

RESOLUTION NO. 28 - 2025

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE;
AMENDING COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES, CLARIFYING COMMITTEE
BUSINESS RULES, AND ESTABLISHING YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners established a Marine Resources Committee (MRC) for a limited term by Resolution No. 35-1996 and extended the term to July 1, 1999 by Resolution No. 3- 1997; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 23-1999 reauthorized the MRC, endorsed its participation on the Northwest Straits Commission, and established the Committee's Powers and Duties; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution No. 59-1999 establishing the MRC Business Rules and Resolution No. 14-2001 to amend the Charter and Business Rules; and

WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to update and replace the MRC Charter adopted in 2001 to accurately reflect committee structure and operational changes within the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the County Council wishes to clarify that the MRC Business Rules adopted in 2001 have been superseded by the Uniform Business Rules and Uniform Rules of Order adopted by the County in 2008 and found in SJCC Chapter 2.116; and

WHEREAS, the County Council desires input and participation from a wide array of community members; and

WHEREAS, the MRC would benefit from the perspective of young people, who are an important and at times overlooked subset of the local population; and

WHEREAS, the MRC offers opportunities for young people to engage with local government and will serve as future stewards of the Islands and their marine waters; and

WHEREAS, administration of the MRC currently resides with the Department of Environmental Stewardship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of San Juan County, state of Washington, as follows:

1. The MRC Powers and Duties document attached as Exhibit A is adopted and supersedes all prior versions of the MRC Charter.
2. All MRC Business Rules previously adopted are superseded by the provisions of San Juan County Code Chapter 2.116 as now or later amended.

- 3. The MRC membership is expanded to include up to two youth member positions in addition to the 15 existing members, as reflected in the attached Exhibit A.

ADOPTED this 5th day of August 2025.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sally Rogers 8/5/25
Sally Rogers, Clerk Date

Kari McVeigh
Kari McVeigh, Chair
District 1

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Jessica Hudson 8/12/25
Jessica Hudson Date

Jane Fuller
Jane Fuller, Vice-Chair
District 3

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
AMY S. VIRA

Justin Paulsen
Justin Paulsen, Member
District 2

By: [Signature] 7/31/25
Date

Exhibit A - Marine Resources Committee Powers and Duties

Powers and Duties

To achieve the protection, preservation and restoration of the marine resources of San Juan County and to do so in furtherance of the benchmarks for performance identified in the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) shall:

1. Advise the San Juan County Council about research, educational and regulatory measures necessary to protect and restore the marine resources of the county.
2. Promote and guide specific actions necessary to achieve the protection and restoration of the marine resources of the county.
3. Advise the San Juan County Council about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote consistent conservation, protection and restoration of marine habitats and resources across county borders and the in the US/Canadian shared waters.
4. Help to assess the condition of marine resources and the need for preventive or corrective measures in concert with governmental, tribal, non-governmental, recreational and commercial interests.
5. Help to identify the needs, strategies and implications for the recovery of Puget Sound salmon and other marine species and habitats in and around the county in concert with the above-mentioned entities.
6. Work with marine managers active in the county in their governmental, tribal and nongovernmental roles to enhance and make public the state of marine resources and the marine ecosystem in the islands and to coordinate efforts to meet the goals of the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area.
7. Annually identify actions needed and seek funding sources appropriate to the tasks which exceed the county's ability to fund adequately.
8. Work closely with the San Juan County Council and the Department of Environmental Stewardship to establish and implement local marine conservation, protection and restoration initiatives.
9. Coordinate with the Northwest Straits Commission on marine ecosystem objectives and participate in the activities of the Northwest Straits Commission.
10. Reach out to the general public and to key constituencies regarding the links between healthy resources and healthy habitats and how marine stewardship can play an important role in protecting marine habitats.

Reporting

The MRC shall prepare a draft work plan for the marine program in spring of each year, to include as part of the San Juan County Council budget process, together with a report on the work conducted in the preceding year.

The MRC shall report to the San Juan County Council on the status of all MRC projects, external funding and projected funding needs for the following year as part of the County budget process. Such report, together with funding needs that are not supplied by the county shall be forwarded to the Northwest Straits Commission.

Membership

MCR members shall be appointed by the San Juan County Council after soliciting nominees and recommendations for appointment from the MRC.

There shall be no more than fifteen and not fewer than nine members of the MRC. In addition, up to two youth members may be appointed. For voting purposes regarding any action by the MRC a simple majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

In addition to the Director of Environmental Stewardship (or designee) the MRC should include representation by the following sectors of the local community to the extent possible:

- Relevant scientific expertise
- Tribal representation
- Port of Friday Harbor
- Commercial interests, including commercial fishers
- Recreational interests
- Conservation and environmental interests
- Citizens at large

Officers

The MRC chair and vice-chair shall be selected by a majority of the MRC membership. The MRC shall also select a representative to the Northwest Straits Commission by a majority vote.

Terms

The Director of Environmental Stewardship and tribal representatives are regular members whose terms shall begin upon appointment. The term of the Director of Environmental Stewardship shall conclude at the time the Director of Environmental Stewardship no longer holds the position; the term of any appointed tribal representative shall conclude upon notification of termination by the representative or the representative's tribe. The remaining members shall serve four year terms, with the exception of youth members, who shall serve no more than one two year term.