



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

Thursday, March 3, 2022
8:30 AM-11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 847 9273 3812 / Passcode: 251830
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 February minutes – Christina Koons
8:55 AM	NWSC meeting report to the MRC – Christina Koons
9:15 AM	MSA Plan update: Recap of threats and stressors associated with Invasive Species and changes to food webs – Dr. Megan Dethier
9:30 AM	Discussion of actions to address impacts of Invasive Species and changes to food webs
10:10 AM	MRC project updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic Free Salish Sea• Outreach and Education• Eelgrass protection• False Bay monitoring• Derelict vessel prevention• Oil spill prevention subcommittee
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">• 2022 SRFB Letters of Interest• Planning for SRFB Site Visits• Puget Sound Partnership Hiring Updates• Chapter Update presentation to council• TAG discussion in April
11:00 AM	Adjourn CAG meeting

Attached: MRC February minutes

Notes from discussions at Retreat on threats to the MSA and Actions.

Google link to MSA Documents provided in meeting announcement email.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-f7TMQmevhSG2NPIMzwe7KhydpndoNY_/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112039195320054983469&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[f7TMQmevhSG2NPIMzwe7KhydpndoNY_/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112039195320054983469&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-f7TMQmevhSG2NPIMzwe7KhydpndoNY_/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112039195320054983469&rtpof=true&sd=true)

Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, Megan Dethier, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Phil Green, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Ivan Reiff, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Laura Jo Severson, Beth Tate, Kendra Smith
Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Ken Carrasco, Marta Green, Tracie Merrill, Laura Rivas, Frances Robertson, Byron Rot, Alyssa Scott, Allie Simpson, Kimbal Sundberg, Sam Whitridge

8:36 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.

8:37 AM **Public Comment**

Ken Carrasco

Here from Orcas Island to discuss proposal to rename Harney channel, named in 1860 by the British. General Harney massacred Sioux Indians, beat a woman to death in 1836. We propose to name for Henry Cayou. Born on Orcas Island 1859 and interred on Orcas. His mother was native, he served on County council. We have support from Rep. Lekanoff and others. Stephanie Buffum has worked with community. Interviewed by 'Indian Country Today', First Peoples are aware and seem accepting of our proposal. State Board for Geographic Names meets twice a year. Completed initial consideration, next step is State approval. Now petition, approaching 1000 signatures.

https://www.change.org/p/washington-state-committee-on-geographic-names-rename-harney-channel-in-the-san-juan-islands-to-cayou-channel?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=8d411020-997b-11ea-b7c5-bd32949721af

Need support, please! A letter from MRC to State Board of Geographic Names would be great

ACTION ITEM: Ken can provide the contact for the letter, Caleb Mackey at State Board

ACTION ITEM: a link will be provided for individuals to write letters, Frankie will check in with council

8:49 AM **Approve February meeting minutes**

Christina Koons

MOTION: Jeff moves to approve February meeting minutes, Phil seconds. Lovel abstains. Minutes approved.

8:50 AM **NWSC meeting report to the MRC**

Christina Koons

NWS conference planned to be in person in La Conner, announcement next month. Julia Parrish started "scientist speed dating", first speed date was with scientist who helps run Reef. Reef does research in SJ's, partner with SeaDoc. Next speed date March 25th, last Friday of each month (NWSC Scientist Speed Dating: reef.org, Christy Pattengill-Semmens)

Frankie: Green crab team are offering a training here on SJI (Frankie sent around information)

Allie: Most of my work is on green crabs! This is a great site for info: <https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/greencrab/>

<https://www.washington.edu/news/2022/02/15/edna-a-useful-tool-for-early-detection-of-invasive-green-crab/>

<https://wsg.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021-Crab-Team-Infographic-Compressed.png>

<https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/>

Maritime national heritage area has been in the works. If anyone would like to look at draft plan and comment:

<https://preservewa.org/programs/maritime-national-heritage-area/mw-nha-get-involved/>

Alex Grinwall wants to learn about SJC MRC, plan a get-together next month, may be on SJI, anyone can attend

8:57 AM **MSA Plan update: Recap threats, stressors, Invasive Species, food webs** *Dr. Megan Dethier*

Frankie: continuing efforts on MSA plan – discuss food webs and invasive species (previous 'biotic interactions').

Megan: biotic interactions not a threat, changed category to "Altered marine food webs and invasive species"

List of bullet points from the Retreat included increased nutrients, aquaculture etc. Today we'll describe Marine Food Webs, then list strategic actions— prevent altered food webs? How to be resilient to invasive species? Quick overview of local food webs and how susceptible to being altered, then discuss particular invasive species. Food webs: complex, number of different interconnecting webs, defined by habitat type (rocky, sandy, salty marsh) i.e., habitat of what's on the bottom controls the kind of primary producers that drive a food web. Much of primary production like algae in tide flats, detritus, etc. gets eaten by worms, crustaceans, clams, those feed shore birds. Some places with grasses fix carbon that feeds lower parts of food web, leads to feeding crabs, fishes, and eventually marine mammals. Rocky shores start with plankton supporting most organisms and seaweeds that get energy from the sun and directly feed other organisms. Many connections and components. What can upset biological interactions? loss of habitat builders like eelgrass, rockweed, or mussel beds due to heat waves like what we experienced last year. Loss of habitat for juvenile fishes and some direct loss of food. Increase in consumers, like sea urchins: regionally we had abundant large sea stars, now demolished by wasting disease has caused explosions in urchin populations in some places leading to destruction of macroalgae. Harmful algal blooms, some could be invasive species. These can directly affect humans but also sea otters (concentrated in foods they eat like shellfish). Changes in species of zooplankton that feed fishes and seabirds. The warm blob in the Pacific changed dominant species of copepods, caused mass death of sea birds. Introduced species are not always invasive or threats, nuisance species are not always introduced. One that is both introduced, and a nuisance is sargassum. Threat but opportunities for use. Sargassum competes with local kelp, laminaria, in shallow subtidal zone. Much more Sargassum throughout Salish sea in recent years. Green crab is a problem because consumers of juvenile shellfish. Problem for shellfish farmers. Can also harm eelgrass. Especially abundant now in Lummi farm area, bad because of effects on juvenile clams and shellfish. Spartina, cordgrass native to east coast. No native spartina, it chokes out shellfish beds, overgrows marshes. Introduced but not invasive example: purple varnish clam *Nuttallia*. found many places but not out-competing, food for some species. Introduced but "invasive" is an inappropriate term since it's not harming local food webs. In contrast, there are troublemakers that aren't introduced – ascidians or sea squirts can be solitary or colonial. *Ciona savignyi*, *Didemnum* sp. This is a worldwide concern, can overgrow surfaces in marinas and other places. What kinds of actions can MRC take against altered food webs/invasive species? Example type of actions: -protect particular species/habitats/sites (healthy habitats maybe less 'invadeable'), comment on proposals that affect food webs e.g., aquaculture – can we prevent permitting? – partner with Tribes on native clam beds

9:22 AM Discussion of actions to address impacts of with Invasive Species and changes to food webs

Phil Green: BLM opening up their islands to public access could have a big impact on oystercatchers

Megan: oystercatchers primarily consume limpets, primary consumers on rocky shore. That's a good example of when just the presence of humans frightening birds away can alter food web (oystercatcher = keystone species)

Phil: on invasive tunicates, Reef divers are permitted by WDFW to collect invasive tunicates. \

Megan: green crab larvae spend so long in plankton (3 weeks) so propagules can go anywhere, hard to control

Byron: Are net pens banned here? If so, that was temporary. Ecology was opposed to that with SMP update.

Level: need to ensure net pens are not in our shoreline master plan

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/aquaculture/cooke-gets-two-wins-advancing-salish-fish-steelhead-project-in-washington>

Megan: is there a distinction between net pens with native vs. nonnative species?

Byron: the issues with nutrification, antibiotics etc. will be there with net pens no matter what.

Christina: How do we continue to evaluate threats in MSA so it's a relevant document in real time?

Frankie: ID threats as they emerge and incorporate into the plan, into workplans. Annual review every 5 years

Megan: some issues have precise data being gathered (e.g., spartina by Noxious Weed Board). But broader changes to food webs, should that be an action item e.g., quantify threats to track them more effectively?

Allie: actually Dept. of Agriculture does spartina work for San Juan County, several counties do spartina surveys.

Jeff: how can we enforce regulations on ballast water? Just to emphasize the need to monitor that closer

Megan: I worry things like that are beyond the county's jurisdiction. Could be how green crab got here
 Level: oil spills are just one possible effect from big ships, others include invasive species from ballast water, other pollutants, damage from collisions while at anchor. Could MRC monitor current conditions?
 Megan: it needs to be focused. There is work in False Bay now to quantify some things.
 Frankie: so many groups are documenting current conditions, we can keep track of that work
 Megan: is there a simple list of all the ecosystem components that are being monitored here now? We got close at Marine Managers' workshop. Look at that strategically to see what's missing, maybe a project for an intern?
 Frankie: there was a whole monitoring plan drafted and put together shortly after original MSA was adopted. 10 years out of date now but may be a starting place toward building a database for who's doing what in the SJ's.
 -> some discussion of Marine Managers workshop in March 2020 and EPIC (Eelgrass Protection Initiative Consortium), new MRC members please contact Frankie for more information/final reports from these
 Keep it going? maybe SJC marine managers could meet quarterly, MRC could help facilitate
 Frankie: Now work falls on MSA subcommittee over next few months, then come to MRC for reviews of the plan.
 Kailey: What about educational signage for the public in areas where there are invasive species?
 Frankie: also for threatened species like pinto abalone, but not necessarily in their key habitats especially when they're struggling. And like what Phil suggested, 'why shouldn't you disturb oystercatchers and shore birds?'
 Adam: at the Port we have some informational placards that haven't been updated in years, e.g., rockfish. I can look into getting more signage. We have a map we hand out now with eelgrass to show areas where boats shouldn't anchor. I'd be interested to know more things we can give to boaters in tourist season
 Laura: putting up a sign doesn't always work because invasive species move. But handouts on ferries, visitors' bureau etc. with images of the invasive species and suggestions of what to do/not do with them
 Adam: we have issues with leash laws at the Port. We're under town law, dogs must be on leash 6' or less. But county ordinance says dog can be off leash under voice command. If that's a problem need to take it to County.
 Phil: the other jurisdiction is DNR below tideline. National Park above tideline and they have a leash law
 Kailey: could there be a beach area specifically for dog access? A water dog park
 Adam: what beach would have the least impact to its habitat and to other species by having dog access?
 ACTION ITEM: Adam will look into feasible port property for this project idea. Any county-owned access?
 Kendra: County owns hardly any place like that, Frankie and I can give you some contacts within national parks
 Christina: Kailey, Adam, and Kendra – want to be a subcommittee? YES, maybe Frankie can help

10:16AM **MRC project updates**

Frankie Robertson

- Plastic Free Salish Sea: Reinvigorate adopt-a-beach efforts. Presenting at the Salish Sea ecosystem conference. Need to connect with Adam to get the Seabin in at the Port.
- Outreach and Education: Kailey and Jeff Hogan working on Killer Whale Tails with grade 5, no new updates
- Eelgrass protection: Getting anchor-out buoys serviced in next month or two
- False Bay monitoring: Frankie needs to write quality assurance protocol, starting visitor outreach in the spring

10:21 AM **Member news and any other business**

Tracie: Katie Fleming is giving a PFSS lecture at the Whale Museum April 20th (this should be considered a public comment because Tracie is not an MRC member)

10:22 AM • Derelict vessel prevention

Marta Green

Frankie presented about this together with Snohomish MRC at the Jefferson County MRC meeting.

Marta: should this be a topic for next meeting? I want to hear more about what Jefferson County is doing.

We've done two patrols recently – one in Blind Bay, acknowledgements from owners that they'd move their boats. With Adam we did a patrol in Beaverton and Shipyard coves. We haven't been 100% successful on all intervention/outreach. Trying to use prevention to avoid needing to do expensive removals.

About the ERTV letter: Tony Parkin joined our last subcommittee meeting on 2/9/22, he compared the tanker escort regime for Prince William Sound to what we have in Haro Strait, more robust in Canada. Discussed concept of a multi-mission ETV, less space for equipment than a mission-specific ETV. Primarily for prevention.

IOSA had an inspection in mid-February, if passed they can be a contractor for 2- to 3-hour response. IOSA also bidding on State dept. for enterprise services for hazmat contractors. <https://www.iosaonline.org/training>

We also discussed how to determine the carrying capacity of Haro Strait.

On Jan 26th our County Council and Islands Trust Council sent joint letter to Transport and Fisheries/ocean Minister again requesting an ETV be positioned in Sydney. Referenced studies done since last request in 2018.

The letter was high profile, Marta contacted by Larsen and Cantwell in response asking how they could help.

Jeff: if boat runs aground in county and crew/owner evacuated, does it automatically become a derelict vessel?

Marta: no, may involve coast guard. We may identify with DNR as a vessel of concern

Frankie: <https://www.sanjuanco.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1148>

10:33 AM **Adjourn MRC meeting and convene CAG**

10:33 AM **CAG updates/business**

Sam Whitridge

- 2022 SRFB Letters of Interest

Grant round is underway. 12 letters of interest, 6 different sponsors. Sam shows spreadsheet of proposed projects and sponsoring organizations. At bottom shows projected allocation, just under \$1.9 million. Total request is a bit under \$3.5 million. This is early in process, expect estimated request to get closer. Project #8 is a Preservation Trust easement, could be covered by PSAR Large Cap, a different funding pot. Sam will continue to update us. On Tuesday March 8th TAG will meet for official LoI review, Q&A with each project sponsor. TAG will give the typical green/yellow/red light for projects to advance or not. Full applications due in April.

10:38 AM • Planning for SRFB Site Visits

Sam: in-person site visits? Seems like a good chance to get out in the field. We'd likely need boats. We have a lot of projects/sites to visit, maybe virtual presentations earlier in the week so we can maximize time in the field.

Kendra: I'm fine with virtual presentations. Some sites are worth looking to capture the breadth/depth of what's being proposed but for some it may not be necessary, maybe rely on sponsors to decide

Megan: if we're considering spending a million on a piece of property or armor removal, need boots on ground.

Sam: I can pare list down for where to visit, maybe all sites in one day and virtual presentations the day before

Laura: a few more considerations, we have a better memory in the real space. There's a risk if we don't visit all of them. And if it's a brand-new project that maybe worth visiting in person

10:47 AM • Chapter Update presentation to council

The document has been distributed widely. We discussed presentation to Council, Kendra and I are planning that for late March. And reminder: we scheduled a discussion with the TAG for our April meeting regarding protection-based projects. Sam will send around information about that soon

10:49 AM • Puget Sound Partnership Hiring Update

Hired Matt Colston from Island County, starting shortly, should be at our virtual meeting in April. Legislature closing March 10th. Some key bills didn't make it but some elements of those bills still supported in budget.

10:53 AM **Adjourn CAG meeting**