



July 2023 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community at Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Alternate), Ann Soule (District 2), Nancy Stephanz (Ecology Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Tamara Galvan (Feiro Marine Life Center), Katie Kowal (Clallam County), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Alisa Taylor (Former CC MRC Intern)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Rebecca Mahan and Tim Cochnauer requested several additions under Announcements. Mike Doherty said he had some announcements to make under the Good of the Order.

Public Comment / Approval of June Minutes

Bob Vreeland made a correction the June CC MRC Minutes under Biotoxins: Shellfish: they should say: "Bob Vreeland reported that everywhere east of the *Lyre River* was closed for paralytic shellfish poisoning, not east of *Three Rivers*." Helle Andersen made a correction to the date of Sekiu Fun Days: it should be 7/4 instead of 4/7. ***Bob Vreeland moved to accept the minutes as amended; Alan Clark seconded. The minutes were accepted by consensus with those changes.***

Announcements

Educational Display

Rebecca Mahan and Ann Soule led discussion on review of the CC MRC logo mockups from the graphic designer. ***Ann Soule moved to choose the rectangular shape with the bump in the middle, permitting the Educational Display Subcommittee to fine tune changes like emphasizing the "Marine Resources Committee" font over the Clallam County font.*** Rebecca clarified that the logo was made with vector art, which will allow it to be used on anything and at any size. The group discussed the various designs, and the sea star picture in the logo. ***Ann Soule amended her motion to have the Subcommittee continue work on the logo, bringing new options back to the August CC MRC meeting if the budget allows, perhaps with an updated sea star; Bob Vreeland seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.***

Upcoming Events

Tim Cochnauer announced the Dungeness River Festival, scheduled for 9/22/23. The CC MRC has had booths there before. The Educational Display Subcommittee has come up with some new ideas for displays; concrete ideas will be needed by the August CC MRC meeting. *If anyone is interested in helping, sign up through Rebecca Mahan. Forever Streamfest is scheduled for 10/14/23 at Peninsula College. Additional updates included the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mussel Monitoring Program, which is adding new sites to the program and will need volunteers when the program starts back up in several months; and a series of oil spill workshops, the next one to focus on the administrative process and scheduled for 7/27/23. Rebecca has sent out information on the workshops. *Tim Cochnauer volunteered to participate in the WDFW Mussel Program.

Rescue Tug

Mike Doherty reminded the group that the San Juan Island MRC and cosponsors held a Rescue Tug panel, and he invited them to present to Clallam and Jefferson Counties. The Committee discussed ideas for logistics, including meeting dates and times for the fall. Mike suggested contacting the Jefferson MRC to see if they are interested.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. Due to scheduling, there has not been a NWSC meeting since the last CC MRC meeting. The Commission has returned to in-person meetings on alternate months; the last one was held on Lopez Island. The Executive Committee is looking at NWS Initiative structure and how the Commission and Foundation might work together in the future; this has been in a state of flux ever since the pandemic. Upcoming ideas include better communication. There may be a get together during the NWSC Conference in November. The 2023 NWSC Conference will be held on 11/3/2023-11/4/2023 in Port Townsend. Alan reminded the group to start thinking about how they might want to attend the conference. More information can be found on the NWSC website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://nwstraits.org/).

Project Updates

GPS/GoPro

Rebecca Mahan reported that the new GoFish camera was bought and received. Alan Clark said that it could be used to investigate the diminishing kelp beds.

Olympia Oyster

Chris Burns said they were still waiting on the permits for the shell placement, which are expected in September. He has sourced enough shell for the project; 800 more bags will be coming from Willapa Bay. When the permits are in, he will start placing shell on beaches by boat over the winter. The shell will be spread by hand during lower spring tides. Rebecca Mahan has been in communication with Sasha Horst, who will be able to extend the project contract due to the permit delays.

Pigeon Guillemot

Ed Bowlby said the surveys were on week seven of ten. They added a new site this year. Most of the volunteers from last year returned.

Education and Outreach: Coasters

Ann Soule said that the coasters were delayed but were now underway. They should arrive by 8/1/23. The website has been updated with creature facts that are linked to the coasters through QR code.

Education and Outreach: New Displays

Ann Soule reported a great brainstorming meeting with the Educational Display Subcommittee. They decided to model the CC MRC displays after Jefferson County MRC's, with a vertical sign featuring the MRC name and a simple description, and more information and photos on additional signs about oysters, crab, and kelp. There will also be hands-on elements. Some displays will be ready in time for the Dungeness River Festival. *Ed Bowlby volunteered to help with the Subcommittee. LaTrisha Suggs suggested setting up signs with some of the CC MRC featured species as a permanent installation downtown; *Ann will add that idea to the list.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer said that May is typically the highest month for surf smelt, particularly on Cline Spit; there were over 400 eggs collected at Cline Spit in May, but only about 50 in June. The total for the other three sites was about 5 eggs for the entire duration of the surveys. The data suggests that Cline Spit is the primary site for surf smelt and that the other eggs are showing up randomly. July surveys will start on 7/18/23.

Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen and Tim Cochnauer have conducted four random surveys at Elwha Beach. Helle is also working with Arnold Schouten to coincide with an excellent surf day. Most days she has only seen 10-40 people. About 200 dog waste bags have been used in the last month. The group discussed the fact that the portable toilet was tipped over about a month ago. Chris Burns reported seeing surf smelt on the beach.

Kelp Surveys

Alan Clark announced that the surveys would be starting soon in Clallam and Freshwater Bays. The survey team will be using the GoFish camera to inspect the kelp beds. The survey dates will be selected for low tide and less windy days in later July and August.

Biotoxins: Shellfish

Bob Vreeland reported that there was a Marine Biotoxin Bulletin that announced that Clallam County was now open for all species of shellfish from Cape Flattery east to Dungeness Spit, even though it was closed five days ago. Water quality specialist with Clallam County Katie Kowal added that several low samples opened things up again; east of Dungeness Spit in Jefferson County is open to everything but butter and varnish clams.

Biotoxins: Sound Toxins

Nancy Stephanz said that Sound Toxins surveys started today with their first training session. A new guide will help the survey team identify seven key species; they thought they recognized two of them today. Samples will continue weekly starting the first Monday in August. The Sound Toxin team will borrow the microscope from the forage fish survey team.

Catch More Crab

Rebecca Mahan has more rack cards and posters in her office if anyone has a place to distribute them. She refilled the rack holders in Freshwater Bay.

Good of the Order

Bob Vreeland asked whether European green crab were edible; Rebecca Mahan confirmed that they were eaten and used in various ways. Rebecca asked the group to make any comments on the grant she circulated under "Track Changes" so she can compile everything for Sasha Horst. Ann Soule and Mike

Doherty announced that the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center was open and would be holding a grand opening event for free that would feature ballet, bands, and art; the terminus exhibit about disappearing glaciers was very powerful. Ann added that a special panel on Climate Change and Resiliency featuring Bill Bacchus, Ian Miller, and Liz Schotman would be held on 7/20/23.

Public Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Action Items:

- *If anyone is interested in helping with CC MRC educational displays, sign up through Rebecca Mahan.***
- *Tim Cochnauer volunteered to participate in the WDFW Mussel Program.***
- *Ed Bowlby volunteered to help with the Educational Display Subcommittee.***
- *Ann Soule will add LaTrisha Sugg's idea of permanent installation CC MRC signs to the list of educational display ideas.***