



August 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 15, 2022
Time: 5:30-7:00 PM
Location: Zoom meeting only
Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community At Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe), Cathy Lear (Clallam County), Arnold Schouten (Development Community Representative), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Representative), Nancy Stephanz (Conservation and Environment Representative Alternate), Megan Uecker (Sequim City Analyst), Lance Vail (District 1), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative), Jesse Waknitz (Port of Port Angeles)

Others present: Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Jessica Page (Northwest Straits Foundation)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Chair Tim Cochnauer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Rebecca Mahan added a couple of announcements to the end of the meeting. A quorum was not yet present to approve the agenda.

Public Comment / Approval of July Minutes

When a quorum was present, Bob Vreeland moved to approve the July CC MRC minutes. The motion passed with all in favor.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update from the July NWSC meeting. The NWSC is going to hold an outdoor, in-person Collaborative Conservation Workshop on Friday, 9/16/2022 at the Padilla Bay Reserve in Mount Vernon. All MRC members, County commissioners, and Commission members are invited and encouraged to attend. The CC MRC will be presenting on their smolt trap project; the one-page project description still needs to be developed. The next round of congressionally directed spending funds is about to be released. The Northwest Straits Foundation has put together the Passport to Marine Adventure app, which is now live and available for download. The app helps explorers build marine-related itineraries in the Salish Sea area.

CC MRC Updates

Derelict Vessels in Clallam County

Jesse Waknitz and Rebecca Mahan attended a NWSC Derelict Vessel meeting on 8/2/22; other MRCs and counties also participated. NWSC is obtaining about \$1 million in grant funding for the Department of Natural Resources to dispose of derelict vessels. Jesse mentioned the two known vessels in Sequim Bay. Rebecca put NWSC in contact with the Neah Bay harbormaster so that they can also take advantage

of the program, and has been trying to reach contacts with the Quileute Tribe. Mike Doherty suggested a new contact with the Quileute Tribe, and also approaching the owners of Olsen's Resort in Sekiu. Jesse clarified that they have until October to put a list of vessels together. The group discussed the process and associated costs.

Guest Presentation on Passport to Marine Adventure App

AmeriCorps Partnership Coordinator for the Northwest Straits Foundation Jessica Page presented information on the new Passport to Marine Adventure app. The app launched last month with the goal of engaging families in marine restoration and exploration, especially at sites where the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative has done work. Points are collected by visiting sites and can be redeemed at local businesses for small discounts. The app currently features several sites in Clallam County: the Elwha River mouth, Clallam Bay County Park, and the Dungeness Spit. New sites are being developed for Pillar Point, Crescent Beach, Sequim Bay State Park, and Ediz Hook. Jessica invited input from the CC MRC on the new sites, such as photos, environmental education and local tips. They are also looking for more rewards sites where points can be redeemed. Arnold Schouten brought up parking limitations at the Elwha River mouth. The group discussed considering replacing that site with the additions of the Lyre River Conservation Site and the Sekiu County Park. Jessica will distribute site and reward questions with more specific information, and can be contacted at page@nwstraitsfoundation.org.

Project Updates

Olympia Oysters

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe oyster surveys took place from 5/31/2022 to 6/2/2022. Chris Burns was not present for an update.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer reported that surveys will continue this week. Outside of about 100 eggs surveyed at Cline Spit, one other egg was found at the Elwha beach on the eastside of the river.

Biotoxin Sampling

Since the last CC MRC meeting, Bob Vreeland sampled at Pillar Point on 7/27/22. After that, the entire coast was shut down for digging any kind of clams. He attempted to discourage some campers from harvesting any. The last sample he took was on 8/10/22, and the next sample day is 8/24/22. The beaches remain closed for harvest, and Bob said he did not expect to see that change until the fall. Rebecca Mahan mentioned that the signage at Freshwater Bay is hard to see, and that she warned some recreational harvesters who threw their clams back. *She will approach the Department of Health about it.

Kayak Surveys

Alan Clark said that the kayak survey at Freshwater Bay went very well. They were going to go to Clallam Bay today, but postponed that until the end of August due to high winds and swells. The idea is to keep the least experienced kayaker safe and comfortable. A few days in September might be also be manageable, but after that the weather gets very spotty. Alan reported a lot of salmon at Freshwater Bay, more than he has seen before. The group discussed recent salmon and whale sightings. Rebecca Mahan added that there are adult Chinook in the Dungeness and Elwha rivers.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys

Ed Bowlby was not present for an update, but Rebecca Mahan said that the surveys should be about done. There will be an update at the September CC MRC meeting.

Additional Updates

Bob Vreeland said he refilled coasters at the Barhop and The Rail restaurants, but will go back and see if they need more. *Arnold Schouten offered to deliver some coasters to The Spruce in Port Angeles, and *Nancy Stephanz said she would drop some off at the Port Angeles Library. Rebecca Mahan said there were about 1500 coasters left to distribute. She also said that the Jefferson MRC had reserved a table for Crab Fest to share with the CC MRC, but due to staffing shortages Jefferson cancelled. Since it is past the deadline for booth reservations, the Crab Fest event is no longer an option unless CC MRC can take over the returned table. *Rebecca will find out if that is an option; if so, CC MRC members will be needed to volunteer to staff the table. Crab Fest is 10/7/22-10/9/22. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) urchin team reached out to Rebecca about volunteers to help process urchins for their survey from 9/12/22-9/15/22. *Nancy volunteered to participate. Several CC MRC members have signed up for the NWSC Collaborative Conservation Workshop at the Padilla Bay Reserve on 9/16/22. Carpooling may be an option for those who are interested. Rebecca welcomed any input on the one-page CC MRC project description they will be submitting; it is due 8/19/22.

Good of the Order

Mike Doherty announced that the Sea Grant advisory group will meet at the 7 Cedars Hotel in Sequim from 9/21/2022 to 9/22/2022. For more information, see: [Washington Sea Grant – It's the water, and a lot more](#). Rebecca Mahan mentioned that she will be gone from 8/21/22-8/25/22. The Congressionally Directed Spending Funds Subcommittee meets Wednesday 8/17/22 to sort through the information that the NWSC sent. The funding timeline for expenditure is 1/1/23-12/31/23. There are stipulations for project spending. Final approval is still needed from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tim Cochnauer reminded the group that Rebecca will send out an inquiry about volunteers for Crab Fest times and dates.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Action Items:

- *Rebecca Mahan will approach the Department of Health about the signage at Freshwater Bay for shellfish biotoxin hazards.***
- *Arnold Schouten offered to deliver some coasters to The Spruce in Port Angeles.***
- *Nancy Stephanz volunteered to drop coasters off at the Port Angeles Library.***
- *Rebecca will find out if reserving a table at Crab Fest is an option; if so, she will send out an inquiry about volunteers.***
- *Nancy volunteered to participate in the WDFW urchin survey.***