

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 4, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Jeff Hanson, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Susan Key  
Kari Koski, The Whale Museum  
Susan Muckle, WSU Beachwatchers, Lopez  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity Salmon Recovery  
Kim Sundberg, Technical Advisory Group, Salmon Recovery  
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

**Presentation: “Salmon Harvest Management”** by Alan Chapman (Natural Resources Manager, Lummi Nation) and Kit Rawson (fish biologist, Tulalip Tribes)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Accountability Oversight Group (AOG) meeting, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-1:45pm Anacortes City Council Chambers
- MRC Annual Report/Work Plan presentation, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:30pm, San Juan County Council Hearing Room
- Marine Managers Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, UW Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

**Stewardship Network update:** Jeff Hanson reported that the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was well attended and included Kristen Cooley. He said that the annual stewardship celebration will be continued this spring, with the main event being held at Lime Kiln State Park. There will be displays from the various stewardship groups as well as information from the Friends of the Lime Kiln Society on their funding activities for the Park. Jeff requested that MRC members and others be prepared to submit nominations for the annual Good Stewardship Award (the “Finnie”).

Jeff said the EcoNet grant application has been submitted and that the website has database potential to

feed information to the site. Jeff will soon be retiring from his roles as Stewardship Coordinator and interim MRC Coordinator. (He noted that the EcoNet contract is held by San Juan County at this time but could be contracted, if necessary, from another organization.)

**Science subcommittee report:** Gregg Dietzman said that the grant application for a marine specimen lab was fast-tracked and submitted, as discussed at the last MRC meeting. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been sent to the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF). He reiterated that funding for this proposal will provide a very good opportunity to continue good work here. Tina Whitman added that it meshes well with MRC monitoring goals and Jeff noted that it addresses an action strategy, not an action. He reported that Joan Drinkwin of NWSF reminded him that funding from alternative sources will be available a year out. Tina suggested seeking funding from the various island community foundations as well. Gregg said that the next step for the marine specimen lab would be a larger proposal, to include a facility.

**Implementation Committee report:** Barbara Rosenkotter said the five proposals submitted will be reviewed later today by the IC followed by a recommendation being submitted to the Policy Committee. Draft Action Agenda items are also being reviewed and comments are requested; the Agenda is to be approved at the next AOC meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Four people are being interviewed on Friday for the position of Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Coordinator.

Barbara said the marine nearshore grant based on San Juan Initiative recommendations has been accepted. The grant for San Juan County CDPD (\$80,000) will provide technical

Barbara said the marine nearshore grant based on the San Juan Initiative has been accepted. This first official LIO grant for San Juan County (\$80,000) will provide technical assistance for new landowners on the Islands before building begins. A part-time position will be filled to build the program; this action is designed to improve regulatory effectiveness.

**Marine Managers Workshop update:** Jeff distributed copies of a draft agenda for the workshop, requesting input. Laura Arnold suggested inviting a Canadian contingent that could be included on the agenda. She said the Tuesday session includes discussion of what we really have to do to protect salmon and how to focus activities of the various groups and agencies to achieve meaningful outcome, perhaps by combining and restructuring work. What are NOAA, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others going to do? Laura added that SJC planning staff should be present for this session and requested that Rene Beliveau specifically invite Julie Thompson, Janice Biletznikoff, Shireene Hale, Lee McEnery, and Colin Maycock from the county Community Development and Planning department. Laura said she hoped there would be tribal representation on the panel and that the SJC Public Works staff should be invited particularly for the Tuesday morning session.

**2012 MRC Annual Report/Work Plan:** Jeff said the County Council presentation on January 24<sup>th</sup> will feature verbal presentations and slides to include a 15-year retrospective of the MRC (its purpose, role, international and local aspects of its work, what the MRC does for the community, including the benefits of providing training for local trades, environmental improvements attributable to MRC activities). 2011 MRC accomplishments will also be reviewed as well as suggestions for how the MRC can continue its work and Marine Stewardship Area Plan implementation; this will include Council approval of the Work Plan, Council acknowledgement of MRC work, and establishing a placeholder for next year's budget, noting that the County used to fund the MRC. Jeff, Steve Revella, Jonathan White, and Barbara Marrett will work on the presentation with details ironed out over the next week. Laura suggested highlighting in the Report the MRC's work in implementing the San Juan Initiative.

The Work Plan will also be presented and Jeff said that Councilperson Lovel Pratt has drafted a letter from the Council in support of the MRC. Jeff said that about \$3,000 could be available for the sportfishing brochure display ad or other effort; there was discussion on other budgeting options.

**Motion:** Jim Slocomb moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the draft Work Plan, as emailed last night to members, be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff said he met with Ed Hale and Susan Key to discuss whether to apply for the urban waters grant which is designed specifically for the restoration of polluted waters in urban areas. Susan, a member of the County Stormwater Citizens Advisory Group, said there is not enough funding from Public Works Utilities to support the monitoring piece; she added that the Pollution Identification and Control (PIC) grant awarded to Public Works does include monitoring (as spearheaded by Mark Tompkins of SJC Health and Community Services). This includes inspection and repair of septic systems in certain high priority areas to improve water quality.

**Presentation: “Salmon Harvest Management for WRIA 2 TAG and MRC”**

Kit Rawson explained that salmon harvest management is a joint program of the state and tribes. He began with a discussion on Escapement (Canadian source: [www.salmonguy.org](http://www.salmonguy.org)), illustrating that too few salmon get through to their destination. Life Cycle figures (source: [www.factzoo.com](http://www.factzoo.com)) show that the population can regenerate itself if enough fish are left after harvest to allow for continued sustainable harvest. Factors affecting escapement numbers are freshwater habitat conditions, nearshore habitat conditions, ocean conditions, harvest, hatchery production. Management Objectives, i.e. harvest strategies, for sustainable Pacific Salmon fisheries management include different models: escapement goal (numbers spawning), exploitation rate (% of return harvested), for example.

Abundance forecasts are an attempt to predict the number of fish coming back (known as “recruits”). Some indicators of marine survival are based on ocean conditions such as sea surface temperature, annual climate shifts, lower upwelling. Pacific Northwest Chinook are widely distributed up and down the Pacific coast, Kit said. These fisheries are located in British Columbia, Puget Sound, the Washington coast, Oregon, southeast Alaska, contributing to a complex system of mixed stocks. How will a group of fisheries affect fish stocks? Coded wire fish tags are manufactured on Shaw Island. Kit said there are Pacific Management Councils throughout the area.

The Fishery Regulatory Assessment Model (FRAM), used mostly since the Boldt decision, attempts to forecast abundance and stock numbers (inputs) to develop fishing plans that will yield the output of desired stock impacts. Therefore, managers work on the necessary changes to fishing plans to meet management guidelines, using several tools including monitoring of all fisheries.

Alan Chapman said that sockeye fisheries are managed somewhat differently than, for example, Snohomish or Stillaguamish Chinook; Alan suggested looking at 2010 YouTube videos of Fraser River or Adams River fisheries. He said that models are developed using data available over time (e.g. exploitation rates back to 1983). Alan, quoting Kit, said that “reducing fisheries will not reduce the number of fish.” Are we fishing selectively? Kit asked. For pre-season projections the preference is to catch hatchery, not wild, fish using various techniques.

Alan noted that monitoring sportfishing numbers is difficult. Kari Koski asked about impacts to salmon fishing from orca whales, sea lions, and seals. Alan said that there are goals for every stock and fisheries plans recognize that Chinook are essential to the survival of southern resident killer whales. He asked, “Are the limited Chinook in orca diets due to the decline in fish numbers? What can be done

to not impact killer whales?” Jim said that the sea lion and seal populations are up considerably over the last 20 years. Alan agreed that some fish mortality can be attributed to sea lions and seals preying on them.

Washington state has limited entry for commercial fishing but not for recreational fishing. Many strategies are involved in quota management, including transboundary efforts. Alan explained that an “Annex” is an agreement outside of treaties with different management strategies.

**Recognition of Kari Koski's 20 years of service to the Soundwatch program:** John Aschoff said that his experience over the four years he volunteered with Soundwatch is that the program represents a unique and valuable set of resources: Southern resident orcas, Soundwatch itself, and Kari Koski! John interjected the reminder that the resident orcas are endangered for a variety of reasons requiring varied strategies to protect them from extinction. Orcas have tremendous value as watchable wildlife but we have to be careful not to watch them to death, he added. John gave a brief history of the Soundwatch program, starting with the efforts of Rich Osborne, past researcher and director of The Whale Museum (as well as early chair of the MRC) and those of “Queen Kari.” The program is a voluntary cooperative effort of the whale watch industry and environmental groups that has effectively changed the boating behavior of both U.S. and Canadian boaters. John's cautionary note to the MRC is to not take Soundwatch for granted.

John said that with Kari's wide diversity of skills and grace under pressure, she has been a model for many interns. She has proved to be a masterful multi-tasker on the water as well as an effective fundraiser. John thanked Kari for her devotion and good work and wished her the best of luck in future endeavors.

Kari added that it has been the volunteers who make the program work. Kit noted that Soundwatch has been a key part of the MRC and its participation in the MSA Plan. Kari, he said, has stood up for the MRC at County Council meetings at crucial moments. As the second ever Master Steward award recipient, Kari received a Master Steward hat and the MRC's deep gratitude. Kari said that it has been an honor to work with the MRC on its important mission. Steve told Kari that she has made a difference in our lives. Kari said she is leaving the Soundwatch program, but not the Islands.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, Research Director, The Whale Museum  
Eric Eisenhardt, Coordinator, Soundwatch  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Sally Hawkins  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity Salmon Recovery  
Laura Jo Severson  
Scott Williamson, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Stewardship Network, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2pm, location tbd
- Our Oceans, Our Future, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-5pm, Friday Harbor Labs
- Padilla Bay Research Symposium, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm, Padilla Bay
- Marine Managers Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, UW Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

Eric Einsenhardt introduced himself as the new coordinator of the Soundwatch Program; he introduced Stefan Barger who will also be contributing to the Program. Eric said that Kari Koski has made herself available as a resource. Tina Whitman reminded everyone that Eric did a lot of work in the dive survey of the Bottomfish Recovery Zones.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 4, 2011 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley said the committee did not meet last week and thought it was a good idea to meet on Orcas Island for the next meeting. An alternate plan is to meet following the February 15<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting in Friday Harbor; Barbara noted that the social marketing workshop at Padilla Bay is scheduled for the same day. She will send out an email with the final details.

**Outreach subcommittee report:** The last meeting was canceled due to the snowstorm. John Aschoff said that the Targeted Awareness grant will fund a series of outreach efforts for contractors, landowners, etc. on all the islands, coordinated by Karrie Cooper and with Friends of the San Juans' involvement. The Sustainable San Juans annual event will be held at Lime Kiln State Park this year and will include lead-up sessions on other islands.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White said the good news is that the Governor's office does not want the NWSC to go away and that other state and federal agencies are realizing the value of the stewardship role the NWSC plays...a role not met by any other group. Jonathan said the potential EPA grant (\$1 to 1.6 million) will fund the NWSC with enough to keep it afloat. The capacity funding is tied into Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and Action Agenda work. He added that a large re-organization is underway and that the NWSC is really a board of the Northwest Straits Conservation Initiative. The Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) is the funding arm. These are now being separated to clarify the federal aspect and non-profit aspect assuring that there can be no perception of a conflict of interest. Ginny Broadhurst, for instance, is not the Director of NWSF.

Jonathan said that he will be stepping back from his role as NWSC representative from the MRC.

**Motion:** Jim Slocumb moved, and Gregg Dietzman seconded, that Steve Revella and John Aschoff be approved as delegate and second to the NWSC, respectively. The motion passed unanimously.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said she participated in a recent conference call regarding state stimulus funding for shovel-ready projects. She said that there are two San Juan County salmon recovery projects on the list that will hopefully be going forward.

**Local Integrating Organization (LIO)/Implementation Committee report:** Barbara Rosenkotter indicated that the most recent work of the LIO has been to complete the Action Agenda, including the profile of the San Juans (a narrative on local economy, etc.); this will be presented to the County Council next Tuesday. RFP's for implementation funding have also been completed; they were approved by the AOC on January 20<sup>th</sup> with three proposals on the list: the MRC plan for a specimen bank; the Marine Managers' Workshop; and, the Friends of the San Juans' and San Juan Preservation Trust's neighborhood concept of conservation easements. Barbara said that the derelict vessels program RFP and the KWIAHT proposal for stormwater monitoring were not funded. Some Lead Organization EPA funding will be coming through, including money for Public Works' stormwater work. Barbara added that there is an additional Lead Organization grant for CD&P for more compliance and landowner technical assistance.

Gregg Dietzman said that the rationale for the specimen bank is to create a community-based resource with tools, freezers, etc. to collect sediment specimens of biological species here to establish a baseline for the County (e.g. in the event of coal or oil spills). Gregg said this is a low-cost method and this funding is for the plan itself. The bank will be located at the Friday Harbor Labs which has a back-up generator.

Linda Lyshall said she met with Amy Windrope yesterday and the grant for the Marine Managers' Workshop is shaping up.

**Raingarden update:** Rene Beliveau said there was a meeting yesterday with the Town of Friday Harbor Administrator regarding liability. Issues remaining are: who owns the raingarden?; did the

Town ever formally accept the infrastructure?; who is responsible for long-term maintenance needs?; MRC and Town roles in costs, scheduling, etc. Rene said the Sheriff and courts have agreed to provide community service workers, as available, for some of the maintenance work (e.g. picking up cigarette butt litter). The Town has limited water quality testing for some parameters. Linda said she talked to Johannes Krieger this morning; he will return in March and will cover the role of lead for the project. Barbara Marrett volunteered to fill the role in the meantime. She said that it is important for the MRC to keep a liaison with the Town. A maintenance schedule from the engineers would be a good idea, she added. Barbara Bentley said she has a deep interest to continue to collect data from the raingarden in an attempt to show if it is improving the pollution problem. The science subcommittee is reviewing Russel Barsh's report.

**Advisory groups and the County Council:** Steve said he attended last week's Council meeting on advisory group structure. The 2012 MRC Work Plan and 2011 Annual Report were approved the week before. These MRC priorities were laid out at the Council's priorities session with Richard Peterson, Richard Fralick, and Howie Rosenfeld:

1. funding plan beyond June 30<sup>th</sup>
2. oil spill communication plan (to be addressed in the Marine Managers Workshop) – needs funding and development of expertise of MRC members through education
3. maintain annual Marine Managers Workshop – need \$8,000 per year
4. maintain active liaison relationship between MRC and Council (currently R. Fralick)

Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that Richard Fralick is also our representative to the Salmon Recovery Council. Steve said that one of the missing skill sets is the lack of an MRC member from Lopez Island; another is the impact of some members being seasonally absent. Barbara Marrett suggested that the MRC initiate meetings with the liaison. Linda said the Council also discussed reapproval of the 2001 MRC operating resolution (Charter); the Council wants to finalize it (there was no action on the 2009 version).

There will be an NWSC retreat on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Padilla Bay; Steve, John, and Linda will attend.

**MRC Coordinators' update:** Linda said that she is decluttering the MRC office and would like to find suitable homes for the three remaining car wash kits; suggestions were fire stations, high schools, marine science classes, specific organizations. Barbara Rosenkotter emphasized that there should be good outreach to go with handing out the kits. Linda will re-develop the email list (for minutes, etc.). She's distributing existing brochures and suggested venues were the Port of Friday Harbor, West Marine, the Visitors Bureau, etc..

**Derelict Vessel Program update:** Barbara Marrett, Steve and Linda met with DNR (Melissa Ferris, Terry Carten), the Port of Friday Harbor (Tami Hayes) and Joanruth Baumann. Discussion items included how to retrieve vessels before they sink and how to enforce registration of all boats. Linda said that some illegal mooring buoys have been tagged by DNR but the agency doesn't have enough funding to do all of them in the San Juans; therefore, the worst areas will be targeted. Jim Slocomb said the problem is huge and Tina noted that there is liability if a boat is attached to the mooring. If the existing rules were enforced, there would be very few derelict vessels. An outreach component is needed to get illegal mooring buoys licensed, to get boat registrations current, and to let boat owners know about anchoring rules. Community buy-in is important. There are discrepancies in the existing databases. Jim said that the 5-mile rule could have a negative impact on the cruising population. Much of the enforcement effort falls on San Juan County. Joanruth's contract (\$10,000 of community seed money) needs more funding (through LIO?). Jim said an interlocal agreement exists with the County,

Town and Port of Friday Harbor to share costs (counts as match).

**Vessel Traffic Study:** John said that Jeff Dismukes did the 2002 and 2010 aerial studies (time series over summer). NOAA funding included monitoring of the volunteer no-go zone. Do MRC members have suggestions for other uses of the data? The science subcommittee will look at the issue. Some suggestions were to correlate with Soundwatch and other existing datasets (e.g. on tankers). Kit asked how many boats there are in San Juan County on a typical peak day in summer. Does the number represent a long-term trend? He suggested correlating the study results with ground-based observations by volunteers using standard protocols. Who would coordinate the effort? Ken Sebens said the survey needs to be repeated every five years. Barbara Marrett pointed out that upcoming changes to the Panama Canal will result in more ships going directly to the east coast and bypassing Puget Sound ports. Kit asked what impact vessel traffic might have on killer whales and other marine life. John noted that NOAA has a recovery plan for the southern resident killer whales. He added that Jeff Dismukes' abstract and report are available online.

**Coal Port issue:** Linda said that the proposed terminal at Cherry Point (to move coal from Wyoming to China) has lots of opposition, especially in Bellingham; Cherry Point is about 15 miles west of Orcas Island. It is more economically feasible at this time for China to buy coal from the U.S. rather than use its own coal resources. Barbara Marrett said an estimated 900 more vessels per year could result; train traffic through Seattle will also increase, adding 9 more trains per day. The coal would be too heavy to go over the mountains. Herring habitat at Cherry Point as well as climate change effect are big issues. The risk of oil spill on the marine environment will be heightened. Linda said that the EIS will be jointly decided by the Department of Ecology and Whatcom County and that comments on the EIS are necessary to assure the EIS is comprehensive. The MRC will submit a comment (drafted by the policy subcommittee) and inform the County Council to get on mailing lists. Linda can request an EIS hearing in San Juan County.

RE-sources, a non-profit environmental group in Bellingham, is sponsoring forums on the coal port issue. They will be held from 6 to 8pm at: Lopez Community Center, February 7<sup>th</sup>; Eastsound Fire Hall, February 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday Harbor High School Commons, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Subcommittees:** There was discussion on whether there should be a new fundraising subcommittee made up of the chair and other members. A first meeting would work on developing a long-term fundraising strategy. Steve said a fundraising group is strongly recommended by NWSF's Joan Drinkwin. Jim Slocomb volunteered to chair the group and the option of the effort being a sub-task of the executive subcommittee was discussed.

Steve will contact members regarding this year's participation in subcommittees.

Jim said that the Town, County, and Ecology have Shoreline Master Program documents available on their websites. There was agreement to invite Colin Maycock of CDP and a representative from Ecology to present to a future MRC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada



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MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
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Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
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**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, Research Director, The Whale Museum  
Karrie Cooper, Coordinator, EcoNet  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Sally Hawkins  
Gene Helfman, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Salmon Recovery  
Mike Kaill  
Judy Meyer, (TAG) Salmon Recovery  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity Salmon Recovery  
Kim Sundberg, TAG Salmon Recovery

**Presentation:** “Glenwood Springs Salmon Enhancement Hatchery Overview” by Mike O’Connell, Long Live the Kings

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Marine Managers Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-7pm and March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-noon, UW Friday Harbor Labs

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 1, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley said the committee met on Orcas Island last week. There was discussion of the drafted protocol to review project proposals and scientific, not policy, documents. Barbara said the group is working with the Ecological Society to develop the protocol. Review of the raingarden report will be discussed later in the agenda.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Jonathan White said that Ginny Broadhurst emailed the good news yesterday that basic capacity funding for the seven MRCs has been guaranteed for one year (to June, 2013) through the EPA for an unconfirmed amount. Jonathan said this had been a long time coming and he thanked all the supporters, including Lovel Pratt and the other County

Council members and all the other MRCs. There will be continuing discussion with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and other partners on additional funding options. The NWSC retreat will be held March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Padilla Bay; Steve, John, and Linda will attend. An upcoming executive discussion at the NWSC will be held to begin the search for an interim director for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Jonathan said that Steve Revella will step up as the MRC representative to the NWSC.

**Chair's update:** Steve said that the County Council made a formal request of the MRC to advise them on fin fish farms. Jefferson County has completed its Shoreline Master Program update, prohibiting fish farms...although the state Department of Ecology has said that is inappropriate. Discussion followed on the local component of the permitting process and will be continued by the Science subcommittee.

**Raingarden update:** Linda Lyshall said that she and Johannes Krieger met yesterday to discuss development of a maintenance plan. This will include re-planting as needed, watering, and the litter issue. Johannes will take the lead. Linda said that litter remains the responsibility of the Town of Friday Harbor inasmuch as it would be occurring at the location with or without the presence of the raingarden. 200 cigarette butts were cleaned up last Friday and by Sunday there were 130 more. Barbara Marrett and Linda also cleaned out the sediment trap above the first cell. Littering is an illegal activity with fines up to \$500 for littering an ignited item. Also, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of a building's entrance. It was agreed that the existing receptacle for cigarette butts is too small for the number disposed of at the location. Barbara Marrett suggested that the Town be alerted that sand from road sanding is likely filling up the trap (as well as other stormdrain traps). Rene Beliveau said the Town cleans out stormdrain filters on a regular basis. It was suggested that berms placed around stormdrains could help to trap liquid pollutants.

Russel Barsh has agreed to one more month of flush monitoring of the raingarden on the existing contract. Adherence to higher scientific standards is required for the presentation which is due in a month or so.

**Marine Managers' Workshop:** Linda said the final agenda includes the discussion on oil spill preparedness/response with regional stakeholders and organizations (including Islands Trust of Canada). The registration email will be sent out tomorrow.

**Coal Port Issue:** Linda offered to draft a letter to Commissioner Goldmark on the issue; the draft will be reviewed by the Policy subcommittee. Linda noted that the County Council will also be sending a letter. Barbara Bentley said that the Commissioner prefers real letters from real people suggesting that all the members sign the letter. She also encouraged the MRC to stay on top of the issue. Barbara added that last weeks' presentations, organized by Re-Sources of Bellingham, was professionally done and was very well attended; she said she was horrified by the information. Linda pointed out that China is a new market for U.S. coal and John Aschoff said the scope of the issue is very broad...from medical risks related to air pollution of train transport to marine impacts. Barbara Marrett noted that even the cargo vessels going to Canada will go through our waters.

Steve, Linda, and Lovel met with the presenters prior to the event. They learned that shipping traffic would be increased by 40%. There is also a concern for the herring stock at Cherry Point that is already at risk; it was noted that herring hatchery stocks declined after a recent oil spill in the area. Barbara Rosenkotter said that the intent of DNR's Aquatic Reserve at Cherry Point is to recover the herring hatchery and eelgrass beds. With the expected additional 407 ships per year and the increased risk of

oil spills, she added that PSP's Action Agenda is invoked. Peter Goldmark can stop this now and, therefore, letters to him are the first step. A second letter is suggested when the EIS and scoping period opens in April or May. The Army Corps of Engineers, state Department of Ecology, and Whatcom County are the deciding agencies. Other concerns are that people are residing down the railroad track and that there will be environmental impacts at the site. Linda said that we can request an EIS hearing in San Juan County.

Steve said that he has been contacted by proponents of the project; their "sales pitch" was that there will be new jobs and revenue to the state. It was agreed that they should be asked to present to the MRC with the public invited. Laura suggested that the MRC get on the County Council agenda to lay out its letter's points in public.

**MRC meetings on other islands:** Barbara Bentley noted that half the county population is on San Juan Island, 30% on Orcas Island, and 20% on Lopez Island and outer islands. She proposed more meetings be held on Orcas...once every other month? Discussion followed, including that the responsibility for establishing a quorum at such meetings remains with individual members.

**Motion:** Barbara Marrett moved, and Jonathan seconded, that the MRC meet on Orcas Island the last meeting of every quarter (every sixth meeting). The motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion suggested that such meeting times be from 8 to 10 am, that personal boats or ferry be used, that these meetings be held in conjunction with Stewardship Network meetings, and that there be a once a year meeting on Lopez Island.

**Sportfishing Rules ad:** Linda said that a full-page ad costs \$8500 and that the back cover is not available. The inside back cover would cost about \$8,000. It was agreed that a half-page ad would not be large enough to be readable, especially if it had no guaranteed location. Linda said that with the LIO helping to fund the Marine Managers Workshop, there would be enough money in the budget. Other comments were that, if possible, there could be mention in Section 7 that the reader should see the inside back cover for the MSA map. Jonathan suggested that volunteers be called upon to do a spot poll this summer to ask if boaters (out of 100 boaters) saw the ad. A marketing alternative might be easy-to-track massive web exposure. Other options will be researched. Might there be other donors to co-sponsor the ad?

**Motion:** Barbara Marrett moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the MRC place a full-page ad. Following discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

It was agreed that Linda be authorized to spend the money for an ad in the best alternative media for the best exposure, with more follow-up this year on its effectiveness. Johannes will research other alternatives and will inform members of options. Steve will check with Kings to insert laminated maps in its book.

### **Presentation: Glenwood Springs Salmon Enhancement Hatchery Overview**

Mike O'Connell said that the Hatchery is located in Eastsound two miles north of Rosario on property owned by Kathy and Jim Youngren. The owners' interest in conservation and benefiting salmon in particular led to the formation of the hatchery in the fall of 1978. In 1986, the Youngrens created the 501C3 non-profit, Long Live the Kings. Mike works as Facilities Manager at the Hatchery. There are three springs down through the property with a rearing pond, an intermediate pond, a fish ladder, and

hatchery building. The Hatchery was permitted by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to secure salmon eggs for rearing and release to see if they would return. There is an egg incubation box at the bay. 100,000 eggs were secured from the Samish Hatchery. Chinook salmon are spawned on site by local volunteers working on weekends; fertilized eggs are returned to the hatchery where they are hardened in incubators. A fish pathologist takes samples to be lab-tested for pathogens; disinfection with chlorine was done in the 1980's when disease showed up and formalin drip into ponds was used once in 11 years to kill bacteria. Monitoring indicates that there have been no fungal infections.

Mike showed photographs of the “nicely preserved area” that encompasses the entire watershed to illustrate the operations and infrastructure. In 1997 Coho salmon eggs (from Kendall Creek, a tributary of the Nooksack River) were added; these eggs are now procured from Marblemount Hatchery on the Skagit River and are supplemented with eggs from other hatcheries, with adult fish returning year after year. The Hatchery averages a 10% loss; survival in the wild is only 30%.

600,000 Chinook fry are raised every year and are tagged with numerically-coded wire tags (laser-etched, produced by Northwest Marine Technology on Shaw Island); 150,000 Coho fry are raised annually, with their adipose fin removed as mandated by WDFW. Hatchery information is added to a 20-year-old database. Chinook are flushed out to a rearing pond in early June, followed by Coho. Three- or four-year old Chinook and 1-year old Coho, raised on Orcas Island, swim the inside passage to Alaska with the majority of them returning home.

The only predator control is an electrified fence at the edge of ponds. Potential predators include otters, minks, garter snakes, mergansers, cormorants...most of which move through the system without much loss of fry. The Hatchery is trying to raise the fry in an environment as natural as possible, taking advantage of the good conditions on Orcas. 80% of their food is made up on aquatic insects; most hatcheries feed a basic diet of hatchery food. Adult fish carcasses are composted at various farms on Orcas Island.

The question was asked if there is much interaction with natural stocks. Mike said there seems to be low impact on wild stock (genetic influence) from the Hatchery. About 25% of fish from the Hatchery are caught by Canadian commercial fishermen, tribal and non-tribal fishermen from Samish Bay and Bellingham, and recreational fishers.

Since 2003, Hatchery numbers plummeted with indications that the wild stock were also not doing so well. Per WDFW, 700+ of the three- and four-year olds returned in 2010; in 2011, 1300 returned...the second best return. No genetic studies are being done now but Tina Wyllie-Echeverria has information on decimal-coded tagged fish (clipped fins) that show genetic origin.

**Upcoming subcommittee meetings:** The policy subcommittee will meet on February 24<sup>th</sup> to review shoreline characterization from the County (hardcopy or CDs are available at the MRC office or from the County Council. The science subcommittee will meet the second Wednesday of February.

**Citizen comments:** Mike Kaill, past recipient of the Stewardship Network's “finnie” award, said that a surf fish is swimming around the Spring Street Aquarium. One eye is opaque and fish also get ulcerous; Mike said that silt accumulates with surfactants, affecting the health of the Aquarium creatures. He will continue monitoring work using the photometer owned by the MRC. Barbara Marrett and other members thanked Mike for his efforts.

Karrie Cooper said that the coal port proposal demands a careful look at marine impacts in the EIS process, with wider community support. She said that Ron Zee is the Director of the Madrona Institute with will serve as the 501C3 non-profit to serve the EcoNet. Karrie has been Jeff Hanson's alternate and will likely step into the role of EcoNet Coordinator. The Stewardship Network is a component of EcoNet work. A steering committee will be established. Barbara Marrett and John Aschoff have regularly attended EcoNet meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Jim Slocomb,

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Sally Hawkins

Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity Salmon Recovery

Kim Sundberg, TAG Salmon Recovery

**Presentation: “False Bay Project”** by Amanda Cronin, Washington Water Trust  
See attached summary

**Upcoming Events**

- Marine Managers Workshop, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-7pm and March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am-noon, UW Friday Harbor Labs

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Reports:**

**Science Subcommittee:**

- The science subcommittee is gathering information about the finfish netpen farming issue. Barbara B. is looking at possibilities to integrate data into InVest, a free program which calculates dollar values for ecosystem services.
- They are awaiting the Vessel Traffic Study to review.
- Some members of the committee have been serving on the County’s SMP TAC and are concerned with the current version of the Shoreline Inventory and Characterization.

**Outreach Subcommittee:**

- Barbara Marrett reported that the Stewardship Committee met in February and is being coordinated by Karrie Cooper, with Madrona Institute as the fiscal agent. They are going to establish a minimum membership fee and will help coordinate the Good Stewardship Awards and Sustainable San Juans event.
- She also reported that Friends of Lime Kiln Society (FOLKS) is coordinating efforts to help

fund the Lime Kiln Interpretive Center, and that there is a social marketing training at Padilla Bay.

**Executive Subcommittee:**

- There is a meeting scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair's Report:**

- Steve shared highlights from the NW Straits Commission conference that was held on March 1 and 2. He said that the NWSC is expecting funding through the Puget Sound Partnership, but that it has not been confirmed. He also noted that the Commission and Foundation are now more clearly separated as fiscal entities.

**Discussion/Updates:**

**Rain Garden Update:** Johannes discussed the current maintenance plan for the rain garden and said that the litter problem is improving. He noted that there is interest from Herb's to be involved in the upkeep.

**Marine Managers Workshop:** Linda said that registration and planning for the workshop is on schedule, with about 45 registrations so far. There was a glitch in the email software that distributes the invitations but she think she has the problem remedied.

**LIO Grant Round Update:** Linda said the Implementation Committee (IC) received six proposals for the remaining LIO grant funds. The IC will review those today and make recommendations to the AOC.

**PSP Request for Information:** Linda will complete the RFI for model stewardship programs. She asked for assistance from the MRC and received some suggestions.

**Coal Terminal Letter:** Steve said that the letter requesting scoping hearings in the San Juans in regards to the proposed coal terminal was from was mailed to the permitting agencies from the MRC with a cover letter from the County Council.

**Finfish Information Request:** The committee discussed the request from County Council to review the finfish issue. The science subcommittee will look at prior MRC reviews and consider next steps. Micah Waite from the Wild Fish Conservancy will give a presentation at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Ernie Brooks Event:** Barbara said planning is underway for the Ernie Brooks event. She said this will be a great opportunity for the arts community to become more familiar with the MRC.

**SMP Review Letter:** The committee discussed concerns with the current version of the County's Shoreline Inventory and Characterization. They decided to revise the letter with a short one-page cover letter and a detailed attachment. Laura said that she, Steve, and Linda would work on it.

**Actions:**

**MSA Outreach:** Johannes and Linda discussed a less expensive and possibly more effective approach to MSA outreach than the Sportsfishing Rules ad, using direct mail, webpages, online advertising, and google analytics. The committee agreed to give it a try.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 4, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Alan Chapman, Lummi Tribal Natural Resources  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Lead Entity Salmon Recovery  
Laura Jo Severson

**Presentation:** “Finfish Net Pens” by Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy

**Upcoming Events**

- MRC regular meeting, March April 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Shoreline Master Program update comments due April 30<sup>th</sup>
- GeoHab 2012 meeting (11th International Symposium on Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping), Rosario Resort on Orcas Island, May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4th.

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the March 7, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley said that she and Gregg Dietzman discussed the MRC specimen bank project which is in its planning phase; she noted that petroleum contamination of resources, beyond oil spills, is an important issue. The project will eventually include development of protocols for sampling, storage, and training for a large number of volunteers to collect samples. County policy is part of the ultimate goal.

Barbara said that the 2010 vessel traffic pressure (aerial) survey by Jeff Dismukes provides useful data on an issue that could be a significant stressor/driver of the health of marine resources. Future study should include focus on changes throughout the season and through the years to develop statistics on usage patterns/ vessel type/ time of year. MRC's role in this is to provide direction and funding as available and to advise.

Love Pratt discussed the fin fish aquaculture issue with Barbara, reporting that the County Council has



requested a science-based white paper from the MRC that considers Jefferson and Whatcom County policies. Barbara said that by state rule, San Juan County cannot completely ban fin fish aquaculture but can regulate it. The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) has unanimously appealed the state rule on any new fin fish aquaculture, asking for a moratorium on any new net pens. Jonathan White said that Jefferson County has prohibited net pens in the county since 1979 and he wondered if the MRC should invite Michael Adams from Jefferson to present here on the politics, biology, etc. of fin fish aquaculture. Do fin fish netpens affect upland fish hatcheries? Tina Whitman said that the MRC policy subcommittee will look at Jefferson and Whatcom County codes. (More discussion later in today's minutes.)

Barbara said that many agree that the consultants' report on the shoreline inventory and characteristics section of SJC's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update does not include enough data sets (as requested in the RFP). Lovel has asked that the MRC (Ken Sebens, Barbara Bentley?) do a presentation to the Council on the SMP update to report on current data.

The GeoHab 2012 meeting (11<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping) will be held at Rosario Resort on Orcas Island from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>. Barbara said that the conference on broadly-defined coastal issues includes habitat characteristics and mapping of inland seas. Sea Doc Society and Gary Green are hosting and many representatives from Europe and Canada are expected to attend (\$400 registration fee). Barbara will attend.

Barbara is working with Jim Slocomb and Sally Hawkins to learn more about GIS programs. Tina agreed that we need more qualified GIS people in SJC. Barbara hopes to integrate GIS data and Greg Sutherland from Public Works' GIS group told Barbara that there is a possibility of the county installing the GIS program on a county-owned computer in the county's Eastsound office on Orcas...for MRC use on county projects. Barbara said this will allow the MRC to have access to data for use in reports. Kit Rawson noted that a lot of regional ecosystem work has been done and he recommended coordination with that information. Ken Sebens said that the Friday Harbor Labs (FHL) has some GIS software.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Steve Revella, new MRC representative to the NWSC, reported on last Friday's meeting. He said that funding for the 7 MRCs has been approved; SJC will get \$60,000 for 2012. The work to separate the NWSC from the Northwest Straits Foundation is continuing and is mechanically more difficult than expected, Steve said. SJC now has a copy of the 80-minute DVD, "Ocean Frontiers;" a viewing of the film, along with panel discussion, will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the REI in Seattle. Laura Jo Severson offered to help set up a viewing at the San Juan Island public library; other viewing possibilities could be at FHL or on Orcas Island in collaboration with Sea Doc Society.

**Executive subcommittee update:** Laura Arnold reported that it was proposed at last week's meeting that the MRC not make any moves yet on updating the 2001 county ordinance that created the MRC; she suggested waiting for the Council to set the timing. Also discussed at the meeting were the issues of fundraising and the presentation to the Council on the SMP update.

**MRC Coordinator's report:** Linda Lyshall clarified that the Washington Association of Counties' support of Jefferson County's fin fish aquaculture ban hasn't been coordinated with the Governor's office yet.

Linda is working on a letter to the Council regarding a presentation on the SMP update; she has been

asked to hold off on that for now since the Council wants to first work with the consultants. The process is underway and will involve the MRC technical team. The deadline for comments on the SMP is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Laura suggested presenting the new pocket beach data to the County for adding to the inventory and emphasizing why shore type matters. Tina agreed that this would also provide a good education to the Council, noting the importance of understanding the issue. Barbara Rosenkotter also pointed out the value of this foundational piece. Further discussion followed.

Barbara Marrett reported that seven people from SJC attended the social marketing workshop at Padilla Bay sponsored by Puget Sound Partnership and EcoNet; she said that social marketing is useful for promoting positive behavior changes (such as proper disposal of cigarette butts). Other lessons included identifying the target audience and specific objections/barriers to change. It was pointed out that targeting those people who are already thinking about an issue is smarter than spending time, energy, and money on those who won't change.

Linda said she will compile a summary on the Marine Managers Workshop by next week. Most of the evaluations submitted were very positive with an “excellent” on almost every aspect. One of the few concerns was that a bigger space might be better next time to accommodate the growing number of attendees. A list of participants and their contact information will be sent out.

Linda said that the full-page ad located on the back cover inside in Sportfishing Rules will cost \$4500 (not \$8500 as expected). Jim Slocomb has agreed to do some fundraising to supplement MRC funds.

Barbara Marrett reported that the Ernie Brooks event will be held on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the San Juan Island Community Theatre. Tickets will cost \$8 and \$12. IMA has designed the posters and programs. The MRC and IMA have a contract to present the event. There will be refreshments, music, a raffle of donated items, and “Above and Beneath the Seas” photo contest of seascapes. Barbara said that a signed photograph valued at \$1,000 is one of the auction items and that others are being sought.

Linda said that the SJC Agriculture Guild is applying for funds to build a display kiosk for use at the Brickworks plaza in Friday Harbor. The MRC has been asked to provide artwork for one of the panels; everyone agreed this would provide good outreach.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter indicated that two supplemental requests have been received. The MRC's supplemental budget request process calls for a subcommittee to review the requests. Copies of the WRIA2 review process for supplemental requests and of the two requests were distributed. Members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and two or three from the Citizens Advisory Group (the MRC) are needed for the review; Kit and Gregg volunteered. Any funding for these supplemental requests would come from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding remaining from the 2011 grant round.

Barbara said that issues of the President Channel acquisition project have been resolved; it is approved to go to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for release of funds (\$250,00 is the portion now funded). The project covers 20 acres with 2500 feet of shoreline in the highest priority area.

Barbara distributed copies of the draft WRIA 2 Application Process and Scoring Criteria for the 2012 SRFB round. She said that TAG and the MRC salmon recovery subcommittee have proposed an increase in scoring to 40% for the “fit to salmon recovery plan” evaluation criteria as well as a beefed up “benefits to salmon (Chinook or forage fish)” criteria (45%). The final evaluation of the socio-economic scoring criteria (15%) did not change and is scored by the MRC.

**Motion:** Barbara Marrett moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the draft application process and scoring criteria be approved. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Barbara noted that the PIAT presentation at the Marine Managers Workshop pointed out that the sea level rise component is not ready yet so the TAG letter will once again be used in the Evaluation Criteria. She distributed copies of the timeline for this 13<sup>th</sup> Round, noting June 6<sup>th</sup> for project site visits.

**Presentation: “Finfish Net Pens”**

Micah Wait, Director of Conservation for the Wild Fish Conservancy Northwest, said that his presentation today focuses on sea lice infection on juvenile salmon, particularly as it relates to fish in net pens and impacts to wild salmon. A two-year assessment was done on sea louse infection rates in outmigrant pink and chum juvenile salmon at Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Micah said the sea louse (*lepeophtheirus salmonis*) is native to this part of the world and that fish farms seem to create an opportunity for high densities of larvae. Adults return in the fall and in times of the year when the lice larvae are not usually present. In the earlier free-swimming stages of their life cycle, they do not attach to their hosts. In later attached stages, they create lesions and open sores can prove lethal to wild juvenile salmon.

Net pens are numerous throughout B.C. and are prominent in Clayoquot Sound where salmon runs are shrinking to the degree that it has been called a salmon crisis. Clayoquot salmon rivers and forests are fairly pristine, with unaltered freshwater habitat/function and old growth trees. This makes it an area ideal for the Wild Fish Conservancy assessment. As the wild salmon migrate down the fjords (river outlets), a higher louse infection rate is found. Exposure to the net pen farms located in inlets increases lice abundance in the wild fish at baseline levels (.074 lice per fish in unexposed sites; 0.267 in exposed sites); variables such as temperature, salinity, scaling, fish length are taken into account. The short-term mortality rate of pink and chum is increased by infestations of just 1-3 lice (1.6 lice per gram of fish is lethal).

Net pen fish infected with lice can be treated with “Slice,” a pesticide that contains a poison not approved in the U.S. for use in animals destined for human consumption; over 80% of B.C. farmed salmon go to the U.S. market. Dead zones are found in the bottom footprint of net pens. Slice also affects the nerve cells of crustaceans and can kill shrimp in nearby farms. Micah added that the presence of Salmon Anemia virus infections has closed farms in Nova Scotia and Chile.

Industry response to the sea lice issue has been minimal; the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans has had a monitoring program since 2003 and research is ongoing. This science is fairly well-refuted in peer literature, Micah said. Micah said that a press release is being prepared and will be submitted after the data is peer reviewed. He will provide a copy of today's presentation to the MRC.

An MRC member noted that Nick Jones, who operates a shellfish farm (clams, oysters, mussels) on Lopez Island, has said that net pens are held to different standards in local aquaculture regulations. Kit suggested that each operation be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 18, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman,

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum  
Eric Eisenhardt, Soundwatch  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Carol Maas, MRC website contractor  
Laura Jo Severson

**Upcoming Events**

- Shoreline Master Program update comments due April 30<sup>th</sup>
- MRC regular meeting, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor
- Implementation Committee, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30am-1:30pm
- GeoHab 2012 meeting (11th International Symposium on Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping), Rosario Resort on Orcas Island, May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>
- Stormwater Advisory Committee, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-11:00am.

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Citizen comments:** Kit Rawson reported that the premier viewing of the film, “Ocean Frontiers,” was very well received by a large audience in Seattle on Monday; he was on the panel to talk about the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area. The film told of many situations from all over the country where people worked together on marine-related issues, Kit said. Linda Lyshall said that a plan is in place to have a public viewing at Friday Harbor Labs soon and Kit suggested that a panel would be useful to convey a localized message. Jacques White has offered to participate at an Orcas viewing which could be held as a fundraiser. Barbara Marrett said that the film will be highlighted at the Ernie Brooks' event since several of his photographs were taken in the National Marine Sanctuary; there will be a question-and-answer period following the viewing.

David Loyd said that the film, “At the Water's Edge: The Invisible Shoreline,” will be presented at the Lopez Community Center next Tuesday at 7pm; the Orcas Senior Center on Wednesday, 7pm; and, the San Juan Island Mullis Center on Thursday at 7pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 4, 2012 meeting were approved with revisions.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley noted that there would be a meeting of the group later today. The agenda will include a broader look at the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update process, particularly the MRC's action role. Barbara noted that the County has installed the GIS program on the county-owned computer in its Eastsound office; she said she appreciated the great cooperation by Greg Sutherland of Public Works' GIS team.

**Outreach subcommittee:** Barbara Marrett said that she needs more volunteers to sign up for the Ernie Brooks' event on June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 5-9pm at the San Juan Island Community Theater. San Juan Island's Museum of Art (IMA) is donating one of Ernie's prints as a raffle fundraiser for the MRC; Barbara asked for other donations to raffle.

**Executive subcommittee update:** Laura Arnold reported that the group is exploring funding strategies as a follow-up to the Marine Managers Workshop (more later). There was also discussion on possible topics for the next workshop (e.g. ocean acidification, climate change, etc.); these held particular interest for the tribes as suggested by Kit Rawson and Terry Williams who attended the meeting. Laura reported that the sea level rise estimate for 2020 is higher than previously thought. The Discovery House at Rosario Resort was suggested as a possible venue for the next Marine Managers Workshop to provide more space.

**MRC Coordinator's report:** Following discussion, it was agreed that the June 20th MRC meeting would be held on Orcas; time and place to be announced.

Linda Lyshall said that the conference phone call with the County's consultants on the **SMP update** was productive; the consultants agreed to include all shore form mapping, including an emphasis on pocket beach function. Outstanding issues will be discussed further at an open workshop with the technical committee to be held next Friday from 9am to 1pm at the Grange in Friday Harbor.

Linda said that the **Northwest Straits Commission Contract** provides for the new grant of \$60,000 for this year; the federal money covers only core operations and needs to be matched (e.g. with volunteer hours). There was discussion about actual professional hourly rate allowances for members' volunteer time.

**San Juan MRC Case Statement:** Laura distributed copies of a draft case statement, explaining that it can provide a strategy for marketing. Steve added that it can be an important source document to put forth in fundraising efforts (e.g. one statement for grants for funding projects and one for individual fundraising). Laura said that the draft took the Mission and Goal sections from the MRC's Charter and the Objective is from last year's draft strategic plan. There was discussion about re-packaging the MRC message for marketing to a larger audience. This included review of the MRC's role as a public/private partnership. It was agreed that overhead costs need to be part of all project funding requests and that individual contributions should be sought for specific projects.

Laura suggested that specific dollar amounts need to be added to each targeted project (after Work Plan approval each year). The County's financial responsibility was discussed in light of the MRC being the County Council's advisory group on marine issues. Laura asked members for their comments/input on

the draft case statement for discussion at the next meeting.

Linda said that the contractor will start updating the **MRC website** over the next two weeks. John Aschoff suggested that members review the website and send comments to Linda and to him. Kit suggested that other outreach could include Twitter and Facebook presence. Could funds be raised for web maintenance? Does the MRC need a professional fundraiser?

**Marine Managers Workshop Summary Report:** Linda said that the general feedback from the 75 participants was that this was an excellent event. She requested feedback on the draft Workshop Summary Report that she distributed via email by the end of the week. Steve noted that this serves as a strategic planning document.

The MRC reviewed the ideas provided during the Oil Spill Prevention and Readiness session for further action, and started a prioritization process. Linda will do a report for future discussion that includes the prioritized list with additional description of each and possible roles for the MRC to be discussed at the next meeting.

Ideas provided by presenters and participants were categorized: Policy and Regulation, Management and Planning, Data Collection, Transboundary Collaboration, Spill Response actions. The group worked on prioritizing and clarifying actions selected for MRC potential participation in the following areas:

- ⤴ MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING – Expansion of Derelict Vessel Program now under the auspices of the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
  - Request updates to the MRC from the contractor, Joanruth Baumann, about needs to keep the project going (e.g. to explore new ways to fund actions like targeting chronic offenders);
  - MRC follow-up to lobby with agencies for continued funding;
  - increase awareness of the problem and solutions.
  
- ⤴ DATA COLLECTION
  - Citizen science roles in spills
  - Pre-assessment for baseline (Marine Specimen Bank)
  - Coordinated Monitoring of key species and habitats at risk from spills
  
- ⤴ TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION (San Juan County Council and the Islands Trust)
  
- ⤴ POLICY AND REGULATIONS
  
- ⤴ SPILL RESPONSE

Linda said that the Puget Sound Partnership's SJC Action Agenda (to be implemented by July, 2014) adopted the Marine Managers Workshop and outcomes as a high priority action.

**Citizen comments:**

Eric Eisenhardt asked about the NWSC contract and Linda explained that the capacity grant starts July 1, 2012; it will cover staff time and office administration only.

Laura Jo Severson suggested that we need to work to get a rescue tug stationed near the Islands.

Eric asked which key species and habitats at risk from oil spills have been identified for data collection monitoring. They are: seabirds, forage fish, fish and shellfish, Pacific salmon, intertidal communities, background toxics (e.g. Mussel Watch sediments).

David Loyd said that people in the Orcas community have been surveying the second annual herring spawn in Eastsound-- just west of Indian Island. Eggs are laid heavily on two invasive species: 80% on sargassum and 20% on the Japonica variety of eelgrass.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 2, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** John Aschoff, Michael Durland

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Upcoming Events**

- GeoHab 2012 meeting (11th International Symposium on Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping), Rosario Resort on Orcas Island, May 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>
- Stormwater Advisory Committee, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-11:00am
- MRC regular meeting, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30am, Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor.

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:30am.

**Citizen comments:** Gregg Dietzman said that there was a discussion at the last San Juan Island Prevention Coalition meeting about the appropriateness of alcohol being sold at community-sponsored events to which youth are invited. He added that the objection is that this practice could send the wrong message to our youth and he suggested that the MRC might consider being part of a proactive grassroots effort to respond to this identified community problem. Rene Beliveau said that there is a county policy that the county cannot purchase alcohol for public meetings; he suggested beginning further research by contacting the County's Risk Manager, David Kelly.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting were approved with revisions. Concerning the recent herring spawn report from Kwiaht, Barbara Bentley suggested that this could be an outreach subcommittee opportunity to write an article for local media to add correct information to a recent report in the Sounder. Tina Whitman will send a draft to Barbara Marrett. Tina noted that herring spawn has been documented by the state for years but has been more closely monitored in recent years by Kwiaht and the Marine Health Observatory of Indian Island on Orcas.

Barbara Marrett said that the Ernie Brooks' multi-media event on June 21<sup>st</sup> will include a separate

exhibit of his underwater photographs at the Islands Museum of Art (IMA); winning photographs from the contest will also be displayed there.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley said that she has been enjoying the GeoHab meeting at Rosario Resort. The mostly underwater mapping presentation also included information on new tools for mapping biological systems. Barbara said she was excited to learn new information about our region, for instance, that the tidal current around Saturna Island has resulted in an eddy found at the sound end where there is a deposit of antique (Pleistocene) sand formations...six stories high. Ken Sebens pointed out that this is an important sand lance habitat.

Barbara said that at its last meeting the subcommittee discussed the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update and other policy issues. It was noted that much of the information on these important issues is inaccessible to most citizens. She opened a discussion on whether the MRC might get involved in providing a packet of site-specific educational information (+ site visits?) to shoreline parcel owners to help them interpret the open source information from the County, as well as pointing out potential impacts of residents and global change to the environment. Tina said that the County has multiple grants underway to provide technical advice to shoreline property owners and that the MRC could assist the SJC Community and Development Planning (CDP) Department on the marine habitat pieces. Jonathan said that the reliability of information and its endurance over time could be a challenge.

Gregg said that four state Department of Ecology representatives will be here around the second week in June to sample subtidal sediment at forty stations over a two-week period, as a follow-up to studies done ten years ago. He will email details to members and asked if anyone could help with providing lodging for the researchers.

**Staff report:** Linda Lyshall that the MRC in conjunction with a grant will be involved in an upcoming WA Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) presentation on the San Juan Initiative. Amy Windrope will coordinate and Jonathan White and Lovel Pratt will attend.

SMP review and comment letter: Linda said that the MRC's comment letter on last Friday's data workshop with the consultants is to be sent on Monday; she will email a draft to members. Laura Arnold said that the County Council will be discussing changes today and could open another round of comments. Kit said he's concerned with how the meeting was run, noting that the County/State roles were unclear. He said it is important to comply with the Shoreline Master Act goals regarding use and protection of shoreline. Jim Slocomb said he seemed to have been held to different technical standards in his SMP work than Ecology's compliance messaging on Friday seemed to relay. Rene confirmed that the County will comply with state requirements as laid out in Ecology's checklist.

Barbara Rosenkotter reported that WDFW's CAO draft information was released yesterday. The MRC policy subcommittee will track and review nearshore-related sections. Linda said Shireene Hale has requested public participation in the May 18<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

Linda asked for ideas for scheduling a viewing of the "Ocean Frontiers" film at the Labs Commons. A Tuesday night showing was suggested possibly in early July. An Orcas viewing was also discussed.

Navy training and testing EIS: Steve said that the County Council has requested a comment letter from the MRC regarding noise from in the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) from its SONAR and bombing tests in the region; the EIS comment period has been extended to May 8th. Stefan

Brager, Research Curator of The Whale Museum, said the Board of Directors prepared a position letter in 2009 in response to the Navy's first application for the NWTRC; the letter states that noise from active SONAR, explosions, vessels, and aircraft have significant impacts on marine mammals. He said that the Navy has underestimated these impacts and rejected mitigation measures in the EIS, 2009-10. The letter includes twelve demands for better mitigation measures:

Incorporate better techniques to improve detection rates of marine mammals:

- ^ no exercises at night;
- ^ involve passive acoustic arrays;
- ^ involve aerial overflights for visual observations;
- ^ use night vision viewers and thermal scanners for sighting marine mammals.

Exclusion zones:

- ^ not adequately-sized;
- ^ need to be based on specific areas and times;
- ^ all biologically important areas need to be equipped with acoustic buffers.

Technical mitigation measures:

- ^ Navy noise level outside of exclusion zones should not exceed 130 decibels (the volume at which cetaceans experience panic and injury by sound);
- ^ always slowly ramp up SONAR levels or size of explosions to avoid herding of cetaceans in waters too shallow for them.

Support conservation monitoring:

- ^ Navy vessels in critical habitat must keep watch and report sightings of whales;
- ^ support efforts to better understand habitat and resource use of all marine mammals in the NWTRC;
- ^ help to extend underwater monitoring for marine mammal sounds to the WA outer coast.
- ^

Stefan said the MRC and Council have the opportunity to influence the content of the upcoming EIS.

Linda said there were good questions from the Council at yesterday's Navy presentation here. It was pointed out at the meeting that over the last fifteen years or more 65 whales died, with 40 deaths being documented from natural causes. Discussion followed on whether the MRC could submit a letter by this Friday to the Council with recommendations on what should be included in its EIS comments.

The Navy is now permitted to do its testing in the inland waters and marine sanctuary; the permit expires in 2015 and reauthorization is being contested. Stefan said that there can be acute and chronic marine mammal hearing loss due to noise; the effects can be cumulative and impact other species as well (e.g. salmon). Linda, Johannes, Steve, David and Laura will work on the draft letter by email, attempting to outline what the Council needs to do in coming up with meaningful mitigation measures, pulling specifics from other existing documents. Local scoping meetings are suggested as was the alternative of moving tests outside of the inland waters.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Jim Slocomb seconded, that the MRC write the letter and submit it by Friday. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the letter include mention of the fact that the Council's request left no time for the full committee to thoroughly research the issue and to review a draft letter.

**Marine Managers Workshop Summary Report:** Linda said the draft Summary Report will be out

by the end of the week. She distributed copies of a “Review and Prioritization of Potential Future Actions” by the MRC on the issue of Oil Spill Prevention and Readiness, the topic of the workshop's first day. Members contributed ideas for specific MRC involvement on three of the seven actions:

Expand DNR Derelict Vessel Program:

- ^ Be more proactive e.g. for vessels anchored on buoys for more than 30 days; Barbara Marrett said that (response before vessels sink) would be cheaper and more effective in pollution prevention. She suggested inviting Joanruth Baumann to report to the MRC.

Transboundary collaboration between SJC Council and the Islands Trust:

- ^ Get advance notice of the Council's schedule for meetings in order for the MRC to identify issues that may be of mutual interest to SJC and the Trust;
- ^ The MRC is part of this collaboration effort. Should the transboundary agreement of 10 years ago be updated?

Focus on Citizen Science:

- ^ Although the WSU Beachwatchers Program is slated to end in SJC by June 1<sup>st</sup>, Susan Muckles of Lopez continues to write an online newsletter sent to 100+ trained people.

Barbara Rosenkotter suggested for the seventh action, Geographic Response Plans, that the GRPs be updated with new juvenile salmon data. Linda will prepare a draft for the next MRC meeting when the other actions will be addressed.

Gregg suggested an opportunity for citizen science involvement: Dan Doty of WDFW's Oil Spill Team will do a citizen training here sometime in June on the protocol for collecting beach sediment samples. This will help establish a resource baseline now as well for comparison of samplings taken during a spill. If the training is NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment)-compliant then WDFW will provide supplies.

Linda said that the FH Labs will hold their annual Open House on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ken Sebens noted that 5-800 attendees are expected. Linda asked for ideas about MRC participation (presentation, booth?).

Barbara Rosenkotter gave a Salmon Recovery Funding Board update; she said that the Lank Bank is moving ahead on acquisition of the Jolley property and is also looking into additional funding.

Laura said she is moving forward on the draft MRC Case Statement.

Jefferson County's MRC chair, Michael Adams, will attend the next MRC meeting here to discuss the issue of aquaculture.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
225 Blair Street  
Friday Harbor WA 98250**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Vice Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Stefan Brager, The Whale Museum  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Sally Hawkins  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity  
Laura Jo Severson

**Presentation:** “Netpen issues and Policy Development” with Michael Adams, Jefferson County MRC

<b>Upcoming Meetings/Events</b>			
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
5/19	FHL Open House	Friday Harbor Labs	11am-4pm
5/26	Bite of Orcas	Eastsound	11am-3pm
5/27	Sustainable San Juans	Lime Kiln Park	12-3pm
6/1	Northwest Straits Commission	Mullis Ctr, FH	10am-3pm
6/1-3	At the Water's Edge Lecture	Lopez Ctr, Orcas Sr., FH Grange	7:00pm
6/6	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:30-10:30am
6/7	MRC Salmon Site Visits	Orcas and Shaw Islands	All Day
6/16	Jazz at the Labs	Friday Harbor Labs	6-9pm
6/21	Ernie Brooks Event	SJ Community Theatre	7-9pm
6/28	Effects of Ocean Acidification	Friday Harbor Labs Commons	tbd
7/1	Deep Sea Coral Reefs	SJ Community Theatre	7:00pm

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Aschoff at 8:30am.

**Citizen comments:** Laura Jo Severson passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers who will provide dessert snacks for the Ernie Brooks event on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved with a revision.

**Science subcommittee update:** Barbara Bentley suggested installing a noticeable sign at the Friday Harbor raingarden to bring more attention to the problem of cigarette butts being tossed into the upper cell in particular. A larger ashtray on the nearby telephone pole was also suggested. Barbara will

discuss these ideas with Johannes Krieger who is the MRC liaison to the Town of Friday Harbor. Barbara Marrett pointed out that the trap was completely filled with sediment again with the silt backing up into the garden. Following discussion, the MRC agreed to pay the Town for one year of maintenance for the garden; the current agreement is that the MRC would serve that function for the first year. There was consensus that the raingarden is looking great.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that proposals will be presented at the June 6<sup>th</sup> MRC regular meeting and site visits will occur on June 7<sup>th</sup> ...Shaw Island in the morning and Orcas Island in the afternoon (with an expected finish at 1:00 or 1:30pm.).

**Staff Report:** Linda Lyshall will distribute a new spreadsheet for members to record all their volunteer hours; she noted that the volunteer hourly rate will increase as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Linda said that the June 20<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting on Orcas Island will be held at the County building. Suggested presentations for the meeting were a herring project report by a WSU Beachwatcher; a recap of salmon recovery projects (e.g. Deer Harbor project and Buck Bay Bridge); a report from Joe Gaydos.

The Implementation Committee will be hiring an outreach coordinator which will be discussed at the AOC meeting. Linda said that all the new projects are funded! The last meeting in August will be held jointly with the AOC. Linda and Barbara Rosenkotter noted that the new SRFB process for ranking proposals is underway. The MRC will continue to review and prioritize potential future actions for oil spill prevention and preparedness.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and Foundation:** John Aschoff attended the last meeting as an alternate. He said that Steve Revella is now the Vice Chair of the NWSC and is also a Board member of the non-profit Foundation. There was discussion at the meeting on the details of how to separate the Commission from the Foundation (for instance, alternates cannot vote on Foundation issues). Ginny Broadhurst reported to the NWSC that an education subcommittee may be forming as a regional outreach effort; members could be from the MRCs. She emphasized the importance of matching funds. The next meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>, from 10am to 3pm, at Mullis Community Center in Friday Harbor.

John said that he had a discussion with the GIS person from Padilla Bay at the recent GeoHab Conference on Orcas Island. He wondered if the MRC should consider using the format, “**Sound IQ,**” introduced by Island County's MRC, for data input. It was suggested that she do a presentation at an MRC meeting in a location with Internet access...e.g. the Orcas County office on June 20<sup>th</sup>?

**Fish and Wildlife CAO Comment Letter:** Tina Whitman distributed copies of the draft memo to the County Council and Planning Commission, noting that the first part, Nearshore Data Memo, provides good background information while the second part pulls together detailed past MRC comments on the topic of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update/Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update fish and wildlife draft section. It was agreed that this input is important for the record as well as for the Council and Commission notification. The policy subcommittee read the draft ordinance as the basis for the draft letter, she said. Discussion followed with suggestions for edits; it was also suggested that Shireene Hale or a Planning Commission member be asked at some later date to walk through their rationale for the fish and wildlife section. It was agreed that the letter begin with the MRC being in support of updating the CAO.

**Motion:** Jim Slocumb moved, and David Loyd seconded, that the draft letter, with suggested edits and the addition of including noted documents as

appendices, be approved for sending. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim will present the letter at Friday's meeting and Tina requested that as many members as possible also attend. Individual students of Spring Street International School and Friday Harbor Labs have submitted letters supporting protection of marine biological communities and habitats.

**Marine Managers Workshop action items:** Linda asked that members continue the review and prioritization of potential future actions regarding oil spill preparedness and response. It was suggested that the MRC re-visit the Monitoring Plan section on key species as an implementation guide. Linda said that the MRC's letter on the Gateway Coal Terminal proposal has been submitted and the MRC will continue to track the issue (e.g. scoping meetings). The question arose of whether San Juan County should join the formal "Power Past Coal" coalition. In looking at the Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) for oil spill response, David Loyd said that knowing more about the plankton delivery system is crucial; he suggested that the MRC not commit to individual small bays for protection but to look at the whole system which cannot be broken up into parts. Barbara Rosenkotter said that all new juvenile salmon and other fish (e.g. Greenlings) utilization data needs to be added to the GRPs in coordination with the Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA). Michael Durland said that the next 2-day session of training for the state Department of Ecology, IOSA, and big oil will be held near the end of June. He will forward the email with more information to the committee for Council relay.

**Presentation: "Netpen issues and Policy Development"**

Michael Adams said that he is on the Jefferson County MRC and is also a shellfish grower, with 10.5 acres of manila clams and Olympia oysters that rely on mostly natural sets and controls. The beach has been classified as "natural" and the waters are classified "priority aquatic." He did a lot of regulatory research related to renewal of the Shoreline Master Program in Jefferson County and found issues with shoreline technical work done by an outside consultant. When he was appointed to the Technical Committee Michael had the opportunity to join in groundtruthing all the documents. He also volunteered as a beachwatcher for 1,000 hours last year. Michael said that if the regulations were doing their work we wouldn't have the degraded environment we find ourselves in now and that providing for "no net loss" meant that ecological functions should be protected.

A consensus document was passed for review by the Jefferson County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners and for public hearings. It included a ban on marine net pens and followed the Whatcom County ban. Although Ecology has said that water-dependent uses cannot be prohibited by counties, Whatcom County's ban slipped under the radar. Michael noted that upland net pens support more jobs and the hope is for a consensus on allowing net pens for sites that are appropriate in Jefferson County and are the best for the marine environment...rather than an outright prohibition. He pointed out that San Juan County's MRC seems to be in a similar situation and information is also being shared with Clallam County. Michael recommended the book "Aquaculture Controversy in Canada" by Young and Matthews, 2010 which includes discussion of science and language use to go beyond reliance on legal structure. The David Suzuki Foundation opposes fin aquaculture. Michael also recommended identifying what is important and unique to protect here and recognizing that the tourism trade could be degraded by industrial uses of marine waters. The Shoreline Master Program, Michael said, is designed to protect the interests of the state!

The US Department of Commerce, which oversees NOAA, provides the legal framework. Michael said that there is a trade imbalance between the US and China; to use installation of netfish pens to try to balance the situation, significant environmental degradation would result. There is a political cascade pushing down from the federal to the local, Michael added. The big picture view includes a

good look at how the tourism industry and local food economy would be harmed. Michael said it was also important to think about the intent of existing regulations and the effectiveness of local authorities in enforcing them. Are violators charged and prosecuted? Are the consequences too onerous or too lenient?

There was discussion of potential netpen impacts on ESA species habitat (such as for the endangered Chinook salmon). Michael said it is important to understand all the drivers behind how the government works. Along with considering the economic value of salmon, the case can be made that the state has more to gain from the tourism industry than from the promotion of netpen aquaculture in this region. Michael will send the MRC an annotated bibliography which is also found on Jefferson County's website (SMP issue); one of the critical areas to study is the mechanism of pathogens from farmed fish.

Michael said that upland fin fish farms, such as the ones in Rochester and Shelton WA that raise SweetSpring Pacific Coho, are a safer alternative to marine netpen farms. The self-contained landlocked closed system at the upland farms uses an easy technology that includes natural breeding to allow these Coho to thrive in fresh water; controlled water quality provides for healthier pathogen-free fish. Feed is a soy protein and fish oil is extracted from the organs as a byproduct. These farm-grown Coho are now selling in Montana and other secondary markets. [The Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Program lists these fish as sustainable (i.e. from a safe, reliable source).]

Michael asked: Could nuclear reactors (requiring cooling water) be built using SMP's "water-dependent use" definition? He added that the Makah and other tribes have significant interest in the future of offshore netpen aquaculture. Michael said that although the product may appear to be profitable, the market fluctuates and, in fact, shellfish demand is more stable than netpen fish.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 9:15am-noon  
San Juan County Meeting Room  
Orcas Island Ferry Landing  
Eastsound WA**

**Members Present:** Steve Ravella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocumb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Ken Sebens

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Presentation:** “Sound IQ” with Caroline Gibson and Suzanne Schull, NW Straits Commission

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
6/28	Effects of Ocean Acidification	Friday Harbor Labs Commons	tbd
7/1	Deep Sea Coral Reefs	SJ Community Theatre	7:00pm
7/18	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:30-10:30am
	<b>[No MRC regular meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup>!]</b>		
7/18	Viewing of “Ocean Frontiers”	FHL	

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 9:15am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved with revisions. Minutes of the June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 meeting have not been sent out yet and approval is postponed to the next regular meeting

**Subcommittee Work Plans:** John Aschoff, acting as the outreach subcommittee Chair, said that the group has no members at this time and MRC outreach is being accomplished with help from the Stewardship Network. Following discussion on the current status of the subcommittee and its work plan items (e.g. slide show presentations), it was agreed that the group convene “as needed” with John as the Chair. He will also serve as liaison to the Stewardship Network. Phil Green said that the Beachwatchers are not disbanding but training is on hold; Shann Weston's work as volunteer coordinator is still covered under WSU on a project-to-project basis. She is funded through the end of this summer and is seeking new funding to continue the program. The MRC also discussed ways to support the work of the Marine Health Observatories.

**Staff Report:** Linda Lyshall gave an update on the Local Integrating Organization (LIO); she said that the Puget Sound Partnership is redoing the Action Agenda (73 ranked actions in the priority list of sub-strategies). The oil spill preparedness/prevention action item was ranked 51 out of the 73 and is of

high concern, Linda said. The list was not approved by the state Department of Ecology and will need to be redone. The list was based on 2009 assessments and survey that are considered somewhat faulty, Linda said. There should be a re-ranked list in a few weeks. Linda noted that representatives must be present at LIO meetings in Tacoma.

Kit Rawson said that he attended the last meeting of the Leadership Council with newly-appointed, Terry Klinger. Kit re-emphasized that we move forward with efforts that protect nearshore habitat from the threats of run-off from the built environment, shoreline modification, and oil spills; he added that there must be enough visibility throughout the process. There will be a joint meeting with the AOC in August which will include presentation of awards (e.g. for the Putting It All Together project as well as the salmon recovery Technical Advisory Group).

Barbara Bentley asked, "Where is the action?" Barbara Rosenkotter noted that local efforts are putting money to work to accomplish actions. There may be more capacity funding available to support part of Linda's work by way of mini-grants. Barbara said that the EPA funding is being funneled through the LIOs and San Juan County is doing well in getting proposals funded.

Linda said that a Request for Proposals will be out in late summer. The MRC needs to develop a list of projects that line up with the 2012 Work Plan. It was suggested that the MRC give a heads up to the County Council on the pressing issues of Climate Change including sea level rise.

Caroline Gibson said that the Clallam MRC has set up a monitoring subcommittee to work with NOAA on the potential problem of Japanese tsunami debris hitting regional beaches, the bulk of which is expected to begin showing up in October (Styrofoam is likely to make up a lot of the debris). She said that the NWSC is very interested in a proposal for an MRCs-coordinated effort, with funding. Tina Whitman said that debris is already arriving here, for instance at the south end of Fisherman's Bay on Lopez Island and the west side of San Juan Island (good driftcard data). A facebook page has been set up for the posting of debris photos and Japanese translators have been lined up to help with identifying items. Tina advised that beachcombers not touch any possible hazardous or medical debris and to call 911. An interpretive display for docks is being done at Padilla Bay.

Linda said that the Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, is restoring cultural points of interest with open houses set up for June 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. The film, "Ocean Frontiers" will be shown at FH Labs on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, in the evening...with a panel discussion. Linda asked if someone from the MRC could participate in the panel. Kit said that the film is showing tomorrow at the Everett Performing Arts Center with an awesome panel.

**Chair Report:** Steve Revella said that all derelict nets under 100-feet have been recovered from Puget Sound. Kit suggested that the idea of "no new nets" be endorsed, requiring that all lost nets be immediately reported and removed. Along with a party to celebrate and a press release, it was suggested that an announcement of the recovery be made at the upcoming "Ocean Frontiers" viewing.

Steve said that, per Laura Arnold's suggestion, it was a good time to re-visit where the MRC is going and what can actually be accomplished (e.g. paring down the Work Plan to address what can be committed to this year). The executive subcommittee will meet with Linda the first week of July for a first run.

Copies of the new Sport Fishing Rules were distributed; there was agreement that the MSA map inside the back page looks good. A copy was circulated of the Fisherman Bay Ecosystem Atlas for 2012 by

the Fisherman Bay Marine Health Observatory.

**Presentation: “Sound IQ”**

Suzanne Schull is the GIS Specialist at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, as a Department of Ecology employee. She noted that the habitat suitability map is not being used and the Island County MRC is getting their forage fish data input, as a pilot project, to an “Island County Sound IQ” format. Caroline said that San Juan County has a huge amount of data that could be part of a “San Juan County Sound IQ”. The intent would be for all agencies, tribes, and governments to have the ability to go to one location for information. Training can be provided to facilitate the process.

Caroline said that Sound IQ has the look and feel of Google Map, with aerial photographs and terrain background. Island County's “Getting to the Water's Edge” information, for instance, is one of the data layers being built with topics such as aquaculture, diving, Coast Guard, and ferry. Suzanne said that the compilation of input from about 12 agencies, populated by data from the MRC, covers topics such as Eelgrass inventory, Dungeness Crab, Subtidal hardshell clams, Geoduck, Red sea urchins, etc. Base maps provide additional information and there are links to original data sources. The Island County Sound IQ is being built and is not yet released.

The web mapping project is funded long-term and the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) has an ongoing maintenance agreement with the City of Bellingham as well as support from the USGS. A more mobile format could be available in the future. The NWSC would need additional funding to develop a San Juan County Sound IQ for map services and for Suzanne's time.

Suzanne noted a “Beach Report” feature that provides comprehensive data in one spot (a map, Table of Contents, Toolbar, Smart Search Box, etc.). Phase 2 will include data from FEMA, NOAA, etc.

As preliminary training, Suzanne offered that the user not try to move out of the browser window while using a tool. Jim Slocomb asked about a forum moderator and a mechanism to sort through datasets to identify discrepancies, consistency with newer/older layers, sources of data, date when data was collected, etc. Although this is not available at this time, Suzanne said, she recommended using the “Feedback” feature to make the suggestion. Users/ stakeholders might be the MRCs, local planners, GIS people. Suzanne said that education and outreach for Sound IQ is the weakest link. Jim said that San Juan County has a license, but also has an overtaxed GIS staff and lack of server assets. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that some data sets are not accessible by the public. What should be available and to whom?

Kit said Sound IQ is a great tool that has wide application. He suggested that data from, for instance, “Getting to the Water's Edge” could be coupled with a tailored stewardship message. Suzanne said that excess datasets can be pulled out or new ones added (e.g. an eelgrass video). John suggested that the first step is to evaluate Sound IQ as an MRC tool. It was suggested that Suzanne come to a SJC GIS users group meeting (½ county staff + independents). Suzanne said such a meeting could help to explain functionality of Sound IQ as well as to engage San Juan County. The MRC needs to look at what it wants posted. Jim offered to be the designated MRC member to help build the site.

Caroline said that, as added value, the NWSC website can be searched for any county's reports and data.

**Discussion: “Forage Fish: Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) Meeting”** Tina Whitman presented a draft letter from the Chair of the MRC to the Chair of PFMS. She noted that this

regional topic has recently received lots of wide attention...with articles in the Seattle Times and the New York Times. The draft letter points out that by incorporating non-managed forage fish species into an existing fishery management plan, a big step forward can be made in recognition of the role of forage fish in an ecosystem as well as in the commercial fish industry. The Council is meeting this week to discuss forage fish. This specific action would suggest that there be no new commercial fishing of currently-unfished forage fish species until there is data to support new fisheries and until management plans for them are in place.

Terrie Klinger is a new appointment to the PFMC. The Council is now integrating the initiative of ecosystem based management into all fisheries. Kit said that he is not comfortable singling out commercial fishing and that careful messaging is needed. He added that the PFMC manages federal waters and has no jurisdiction over state waters. Caroline said that the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife supports the position stated in the draft letter. David Loyd asked about herring. Tina said that California and Oregon don't have any regulatory language about forage fish habitat protection. Tina will revise the draft and re-send it to MRC members for review.

**Salmon Recovery Supplemental Funding Request:** Barbara Rosenkotter distributed copies of the recommendations from the Supplemental Request Review Committee (made up of 3 TAG members and 3 MRC members) and herself, as SJC Lead Entity Coordinator. She noted that two separate requests were proposed at the same time from the Friends of the San Juans and there were recommendations to support both of them. She also pointed out the Policy Recommendation in the memo (for sponsors to provide advance notification to the Lead Entity as soon as they have plans to request additional funding); Barbara said the intent is to convey that supplemental requests remain an exception and that they not become routine.

**Motion:** Kit Rawson moved, and Michael Durland seconded, that both proposals be supported. Discussion included acknowledgement that the Putting It All Together project needs to be finished and that the requested amount to complete the second project is small. The motion was amended to include support of the Policy Recommendation. The motion passed unanimously (Jim, Tina, and Jonathan were not present for the vote.)

Barbara noted that San Juan County's allocation of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds might not have to be used since there may be the opportunity to use regional returned funds instead.

**Gateway Terminal Programmatic EIS letter:** Copies of the draft letter from the MRC to County Council were distributed.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Barbara Bentley seconded, that the letter be sent to the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

**Oil Spill Prevention and Readiness Strategy:** Barbara Bentley said that the science subcommittee is meeting later today to discuss this. Linda said that she would like to include mention of the discussion and review comments in the Marine Managers Workshop report.

**2012-2013 Contract and Scope of Work:** Copies of the draft grant agreement were distributed.

**Motion:** Jim Slocomb moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the Scope of Work in the agreement be accepted. The motion passed unanimously (with

Jonathan not present).

**MRC meeting times:** It was agreed that the meeting time be changed to accommodate the late ferry from Orcas (8:45 to 10:45am).

**Motion:** Jim Slocomb moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the meeting time be changed. The motion passed unanimously.

It was also agreed that the MRC meet once each quarter on Orcas Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Colin Maycock, SJC Community Planning and Development Department  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Presentation:** "Derelict Vessel Compliance Program," Joanruth Baumann

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
8/1	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
8/22	AAOC Meeting/Awards	tbd	10:30am-1:30pm

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved with revisions.

**Science subcommittee report:** Tina Whitman said she hoped that members would attend the workshop on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update this Friday. She noted that the Fish & Wildlife section of the CAO has gone to the County Council and the list of exemptions from the rules has doubled; the draft ordinance also reduces the setback to the marine environment to 35'. No provisions were made for any of MRCs comments, she said. Tina will send details. Laura Arnold asked if an ad hoc committee for the SMP might be a good idea.

**Executive subcommittee report:** Laura Arnold said that the schedule for the annual Work Plan and Annual Report could be re-worked to be finished before the next MRC Retreat.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that the review of grant proposals is coming; the Technical Advisory Group will provide feedback to the MRC on August 1st. She emphasized that a quorum is needed for the August 15<sup>th</sup> MRC meeting to do the proposals rating and scoring.

### **Presentation: “Derelict Vessel Compliance Program”**

Linda Lyshall introduced Joanruth Baumann who is being funded by the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) to do some vessel compliance work. Joanruth said that she is the co-contracted Coordinator of the Derelict Vessel Program in San Juan County which SJC Auditor Milene Henley administers. Joanruth thanked the MRC for its continued support for the Program which began in 2005; it is the only such county program in the state. The San Juan County program runs in conjunction with the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Derelict Vessel Program under RCW79.100. San Juan County provides a proactive, community-driven, model and growing effort, Joanruth said, and the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) newsletter will include an article on the program as a stewardship model that is helping other counties. Up until now, action has been somewhat restricted to recovering sinking or imminently-sinking boats that the county could take ownership of. With more frequent surveying and monitoring, vessels that are identified as being in the water in the same location for a long time are now tagged, followed by posting and publishing the violation. Joanruth said that the SJC Sheriff's Office is now using more enforcement of permit limits and out-of-date registrations. State law prohibits anchoring or mooring on unpermitted buoys for more than 30 consecutive days. Such unattended and otherwise at-risk vessels are tagged by the Sheriff as a follow up to the Program's documentation (including dated photographic evidence if possible); if there is no reply to the letter sent to the owner, then the Sheriff enforces compliance. There is good attempt first to get the attention of the owner, using a positive helpful approach.

Joanruth said that there are 15-1800 buoys in San Juan County, not all permitted by DNR and with many unregistered. There are 26 vessels on the DNR watch list at this time with 21 potential problem vessels on the newer list; these lists will probably be merged. The Friends of the San Juans shares its data with the Program which has short-term funding now through the LIO; the Port of Friday Harbor has contributed \$2,000 to the cause and, after November, the Program will have to count on money from PSP. More volunteers are needed to help with letters to owners, etc.

There have been two press releases with a third expected from the Sheriff's Office, explaining the rules and soliciting public help. Citizens are asked to report boats that may be sinking, in danger of sinking or that may be abandoned to [baumann@rockisland.com](mailto:baumann@rockisland.com) or 360-378-6362.

**Staff Report:** Linda Lyshall announced the viewing of the inspiring documentary, “Ocean Frontiers,” to be shown tonight at FHL Commons. She reported that the end-of-fiscal-year progress report will be completed soon and she requested any suggested additions in order to capture all of the good work done by the MRC. Linda will bring the volunteer sign up sheet to each future meeting and will email it as well.

Jonathan White said that he visited the Orkney Islands in Northern Scotland as part of the research for his book on tidal energy (working title = “Water's Desire”). Scotland's goal for 2020 is to have 100% renewable energy. The 15 windmills on the Orkney Islands generate enough energy for the population and more energy is being generated for export. The Global Centre for Marine Research and Development is located there and Aquatera, Ltd is the environmental consultant on the project. Jonathan suggested a 5-minute presentation on the topic.

**Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update:** There was discussion on setting up an SMP ad hoc committee made up of MRC members and others (e.g. Barbara Rosenkotter and TAG); its first meeting was tentatively set for August 14<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2pm.

Colin Maycock said that the accelerated schedule for the first draft of the SMP ordinance to go to the

Planning Commission is the end of August. He noted that there are a number of issues identified by the SJC legal department regarding SMP and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) updates; the definition of critical areas and designation of all shoreline as critical areas are at issue. The Prosecuting Attorney's office suggested that SJC should obey existing state codes and should consider other issues related to buffer procedure which, Colin said, is relatively robust. The County Council wants the SJC Community Development and Planning Department (CDP) to explore nutrient loading related to water quality buffers (slope). There was further discussion on ordinary high water mark designations and buffer size for marine shorelines; it was noted that the draft ordinance allows for lots of exemptions. A public hearing is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Linda requested discussion and input on the Marine Managers Workshop draft document on salmon recovery research and shoreline planning, a compilation of ideas to move forward with future collaboration. Kit Rawson said there is an opportunity for the MRC to interface with a Long Live the Kings' program dealing with why salmon are not surviving in inland waters; there will be a workshop on November 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> to look at the issue for both sides of the border, he said. David Loyd said that FHL has a five-year database on juvenile Chinook in the San Juans, based on DNA samples, including Blackmouth. There was discussion on continued funding and on referencing the data in the Monitoring Plan.

Linda suggested changing the timeline sequence to allow for the Marine Managers Workshop to be held before the MRC Retreat, to be followed by the Work Plan.

**Strategic Plan:** Steve introduced the current draft of the Strategic Plan that includes both a vision and mission statement. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** John Aschoff moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the Strategic Plan be approved, with changes. The motion passed unanimously (Barbara Marrett not present).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Submitted by Helen Venada



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 1, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy Yellow and Low Islands  
Colin Maycock, SJC Community Planning and Development Department  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity  
Laura Jo Severson  
Kim Sundberg, Salmon Recovery Technical Advisory Group

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
8/15	MRC regular meeting <b>QUORUM NEEDED for scoring/ranking proposals!</b>	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
8/22	AAOC Meeting/Awards	tbd	10:30am-1:30pm

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said that the subcommittee would meet following the second MRC meeting of each month.

**Executive subcommittee report:** Laura Arnold said the draft case statements will be reviewed by Mike Sato.

**Outreach “subcommittee:”** John Aschoff said that there needs to be a discussion in September about Work Plan items that relate to outreach. John said that the WSU Beachwatchers group lost its funding but Shann Weston is still the Beachwatchers Coordinator. He added that Shann recently proposed that there be an entity, “Salish Sea Stewards,” to carry on the work. There may be a mussel watch pilot study here if there is grant funding to support it. Kit Rawson wondered why other counties' Beachwatchers are not having a funding problem.

Barbara Marrett said that Ron Zee has created a new Conservation Corps for San Juan Island and

David Loyd said Lopez Island has a Conservation Corps.

There was discussion about the relevance to Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) of the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for SJC; it was suggested that Diana Gale of the Leadership Council be asked about this.

**Friday Harbor raingarden:** Barbara Marrett said that she received a call from Jack Cory regarding his concern that the Spring Street raingarden in Friday Harbor does not function properly in high rain events. There was discussion about whether the filter is maintained adequately. It was noted that the Town of Friday Harbor does not maintain storm traps in winter so back up occurs. Ken Sebens said that organic particulates will break down over time.

A test of in and out volumes is needed over a number of years. Johannes Krieger pointed out that the raingarden is an experiment and a learning tool. He said that the roads were sanded last year and that may have clogged up the filter. He suggested an additional sand filter be put in the third entry. Johannes said that the raingarden does keep debris and contaminants out of the bay which is an improvement! There is no funding for ongoing data collection to monitor the raingarden's function but all agreed that it has created a good looking corner! The Science subcommittee will review Russel Barsh's baseline data on total hydrocarbons, etc. Ken reminded everyone that a presenter last year told the MRC about a graduate student program that could provide ongoing research for such a project. Kim Sundburg suggested asking Jack Cory to help with a silt (sieve analysis) study. Johannes said that Island Gardens has a contract with the MRC to do annual re-planting, as needed.

Suggestions for dealing with the issue of cigarette butts tossed in the raingarden:

- Ask the Sheriff's office to enforce the "no smoking within 25' of door" regulation.
- Provide larger receptacle for depositing cigarette butts.
- Install a sign: "Please keep cigarette butts out of the raingarden."

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that San Juan County's Salmon Recovery Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will receive a Puget Sound Champion award in recognition of their work overseeing the technical aspects of recovery plan implementation...from a plan with data gaps and uncertainties to an increasingly refined and sophisticated strategy, based on the analysis and use of assessments and other new information. She also reported that Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is putting in a request for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding, with a prioritized list of larger projects needing completion; local examples include the Thatcher Bay wood waste removal project and the Stuart Island 40 acre-acquisition/ conservation easement by the Land Bank.

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) proposals:** Barbara Rosenkotter reviewed the scoring/rating process and distributed copies of "TAG Reviewers' Scoring and Comments." SRFB funding for Round 13 totals about \$307,000 for SJC projects. The MRC also reserved about \$140,000 from last round's PSAR funding. Members discussed details and Kim Sundberg and Kit Rawson (TAG) replied to questions on the proposals:

1. Neck Point Lagoon and Pocket Beach Restoration
2. Forage Fish Habitat Protection
3. Creosote Piling Removal
4. Herring Spawning Protection
5. West Beach Creek Restoration
6. West Beach Road Culvert Replacement

Barbara distributed packets of scoring sheets and scoring criteria for members' evaluations of the proposals at the next meeting. She said there may be leftover grant round funding and asked members to think about how to possibly use it. A final report on the Putting It All Together project has been drafted.

Barbara and Steve reiterated that a quorum is needed for the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MRC (as the Salmon Citizens Advisory Group) to review proposals and to rate and score them for socio-economic impacts.

**Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update:** Jonathan White said there is some rumbling about reconvening the San Juan Initiative (SJI), particularly in regard to progress/implementation on issues raised by the Initiative (e.g. Have all dock improvements been permitted and inspected?). Jonathan said that Amy Windrope now works for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, which has funding to publish SJI findings.

The Policy subcommittee will meet and then report to the County Council as a follow through on the assessment (process). Barbara Rosenkotter said that the technical support for landowners piece is moving forward slowly (with EPA funding).

**Shoreline Master Program (SMP) and Net Pens update:** Colin Maycock said that the state designates aquaculture as a preferred use. The SJC Planning Committee, however, has said that if net pens are allowed the process should be made difficult; the Commission's preference is for an outright ban. It must be shown that a higher public purpose (with statewide significance) exists, i.e. that there be public benefit over individual benefit. Implementation is the issue, Colin said.

The Council has asked the MRC to provide perspective on net pens, such as concerns in regulating them. The question was asked if there is risk from hatchery pens. Ken Sebens said that Cypress Island Salmon farms (off Bainbridge Island) were started in the 1980's and their product has been endorsed as "sustainable." Laura Arnold said she and the SJC planning staff visited the facility years ago. It was suggested that the MRC re-visit it in light of possible net pen long-term impacts on juvenile migration through the San Juans (based on new information). Laura asked that the Policy and Science subcommittees come together to prepare a white paper for the Council.

Colin said that SMP workshops for the Planning Commission are set for August 17<sup>th</sup>, September 7<sup>th</sup>, and September 20<sup>th</sup> to review the fish and wildlife habitat conservation section. A complete draft will then be prepared for public review. Colin urged MRC members to provide input. He said that SJC is looking at a \$40,000 bill to re-do the inventory; the process has to be approved. He noted that no changes to the designations for mapping the shoreline environment (e.g. for pocket beaches) have been proposed. Colin said that the draft does away with excessive regulatory elements.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 15, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Greg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Diana Brooks  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
8/24	2012 EcoNet Summit	UW Campus, Seattle	9am-3pm
8/27	"Ocean Frontiers" viewing	Orcas Island	7-9pm
9/5	MRC regular meeting	SJC Meeting Room, Eastsound	8:45-10:45am

**Orcas Island**

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The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said that the Science subcommittee and Policy subcommittee will have a joint meeting after today's MRC meeting. She said that one topic will be the degree to which San Juan County and the MRC will be involved in a Mussel Watch Program.

**Outreach "subcommittee:"** John Aschoff said that he met with Shann Weston, Linda Lyshall, and Ron Zee to talk about the future of the WSU Beachwatchers. Since the group's funding will run out in August, it was proposed that a new group, tentatively called the Salish Sea Stewards, be formed to carry on the training and work. The group also discussed the newly-formed Conservation Corps for San Juan Island similar to that set up by the Bureau of Land Management that works with Lopez youth; the MRC's role with these groups was discussed. Barbara Marrett noted that the Beachwatchers have done excellent monitoring work at the Port of Friday Harbor, providing a great outreach component and engaging with visitors.

**Staff report:** Linda circulated a new form for logging members' volunteer hours. She asked if any members had time to be at the MRC's booth in the San Juan County Fair's Green Village. Steve Revella said that representation on the Local Integrating Organization is open, pointing out that this is

currently the group providing funding for the MRC. The LIO meets the first Wednesday of each month. Barbara Rosenkotter is the chair. Barbara Bentley said she will consider taking on the role to represent the MRC.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) update:** Steve said that the NWSC is trying to obtain more sustainable funding. One strategy is for the NWSC to act as lead in obtaining federal and state grant funds, as well as corporate and foundation money, for all seven MRCs, leaving each MRC to focus on obtaining local funding. There will be no operational funding from the NWSC for the MRCs beyond July 2013. Steve said the NWSC was designed to operate with a \$1.6 million budget and is now re-examining its operations to consider re-organization.

Steve mentioned the issue of community level awareness, saying that the MRC seems to be held to a different standard than other groups.

**Salmon Recovery Project Scoring:** Barbara Rosenkotter distributed packets including scoring sheets and criteria to the MRC, acting as the Citizen Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery. She described the issue of conflict of interest and disclosure. Tina Whitman left the meeting because of her affiliation with some of the proposals. Discussion followed of each proposal before MRC members scored them on socio-economic impacts.

**Fish and Wildlife Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) Comment Letter:** Steve explained that the draft letter was revised by the subcommittee for submittal to the County Council next Tuesday. He briefly discussed the purpose of the letter, particularly in light of possible lawsuits and the role of the MRC as an advisory body to the Council. The letter, Steve said, is meant to be succinct and with an advisory, not litigious, tone. The new draft was distributed and Linda said that comments she received have been incorporated. She added that NOAA designated the entire shoreline of SJC as critical habitat for west coast salmon and steelhead after the endangered status for the northern resident orcas was established. Therefore, Linda suggested, that the MRC consider requesting that all of the shoreline be designated as critical habitat, noting that the environment (shoreline, in particular) is our economy!

Following discussion, Kit Rawson said that he will help re-write the draft with Barbara Marrett editing and Linda and Steve preparing the final.

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Ken Sebens seconded, that the MRC proceed with revising the draft and submit it to the County Council. The motion passed unanimously.

**Oil Spill RFP:** Linda said that a Request for Proposals for oil spills is being developed with many partners. Three distinct, but integrated, proposals will be submitted, for a maximum of \$60,000 each, with the MRC as sub-lead. Tasks include collecting biological and environmental baseline data, performing chemical analysis, training for future data collection in coordination with state agencies, and public workshops (IOSA).

**Motion:** David Loyd moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the RFP be pursued. The motion passed unanimously.

Linda said she will bring back the full proposal for the next meeting.

**Salmon Recovery Project Final Scoring/Ranking Results:** Barbara Rosenkotter presented the

results of the scoring:

- 1 . Forage Fish (sand lance/surf smelt) Spawning Beaches Habitat Protection = 8.866 (\$27,983 or \$38,000)
- 2 . Creosote (derelict) Piling Prioritization and Removal = 7.361 (\$149,889)
- 3 . West Beach Creek Restoration (lower culvert) = 7.235 (\$109,750)
- 4 . Neck Point Lagoon and Pocket Beach Restoration = 6.424 (\$44,525)
- 5 . Herring Spawning Protection = 4.863 (\$55,220)
- 6 . West Beach Creek (upper) Culvert Replacement = 3.926 (\$265,000)

There was discussion on funding specifics. Kit suggested that #5 could be modified to mesh with #1 to alleviate concerns. Both #5 and #6 proposals are Projects of Concern and #6 was red flagged by the Technical Advisory Group. Barbara Rosenkotter presented the options of putting additional funding into the Thatcher Bay wood waste removal project (for construction); adding funds to the #1 project; providing any extra funds to a sister watershed; accepting the red flag on #6 and not funding it.

**Motion:** Johannes Krieger moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, that the first four projects be funded, with the balance of funds going to the Thatcher Bay project and increasing #1 to \$38,000. The motion failed to pass with 5 voting for it and 6 against.

**Motion:** Ken Sebens moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the top four projects be funded, accepting #5 and #6 as red flags. The motion passed with 6 for and 5 against.

**Motion:** Kit moved, and John Aschoff seconded, that the top four projects be funded, distributing the remaining money between #1, #2, and the Thatcher Bay project. The motion passed with 9 ayes and 2 nays.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING (SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>) WILL BE ON ORCAS ISLAND!

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 5, 2012, 9:15-11:45am  
Orcas Island Ferry Landing, County Meeting Room  
Eastsound, Orcas Island, WA**

**Members Present:** Steve Revella (Chair), Laura Arnold, John Aschoff, Rene Beliveau, David Loyd, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Barbara Bentley, Greg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy, Yellow Island  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Presentation:** Northwest Straits Foundation – Tools and Resources for the MRC, Joan Drinkwin

**Presentation:** SeaDoc Society – Current Work and Priority Issues; Over-population of Deer as a Marine Issue by Joe Gaydos

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
9/19	MRC regular meeting	Community Room, Islanders Bank Friday Harbor	8:45-10:45am
9/19	Stewardship Network	Whidbey Island Bank, Friday Hbr	12-2pm
9/27	Ocean Frontiers	Orcas Center	6:30-8:30pm
10/3	Implementation Committee	Cask & Schooner, Friday Harbor	11:30am-1:30pm
10/9	SeaDoc lecture: Deer	Emmanuel Parish Hall, Orcas	7-9pm
11/2-3	NW Straits MRC Conference	Port Townsend	all day
11/13	SeaDoc lecture: Marine Birds	Emmanuel Parish Hall, Orcas	7-9pm

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The non-quorum meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Revella at 9:30am.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Tina Whitman reported that Bob Gamble said the Planning Commission, in its work on the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update, would appreciate the MRC providing a package of its comments on the SMP and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) updates. The two processes are running parallel at this time. Workshops are scheduled for this Friday and September 21<sup>st</sup>. Laura Arnold pointed out that there are new draft policies and regulations out there related to these issues and public comment periods are on the horizon.

Linda Lyshall said that Colin Maycock suggested changing the definition of aquaculture to clarify the County Council's concerns on net pens. With the current regulations, Colin said it would be impossible

for anyone to have future net pen operations here. Linda will talk to Lovel Pratt to get Council direction for the MRC.

**Staff Report:** Linda reminded everyone that there will be a viewing of “Ocean Frontiers” on September 27<sup>th</sup> on Orcas Island, sponsored by Long Live the Kings, SeaDoc Society, and the MRC. Tina Whitman and Jon White will participate in the panel discussion following the movie.

Linda circulated the volunteer reporting form, asking that members provide their time + dates either on the form today or by email to her; travel time should be included. She requested that members attach event agendas to their reimbursement forms.

Linda reiterated that there is no guaranteed funding for the MRC in 2013 and that a coordinated fundraising effort is needed. She has Local Integration Organization (LIO) funding for her work.

**Chair Report:** Steve said that the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) meeting minutes are out. He announced that he will be stepping down as MRC Chair as of today; he has served in that capacity for three years. Vice Chair, John Aschoff, will serve as interim Chair. The issue of term length for officers will be an agenda item for the next regular MRC meeting.

**MRC Role in Oil Spill RFP:** Linda said that there are currently two proposals. One is for the San Juan County MRC to develop an oil spills prevention and preparedness program that will include drills with the Islands Oil Spills Association (IOSA), public workshops, data collection for the marine specimen bank, and wildlife response trainings. The other proposal is for a partnership of regional MRC's to do similar work, moving forward on the program to be developed by the San Juan County MRC. A total of \$185,000 is being provided through the Northwest Straits Foundation and each of the two proposals is for \$60,000.

Barbara Rosenkotter said that the draft Beamer-Fresh report could affect the designation of oil spill Geographical Response Plans (GRPs) and the local in-water work window. Barbara will draft letters to WDFW and Ecology regarding the results of the fish use study and will request review and approval of the letters at a future MRC meeting.

The Northwest Maritime Center and the Makah tribe will be updating GRPs, along with a Vessel-of-Opportunity inventory and training. There will be a regional oil spill drill on Lopez Island, hosted by Shell Oil Company, on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda said she will participate as local liaison (MRC role).

Tina suggested adding a request for a technical workshop to the grant, particularly on marine mammal hazing; Barbara suggested that a white paper on the topic is needed.

Linda noted that SJC participation in a mussel watch is not a likely fit for this grant.

**Salmon Recovery Council update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that there needs to be a replacement for outgoing County Council member, Richard Fralick, on the Salmon Recovery Council. She explained that this policy body, meets quarterly (usually in Edmonds), makes final regional recommendations (e.g. allocations), sets yearly focus issues, etc. The Council will have a 3-day retreat, October 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>; issues will be outlined and other foundational work will be done so, Barbara said, it is important to have a replacement representative soon. Discussion followed on whether the representative needs to be an elected official or not and it was decided that this should be a County Council decision. Barbara will speak to Richard to learn whether he plans to attend the October retreat and to ask if he has a



recommendation regarding a replacement on the Salmon Recovery Council.

**Presentation: “Northwest Straits Foundation – Tools and Resources for the MRC”**

Joan Drinkwin, the interim director of the NWSF, said the foundation can help with outreach materials for current salmon recovery projects in San Juan County. She added that she would also be discussing how the foundation can support the MRC in other ways.

The NWSF has been involved in SJC projects since 2002. Joan provided an update on the derelict fishing gear recovery project; with grant money from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will complete removal of shallow subtidal derelict nets in Puget Sound by 2013; much of this work is in San Juan County where a boat is currently working on recovery. Funding comes from the National Estuary Program through the EPA.

Joan said that a second boat is working in northern San Juan Island waters; she showed slides of the work off Salmon Bank. Joan noted that bird bones are retrieved from the bottom by divers for species identification by UW Ornithology. The project is going strong; a web-based summary report from 1/1/2002 to 9/4/2012 is available. 1,652 nets and 70 purse seines have been removed; more than 1,000 animals (seabirds, corals, fish, invertebrates, mammals) were found dead in the derelict gear. Joan said that the removal would not have happened without the San Juan County MRC's work. She added that there will be a celebration when the last net is out!

Joan said that the Kitsap County field project manager reported that 17 new nets were recently lost off Jefferson Head. The DNR is sponsoring a project to remove creosoted pilings in October.

Joan reported there is some progress on the NOAA Section 6 funding for retrieval of deep water derelict nets, detected by Sidescan Sonar; the numbers of this abandoned gear are not fully known. The effort will focus on a pilot removal project in the San Juans of derelict gear impacting deep water habitats; protocol for removal will be developed.

Joan said that crab pots are not highly prioritized now and loss prevention is cheaper than recovery; derelict pots are lethal to crabs. Some MRCs have an active outreach and removal program.

A pilot reporting program is part of the DNR funding for response and retrieval. Commercial fishermen are now required to report lost gear. Tom Cowan is back on as the liaison with the tribes to strengthen communication.

Joan said that the Foundation will have a Case Statement by the end of September; specifics of each MRCs work will be noted. The Foundation is working closely with MRCs on their proposals, Joan said, including the RFP for Oil Spill Response and Preparedness by the San Juan County MRC. She said that other opportunities are out there, such as Japanese tsunami debris cleanup.

Sustainable MRC funding for capacity and projects is a NWSC goal, Joan said. How can the MRCs fund their own work in the future? One plan is to have each MRC try to raise at least \$20,000 locally...a.s.a.p, as leverage for state funding. Local funding sources could include the Ports, County Council, individuals, businesses. In conjunction, Ginny Broadhurst is asking the State Legislature for equal funding for the MRCs through NWSC, the same as for the coastal MRCs through WDFW. Discussion followed on the need for an MRC fundraising subcommittee and fundraising plan. Joan

said that the Foundation is available to help.

**Presentation: SeaDoc Society Update – Current Work and Priority Issues; Over-population of Deer as a Marine Issue**

Joe Gaydos gave an update on SeaDoc's recently completed projects and their relevance to San Juan County; he distributed copies of the list of these projects and related manuscripts. Joe said that the Tufted Puffin Status Review, by Thor Hanson for WDFW, is ongoing, noting that there has been a dramatic shift in the Salish Sea population of these birds, once very common here. The number of threatened, endangered, or candidate species (for ESA listing) in the Salish Sea nearly doubled from 64 in 2008 to 113 in 2011. Historically, the list has increased by 1 to 3 species per year. Joe said that as forage fish populations decline, for instance, there are serious impacts to seabird populations.

Other on-going projects: SeaDoc Society and forager, Jennifer Hahn, have been working on a study to evaluate toxins contaminating harvested seaweeds in the Salish Sea. Up to 10 uncontaminated sites and common harvesting sites will be sampled. Joe reported that SeaDoc and the Friday Harbor Labs are using REEF divers to monitor subtidal species. John Aschoff has been hired to work with Gary Greene on the seafloor mapping project. Actions can follow research findings slowly, Joe said. He suggested that the MRC and SeaDoc Society stay abreast of opportunities to work together in the future.

Joe talked about the study on deer impacts to native habitats, particularly at the mid-canopy level. These impacts have terrestrial and marine connections (e.g. deer graze on some intertidal plants). The next event in the annual marine Science Lecture series will cover the deer study; the lecture will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Parish Hall in Eastsound, Orcas Island on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 8:30pm.

Joe will complete his second four-year position on the NWSC in October. He has been the Chair of the Puget Sound Partnership's Science Panel since January. He said that the Panel is reviewing indicator species monitoring to assure right targets, asking: Are Actions effective? How should the Actions be prioritized? Joe added that there needs to be a good mesh between policy and science for prevention actions to be effective.

Monthly web updates can be found at [www.SeaDocsociety.org](http://www.SeaDocsociety.org).

**NWSC / MRC Conference, 11/2-3:** There was brief discussion on the San Juan County contribution basket for the Annual Silent Auction.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Acting Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Kit Rawson, Jim Slocomb

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity  
Laura Jo Severson

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
9/26	San Juan Initiative meeting	Islanders Bank, Friday Harbor	1-4:30pm
9/27	Ocean Frontiers viewing	Orcas Island	6:30-8:30pm
10/3	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
11/2-3	NWSC MRC Conference	Port Townsend	all day

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The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am. On behalf of the MRC, John thanked Steve Revella for his years of service as chair of the committee; he noted that Steve has also served as representative to the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and has participated in the Local Integrating Committee (LIO). John reported that Ginny Broadhurst will not be in attendance at today's meeting because her flight was fogged in.

**Citizen comments:** Laura Jo Severson said she participated in the Islands Oil Spill Association (IOSA) drill last week, adding that she is appreciative of all that IOSA does.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meetings were approved as read.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter reported that People for Puget Sound is closing its doors at the end of this month. She said that she did not know who might take over the group's restoration work in the San Juans, including the West Beach Creek Restoration project, which has not been formally approved or under contract yet. The project is due to begin next January or February.

Barbara said that Earth Corps of Seattle may take some of the PPS staff but this is up in the air at this time; Rachel Benbrook, for instance, has experience working in the San Juans. MRC members suggested that the Lopez Conservation Corps or San Juan Islands Conservation District, for example,

might be a good fit to do the work. Washington Environmental Council will take over PPS programs and policies.

The shutting down of PPS came as a shock to many people, Barbara said. The cause was financial but also a combination of reasons. Tina noted that the PPS had to fundraise in order to pay back a loan. Jonathan White added that he was sorry to see them go; they had great programs, events, and history. He said PPS's closing is an end of an important era and a blow for Puget Sound.

Barbara reported that Richard Fralick told her that he thinks it's up to the County Council to select someone to replace him on the Puget Sound Recovery Council; he will be attending the October retreat and Barbara said she hopes that another Council person will also attend the important event.

**Stewardship Network:** The Network will meet today at noon. John said he expects some good ideas to be presented today by Shann Weston and Ron Zee on the to-be-formed Beachwatchers-like entity. The LIO meets after the first MRC monthly meeting of the. MRC subcommittee meeting times were discussed. The Policy subcommittee schedule is flexible due to members' changing schedules.

**NWSC update:** Steve said he would like to see 100% MRC participation in the MRC Conference to be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Port Townsend. Linda added that there is funding to reimburse members for transportation. John will be attending the September meeting at which time there will be presentations by the four applicants for the position of NWSC Executive Director.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said the subcommittee will be meeting after today's MRC meeting to discuss the possible future of a mussel watch program in the San Juans and to also look at what action to take on the CAO/SMP update processes. Barbara noted that the subcommittee meets directly after each second Wednesday of the month MRC meeting.

**Friday Harbor raingarden:** Linda said that the Port of Friday Harbor is having talks with Milene Henley about possible funding for some monitoring activity at the raingarden. The idea will be discussed at tonight's Port Commission meeting. Barbara Marrett said that this would not be an ongoing amount forever but a small amount to help the monitoring effort. The plan remains that the Town of Friday Harbor will take over the maintenance/monitoring at some point. Johannes Krieger said that he is willing to work with someone else to do some of the testing/monitoring. He added that the effort would likely take several, frequent and regularly-scheduled samplings before any trends could be identified; frequent soil sampling would also be worthwhile. There was discussion on protocol and scheduling needs. Ken Sebens said that small daily samples could be frozen immediately for use later work to arrive at an average. Barbara Bentley said these samples could be as small as one vial. Tina Whitman suggested mobilizing soon to be ready for the start of the rain season.

**Staff reports:** Linda said that she attended the **Marine Protected Areas (MPA)** workshop in Tacoma last Monday; the intent of the gathering was to consider formation of an MPA network. The 2009 inventory from the MPA work group was presented and a gap analysis study has just been completed. The next steps are unknown. Linda noted that although the FH Labs and San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) were listed as having protected areas, their representatives were not specifically invited to this workshop; the reasoning was that these areas were not regulatory and were therefore not included. Linda recommended to the group that all MPA's be included. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that she's seen this same problem arise on a regular basis for studies, assessments, and other statewide efforts and that the SJC MRC needs to be present at the table. Laura Arnold noted that when the concept of MPA's was first under discussion, the idea was to create a

network of them from Canada throughout Puget Sound.

Linda asked how strategic the MPAs are in selecting specific habitats or species. Aquatic Reserves were included as well as all state and federally-protected areas (many of which are in the San Juans). The group recognized that the San Juan/Whatcom area has the largest area of MPA's. Linda will email the report to members.

Linda reported that the **Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)** Science Panel held a meeting today and yesterday on marine science and policy. She attended the introductory-only meeting yesterday that was called to start the conversation. Joe Gaydos is the PSP Chair. It was suggested that the MRC send a memo to the Science Panel noting the work done in the San Juans is an opportunity for outreach.

Linda is working on the quarterly report and needs members to report their volunteer hours.

Jonathan White reminded everyone that Jacques White, Tina and Joe will be on the panel at the Orcas viewing of "Ocean Frontiers" next Thursday; important points will be made. The film is a report on successful collaborative work between various interests in some U.S. communities. Jonathan added that we have good examples of projects that engaged locals in the San Juans. David Loyd suggested that interisland projects should definitely be honored at this event.

Jonathan said that Amy Windrope has a grant through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to work on the **San Juan Initiative**. The San Juan County policy group and others came up with a list of recommendations after two years of work, which were passed by the SJC Council. One purpose of the grant is to reconvene the Initiative to look for reference points (e.g. shoreline permits granted without adequate review). Lovel Pratt (co-chair) and Patty Miller participated in the beginning. Tom Cowan and Kit Rawson are also participating.

There will be a meeting next Wednesday afternoon in Islanders Bank in Friday Harbor from 1 to 4:30pm (the first of three scheduled meetings) to start review of the checklist. Tina said this will be an opportunity to see how well we are doing...whether there are signs of improvement, compliance, technical support for homeowners to improve their properties, etc. New aerial surveys need to be compared to older information on shoreline development. Tina said that feedback is important now. Linda said the WDFW part of the current EPA grant will fund such integration work to review and analyze the work originated by the San Juan Initiative. Also, a person will be selected to manage SJC's Green Shores program. Linda said that Rene Beliveau and Chris Laws of the SJC Community Development and Planning Department are very interested in this work.

Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that the when/where/what of applying armoring is not being looked at. She said we shouldn't be backtracking on the San Juan Initiative recommendations (the Planning Commission). Jonathan reiterated that there is funding now for following through on the Initiatives. Linda said that the goal is to simplify the permitting process, one idea being that trained technicians work with property owners prior to any development. An example of a success indicator would be that after 5 years of the Initiatives there should be X number of soft shore armorings. The Initiative's recommendations have been sanctioned by the Council and the timing is good now to review them in light of how to move forward and then evaluate the outcomes. Barbara Rosenkotter warned that SJC doesn't want to repeat efforts. Laura suggested development of a good tracking system for permits so that efforts are not being duplicated. There was discussion on the 2007 report and what SJC needs to do (e.g. how the County manages shoreline development). It was agreed that the ordinance should be meaningful and this is a very important opportunity.

**Chair and Vice-Chair Election Process:** There was discussion on the details of the two sets of existing business rules that the MRC operates under.

**Motion:** Jonathan White moved, and Laura Arnold seconded, the nomination of John Aschoff as Chair of the MRC. John was unanimously acclaimed the new Chair.

It was agreed that the Vice Chair election be postponed to a future meeting.

**Annual Schedule:** It was agreed that the Marine Managers Workshop be held in March, the MRC Retreat in April (focusing on the Work Plan), MRC officer elections in the fall, a September meeting to focus on the Annual Report, and a holiday party in December. Linda will email members the full list.

**Oil Spill Rule comment letter:** Linda said that Lovel Pratt requested that the MRC review the Department of Ecology's proposed rule; comments are due by October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Policy subcommittee will do the review and draw up comments by the October 3<sup>rd</sup> MRC meeting.

**Northwest Straits Conference:** The invitation to the MRC Conference includes registration. Linda said that attendees can reserve a hotel room (at government rate) and will be reimbursed up to \$93. She asked for suggested items for the Conference raffle basket/silent auction.

**Review of Draft SMP Comment Letter:** Tina said that the Planning Commission hasn't finished its inventory review. The third workshop of the Commission on shoreline regulations will be held on Friday and public comments are allowed. The MRC's draft letter for the workshop was discussed. Laura pointed out that it is important for the MRC to be ready for the public review of the SMP Ordinance. Barbara Rosenkotter said the SMP is important for not only the ESA listed species in SJC (there were none in 1998) but also for the whole ecosystem. Linda suggested that Colin Maycock be invited to an MRC meeting for a discussion of the SMP ordinance review.

**Motion:** Laura Arnold moved, and Jonathan White seconded, that the letter be approved, with edits, pursuant to the Chair's final approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

Linda said that Ginny Broadhurst will re-schedule her visit to the MRC for a meeting next month to talk about operational funding.

The MRC Executive subcommittee's October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will include planning for the Marine Managers Workshop.

**Citizens comments:** Laura Jo Severson said that she would like to be invited to the planning meeting for the Marine Managers Workshop. She also reported that the local chapter of the Red Cross will hold a drill on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Episcopal Church and asked that everyone attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 3, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Chair), Laura Arnold, Johannes Krieger, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Jim Slocomb

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Eric Eisenhardt, Soundwatch  
Jaclyn Fowler  
Phil Green, The Nature Conservancy-Yellow/Low Island  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
10/9	SeaDoc lecture: Deer	Emanuel Parish Hall, Orcas	7-9pm
10/17	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
11/2-3	NWSC MRC Conference	Port Townsend	all day

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am.

**Citizen comments:**

Jaclyn Fowler introduced herself, saying that she has recently moved from Monterey CA to Orcas Island; as an independent marine mammal researcher, she is observing local orcas especially in light of seismic (Sonar) experiments underway here.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meetings were approved with corrections.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Tina Whitman said that the group has been working on the MRC letter for the Planning Commission. Since there has been an issue with the public testimony element of the Shoreline Master Program(SMP)/Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update process, Tina said that it was decided that the letter should not be submitted now. The public comment period will start in February for the entire draft SMP/CAO. Tina suggested that the MRC invite Colin Maycock from SJC Development and Planning Department to a meeting of the whole group or to a Policy subcommittee meeting for the purpose of having a work session with county staff.

**Executive subcommittee:** Laura Arnold said that there was discussion of the Marine Managers

Workshop and the telephone call with Ginny Broadhurst regarding future funding of the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and the MRCs.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter reported that with news of People for Puget Sound sunsetting, the one salmon recovery project identified for funding that PPS submitted would likely be taken over by Earth Corps but a fiscal entity is also required. There was discussion on a possible fiscal entity (SJ MRC? NWSF? Wild Fish Conservancy?); Barbara pointed out that having the MRC fill that role would present a conflict of interest. All agreed that the project is important and should move forward as MRC-supported, but not as an MRC project.

**Staff Report:** Linda said that she is completing the end of quarter reports and needs volunteer hours to be reported by members for July, August, and September. She reported that the “Ocean Frontiers” showing on Orcas Island was great and had a varied audience of more than 90 people. Contributions for the raffle or basket for the upcoming MRC Conference need to be in by next Friday. Linda asked for a discussion on the idea of canceling the second MRC meeting in November (the 21<sup>st</sup>) and having a longer meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> or in December. The question will be discussed further via email.

**Chair report:** John Aschoff reported that the Northwest Straits Foundation is in the process of selecting a permanent director; 41 applicants were reduced to 4 with a consensus that Robin Dupre will be the likely selection. John said that the process was well done and professional. He added that members interested in the K-12 education/stewardship initiative of the SJC Stewardship Network should contact the Network; the initiative is designed to help foster environmental education in all the schools on the islands.

**Oil Spill Rule Letter:** Linda said that Lovel Pratt wrote a detailed comment letter and suggested that the MRC write a supporting letter. Tina said the letter has been sent.

**Orca Marine Protected Area (MPA):** There was discussion on the proposal, put forth by Lynn Barry of NOAA, for an MPA on the west side of San Juan Island. By way of history, there were several public meetings on the topic and meetings with stakeholders. The MRC wrote a letter for the County Council on its request for a response to NOAA; the Council removed the phrase “give us time to work this out.” Jonathan said that the latter was submitted by the MRC as an attachment. Review by the MRC of specific recommendations was suggested and it was noted that strategies for all MPAs (e.g. the rockfish voluntary recovery zone) be a topic for the next Marine Managers Workshop...along with a broad discussion on protection and recovery of endangered species. What are the actual benefits of MPAs? Linda will invite Lynn to engage in a more in-depth conversation with the MRC.

**Raingarden:** Linda reported that \$5,000 was received from the Port of Friday Harbor for monitoring and ongoing maintenance of the raingarden in the Town of Friday Harbor. Maintenance could include more planting and soil amendment; Jonathan said it was important to decide how to best use the donation. Tina said that the public is interested in island solutions to stormwater impacts, including water quality and soil erosion, so that the raingarden is an important model demonstrating an alternate response; lessons have been learned, benefits are being identified, and costs are known. Members agreed that more raingardens would be a good idea, particularly at the ferry landings where monitoring could show effects that address the water quality problem.

**San Juan Initiative:** Jonathan said that there was a great turnout at last week’s three-hour meeting of the policy group to review Initiative strategies and measures of success. All of the Initiative’s recommendations were found to be relevant. WDFW received a grant to reconvene the Initiative. Amy



Windrope will be checking to see what has been accomplished and will present a draft report card in early January. Linda will be working with Amy on this. WDFW will be here next week to meet with Chris Laws, SJC Development and Planning Department's Code Enforcement Officer. WDFW and the CDP are very engaged and very positive about the effort to make the permit process more effective, Linda said. See [http://www.westcoastebm.org/San\\_Juan\\_Initiative\\_files/SJI\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.westcoastebm.org/San_Juan_Initiative_files/SJI_FinalReport.pdf) for the Initiative's "Protecting Our Place for Nature and People," December 2008 (a copy was circulated at the meeting).

**Forage Fish Workshop:** Kit Rawson said that the September Research Symposium, "Conservation and Ecology of Marine Forage Fishes," was another great session at the UW Labs; there was an excellent presentation on Canadian and Washington perspectives of the Salish Sea. Proceedings of the symposium will be out soon including recommendations for next steps. Kit said that he, representing the Tulalip Tribes, and Joe Gaydos of SeaDoc Society and Puget Sound Science Panel, led a science and policy break out session. Kit said there was a lot of focus on forage fish as a component of the ecosystem that needs to be managed as part of the food web. He added that the science supports policy. All threats to forage fish need to be identified (contamination, habitat loss and protection, fisheries management rules, etc.). Public awareness needs to be created and maintained. How should Washington's "no net" policy be applied? There are two transboundary proposals...from the Salish Sea Taskforce and other agencies.

Tina said that this is a continuation of research on the foraging of marine mammals in WA, OR, and CA by California Current Ecosystems Program and by Alaska Fisheries Science Center. The Northwest Fisheries Service (NOAA) hosted last year's conference that led to an international report on the importance of forage fish on a global scale. Tina recommended that the collaboration be kept going (such as the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Vancouver, B.C.), including local involvement. The connection with seabird populations was mentioned as part of the broad spectrum of research being done.

Kit mentioned the value of harvestable wildlife in the context of the "environment = economy" discussion. How can the public become engaged in trying to quantify ecosystem services to encourage doing the "right thing?" What are the specific ways to connect with the Big Picture? Johannes said that the San Juan Economic Development Council has done a summary of economic impacts of various tourist dollars. The suggestion was made to invite Earth Economics to the MRC; the non-profit in Tacoma provides economic analysis and policy recommendations to positively transform regional and international economics.

**Operational funding:** John said the recent conference call with Steve, Linda, Laura and Ginny Broadhurst, discussed the NWSC funding for MRCs with the repeated message that MRCs can't count on federal money coming in. Linda's position will be half time through June. Senator Kevin Ranker introduced legislation to get the same state funding for the Salish Sea MRCs as for the coastal MRCs (\$38,500 per year). This is backed by Republican Representative, Norma Smith. The MRCs are advised to also seek supplemental funding from local government (County, Town, Port, etc.), which could also help as leverage for state funding. This long-term capacity funding would include the Port of Friday Harbor's \$5,000 for raingarden monitoring. Linda will speak to Rene Beliveau about the problem and suggested a request be brought to the Council now since the budget is being worked on. Laura said the phone discussion covered capital funding vs project funding, and the need for reporting qualitative, as well as quantitative, success. Such a report should articulate the successful MRC efforts that bring money into the county. There was member discussion on possible consequences if there was no other local funding. It was pointed out that the MRCs advisory value to the Council is not always

obvious. The MRC also functions as the guardian of the Marine Stewardship Area. As an alternative, could a federal MPA be imposed to protect endangered species? John proposed that the Executive subcommittee draw up a plan for approaching the Council to ask for at least \$20,000.

**EIS Scoping Hearing for Gateway (Coal) Proposal:** Tina said that the hearing is scheduled for Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 3pm at either the Friday Harbor High School or Middle School. She will email details on the process, etc.

**Mussel Watch Program:** Linda, Barbara Bentley, and Ken have been keeping an eye on the potential for setting up three sites that have been identified for mussel cages (near the UW Labs, on Orcas, and in Fisherman's Bay on Lopez...the latter in conjunction with Russel Barsh and the Land Bank). Coordinates for each site are needed. Linda will bring details on the MRC budget to the next regular meeting to look at protocol on how to spend money in the emergency fund. Laura noted that it had to be for capacity, rather than project, funding. Linda will speak to Barbara Bentley to move the project forward. Ken said the cages would be in areas representative of the region (not in hot spots). The WDFW will provide all equipment.

**Electing a Vice Chair:** Jim Slocomb was suggested as a possible candidate. The election will held over to the next meeting.

**Citizen comments:** Jaclyn Fowler requested background literature from the MRC on the oil spill and orca MPA issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Lovel Pratt, San Juan County Council

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
11/2-3	NWSC MRC Conference	Port Townsend	all day
11/7	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
11/7	Implementation Committee	Friday Harbor	11:45am-1:45pm

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the October 3rd, 2012 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Tina Whitman said that the County Council has started its final review of the fish and wildlife section of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update. She noted that the Council decided not to include marine shorelines as critical areas; the Council also seems to have ongoing confusion with shoretype and its relation to salmon and the fact that salmon have been found in all regions and shoretypes. Laura Arnold added that the Council also does not make the association with protection of juvenile salmon. Kit Rawson said he wondered why, on the science side, the Council isn't asking for advice. Tina suggested that MRC members have conversations with individual Council members to support past written MRC comments. Laura said that, in its findings, the Council refers to the County's grant to monitor stormwater as an example of its willingness to monitor and adapt even if this is not required. She said this is connecting stormwater outfalls with reduced buffers on private property...a connection which is inaccurate. Tina said she plans to include a section of Wolf Bauer's 1973 letter on the importance of protecting certain shoretypes as testimony. The policy subcommittee will meet soon to discuss future communication with the Council on marine fish and wildlife CAO topics.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said she was very impressed with the recent SeaDoc lecture given by Peter Arcese on Orcas Island. Stunning data was presented showing the cascading effect by the overbrowsing of undergrowth by island deer; this reduces terrestrial insect populations

which can limit food for juvenile salmon. David Loyd pointed out that the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park has resulted in direct and indirect consequences throughout the ecosystem, one of which is an increase in beaver colonies in the Park; the wolves are helping to decrease the number of elk that overgraze willows needed by beavers to survive winter. Tina pointed out that humans also function “like deer” in shorelines and reduce undergrowth. A parks ranger in Moran State Park is interested in asking State Parks to conduct a deer exclosure and to integrate this into biodiversity studies. One suggestion was to have island venison celebrations! Tina added that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been asked in the past to redesign hunting policies in the County to improve deer population control.

Barbara said that the Marine Specimen Bank project is completing its handbook for the use of volunteer crews collecting specimens. A re-evaluation of protocols is being done with the help of WDFW’s Dan Doty. Barbara said that Dan also expects to be involved in on-the-ground training. Today’s subcommittee meeting will discuss Gregg’s summary. She asked for suggestions for scientifically determined sites. Joe Gaydos has expressed interest in integrating this project with the REEF program and Ken Sebens said the group is up for it.

**Outreach subcommittee report:** Barbara Marrett said the meeting today will host Sasha Horst of the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) who will discuss an available grant for social marketing. Social marketing is a strategy to influence people’s behaviors for the good. Barbara said that a subcommittee has been formed to develop a K-12 curriculum. Linda Lyshall said an application for the grant will be submitted in coordination with the Local Integrating Organization; a fiscal agent is required (Madrona Institute?). Possible projects are reducing pesticide/herbicide use in the islands and eliminating cigarette butts in the Friday Harbor rain garden. David asked that other islands also be considered in the grant application.

**Staff Report:** Linda reported that an additional property on Orcas Island’s Turtleback Mountain (Turtle “Neck”) has been acquired by the San Juan Islands Preservation Trust; this completes conservation of all of the Turtleback ridgeline (1,718 acres). She said that a crew is scoping out suitable sites for trail building.

Linda attended a meeting on Lopez Island with the Gateway Pacific Terminal that, along with SSA Marine, wants to build a large new shipping terminal at Cherry Point. She said Craig Cole, spokesperson for Gateway, presented the case well. Linda also met with state Congressman Rick Larsen who is a supporter of the project because of job creation. Tina said that a Bellingham group did a study that shows that this development would provide a low number of jobs for this last piece of industrial property in the area. Barbara Bentley added that she talked to Charles West of Orcas Island who is very knowledgeable on the economics of the proposal; he has data showing that sustainable jobs don’t get created by this kind of development. He also said that Peabody Coal, the first energy company to sign on to export from Cherry Point, does not pay U.S. sales or other taxes because of its international subsidiaries. Discussion followed on San Juan Island vessel routes, train routes, fluctuating market prices of coal, and the future widening of the Panama Canal that will see a drop in business at U.S. ports.

Linda said that Lynn Barre of NOAA has offered to speak to the MRC in November to talk more about orca protection. The MRC decided to hold both November meetings. Linda said she will invite Earth Economics of Tacoma to visit the MRC.

**Mussel Watch Program:** The Science subcommittee met last month to discuss what the program

should entail and which sites should be selected. The national program hopes to expand all over the Puget Sound region, Barbara Bentley said, and San Juan County is now back on the list. The Program uses standardized sampling protocol, tests for a long list of contaminants, and has a useful data set that has been consistently updated over the years. A pilot program is being suggested for the San Juan Islands, considered most pristine but also very vulnerable; the proposed sites would be on the north shore of Orcas Island (on private property), Friday Harbor Labs, Fisherman's Bay on Lopez (private property and integrating Russel Barsh or Land Bank stewards as lead). There would be slight variations in protocol for these pilot sites: sizes, tides, all farm-reared mussels (therefore, similar) in wire cages. WDFW will provide the mussels and all equipment and will do all of the required permitting; local volunteers are to provide the labor. There is great value, Barbara said, in this being part of a long-term ongoing study. There was discussion on funding the project, Barbara noting that most of the other sites are provided with Program funding. Steve Revella said that the Program is more interested in urban areas...although the Island waters are vulnerable to urban threats such as increasing vessel traffic. It will cost \$1300 for chemical analysis per site per year with billing in the spring of 2013. Suggestions for the funding were the Community Foundations on each island (for the start-up year), individual donors, two grants that Linda is applying for, and backup donation from Barbara.

One challenge for an SJC project could be the low tides in January (at midnight!). Cages would go out in November with pickup in January and analysis on the lab's available schedule. Another challenge is site leadership, Barbara said (current plan includes Ken Sebens or appointee for FHL, Barbara Bentley and a north shore Orcas beachwatcher, and possibly Russel Barsh, with the Land Bank as back up for the Fisherman Bay site). The cages are to be set out on substrate and David asked about the impact of a good Northeastern. A special permit due to mixing stock is not needed, Barbara said since the mussels would be moved from Penn Cove in the non-reproductive season. Could the mussel tissue be archived (i.e. frozen)? Barbara said that living animals need to go back to Olympia. She suggested coordinating with the county Health Department who already does some monitoring; other suggestions were partnering with the tribes who are also doing a study and with SeaDoc Society. Barbara added that the pilot program would include 9 cages/sites in all (3 in the vicinity of each of the 3 selected sites).

**Operational Funding:** John Aschoff noted the request from NWSC to all the MRCs to look for local funding to support operations. The Executive subcommittee has discussed options and said they would need a letter from NWSC explaining the reasons for this in order to put the case together. Linda said she met with the interim county administrator who said that he will include \$10,000 for the MRC in his 2013 budget request (Council deliberations are expected in a month). Rene Beliveau is in support; Linda said the Council has an extra \$200,000. There was discussion on possible Port or Town of Friday Harbor funding and how this is more likely for project, not capacity. Some of the talking points might be the function of the raingarden, the value of the annual Marine Managers Workshop, and MRC white papers. It was suggested that MRC members have a one-on-one with assigned Councilpersons before Thanksgiving. John will forward to members Ginny Broadhurst's draft letter on the NWSC funding transition. He recommended sending it to the Council as well; this will be discussed further at the next MRC meeting.

**NWSC / MRC Conference:** Linda thanked the generous donors for their raffle contributions. She said that she needs basket items sent to her office by Wednesday. Carpooling was discussed.

**EIS Scoping Hearing Letter for Gateway (Coal) Proposal:** Tina said that the hearing is scheduled for Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 3pm at either the Friday Harbor High School. Jonathan, Jim, and possibly Johannes will attend to provide public testimony based on the MRC's scoping comment

letter. There was discussion on including in the MRC package the impacts of burning coal on climate change; it was noted that the Pacific Rim is an ecosystem. Jim reminded everyone that the draft letter is a request for levels of investigation for the EIS scoping and is position-neutral. The draft was approved by consensus. The MRC will request to have this letter attached to the Council's letter. Lovel indicated that it would likely also be sent with a letter from the SJC Health Officer.

Lovel Pratt said that the County Council lobbied hard, both at the federal and state levels, to have a scoping meeting here. Therefore, a good turnout and representation for San Juan County is a really big deal, she added. Lovel said that a 2013 County Council resolution is being drafted and sets a high bar; it resolves that the Council is going to seek the Governor's support for our position unless the scoping meeting on San Juan Island indicates strong community support for the Cherry Point expansion.

**Election for Vice Chair:** Jim Slocomb was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 7, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Chair), Barbara Bentley, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb

**Members Absent:** Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Marilyn O'Conner, Port of Friday Harbor  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

**Presentation:** Spring Street Raingarden, Curtis Hinman, WSU

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
11/21	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
12/5	MRC meeting-Lynne Barre	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-tbd
2/2713 to 3/1/13	Marine Managers Workshop	UW Friday Harbor Labs	

\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the October 17th, 2012 meeting were approved with a correction.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said that at the last meeting the group decided on lead persons for each of the Mussel Watch Program sites: Ken Sebens for San Juan Island; Barbara Bentley, Orcas; Tim Clark (Land Bank), Lopez. The meeting later today will discuss cage deployment at the sites (low tide in winter at midnight). Barbara noted that since this is a pilot project, there would be just one cage set out at each site in the hope that results here would be so impressive that the Program would support the effort. She said that San Juan County poses increasing urban problems, e.g. in light of the proposal for more coal and oil vessel traffic through its waters. The next science subcommittee meeting will be held the day before the November 21<sup>st</sup> MRC meeting.

**Salmon Recovery update:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that the “project of concern,” (West Beach) has now been approved. The RFP for regional projects in Puget Sound (for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding) calls for developing a list of two proposals per county; Barbara asked for ideas of projects that would benefit salmon. The #2 selected project, the Reed Harbor acquisition, with the San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT), is a good example of a legal, regional project, Barbara said; Stuart

Island has lots of shoreline and the Reed Harbor piece connects to the other SJPT preserved properties.

Barbara said that she received a request from a County Council member to put together a list of all voluntary ESUs (NOAA's Environmentally Significant Units) for the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) update; Barbara pointed out that both Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead are found in San Juan County waters. Kit said that critical habitat has to be defined for each of the ESA (Endangered Species Act) listed species. San Juan County and Island County, he added, are not listed as having any ESAs. Kit strongly emphasized his belief that all the shoreline of San Juan County qualifies as critical area. Barbara said that she needs clarification for her response to the Council's request.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that she had a conversation with Councilperson Jamie Stephens on the value of juvenile salmon and juvenile forage fish.

**Outreach subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said that a complete handbook to instruct volunteers on how to collect/store samples for the Marine Specimen Bank is being developed as a grant deliverable. The second deliverable is an outline for volunteer training workshops which she is drafting; she asked members to think about the role of the MRC (e.g. Who will present the workshops? Who will run the program? Who will cover costs?)

**Staff Report:** Linda reported that none of the three oil spill proposals were selected for grant funding (EPA and WA Department of Fish and Wildlife); she noted that huge questions remain and she is looking into possible other funding as well. The Implementation Committee will talk today about the process and ways to create more connectivity.

The budget request to the Council for \$10,000 for 2013 MRC funding has been submitted; response to the request will be available after November 20<sup>th</sup>. The MRC is funded now by the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), only through June of 2013. Linda said that other MRC reserve funds include the old account (\$17,400), new donations (\$1,035), and the raingarden supplement from the Port of Friday Harbor (\$5,000).

Linda asked that members submit their expense forms complete with receipts. She also discussed the tracking sheets for reporting volunteer hours. There was discussion about attendance at the next November MRC meeting (the day before Thanksgiving Day) and it was agreed to hold the meeting as scheduled. Linda suggested that members discuss the issue of orca Marine Protected Areas before Lynne Barre's visit in December. There was discussion about the local blog that appears to be following all of the emails coming to Linda's county email address; some of the blog commentaries have been written in the worst light, Linda said, and information is taken out of context. Members agreed with Kit Rawson that the MRC has nothing to hide.

Linda said she will visit Island Trust next month to discuss the Green Shores project with the Trust's David Mohler; the Trust is helping to develop the agenda for the Marine Managers Workshop.

Earth Economics of Tacoma will visit the MRC in December, Linda said.

**Chair report:** John Aschoff said that the Work Plan update is due to the Council during the first quarter of 2013. Linda will send members an updated version for review at the next MRC meeting.

Kit said that he has submitted his letter to the Tulalip Tribe announcing his March retirement. He,



therefore, will not be reapplying to renew his MRC membership but he is looking forward to the Marine Managers Workshop. Ken Sebens said that he will be on sabbatical to Italy for 3-1/2 months, January through mid-April. He is looking for a fill-in for his spot on the MRC.

**Northwest Straits MRC Conference debriefing:** Linda said that the conference was excellent with high quality presentations...although some of the good information was sobering. Ocean acidification, for instance, is already impacting the ability of bivalve shellfish to calcify their shells. Polluted runoff/water quality information shows that this is another threat to marine welfare; Ken said direct connection has been established with acidification and increased bacterial contamination. Barbara Rosenkotter pointed out that toxicology studies are underway on raingarden work (e.g. near the 520 Bridge). David Loyd said that raw monitoring is important. Barbara Bentley asked for project ideas that would provide real data and a unifying, cooperative theme so that parallel efforts to collect and report data (such as on bulkheads and other shoreline armoring) could be avoided. David suggested that the Stewardship Network look at the role of bulkheads in the recent Superstorm Sandy Surge.

Ken said that the FH Labs has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to deploy a monitoring buoy that will identify water column characteristics (e.g. acids and other inclusive indicators) with underwater cameras. Ken added that the Labs' forage fish data has not been published yet; it references David Bauer's report on spawning effects (using fish samples).

Barbara Rosenkotter said that she enjoyed the connection with the coastal MRCs at the Conference. It was helpful to look at the possibility of pooling funds to study the economic value of protecting natural resources; Linda said that more such discussion is in the works.

**Proposed Gateway Pacific (Coal) Terminal EIS Scoping Hearing in Friday Harbor:** Those who attended last Saturday's hearing agreed that the excellent comments from San Juan Islanders who spoke and their audience supporters were well received by the panel. Kit said that the tribes are on board and will contest the loss of habitat issue.

Linda said that the recent oil spill conference was disappointing in that there was not a lot of quality information. The preparedness drill was held the day before.

**Presentation: "Spring Street Raingarden"**

Curtis Hinman said that the technical guidance manual for Puget Sound, "Low Impact Development," is being updated, as is the "Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington." Linda explained that the MRC has money to improve/monitor the Spring Street raingarden and, therefore, Curtis has been asked to help evaluate its design and function. Curtis said that his initial observation will be followed up with a more detailed study and report. To set the context, he said, this and other existing raingardens were designed and constructed based on what we knew at the time, whereas, with stormwater getting lots of attention now, new discoveries are being made. More scientific rigor (LID) is being applied to bioretention systems and pervious (permeable) pavement projects. Curtis noted the toxicological work being done in Puyallup now.

The Spring Street raingarden presents a complex and challenging issue all the way around, Curtis said. As with all stormwater management systems, this raingarden was seen to be an excellent method for filtering out at least some contaminants in stormwater (especially, nutrients like nitrogen, phosphates, copper, and zinc). Spring Street's raingarden provides good retention, Curtis said, but there is some export of nitrates, which is not surprising. More research is needed, he said, on compost and metals, bacteria, some organics, hydrocarbons, pesticides. Washington state is using compost as raingarden

media while other states use topsoil. Curtis added that loamy sand could be a great choice but “topsoils” are not consistent; a particular sand gradation, available from Cedar Grove Composting, is prescribed in the updated manual. Bacteria facilitates the nitrogen cycling process within a system.

The Spring Street raingarden was built in the most challenging location possible, Curtis pointed out. There should be a fluctuating anoxic saturated zone and this is an issue for bioretention systems with underdrains that release to fresh or marine waters. To treat the excess nitrogen, Curtis recommends installation of elevated underdrains that will help de-nitrify the system. Other design elements can be fixed without re-building. The standard media in the new LID manual is a 60/40 mix, which was used in the Spring Street raingarden.

Curtis said there are 40 research bioretention systems in Tacoma now, the largest number in the world, that are being used to test various media. This being the first year of results, we should have a better handle on the problem in two to three years, Curtis added. Issues are the binders and plant selection that can encourage microbial action by roots. Biochar, a by-product of emerging biofuels processing, is now being used in experiments with co-composting.

A disturbed system initially takes time to settle, Curtis said, and it is highly likely that, as the raingarden in Friday Harbor matures, there will be less export of nutrients. Older systems, he noted, are not saturating and failing. These are very dynamic systems with lots of metals captured in the first top few centimeters of soil. Curtis pointed out that the copper levels are very high here (in the parts per million while results are usually measured in parts per billion). Studies of copper's impacts on salmon are what led to the recent Washington state ban on brakes with copper. Both the volume of water (loads) and concentration of contaminants are water quality considerations in measuring the performance of a system.

Curtis asked where the water is being sampled in the Spring Street raingarden. He suggested, for future monitoring, that it be done in both the upper and lower traps. A clear quality assurance management plan is needed; the Department of Ecology (DOE) has both protocol and guidelines available. The Washington Stormwater Center – LID Program (online research library)... [www.wastormwatercenter.org](http://www.wastormwatercenter.org) ... has examples of such plans. Curtis added that a DOE task force is getting underway to study contaminants in roof rainwater.

As for design flaws in the Spring Street raingarden, Curtis said that the flow entrance is very much undersized and needs to be opened up. Pre-treatment is needed to begin settling out sediment (with a full-on catch basin system). A cheaper solution might be to create a fore-bay in the system (by pouring a cement pad 3” down and a permeable bay of large aggregate in each flow entrance). Also, the grass-like plants should be removed from the entrance since they block sediment. There are good flow entrance design photos in the LID manual. Curtis suggested looking at the City of Redmond's construction model (using Herrera Association for monitoring); the similar issues are that the location is arterial with many contributing areas, high gradient, highly polluted incoming water with high velocity and volume.

The meeting was adjourned at .....

Submitted by Helen Venada

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 21, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** Laura Arnold, John Aschoff (Chair), Barbara Bentley, Michael Durland, David Loyd, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Ken Sebens, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Gregg Dietzman, Johannes Krieger

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall

**Guests:**

Pete Ancich  
Thomas Blevins  
Dave Cable  
Debbie Dickinson  
Phil Green  
Bob Jarman  
Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity  
Dick Swanson  
Bill Wright

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/5	MRC meeting-Lynne Barre	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:30
2/27-3/1	Marine Managers Workshop	UW Friday Harbor Labs	TBD

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley reported that the Mussel deployment was successful at all three sites.

**Salmon subcommittee report:** Barbara Rosenkotter said that Jamie Stephens will replace Richard Fralick on the Salmon Recovery Council.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Deferred to later in the agenda.

**Staff Report:**

Linda Lyshall reported that the Council approved the budget request for \$10,000 for 2013 MRC

funding. The stipulations require that the reserve be used for this request unless documentation can show that the fund is to be used for other purposes. Linda said finding documentation has been challenging, but she is continuing to look through archived files. Linda also asked if the committee would like to have a holiday party. It was agreed to have a potluck lunch on December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Chair report:** John Aschoff discussed the presentation to the Council in the first quarter. Kit Rawson said that we need to tell the story of the MRC and how it all started here. Bill Wright, a member of the audience, said that the MRC was created out of the concern of losing local control of our waters. The committee agreed that it will develop a briefing for Council that depicts the various roles that the MRC plays.

### **Approval of Letters: WDFW Work Window and Department of Ecology GRP Updates**

Barbara Rosenkotter presented two letters for Committee discussion and approval.

The work window letter is requesting that WDFW re-consider the work window based on new science. After discussion, Kit and Barbara agreed to make some minor modifications to clarify the request and invite a conversation with WDFW, then re-present the revised letter at the next meeting.

The GRP letter was approved and is being sent to Ecology with the full Beamer and Fresh 2012 report. Brendan Cowan will be cc'd on the letter. Bill Wright from the audience asked that the letter also be sent to the Pacific Whalewatch Association.

### **CAO Letter and Final Comments**

Tina Whitman led a discussion about revisions to the Fish and Wildlife CAO comment letter to the Council. After discussion, Tina agreed to make edits and send to Linda and John for final edits. Letter was approved with changes.

### **2012 and 2013 Work Plan**

John Aschoff said that we need to start developing a 2013 workplan. This discussion was moved to next meeting.

### **Orca Protection and Recovery**

Linda Lyshall said that NOAA had requested a conversation with the MRC about planning a workshop to address Orca Protection strategies. There was an active discussion between the MRC members and members of the audience about the appropriateness of re-visiting this issue. The MRC agreed that it wanted to be a part of the discussion and agreed to meet with NOAA and the Implementation Committee on December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of a workshop to look at Orca protection strategies. They also agreed that the Council needs to be made aware of the discussion and NOAA's planned actions.

### **Joint Meeting with Implementation Committee**

Linda Lyshall said that part of the next meeting will include the Implementation Committee for the discussion with NOAA.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

Submitted by Linda Lyshall

**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Chair), Laura Arnold, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Michael Durland, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Jim Slocomb, Jonathan White, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Rene Beliveau, Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Ken Sebens

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

Lynn Barre, NOAA  
Tom Blevins  
Jack Cory, Island Guardian  
Brian Goodremont, Pacific Whalewatch Association  
Richard Peterson, SJC Council  
Brian Rader  
Laura Jo Severson  
Steve Wehrly, Journal  
Daniel Wilk, Orcas whalewatch operator

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
12/19	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
	Potluck lunch	tbd	noon
	Marine Managers Workshop	FH Commons (?)	

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am. John explained that the planned session with Lynn Barre and the MRC and LIO to discuss a proposal for orca recovery will be held at 11am today. He added that the aim is to examine whether systems in place are working and come up with ways to move forward; public comment will be considered.

**Citizen comments:**

Rich Peterson said that the Council was somewhat baffled yesterday about what today's MRC meeting would entail; since three Councilpersons wanted to attend, today's meeting needed to be declared a "special meeting" of the Council. We all want to assure adequate protection of the orcas, he said, and referred to the 12/4/12 minutes that include an approved motion, as part of the record, that the County's position regarding the "No-Go Zone" proposed by NOAA will be that articulated by the SJC Council and not that of any of its subcommittees or advisory groups. (Copies of page 4 of the minutes were

distributed.)

Rich said that the MRC has historically asked for a Council liaison to the committee and he is embarrassed by the lack of communication with the MRC. He will, therefore, pledge to attend MRC meetings as often as he can. He emphasized that he is sincerely appreciative of the MRC's work and thanked the members for their active and ongoing participation. Rich said he would like to alleviate the anxiety among whalewatch operators and kayaker associations as much as possible.

John made public apology to make it clear that this is Lynn Barre's and NOAA's action. He added that having a Council liaison to the MRC would help to clarify communications.

Jack Cory noted that today's agenda for the MRC meeting is not available on the MRC or County website!

Laura Jo said she wanted to share some of her experience when she was deployed to New York City with the Red Cross in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. She said it was a reminder for all of us to have some kind of preparedness for emergencies.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 21, 2012 meeting were approved as read.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley gave a brief update on the Mussel Watch Program. Three cages have been deployed and they will be checked on December 12<sup>th</sup> at low tide; they will be out two months and then will be analyzed. As a pilot project and part of a national program, Barbara and Linda Lyshall will meet tomorrow with Dan Doty of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) since Dan has to sign off on protocols being followed.

Barbara attended the recent Stewardship Network that discussed development of a K-12 education program. The Network will first ask member organizations to provide information on what educational programs they now have underway that teachers could possibly access (re field trips, class visits). Barbara would like to offer teacher training workshops in science.

Daniel Wilk wondered if the 37 million gallons of untreated sewage from Victoria that enters the Salish Seas could affect mussels; he asked if the Mussel Watch program would be monitoring for any such effects. Barbara said that if the SJC program is continue beyond being a pilot, this issue could be studied. She said that the three cages are located now off the FH Labs on San Juan Island, in Fisherman Bay on Lopez, and on the north shore of Orcas. The national/state programs include an enormous amount of research on pollution indicators, but not necessarily on sewage; she will look into the matter. Barbara noted that the SJC Health Department already monitors for such contamination in a separate program. Kit Rawson said that the MRC did a white paper on the Victoria sewage issue several years ago; he will track it down.

**Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC):** Steve Revella said that there if \$38,000 of state money to help fund coastal MRC's next year. Senator Kevin Ranker has, therefore, put a marker in next year's budget discussion to allocate additional funds for the other MRC's (\$20,000 each). The Puget Sound Partnership will not be providing any funding, Steve noted, so that the state may be the only source.

**Letter to WDFW re work windows:** Copies of the revised draft letter have been circulated. Currently, in-water work is precluded from March 15<sup>th</sup> to June 14<sup>th</sup> to protect juvenile salmon. However, those dates are based on research from mainland estuaries, and likely do not reflect the

period of time that juvenile salmon are present in the San Juan Islands. Recent local research documents that juvenile salmon are present in our shallow marine habitats of SJC at least from March 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>; juvenile Chinook arrive in the San Juan Islands by April and remain relatively high in abundance through October, while juvenile Pinks and Chum remain until August. The current window opening occurs just when the juvenile salmon presence is peaking here.

**Motion:** Kit Rawson moved, and Tina Whitman seconded, that the letter be approved for sending.

Barbara Marrett reiterated that it is unrealistic to expect that marine-related work be done during harsh winter weather (November – January). Michael Durland added that it took him 2.5 years to get a permit for work on Orcas and it will be very difficult in the dark of winter months to do the work and contain sediment. There was discussion on the letter's request for WDFW to set the work window closure at specific dates. After discussion, the MRC amended the letter to include the new data along with a request for WDFW to attend a future MRC meeting for further discussion and to eliminate the request for specific dates.

**Amended motion:** It was moved that the letter be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) debriefing:** Tina reported that the County Council adopted the four remaining sections on Monday (fish/wildlife and wetlands). She noted that the MRC has provided comments over the seven-year update process but not many of those are reflected in the final. Rich said that it is good to have accomplished this much and some parts are still problematic. There will be appeals, he added. Rich said that state legislators gave a horrible assignment to such a small county as San Juan, with limited staff and funds. He did not vote for three of the sections, wanting to see more of a product. The Best Available Science issue also became a topic of contention here, Rich noted, contributing to the huge anger in our community between different factions. He said that it is unfortunate when these issues are made personal. Kit said he too has been dismayed by the various personal attacks and that directing them at the Council is wrong! Following further group discussion, Kit said that he hoped we all learned from this CAO experience and Rich agreed that all want a positive outcome.

**Staff report:** Linda said she brings greetings from Islands Trust. She briefly discussed the recently-released ocean acidification online report from the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel (<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/publications/1201015.pdf>). She noted that the cause of the drop in pH of the ocean is primarily due to the uptake by the ocean of carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere (22 million tons every day), as well as contamination by nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxide gases, nutrients, and organic carbon. The ocean is 30% more acidic since the 1700's and is expected to increase up to 150% by the end of this century. Our changing ocean is already impacting calcifier marine species, like mussels, as well as copepods at the bottom of the food chain; we are all at risk, Linda said. Strong action is called for to slow the pace of ocean acidification (OA), including source reduction, adaptation and remediation. The report's "Key Early Actions" are:

- reduce emissions of carbon dioxide;
- reduce local land-based contributions to OA
- increase our ability to adapt and remediate the impacts of OA;
- invest in Washington's ability to monitor and study effects of OA;
- inform, educate, and engage stakeholders, the public, and decision makers in addressing OA;

- maintain a sustainable and coordinated focus on OA.

Linda said there will be extensive presentations on the topic at the next Marine Managers Workshop. Jim said the problem is here and now and is already changing lifestyles. He has regularly harvested oysters here but reports that, as of two years ago, they are all gone from Stuart Island and other areas here. Barbara Marrett said that it was pointed out a recent Port Commission meeting in Seattle that oysters now take 24 months to grow and the billion dollar shellfish industry is in serious jeopardy.

There was discussion about acting locally and thinking globally. All communities are asking, “What difference can we make?” Linda responded that Washington state can lead the call for funding and for mitigation and the MRCs can help spread the message.

There will be holiday potluck lunch after the last meeting of the year (December 19<sup>th</sup> at noon). The science subcommittee will meet after that.

**Marine Managers Workshop:** There was discussion on the timing, funding, location, and attendance for the workshop; a draft agenda will be presented at the next MRC meeting. Rich Peterson suggested that there should not be an appearance of exclusivity; Linda noted that there are cost constraints in providing a larger venue and the workshop provides working space for the 19 organizations, with overlapping jurisdictions, that are represented at the workshop. Daniel Wilk said that the workshop is a wonderful opportunity for the audience and there is a tremendous base of people (including naturalists) who want to help. He offered to help distribute a short presentation on ocean acidification to whalewatch customers next season.

Rich said that he appreciated how the committee worked through the letter for WDFW today.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10am.

Submitted by Helen Venada



**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (MRC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 19, 2012, 8:45-10:45am  
Islanders Bank Community Meeting Room  
Friday Harbor WA**

**Members Present:** John Aschoff (Chair), Laura Arnold, Rene Beliveau, Barbara Bentley, Gregg Dietzman, Barbara Marrett, Kit Rawson, Steve Revella, Jim Slocomb, Tina Whitman

**Members Absent:** Johannes Krieger, David Loyd, Michael Durland, Ken Sebens, Jonathan White

**Staff:** Linda Lyshall, Helen Venada

**Guests:**

David Cable

Debbie Dickinson

Brian Goodremont, Pacific Whale Watch Association/ San Juan Kayakers Association

Richard Peterson, SJC Council

Barbara Rosenkotter, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Coordinator

Richard Swanson, San Juan Kayakers Association

**Upcoming Meetings/Events**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
1/9/13	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
1/23	MRC regular meeting	Islanders Bank, FH	8:45-10:45am
2/27 to 3/1	Marine Managers Workshop	FH Commons & Dining Hall	

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The meeting was called to order by Chair John Aschoff at 8:45am.

**Citizen comments:**

Tina Whitman said that the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a Conservation Corps crew are removing creosoted logs from Neck Point on Shaw Island (yesterday) and Jackson Beach on San Juan Island (today). They have, so far, gathered about 12 tons for removal. Tina added that we will be seeing more of this crew working on other projects here over the next few years.

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the 12/5/12 meeting were approved with corrections.

**Science subcommittee report:** Barbara Bentley said the group will meet later today with “actions for 2013” being the only agenda item. She gave a brief update on the Mussel Watch Program. Cages were checked at the Orcas site with 2 high school teachers, 2 high school students, and 2 MRC members attending; Barbara said that all were fully engaged in the project. Linda reported that Ken Sebens also checked on the cages at the UW Labs and the cage on Lopez Island has been checked. She said there are now over 100 sites in the region and that quite a few are noticing sea stars, that seem to be very

interested in mussels, in and on the cages.

**Policy subcommittee report:** Tina said the group is gearing up for January's review of the Shoreline Master Program update.

**Executive subcommittee report:** John said there was a meeting on Monday. Topics included MRC relations with the County Council (Rich Peterson and Lovel Pratt in attendance); the Marine Managers Workshop; and the proposed NOAA workshop. There was MRC discussion on the need for a County Council liaison to the MRC, for written clarification of MRC roles and responsibilities, especially regarding policy. The MRC is an advisory body to the Council as well as to the Salmon Recovery project.

**Staff report:**

Oil Spill Preparedness: Linda said the proposal submitted to Northwest Straits Foundation in September has been partially funded; the Foundation's outline primarily focuses on outreach with other MRCs. She is re-working the proposal.

Linda noted a recent newspaper article about the WA Department of Ecology's adoption of state rules on oil spill preparedness and contingency plans. Linda gave kudos to Lovel Pratt for her work on this.

The volunteer tracking sheet was circulated for completion; other options for reporting hours are to email them to her or to use the electronic form. All hours for the year should be reported now.

Steve Revella reported that there would be a retreat in February for the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC).

**2013 First Quarter Meeting Schedule:** It was agreed to shift regular 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday meeting times to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday...just for January! On January 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a presentation on the "Putting It All Together" (PIAT) project. February meetings will be held on the regular schedule. The first meeting in March (3/6) will be canceled since the Marine Managers Workshop will be held on 2/27-28 and 3/1. A meeting on Orcas Island is in the planning for either February or March.

There was discussion about a spring MRC retreat (1st meeting in April?), as a follow up to the Marine Managers Workshop, to work on the 2013 Work Plan.

Tina said there will be a March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at Padilla Bay on sea level rise.

**Marine Managers Workshop:** Copies of the latest draft agenda were distributed. There were discussions on location, structure, theme, speakers, facilitation, and transboundary focus. Most activities for the Workshop, including networking events, will be held at the FHL Commons; other larger sessions will be held at the Labs Dining Hall. There will be a presentation on the first evening, with the public invited, on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification and Sea level Rise. The NWSC and the Jefferson County MRC have scheduled a presentation on the topic in Everett in January.

**NOAA Workshop Proposal:** There was discussion on whether the County and the MRC should get involved in the proposal at this time. John proposed a community brainstorming discussion on this controversial, delicate issue of a proposed no-go zone for the west side of San Juan Island as a protection for the resident orcas. It was pointed out that the federal agency is providing an opportunity

for the community to have input in the decision but that a decision would likely not be finalized for some years. John said that, in his view, ecotourism is a step towards preventing species extinction and that we need to agree on what the problem is. What is NOAA's concern? The focus is the potential for impacts by vessel noise for those vessels in proximity to the orcas. What is the known science at this time? What about outreach and policy or other next steps?

Jim added that he'd like to see an update on the science from researchers, a schedule of alternatives, a local public conversation with NOAA in a meaningful manner, and an attempt by the MRC and the Council to facilitate the environment for gathering public comments. Steve reiterated that NOAA could act, without community influence, if we don't respond. The community is part of the process. Tina said that one question is how to keep the wildlife watching industry alive and well here. Therefore, all stakeholders need to be engaged to arrive at community recommended solutions; the MRC's only role in this would be to facilitate the process. Tina said the MRC could make a recommendation to the Council that the community take the opportunity to engage soon; this could be part of the MRC Work Plan for 2013. Barbara Bentley added that this engagement would be an opportunity for the community to have an active role in the solution, plan, and communications. Kit said there are good mediators out there and, with NOAA funding, this could help the community discussion. He added that the tribes are concerned with the issue in light of the orcas' cultural significance and the Tulalip are on record in support of local regulatory and volunteer protection efforts. Barbara Rosenkotter said that NOAA is required to address this issue but she's not certain of NOAA's intent in this proposal.

Rich Peterson mentioned the need for enforcement of existing rules. He also noted that today's Council, made up of six members, will not meet again since the new Council of three will be taking over in January. Brian Goodremont said that he talks to NOAA's Lynn Barre weekly and to researchers on the topic regularly; NOAA and the scientists are likely not available in the spring for a San Juan Islands presentation, he thought. He agreed that it's necessary to stay abreast of the newest research on the issue.

Brian suggested a late October or November workshop here for NOAA to share information on vessel "potential" impacts (language used in the Strategy Plan.) Kit pointed out that the choices for the MRC today are either to move forward on John's recommendation to put together a straw man proposal for the Council for January or to wait for specific Council direction.

**Motion:** John Aschoff moved, and Kit Rawson seconded, that the MRC appoint a small subgroup of MRC members who, along with select stakeholders, would put together a broad framework recommendation on NOAA's workshop proposal for presentation to the Council in January. Tina Whitman added a friendly amendment to have this group come back to the full MRC before presenting to the Council. The motion was passed with 7 for and 2 against.

Barbara Marrett suggested including a synopsis on the local background of the issue. Tina said it would be good to get an update from Soundwatch, as the MRC used to get regularly. She added that Kari Koski, with her long history with Soundwatch, would be a good person to engage with if the MRC proceeds with a workshop.

John Aschoff, Barbara Bentley, Jim Slocumb, Johannes Krieger, and Steve Revella will serve on the subgroup.

Brian Goodremont said that he has been a resident here since 1998 and owns San Juan Outfitters; he is the president of the Pacific Whale Watch Association and vice president of San Juan Islands Kayaking Association. He said that providing education on wildlife here puts food on his table. He would appreciate more transparency from the MRC (with, perhaps, a presentation to the Pacific Whale Watch Association).

John confirmed that the MRC attached comments (as okayed by the Council) to the latter's recent letter to NOAA; these comments were not Council-endorsed. He stated again that the San Juan Islands community needs to be involved (SJC as a stakeholder) to shape the process to help arrive at reasonable solutions and become part of the proposed rule. Linda will post the 2009 report to the MRC website.

Rich Peterson asked if the MRC is participating in the Puget Sound Partnership survey. He would like to see a listing of the "family tree" of agencies and organizations the MRC works with, along with their acronyms. Linda pointed out that this list exists as part of the MRC's new member book and she will provide a copy for the Council.

There was agreement that a public conversation on how to come together in an open-minded, constructive manner would be beneficial. Linda asked for members to submit names of stakeholders that should be included in the preliminary discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

Submitted by Helen Venada