



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

Thursday, January 6, 2022
8:30 AM-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 886 3442 1597 / Passcode: 280778
Call in number: +1 253 215 8782 US

Agenda

8:30 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Christina Koons 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 have been passed down from generation to generation.</i>
8:40 AM	Public Comment Approve MRC Retreat minutes – Christina Koons
8:55 AM	NWSC meeting report to the MRC – Christina Koons
9:00 AM	Value of AIS Data to Track Boat Occupancy in San Juan Archipelago Embayments: Seasonal Trends and Potential Impacts -: Dr. Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria and Yuki Wilmerding
9:45 AM	Discussion of actions to address impacts of vessels in the MSA
10:15 AM	MRC Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MRC workplan approval – ACTION required• MRC reporting: Volunteer hours• New Member applications and interviews
10:20 AM	Member news and any other business
10:30 AM	Adjourn MRC meeting and Convene CAG meeting – Christina Koons
10:30 AM	CAG updates/business – Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve grant round timeline• San Juan chapter update review
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG meeting

Attached: MRC Retreat minutes
Notes from discussions at Retreat on threats to the MSA and Actions.
Google link to MSA Documents provided in meeting announcement email.

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

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Jolene Boyd, Angela Broderick, Katy Foster, Jeff Gaeckle, Chris Guidotti, Gabe Harder, Jason Hodin, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Leah Robison, Kira Swanson, Sam Whitridge, Yuki Wilmerding, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

8:39 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.

8:40 AM **Public Comment** *none*

Level: IOSA has submitted a primary response contractor application, it's open for public comment

8:42 AM **Approve MRC Retreat minutes** *Christina Koons*

- a section attributed to Lovel was removed. MOTION: Phil moves to approve minutes, Laura Jo seconds. Approved.

8:43 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC** *Christina Koons*

Christina sent out December meeting highlights, attached two bills regarding derelict vessels and kelp/eelgrass. Some discussion of issues with plastics, ties in well with PFSS. No new updates on the funding NWSC is seeking

8:46 AM **MRC Housekeeping** *Frances Robertson*

• MRC reporting: Volunteer hours
Send hours through December 2021 to Frankie ASAP. (Karin attended NOAA marine debris meeting)

• MRC Member applications and interviews
We'll convene interviews in the next week, then make recommendations to council for new members. Anymore MRC member willing to help out? -Phil volunteers
Kendra confirms Feb. 1 is the next Council meeting. Hope to have new members in place by then

• MRC workplan approval – ACTION required
Frankie sent out workplan via email, once approved we can submit with quarterly report.
MOTION: Carl moves to approve workplan as written, Lovel seconds. Megan suggests review prior to voting
Frankie shares screen, reviews tabs of spreadsheet (members should note where their name is listed):
-killer whale tales (with Kailey G.)
-Boater outreach (pandemic-dependent), may be opportunities to partner with Be Whale Wise possible dock talks
-MSA steering committee (Megan, Phil, Lovel, Frankie, Tina)
-PFSS, Nikyta Palmisani is now Solid Waste director
-Derelict Vessel Prevention (Marta Green, Adam Parrot – Deputy Harbor Master at Port of Friday Harbor will also be running a DVR program for the Port's marinas.)
Kendra: should get signatures on this and get it to legislature to secure funding, important to follow through with that
Lovel: for legislative session –option to participate online, sign on in support of a bill. Almost no barrier to participate

Christina: Lucas forming a working group to ensure bill that's passed includes everything that's needed, seems like Marta and Frankie should be on it. We should communicate with the senator to ask how we can help with this bill -eelgrass protection project (Beth, Christina, Carl, Jeff, Phil, Dana Oster), also seeking support for that in session -False Bay Monitoring and Outreach (Megan, Carl, Phil, Kailey, Wendell and Brooke). Student presentations were excellent. We'll need help with visitor outreach in spring/summer. We have an intern to do monitoring in the summer

Megan: Is everyone on MRC on Tidebite list (monthly FHL newsletter)? link to subscribe:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/WhctKKXPZdiqTNGxDzHznPhftqKwflXmJhQflmLPCfkCKpLKZQk pJtdScZrVtTkfJvhDTZv>

-Salmon, spearheaded by Sam (Carl, Phil, Karin, Jeff)

-Marketing (Patti, Christina, Jeff, Kendra, Carl) – raise profile of MRC in community, improve partnerships with Tribes

ACTION ITEM: if anyone is interested in writing an article or making a post for the FB page let Frankie know

-Oil Spill Prevention Efforts (Lovel, Christina, Jeff, Carl, Phil and Marta) -tasks specific to this group will be updated at a later subcommittee meeting and the workplan updated accordingly.

Wrap up: The Budget is in the workplan, includes grant information. Main tab shows committees color-coded with tasks by month. It can be updated over time, this is based on grant deliverables (with Salmon and oil spill prevention). Note: left in Navy Jet Noise in case we want to pull together a website page, not sure when

Q: is the Mussel project in there? (Note: need to think about when we're retrieving mussel cages)

- Yes, also green crab monitoring if anyone wants to be involved in that. Also, Carl & Jeff are on Catch More Crab

Christina: back to Carl's motion, all are in favor. The workplan is approved.

9:08 AM **Value of AIS Data to Track Boat Occupancy in San Juan Archipelago Embayments: Seasonal Trends and Potential Impacts**

Dr. Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria, Yuki Wilmerding, and Jason Hodin

Sandy begins with FHL Land and Waters Acknowledgement, then describes genesis of project and partners involved

Yuki: review potential environmental impacts of recreational boats – shading, discharge, anchor scarring, etc.

Jason: describes the case of the S/V Orca in Beaverton Cove, stayed many months, dog on board. Jason talked to "Pumpty-Dumpty" operator who reported rarely if ever going to Beaverton Cove. This boat is just one example.

Gabe: DNR made field contact with the "Orca" in October, they left several weeks later. We'll continue to monitor.

Frances: We tag boats with Notice for owner attention if they are approaching/exceeding the 30 day limit to anchor.

Back to presentation, Yuki shows map of sites of focus:

Blind Bay/Reid Harbor/Westcott and Garrison = high density sites. Jones, Parks, Shoal Bay = medium density sites

Site Selection Process: - close to shoreline, not remote - eelgrass beds, particularly where there was historic eelgrass

AIS: transponder. Provides name of vessel, speed, destination. Not all boats have AIS, larger boats often do. We use MarineTraffic.com, without subscription no access to more detailed data, can't store data– need to take screenshots. Some historical data available with subscription (i.e. 2019). Our data show contrasting numbers in 2020 and 2021.

ACTION ITEM: MRC interest in funding a subscription to enable comparisons with 2019, Jason can find out the cost

Sandy: acquiring the data is one thing, analyzing and processing it is another thing – takes time

Megan: I can find funding to get access to data and pay an undergrad to help analyze...

Back to graphs/presentation:

Flyover data: points out a line of boats in Echo Bay –line of mooring balls meant to protect eelgrass. And many boats are anchored inside of that line. You can also see the boats that are rafted up. Adam Summers did flyovers Labor Day and Memorial Day weekend. On average, AIS data only shows approx. 25% of actual boats

Proposed next steps: Continue collecting AIS data and validating them with increased flyovers, collect data from other sources taking counts from shore (e.g. Shaw General Store), Expand to monitor some additional bays, and also use data to construct heat maps (shows example) to show spots of most intensity and consider impacts there

Sandy: reiterate the extremely high numbers from flyover data in places like Echo Bay on Labor Day

Kendra: will you be submitting this presentation or an actual report that MRC can have a copy?

Jason: we'd be glad to share this presentation, not proprietary. We have discussed a publication of these data

Sandy: this has been a volunteer effort for Jason and me, more work could be done, especially the AIS subscription.

Megan: if MRC has these slides, should not make public, not to community, so these folks can publish originally

Kendra: from county perspective want to look at these data with respect to marine infrastructure, etc.

Sandy: Blind Bay was a surprising site, anchorage has gone up a lot. More boats than I've ever seen before on Shaw

Frankie: we should add Blind Bay to our monitoring sites

Carl: flyovers are expensive, what about drones? Citizen scientists could fly and photograph. I could cover Blind Bay

Also, weekenders tend not to have AIS and long-term cruisers do. I think the recent explosion is more weekenders

Sandy: Advantage of flyover vs. drone is that we get real-time data in about 2 hours, confirm against active vessel data. Trying to manage the data coming in from many sources has been difficult. Drones have restrictions, over parks.

- discussion of ways MRC members can help with land-based counts, fits with eelgrass protection anchor monitoring

Frankie: great way to partner with MRC because this is something we're already doing that we could expand on

Patti: Sometimes your strength and help (even financial) can come from Tribes, that's our fishing land and homelands. Speaking for Tulalip, how can we bring in Tribal fisheries/natural resource areas to see a presentation like this?

ACTION ITEM: let's arrange a time, it could be via zoom, for Sandy, Jason and Yuki to present to Patti's staff at Tulalip

Chris G.: State Parks has 13 marine parks we visit regularly in summer. We take boat counts with our own criteria.

With some recent staffing improvements, we may be able to help with more robust boat counts in key locations.

The data are clear that boat traffic has increased. Now how do we protect these resources? No anchor zones in eelgrass beds is something that we may be able to accomplish soon. Not a solution but at least a start.

Jason: I would bet a minority of boat owners think deeply (or are well informed) about the impacts their boats may be having on the environment. simply figuring out ways that we can get information to them would be a start.

Chris: We can certainly help with that as well.

Frankie: Jason, we have pretty good connections at least with the "cruising" boating community. But the state parks boating program, NW Marine Trade Association and some other groups are also good connections.

10:22 AM **Wrap up discussion of actions to address impacts of vessels in the MSA**

Moving forward: ruminates on what we heard and discuss at February meeting. Begin at MSA subcommittee meeting on the 23th. There were some clear actions that came out of that discussion

10:24 AM **Member news and any other business**

Christina: NWSC Conference on Climate impacts. There've been a few sessions, more coming up, I'll forward the link

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

Christina Koons

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

Sam Whitridge

- Approve grant round timeline

Sam sent out grant timeline, formal approval required from CAG to adopt it – request for Lol due Feb. 18th, then review. Note that site visits are scheduled on May 4-5th. Hope for in field in-person site visits, but hold off on deciding.

ACTION ITEM: Sam will can send out a calendar hold for MRC members.

Jeff: how does it work again with RFP's – lead entity sends email?

Sam: I send request for formal Lol (Letter of Intent), applicants submit one-page letter to describe project. Meet with TAG on March 8th to talk through the project, TAG provides feedback, then formally invites full application due in April.

Sent to list of potential sponsors, those who've submitted in past or expressed interest. If anyone else, let Sam know

MOTION: Megan moves to accept timeline, Jeff seconds. All in favor. Timeline is approved

10:32 AM • **San Juan chapter update review** – proposed dialogue with TAG

In November we looked at review draft, discussed protection projects– some concern about acquisitions/easements. Sam took that back to the TAG, they met and their desire is to create some criteria around the kind of project we fund

QUESTION: is CAG interested in a dialogue about this? Maybe a presentation from the Trust? Or, TAG could send a letter to the MRC with proposed criteria

Kendra: I want a meeting with the TAG, don't need to hear from the Trust. It's the policy we need to decide on.

Sam: TAG already has a proposal. Maybe take 30 minutes of an upcoming meeting to discuss?

ACTION ITEM: Sam will work with Frankie to schedule that for an MRC meeting

10:37 AM • **San Juan chapter update review**

Received feedback but no major edits. Sam sent out the updated draft. It's nearly ready to go. We discussed sending this to Council with MSA plan, but that wouldn't be until summer. Are we ready to adopt this as our lead entity strategy going into the next grant round? TAG is ready

Kendra: not ready today, haven't looked at it enough. But could approve at next meeting

Sam: let's circle back to this in February, that'll work with our timeline (as people craft proposals)

ACTION ITEM: I'll send out the latest version with Todd's updates before meeting in Feb

10:49 AM Updates from Laura:

-state legislative session starts Jan 10th Partnership will provide updates. We have a legislative calendar on website (highlights our priorities), Puget sound Budget page discusses recovery funding. Laura to send priority sessions' dates

-Expecting additional funds to Puget Sound from the federal infrastructure act, including for salmon restoration

-January 13th floating kelp canopy area workshop 10am-12noon, the first of three workshops, link to register:

<https://dnr-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkf-yrpzwoGNNgCbW1iYTajMOXU4eSP84K>

-Action agenda has been drafted, sent to close partners for review which includes the LIO - Thanks for contribution

- Laura has a new position within the Partnership, working to hire a new person. Thanks Laura, we'll miss you!

10:56 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**