

# January 2010

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## New Items

### Ocean Acidification Drawing Greater Attention



The pressing issue of dramatic changes to seawater chemistry around the globe has elicited attention at many levels in recent weeks; in panel discussions at the U.N. Climate Change Conference, in the U.S. Capitol through a House resolution introduced by Representatives Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Ed Markey (D-MA), and with introduction of the CLEAR Act (<http://cantwell.senate.gov/issues/CLEARAct.cfm>) by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME). We will follow legislative action as Congress convenes for its second

session.

According to Dr. Richard Feely, an internationally-acclaimed climate scientist and plenary speaker at the [11th annual MRC conference](#), ocean acidification and its impacts to marine life "has become one of the most critical and pressing issues facing the ocean research community and marine resource managers alike." Read more in the December 2009 issue of Oceanography, online at <http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/current.html>.

A useful new fact sheet on ocean acidification, co-authored by Dr. Feely, can be downloaded in pdf (2.04MB) [click here](#).

### Northwest Straits Initiative Funding Included in Final Spending Bill

U.S. Senator Patty Murray announced that the \$1.6 million she secured in a 2010 spending bill for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative has been included in the fiscal year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act. "The Northwest Straits Initiative is leading the nation in showing what an innovative, grassroots conservation effort can be," said Senator Patty Murray. "This funding will allow the nationally-recognized group to continue and expand upon their

excellent work researching, restoring, and conserving our marine environment.” [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

### **New MRCs: A Stronger Voice on the Outer Coast**

Thanks to support from the state legislature and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), three new MRCs recently formed on the outer coast. Exploration into a fourth, in Wahkiakum County, is ongoing. Housed under the WDFW Coastal MRC Program, these are modeled on, but independent of the Northwest Straits Initiative. Congratulations and a warm welcome to MRC coordinators Garrett Dalan, Mike Nordin and Rich Osborne; in Grays Harbor County, Pacific County, and the North Pacific Coast. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **Puget Sound Rockfish Advisory Group**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has established an ad-hoc committee to advise the agency on proposed changes to rules on sport fishing for rockfish, and to assist in the development of a final plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the conservation of rockfish in Puget Sound. Kit Rawson, Chair of the San Juan Marine Resources Committee, and Ginny Broadhurst, Director of the Commission, were both appointed to this committee. To see a complete list of members [click here](#).

### **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

#### **Member Spotlight: Jerry Masters, Snohomish MRC**



To Jerry Masters, participating in the MRC is like traveling the world without leaving home: he’s able to expand his world and see his place within it from a different perspective. An online oceanography class at Bellevue Community College inspired him to look into local volunteer opportunities. Coincidentally, it was around the same time that an opening was announced for a representative of economic interests on the Snohomish MRC.

Raised on the Skagit River delta on a dairy farm, Jerry attended La Conner high school and headed to Stanford University with interests in art history and literature. Life took him on a different path, and after marriage and two kids he moved back to the Northwest, where he’s the general manager for a building supply company. During his time on the MRC, he’s come to better understand the importance of some of the products he sells which help reduce the impact construction has on local streams and Puget Sound. He is already looking toward the future and how his business can evolve and succeed as building practices become more sustainable.

Elected chair shortly after joining the Snohomish MRC, Jerry has now served two years. He describes the learning curve as being like “drinking from a fire hose”, but recognizes that it isn’t necessary to have all the answers in order to keep moving forward. Under his leadership, the MRC has taken on a lot of projects, and he’s particularly enthusiastic about the work the MRC is doing at Kayak Point County Park. The MRC has been the catalyst in bringing together volunteer groups, county departments and other partners toward making sustainable improvements to the shoreline. The interagency connections make this a great example of the strength of a citizen group such as the MRC.

Some of Jerry’s best memories involve the simple enjoyment of living near Puget Sound – as a kid catching kings on the Skagit, or with his own kids enjoying a basket of Ivar’s fish and chips while watching the sunset at Mukilteo’s Lighthouse Park. He’s hopeful that the MRC will continue to “tell the story” so that decision-makers make Puget Sound a high priority.

### **Welcome MRC members**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome a host of terrific newcomers to the MRCs. Each holds interests in their community and coastal issues, and is committed to helping protect the Northwest Straits. We look forward to working with you!

### **Island MRC**

- **Sarah Haynes**, Environmental Scientist and Educator
- **Steve Mitchell**, Environmental Consultant and Commercial Fisherman
- **Linda Rhodes**, Environmental Toxicologist, NOAA
- **Stan Walsh**, Skagit River System Cooperative
- **Frances Wood**, Naturalist and Co-Coordinator, Pigeon Guillemot Research Project
- **Todd Zackey**, Coastal Geographer, Tulalip Tribes

### **Skagit MRC**

- **Kurt Buchanan**, Biologist, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- **Rebecca Spurling**, Environmental Engineer, Tesoro

## **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Commission Says Farewell to Tony Petrillo**



We wish a heartfelt goodbye to Tony Petrillo, who has effectively and consistently represented the interests and ideas of Jefferson MRC on the Commission for the past two years. Tony will remain on the MRC, where he lends valuable expertise on the marine engineering aspect of restoration projects, and is quick to volunteer in the trenches – engaging in complex shoreline master planning and other policy discussions, helping with eelgrass mapping and buoy installation, and manning the MRC booth at

public events. He is also a valuable member of the Commission's Technical Committee, providing input and advice on research projects, proposals and grant-making. We'll miss seeing you every month Tony, be sure to visit!



### **...and Welcomes Shannon Davis**

A warm welcome to Shannon Davis, newly-elected to the Jefferson seat on the Commission and particularly well prepared for it. Shannon's involvement in the Northwest Straits Initiative began with graduate studies of the San Juan MRC as a case study in resource management. She subsequently served as its lead staff, during which she played an important role in establishing the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area. In 2007, Shannon and her husband moved to Port Townsend, where she was quickly elected to the Jefferson MRC. Thanks to virtual technology, Shannon maintains her job as Development Director for Friends of the San Juans, while engaging in local issues on the peninsula and raising an adorable toddler.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**

### **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project 30% complete!**

The Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project, made possible through federal economic stimulus funds, finished its second quarter of operations at the end of December. The project is one-third complete, and on schedule to achieve the goal of removing 90% of derelict fishing nets from Puget Sound by December 2010. As of December 31, 266 of 750 removal days were completed, resulting in 890 derelict nets removed, and more than 94 acres of marine habitat restored. These nets contained over 53,000 animals, including five dead marine mammals, many drowned marine birds, and thousands of invertebrates.

In addition to net removal work, this project involves a complete overhaul of the statewide derelict fishing gear database and reporting system. Consultants and project contractors are redesigning the database to allow for easier querying of the data and public accessibility. The reporting system is now available through [www.derelictgear.org](http://www.derelictgear.org). These improvements will allow ready access for the public and researchers interested in the impacts of derelict gear on marine species. The improved reporting system is being promoted throughout the commercial fishing community and to others likely to encounter derelict gear, such as recreational divers.

The required quarterly jobs report for the project was submitted last week, documenting the employment of 30 full and part-time people for a total of 18 FTE (full time equivalent) positions. These include boat pilots, divers, deckhands, trash haulers, biologists, and information technology specialists.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation Office Open House a Success**



More than fifty people attended the Northwest Straits Foundation office open house last Friday, January 8, at the historic Herald Building in downtown Bellingham. The crowd included Bellingham mayor Dan Pike, former state Senator Harriet Spanel, Northwest Straits Foundation board members Robert Cecile, Scott McCreery and Duane Fagergren, MRC members, funders, contractors, and many local supporters. Thanks especially to those who travelled from afar to attend

(even Shelton - thanks Duane!) The Foundation office opened in September, housing the derelict gear program and other programs, and is located at 1155 N. State Street, telephone (360) 733-1725.

## **Bulletin Board**

### **Northwest Straits Commission Annual Retreat**

Northwest Straits Commissioners and alternates, mark your calendars! The annual Northwest Straits Commission retreat is on February 25-26 at the Captain Whidbey Inn. This event helps shape the direction of the Initiative – input from all MRCs is important. An ad-hoc committee is preparing the agenda, and an invitation will be sent out soon with further details. In addition to the important planning work, the retreat offers a great opportunity to get to know your fellow Commission members in an informal setting.

### **Lead Staff and Chair Meeting Scheduled**

The semi-annual lead staff and chair meeting will be held on February 5 at Padilla Bay. Here's where you'll collaborate on the real nuts and bolts of running an MRC and learn more about what's happening in other counties.

## **Recent Publications**

**Derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits: Patterns and threats to marine fauna**, by Thomas P. Good, Jeffrey A. June, Michael A. Etnier, Ginny Broadhurst. Marine Pollution Bulletin, January 2010. [Download](#)

**Assessing marine debris in deep seafloor habitats off California**, by Diana L. Watters, Mary M. Yoklavich, Milton S. Love, Donna M. Schroeder. Marine Pollution Bulletin, January 2010. [Download](#)

**Marine species mortality in derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound, WA and the cost/benefits of derelict net removal**, by Kirsten V.K. Gilardi, Daphne Carlson-Bremer, Jeffrey A. June, Kyle Antonelis, Ginny Broadhurst, Tom Cowan. December 2009. [Download](#)

## Upcoming Events

**January 23, 2010** - Ways of Whales workshop, 9:00am-3:00pm, Coupeville. [Click here for more information.](#)

**2010** - HAZWOPER training outreach program eight-hour refresher course by the Northwest Spill Response Community. [Click here](#) for dates, locations and more information.

**January 30, 2010** - HAZWOPER Certification, Port Angeles 8:00am-5:00pm. [Read more...](#)

**February 6, 2010** - 15th Annual Sound Waters University, Coupeville. [Click here for more information.](#)

**February 6, 2010** - Evening screening of the film *A Sea Change* at the Coupeville United Methodist Church at 7pm.



# February 2010

## In this issue:

- **Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area - Science Workshop**
- **Forage Fish Research**
- **Member Spotlight: Hi Bronson, Island MRC**
- **Snohomish Mussel Watch Program**
- **Regional Seabird Forage Fish Project**
- **New and Improved Derelict Fishing Gear Reporting System and Database**
- **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Update**
- **Communications Workshops for MRC Members**
- **Padilla Bay's Cool Climate Team**

## Featured Project

### Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area Science Workshop



Port Susan Bay, a large estuary nestled within Snohomish and Island county borders, is the focus of a collaborative effort to designate a marine stewardship area (MSA). The area boasts tremendous wildlife and scenic beauty; and provides numerous hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities. On January 29, the Commission, Tulalip Tribes, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) co-sponsored a gathering of invited experts to identify biodiversity targets in the bay. Held in Stanwood, this event brought together 43 people with relevant local and regional scientific knowledge, from a variety of agencies, tribes, and organizations. A facilitator helped guide discussions around core themes of shellfish, marine habitats, birds and marine mammals and fisheries.

We are pleased that there was a great turnout from project partners at the workshop, including the Snohomish and Island MRCs, Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, the Commission and TNC. This was an important step forward in an MSA planning process that will involve community members, resource managers and many more stakeholders. A written report, being prepared over the next few months, will include results of the viability assessment begun at the science workshop. [Click here](#) for more information.

## News Items

### Forage Fish Research

The Commission is acting on key recommendations made at the Sand Lance Workshop held in 2009 to 1) gather and analyze existing data on sand lance collected in beach seine surveys and surface trawls and 2) conduct sub-tidal research that results in new information on the life history of sand lance.

Effective February 16, Jamey Selleck will join the Commission's staff to conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing historical survey data on sand lance in the Northwest Straits. This project aims to clarify what is known and not known about the nearshore movement of sand lance in this area. Jamey earned a Master's degree in Marine Ecology from Western Washington University, and brings more than ten years' professional research experience with public and private entities. Welcome Jamey, we look forward to working with you!

The Commission has issued a [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) to conduct sub-tidal research on Pacific sand lance, toward new findings on the life history of this species. Consideration of funding will be given to all qualified bidders (see RFP). Proposals must be submitted in hard copy and electronically to Caroline Gibson, RFP coordinator, and received by 4:00 pm on March 16, 2010.

## **2009 State of the Sound**

The Puget Sound Partnership has issued its 2009 State of the Sound report describing the current condition of Puget Sound, and accomplishments and challenges in the effort to clean up the Sound in the 2007-2009 biennium. As Governor Gregoire noted, "It's encouraging that even during these tough times we are continuing to make progress in Puget Sound cleanup. We have a long road ahead and more hurdles, but I'm confident our effort is off to a good start." For the full text of the report, go to <http://www.psp.wa.gov/sos2009.php>

## **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

### **Member Spotlight: Hi Bronson, Island MRC**



There is no way to present the full picture of Hi Bronson's life experience in such a short space, so what you'll get here is a snapshot. Originally from California, he moved to Bremerton as a child, attended the University of Maine, joined the Navy and met his lovely wife Pat in Key West. Despite assignments including Italy, Australia and tropical locations over the years, he longed to return to the northwest and Puget Sound. He did so when he retired from the Navy, moving to Bellingham and earning an environmental planning degree from Western Washington University and eventually moving to Camano Island, where he looks out over Utsalady Bay.

After retiring from a second career as a land use planner, Hi asked a county commissioner about volunteer opportunities, expecting to participate in a land use board or something along those lines. He was pleasantly surprised to be appointed to the newly-formed MRC, despite the fact that it has required a 90-minute commute to attend the Coupeville meetings from his Camano Island home.

In addition to people skills, he notes that an interest in learning and willingness to learn new



subjects are important characteristics of a successful MRC member. But serving on the MRC wasn't enough - Hi completed his Beach Watcher training in the first Camano Island class in 2002, and was part of the group that created the now regional and highly successful Shore Stewards program.

Although Hi is in his 10th and final year on the MRC due to term limits, he is already moving forward on his latest adventure: he and two others have formed a non-profit foundation to support educational activities at Cama Beach State Park. The park is hands-down his favorite place in the Northwest Straits – just being there evokes visions of what it was like to go camping and fishing here in the 1930s. There may be a deeper connection that draws him there: the park itself opened just four days before he was born.

### **San Juan MRC Welcomes A New Member**



San Juan MRC welcomes John Aschoff, who moved to Orcas Island in 2007, in large part because of its beautiful marine environment. He is a retired long-time “veteran” of IBM’s software laboratories, both as a “technology-guy” and manager of teams of technology professionals. *Photo (right): John with Dante*

### **MRC Reports to the Commission**

[Click here](#) to see MRC reports to the Commission for February.

### **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Welcome Lenny Corin**



We are pleased to welcome Lenny Corin to the Commission, representing the Island MRC. Lenny retired in 2008 from a career with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, following which he and his wife moved from Alaska to Whidbey Island. Lenny holds a Master’s degree from Northern Michigan University and has spent more than 30 years in natural resources management. He is an avid outdoorsman, eco-traveler and photographer; and serves on the board of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. *Photo (left): Lenny Corin*

### **Snohomish MRC Mussel Watch Program**

Kathleen Herrmann, lead staff for the Snohomish County MRC, presented the NOAA Mussel Watch program to the Commission. [Click here](#) to view her presentation (pdf). The Commission discussed how the data are used and what happens when the results show high levels of contaminants. Jerry Masters, chair of the Snohomish MRC, explained that some sampling sites are located near marinas and other places that typically show high numbers. Jerry said they would like to increase the number of sites and get more baseline data.

## **Regional Seabird Forage Fish Project**

Dr. John Piatt, a seabird ecologist with the Alaskan Science Center USGS Biological Resources Division, gave a presentation on seabird/forage fish interactions in Alaska and the Puget Sound Ecosystem. [Click here](#) for the presentation (pdf). Discussion followed about survey methods and possible ways to sample and monitor the entire Puget Sound region. John noted that there is a need for someone to compile and store the data.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**

### **New and Improved Derelict Fishing Gear Reporting System and Database Launched**

The statewide derelict fishing gear reporting system and database have been completely overhauled and improved. The reporting system was fine-tuned for ease of use and seamless transfer of reported information to our project field manager. The database has been moved from an Excel format into a Structured Query Language (SQL) format. This allows multiple users to access it on a secure web server. Researchers and resource managers will now have access (with approval) to view data and download information of interest. The improved database design also makes it easier for our own derelict gear team to manage data and report results. Thanks to Willamette Consulting for their excellent work on this project. To report derelict gear go to [www.derelictgear.org](http://www.derelictgear.org).

### **Fourteen Areas of Puget Sound Now Completely Cleared of Derelict Fishing Nets**

Fourteen discrete areas of Puget Sound, including a number of recreational dive sites, have been completely cleared of derelict nets during the course of our NOAA-funded Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project. Crews are working to remove 90% of the derelict nets from high priority areas in Puget Sound. Here is the current status:

- Blakely Rocks, Kitsap County, 5 nets removed
- Apple Cove Point, Kitsap County, 12 nets removed
- Jefferson Head, Kitsap County, 194 nets removed
- Point No Point, Kitsap County, 13 nets removed
- Foulweather Bluff, Kitsap County, 132 nets removed
- Apple Tree Cove, Kitsap County, 71 nets removed
- Colvos Passage, Kitsap and King Counties, 6 nets removed
- Sisters Rock, Jefferson County, 11 nets removed
- Olele Point and Colvos Rocks, Jefferson County, 4 nets removed
- Neah Bay, Jefferson County, 5 nets removed
- Williamson Rocks, Skagit County, 8 nets removed
- Sares Head, Skagit County, 17 nets removed
- Urchin Rocks, Skagit County, 25 nets removed
- Viti Rocks, Whatcom County, 5 nets removed

## **Committee Happenings**

### **Communications Workshops for MRC Members**

As follow up to the highly successful communications session at the 2009 MRC Conference, the Northwest Straits Commission and [COMPASS](#) will host a workshop series for MRC members. Led by Liz Neeley, COMPASS assistant director of science outreach, these workshops will be designed to meet the specific needs of MRCs in communications to decision makers, journalists and other key audiences. Three workshops are planned, beginning March 24 in San Juan County. More information will be available shortly, in the meantime please contact Sasha Horst if you have questions.

### **Bulletin Board**

#### **Padilla Bay's Cool Climate Team**

Northwest Straits Commission staff joined Padilla Bay staff to form a Cool Climate Team to try to reduce their carbon emissions at home. Armed with [Low Carbon Diet](#) books the team set about estimating our “carbon footprints”, and seeing how we might shrink them down a size or two.

The team met every few weeks during lunch to share our carbon footprint calculations, and make plans accordingly. It was interesting to see the different approaches used to trim carbon waistlines. Someone passed out shower timers from the Skagit PUD (especially useful to the parent of a teenage boy). Someone arranged to work from a Bellingham office once each week to save the commute miles. One team member air dries her laundry on folding racks. Another, who already commutes by bus and bicycle every day, and whose family declined the suggestion to turn the thermostat down to 55° at night, decided to cook a meatless meal every Monday. Several of us decided to buy Green Power through our local utility, Puget Sound Energy. One member started a Cool Climate Team in her Samish Island neighborhood, and its group of five families shaved a total of 73,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> from their household emissions.

Altogether, Padilla Bay staff have committed to eliminating over 40,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. We enjoyed spending informal time together and sharing our hopes and concerns about climate change. And we feel like we're taking a big step towards a more sustainable future. For more information about Cool Climate Teams, attend a café in your neighborhood, or call Susan Wood at (360) 428-1066.

#### **Northwest Straits Commission Annual Retreat**

The Commission's annual retreat is on February 25-26 at the Captain Whidbey Inn. This event helps shape the direction of the Initiative – input from all MRCs is important. An ad-hoc committee is preparing the agenda and it will be sent out soon. In addition to the important planning work, the retreat provides a great opportunity to get to know your fellow MRC and Commission members in a casual setting.

## Article on Ocean Acidification

The December issue of Oceanography was devoted entirely to Ocean Acidification. The first article has an excellent overview of the issue. Go to:

<http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/current.html>

## Events

**February 13, 2010** – Port Townsend - Author Brad Matsen will read from his new book: Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King - a highly-praised biography of the famous ocean naturalist. 4:30 PM at the Northwest Maritime Center. Sponsored by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and NWMC, call 385.5582 ext. 104.

**2010** - HAZWOPER training outreach program eight-hour refresher course by the Northwest Spill Response Community. [Click here](#) for dates, locations and more information.

**February 16, 2010** - Port of Anacortes O Avenue Mitigation Site Ribbon Cutting, 11:00am at 1st and Commercial Street in Anacortes.

**February 17, 2010** - [State of the Marine Resources in Whatcom County Workshop](#), 9:00am-4:00pm Whatcom County Courthouse. Please [email](#) or call Public Works Natural Resources at (360) 676-6876 for more information and to RSVP.

**February 20, 2010** – Port Townsend’s 1st annual “Feel Good” Environmental Film Series. [Read more...](#)

**March 5, 2010** - [Our Underwater Neighborhood: A Video Tour](#), 7:00pm-9:00pm in Port Angeles. [Click here](#) for more information.

**April 28, 2010** - [Our Underwater Neighborhood: A Video Tour](#), 7:00pm-9:00pm on Camano Island.

**September 18, 2010** – International Coastal Cleanup Day. [Read more...](#)

# March 2010

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- **Skagit MRC Low Impact Development Project is Complete**
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- **2010 Budget Approved**
- **Crab Pot Mortality Study Completed**
- **Derelict Gear Project on Schedule**
- **Skagit MRC East March's Point Groin Removal Project Receives Funding**
- **COMPASS Communications Workshops**
- **Question Corner: How is the Northwest Straits Initiative funded?**

## In the News

### Annual Commission Retreat a Success



The historic Captain Whidbey Inn, in Coupeville, was the site of the annual Northwest Straits Commission retreat on February 25-26. We had great turnout from commissioners, alternates and MRC staff. Jonathan White opened the meeting by inviting a short personal story from each participant. Resulting vignettes were both interesting and hilarious, further evidence of how diverse and extraordinary this group is.

A representative from each MRC summed up the most noteworthy projects of late, describing why they made – or did not make – significant headway. Caroline reminded us of the objectives and outcomes that are provided in our strategic plan. Commissioners and guests had fruitful discussions on the need to better focus our work and achieve greater commonality among MRC projects. The Commission encouraged thoughtful consideration of regional projects to achieve broader impact where appropriate.

The retreat provided an in-depth opportunity for commissioners to review recent highlights and challenges, assess the efficacy of our collective body of work, and discuss plans for fulfilling objectives in the year ahead. 2009 was a banner year, in large part due to pending Congressional reauthorization and the \$4.6 million NOAA grant - which dramatically increased capacity and catapulted our program into the national spotlight.

We were pleased to host senior staff with Puget Sound Partnership at this year's retreat: Lynda Ransley, Deputy Director, and CHris Townsend, Special Assistant to the Executive Director, participated in productive discussions around the agency's local integration process and future collaboration. [Click here](#) to read a summary.



## **Rain Garden - Skagit MRC Project** **Skagit MRC Low Impact Development Project Complete**

On February 16 the Port of Anacortes, the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and many community members celebrated the completion of a shoreline mitigation project, the installation of pavers for parking strips and a set of rain gardens that will treat the runoff from a large warehouse. The Skagit MRC helped to pay for the construction of the rain gardens and pavers as part of a demonstration of low impact development strategies. The location makes this site

easy to access by the public and the rain garden design is fun and makes the concept of a rain garden understandable to most anyone. Congratulations to all involved! [Click here](#) to read article in Anacortes American.

## **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

### **MRC Spotlight: Tony Petrillo, Jefferson MRC**



As Tony Petrillo says, “everyone is a neighbor in Port Townsend”, so the fact that a neighbor lured him in to join the local MRC is no surprise. Joining the group was something of a stretch for him, though, since the groups he’s used to working with are groups of musicians and not committees. A solo consultant in the ocean engineering business, he works on plenty of ocean issues, but this was a learning experience in community participation....a way to, as he puts it, “develop connective tissue in the community”.

Not one to jump in just part way, Tony’s role on the MRC soon developed into representing the group on the Northwest Straits Commission and from there he was encouraged to join the Commission’s Technical Committee. You may wonder when he finds time now to do anything but this volunteer work, but remarkably he

does a lot of other work and play.

As an engineer, he’s energized by the work he does – setting up seabed mapping projects, laying and repairing submarine cable – because it’s fun for the brain and gets him out on the water. Years ago he turned down a job doing satellite oceanography, recognizing that he’d rather be on a boat than behind a computer. Now he finds that the work he does often puts him behind a computer while on a boat, a happy medium.

In addition to his consulting business, Tony spends his time playing jazz as a vocalist and guitarist. Though his only formal music training was just 52 guitar lessons he took many years



ago in Seattle, with copious notes and a lot of practice, he has taken the bits of knowledge and developed them over time to become an accomplished musician.

Tony has an ambitious perspective on the MRC and Northwest Straits Initiative: his goal is to see us finish the job of restoring Puget Sound so that it is done and we're all out of business. With volunteers like him, somehow it does seem possible.

#### New MRC Members

Whatcom MRC welcomes Jeremy Brown to the economic interest position, the Island MRC welcomes Marshall Brown representing the Port of Coupeville, and Al Bergstein is welcomed on the Jefferson MRC as the environmental/conservation representative.

### Island and Jefferson MRC Joint Meeting



Island MRC hosted the Jefferson MRC at their March 2 meeting at Coupeville. This was the first joint meeting of Island and Jefferson MRCs. Craig Collar from Snohomish PUD provided an update on the tidal energy pilot project currently being considered at Admiralty Inlet. The talk attracted several community members to the meeting. The two MRCs had a short time to discuss issues of mutual interest which included oil-spill response, monitoring of the tidal

energy pilot project, research on Olympia oysters, eelgrass no-anchor zones, shellfish growing areas, shoreline armoring and alternative erosion control to improve drift-cell function, Shore Stewards, phytoremediation and forage fish. Clearly this first meeting provided just a teaser for continued discussions between the groups.

#### MRC Reports to the Commission

[Click here](#) to read MRC reports to the Commission for February.

### Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

#### 2010 Budget Approved

At its meeting on February 26, the Northwest Straits Commission approved a workplan and budget for fiscal year 2010 funding. Grants to MRCs of \$120,000 have already been awarded for these funds, which will pay for the second year of the two-year grant MRCs are currently working on. The budget also provides funding for an additional Marine Program Manager position, as well as funds for regional ecosystem projects and tribal projects.

#### Commission Meeting Minutes

[Click here](#) to see DRAFT meeting minutes for February Commission meeting.

### Northwest Straits Foundation News

## **Crab Pot Mortality Study Completed**

The Foundation completed an assessment of the ecological and economic impacts of derelict crab pots on the Dungeness crab fishery with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/NOAA Marine Debris Partnership. Data from the Foundation's work were combined with a similar study conducted by the Stillaguamish Tribe. In all twenty-four crab pots were deployed in Dungeness Bay and Port Susan Sound to simulate derelict crab pots. Catch rates were monitored for twelve months. The total annual crab pot loss by commercial and recreational crabbers was estimated at 12,193. Using the observed catch rate of 21 crabs killed/pot/year and the annual number of lost pots, an estimated 178,875 legally harvestable crabs are lost every year in derelict crab pots, costing the Puget Sound crab fishery approximately \$862,000 annually in lost revenue. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the full report.



## **March's Point Skagit MRC East March's Point Groin Removal Project Receives Funding**

The Skagit MRC's East March's Point Groin Removal Project was awarded \$30,000 from Ecology's Coastal Protection Fund. This funding will pay for much of the work removing large boulders from the site that are impeding natural sediment transport processes. The project is currently in the permitting stage, with all plans and engineered drawings completed.

## **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

### **Project on Schedule**

As of February 28, 2010, we have completed 70% of the survey days and 52% of the removal days under the ARRA Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project. 1,288 nets have been removed, weighing 73 metric tons. 115 acres of marine habitat have been restored. 69,000 animals have been documented entangled in the removed gear, representing 192 unique species. [Read the recent press release](#) on the 13 areas that are now completely free of derelict fishing nets.

## **Bulletin Board**

### **COMPASS Communications Workshops**

The Northwest Straits Commission and COMPASS are sponsoring a series of workshops for MRC members to work on communicating their work to decision makers and the media. Three sessions are planned, starting with a March 24 workshop in Friday Harbor. Additional dates are April 28 in Sequim and May 12 at Padilla Bay. Additional information is being sent to MRCs as the dates approach. Contact Sasha for more information about these workshops, or to register to attend.

### **Information on Shoreline Armoring**

The Department of Ecology produced some new fact sheets on shoreline armoring that may be of interest:

[\\* Healthy Shorelines Equal a Healthy Puget Sound](#)

[\\* Marine Shoreline Armoring and Puget Sound](#)

## **Question Corner**

Q: How is the Northwest Straits Initiative funded?

A: The Northwest Straits Initiative receives federal funding, which is currently appropriated as an earmark in NOAA's budget and awarded as a grant from NOAA to the Initiative's fiscal agent, the Washington Department of Ecology. (Do you have more questions? Send them to us at [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org))

## **Articles and Events**

### **Recent Media Coverage**

[KUOW 94.9 - Interview with Ginny Broadhurst - Litter Clean up in the Puget Sound](#)

[Kitsap Sun – Fewer ‘Ghost Nets’ in Kitsap Waters](#)

### **Events**

March 18, 2010 - Our Underwater Neighborhood: A Video Tour, 7:00pm-9:00pm in Bellingham. [Click here for more information.](#)

March 17 & 24, 2010 - Webinar: Pacific Northwest Hydrologic and Climate Change Scenarios for the 21st Century. [Read more...](#)

April 17, 2010 - "Toast to Earth Day" - 6:30pm in Port Angeles. [Read more...](#)

April 22, 2010 - 2010 National Earth Day, [Read more...](#)

April 28, 2010 - Our Underwater Neighborhood: A Video Tour, 7:00pm-9:00pm in Camano Island.

September 18, 2010 – International Coastal Cleanup Day, [Read more...](#)

# April 2010

## In this issue:

- **Forage Fish Contract Awarded**
- **Distinguished Service Award for Commissioner Dr. Terrie Klinger**
- **Congressman Jay Inslee Joins Derelict Gear Removal Operation**
- **Ocean Acidification Workshop held in Seattle**
- **Member Spotlight: Ivar Dolph, Skagit MRC**
- **Outer Coast Marine Resources Committees**
- **Sand Lance Data Analysis Project Update**
- **2009 Annual Report**
- **And More...**

## Featured Project

### Forage Fish Contract Awarded

The Commission recently issued a request for proposals for subtidal research on Pacific sand lance, in an effort to generate new information about this poorly understood species of forage fish. We are pleased to announce the resulting contract with Dr. Gary Greene, Tombolo Institute, and Dr. Tina Wyllie-Echeverria, University of Washington/Friday Harbor Laboratories, lead investigators on a collaborative project in the San Juan Archipelago. Using an acoustic multibeam echo sounder, the project team will study deepwater habitat that is known to harbor sand lance, while also sampling nearby pelagic and intertidal areas. One outcome of the project will be a geomorphic model for use in future studies of sand lance by MRCs and other researchers. Fieldwork will begin this summer.

## In the News



### Distinguished Service Award for Commissioner Dr. Terrie Klinger

Dr. Terrie Klinger, Governor-appointed member of the Northwest Straits Commission and associate professor in the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs, is the recipient of the University's 2010 Outstanding Public Service Award.

This prestigious award is given in honor of her extensive service to the local and national community through her participation on the Commission, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and the San Juan MRC. [Click here](#) to read the announcement

sent by University of Washington President, Mark Emmert.

## **Ocean Acidification Workshop held in Seattle**

Three members of the Northwest Straits Commission attended the Puget Sound Workshop on Ocean Acidification, held in Seattle March 30-31. This event, hosted by Marine Conservation Biology Institute, brought together more than 50 invited experts representing marine sciences, the seafood industry, and other disciplines. Congressmen Baird, Inslee and Dicks also attended, with several staff members. Commissioners Dr. Terrie Klinger, Duane Fagergren, and Terry Williams participated in discussions to help guide and inform research and policy efforts relating to ocean acidification, an issue that is increasingly commanding federal and state attention.

## **Congressman Jay Inslee Joins Derelict Gear Removal Operation**



On April 1 we welcomed Congressman Jay Inslee aboard our vessel to show him the work we're doing to remove derelict fishing nets with economic stimulus funds. Congressman Inslee visited a site just south of the Bainbridge Ferry terminal where a net in about 50 feet of water was on the sea floor, off Restoration Point. We watched through an underwater camera as the diver carefully picked up the bones of a cormorant, a victim of a net estimated to be at least 20 years old.

We greatly appreciate Congressman Inslee's interest in this project and the time he spent with us to understand its significance.

## **Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Rockfish Conservation**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has published a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), titled [Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan](#). The revised draft EIS extends the area covered by the plan, to the far western end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Cape Flattery, and incorporates some of the public comments made during the first review period. If you commented on the original draft plan and EIS, your comments are still on file and will be considered in the final EIS. However, if you have comments on the revised draft, you are invited to submit them at this time.

Comments must be received by no later than 5:00 pm on May 21, 2010. Comments can be submitted electronically at: <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>. See SEPA number 10014DEIS. A public meeting to discuss this Plan and DEIS is being held at the Port Angeles Public Library Community Meeting Room (2210 South Peabody Street) on April 21, 2010 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

## **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

### **Member Spotlight: Ivar Dolph, Skagit MRC**



Ivar (pronounced with a long e sound – EE-var, not EYE-var) first came to the Puget Sound area as part of a fellowship at Friday Harbor Labs in the summer of 1963. That trip sparked a lifelong interest in all things marine, though it wasn't until his retirement from his teaching at Yakima Valley College and farming that he and his wife Phyllis moved to Anacortes to live near the water.

Ivar lives by the philosophy that he should contribute in ways that he can, and that one is never too old to do so. As he kicked around looking for meaningful ways to use his time, he had the good fortune to meet fellow MRC member Paul Dinnel, who encouraged him to join the Padilla Bay Foundation and the MRC. Ivar also participates in the local chapter of the Audubon Society, and is a Beach Watcher volunteer and instructor. In each case, he has not only contributed a significant amount of time, but has served in leadership roles, as Audubon chapter president and MRC representative to the Northwest Straits Commission.

One of the aspects of working with the MRC that has been most impressive to him is the consensus-based approach. He's astounded that in the ten years he has participated, the MRC has been able to consider the interests of all members and still make decisions unanimously.

Skagit MRC is known for its "boots in the mud" enthusiasm and member involvement in projects. Ivar provides a clear example of that approach: he has worked on a range of projects, including a three year pigeon guillemot survey (with a total cost of just \$800), leading public meetings on rockfish reserves, walking local beaches as part of their Rapid Shoreline Inventory, coordinating volunteers and serving as one in documenting forage fish spawning beaches, counting and measuring oysters and editing the MRC's report to the community.

Ivar makes an effort to get on the water often, rowing twice each week and sailing his boat when he can. He and his wife enjoy traveling, and his photography skills are put to use on his trips around the globe - Norway, Africa, Sweden, and the Galapagos Islands are recent destinations.

### **Clallam MRC Request for Proposals**

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee has issued a request for proposals to define fish use of subtidal vegetated habitats of Elwha and comparative shorelines. [Click here](#) to read the full request for proposals. Submissions are due by April 21, 2010 at 4:30 pm. Contact Cathy Lear at [clear@co.clallam.wa.us](mailto:clear@co.clallam.wa.us) or (360) 417-2361 for additional information.

### **MRC Reports**

[Click here](#) to read MRC reports to the Commission for March.

### **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Outer Coast Marine Resources Committees**



At the last Commission meeting, Jenna Norman from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife gave an update on the outer coast MRCs and provided the following additional information available in pdf:

[Progress Establishing Coastal Marine Resource Committees](#) (6.59MB)

[WDFW Coastal Marine Resource Committee Program](#)

## **Commission Meeting Minutes**

[Click here](#) to see a DRAFT of the March Commission meeting minutes.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**

### **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project**

The Foundation just submitted its first quarter jobs report to the federal government, reporting on the number of jobs created and retained by the derelict fishing gear removal project since January 1, 2010. This year the project has employed 28 individuals both full and part time to keep the removals on target, to update and refine the statewide reporting system and database, to coordinate outreach activities and press relations, and to manage the grant funds and contracts. Eighteen FTEs, or full-time equivalent, jobs have been created or retained. You can view this report and previous jobs reports at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

The project is on schedule. We have accomplished approximately 57% of the planned removal days and removed approximately 50% of the anticipated nets.

Outreach to user groups, including commercial gillnet fishermen and recreational divers, is ongoing. Outreach materials have been mailed to all licensed gillnetters in Puget Sound. A link to the reporting website is being added to the website of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

## **Committee Happenings**

### **Sand Lance Data Analysis Project Update**

Thanks to the efforts of Jamey Selleck, the Commission's forage fish research assistant, we have compiled more than 30 years of beach seine data on sand lance which has been generously provided by numerous public and private sources. Much of this information was collected during studies focused on salmon, herring and other species, and has never been analyzed. Our project is nearing its halfway mark: data analyses and GIS mapping begin this month, and a report detailing these efforts and findings will be available for use by MRCs and others in late June.

## **Bulletin Board**

### **2009 Annual Report**



The Northwest Straits Initiative's 2009 Annual Report is now available. Read it online at <http://tinyurl.com/2009NWSC-AnnualReport> (7.81 MB), or request a printed copy from Connie Price at 360-428-1064 or [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org).

### **April 23 Northwest Straits Commission meeting**

The April 23 meeting of the Northwest Straits Commission meeting will be held at [Padilla Bay Reserve](#) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This meeting is dedicated to project presentations of the seven Marine Resources Committees. MRC members and others are encouraged to attend, and will have an opportunity to discuss potential projects for the Commission's Benchmark Account funding.

### **Commission to open office on Olympic Peninsula**



On May 3, the Commission will open its first office on the Olympic Peninsula. Housed in Port Townsend's new public waterfront facility, the Northwest Maritime Center, our new location offers work and meeting space associated with any MRC or Commission project, including a guest desk and internet access. The office will be staffed by Caroline Gibson, Marine Program Manager. Stop in for a visit!

## **Events/Articles**

### **Upcoming Events**

**April 17, 2010** - "Toast to Earth Day" - 6:30pm in Port Angeles. [Read more...](#)

**April 20, 2010** - Jefferson Shoreline Management Plan Public Hearing and Open House, Fort Worden State Park, Pt. Townsend. [More information...](#)

**April 22, 2010** - [NOAA National Aquaculture Program](#) listening session, Seattle. [Read more...](#)

**April 28, 2010** - [Our Underwater Neighborhood: A Video Tour](#), 7:00pm-9:00pm in Camano Island. [Read more...](#)

**May 6, 2010** - Salmon Along Whatcom County Coastline, 6:00pm in Bellingham at the Whatcom County Civic Center. [Read more...](#)

**May 20, 2010** - [20,000 Gigabits Under the Sea: Next-Generation Ocean Science at your Fingertips](#). Grays Harbor County. Contact [Katrina Hoffman](#) for more information.

**September 18, 2010** - International Coastal Cleanup Day, [Read more...](#)

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **Recent Articles**

**Everett Herald** - [Kayak Point Park's future under study - Officials review options for the popular county park's day-use area. Some like it as is, others want big changes](#)

**Peninsula Daily News** - [Mystery Bay plan intended to protect shellfish growing](#)

**San Juan Journal** - [Pollution in our runoff: How much science do we really need?](#)

### **Recently Uploaded to the Northwest Straits Online Bibliography**

[Snohomish MRC 2009 Annual Report](#)

[Marine species mortality in derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound, WA and the cost benefits of derelict net removal](#)

# May 2010

## In this issue:

- **Commission Opens Peninsula Office**
- **Olympia Oyster Found in Drayton Harbor**
- **Former MRC Member Receives NOAA Medal**
- **Member Spotlight: Steve Revella, San Juan MRC**
- **A Warm Welcome to New MRC Members**
- **New Commission Chair and Vice Chair**
- **Foundation Hiring Programs Assistant**
- **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Hosts Eric Schwaab, Director of NOAA Fisheries**
- **Olympia Oyster Training Opportunity for MRC Members**

## IN THE NEWS

### Spring into our New Web Site and Newsletter

As you can see, our newsletter and web site have a new look! Hopefully you'll like the design, and find it easy to navigate the site. Our online location at [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org) hasn't changed, but if you have bookmarks or links to other pages on our old site, please be sure to update them.

### Commission Opens Peninsula Office



The doors are open at the Commission's new office on the Olympic Peninsula! We are housed in the Northwest Maritime Center, on the Port Townsend waterfront at Point Hudson. This facility is quickly gaining recognition for its contribution to the city's landscape, providing public shoreline access, spectacular views, and a home to maritime programs for all ages and interests. We look forward to joining forces wherever possible, the organizations share a commitment to protecting Puget Sound's rich marine heritage and natural resources. Desk and meeting space

is now available to anyone working on an MRC project. Caroline Gibson, the Commission's Marine Program Manager, will staff the office and travel as needed for work with MRCs throughout the region.

### Former MRC Member Receives NOAA Medal

Dr. Alan Mearns, a retired charter member of the Snohomish County MRC, has been awarded a 2009 Distinguished Career Bronze Medal by Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator. Mearns joined NOAA in 1980 as an Ecologist for the Puget Sound Marine Ecosystem Assessment Program, where he conducted the first synoptic evaluation of Puget Sound health. A NOAA

press release issued earlier this month states that "His tireless zeal for science, his infectious enthusiasm for studying the marine environment, and his commitment to serving both his country and the public has garnered him numerous plaudits from the many groups he serves outside of NOAA." Congratulations Alan, the MRC and the Commission are proud to continue our partnership with you!

### **Olympia Oyster Found in Drayton Harbor**



On April 29, 2010 Geoff Menzies found a lone Olympia oyster in Drayton Harbor. Other Olympia oyster shells were in the area, indicating a larger population at one time. The [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#) has been working with local volunteers to try to find native oysters in Drayton Harbor, an area known to have historically supported them. This bodes well for future restoration efforts there. If you're interested in learning how to identify Olympia oysters on local beaches, check out the bulletin board below for information on an upcoming training.

### **Update on Puget Sound Rockfish**



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife published a [draft Puget Sound rockfish conservation plan](#) and is taking comments on it until May 21. The Northwest Straits Commission will comment on this and is participating on the rockfish advisory committee. Many Puget Sound rockfish species are in serious decline and three Puget Sound populations (canary, bocaccio and yelloweye) were recently listed under the endangered species act by NOAA. [Here's a link to our comment letter.](#)

## **MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS**

### **Member Spotlight: Steve Revella, San Juan MRC**

A lifelong fisherman, Steve Revella had to learn a whole new way to fish when he settled in the San Juans ten years ago. Familiar with lakes and rivers, saltwater fishing was a new experience. Now he's a member of the Puget Sound Anglers and the San Juan MRC, to which he was recently elected chair.

Born in California, Steve has spent a lifetime traveling the world – first as a child in a military family and then as a management consultant working with international companies. Although he's recently retired, he still spends time in Asia when he can and travels to visit grandchildren in Arizona. He and his wife agreed that the top criterion for a place to settle in retirement was that it be near the water – after just a few days visiting the islands they purchased a lot and were ready to build.

Listening and collaborating are skills Steve has needed for his participation on the MRC, and he's particularly impressed with their work to inform and respond to NOAA's proposed vessel rule to protect killer whales. (See the [MRC's recommendations](#))

While on the MRC, Steve has also worked with fishermen to gain support for a ban on fishing for rockfish, and worked with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to hold a series of seminars about the state's crab fishery that led to increased understanding on both sides.

What keeps Steve energized are the people involved. While politicians may sometimes be disgruntled with so much citizen involvement, he knows that the work of the MRC is relevant and the issues important to the future of the marine ecosystem.

### **A Warm Welcome to New MRC Members**

The Northwest Straits Initiative welcomes new members to MRCs in four counties. We appreciate your commitment to volunteering!

**Clallam:** Paul Blake taught in the Port Angeles School District for 25 years and wrote the 5th grade marine science curriculum. He remains active in shore-side and seagoing teaching efforts, and helped develop the Beach Survey Protocols for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

**Island:** Tim Lawrence, the new director of the WSU Island County Extension Office, is the MRC's county lead and a bee expert whose previous work has included managing the University of California (UC) Extension Center for Water and Land Use, and coordinating the UC Sea Grant program.

**Whatcom:** Bill Knutzen, a fourth generation dairy farmer and Whatcom County Council representative, co-owns and operates Communication 2000, a telecommunications firm. He enjoys fishing and is a strong advocate for the local agricultural community.

**Snohomish:** Tom Carter, a Veterans Conservation Corps Intern to the Snohomish MRC and Surface Water Management staff, is a former Navy and commercial pilot. Tom has embarked on a second career and is studying for a master's degree at the UW Evans School of Public Affairs.

### **MRC Reports**

[Click here](#) to read MRC reports to the Commission for April.

## **NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Passing the Gavel**

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, and Lenny Corin, US Fish and Wildlife Service (ret.), were recently elected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Northwest Straits Commission. We know that



these thoughtful, inspiring and tremendously knowledgeable individuals will provide excellent leadership and direction over the coming year.

An original member of the Commission, serving since 1999 as the governor's tribal appointee, Terry Williams holds nearly three decades experience as Fisheries and Natural Resources Commissioner for the Tulalip Tribes. He advises a wide range of regional, national, and international committees and delegations on issues around indigenous peoples and the environment. Lenny Corin is Island County MRC's representative to the Commission, bringing 30 years diverse experience in natural resources management, much of it in Alaska. An avid birder and all-around outdoorsman, Lenny also serves on the board of Whidbey Camano Land Trust.

### **Farewell to Jonathan White**

Jonathan White finished his term as Chair of the Northwest Straits Commission in April. It is an absolute joy to work with Jonathan. He brought many skills and a great deal of passion to this job. Jonathan has a tremendous sense of community which he subtly carried into every meeting, allowing us to enjoy our work and each other while getting a lot done. We are a stronger organization as a result of his role as Chair this past year (and we have lots of good stories to tell also). Thank you Jonathan!

### **Commission Meeting Minutes**

[Click here](#) to see a DRAFT of the April Commission meeting minutes.

## **NORTHWEST STRAITS FOUNDATION NEWS**

### **Program Assistant Sought**

The Northwest Straits Foundation needs a capable person to assist with special projects and office work as part of a team of people helping to achieve conservation and restoration work in our marine waters. Typical duties will be diverse and will include coordination of ongoing and new projects, including public education and outreach, updating website text, helping with grant proposals, and general office administrative support. Computer skills and communication skills (written and oral) are of primary importance. Experience with education and outreach preferred. Master's degree with four years of office experience desired. Must have demonstrated ability to work both independently and as part of a team. Approximately 20 hours a week, \$20-30/hour, depends on experience, morning hours preferred. Bellingham location. For the full job posting, visit [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org).

### **Foundation hosts Eric Schwaab, Director of NOAA Fisheries**



To mark Earth Day, the R/V Surveyor II welcomed aboard Eric Schwaab, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, for observation of our NOAA-funded, Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project. Also on board were Jen Steger, NOAA Northwest Restoration Supervisor; Sheila Babb, Senator Murray's office, Chris Townsend, Puget Sound Partnership, Ginny Broadhurst, Northwest Straits Commission Director and a camera man from KOMO TV. A net hauled up near Bainbridge Island contained

cormorant bones. To date the project has removed approximately 51% of the anticipated nets and is on schedule.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Olympia Oyster Training Opportunity for MRC Members – Free!**

Calling all interested MRC members and other volunteers! Training will be provided for anyone interested in conducting Olympia oyster presence/absence surveys in the Northwest Straits. Join experts from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center, and learn how to identify Olympia oysters, potential habitat, and likely locations of remnant populations. Registration is required. [Click here for more information.](#)

### **COMPASS Communications Workshops**



The work of MRCs is important, yet telling stories about that work can be challenging. In response to great feedback following the 2009 annual MRC conference, the Commission asked Liz Neeley, Assistant Director of Ocean Science Outreach with [COMPASS](#), to lead communications workshops tailored to the needs of MRCs in Friday Harbor, Sequim and Mount Vernon. About forty people participated, representing all seven MRCs. Using proven techniques and real-life

scenarios, Liz explained how to develop meaningful messages about pressing issues and then get them across to local and state policymakers and the media. The workshops were rewarding and fun, and if you would like to see the materials, contact Sasha Horst. We encourage you to talk to the members of your MRC who attended, and help shine the spotlight on all your good work!

### **Save the Date!**

The 12th Annual Marine Resources Committee Conference will be held on November 5-6, 2010 at Rosario Resort on beautiful Orcas Island. Mark your calendar - this is an event you won't want to miss.

### **Cantwell's Coast Guard Authorization Bill Passes the Senate**

On May 7 the Senate unanimously passed legislation crafted by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to authorize programs and funding for the U.S. Coast Guard, including provisions she authored to strengthen protections against oil spills. [Read More...](#)

## EVENTS

**May 20, 2010** - [20,000 Gigabits Under the Sea: Next-Generation Ocean Science at your Fingertips](#). Grays Harbor County. Contact [Katrina Hoffman](#) for more information.

**May 19-20, 2010** - Coastal Training Program - Conducting a Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update at the [Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). Registration is required. [Click here](#) for more information.

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy*. [Click here for more information.](#)

# June 2010

## In this issue:

- **Skagit Volunteers Learn Oceanographic Sampling Techniques**
- **Plastics Summit Draws a Crowd**
- **Habitat Advocates Unite**
- **New Position Opening Soon**
- **Member Spotlight: Bob Cecile, Whatcom MRC**
- **Crab Management in Washington State**
- **Dungeness Crab Mortality Due to Derelict Pots**
- **Welcome Tracie Johannessen**
- **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Outreach**

## News Items

### Skagit Volunteers Learn Oceanographic Sampling Techniques



This month, Dr. Paul Dinnel, Skagit MRC and faculty member at Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center, led a full day of hands-on marine sampling aboard the R/V Zoea, using a variety of nets, mechanical grabs, and even a remotely operated vehicle which relayed brilliant underwater footage of sea pens and other fauna to the surface. Commission staff member Caroline Gibson joined the happy group of nine MRC and Washington State University Beach Watcher volunteers last week for the first of two gear training cruises in Burrows Bay and Bellingham Channel. The group collected and gently released an array of creatures including colorful nudibranchs, sculpins, cod and other fishes, urchins, jellyfish, marine worms, sea stars, and at least five species of crab and shrimp.

Dr. Dinnel also described the basic geology of nearby bluffs and beaches and their relevance to shoreline development issues, including the impacts of hard armoring on forage fish spawning habitat. Ivar Dolph, a fellow MRC member on board, pointed out hot spots for pigeon guillemots, which he has surveyed three consecutive years as they return to pair up and nest in ancient cliffside burrows. This trip proved that getting out in the sunshine is the best way to learn!

### Plastics Summit Draws a Crowd

A dynamic group of over 70 field volunteers gathered at Fort Worden in May for the [\*Citizen Science Summit on Plastic Pollution in the Salish Sea\*](#), hosted by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission. Since 2008, these and other committed citizen scientists around the region have sampled beach sediments at 15 sites to study tiny fragments of plastic (known as microplastics) in the sand. Early results of the Center's



project provide shocking numbers – an estimated six metric tons of microplastics, plus 3.4 tons of glass, cigarette butts and other debris, have washed up on Puget Sound beaches. Dr. Joel Baker, an expert on chemical pollutants at the University of Washington/Tacoma,

served as the event's keynote speaker. For more information on the summit and the microplastics project, contact Jen Kingfisher at [jkingfisher@ptmsc.org](mailto:jkingfisher@ptmsc.org).

### **Habitat Advocates Unite**

Caroline Gibson recently traveled to Portland, Oregon to participate in a meeting hosted by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, to discuss the need for national recognition of a West Coast coalition of marine fish habitat advocates. This collaborative of state and federal natural resources agencies, tribes, fishing groups, organizations such as the Northwest Straits Commission, and others committed to habitat conservation, would operate under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan ([www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)) with the intent to develop a plan for protecting marine fish habitat. An interim steering committee has formed to secure status as a regional Fish Habitat Partnership.

### **New Position Opening Soon**

The Northwest Straits Commission will post an opening for an additional Marine Program Manager position early next month. The announcement and position description will be posted on the Northwest Straits web site home page at [www.nwstraits.org](http://www.nwstraits.org). Stay tuned and spread the word!

### **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

#### **Member Spotlight: Bob Cecile, Whatcom MRC**

As with our MRC volunteer highlighted last month, Bob Cecile's upbringing was punctuated by the relocations of a military family. He spent a lot of time in Ohio though, long enough to attend Ohio State University and earn a degree in engineering. He launched his career in Ohio as well, working as an elected civil engineer and as a volunteer member of the community's solid waste committee.

Bob was drawn to the northwest by the mountains and the water, and he takes advantage of both. A cross-country skier and avid boater, Bob takes his boats out whenever he has a chance,

heading to some of his favorite locations in neighboring San Juan County, such as Prevost and Stuart islands, and up into British Columbia waters.

Coming from a family dedicated to community service, Bob sought a way to get involved locally and found a good fit with the Whatcom MRC. Since joining the group in 2003, he has been impressed by how much knowledge is around the table, and has discovered that it is a great way to learn about marine issues. He appreciates being part of an effort to improve the marine environment.

Bob also represents the Whatcom MRC on the Northwest Straits Commission, having previously served as an alternate. From there he found that he's able to get a better view of what the other MRCs are working on. His hope is that the combined efforts of the Northwest Straits Commission, the seven Marine Resources Committees and other organizations can collectively create a huge success story for the Salish Sea.

## **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Crab Management in Washington State**

Rich Childers, Shellfish Manager with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, recently gave a presentation on the management of Puget Sound's Dungeness crab fishery. This is one of the most complex fisheries in the world to manage, involving 17 tribes and three natural resource agencies. This year the state will assess a \$10.00 penalty for failure to report crab catch, in an effort to more accurately estimate the recreational harvest. Rich reported that the crab fishery is sustainable, and currently all marine areas except for South Hood Canal have the highest catches on record.

[Click here for a pdf of Rich's presentation.](#)

### **Dungeness Crab Mortality Due to Derelict Pots**



Jeff June, Natural Resources Consultants, is the derelict fishing gear removal field manager for the Northwest Straits Foundation. Jeff presented results from the recent study of Dungeness crab mortality from derelict pots supported by the Stillaguamish Tribe and Northwest Straits Foundation.

Jeff reported that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that 12,193 crab pots are lost each year in Puget Sound. Each lost crab pot without escape cord kills approximately 30 crabs each year until deterioration. Jeff provided several ways to prevent crab pot loss:

- Don't fish in marine transit zones
- Weight your pots so they don't move in high currents



- Make sure line is long enough for the depth you are fishing
- Use multiple floats in high current areas
- Don't set pots too close together
- Always use escape cord – 120 thread count is regulation but a better rule of thumb is to use 1/8 inch diameter cord.
- [Report lost pots](#)

A recent change in regulation allows enforcement agents to ticket crabbers for transporting illegal pots on marine waters, instead of only ticketing for actively fishing illegal pots. Jeff explained that there are some areas of concentrated accumulation of crab pots that will be targeted for this enforcement.

[Click here for a pdf copy of the presentation.](#)

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**

### **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Outreach**



The month of May was a big outreach month for the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Program. We had a booth at the Northwest Dive Expo in Tacoma and a display at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. Both events reached hundreds of people. Different team members also presented information to a number of different organizations and audiences: Tom Cowan presented at an ESA Day event to staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Jeff June presented to the Puget Sound Anglers and the Kitsap Poggie Club; and Ginny

Broadhurst presented to the national meeting of chairs of NOAA Sanctuary Advisory Councils. These presentations help keep the problem of derelict fishing gear in the public eye, ensuring continued work on prevention and removals.

Our removal efforts also continued this month. We have removed 1,750 nets since the start of the stimulus-funded project and are 58% complete, which is right on schedule for the December project completion date.

### **Welcome Tracie Johannessen**

Tracie Johannessen has joined the Northwest Straits Foundation as its first official employee. Formerly the education director for North Cascades Institute, Tracie brings extensive knowledge about education and outreach as well as the needs and workings of non-profit organizations. As the Foundation's Programs Assistant, she will coordinate some specific projects as well as provide much needed support throughout different Foundation programs. "I'm really happy to be here," Tracie said. "And I'm looking forward to helping the Foundation thrive."

### **Bulletin Board**

## State of Washington Marine Spatial Planning Survey

Washington state recently adopted a new law on marine spatial planning and is seeking comments through an online survey. The results of this survey will assist state agencies in evaluating and developing recommendations for the legislative report. The survey questions should take about 10 minutes to complete and will be open until June 22, 2010. [Click here to take the survey.](#)

## Events/Articles

### Recent Articles:

Seattle Women Magazine - "[Kathy Fletcher and People For Puget Sound](#)".

USA Today - "[Crews fish out lost nets to save trapped wildlife](#)".

### Events:

**August 12, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Padilla Bay Research Reserve](#), 7:00pm.

**August 24, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Everett Performing Arts Center](#), 7:00pm.

**September 21-22 or 23-24, 2010** - Coastal Training Program, "Public Issues and Conflict Management" class. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**November 5-6, 2010** – MRC Conference, Rosario Resort. *The Salish Sea: Past, Present, Future.*

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy*. [Click here for more information.](#)

## July 2010

### In this issue

#### Island Marine Resources Committee Project Tour

- Washington State Response to Gulf Oil Disaster

- **Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation**
- **Job Opening for Restoration Manager**
- **Benchmark Account Projects Funded**
- **First Annual Camoceans Day**
- **Member Spotlight: Andrew Shogren, Clallam MRC**
- **Commission Meeting Highlights: Shoreline Issues in San Juan County; No Sand Lance Left Behind: An Historical Review of Puget Sound Data**
- **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Update**
- **Request for Qualifications: Deepwater Derelict Fishing Gear Program**
- **Educational Workshop on Ocean Acidification**

## Featured Projects

### A Three Hour Tour, Here on Whidbey Island



A recent tour of Island County MRC projects aboard the coastal cruiser M/V Indigo provided a terrific opportunity for MRC and WSU Beach Watcher volunteers and project partners to get a good look at their work along the local coastline. Thanks to support from the [Puget Sound Partnership](#) and [Service Education Adventures \(SEA\)](#), a group of 20 people climbed aboard at the Coupeville wharf for a fun and informative day of presentations and conversation in the sunshine. Rex Porter, MRC Executive Director and tour organizer,

did a great job of emceeing and entertaining while allowing ample time for people to relax and ponder the beauty of Penn Cove and Skagit Bay. Caroline Gibson, Commission staff, joined the cruise to answer questions about the Northwest Straits Initiative and learn more about the many projects underway in the area, including eelgrass, forage fish, and water quality monitoring, shoreline restoration at Cornet Bay and Ala Spit, and pigeon guillemot breeding surveys. One of many points of interest was a cave high above the waters of Deception Pass, home to the Townsend's big-eared bat, which is a species at risk in this region. Any MRC interested in arranging a similar trip can contact SEA for details.

### Beneath the Salish Sea: An Underwater Odyssey through Puget Sound

Join marine biologist and cinematographer [Florian Graner](#) on an underwater odyssey through Puget Sound. Using noiseless and bubble-free re-breather technology for filming, this view of the underwater world is as close as you can get to experiencing the life of a fish! Co-sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission and local Marine Resources Committees, screenings will be held on [August 12 at Padilla Bay](#), [August 24 at the Everett Performing Arts Center](#) and [September 22 at the Pickford Cinema](#).

## News Items

## **Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriation**

Today, U.S. Senator Patty Murray, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced that she included \$1.8 million for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2011 Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill that was approved today by the Appropriations Committee. [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

## **Job Opening**

The Northwest Straits Commission currently has an opening for a Restoration Manager. This position will work with the Commission to develop and implement regional restoration projects, help with the development of restoration projects to be carried out by citizen-based Marine Resources Committees, and will serve as the lead in improving accessibility to the organization's natural resource data. This is a full-time position with the Department of Ecology that is housed at Padilla Bay Reserve in Mount Vernon. To read the full position description, go to [careers.wa.gov](http://careers.wa.gov) and view posting.

## **WA State Response to Gulf Oil Disaster**

The state of Washington has demonstrated strong support for Gulf Coast communities during the national environmental emergency resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. Many MRC members and other coastal citizens have voiced concern about ensuring that adequate preparedness and prevention measures are in place should an oil spill occur here in the Puget Sound region. Information on how the state is responding is now available [online through the Department of Ecology.](#)

## **First Annual Camoceans Day**



Island MRC member Hi Bronson and WSU Beach Watcher Tom “Mr. Crabby” Perry teamed up to host one of several educational booths at the recent Camoceans World Oceans Day Festival at Cama Beach State Park. Hi and Tom provided free escape cord and information about how to avoid losing crab pots to visitors at their booth. Held on one of the few sunny days this June, the festival drew a big crowd for the youth activities and guest speakers, all with the backdrop of beautiful Cama Beach.

## **2010 Benchmark Account**

The Commission is pleased to announce grant awards for three projects with 2010 Benchmark Account funding:

Jefferson MRC will receive \$100,000 for the Maynard Beach Restoration Project, to complete the design and permitting for a project to restore 1,800 feet of shoreline, including removal of 1,100 feet of shoreline armoring and restoration of two acres of upper beach habitat, .85 acres of riparian buffer, creation of a pocket estuary, and removal of a creosote railway trestle.

The Snohomish and Island MRCs will receive a total of \$90,000 for several workshops and other key elements of a collaborative effort to establish a Marine Stewardship Area in Port Susan Bay. A Conservation Action Plan now being developed will ultimately provide a framework for ecosystem recovery and create a more coordinated recovery effort in the Port Susan Bay area, and includes a citizen science component that will engage local residents.

Skagit MRC will receive \$30,000 to support the expansion of a citizen science program to fill data gaps about invasive Spartina infestation in Clallam and Jefferson counties. Working with trained volunteer kayakers, the project will identify and survey priority shorelines and share that data with Spartina controllers at the state, local and tribal levels.

## **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

### **Member Spotlight: Andrew Shogren, Clallam MRC**



Andrew Shogren knows that the skies over Sequim are sunnier than other areas of western Washington, which is why he and his family chose this location after a decade in sunny San Diego. Born and raised in the Shoreline area of north Seattle, he stayed close to home and earned a law degree at the University of Washington before moving south to California.

After returning to Washington, Andrew joined the MRC at the request of one of the Clallam County Commissioners. Having a keen interest in the environment, and shorelines in particular, the MRC has been a great fit and an outstanding opportunity to learn. Andrew's now in his second year as chair of the group, a role he is

happy to serve in. He understands the importance of hearing all sides of an issue, and finds his facilitation skills useful to keep discussions moving forward.

Some of the successes he has seen include work with the local Feiro Marine Life Center, where the MRC has been able to leverage support to get local kids learning about the beach; and the MRC's involvement in the Elwha Nearshore Consortium, which is working to understand and promote nearshore restoration associated with the upcoming Elwha dam removals.

Life is good in Sequim, where Andrew "dabbles" in politics and focuses much of his time on his family, while raising farm animals such as chickens, sheep and goats. The high energy beaches and open water of the Clallam shorelines create a much different environment than the more protected inland areas of the Northwest Straits. Nevertheless Andrew enjoys spending time along the water's edge, and even ventures out sailing some weekends.



## **Northwest Straits Commission Happenings**



### **June Commission Meeting**

The minutes from the June 2010 meeting are available [online](#). Highlights included a welcome from Representative Kelli Linville, and an overview of an upcoming bill on coastal and marine spatial planning by Senator Kevin Ranker.

### **Shoreline Issues in San Juan County**

Tina Whitman of FRIENDS of the San Juans presented a project in which they inventoried all shoreline modifications in San Juan County, to identify and prioritize nearshore restoration projects and inform local policy. [Click here to view a copy of the presentation](#).

Kyle Loring, the organization's environmental attorney, followed with a recent case study demonstrating that existing shoreline protections do not necessarily prevent the deterioration of shoreline habitat. [Click here to view the full presentation](#).

### **No Sand Lance Left Behind: An Historical Review of Puget Sound Data**

Jamey Selleck, Commission staff, presented the results of a review of all available historical data on Pacific sand lance. The data compiled for this project span from March, 1970 through October, 2009 and include 15,166 records from at least 1,432 sites. Suzanne Shull, the GIS specialist at Padilla Bay Reserve, worked with Jamey to create county and regional maps depicting the presence/absence of sand lance, and sampling effort around Puget Sound. [Click here for the presentation](#), or contact Caroline Gibson if your MRC is interested in a presentation at your meeting.

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**

### **Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project Update**

June 30 marks the end of another quarter in the project funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. This quarter the project employed about 30 people in full and part time positions, or the equivalent of 15 full-time positions. Fewer jobs were created this quarter because a couple of our gear removal vessels took some time away from the project. Our database update is complete, so little work is required from our Information Technology consultants. The federal government is tracking this information closely to assess the employment value of habitat restoration. Our project is still ahead of schedule – with six months to go, we have already removed 1,776 nets.

### **Foundation Seeks Assistance with Deepwater Derelict Fishing Gear Program Development**



The Foundation has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for assistance in developing a deepwater derelict fishing gear program. We seek firms with experience in deepwater technology, and in derelict gear or other marine debris removal protocols. The RFQ will be open until August 3. [Click here to download a copy of the RFQ.](#)

## **Bulletin Board**

### **Educational Workshop on Ocean Acidification**

October 7, 2010. Educational Workshop on Ocean Acidification. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend. 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Co-sponsors: Northwest Straits Commission, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, WSU Beach Watchers, and the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. Contact [Caroline Gibson](#) for more information.

### **Good News for Puget Sound**

A new bill in support for the collective efforts to clean up Puget Sound has been approved by the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, and will next move to the Senate floor. The Puget Sound Recovery Act, which would establish a federal grant program for this region, is sponsored by Senator Maria Cantwell and co-sponsored by Senator Patty Murray. David Dicks, Northwest Straits Commissioner and Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, stated that “We are on the path to move from the kids’ table to the big table with the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay in terms of the federal government’s commitment to our national treasure - Puget Sound.” [Click here to view the full press release.](#)

### **Coastal Training Program of Washington Classes**

The [Coastal Training Program](#) is offering classes on “*Public Issues and Conflict Management*” to be held on September 21-22 and September 23-24 at Padilla Bay. The Northwest Straits Commission will cover registration costs for MRC members and staff to attend these trainings. Please check space availability and contact Connie Price if you’d like to take advantage of this opportunity.

## **Events**

**July 27-30, 2010** - The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program workshops. [Click here for more information.](#)

**August 4, 2010** - Birch Bay Special Event - Shoreline Ecology Evening Event. 7:30pm-8:30pm at Birch Bay State Park. [Click here for more information.](#)

**August 12, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Padilla Bay Research Reserve](#), 7:00pm.

**August 24, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Everett Performing Arts Center](#), 7:00pm.

**September 18, 2010** – International Coastal Cleanup Day, [Read more...](#)

**September 22, 2010** – “[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)” screening at the [Pickford Cinema](#), 6:00pm.

**September 21-22 or 23-24, 2010** - Coastal Training Program, “*Public Issues and Conflict Management*” class. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**November 5-6, 2010** – 12th annual MRC Conference, Rosario Resort. The conference theme is *The Salish Sea: Past, Present, Future*.

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy*. [Click here for more information.](#)

# August 2010

## In this issue:

- **Snohomish County Crabber Outreach**
- **Beneath the Salish Sea**
- **Skagit MRC Olympia Oyster Restoration**
- **Protecting a Puget Sound Gem – Port Gamble Bay**
- **Member Spotlight: Sarah Haynes, Island MRC**
- **From Picnic to Conference Table**
- **Commission Highlights**
- **Fall Fundraiser Derelict Gear T-shirt Sale**



## Featured Project/Program

### Snohomish County Crabber Outreach



Shortly after the Snohomish MRC was established in 1999, public input led the group to focus its efforts on four key topics, including Dungeness crab. The MRC developed a stewardship plan to give crabbers, and anyone who is interested, an opportunity to participate in ensuring continued health of the resource.

This summer the MRC has directed its outreach to local crabbers, in an effort to reduce the number of lost crab pots. Equipped with a handout depicting navigational hazards and recommendations on ways to prevent lost pots, MRC and WSU Beach Watcher volunteers went out to boat launches and marinas when the crabbing season opened in July. The MRC hopes to see a

reduction in the re-accumulation of crab pots in the area as a result of this project.

### Beneath the Salish Sea

The Northwest Straits Commission and the Skagit MRC co-sponsored a screening of *Beneath the Salish Sea* last week at Padilla Bay Reserve. Seventy-five people arrived to see this stunning, high-definition film of the underwater world in Puget Sound.

Cinematographer and producer Florian Graner holds a Ph.D. in marine biology with a specialization in marine mammals. Using noiseless and bubble-free re-breather technology for filming, it is an extraordinary view of local sea life, including showy nudibranchs, shy octopus, curious seals, ancient ratfish and many others.

“With all the negative attention about the state of the Sound, people easily resign themselves to thinking that nothing can be done anymore,” he said. “That idea is both wrong and dangerous. There are beautiful and functioning ecosystems in our inland waters. I hope this footage will help people reconnect with them.”

Sponsoring this series is a way for the Northwest Straits Initiative to promote that positive message. At each screening a member of the local MRC will be on hand to introduce people to our work and explain how to get involved.

If you missed it at Padilla Bay, don't despair! The film will screen at the Everett Performing Arts Center on August 24 and at the Pickford Cinema in Bellingham on September 22.

### **Skagit MRC Olympia Oyster Restoration**



Skagit MRC finished up their summer sampling of Olympia oysters in Fidalgo Bay this month. Their restoration work has resulted in successful spawning of these oysters, which have settled on Pacific oyster cultch the MRC placed in the bay.

*Right: Ivar Dolph, Chris Brown and Paul Pratt checking up on the Olympia oysters.*

### **Protecting a Puget Sound Gem – Port Gamble Bay**



A new campaign to protect and restore Port Gamble Bay was the subject of an August 12 meeting convened by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. Caroline Gibson joined more than 30 representatives of local and regional organizations for presentations, discussion, and a walk to the lovely Point Julia beach. Located near the mouth of Hood Canal, the bay has a long history of pollution and degradation, most notably from the sawmill which operated at Port Gamble for nearly 150 years. Despite the toxic chemicals and woody debris in these

waters, the Tribe has managed to sustain its harvest of salmon and shellfish.

Planning is underway by private developers, through the North Kitsap Legacy Project, to build a marina, along with a 1,000-acre housing development. With these changes to the Port Gamble community now under consideration, much is at stake. There are concerns about possible ecological and cultural impacts.

The Tribe is seeking support from Puget Sound-area agencies and organizations for a variety of restoration and protection efforts. For information contact Paul McCollum, Director of Natural Resources, [paulm@pgst.nsn.us](mailto:paulm@pgst.nsn.us).

### **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

## Member Spotlight: Sarah Haynes, Island MRC



It's clear within the first few minutes of meeting Island MRC member Sarah Haynes that she is not from around here. Her Texas roots are evident in the accent she carries, even though she relocated almost 25 years ago to escape the Dallas heat. A cooler climate and top-notch medical school were the key criteria, and Seattle, with the UW Medical Center, qualified.

Until moving to Camano Island a few years ago, Sarah had always lived closer to mountains than the water. But that hasn't prevented her from considering marine waters a part of the ecosystem she lives in; in her mind, the connections are clear and inseparable. The small horse farm she keeps is far from Puget Sound, but she has gone to great lengths to be sure it doesn't impact that system.

As one of Island MRC's newest members, Sarah's interest in climate change led her from a local class to a connection with the MRC through a colleague. With the diverse background and perspectives that each member brings, she has found a niche for herself among them. She's inspired by the intelligence around the table, the ability to work together despite sometimes competing interests, and the camaraderie of the group.

Not every MRC has a nuclear physicist among its ranks, so Sarah brings a unique combination of skills to the group. As a scientist trained to view things from a planetary to a micro scale, her approach to marine issues begins with rigorous inquiry. Translating that thought process can be challenging, but with her experience as an international lecturer and trainer on cutting-edge radiology technology, she's found ways to use analogies and examples to great effect.

Sarah has jumped in with both feet (and her white lab coat) on projects for the Island MRC, such as the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area and Cornet Bay Restoration, and has already identified issues and projects for future work. To the benefit of the MRC and the Northwest Straits, she's not afraid to look at the potential for new technology to help us solve the problems we face in the marine environment.

## From Picnic to Conference Table



The Clallam and Jefferson MRCs joined forces this month for a summer barbeque and meeting at Cape George Colony on the shore of Discovery Bay. A great turnout of 23 people included members of both MRCs and the Cape George community. Guest speakers Jamey Selleck and Kyle Murphy presented, respectively, a regional review of historic Pacific sand lance data, and the status of the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve proposal. [Click here to see the Department of Natural Resources Web page.](#)

The aquatic reserve has been at the forefront of discussions by both the MRCs. Protection Island abuts both counties, and is a federally-managed wildlife refuge. Research has shown that the island is home to one of the largest nesting colonies of Rhinoceros Auklets in the contiguous United States, among other ecologically-significant factors.

Other items of interest at this joint meeting included an update on the Strait Oil Spill Task Force, which is seeking MRC representation and pending screenings of [Voices of the Strait](#), a short new documentary by filmmaker and Jefferson MRC member Al Bergstein. The MRCs will continue to explore ways to partner on projects and events of common interest.

## **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program**

Jon Neel, Senior Policy Analyst with the Department of Ecology's Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program, presented to the Commission. Jon highlighted key differences between Washington's inland and coastal waters and those of the Gulf Coast: the water is colder in Puget Sound, oil transported here is heavier, tidal changes are more dramatic (up to 20' feet), and a spill would not be 'offshore'. This means that in the event of a spill in this area, oil would spread much more quickly and be close to shore. Many members of Washington's spill response team are in the Gulf Coast region for training purposes. Jon noted that the agency intends to improve the spill program, for example by establishing a 'vessel of opportunity' program in collaboration with local fishermen. [Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)

### **Farewell to Jamey Selleck**



The Commission said farewell and thanked Jamey for his excellent work to gather, compile, and analyze 40 years' worth of Puget Sound Pacific sand lance data. This project, in concert with new deepwater research in San Juan Channel and more than a decade of spawning survey work by the MRCs, form the basis of our new Forage Fish Program. GIS maps, published papers and other supporting information will soon be available on our Web site.

### **Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area**

Kathleen Herrmann and Sarah Haynes gave a presentation on the Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area (MSA), which was recently awarded funding through the 2010 Benchmark Account. The grant will support stakeholder workshops and citizen science that are part of the Conservation Action Planning process to protect Port Susan Bay. Kathleen also shared results of the Port Susan Science Workshop held last January. [Click here to see a copy of the presentation.](#)

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**





## Fall Fundraiser Derelict Gear T-shirt Sale starts August 19!

Support the Derelict Gear Removal Project by purchasing a T-shirt with Ray Troll's contemporary 'No Net Loss' design. By wearing one of these, you'll be helping to increase awareness of the problem and the solution. Our unisex T-shirts look good on everyone. We also have lightweight, trim-cut T-shirts and fitted lightweight zip hoodies for women. Add a girls' V-neck or youth-size crew neck T-shirt to your child's back-to-school wardrobe. Stock and sizes are limited so order early for best selection. [Click here](#) for order forms, apparel

specifications and photos. Orders will be accepted through September 19.

## Bulletin Board

### Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project

On August 24, the US Fish and Wildlife Service will hold a briefing to learn more about the [Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project \(PSNERP\)](#). This large-scale restoration effort assessed opportunities to protect and restore nearshore ecosystem processes and selected a subset of projects to begin designing. [Click here](#) for details regarding the agenda. Contact [Jair Reitsma](#) to RSVP and for more information.

## Events/Articles

**August 24, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Everett Performing Arts Center](#), 7:00 pm.

**August 24, 25, and 26, 2010** – "[Voices of the Strait](#)" documentary. [Click here for times and locations](#).

**September 10-12, 2010** – 34th Annual Wooden Boat Festival, Port Townsend. [Click here for more information](#).

**September 25, 2010** – International Coastal Cleanup Day. [Read more...](#)

**September 22, 2010** - "[Beneath the Salish Sea](#)" screening at the [Pickford Cinema](#) in Bellingham at 7:00 pm.

**September 21-22 or 23-24, 2010** - Coastal Training Program, "Public Issues and Conflict Management" class. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

**October 7, 2010** – *Educational Workshop on Ocean Acidification*, [Northwest Maritime Center](#), Port Townsend, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, WSU Beach Watchers, and Port Townsend Marine Science Center. Contact [Caroline Gibson](#) for information.

**November 5-6, 2010** – MRC Conference, Rosario Resort. *The Salish Sea: Past, Present, and Future*.

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration: *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy*. [Click here for more information](#).

## Recently Uploaded to the Bibliography

**Clallam MRC** - [Student Intern Program; Long Term Monitoring of the Strait of Juan De Fuca](#)

**Island MRC** - [Penn Cove Marine Water Quality Status and Improvement Opportunities](#)

**Jefferson MRC** - [Mystery Bay Harbor Management Plan - Draft Implementation Report](#)

**San Juan MRC** - [San Juan County MRC Recommendations for Managing Derelict Vessels in San Juan County](#)

**Skagit MRC** - [Deception Pass to Skagit River Delta Geomorphic Assessment & Drift Cell Restoration Prioritization](#)

**Snohomish MRC** - [Kayak Point County Park Restoration Pre-Restoration Monitoring](#)

**Whatcom MRC** - [2009 Clam Survey Technical Report](#)

You can search for more project reports from the Marine Resource Committees and Northwest Straits on our online bibliography. [Click here to go to the bibliography page.](#)

# September 2010

## In this issue:

- **Jefferson MRC Gets Annual Publicity Boost**
- **Register Now for the 12th Annual MRC Conference**
- **Member Spotlight: Lincoln Loehr, Snohomish MRC**
- **Wet Weather? No Problem for MRC Members!**
- **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**
- **Derelict Fishing Gear Surveys Complete in High Priority Areas**
- **Request for Proposals for Marine and Nearshore Habitat Restoration**
- **An Evening With Ray Troll**
- **Marine Spatial Planning in Washington: Comment Sessions**
- **Upcoming Events**

## News

### Jefferson MRC Gets Annual Publicity Boost



Each September, the Jefferson MRC welcomes the boating community with a great booth at the Port Townsend Wooden Boat Festival. This month the 34th annual festival set records for the number of boats, vendors and volunteers. More than 30,000 people attended. The stunning new Northwest Maritime Center, which houses the Northwest Straits Commission's Olympic Peninsula office, was the center of activity for the event's nautical workshops, lectures, films and more.

Kudos to Jefferson MRC staffer Gabrielle LaRoche for creating an eye-catching display and orchestrating MRC participation at the booth. Members rotated duty throughout the weekend, even garnering a hand from Snohomish MRC staffer Kathleen Herrmann. Kathleen reports having a "fabulous time talking to so many people, and learning about really cool projects like eelgrass protection." One new attraction was the video on the MRC's Mystery Bay project, in which Jefferson MRC's involvement in local boat mooring-shellfish harvest negotiations has helped form the basis for a management plan to keep shellfish beds open to harvest.

### Register Now for the 12th Annual MRC Conference

Registration is open to MRC members and invited guests for this year's conference on November 5-6, 2010 at the Rosario Conference Center. The theme is *The Salish Sea: Past, Present and Future*, with keynote address by Dr. Randy Olson, filmmaker and scientist. Our agenda includes work sessions, panel discussions, and presentations such as *An Investigative Journey Across Time*, *Washington Tribal Treaty Rights*, *Fueling the Food Web*, and *Forecast for the Salish Sea*. [Click here to see conference information online](#). For those of you who would like

to take advantage of the beautiful island location the Orcas Suites Hotel has extended the group rate of \$90 per night for Saturday evening. If you have questions about this event please contact Connie at 360-428-1064 or [price@nwstraits.org](mailto:price@nwstraits.org).

## **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

### **Member Spotlight: Lincoln Loehr, Snohomish MRC**

A conversation with Lincoln Loehr of the Snohomish MRC is like a personalized history lesson on Puget Sound wastewater treatment – a fascinating glimpse at how we ended up where we are today. Though he was raised in the Los Angeles area, Lincoln knew from an early age that he wanted to study oceanography, and trained at the University of Washington.



After spending time in the Navy working on submarines, he returned to this area just after the passing of the federal Clean Water Act in the 1970's. He commissioned many of the studies that were used to apply for waivers from secondary treatment of wastewater. Implementation of the Act became a messy process, and along the way Lincoln learned a lot about focusing efforts to gain the biggest bang for the buck. He's able to maintain a sense of humor about it, writing "regulatory satire" in his spare time.

Lincoln has found an important niche working in a law firm as an environmental compliance analyst, and he regularly reviews and comments on state agency regulatory documents related to water quality. He served on the first Science Advisory Panel to assess the impact of cruise ship wastewater in Alaska, along with former Snohomish MRC member Alan Mearns of NOAA. When Alan completed his term on the MRC, Lincoln was appointed to fill the seat, maintaining an important scientific support role in the group.

Lincoln's mind is constantly collecting, questioning, and analyzing - studying trends in the Mussel Watch program water quality data, even counting and identifying birds on his daily train commute.

An enthusiastic kayaker and photographer, Lincoln has developed a keen interest in photographing birds. He's also passionate about not spending funds frivolously to solve 'non-problems', and maintains a high level of skepticism until he's convinced by supporting data. He's heartened by the work that the MRC does, and believes it has the structural integrity to remain a durable institution over time.

## Wet Weather? No Problem for MRC Members!



Despite the cool evening rain, a hearty group of 19 people turned out for the annual Snohomish-Island County joint MRC picnic, held at Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. Mayor Joe Marine welcomed everyone on behalf of the City of Mukilteo, and Patricia Love, City Planner, delivered opening remarks. Love led a tour of the recent upgrades to the park, including a backshore berm along the beach, integration of a bioswale near the parking lot for stormwater filtration, pervious pavers and recycled sidewalk materials, and artwork by members of the Tulalip Tribes.

MRC members and guests gathered under shelter for a delicious potluck of Northwest dishes, followed by presentations showcasing projects in both counties. Frances Wood and Phyllis Kind, having just returned from the *1st World Seabird Conference* in Victoria, B.C., described annual surveys of pigeon guillemot breeding colonies on Whidbey Island. This summer's work included documentation of food deliveries – mainly sculpins and gunnels – by adult birds to the chicks in their burrows.

Andrea Hennings, who completed her AmeriCorps assignment with the Snohomish MRC this month, distributed a colorful handout on ways to prevent the loss of crab pots and talked about the efforts by Snohomish MRC and WSU Beach Watchers to reach out to recreational fishermen in the area. Wrapping up the wonderful late summer evening, Kathleen Herrmann gave heartfelt and humorous thanks to Andrea for her service to the MRC, and presented her with a gift basket and plaque in appreciation.

## Northwest Straits Commission Highlights

### Al Bergstein's 'Voices of the Strait'

[Al Bergstein](#) is a filmmaker, musician, and Jefferson MRC member. He participates in the Puget Sound Partnership's ECO Net and hosts the popular blog [Olympic Peninsula Environmental News](#). Last winter he secured ECO Net funds to produce a short film called *Voices of the Strait*, made to document the knowledge and experiences of people who lived and survived by using the natural resources in the area. The film is now available online at Vimeo.com, [Click here to watch](#) (16-minute run time). A second film called *The Scuba View*, filmed by Port Angeles High School graduate Cameron Little, is available on YouTube.com. [Click here to watch](#) (6-minute run time). Al will participate in the upcoming [MRC conference](#), providing musical entertainment and help with a session on the use of video in education.



## Cornet Bay Restoration Project



Sarah Schmidt, a contractor for Island County MRC, reported on the status of ongoing efforts to restore Cornet Bay. Cornet Bay provides refuge from the high energy of the Deception Pass corridor for juvenile salmon and other marine life. Its shoreline and eelgrass beds are ideal habitat for sand lance and other forage fish. Island MRC is partnering with Washington State Parks to restore sediment transport and other ecosystem functions at Cornet Bay, while making the beach more accessible to the public. [Click here to see the presentation.](#)

## Kiket Island – Kukutali Preserve

The Kiket Island-Kukutali Preserve was recently designated as a state park. It is the only park that is co-owned and jointly operated by the state and a tribe in Washington. Commissioner Charlie O’Hara represents the Swinomish tribe on the six-member board (which includes three representatives from the tribe and three from the state) that will develop the policies to manage the island. At this time entry to the park is limited, due to the lack of funding and a permanent management plan. [Click here read the Seattle Times article online.](#)

## Northwest Straits Foundation News

### Derelict Fishing Gear Surveys Complete in High Priority Areas



The Derelict Fishing Net Removal Project field operations team has perfected a new survey technique using 330-kilohertz sidescan sonar. Crayton Fenn, owner and operator of Fenn Enterprises and the Surveyor II project survey and removal vessel, worked with Marine Sonic Technology Ltd. to adapt their sonar equipment to the needs of this project. The new technique allows us to ‘see’ throughout the water column, from the surface down to 105’ and 100 meters on either side of the survey vessel. It can cover twenty miles of shoreline a day, increasing our ability to survey wide stretches of shoreline for nets. This is a huge improvement over our previous survey technique, which used drop cameras followed by diver verification.

The sonar is capable of pinpointing not only obstructions likely to snag nets but, often, shadows of the nets themselves. The image to the left was produced with the newly-developed sidescan method (click on image to enlarge). Divers verify whether the suspected nets are really nets: usually they are. The new survey method has resulted in identification of more than 500 nets to date.



While this development is a huge boon for derelict gear removal, it is also a great advance for other marine technology uses. The new method was recently featured in Sea Technology magazine (August edition).

The ARRA project is still ahead of schedule. We have removed 2,039 nets since we started in July 2009. We have about nine more days of surveys to complete. That will cover the 40 miles of shoreline never surveyed as well as allow us to resurvey some areas with the new sidescan method. We have three and a half months to go.

### **An Evening With Ray Troll**



Alaskan artist [Ray Troll](#) has been cranking out fishy T-shirts for nearly three decades, gaining him a widespread audience among fisher folks, scientists, and fellow paleo-ichthyo-freaks around the globe. His latest book, *Something Fishy This Way Comes*, gathers the cream of the crop, along with a few outtakes, preliminary sketches, and rarities. [Join us on November 10 at 6:30 pm at the Northwest Maritime Center](#) to hear Ray talk about the twists and turns of his quirky career and share background tidbits on many of his best-known designs along with a few that never got off the drawing board. Ray will autograph books (available for purchase) after the presentation. A suggested donation of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 will benefit the Derelict Fishing Gear

Removal Program. Cash and checks only.

### **Request for Proposals for Marine and Nearshore Habitat Restoration in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays**

As part of the Skagit Restoration Initiative, the Northwest Straits Foundation and the Skagit MRC are seeking proposals for projects that will benefit marine and/or nearshore habitats and species in Fidalgo and Padilla Bays. The proposal deadline is October 30, 2010. Awards will be announced January 31, 2011. [Click here to view the proposal.](#)

### **Bulletin Board**

#### **Ocean Acidification - Free Evening Seminar Locally Hosted by MRCs**

Please join the Northwest Straits Commission and co-sponsors on October 7, 6:00 PM at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend to learn from leading scientific experts about ocean acidification and potential impacts to marine resources in Washington state. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP is requested. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### **Marine Spatial Planning in Washington: Comment Sessions**

This is your opportunity to provide comments on Washington's framework for marine spatial planning. The State Ocean Caucus, an interagency team chaired by the Governor's office, has

developed a draft report and recommendations. The public comment period is open until October 5. State agency representatives will be on hand at these sessions to explain the draft report and listen to your feedback. [Click here for a list of time and locations](#). [Click here](#) to download the draft framework report from Washington's Department of Ecology website.

## Events and Workshops

**September 30, 2010** - Whatcom MRC presents "[\*Top 10 Principles for Designing a Healthy Ecosystem Like the Salish Sea\*](#)" by Joe Gaydos, SeaDoc Society, 5:30 pm at the Port of Bellingham Commission Chambers, 1801 Roeder Ave., Bellingham. Contact Melissa Roberts for more information at (360) 676-6876 ext. 50259. [Click here for more events offered by the Whatcom MRC](#).

**October 5 - 6, 2010** - Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention (P2) Regional Roundtable - "*Emerging Trends in Climate Change and Toxics Reduction: Tools for Business and Industry*" Clearwater Casino, Poulsbo, WA. [Click here for more information](#).

**October 7, 2010** - Evening Seminar on Ocean Acidification. Northwest Maritime Center, Port Townsend, from 6:00pm -8:00pm. [Click here for more information](#).

**October 9, 2010** - WSU Watershed Day. Port Hadlock, WSU Jefferson County Extension. 9:00am -12:00pm. Registration required. [Click here for more information](#).

**October 9, 2010** – COASST Training on Marine Bird Data Collection, Port Angeles, 9:30am – 3:30pm. [Click here for more information](#).

**October 23, 2010** – COASST Training on Marine Bird Data Collection, Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10:00am – 4:00pm. [Click here for more information](#).

**November 5-6, 2010** – [12th Annual MRC Conference](#). *The Salish Sea: Past, Present, Future*.

**November 10, 2010** - Derelict Fishing Gear fundraiser with Alaskan artist Ray Troll, Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend at 6:30pm. [Click here for more information](#).

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy*. [Click here for more information](#).

# October 2010

## In this issue:

- **Ocean Acidification Seminar Draws a Crowd**
- **Weaverling Spit Restoration Project**
- **Forage Fish Program Launched**
- **Pigeon Guillemots Featured at 1st World Seabird Conference**
- **Kathy Fletcher to Retire in 2011**
- **Snohomish MRC Welcomes New Program Assistant**
- **Clallam MRC Gets Kids Kissing Clams!**
- **Member Spotlight: Connie Thoman, Skagit MRC**
- **Commission Highlights: Oil Spill Preparedness in Puget Sound, Deepwater Pacific Sand Lance Research, Puget Sound Partnership Update and Marine Spatial Planning**
- **Derelict Gear Removal Project Ahead of Schedule and Winding Down**
- **Committee Happenings**
- **12th Annual MRC Conference - The Salish Sea: Past Present and Future**
- **A Fish-Filled Evening with Ray Troll**
- **Events**

## News

### **Ocean Acidification Seminar Draws a Crowd**

The Northwest Straits Commission co-sponsored a highly-successful seminar on ocean acidification on October 7 in Port Townsend. Locally hosted by Jefferson, Clallam, and Island MRCs, the free event drew 140 people from as far as Forks, Bellingham, and Olympia. Guests included county commissioners, staff with coastal tribes and natural resources agencies, and volunteers with the MRCs, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, and WSU Beach Watchers. Invited speakers Terrie Klinger and Jan Newton joined Brad Warren of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership to present thought-provoking and well-prepared information on current scientific research and policy efforts.

. A key take-home message from Dr. Terrie Klinger was that “change in ocean chemistry is certain; biological responses are uncertain.” [Click here for more information about ocean acidification and to view materials from the seminar](#). There is clearly widespread interest in issues relating to climate and ocean change. The Northwest Straits Commission will hold another ocean acidification seminar at Padilla Bay sometime this winter. Thank you to co-sponsoring organizations, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and WSU Beach Watchers, for supporting this event.

### **Weaverling Spit Restoration Project**



Christine Woodward, natural resources director for the Samish Indian Nation, reported on the results of a bank stabilization project funded in part by the Northwest Straits Commission in 2009. Now that the project has been complete for one year, shoreline plantings have been installed and are being maintained by local residents.

In addition to protecting an important archeological site, forage fish were immediately attracted to the newly-restored shoreline. Over the next several years, the native plantings will grow to provide shade for forage fish spawning. The Samish Nation is now looking ahead to another nearby shoreline restoration project.

### **Forage Fish Program Launched**

The Commission recently launched a Forage Fish Program to support gathering new information on the role these species play in the Salish Sea ecosystem. A program page is now online, along with a bibliography of relevant reports. [Click here to view the page.](#)

### **Pigeon Guillemots Featured at 1st World Seabird Conference**



Phyllis Kind and Frances Wood attended the conference and presented a poster on the guillemot breeding survey that Island MRC and Whidbey Audubon have conducted on Whidbey Island for the last seven years. The conference had participants from 40 countries and reports of seabird studies throughout the world.

[Click here](#) to view the poster presented on Pigeon Guillemots.

### **Kathy Fletcher to Retire in 2011**

People For Puget Sound's founder and executive director Kathy Fletcher announced that she will retire in 2011 when People For Puget Sound celebrates its 20th Anniversary Year. "I am confident that People For Puget Sound will continue to grow and thrive after I leave," said Kathy. "We have experienced, skilled management and staff in place. A new executive director will bring fresh perspectives and new energy, and I am confident that we will continue to increase our strength and influence in the years to come. We must." [Click here to read the job posting for the executive director position.](#)

### **Marine Resources Committee Happenings**

#### **Snohomish MRC Welcomes New Program Assistant**

Please join us in welcoming Emily Whitney as the new Snohomish MRC Program Assistant! Emily is a recent biology graduate from Whitworth University with a focus on marine biology.

She is excited to be involved in the work of the Marine Resources Committee and is looking forward to working with all our project partners.

### **Clallam MRC Gets Kids Kissing Clams!**



Kids got a kick out of learning about geoducks at the Dungeness River Festival on September 24 in Sequim, and many even dared to kiss them! Eight hundred elementary school children from Clallam County visited the Festival, and many of them got to observe geoducks in action, cleaning the water in their tanks. Lessons in the filtering capacities of bivalves and the wonders of the deep were shared by staff and volunteers of the Clallam Marine Resources Committee. The Festival passport asked the question "How long can a geoduck live?" Answer: over 100 years!

### **Member Spotlight: Connie Thoman, Skagit MRC**



Connie Thoman joined the MRC in 2006, representing the Port of Anacortes where she's an environmental administrator. One of the most important messages she carries forward as an industry representative to the MRC is that most industries are interested in protecting and improving the health of Puget Sound. It benefits them to learn the science behind many of the regulations they have to comply with, and Connie has found a satisfying niche in helping the Port do so.

The MRC partnership with the Port of Anacortes has also resulted in a highly-successful project that restored a 300-foot pocket beach, created a low impact development site, installed artwork and interpretive signage, and created a public access point in a manufacturing area of downtown Anacortes.

While Connie enjoys her day job, she is looking forward to retirement someday. Many people do, but she's not interested in the leisure time. She looks forward to putting more of her energy into volunteer work, such as the Skagit MRC.

A local Northwesterner, Connie was raised in Portland, Oregon. Her father's passion for the outdoors resulted in frequent family trips to the forests and beaches of Washington and Oregon. Her studies in college included a lot of science, including a memorable summer studying marine biology at the University of Oregon. One morning after sleeping on the beach, she woke to see orcas just offshore in the waves. Despite a great love for marine biology, she ended up as an environmental planner. The MRC is an opportunity for her to continue learning about the Puget Sound marine ecosystem.

Connie still spends a lot of time near the water – cycling, hiking, walking and birdwatching. She has settled down near one of the most scenic locations in the state, in the Dewey Beach area near Deception Pass State Park.



## **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Oil Spill Preparedness in Puget Sound**

At the September Commission meeting in Friday Harbor, the Commission hosted a discussion of the role of local MRCs in oil spill preparedness and response. Representatives from the Washington Department of Ecology's Spills Program, San Juan County Emergency Management, and the Islands' Oil Spill Association provided information about the work they do and identified productive ways for MRCs to participate. Several potential next steps were identified, including:

- Contact the local Department of Emergency Management in each county for information about local resources.
- Review online [Geographic Response Plans](#) (GRPs) in your area and provide input where possible.
- Facilitate HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard) training and refreshers for interested individuals.

[Click here](#) to read the full summary from the discussion in the Commission's draft September meeting minutes.

### **Deepwater Pacific Sand Lance Habitat Evaluation & Prediction**

Gary Greene and Tina Wyllie-Echeverria presented their work in progress to study sand lance at depths of 100'-300' in the Northwest Straits. Gary described the multibeam bathymetry and other methods being used to predict marine benthic habitats. [Click here for a copy of Gary's presentation.](#)

Tina, in collaboration with Joe Bizzarro, Don Gunderson, Kurt Fresh, Dan Penttila, and Adam Summers, is working on the biological aspects of the Pacific sand lance project. Tina presented some initial findings and outlined the work that is planned in the remaining nine months. Please contact Tina at [tinawe@fidalgo.net](mailto:tinawe@fidalgo.net) if you have questions about the biological research.

### **Puget Sound Partnership Update**

Puget Sound Partnership Director David Dicks highlighted accomplishments of the past two years and outlined future direction of the agency. Now in 'phase two', the Partnership will focus on their most important role: being a valuable and helpful partner. [Click here](#) to read the full version of David's update in the Commission's draft meeting minutes.

### **Marine Spatial Planning**

One of five public comment sessions on Marine Spatial Planning was hosted by the Washington Department of Ecology and The Nature Conservancy immediately following the September Commission meeting in Friday Harbor. A report to the state legislature is now in preparation by the Washington State Coastal Caucus. [Click here](#) for more information about it on the Washington Department of Ecology's web site.



## Northwest Straits Foundation News

### Derelict Gear Removal Project Ahead of Schedule and Winding Down

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project is still ahead of schedule and is winding



down. One of our four removal vessels recently completed all its contracted days, now there are three vessels finishing up the project. We have removed 2,271 nets as of September 30, 2010. There are approximately forty more removal days to complete by the end of

December 31.

A report of jobs created was recently submitted to NOAA for the quarter ending September 30. The project employed about thirty people full- and part-time workers during the 3rd quarter.

The images at right are from a recent net removal around Point Roberts in Whatcom County.

### Committee Happenings

The Northwest Straits Commission's Tribal Committee met at Padilla Bay on September 30. Representatives from Lummi Nation, Swinomish Tribe, Tulalip Tribes and the Samish Indian Nation discussed currently funded tribal fund projects and ideas for new projects. The committee heard an update on the Samish Tribe's shoreline restoration project done last year through this funding source. Ginny Broadhurst and Tom Cowan provided an update on the derelict fishing gear removal project and discussed outreach to tribes on the project. We welcome anyone to participate in these meetings. Please let Sasha know if you are interested in being involved with the tribal committee.

### Bulletin Board

#### 12th Annual MRC Conference - The Salish Sea: Past Present and Future

The 12th annual MRC Conference will be held on November 5-6 at Rosario Conference Center on Orcas Island. An impressive turnout of more than 100 MRC members, speakers and invited guests will participate. [Click here to see the agenda and more information about this event.](#)

#### Ray Troll - Something Fishy This Way Comes

Alaskan artist [Ray Troll](#) has been cranking out fishy T-shirts for nearly three decades, gaining him a widespread audience among fisher folks, scientists, and fellow paleo-ichthyo-freaks around the globe. His latest book gathers the cream of the crop, along with a few outtakes, preliminary sketches, and rarities. [Join us on November 10](#) at the Northwest Maritime Center to

hear Ray talk about the twists and turns of his quirky career and share background tidbits on many of his best-known designs, along with a few that never got off the drawing board.

## **Events**

**November 13-17, 2010** - Restore America's Estuaries 5th national conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. The conference theme is Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice and Policy. [Click here for more information.](#)

**December 10, 2010** - Northwest Straits Commission meeting at Padilla Bay Reserve. Agenda coming soon.

# November 2010

## In this issue:

- **Fabulous Keynote Speakers Advise Us About Communicating Our Work and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs at the MRC Conference**
- **Ray Troll Book Signing Event**
- **Northwest Straits in the Gulf of Mexico**
- **Foundation News: Cornet Bay Funding and Seeking Funding for Derelict Net Removal**
- **Puget Sound Partnership Update**
- **Events and Recent Articles**

## In the News

### **Fabulous Keynote Speakers Advise Us About Communicating Our Work and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs at the MRC Conference**



Senator Kevin Ranker and [Olson](#). Both touched on translating the significance of matter to the public and Ranker reminded us of grim but also conveyed the hopeful and environmental restoration are needed. It's all about the importance of clean water economy. Thanks to all of our time to be with us. And thanks to everyone who attended and made it another great conference. The updated [conference webpage](#) has copies of most of the presentations and a photo gallery from the event.

The 2010 MRC Conference at Rosario was a huge success. We had excellent representation from all seven MRCs despite the fog having grounded a few additional people from Clallam and Jefferson counties who were trying their best to get to Orcas. Festivities began with fresh Kumamoto oysters and live swing music – how could it not be fun?

According to survey results from attendees, the most popular talks were, not surprisingly, our excellent keynote speakers – [filmmaker/author Randy](#) communicating and our work into things that decision makers. Senator budget decisions ahead prospect that conservation can mean jobs. And jobs telling the full story from to what that means for our speakers for taking the



We also provided a limited number of complimentary copies of the December 2009 special issue of Oceanography Magazine (Vol. 22, No. 4) on The Future of Ocean Biogeochemistry in a High-

CO2 World to MRCs. This issue includes a DVD of the film *A Sea Change*. The magazine is [available online as pdf](#) or you can [purchase a copy with the DVD](#).

[Click here to see a slideshow of this year's event.](#)



### Ray Troll Book Signing Event

[Alaskan artist Ray Troll](#) has been cranking out fishy T-shirts for nearly three decades, gaining him a widespread audience among fisher folks, scientists, and fellow paleo-ichthyo-freaks around the globe. He wrapped up his latest book tour with an event in Port Townsend to benefit the derelict fishing gear removal project. A crowd of nearly 200 people, some sporting Troll t-shirts from decades past, came to hear Ray talk about his career and get a glimpse of some designs that never made it to print. If you couldn't make it, never fear - *Something Fishy This Way Comes* can be [purchased online](#) and we have a few signed copies left that we'll bring to our December 10 Commission

meeting. Ray plans to return in 2011 and we'll partner on something else.

### Northwest Straits in the Gulf of Mexico

Ginny Broadhurst and Caroline Gibson joined well over 1,000 habitat restoration experts from around the country last week in Galveston, Texas, for the *5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration*. Hosted by [Restore America's Estuaries](#), this huge gathering showcased a range of coastal restoration efforts during 80 sessions and 400 presentations under the theme *Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy*. Ginny gave a great presentation on the Derelict Gear Program, and the extraordinary boost to restore hundreds of acres of seafloor habitat in Puget Sound through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.



The conference spawned plenty of vibrant discussion around two major events of environmental import this year: the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and the Executive Order to restore and protect ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. With Puget Sound at the forefront of national restoration discussions, there were many familiar faces from Washington state, among them Doug Myers, Keeley O'Connell (Snohomish MRC), Rachel Benbrook and seven fellow staff members from People For Puget Sound; Andrea MacLennan, Coastal Geologic Services; Curtis

Tanner, PSNERP; and Ginger Phalen, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Christine Woodward from the Samish Tribe presented the shoreline restoration project at Fidalgo Island, partially funded by the Northwest Straits Commission. And a well-deserved celebration was the order of the evening (pool-side!) following presentation of the first Restore America's Estuaries Lifetime Achievement Award to Kathy Fletcher.



Of many messages that really resonated with conference-goers, perhaps none was clearer than the need for all of us to think hard about – and better communicate – the intrinsic links between a healthy natural environment and a strong economy. The benefits of local conservation and restoration projects, informed elected officials, and a cadre of dedicated volunteers, were subject of much praise and discussion. Go MRCs!

## **Northwest Straits Foundation News**



### **Funding received for Cornet Bay Beach Restoration**

The Foundation received \$268,000 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding to support the [Island MRC's](#) Cornet Bay Beach Restoration Project. This project will restore 800 linear feet of shoreline and 1.1 acres of beach at the day use area of Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park. Creosoted bulkhead and fill stretching the length of the shoreline will be removed. The beach will be re-graded to match the natural contour and significant riparian planting will be installed. This work will restore the natural beach structure and enhance forage fish spawning habitat. The project is being implemented in partnership with State Parks' upland renovation work and represents the largest nearshore restoration project supported by the Foundation.

### **Foundation seeking funding to continue removing derelict nets**

The [Northwest Straits Foundation](#) is actively soliciting more funding to keep the derelict net removal project moving forward after stimulus funding is expended at the end of December. We estimate there will still be over 1,000 derelict nets in Puget Sound after December and we are determined to raise much-needed non-federal dollars to match anticipated government grants. Donate to the project at [www.derelictgear.org](http://www.derelictgear.org) or send a check to the Northwest Straits Foundation at 10441 Bayview Edison Rd, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

## **Bulletin Board**

### **Puget Sound Partnership Update**

David Dicks is stepping down as Executive Director of the [Puget Sound Partnership](#), and in December will take on a new position as Director of Strategic Partnerships and Civic Engagement at the University of Washington's College of the Environment. We are grateful for David's commitment to Puget Sound and the vision and guidance that he provided during his time at the Partnership. Governor Gregoire appointed David to the Puget Sound Partnership's



Leadership Council. Many congratulations to David on his accomplishments, we wish him all the best with the new post.

### **WCGA Regional Ocean Partnership Funding Program Proposal Concepts Webinar on TU November 30 3-4:30 pm**

The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health is hosting a webinar at 3:00pm on November 30, 2010, to summarize the input received to date on the NOAA Regional Ocean Partnership Federal Funding Opportunity (ROPFP) to implement the Marine Spatial Planning process. [Reserve your Webinar seat now](#). The webinar will be posted and available for viewing on the [WCGA website](#) shortly after it concludes. Public comment on the information presented in the webinar and any additional comments relative to the West Coast response to the ROPFP will be received through close of business December 3, 2010. A copy of the proposal will be [posted online](#).

### **Events and Recent Articles**

#### **Events**

**December 3, 2010** - [Starlight Beach Walk](#), 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park.

**December 4, 2010** - [Whatcom MRC Volunteer Work Party](#), Smuggler's Slough 9:00am-noon.

**December 10, 2010** – Northwest Straits Commission meeting, 10:00am-3:00pm at Padilla Bay Reserve. [Click here to see a copy of the agenda](#).

**December 18, 2010** - *Puget Sound 101 and Challenges for its Restoration*, presented by Doug Myers from the Puget Sound Partnership at the Feiro Marine Life Center in Port Angeles at 6:30pm.

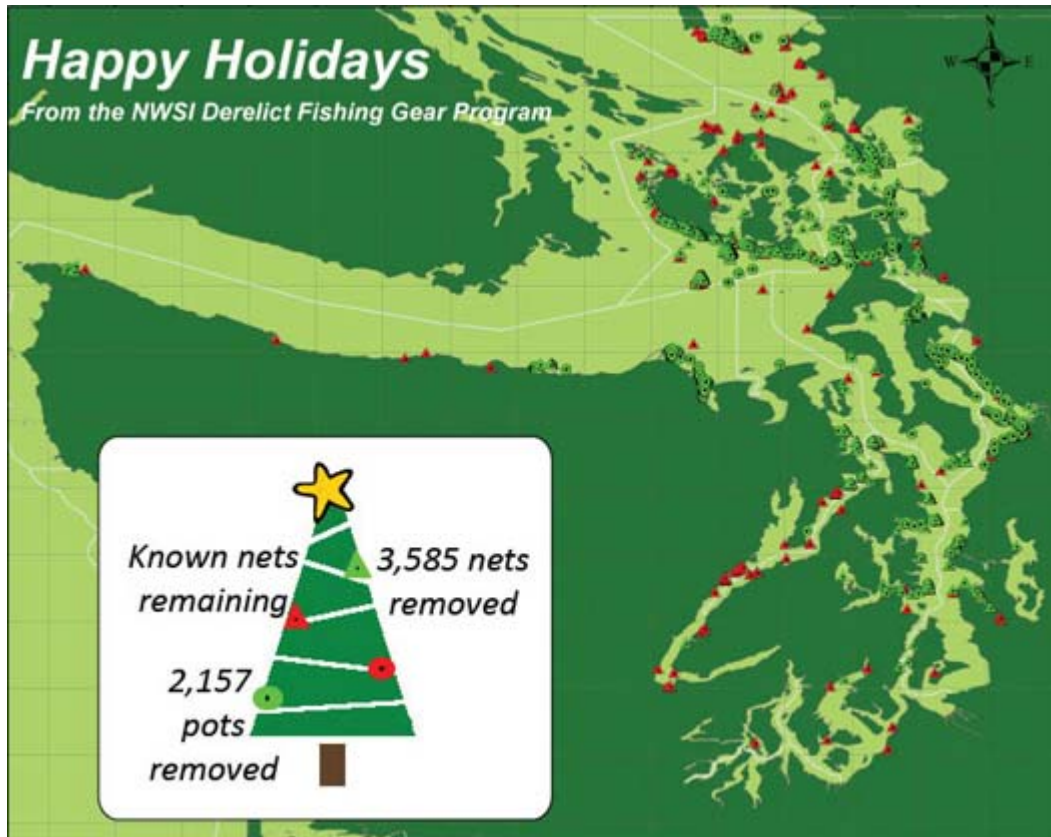
#### **Articles**

[EPA Divers Help in Recovery of Abandoned Gear in Puget Sound](#)

[2011: It's not environment vs. jobs, but rather environment = jobs, says activist/politician](#)



## December 2010



In this issue:

- **Modeling a Carbon Budget**
- **Curtis Tanner on PSNERP**
- **Scott McCreery, Moving On**
- **Creosote Removal Update from Lisa Kaufman**
- **Foundation Launches Campaign to Raise Funds for Derelict Gear Removal**
- **Funding Received for Derelict Crab Pot Removal**
- **Congratulations Jan Holmes, 2010 Cox Conserves Hero!**
- **MRC Request for Proposals**
- **Island MRC Planting Day for Phytoremediation Project**
- **Greetings and a Fond Farewell to Wonderful MRC Volunteers**
- **Articles and Events**

### Happy Holidays!

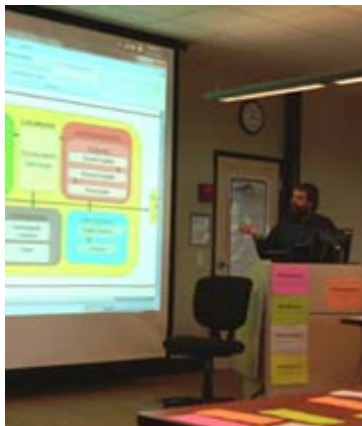
From all of us here at the Northwest Straits Initiative, we wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to working with you in the new year!



*Ginny, Caroline, Connie, Joan, Sasha and Tracie*

## **In the News**

### **Modeling a Carbon Budget**



On Dec 13-14, the Tulalip Tribes and Earth Economics held a workshop on modeling a carbon budget for the Snohomish Basin. Sponsored by the Northwest Straits Commission, Snohomish Carbonfinity brought together mathematical modelers and carbon cycle experts from a variety of agencies, Tulalip Tribes, and Snohomish County. Addressing widespread concern about the overabundance of carbon in the atmosphere, speaker Justus Stewart of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability stated, “You can’t manage what you don’t measure”. Project partners aim to develop an integrated model - to include all existing models for the Snohomish Basin - that informs management decisions such as flood control. The model would be used to value the carbon sequestration ability of different land types and natural processes.

This is truly ground-breaking work, and we look forward to learning more as it proceeds.

Photo (left): Roelof Boumans leading the group through a modeling exercise

## **Northwest Straits Commission Highlights**

### **Curtis Tanner on PSNERP**

Curtis Tanner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, briefed the Commission on the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP). Curtis described the site selection process for the ongoing General Investigation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the 2011 schedule, and the creation of a [nearshore restoration project database](#).

Caroline Gibson represents the Northwest Straits Commission on the PSNERP Steering Committee. She explained that the 26 candidate restoration sites presented by Curtis result from a cluster analysis of more than 200 projects in the database – including those sponsored by

MRCs - that are the best fit for Army Corps support. Contact Jenna Norman, database manager, at [jenna.norman@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jenna.norman@dfw.wa.gov) for assistance adding or editing your project. For questions about PSNERP contact Curtis at [curtis.tanner@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:curtis.tanner@dfw.wa.gov). [Click here to see a copy of Curtis's presentation.](#)

### **Scott McCreery, Moving On**



Scott was one of the first members appointed to the Whatcom Marine Resources Committee. He served on the MRC for seven years, bringing a wealth of knowledge from both a scientific and business perspective. He served on the Commission, first as an alternate and then for four years as a gubernatorial appointee. Scott has always provided both the serious and the fun. He rarely missed a meeting or a retreat, and is always ready to share his passion for good food, wine, and friendship. He is committed to the mission of Northwest Straits Initiative and served as Chair of the Commission in 2007/8. Ginny Broadhurst laments, “I will sorely miss him and our carpool conversations that ranged from oil spills and advocacy to last

meals and best restaurants.”

### **Creosote Removal Update from Lisa Kaufman**

Lisa Kaufman of the Department of Natural Resources presented a summary of the creosote removal projects around Puget Sound. Lisa noted that a pending report from the Department of Ecology on pH levels in Puget Sound includes new information on the impacts of creosote. [Click here to see a copy of Lisa's presentation.](#)

### **Northwest Straits Foundation Update**

#### **Foundation Launches Campaign to Raise Funds for Derelict Gear Removal**

The Northwest Straits Foundation launched a Campaign for Matching Funds for the Derelict Gear Removal Project. We’ve received donations totaling \$9,200 so far toward our year-end goal of \$10,000. The Foundation will continue to solicit funds for derelict gear removal from private individuals, businesses, and foundations through 2011. Our long-term goal is to raise \$200,000 to provide required matching funds for federal and state grants we are applying for. That means every donation will be leveraged many times over.

Thanks to all who have donated so far---your support helps us demonstrate that our regional community values this important project. Donations can be made through the web site at [derelictgear.org](http://derelictgear.org) or mail a check to the Padilla Bay office. Together we can finish the job of ridding Puget Sound of this harmful debris, preventing unnecessary species mortality and allowing habitat recovery. A list of donors can be found on the [derelict gear website](#).

#### **Funding Received for Derelict Crab Pot Removal**

The Foundation received funding from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to remove derelict crab pots from Puget Sound. The funding is from crab endorsement fees that crabbers pay when they obtain their fishing licenses. About seven days of removal work will take place in Port Gardner as a result of this funding.

## **MRC Happenings**

### **Congratulations Jan Holmes, 2010 Cox Conserves Hero!**



Island County WSU Beach Watcher Jan Holmes was recently designated as the 2010 Cox Conserves Hero for Western Washington. The program, created by [Cox Enterprises](#) and [The Trust for Public Land](#), honors heroes among us who work to create, preserve, improve or enhance the shared outdoor places in our communities. Jan's work as a Beach Watcher includes an intertidal monitoring program she helped to establish in 1995, as well as eelgrass research in partnership with the Island County Marine Resources Committee. She was a standout among a long list of nominees, and the honor is well-deserved. Congratulations!

### **MRC Request for Proposals**

The request for proposals for 2011-2013 grants to the Marine Resources Committees has been sent out to chairs and lead staff. Full proposals are due by March 28, 2011. Sasha Horst and Caroline Gibson will meet individually with each MRC in January and February to discuss upcoming projects and the closeout of existing grants. If you're an MRC member, now is a great time to bring forward your ideas for new projects. For additional information on the request for proposals and project criteria, contact [Sasha Horst](#).

### **Island MRC Planting Day for Phytoremediation Project**



Dick Toft of the Island County Marine Resources Committee is shown at right planting trees as part of a pilot project that will use natural vegetation to remove toxic contaminants from stormwater runoff in Coupeville on Whidbey Island. [Read more...](#)

### **Greetings and a Fond Farewell to Wonderful MRC Volunteers**

The Commission would like to extend a big welcome to Peter Haase, newly appointed to the Skagit MRC. Clearly retirement doesn't mean sitting around to Peter who, following a career with Boeing, went to work with the Skagit Conservation Education Alliance. We look forward to getting to know you, Peter!

We regretfully say goodbye to Joth Davis, who has long represented commercial interests on the

Jefferson MRC. But we know this is not really goodbye: Joth assures us he intends to continue work on native oyster restoration, and to participate in the MRC's ongoing project of many years in Discovery Bay. Thank you for lending valuable advice and input over the years Joth, we wish you all the best in your personal and professional ventures.

## **Articles and Events**

### **Uploaded to the Northwest Straits Online Bibliography:**

Clallam MRC - [Quality Assurance Project Plan for Monitoring Stormwater Contaminants in the Shallow Aquifer](#)

Island MRC - [2009 Aerial and Underwater Videography Assessments of Eelgrass in Island County](#)

Jefferson MRC - [Discovery Bay Olympia Oyster Research Project 2010 Field Season Summary Report](#)

San Juan MRC – [Marine Managers' Workshop Summary](#)

Skagit MRC - [WSU Stewardship Report](#)

Snohomish MRC - [Snohomish Crab Hazard Chart](#)

Whatcom MRC - [Creosote Log Removal on the Cherry Point Reach Summary Report](#)

### **Events**

January 29, 2011 - [HAZWOPER Training/Refresher](#), 8:00am-4:00pm at the Guy Cole Convention Center at Carrie Blake Park in Sequim. [Click here for registration information.](#)