MRC, focused monitoring of vessels in county (re-do aerial surveys done in 2010), could use AIS data and combine efforts, assessment of county buoys.

Next step is Ecological Value Assessment for Conflict Analysis– i.e., Identifying low/high risk areas, human impact

Kendra: it's about a reasonable level of marine infrastructure, clarity about where there shouldn't be anchoring.

Frankie: 2-year effort, year 1 is understanding of human use (vessels) and second year is GIS analysis

Megan: That'll require more than GIS, you'll need ecological assessment work, so hire an intern/grad student?

Kendra: we have existing GIS data plan to use, no resources to create new data. stack layers, put into a GIS model

Megan: we have many valuable habitats, I'm concerned thinking during these processes can get too narrow, some things may not be mapped at all, like rocky shores where there's high biodiversity. Maybe I should be involved

Frankie: the ecological value assessment is an outcome of one of the core strategies. We have funding within the MRC grant for staff time and for a GIS intern to bring layers in from County system into a web-map format. But for coverage of monitoring vessel presence and ecological value assessment we'd be looking at federal funds

Christina: opportunity for local fundraising, NWS Foundation or local donors, may be worth a needs assessment

Jeff: As far as monitoring vessel presence, if using federal dollars – breaking down to commercial and recreational. AIS is required on commercial ships of 300 Gross Tons, and whale watch boats required to have it as part of license.

Jeff also provided the following note via email: As a side comment, 300 gross ton vessels and larger are required by SOLAS agreement to have AIS when on an international voyage. However, USCG requirements for commercial vessels when navigating in US waters per 33CFR part 164.46 require AIS on:

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- Self propelled vessels 65' or more in length
- Any towing vessel 26' or more of 600hp
- Passenger vessels documented to carry 150 or more passengers.
- All commercial fishing vessels
- Passenger vessels carrying <150 passengers cruising at 14 kts or greater

Frankie: you can track these with apps as well but also an AIS receiver at Lime Kiln, there are ways to get at that data

9:36AM **Cargo vessel accident and fire**

*Lovel Pratt*

Lovel: sent an email October 26<sup>th</sup> with information [about](#) the Zim Kingston container ship that was just outside entrance to Strait of Juan de Fuca when storm and winds came up, Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> –lost over 100 containers before anchoring at Constance Bank, near Victoria BC. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> fire started aboard ship. Assumed fire started in containers with hazardous material that were damaged.

Fortuitous event: two ships with fire-fighting capabilities had just returned from collecting plastic in the Pacific, they helped contain the fire

There were reports that J-pod swam north past the ship on the 24<sup>th</sup>, there are oil spill contingency plans that include plans for monitoring the whales and hazing protocols to keep them away from an oil spill if necessary. Was there an effort to do that during the Zim Kingston event? Lovel asked Coast Guard, waiting for reply

Ivan: no professional operators were out that day because of the weather. May be hydrophone data

Frankie: Hazing would have been challenging from smaller vessels. These events happen in unfavorable conditions

Level: the two ships that were able to respond and supply firefighting resources could have provided noise deterrents

Tony: We dodged a big one. It would have been overwhelming for us if wind was in different direction.

Frankie: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/054f6746857242128298d53d220d76f0> - 'nurdles' travel along Sri Lanka

Level: discusses more details of storm in October, vessels 'invited' inside Strait of Juan de Fuca during storm. Need to be prepared, have ERTV, recognize benefit of multi-purpose ships with fire-fighting capabilities

Jeff: Question, Tony what could be put in place/who was informed/chain of command? incident response drills?

Kendra: Brendan Cowan will be moving up to Public Works. Tony's point about not hearing from Coast Guard, State.

Tony: we could have protected only minimal amount of shoreline, rugged coast on west side we couldn't protect

Level: could we ask Brendan to join us at next meeting to debrief and discuss lessons learned?

Carl: alarming new hazard when container ships are hanging out off WA coast in winter. Risk of containers going over, overloading – who regulates that? Would be great to have a coast guard person come talk about response.

Frankie: such a presentation could not happen until January.

Level: would be great to have that in addition to Brendan. Canada just announced investigation, a lot had to do with the weather

Tom Cowan: This should be elevated to the County Council demanding a briefing on the event.

Christina: when ship originally identified having problems it was in the National Marine Sanctuary so NOAA should be involved. Beyond County council, legislature should look at it. Is there a way to request report/study?

ACTION ITEM: Kendra commits to getting a debrief on council agenda. I'd love to see Tony and Brendan there, maybe Level can rep MRC and share presentation/photos. Early December or 29/30<sup>th</sup> are available for Council

Consensus: should be the earlier the better, while this event is fresh in memory, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Level: here's a link to a zoom video of press conference of the two ships that provided fire response: A Great day for the Oceans: System 002 Proof of Technology Press Conference | The Ocean Cleanup:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDGVNYOnunc>

Frankie: if we keep consuming, ships will be there. They're the biggest threat to whales, colliding during shipping

Tony: Big escort tugs carry concentrated foam, but may not want to get too close to large container ship

Level: one more hero in this saga – Captain and small crew remained aboard on ship to coordinate response

Laura: no regional discussion. I can bring it up. I'm sure Todd's tracking it, I can follow up if he has information

Level: The next meeting in December of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee is a joint meeting with Canadian version of harbor safety committee

#### 10:15 AM **Projects and other news**

- EPIC session 4

*Frankie*

November 22<sup>nd</sup>, let Frankie know if you need an invitation

- Plastic Free Salish Sea – new County Solid Waste Program Coordinator

*Frankie*

We are thrilled to have Katie Fleming come aboard in the Solid Waste dept. and addressing plastic use

- Derelict Vessel Prevention Surveys

*Frankie*

Trying to get out on port vessels to do this survey, I'll set up a subcommittee meeting after that effort next week

- Public comment on Pinto Abalone Recovery Plan (Action required)

There's still time, this may come up at the retreat if not then in January, comment period is open until Jan. 6, 2022.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie will work on letter of support and send to council on MRC's behalf

#### 10:19 AM **Member news and any other business**

Karin going to Anacortes to meet WDFW for the mussel exchange, Carl will take his batch to Orcas.

ACTION ITEM: Frankie & Karin will connect about helping with this

10:25 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting**

*Christina Koons*

10:25 AM **CAG updates/business**

*Sam Whitridge*

- San Juan chapter update review

Chapter update process - final stages to getting the plan finalized and adopted. Finished first draft in September, in October circulated to CAG, TAG, other reviewers. most feedback is positive. Need to review remaining comments, update, have next draft ready in December. Discussion points for CAG with feedback needed:

-outline lead entity timeline for adopting plan, how/when bring in county council? integrate into county code?

Kendra: as with MSA plan –anything written in code around issues of protection strategies, identified important habitats with maps/locations in terms of applications and permits, if written in code then must be considered and need to provide mitigation if impact. It would be great to bring up MSA and salmon recovery plan together in a code amendment and have maps overlap. Something to keep in mind for June/July.

Sam: Timeline for 2022 grant rounds, starts in January. full application submitted in April. Hope this plan would be in place as a resource for that grant round (to sponsors and regional reviewers). if CAG adopts this plan, it seems important go in at same time as MSA plan. Could be a phased-in plan with lead entity adoption by summer.

Phil: I agree with getting the plan into county code. If it's not in code, it may not get looked at

Sam: We are planning to have it reviewed by internal committees, stakeholders, sponsors, agencies, Tribes.

Consensus: in favor of going to council by next summer to get this submitted into code

- Some edits to get through before 2022 grant round. Desired timeline is to send ahead of January meeting with comments incorporated and decide at that meeting if we're ready to adopt plan or if it needs more work.

ACTION ITEM: if you still want to provide comments to Sam, please do so between now and early December

Level: I support idea of integrating this into county code. Adoption of maps will be important step.

Sam: yes there are maps, a lot has come out of PIAT work. Important that these plans reference each other

Phil: could one specifically codify the other one?

Kendra: probably what happens is council adopts both plans and then adopts the maps into code and part of requirement for critical area review, that would be the key piece. That existing maps need to be updated in terms of land-use planning. Caveat that would say, 'these maps or any best available new science'

Sam: certain areas, especially in freshwater, where we don't have the data. Identified qualitative goals and looking to adaptive management to fill in strategies

- Prioritization of Salmon Recovery Strategies,

-TAG has protection of intact nearshore habitat as top priority. If it comes down to two projects that are closely scored, TAG wants to see protection rise to the top, partly due to regulatory issues and adequacy of regulations. Also cost effectiveness of protection vs. restoring degraded sites

Kendra: I'm concerned about cost of shoreline property purchase, properties owned by wealthy create an exclusive park-like scenario, paying public dollars to prevent future activity there. It's a resource issue of how we allocate money and to whom, I think we should establish some criteria i.e. 'not pay for upland parcel',

Jeff: agree with Kendra. Protection is a priority, but I don't think it's a top benchmark. Restoration may have more value in certain situations, need to evaluate every project individually

Level: I support preservation as a priority, prevents the need for future restorations. Cost effective to protect vs. restoration. Property changes hands (unless it's purchased outright by Land Bank or Trust) and no assurance it'll remain unimpacted. Easements are effective. And it's not reasonable to characterize all shoreline property owners as wealthy, some easements have helped families stay on their properties

Kendra: agreed, but still stands that if they're the only ones with access it's an equity issue. Maybe part of easement requirement would be that owners can't access property either if in conservation mode

Byron: it's difficult to acquire a property. The review panel already only want to acquire the marine riparian piece. May be useful to have Tina come talk about what Friends is doing for conservation easement planning. County code is lacking in terms of shoreline protection. Consider why TAG wants to prioritize protection  
Sam: Discuss this more in January meeting, solidify concerns into specific criteria, not reorganize priorities  
Last thing – about the Plan revision process, Sam shows list of organizations that have reviewed so far (i.e. NOAA, few Tribes, Friends, etc.). Any others who should review? If you think of any let Sam know

10:59 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**

DRAFT