



SAN JUAN COUNTY
Marine Resources
Committee



San Juan County Marine Advisory Committees
MRC-CAG-LIO
Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 5th, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

In-Person at San Juan Island Grange
152 First St N, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

9:00 AM	Convene MRC Meeting – Adam Parrott
9:05 AM	Public Comment
9:10 AM	Approve meeting agenda – All Approve MRC February meeting minutes – MRC Members
9:15 AM	Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Updates- Christina Koons
9:20 AM	MRC Updates/Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce new Council Liaison to MRC (Kari McVeigh)- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Planning for new NW Straits Commission Rep from San Juan MRC- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Planning for MRC Membership Recruitment- <i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Update on NOAA Grant Agreement for 2026-27 San Juan MRC funding-<i>Sam Whitridge</i> • Updates from 2026 Legislative Session/ Marine bills of interest-<i>All</i> • MRC subcommittee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outreach & Education- <i>Katie Johnson</i> ○ Plastic Free Salish Sea- <i>Karin Roemers-Kleven/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Seagrass Protection- <i>Olivia Graham/Katie Johnson</i> ○ Derelict Vessel Prevention- <i>Adam Parrott/Kari Koski</i> ○ Oil Spill/ERTV- <i>Charles Bookman</i> ○ Planning for other subcommittees
10:25 AM	Committee member updates and any other business
10:30 AM	Adjourn MRC Meeting Convene CAG Meeting
10:30 AM	Presentation: 2025 San Juan County eDNA Fish Assessment- Tyler Davis, San Juan County Dept of Environmental Stewardship
11:00 AM	CAG Business agenda- Sam Whitridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2026 Salmon Recovery Grant Round <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Letters of Interest - Important dates in the 2026 Grant Round
11:10 AM	Adjourn CAG Meeting Convene LIO Meeting

11:15 AM	LIO Business- <i>Katie Johnson/Jason Lim</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSP Updates• Updates from February Ecosystem Coordination Board Meeting• Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network Local Forum in June• Other Updates
12:00 PM	Adjourn LIO Meeting

While this is an in-person meeting, a virtual option is available via Teams for those who cannot attend in person:

Microsoft Teams

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Passcode: RW9YM6Gm

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Phone conference ID: 206 761 932#

MRC, CAG and LIO Committee Members in Attendance: Paul Andersson, Matt Arata, Charles Bookman, David Checkley, Kailey Genter, Olivia Graham, Rich Goodhart, Brian Goodremont, Christina Koons, Adam Parrott Lovel Pratt, Mike Ramsey, Karin Roemers-Kleven, Kimbal Sundberg, Beth Tate, Joey Ullman, Flora Vaught, Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria, Lola Walker

Ex-officio, County support staff and members of the public: Audrey Coyne, Elizabeth Butler, Tyler Davis, Katherine Dietzman, Gregg Dunphy, Ray Glaze, Marta Green, Lucas Hart, William Hurley, Katie Johnson, Kari Koski, Jason Lim, Kari McVeigh, Dana Oster, Frances Robertson, Craig Smith, Kendra Smith, Elena Thompson, Sam Whitridge

9:01 AM Convene MRC Meeting *Adam Parrott*

9:03 AM Public Comment *none*
(experiencing some issues with sound quality and connectivity on Teams)

9:05 AM Approve meeting agenda *All*
 Approve MRC February meeting minutes – MRC Members

9:10 AM Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Updates *Christina Koons*
 Neither Christina nor Karin were able to attend the most recent meeting. Christina shared key highlights including release of a baseline awareness survey, NWSC hosting 101 sessions for new members and to remind current members of structure and function. Science Advisory Committee excited to offer more collaborative sessions for project guidance – email Dana if interested. Caitlyn Blair will be leaving ECY mid-March for a new opportunity and will be missed as a great asset for the NWSC.

9:16 AM MRC Updates/Business
 • MRC subcommittee updates
 o Derelict Vessel Prevention *Kari Koski*
 Have been waiting to schedule meeting pending OTGP grant agreement with NWSC. DV legislation is moving along. Bill would amend definitions of derelict/abandoned vessels to make it more streamlined for responding agencies. Update to vessel registrations within 2 years. Will focus on vessels without updated registration for the upcoming year pending legislation. Kari reported making good connections with Health and Human Services department for several liveaboards needing access to services and hitting barriers, it has become a nice connection between county departments and the Sheriffs’ office.
 ACTION: Adam says let’s schedule a meeting before April 9th meeting.

o Seagrass Protection *Olivia Graham/Katie Johnson*
 Olivia: HISL Seagrass Stressors project underway. March 3 was world seagrass day – yay!
 Opportunistic vessel surveys continue.

9:20 AM o Oil Spill/ERTV
 Charles: Significant increase in tanker traffic, largely on west side. Need to monitor legislation & rule-making, Ecology is updating rules on oil spill planning, this will be an 18-month process. Some of it deals with non-floating oils. Recent IOSA workshop and reliance on volunteers. Need to ensure we have the capacity to stage volunteers. Our subcommittee will meet occasionally as necessary. Please call on us as council members get involved
 Kari M.: there was a cross-border forum that started last year, Lovel attended, that was an important conversation
 Lovel: emergency response is a major issue but so is prevention, trying to make it so we don’t need to respond

o Outreach & Education

Katie Johnson

Katie: Kari K. has been talking to sailing and yacht clubs to engage with boaters, we plan to be at the FHL Open House on May 2nd. GICU (Great Islands Clean Up) will be on Saturday April 18th, some outer islands will be involved

o Plastic Free Salish Sea

Katie Johnson

We'd like to re-start back monthly cleanups with host organizations. Winter is winding down, headed into spring. For people who have shrunk-wrap their boats, how to capture that waste and do some outreach around it
Flora: Lola & I have an idea for a beach clean-up contest. Katie sent us a write-up about our responsibilities. We'd like it to be a month-long event, we'll work to promote it in our schools and make it a competition

9:28 AM • Introduce new Council Liaison to MRC & Update on NOAA Grant Agreement for 2026-27

Kari M.: I'm Kari McVeigh from the Council. SJ takes 9% of property taxes for school and fire district. Kari reviews numbers for increases in property taxes and issues with upcoming budget. We had reserves that are now gone. This upcoming levy will be very important. Need to find a way to maintain current level of services. Unmandated services include health services, parks, oil spill response, etc.

There's demand on the federal level that signing contracts accepting grants must confirm they won't cover DEI issues, and that's against state law. So, no other county should be able to sign these grant contracts either

- discussion of recent grant from NOAA via NWSC, it was signed by every other WA county

- Lucas Hart confirms that other counties have signed this recent grant contract, but not San Juan County

Kendra: The PA's (Prosecuting Attorney) office made the decision that we couldn't sign this grant

Kari M.: It's a condition of accepting the grant to have no DEI policies in the County, we'd need to remove them

Charles: can a county legally accept the grant but recognize that the clause conflicts with county policy?

Sam: there could be something called a 'statement of reservations'

Kari K.: this issue could pertain not just to this grant but to future grants. We need to be courageous against the Feds here. Our moral obligation is to keep on funding our services and push back against this requirement

- Kendra lists out some examples of consequences for not accepting funding in this way. This could be an issue for any grant that originated at the federal level

Sam: our general operating MRC grant is in effect keeping staff afloat for this year, it's the additional funding from NOAA that we didn't secure. We are looking into other grants we can use to fund this work piecemeal.

9:55 AM • Planning for new NW Straits Commission Rep from San Juan MRC

Sam Whitridge

Christina will be terming off the MRC in June, need another liaison for NWSC

Question: could it be an option for someone who served two terms to serve again?

Kari M.: that's a council decision, I have no problem with it if groups have done due diligence to find replacements

ACTION: Sam will bring that idea to Council

Sam: and we're losing Dave Checkley and Matt Arata and Adam are also up for renewal. We need a new vice-chair

Karin: it's not a huge time commitment, the main thing is if Adam as chair isn't available. Need to be able to lead

- Karin will be resigning the position of Vice-Chair

10:01 AM • Updates from 2026 Legislative Session/ Marine bills of interest

All

Level: there's a bill moving through that would increase the capacity for passenger-only ferries; we're developing a letter about the impacts on SRKW. Level posts link to amendment language, that's an improvement to the bill but given state-budget constraints, ideally there would be some licensing program with some state enforcement

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/?BillNumber=1923&Year=2025&Initiative=false> RE. 2SHB 1923 increasing the availability of passenger-only ferries, "Passenger-only ferry service districts must implement certain procedures to prevent ship strikes and minimize disturbance of southern resident killer whales and other cetaceans."

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/Home/Document/300052#toolbar=0&navpanes=0>

Kari K: proposed legislation on the mooring buoy issue. There are still mooring buoy rental programs in process

Flora: Lola and I went to Olympia with the Eco Club to talk about a couple of plastic-related bills

10:08 AM Update on Jackson Beach Project

Adam: Karin drafted a letter based on our discussion at the February meeting

Karin: the letter is to alert County Council to our wish for input with what happened with the Jackson Beach project. We're concerned funding was halted, after a great deal of funds were invested and directed there. We (along with tribes) feel there needs to be a dialogue about how to make sure this project doesn't get wiped out

Adam: we'd like to get this letter to Council by end of the week so it can be discussed at their next meeting.

ACTION: we'll send this out to MRC for final revisions/approval and aim to send to Council by end of day tomorrow

10:13 AM Planning for MRC Membership Recruitment

Sandy nominates Matt, Lovel seconds. All in favor. Matt accepts; he will finish out Karin's term until August

Alternate for NWSC rep, Is there any funding to support? No – some meetings in PT

Sandy nominates Mike, Christina seconds. Mike accepts. all approve

10:18 AM Adjourn MRC Meeting

short break

10:29 AM Convene CAG Meeting

10:30 AM Presentation: 2025 San Juan County eDNA Fish Assessment

Tyler Davis

eDNA – the e stands for environment, DNA in the environment. Sampling & filtering & water and extracting DNA, many species can be detectable in one sample. Jenny DeGroot helped with sampling. 123 different sites. Multiple replicates from each site, sampled each site at least twice. We were able to note invasive species, like bullfrog. Susan Eshelman GIS specialist in our department made a very cool dashboard showing the data throughout the county, Tyler shows on screen, <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6e7ce7f81a6c4a02b1fb76d8c4da3230> Tyler discusses some implications of results. Finding data for places where we're already doing work like False Bay, Garrison Creek, Crow Valley. These data let us know some juvenile fish are using SJC stream mouths as refugia

QUESTIONS

Beth: what sort of analytic stats are you doing for unlikely species like lamprey

Tyler: there are possibilities for why we'd get a hit on a species that seems to be so pelagic

Sandy: how did you choose the sites?

Tyler: GIS, fishing, priority locations according to locals

Kendra: county culverts, knowing where fish passage is most needed

ACTION: Tyler can send out a pdf of this presentation

Olivia: salmonids at 31 sites? How will these data be used to inform conservation/habitat projects?

Tyler: we did aim to find areas that may be at risk or that have a history of modifications

- Brief discussion of San Juans as an important habitat for juveniles

Kari K.: how able are we to distinguish prey in fecal material (like from an otter poop) from an actual presence?

Tyler: predators can be a vector, like eagles, then that predator should also have a DNA signature

Tyler shows presence of eagles on the eDNA map

Craig: Great eDNA study! Very important to continue!

Sandy mentions UW historical record of species presence in particular locations in the County

ACTION: Sandy will send that out

10:57 AM CAG Business agenda

Sam Whitridge

- 2025 Salmon Recovery Grant Round

- Review of Letters of Interest, we have six this year. We'll be meeting with TAG next week.

- Important dates in the 2026 Grant Round: April 15, full proposal applications are due, April 29-30th for site visits

This is a PSAR year, so we'll have more funding than last year

Kendra discusses payments into the mitigation fund through Puget Sound Partnership, they're looking for projects in the North Puget Sound. How to take advantage of opportunity? Ideas include Blind Bay, West Sound, False Bay

Joey: about how the mitigation calculator works, how to make it make sense to clients who are paying for projects

11:12 AM Adjourn CAG Meeting