



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

Thursday, August 5, 2021
8:30 AM-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom,

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Meeting ID: 846 4546 3034

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Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene MRC Meeting <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</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>
8:45 AM	Public Comment
8:55 AM	Approve July MRC meeting minutes – <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
9:00 AM	NWSC meeting report to the MRC – <i>Sam Whitridge</i>
9:10 AM	Update on impacts of recent heatwave on Marine species – <i>Megan Dethier, Friday Harbor Labs</i>
9:25 AM	MRC housekeeping – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair and Vice-Chair Elections• Revisit MRC Coast Salish Acknowledgement (<i>Jeff Dyer</i>)
9:45 AM	Project updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PFSS – SeaBin and other project updates (<i>Karin Roemers-Kleven and R.P. Oates</i>)• Other project updates
10:10 AM	Member news and any other business
10:15 AM	Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
10:15 AM	CAG business – <i>Sam Whitridge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final CAG Scoring of 2021 SRFB Proposals
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG meeting

Attached: July MRC minutes

Committee Members in Attendance: Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genter, Patti Gobin, Phil Green, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Steve Bernheim, Angela Broderick, Marta Green, Sasha Horst, R.P. Oates, Laura Rivas, Sam Whitridge

8:31 AM **Convene Meeting with Coast Salish Acknowledgement**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

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.

8:32 AM **Public Comment**

none

8:33 AM **Approve July MRC meeting minutes**

Karin Roemers-Kleven

MOTION: Lovel moves to approve July minutes, Megan seconds. All in favor. July minutes are approved.

8:35 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Sam Whitridge

Christina attended last Friday representing SJC, highlights: Tom Cowan updated executive committee about retreat sessions in September, planning to return to in-person commission meeting in December/January. The State of the Salish Sea report is available for download, Sam will provide link. Interest in supporting an MRC internship program and opportunity. Next Commission meeting in late August, either Sam or Christina will attend.

8:38 AM **Update on impacts of recent heatwave on Marine species**

Megan Dethier

The heat dome was high air temperatures, coincided with lowest tides. an overview of who's working on what: Chris Harley in BC, Swinomish, Jamestown, Skykomish, WDFW monitoring closely, West coast intertidal monitoring system. WA SeaGrant, shellfish growers cautiously sharing info. There will be scientific manuscripts.

Reports from Chris Harley: long term sites in Northern Salish Sea and Straits of Georgia, massive mortality of mussels and barnacles, billions dead. He's gathering quantitative data and will report broadly. A lot of mortality of shellfish (clams and oysters) in the Salish sea, also moon snails and sand dollars. Large oysters were ok but small vulnerable ones suffered almost complete mortality. In some places they were fine – like mouth of Dosewallips, maybe cool freshwater inputs? Beach aspect (direction the beach faces) and shade makes a difference. Low tides happening up to 3 hours earlier down sound than in San Juans and that makes a difference. Some embayments reported dead smells and a couple of weeks later shut down for swimming due to bacteria loading. When animals are stressed become more susceptible to bacteria and infection. Recovery: in shellfish some species will still be able to broadcast larvae. But in some cases, like with cockles, even with new larvae it will take at least 10 years to replace large old animals. A lot will depend on next spring. Not just single events, but how often events happen.

QUESTIONS

Karin: what is the domino effect into the ecosystem, which species will suffer from loss of food?

Megan: more effect from loss of eelgrass that provides habitat, local loss of food for things like sea birds. Nobody is counting amphipods that shore birds feed on. Concern about sea birds' loss of food from that type of organism, but they reproduce rapidly so if refuge populations they should be able to repopulate

Laura: COASST should be getting some data to understand the impacts of the heat wave on seabirds

Megan: this is a nearshore intertidal problem, not ocean heat-blob type

Phil: on sea birds, unrelated: Protection Island has a fire. People should watch out for rhinoceros auklets. 35 nesting pairs there, they're being impacted. Keep your eyes out for these seabirds, they come to the SJ's

Level: interesting that shaded beaches are less impacted, another reason why vegetation on shorelines is so important. I wonder if that will be highlighted in the research? Shorelines lose vegetation with development
Megan: I'm sure that'll come out from Chris Harley's research in BC. Most organisms we see dying are the shellfish that are mid and low shore, almost never shaded even in a pristine beach. I'm sure WDFW is looking at summer forage fish loss. In SJ's population of surf smelt spawn in summer (most places they spawn in fall/winter)

8:57 AM MRC housekeeping

Sam Whitridge

- Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Karin and Christina interested and willing to stay in their roles as Chair and Vice-Chair, anyone else interested?

MOTION: Megan moves to re-elect Karin and Christina, Phil seconds. All in favor. Karin and Christina elected

- Revisit MRC Coast Salish Acknowledgement

Jeff Dyer

Jeff pulled up acknowledgement used by NWSC, Sam sent it out prior to the meeting.

Jeff: It resonates, clearly acknowledges what the coast Salish tribes consist of, adopted by NWSC.

Patti: I helped worked on it, it's a good acknowledgement. When we can take ownership by saying "we acknowledge" it's a powerful statement to the past, present, and future. Tribal attorneys thought it was great too

MOTION: Jeff moves to adopt this acknowledgement crafted by NWSC, Phil seconds, Megan thirds. All in favor. The proposal is approved as provided by Sam. Major changes: "we acknowledge" and lists Tribes in last sentence.

- Return to in-person meetings

We had discussed return to in-person meetings by September, but now Covid situation has changed. It's a moving target. County may issue new guidance for meetings in coming weeks

Karin: from my perspective as a nurse, the fact that we have breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated is troubling. We may have people who aren't fully vaccinated. May be safer to remain virtual

Patti: agreed. Just in Orcas but I was shocked by how many people not wearing masks. Samish County has a huge uptick. Maybe this uptick is from tourism, maybe revisit in the Fall

- Request from WDFW to monitor mussels, Putting out mussels and monitoring for chemical pollution

Megan: need volunteers to put out blue mussels in small cages in the intertidal. Pilot studies in 2012-13.

Randomly-selected site along Golf course road, seeking a pair of volunteers to walk on ferry, meet up with WDFW, get mussels in cages, take them to the site on nighttime low tide between November 4-10th, and then retrieve again at end of January on a night-time tide, and then again walk on ferry to deliver mussels

Karin: I'll do it, sounds like fun

Megan: great – I'll pass on your name to WDFW folks. They do this all around the sound and compare results

Beth: I can also help with that on SJI

9:12 AM Project updates

- PFSS – SeaBin and other project updates

Karin Roemers-Kleven and R.P. Oates

R.P.: SeaBin arrived on June 21st, installed on June 24th. Took electrical work to run with American 30amp marine plug, then worked great. About the Seabin: imagine an empty bucket submerged in water. surface water falls into bucket, pump at bottom of bucket. Catching surface plastics and oil absorbent pad inside catching surface oil sheen. Volunteers check every day, catching 4-30lbs. of biomass, sort and get about 2 lbs. of foam from micro-plastics in Deer Harbor. Plan to move to West Sound where there's more oil, may need to change pad more often. Interested in how to expand, where could this be useful? It's not a 100% solution but does a great job of absorbing surface oil from bilge pumps and microplastics at marina and harbor, could mean less cleaning beaches.

QUESTIONS

Karin: when you scale this up, put into Port of FH, how many SeaBins would it take to stay on top of things?

R.P.: they require daily maintenance (1-2 people about 15 minutes to change out bag, sort out plastics and toss critters back into ocean), could be a dock worker as part of their duties. Takes 30 minutes to move it. If there are 3-4 SeaBins in port of FH they could be moved around. They can last 2-3 years

Karin: what critters are you finding and are they surviving?

R.P.: pipefish, comb jellies, crab larvae, isopods, moon jellies seem to be alive. herring and stickleback stay a few feet away, maybe they don't like the sound or bubbles. The only fish we catch are ones we think are already dead. No problems with the Seabin harming critters. Rare to find one killed by Seabin. Still water at bottom with pump

Phil: Port of FH had a spill of about 200 square meter this past week. Could that be used on that kind of spill?

R.P.: it works via surface tension. The draw is 3-4 m in calm water, works great in marinas. For a spill of that size, when oil pad becomes saturated just change it out. There are points of attachment, could sew in extra oil pads. Maybe draw could be 3-6m. For a spill that large it wouldn't be a complete solution but could help a lot

Laura Jo: how much do they cost, could I buy one at West Marine?

R.P.: West Marine doesn't carry, there are distributors, price is between \$6-7K shipped. lasts up to 3 years, runs on 10cents electricity per day, filters 160gallons per day. Gives awareness, questions from 5-10 people every day

Laura: Is there evidence people are littering more often knowing that SeaBins are around as a safety net? I'm interested in the outreach and social effects of the sea bin presence

R.P.: I think people are being more careful and mindful with their boats knowing things need to be cleaned up

Karin: for PFSS, research on the social outfall of littering found people are prone to litter less if area looks pristine. You should share this more with other MRC's. Sasha Horst is here and can take this to the NWSC

Angela: I'm the newest member of environmental stewardship team on the county, helping with outreach around SeaBins. We're working on a sign, should be universal as bin gets moved. Has a QR code leading to a program page, plan to do some social media around that. Hoping to get outreach to the public around SeaBins

LauraJo: if you have a press release you can share, sailing and yacht clubs have newsletters and would share <https://seabinproject.com/locations/case-studies/>

- Other Project updates

Karin: No recent PFSS update, no meeting this past week. Plastic free July went well. If you cleaned a beach, can take it to the dump for free. If something is too large to move please contact park ranger or Karin.

Angela: I'm supporting the NFWF grant whale flag project in Frankie's absence, had a great past month, sent out Be Whale Wise materials targeting charter companies, marinas, focus on further down sound. 192 flags sent out in July, majority to larger boat-share companies, connected with some folks there very interested in the project.

Phil: update on eelgrass monitoring at Bell Point, I've been there 4 times and Kailey has too. Sasha – are we getting the app for that? Is it possible to make changes in the request for it? Because it seems we need 4 photos

ACITON ITEM: Sasha will check with Dana on that

Jeff: I've been doing Odlin park, not much to report. Eelgrass buoys seem to be working but not many boats inside the buoys when I've been there, even on weekends and July 4th. As far as monitoring goes, possible to have a park representative who's there all the time taking data? Because I'm just there randomly a few times a month

Question: Is there going to be a kiosk at Odlin, any update on that? Answer: that may need to wait for Frankie

Karin: Catch More Crab program, we gave flyers to different businesses to insert in bait bags of crab pots.

Jeff: I stopped by IMC shortly after dropping off pamphlets and they were being put in there.

Karin: would you be willing to stop by and ask for update? I'll circle back to King's Marine.

ACTION ITEM: let's get an update on that in the next month

Level: on education about crab pots, can we provide that along with new licenses getting issued?

ACTION ITEM – Karin will ask about that, businesses have been very receptive

Megan: it's clear people who buy crab licenses don't read the info provided, we see crab pots right around labs
Angela: Is there a digital version of the Catch More Crab brochure I can share on social media?
NW Straits Foundation resources here: <https://nwstraitsfoundation.org/project/recreational-crabbing-resources/>

Sam: Heart of the Salish Sea project with uses the "explore the salish sea" curriculum. SeaDoc society inviting a few schools to use it, based on their nature guide. Mira, education coordinator at SeaDoc, reached out to Frankie for MRC to give project support to local schools. Next step: SeaDoc hosting a virtual workshop on Aug. 31st with teachers, any MRC members want to attend? If not Frankie or Sam will. Karin may be able to attend

9:48 AM **Member news and any other business**

Level: Update on letter to insurance commissioners?

Sam: not yet, but Jamie sent comments on the draft net pen guidance, he said letter regarding insurance for Trans Mountain pipeline issue would be top of agenda for next council meeting, was there a deadline on that?

Level: No specific deadline on the letter to the WA State Insurance Commissioner. There was a hard deadline on the net pen comments.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will share comments on net pens with Wild Conservancy folks

Level: reminder, WA state insurance commissioner issued a statement in March supporting the practice of insurance receiving free and informed prior consent from Tribes affected by projects. Canada requires insurance for transmountain pipeline. The pipeline expansion project has been permitted, 28% constructed, efforts to block it through the court system haven't succeeded. Campaign to get insurance companies not to support the project as a last effort. Thanking commissioner and asking him to require free and prior consent from First Nations and Tribes affected

Patti: have you worked with Tribes on language for this?

Level: I can re-send the materials that were provided to County Council. At the time when Transmountain pipeline expansion project was going through permitting our Council opposed it. EarthJustice represented Tribes in WA and an EarthJustice press release about Tribes' opposition to the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project was provided to the Council along with the draft letter to the Insurance Commissioner.

ACTION ITEM: Sam can re-send the information that was provided to Council

Level: but no, did not work directly with Tribes on language in draft letter.

Patti: we the Tribes need to be sending an identical letter

ACTION ITEM: Patti will work with some folks to send their own letter, wants to see the draft letter from MRC

Patti: we've been working with Earth Justice, lawsuit in the works claiming indigenous rights. And about SeaDoc materials, why didn't they contact local Tribes? Tulalip is writing their own "since time immemorial" curriculum

Marta: putting out a press release regarding Pacific States – British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force's recognition of Marta's work over past 5 years with a Legacy award. Recognizes the work of oil spill risk consequence work, and vessel drift risk analysis work that found a rescue tug could be effective here. Want to leverage that award and get the word out, remind everyone we're still working on this. None of our ERTV work would have happened without Lovel's expertise and guidance!

10:01 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting**

Christina Koons

10:01 AM **CAG business**

Sam Whitridge

• Final CAG Scoring of 2021 SRFB Proposals

Wrap up grant-round, due August 15. CAG needs to score this one project, small grant round this year. Sam shares spreadsheet summarizing 2021 SRFB budget grant round, project is requesting \$416,250. We can fund this project at 75% this round, leaving \$107,648 required. Next year is a big grant year with nearly \$2million.

The TAG did their final review and scored this proposal highly. SRFB investment would be leveraged with 60% match by owners to put this property into conservation easement. Project cleared by SRFB review panel Sam shares TAG scores, based on benefit to salmon and fit-to-plan. High scores for this project: 9.9 on fit-to-plan. Need to enter data from CAG on socioeconomic benefit. Sam has already received scores from a few members, run through each member here, enter scores, then entertain motion to adopt this project to put forward to State for funding. Then address issue of not having total funds, question of allocating remaining amount for next year
ACTION ITEM: after this meeting please send Sam scoring sheet Carl, Ivan not here. Christina's score = 9
Jeff: scored 9, vacillating between 9-10. SJPT has a great record, complements other projects, community benefits
Kailey: scores 7. If a proposal receives partial funding, can they not move forward because didn't get full funding?
Sam: Vicki from SJPT was ready to not receive full funding, prepared to phase this in over two years. If allocate remaining funds, should consider SRFB - available sooner - rather than PSAR funds not available until July 2023
Karin: score 9

Beth: score 9, the more we can conserve lands not already developed the better. Especially with development
Laura Jo: will send score offline

Megan: scored 6, this project should be funded. Socioeconomic reasoning somewhat irrelevant, outreach/jobs not happening here, this won't be publicly accessible so doesn't fit the criteria – that's why low score
Lovel: score 10 based on the 60% match from SJPT and property owners, and the fact that conservation easements are the most cost-effective means of protecting shorelines as opposed to outright purchases. There isn't public access and opportunity for outreach but bang for buck in terms of protection

Patti: score 10, need to do everything we can to protect, losing more than gaining, need to protect into future
Phil: echo Megan's comments, it should fully go forward but doesn't check any socioeconomic boxes. But that score is irrelevant when we're only 15% of total score. It's a great project, just trying to go by rules

Sam: I'll follow up with Laura Jo. Carl and Kendra are both away. We have a quorum. Final score is 8.88/10.

MOTION: formally recommend to RCO for funding in 2021? AND provide remaining required fund for next year?

Megan: move on both, Lovel seconds and amend to allocate SRFB funds for balance. All in favor, motion passes.

Salmon Recovery Chapter Update – making progress. Working to have first draft for subcommittee to review in early September. Spending August writing elements, working with ESA consultants helping to make it look good. After TAG review in early September will circulate to MRC and other stakeholders

Next MRC meeting Christina will be back, Frankie out for one more meeting and then back in October.

ACTION ITEM: if anyone has a speaker idea for September's meeting, please send them to Sam

Marta: I also want to acknowledge the many years of MRC members being out in front on the ERTV efforts – Laura Arnold, Lovel putting strategy together with me 5 years ago and guiding every step of the way

10:24 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**