



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 6th, 2024
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 282 672 473

Passcode: ydbgAV

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Phone Conference ID: 746 888 859#

While this is a virtual meeting, a public meeting place is available at the County Legislative Building, Large Legislative Conference Room, at 55 2nd St. in Friday Harbor for those without mobile phone or internet access.

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – <i>Christina Koons</i>
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – <i>All</i> Approve MRC April meeting minutes – <i>MRC Members</i>
9:15 AM	NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC – <i>Christina Koons/Karin Roemers-Kleven</i>
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRC Membership Renewals/Interview planning- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Liaison to the Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • MRC Youth Membership Idea- <i>Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria</i> • Update on Vessel Surveys- <i>Frances Robertson</i> • Oil Spill Related Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ F/V Chief Joseph Sinking- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven</i> ○ Board of Pilotage decision around geographic area for tug escort rulemaking- <i>Cindy Wolf</i> ○ Update on Transmountain Pipeline Expansion Project- <i>Lovel Pratt</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Marine Stewardship – <i>Frances Robertson</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Eelgrass Protection- <i>Beth Tate/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ ERTV/Oil Spill Prevention and Response Preparedness-<i>Sam Whitridge</i> ○ Other subcommittee updates
10:30 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
	CAG Updates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery proposal scoring/ranking will occur at July and August meetings.</i>
	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting
10:30 AM	Presentation: Oil Spill Progress Indicators- <i>Laura Vary, Puget Sound Partnership</i>
11:00 AM	LIO Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP Updates- <i>Jason Lim</i> • On-site Sewage (OSS) workshop follow-up- <i>Katie Johnson</i>
11:30 AM	Presentation: Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead partnership- <i>Colin Hume, Dept of Ecology; Libby Gier, Dept of Ecology; Kayla Seaforth, Bonneville Environmental Foundation</i>
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Matt Arata, David Checkley, Jeff Dyer, Kailey Genther, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott, Lovel Pratt, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Beth Tate, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Abigail Ames, Kate Combs, Tyler Davis, Libby Gier, Marta Green, Colin Hume, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Dana Oster, Jessica Owens, Laura Pitts, Michelle Quast, Frances Robertson, Kayla Seaforth, Elaina Thompson, Laura Vary, Sam Whitridge, Jeff Whitty, Cindy Wolf

9:03 AM **Convene MRC meeting**

Christina Koons

9:01 AM **Public Comment**

Marta Green

Need to review events from Tuesday of this week. Officials from the Coast Guard and Ecology spill program met with County Council following Chief Joseph boat sinking and discussion of that recovery. IOSA provided a good update of progress they're making. Not many people knew about this opportunity to meet. ERTV work was not included on a list of accomplishments, but Cindy did a good job of bringing it up. This is after Ecology's report with an incorrect analysis. Concerned about apathy around this issue. Need to make people aware of the true risk reduction values. Need more awareness about the program for derelict vessels and the ERTV conversation. Sam: thank you Marta, this was a missed opportunity, our department wasn't aware this was happening until after the fact. We do have the recording from Tuesday, it has been sent to the oil spill prevention subcommittee.

Here is the recording of that meeting, <https://sanjuancowa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2616/media>

Cindy: I'm moving on in December, staff needs to be the institutional memory for this. This is an annual meeting organized by Brendan Cowan along with the Chair. I've tried to make a point of including Environmental Stewardship. I encourage a strong communication with Brendan to be included. They don't want it to be a big public meeting (although publicly accessible); it's meant to spark candid conversations about emergency response. Christina: it's the MRC's responsibility to advise the County Council, if not given the opportunity to do so we're not fulfilling our role. We could have brought up significant issues. I'd like to call them back for another meeting. Cindy: It would help if MRC sent a note to Council Chair, who will be here next year, to express what you just said

ACTION ITEM: Christina will plan to do so

9:14 AM **Approve meeting agenda, Approve MRC April meeting minutes**

MRC members

The agenda is approved. MOTION: Kailey moves to approve the April minutes, Dave seconds. All in favor, approved.

9:15 AM **NWSC Meeting Report to the MRC**

Christina Koons/KRK

Puget Sound Day on the Hill. Sixty people or more showed up from the NW; it was a big success, shows the process is working. I won't mention smaller items because agenda is so full today, let's move on

9:16 AM **MRC Updates/Business**

This is Jeff Dyer's last meeting. **Many thanks** for years of service and important input. We'll miss you Jeff! Jeff thanks everyone, he's learned a lot. Sam and Lovel mention wanting to continue calling on Jeff's expertise. Christina: and thanks to Katie and everyone else on the annual report

9:20 AM • MRC Membership Renewals/Interview planning

Any members willing to serve on interview committee? starts next week. If so, please email Sam directly. And, we have three members (Lovel, Kailey, and Beth) whose terms expire at the end of June and all are interested in a second term. Need approval from MRC for recommendation to Council to renew members.

MOTION: Christina moves to welcome back these three members for a second term, Dave seconds. All in favor. None opposed. The recommendation is approved. Thanks to all three of you for stepping up again!

ACTION ITEM: Sam will send out application to fill out and return to Sam, then he'll take it to Council to approve.

9:24 AM • MRC Liaison to the Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee

Jeff has been our Liaison on this committee

Jeff: There are bimonthly meetings, largely online, contribute as you wish. It's an advisory committee to County Council, agenda mainly focused on the climate element and the action plan in the comp plan. Next meeting late July

Level: I'm interested in volunteering

Sam: anyone else? Or shall we approve Level to serve in that role?

MOTION: Adam moves to approve Level as new MRC Liaison to the CSAC, Dave seconds. All in favor. Thanks, Lovell!

9:27 AM • MRC Youth Membership Idea

Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria

Two young volunteers in the seagrass lab have been discussing a youth position on the MRC. There are seven high schools in the County. We envision an application process for students. Maybe a small video, a couple minutes, to discuss goals and objectives of MRC. I suggest an official subcommittee to discuss this over the summer.

Sam: Some other MRC's have some sort of youth involvement. If we were to do this, we need to carefully consider the structure, how to assist, how to roll this out. Any other interest to serve on a subcommittee to explore this?

Kailey is interested (connections to the High School and a background in education); Brian is also interested

Level: is there anything in bylaws that would prohibit youth from applying?

Cindy: there may be a bylaw requirement for citizen advisory committee that members be voters.

Sam: we plan to be reviewing our bylaws so this is a good time to look at that if we're interested

9:33 AM • Update on Vessel Surveys

Frances Robertson

Surveys started, methodology working well. Focused on anchorages in known eelgrass habitat, at times of highest boat density. Further surveys planned (weather-dependent). Want a better understanding of boat numbers

- Jeff and Frankie brief discussion of AIS data – some uses in the past and possible uses for these data

e.g. a point when a survey showed 50 boats in Fisherman Bay but none were on AIS, boats don't always have it on

One more comment about shore-based counts: several members participating in vessel counts. Frankie will send out aerial survey dates, getting counts on those dates is particularly important but getting data on other dates is great as well. Thanks everyone and thanks to Christina for connecting me with friends at Buck Bay

Kailey: in the app, one field is 'tidal height' – is that meant to be real time, while there? Sometimes bad service

Frankie: yes, at the time of the count. There are some nifty free tide apps as well

Jeff: My coast has a tide graph too

Kari: let's coordinate timing with derelict vessel counts as well!

9:42 AM • Update/Discussion on Fishing Vessel sinking near Henry

Chief Joseph sank early May off Henry, 48' Fishing Vessel. Discussed and reported on in Council meeting Tuesday.

Karin: I still feel there is a lack of transparency between emergency management and some of the responding agencies. Also, Fred Felleman, a Seattle Port Commissioner. He deals with a lot of ports and shipping issues, wrote a recent op ed in Seattle times. We hope in another oil spill we could move the needle a bit more

<https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/the-tmx-project-this-ship-should-not-have-sailed/>

Cindy: I learned on Tuesday that the Pilot's commission, appointed by Governor, oversees setting rules for mid-size cargo vessels. They voted to confine their rulemaking to a small area right around refineries, around Bellingham and Anacortes. If anyone has information on Pilots' commission or rulemaking process, I'd love more information

Level: There was legislation that established this process. Part of it required tug escorts for smaller boats that aren't required to have escorts by federal regs. Those expanded requirements have been in place in Rosario for a couple of years now. There was a process in place to look at expanding those rules to other parts of Washington. One possible outcome of rulemaking process could also be to rescind the rules put in place in Rosario two years ago. There will be reviews periodically (every 5 years). In an environmental process, they need to consider keeping the status quo but also look at rescinding requirements. One issue is that there are some impacts from additional tug escorts. When in service, their noise is absorbed as part of a 'package' with the vessel they're escorting. That's also being weighed in the environmental rule-making process. Haro and Boundary Passes would require a more complicated process due to transnational waters. It's a complicated process. Ecology and the board of pilot commissioners make these rules together. The same model used for ERTV analysis is being used for this rulemaking

Dave: is noise from ships being adequately considered in these discussions? It wasn't a value in the Ecology model

Level: yes, I believe they're aware of the research and science

Abigail: Quiet Sound program, <https://quietsound.org/program> developed in coordination with both US and Canadian authorities focused on underwater noise pollution, the only one I know of that gets into transboundary marine mammal issues. Lea Shields (NEP) works with a variety of authorities, including Canadian, on addressing transboundary non-point pollution but haven't extended to other pollution sources such as noise.

Marta: current tug escort requirements are shown to have notably reduced oil spill risk by 5-11%. Based on the Ecology ERTV report, the increased tug escort requirements have reduced oil spill risk in Rosario Strait by up to 11%.

Frankie: I believe that Quiet Sound is Puget Sound proper focused – one of the main actions is to implement a shipping slow-down through Puget Sound, mirrored off the Port of Vancouver's ECHO program.

Level: in the future if there's an opportunity to expand these rules into transboundary water ways, we'd want to engage the appropriate folks in Canada in that process. That may be a Puget Sound Partnership conversation. This also raises the importance of the need to be prepared for whale deterrence operations.

Kari: I also wasn't at the Council Meeting Tuesday and would have liked to be informed, I already poked Brendan. There was another boat that went down recently in the Cactus Islands and I wonder if that's been brought up.

Cindy: Brendan just emailed that the Marina has engaged a contractor to remove El Capitan by 6/20.

- Frankie describes some whale deterrence tools and who can use them, very little work done on the efficacy of these tools at keeping killer whales away from a spill event. This area of research is desperately needed. Some information from the recent whale deterrence workshop; volunteers using these methods must be trained

Marta: I believe USCG reported Tuesday that NOAA deterrence personnel were involved in Chief Joseph response.

Kailey: as an MRC, could we all get IOSA training done together? We could work as a committee toward full training

Elaina: <https://www.iosaonline.org/training>, our schedule and how to reach out about training is on our webpage!

Frankie: we were on standby, 1-2 teams were deployed on Sunday during the response. A helicopter was also deployed on Sunday but the SRKW were outside the potentially impacted area by the time it arrived on scene.

Level: update on Transmountain pipeline expansion project, a second pipeline that triples production of dilbit oils. Significantly increases tanker traffic. The way the project was presented there were oil spill prevention measures in place, however prior to completion of the project new considerations for sizes of vessel that will be heading to Asia.

I'm in the process of drafting an email to the Coast Guard that I'll forward to this group. I wish I'd had the opportunity to be at Tuesday's presentation to address spill preparedness. It's really concerning. This is like oily sand that they mix with products to make it able to move through a pipeline, not a lot known about what this product will do if introduced into marine environment but likely to submerge and sink. Greene & Aschoff report, "Oil Spill Assessment Maps of the Central Salish Sea" looked at vessel route maps overlaid with bathymetry data to look at where oil may collect if there were a spill of that kind of product:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0278434322002333>

and associated story map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/91bd4f36152f403cb2aae2bb16bcc499>

ACTION ITEM: Lovel will forward her message to the Coast Guard to this committee and copy Council

Cindy: Ecology governed by Dept. of Commerce. Need to look at circumstances under which project was approved

Lovel: this is a Canadian project, they approved and issue the permits. They knew from studies that it would impact SRKW but given what they saw as economic benefits the project was approved. And there is some litigation ongoing, Lummi nation has a legal challenge in Canadian courts regarding their treaty interests.

Cindy: Senator Cantwell made it clear that Canada needs to be a good neighbor on this

Lovel: these tankers only have tug escorts when they're laden, when not still contain volume of propulsion fuel

Dave: did you say that Ecology is responding to Federal Commerce

Cindy: no, State Commerce

- Some discussion about the current Neah Bay rescue tug and how it's funded. When it responds to a vessel in distress, that vessel pays expenses. But it still needs to be funded while it's on standby.

- More discussion about next steps, raising awareness, how to move the needle

Neah Bay Rescue Tug/ERTV interactive map of ERTV call-outs:

https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/coastalatlascallouts/storymaps/spills/spills_sm.html?&Tab=nt2

10:29 AM • MRC Subcommittee updates:

o Derelict Vessel Prevention

Adam Parrott, Kari Koski

Kari: good news, there were some updates on the El Capitan. CG, DNR, and Ecology were supportive of helping the West Sound Marina with some shared costs. The Marina has been arranging for boat to be moved by next week.

Adam: we did 14 vessels through the turn-in event and 17 total as part of the program. Average cost per boat was a little over \$4K, about 4x less than if each vessel had been done on its own. We're talking with DNR about doing this again next year. This was their largest turn-in event ever, an efficient use of funds. Increased visibility to the public.

Kari: statistics on what was saved out of land fill: almost 50 tons, mostly recycled (scrap metal, composite plastic)

Dana is here, thanks for support from NW Straits, looks promising for being able to do it again

Dave: will there be a report available to document what you just talked about?

Kari: yes, we're working on that with all the partners, there will be a press release, we want to celebrate it.

Dana: \$4,300/boat. we learned so much from that event, advertising for one in Skagit later this summer!

10:36 AM **Committee member updates and any other business**

none

10:37 AM **CAG Updates**

• *No CAG Meeting this month. Salmon Recovery proposal scoring/ranking will occur at July and August meetings.*

Sam: final proposals at end of June, stay tuned for more information from me, CAG will weigh in later in summer

10:38 AM **Adjourn MRC Meeting**