



### Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, August 16, 2021

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom meeting

Minutes prepared by Alisa Taylor

#### **Members present:**

**P = Present E= Excused**

|                |                |                   |                  |                            |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| P Bob Vreeland | E Robert Knapp | P Arnold Schouten | P Tim Cochnauer  | ? Jesse Waknitz            |
| P Ann Soule    | P Jeff Ward    | P Mike Doherty    | P Latrisha Suggs | Makah Open Position        |
| P Lyn Muench   | P Alan Clark   | E Ed Bowlby       | P Ann Stafford   | ? Vanessa Castle<br>(LEKT) |

#### **Alternates present:**

|                     |                |              |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| E Mary Sue Brancato | P Chris Burns  | P Lance Vail |
| ? Ioana Bociu       | ? Navarra Carr |              |

#### **Ex-Officio Members / MRC staff/Members of the Public Present**

Rebecca Paradis, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Helle Andersen, retired MRC Coordinator; Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow; Adrienne Akmajian, Makah Tribe Marine Biologist; McKenzie Ginther, MRC Intern; Vita Olson, MRC Intern; Laila Greene, MRC Intern; Sasha Horst, NWSC; Jonathan Hallenbeck, NWSC; Leslie Perkins, NWSC; Will Jasper

#### **2021 Internship Celebration & Presentations**

Rebecca Paradis welcomed everyone, and introduced the 2021 Clallam MRC summer interns. CMRC has offered paid internships funded by NWSC since 2014, and to date 37 students have completed their internships. The duration of each is 80 hours or more, and each intern is paired with a mentor, often who works for one of CMRC's partners. The projects this year were the Tumwater Creek smolt trap project, the invasive green crab capture and removal project, and the educational/outreach project. CMRC also funds a fellowship for \$60/month helping with various projects, some administrative tasks, and helping with leading the kelp monitoring project.

The first intern, Laila Greene, was introduced by Adrienne Akmajian: Laila took part in this season's European green crab trapping and monitoring effort. Adrienne said that Laila is always willing to wade into the river, or jump in the kayak. Since the covid outbreak and subsequent closure the tribe has enacted, they have been in phase 1 and working from home, so Laila has finished her independent project and presentation at home, and done a great job. Laila then presented about the project: The European green crab is an invasive species, and their territory now extends to multiple continents including Africa, and both coasts of North America. They are very adaptable, with a high tolerance for extreme salinity and high temperatures. They are omnivorous and eat gastropods, algae, bivalves, fish, and detritus. They can live in many types of habitats: estuaries, intertidal, subtidal, salt marshes, and sometimes a ways into freshwater rivers and streams. They grow to be up to about 4 inches wide (carapace diameter). Green crabs wreak havoc on native ecosystems. They destroy substrates and compete with other species for resources. Laila explained about the mark/recapture project: they trapped green crabs, and recorded their size, sex, marked them, and released them to be caught again. They also studied the interactions between green and Dungeness crabs, around food. They installed underwater cameras with bait attached in a river, and from a kayak. Not all data from this effort has been processed, but it was successful. Laila and the team also discovered upriver distribution of green crab, and conducted a survey to see how far up the river they will live. They placed 4 traps upstream and

checked them daily to document their contents. About 1.5 miles up the river was the boundary of where green crabs were found. Given the opportunity to continue these studies, Laila thought it would be interesting to investigate further about what other effects green crabs are creating in the underwater ecosystem, specifically with smaller creatures.

Tim Cochnauer introduced Vita Olson, the intern for the Tumwater Creek project. The project has been conducted for several years in a row now, and aims to track outmigrants of anadromous fish. In addition to this project, Vita's internship included some experience working with the Elwha tribe and their outmigrant trap, as well as beach seining, and working with the Olympia oyster restoration survey crew at Jamestown. Vita presented about the fence weir and Tumwater project: the team monitored for the quantity and species distribution of fish trapped in the fence weir. Tumwater creek, especially the northern region of it, is severely impacted by residential and industrial runoff. It is a highly channelized outlet among the shipyard, and its mouth feeds into the Port Angeles harbor. The trap was in place from May to June, and the team caught and observed 321 salmonids, 81 sculpin, and 3 lamprey. The 6 main species found were coho, steelhead, cutthroat, two species of sculpin, and pacific lamprey. This year, observers saw a continuation of the trend of population increase among cutthroat salmon, and a decline in coho, who saw the lowest numbers since 2016. Other data collected included water quality testing, sedimentation testing, monitoring of ocean conditions, and riparian habitat conditions. There were areas of increased and shifted sediment, and moving log jams. Since Tumwater creek receives drainage from roads, it is compromised in its lower two miles by erosion, slides, artificial repair and stabilization. The team measured dissolved oxygen levels, and conductivity, and identified areas of major changes among the sediment. While they are unsure if it is because of river conditions, sedimentation, ocean conditions, or other factors, in the past few years only very few coho spawning events have been observed, and it is not clear whether those seen are returning from previous Tumwater native generations, or if they are pioneering fish straying from other nearby streams of origin. Vita said she thought this would be an interesting direction to investigate in future research.

Ann Soule introduced McKenzie Ginther, the intern for the education/outreach project. McKenzie helped CMRC reach our 2021 outreach goals: to develop an educational outreach tool with which to spread awareness about Clallam Marine Resources Committee, and important species and ecosystem dynamics in the Salish Sea. McKenzie said that the project is meant to help increase public awareness about CMRC's projects, and educate the community on marine species, as well as to potentially reach and engage new volunteers. The tool McKenzie created were the outreach cards, which can be used as coasters at local establishments like restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. The cards will be printed by a local company in Sequim, and will be distributed to the companies for free. Each card highlights a key species, including a fun fact about each one, with a qr code on the back which when scanned will lead to an accompanying webpage on the CMRC site. The site will show the answer to each creature's fun fact question, as well as a menu displaying all available creature cards, so viewers can learn about and collect the lot of them. The website will also track traffic arriving to the page, which will help to track the effectiveness of the project and the amount of community engagement generated by it. So far three cards have been finalized, and the creatures featured are the pigeon guillemot, orca, and sea otter. The next creatures which are being considered for future cards, include forage fish, Olympia oyster, bull kelp, and ochre star. The printing of the first three coasters was made possible thanks to a donation from the Larry Barrett Kid's Fishing Fund. The cards were printed for \$0.54 per card including tax, and each of the three designs will be printed on 500 copies. The order will be placed in the near future, but the process of contacting venues to distribute the cards to, will need to be undertaken. If anyone knows of someone who owns a business and may be interested, please contact Ann Soule at [asoule@sequimwa.gov](mailto:asoule@sequimwa.gov). Tim and Ann discussed that a subcommittee for this project may be beneficial to involve, now that McKenzie's internship is finished and she will be returning to University. They also speculated that the budget may be able to be distributed in such a way that CMRC could fund the production of two more species cards, next.

Members and the audience congratulated and thanked Laila, Vita, and McKenzie for all of their hard work and presenting their discoveries and insights gained through their projects this summer!

### **Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda**

Rebecca brought up the previously discussed potential meeting with Jefferson County MRC, and will discuss with the members whether this is something they want to organize.

Cathy requested some time to talk about printing a tide pool guide to distribute to local county parks.

### **Public Comment/Approval of Minutes**

No public comment was made. The minutes for July were approved as written.

### **NWSC Update**

Alan explained about the reauthorization process for NWSC's funding. There will be some time scheduled at the next MRC meeting to give a brief presentation about the reauthorization process' entirety. Lucas Hart, Tom Cowan, and Chris Castner and the external relations committee are all strategizing and in communication with Senator Murray's office, and the pertinent people regarding the reauthorization, to create more stability for the initiative and its funding. More will be updated upon regarding the reauthorization in September's MRC meeting. July's NWSC meeting started off in remembrance of Caroline Gibson, and acknowledged the impact she had on people, and the fruitfulness of her work. The NWSF has established a marine conservation scholarship in her name. NWSF are thinking about having a two day retreat, the first part of which would take place by virtual session on Sept 23 from 1-2:30pm, as well as in person at Neah Bay on Sept 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am-3:30pm. They are also evaluating whether to return to in person monthly meetings in December or January, though will have to wait and see what will be happening in the coming months. The science advisory committee is working to streamline and clearly link actions to impacts, to make sure that the projects we are doing are actually meeting the impact goals we hope to reach. Alan extended thanks to Latrisha Suggs for reaching out and getting a letter of support to Patty Murray from PA City Council. Don Hunger reported that NWSF have shore friendly videos and a report of the 2020 highlights, on their site and Facebook. Alan also shared about the WWU article written by Caroline, called the State of the Salish Sea Report. It's 153 pages, available for download, and a great summary of what's going on with the Salish Sea. For anyone interested in the report, it can be found here: [https://cedar.wvu.edu/salish\\_pubs/1/](https://cedar.wvu.edu/salish_pubs/1/)

### **Project Updates**

**Olympia Oyster Restoration:** Chris Burns shared that surveys have been being conducted since last month's heat wave, and though they have not been completed, it's estimated that approximately half of the oyster population has perished. Oysters that were older and larger seemed to be more vulnerable, and those higher up the beach had a lower incidence of survival than those closer to the water, submerged, or growing on the underside of shells. While summer mortality has been experienced in the past, this was somewhat worse than previous instances. Reports of up to 100 degrees surface temperature were recorded during the heat wave. The water is estimated to have been over 80 degrees in shallow areas. The full scope of the damage to the oyster population won't be clear until next Spring when surveys are conducted again. Chris won't have conclusive findings from the data until it has been processed, but will send along an update as soon as one is available.

**Forage Fish:** Tim Cochnauer shared that, while this month's survey hasn't been conducted yet (it's scheduled for this upcoming Wednesday), last month's sample of Cline Spit showed the first evidence of eggs being present. This was slightly unusual, as historically eggs could be found throughout the year, starting as early as May. This year, the season seems to have been delayed by a couple of months.

**Kelp Survey:** Jeff Ward and Alan Clark shared that there has been some difficulty in completing all of the kelp surveys within the time frame desired, due to a fair amount of gale warnings, and having had to abandon a kelp survey without finishing it, due to windy weather and "sporty" waves. The large bed at Freshwater Bay has been surveyed, while the smaller one there and the bed at Clallam Bay are

scheduled to be surveyed in the coming weeks. Alan said that plans are in the works to discuss and select new equipment to help with taking additional measurements at the kelp beds, including water quality and dissolved oxygen. Also in the plans to be discussed are the motorized boat surveys, which are being evaluated for the re-designing of a new protocol, and considering actions to impacts goals and outcomes.

Pigeon Guillemot: Tim shared in Ed Bowlby's stead that the 10<sup>th</sup> week of monitoring has passed, but most sites are still active with fish deliveries, so weekly surveys will continue until at least 2 consecutive weeks have passed with no activity observed at the burrows. Presently, some birds are still returning to their burrows with fish. Ed expects to have another update in September. Rebecca shared that she will be going tomorrow to pick up two new laminated signs to place back at Port Williams, to replace the one that got ruined.

Oil Spill Preparedness: Ann Stafford shared that she and Jeff Ward have been in contact with someone at WDFW, and have tentatively identified two dates in November and December to host HAZWOPR training. Various locations between Clallam and Jefferson counties are being considered, including 7 Cedars. It would be preferable to offer the training indoors, but may be facing other solutions considering the covid situation. Rebecca shared that there will be a zoom training regarding marine mammal oil spill response, on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 8am-5pm. There is also an oil spill training in Port Angeles on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, which was supposed to be 4 days but has been shortened to 2. The field part of the training will be done virtually. Mike Doherty shared about a webinar available on Dept of Ecology's website, August 18<sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00pm, giving a summary of what they have been doing over the last year.

Tide Pool Education and Outreach: Cathy shared about the Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary's recently published flier, which is fun and colorful, with singing creatures, aimed at educating the public and children about tide pool creatures. It is double sided, and Cathy wonders if it may be something that the CMRC would be interested in printing on write in rain paper, or laminating it, and distributing it. The county parks department has offered to stock the flier at county parks, if they can get copies. Mike has already done the research with the sanctuary, and they're alright with the MRC covering the cost of printing, if the members desire to do so. The members discussed that they would like to add a qr code, the CMRC logo, and "distributed by Clallam MRC" to the flier. Cathy estimated that a good influence could likely be made for about \$100, estimated maybe 500 copies to be distributed. More could always be considered to be printed if they prove to be very popular. Tim asked what county parks have significant tide pools, other than Salt Creek? Cathy said, Sequim Bay State Park, Dungeness Rec area, and a park at Clallam Bay which, while not a county park, may be willing to have some there.

### **Upcoming MRC Joing Meeting**

Rebecca shared that Monica Montgomery of Jefferson County MRC reached out to her, wondering if Clallam MRC would be interested in having a joint meeting, possibly outside in person somewhere in between the counties, Jamestown or Sequim area. Given the state of things, it may be best to wait to see what the future holds, or consider meeting virtually. Members agreed that having an in person meeting would be ideal, and a previous one a few years ago was very successful, so perhaps waiting until next year if necessary to allow for in person meeting, may be better. Everyone concluded that CMRC is interested in having a joint meeting with JMRC.

### **Good of the Order**

Mike Doherty shared that the marine lab in Port Townsend is going to move from the state beach at Fort Warden, to a midtown location on Water Street. He suggested that CMRC might enjoy a field trip to go and look at their new marine lab!

Ann Soule shared that, at the next meeting she would like to have a short discussion of what we talked about through the last year, regarding putting together a presentation for the Board of Commissioners.

The most recent thought was that it would be done in the Fall. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting, and will be evaluating when planning for this would fit in best for everyone.

Mike shared that Carol Birdsal is retiring from the Sanctuary. They are getting a new research vessel, and will have an open house on the new vessel after it's delivered.

Mike also shared that the Biden package is being considered, containing civilian conservation corps components, and he wonders if Lucas Hart or someone could brief the MRC on what the potential is for on-the-water job creation, and conservation work.

Latrisha Suggs shared about an article from the New York Times, entitled US Declares Shortage on Colorado River. Some water cuts are being created, for downstream states. Lake Mead is at about 34% capacity. This is more of a water capacity issue and is related to climate change, but Latrisha thinks it is something everyone in our community needs to think about and plan for in the future, planning for water quantity and being able to protect those resources. Tim said this is a great point, and mentioned that he had just visited Sievert creek, and saw that there is not a lot of water for mid-August, and it's two months still before the rains return. Latrisha acknowledged that a lot of snow pack melted during the recent heatwave, and as the Colorado river has been declining over the last 20 years, they're just now finally having to take steps to compensate for it. She shared that it'd be great if our community could make sure that things are protected in advance so that we won't be heading arrive at a similar point.

#### **Public Comment**

Lucas Hart shared that Caroline Gibson's memorial will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4-7:00pm, at the Northwest maritime Center in Port Townsend. There will be a vaccine mandate at the event. Lucas will send out an email with the details.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 7:20 pm.