



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
January 18, 2002, Captain Whidbey Inn, Coupeville
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Gary Wood, Joe Schmitt, Dennis Willows (alt.), Bill Dietrich, Duane Fagergren, Kent Scudder, Buck Meloy, Kathy Fletcher, Andrea Copping, Terry Williams, Paul Dinnel
Members absent: Kevin Ranker, Mike Stoner, Anne Murphy
Alternates attending: Kirby Johnson, Mike Sato
Resource support: Terry Stevens, Rachelle Hein, Piper McGregor
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Kent Scudder, chair, opened the meeting at 1:08 with a welcome to visitors and introductions. Kathy Fletcher provided copies of proposed legislation regarding MRCs and MPAs.

The minutes from the November 30, 2001 meeting were approved as written.

Roger Sherman and Dick Toft of the Island County MRC welcomed the group and provided an MRC member perspective as well as a brief history of the Penn Cove area.

Duane introduced Margaret Barrette and Michelle Dewey of Washington Department of Natural Resources. The Department is in the process of gathering public input regarding aquatic reserves. This will be followed by programmatic development then site/project specific reviews. They expect to have a draft EIS in the spring of 2002, with a final EIS by summer. The Department welcomes continued comments, and provided contact information for Margaret and Michelle.

The Year Four workplan and budget were reviewed. There was agreement to authorize Tom Cowan and Terry Stevens to make minor adjustments and send to the Administrative/Planning Committee for final approval.

Year Two and Year Three budgets updates were provided by Terry Stevens.

An overview of the Year Three Action Grant status was provided by Tom Cowan. The Technical Committee has reviewed all proposals, with three counties ready for funding, three counties making revisions or clarifications, and one county considering alternative projects. There was consensus to approve Jefferson, Snohomish and Whatcom county proposals. Island, San Juan and Skagit proposals are also approved pending final clarifications and/or revisions.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Duane Fagergren. The A/P committee met to discuss the Project Coordination position RFQ submissions and the Year Four workplan/budget. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**. There was no meeting of the **Fundraising Committee**. **Technical Committee** chair, Andrea Copping, provided an update on the Derelict

Gear project, and mentioned opportunities for partnering with Alaska and Hawaii Sea Grant programs for education and training. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher announced the next meeting of the Education Committee is to be held on February 8 at Padilla Bay.

During public comment, Bill White of the Island County Beach Watchers said he was glad to see research, education and studies that make a difference. Russ DeWolfe, also of the Island Beach Watchers, suggested that the Commission improve publicizing activities and meetings. Patty Cohick, also of the Island Beach Watchers, thanked the Commission and Island County MRC for their work. Kirby Johnson of Snohomish MRC asked if there is a lead agency for marine reserves and suggested writing a letter to the state asking that the Commission be considered a repository for such information. Rachelle Hein from Senator Patty Murray's office introduced herself and mentioned that Senator Murray is in the state now. She also offered to provide letters of support for the Commission or MRCs in grant applications. Piper McGregor from Senator Maria Cantwell's office introduced herself. Senator Cantwell supports the work of the Commission. Jo Van Patten, from the Island Beach Watchers mentioned that she is glad to see volunteers utilized and surprised to hear that the Port of Seattle hasn't been contacted in regards to the derelict gear project.

Kathy Fletcher provided information about a proposed bill regarding Marine Resources Committees in the Puget Sound region. She also requested Commission support on funding for the Neah Bay rescue tug. Tom Cowan was directed to write a letter of support for the rescue tug, and also a letter to endorse the MRC bill if the final wording is not substantially changed from the current version.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** did not hold a December meeting. Their next meeting will be held on January 21. **Island MRC** published new information to www.foragefish.org; will co-sponsor a one-day conference in February; sponsored a class on forage fish and eelgrass on Camano Island; received letters of support from many sources for the forage fish project. **Jefferson MRC** scheduled the last two MPA focus groups for shellfish growers and commercial fishermen in January; assembled Year Two deliverables; held elections for the MRC and NWSC representatives; will hold a planning retreat on January 26; initiated a second monthly meeting for training and outreach discussions. **San Juan MRC** has completed their 2002 workplan; and proposed review of current NWSC action grant administration. **Skagit County MRC** had presentations from the Dept of Natural Resources (Aquatic Reserves) and the US Coast Guard (Vessel safety); submitted a letter to the Fish & Wildlife Commission regarding marine protected areas; prepared a 2002 workplan; submitted a letter of support to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation supporting forage fish inventory funding; held elections for NWSC representatives. **Snohomish MRC** did not hold a meeting in December. The next meeting will be held January 16. **Whatcom MRC** held elections for MRC representatives; created a subcommittee to develop an MRC statement on the transboundary gas pipeline; is co-sponsoring the Drayton Harbor Shellfish Open House scheduled for 1/26 in Blaine, and prepared a new WCMRC brochure.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm. The next meeting will be on February 22 in Skagit County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by February 10.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
February 22, 2002, Port of Skagit County
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Gary Wood, Joe Schmitt, Bill Dietrich, Duane Fagergren, Kent Scudder, Buck Meloy, Kathy Fletcher, Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Kevin Ranker, Mike Stoner, Anne Murphy
Members absent: Terry Williams
Alternates attending: Kirby Johnson, Mike Sato
Support: Doug Dobyns
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Kent Scudder, chair, opened the meeting at 10:10 with introductions and overview of the agenda. Special thanks to Paul Dinnel and the Skagit MRC for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

The minutes of the January 18, 2002 meeting were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Duane Fagergren, discussed the Year 4 Workplan/Budget, Action Grant restructuring, strategic planning retreat and the March Commission meeting. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**. There was no meeting of the **Fundraising Committee**. **Technical Committee** chair, Andrea Copping, provided an update on the Puget Sound Nearshore Habitat Project and a statement to explain the use of science in the Northwest Straits Initiative. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher. The Education Committee met to discuss follow-up opportunities from the October MRC conference, development of new outreach materials and web site improvements.

Tom Cowan introduced Jeff June of Natural Resources Consultants (NRC), the firm selected for project coordination services for the Derelict Gear Removal Project. Jeff June provided an overview of NRC as well as his own experience with project coordination and derelict gear. The scope of work for the coordination of the project was reviewed. Discussion followed regarding database compatibility and ownership, prioritization of removal efforts and outreach efforts. Tom Cowan also provided an update on Senate Bill 6313, regarding derelict gear removal.

During public comment, Mike Sato of People for Puget Sound passed out information regarding the Orca Pass International Marine Stewardship Area and requested that the Commission and individual MRCs endorse the proposal.

The Year Four workplan and budget were discussed, one change recommended by the Administrative/Planning committee regarding the grant cycle start date was approved.

Tom Cowan provided an update on Action Grants. At this time, grants are being processed for four counties, with Island and Skagit County nearly complete and Clallam on track for funding in the near future. Discussion followed regarding the menu of options for the flexible portion of future MRC grants.

Jeff Koenings (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Billy Frank (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission) have been invited to the March Commission meeting. The meeting will be an opportunity to hear what is important to them and to discuss potential partnership opportunities.

Doug Dobyns provided his first report as the tribal liaison to the Commission. He has attended MRC meetings in six counties, as well as additional meetings with six tribes. Contact information is now available for Doug, who is based at the North Sound office of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Tim Smith, Special Assistant to the Director at the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), reported on partnership possibilities for the Derelict Gear Removal Project, the status of the Groundfish Recovery Plan, the status of proposed MPAs and the Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project. Tim gathered questions from Commissioners to take back to WDFW for further follow-up.

John Small of Anchor Environmental presented an overview of the final report and data sets, and reports for each county were distributed. It was noted that they constructed a much simpler model for rockfish due to lack of data, and that different restoration prioritization approaches were taken in each of the other two models. MRCs are encouraged to add local data to these models.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** welcomed tribal liaison Doug Dobyns for their recent meeting, had a presentation by Ed Bowlby of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and started preliminary discussions on MPAs. **Island MRC** reported on their most recent meeting, which included Mary Lou Mills from the Department of Fish and Wildlife discussing the MPA process. **Jefferson MRC** has two new members to the MRC, held a half day long-range planning retreat, continues work on their forage fish inventory, completed the last three focus groups on MPAs and will hold their first meeting on Olympia Oyster reintroduction in February. **San Juan MRC** had a presentation by the Department of Health Recreational Shellfish Program, has surveyed 300+ beaches for forage fish, is developing a strategic plan and program description for the Bottomfish Recovery Program. **Skagit County MRC** held elections for MRC positions, presented a bottomfish program at the Sound Waters workshop, formed a subcommittee to identify habitat restoration projects at March Point and developed a matrix for rating potential Marine Reserve sites. **Snohomish MRC** prepared a MRC Member Handbook, is developing a Long Term Workplan, scheduled outreach presentations about the MRC and developed a schedule for the Crab Stewardship Program. **Whatcom MRC** held elections for MRC positions, formed subcommittees to plan projects, will present to the City and County Councils in March, co-sponsored the Drayton Harbor Shellfish open house in January.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm. The next meeting will be on March 29 in Clallam County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by March 8.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim
March 29, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Buck Meloy, Andrea Copping, Bill Dietrich, Anne Murphy, Duane Fagergren, Kirby Johnson (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Joe Schmitt, Gary Wood
Members absent: Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Paul Dinnel, Kevin Ranker, Mike Stoner
Alternates attending: Rob Erdman
Support: Doug Dobyns
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Duane Fagergren, vice-chair, opened the meeting at 10:05 and introduced Marlene Shaw of the Jamestown S'Klallam tribal council, who welcomed the commission to the Jamestown S'Klallam community center. Mike Doherty, Clallam County Commissioner, thanked the Commission and Clallam MRC for their hard work and provided information about the Discovery Trail project through Jefferson and Clallam counties.

The agenda was reviewed, and time adjustments were made to complete the meeting by 3:00pm.

The minutes of the February 22 meeting in Skagit County were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Duane Fagergren, presented information about potential endorsement of the Orca Pass designation, proposed a list of topics for the April Admin/Planning retreat, discussed a future commission meeting with Billy Frank and Jeff Koenings. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**. The **Fundraising Committee** met to discuss long-term funding tactics, fundraising training opportunities and the possibility of a presentation at lead/chair meeting regarding student intern availability from Friday Harbor Labs. It was noted that the deadline for NOAA-CRP proposals is in April, and discussion followed regarding a possible second year derelict gear removal proposal. **Technical Committee** chair, Andrea Copping, provided an update on the Derelict Gear Removal Project and the status of the contract with the Derelict Gear project coordinator, Jeff June of Natural Resources Consultants. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher discussed new outreach materials being developed, outreach efforts and training workshops for the derelict gear project, an upcoming newsletter and media tour.

Doug Dobyns, tribal liaison for the Commission, gave an update on his progress and approach. In the past month he has met with six tribes and has attended MRC meetings in five counties, as well as a Rocky Reef Conference in Skagit County, the Skagit Watershed Council meeting, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission meeting and an Environmental Policy meeting with tribes. Doug's role is still being defined, and he is proceeding only as directed by the tribes. It was noted that the Derelict Gear bill (SB 6313) is the first legislative recognition of the tribes as co-managers.

Tim Smith from the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) presented responses to questions put forward at the February commission meeting. A meeting has been arranged to identify areas for WDFW participation in the derelict gear removal project, followed by a meeting to discuss WDFW staff availability for the forage fish project. A summary of the Groundfish Recovery Strategy was provided. A presentation by WDFW on the Groundfish Recovery Plan and Marine Protected Area (MPA) process is scheduled for the April commission meeting. WDFW has also offered a presentation on fishery management that would answer many questions on trawl fisheries in north Puget Sound and basin vs. watershed designations. Assessment material on the Sol Duc hatchery is available. A letter with information regarding chinook fishery in Area 6 was provided, and commissioners were encouraged to contact Rich Lincoln for further information about the annual North of Falcon meeting. Priority data gaps identified by WDFW include groundfish population abundance surveys, drift card studies and rockfish aging. A letter of support was requested for the Army Corps of Engineers Nearshore project proposal. Tim also provided a list of upcoming meetings of interest to commissioners. Commissioners urged the Department of Fish and Wildlife to support ongoing ambient monitoring.

During public comment, John Cambalik mentioned two recent meetings: the Pacific Aquaculture Caucus (www.pacaqua.org), and one in Port Townsend on Shoreline Master Program.

Terry Stevens, Terry Williams and Kent Scudder were appointed as the nominating committee for election of commission officers to take place at the April commission meeting.

Direction was given to Tom Cowan to proceed with the Year Three Annual Report in a similar format as previous reports. Additional sections were suggested for non-benchmark MRC achievements and regional benchmark achievements.

The May commission meeting is to be rescheduled. Thursday, May 23 is preferred by most commissioners. Absent commissioners will be polled and the date confirmed in the next week.

Sasha Horst provided an update on recent changes to the commission web site (www.nwstraits.org) and requested suggestions and feedback from commissioners and MRCs.

George Galasso, Assistant Manager of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, gave an overview of current and future projects at the Sanctuary. Current projects include invasive species surveys, kelp surveys and acoustic habitat surveys. Proposed future projects include zooplankton inventory and habitat mapping. The Sanctuary receives direction from the Research Advisory Committee, the Research Working Group and the Marine Conservation Working Group.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** discussed sport salmon fishing in Catch Area 6, had a presentation from the Washington Department of Health on shellfish monitoring, and is working to finalize their action grant proposal. **Island MRC** discussed the Department of Fish & Wildlife MPA process and results, updated on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board process for funding of the forage fish project. **Jefferson MRC** is proceeding on their Olympia Oyster Restoration project, is developing a scope of work for their Habitat Stewardship Program, discussed member conflict of interest. **San Juan MRC** did not provide a report. **Skagit MRC** presented at the Skagit Watershed Council meeting, formed ad hoc committees for current issues/projects, held a bottomfish Marine Reserve workshop to obtain input from technical, agency and tribal experts. **Snohomish MRC** is preparing to meet with the new county council, renewed/revised the MRC bylaws, continued their successful outreach program, is searching for an intern for their Dungeness Crab Stewardship program and is working with Sound Transit on mitigation of eroded culverts. **Whatcom MRC** established subcommittees for current projects, discussed a letter from the Nooksack tribe, discussed the focus of the 2002 Marine Summit, requested bottomfish data from WDFW.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on April 26 in Whatcom County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by April 15.



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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center, Sequim
March 29, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Buck Meloy, Andrea Copping, Bill Dietrich, Anne Murphy, Duane Fagergren, Kirby Johnson (alt.), Kathy Fletcher, Joe Schmitt, Gary Wood
Members absent: Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Paul Dinnel, Kevin Ranker, Mike Stoner
Alternates attending: Rob Erdman
Support: Doug Dobyns
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

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The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm. The next meeting will be on April 26 in Whatcom County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by April 15.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Port of Bellingham Boathouse, Bellingham
April 26, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Paul Dinnel, Mike Stoner, Kevin Ranker, Andrea Copping, Gary Wood, Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Anne Murphy, Buck Meloy, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren, Rob Erdman (alt.)
Members absent: Joe Schmitt
Alternates attending: Kirby Johnson, Mike Sato, Jacques White, Harlan James
Support: Doug Dobyns, Terry Stevens
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Kent Scudder opened the meeting at 10:08 am with introductions and overview of the agenda. He announced that regrettably, Bill Dietrich has resigned from the Commission because he has returned to work for the Seattle Times.

The minutes of the March 29 meeting in Clallam County were approved with the addition of the following sentence in the paragraph describing the presentation/discussion with Tim Smith: "Commissioners urged the Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain funding for the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program."

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Duane Fagergren provided an update from the meeting on April 16 at which Kathy Fletcher presented the request for endorsement of the Orca Pass International Marine Stewardship Area and the agenda for the A/P strategic planning meeting was discussed. A draft work plan for the derelict gear removal project will be ready on Monday, April 29. **Tribal Committee**, chair Terry Williams, introduced Harlan James who has tentatively been identified as an alternate to the Commission. **Fundraising Committee** chair Gary Wood reported on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and their development of a review process for nearshore projects. There was no report from the **Technical Committee**. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher reported progress on the Commission newsletter, which is expected to be complete in early June; the Derelict Gear outreach plan is being developed; a communication workshop is coming up, with a subcommittee meeting on April 29; fact sheets are in progress on Indicator Species and Derelict Gear, which will be available on the web site when complete.

Mike Sato and Jacques White of People for Puget Sound presented information about the Orca Pass Stewardship Program. Information included an outline of the Orca Pass concept, an explanation of the process used to develop boundaries and information about the various partners involved in the project. Discussion followed regarding the types of questions individuals and MRCs have. Mike and Jacques have offered to make presentations at MRC meetings. A resolution supporting the concepts of the Orca Pass Stewardship Area will be considered at the June meeting.

During public comment, Rachele Hein, staff for Patty Murray, noted that there are no expected changes in funding levels for the Commission, but that the funding is proposed to be from the NOAA-Ocean Assessment Program.

Rich Lincoln of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife introduced Greg Bargmann and Mary Lou Mills. Greg Bargmann presented information about the Puget Sound Groundfish Recovery Plan. A draft copy of this plan was provided for Commissioners. The proposed plan is designed to ensure the long-term health of the resource and take a precautionary approach in order to minimize risk of overharvest. The first management plans expected will be for dogfish and Pacific cod. Mary Lou Mills discussed Marine Protected Areas, Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas and the Department's approach in developing these areas. The next probable cycle for proposed MPAs will start in May 2003, with final proposals due in July of the same year. Coordination between WDFW and interested MRCs is needed well before the start of the cycle. The Department is also working on an Eco-regional Conservation Plan.

Tim Smith of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reviewed the list of questions he is working on for the Commission. The Department has offered a presentation on Fisheries Management at a future meeting; Jack Taggart should have a report on data gaps by late summer; the Department would like to request time at a future meeting for a presentation by their Nearshore Science team; the budget for the ambient monitoring program has been resolved with a plan for reduced monitoring rather than none; Tim will provide information regarding MPA development and what information MRCs would need to provide for the next cycle starting in May 2003.

Officers for the Commission were elected for one-year terms. Following the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Duane Fagergren was elected as chair, and Paul Dinnel was elected as vice-chair.

Doug Dobyms, tribal liaison to the Commission, provided a written report. He recently met with Kate Smukler, previously an intern with the Commission, who is now the Indigenous MPA lead at the National MPA Center.

The Commission recessed from 3:15 to 3:28pm in order to conduct business of the Northwest Straits Foundation.

Terry Stevens provided a financial update and noted the deadline for billing on current MRC action grants. Discussion followed regarding completion of action grants and ensuring high quality deliverables.

Buck Meloy provided information about shipping routes into Bellingham Bay and Anacortes, noting several concerns. He recommended that the Commission invite William Devereaux of the Coast Guard to present at a future meeting, and consider touring the vessel traffic facility at the invitation of Jeff Shaw, coordinator of vessels and Whatcom MRC member.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** made progress on the graphics and content of their web site, reported another previously undocumented surf smelt beach; started a volunteer sampling team for PSP along 48 miles of shoreline. **Island MRC** had a presentation on commercial fishing by Buck Meloy; is co-sponsoring the Penn Cove Water Festival May 11 with the theme "Life on the Nearshore"; discussed Forage Fish project staffing with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. **Jefferson MRC** will collect brood stock for reintroduction of Olympia Oysters on May 1; discussed prevention of geoduck poaching; is developing a Request for Proposal for a contractor for their upcoming action grant. **San Juan MRC** participated in a field trip with the Deer Harbor Estuary Assessment Project; has sampled a total of 325 beaches for forage fish; is completing their final report on Bottomfish; requested participation by Orcas residents on the MRC. **Skagit MRC** discussed shellfish closures in Padilla Bay; will hold a public meeting on Marine Reserves on May 9 in Anacortes; will plant Olympia Oysters in Fidalgo Bay on April 29; had a presentation by Aundrea Noffke on Skagit Systems Cooperative's Nearshore Characterization program. **Snohomish MRC** had a presentation by the Pilchuck Audubon Society on osprey nests at the mouth of the Snohomish River; is preparing for a presentation to the County Council on May 7; is planning a MRC workshop. **Whatcom MRC** has started planning for their fall Marine Summit; discussed the MPA benchmark; had a presentation from Greg Bargmann of the Department of Fish and Wildlife on bottomfish; have developed workplans for their current projects.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm. The next meeting will be on May 23 at Tulalip. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by May 8.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
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**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Tulalip Tribal Center, Marysville
May 23, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Paul Dinnel, Kevin Ranker, Andrea Copping, Gary Wood, Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Anne Murphy, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren, Amy Kraham (alt.)
Members absent: Joe Schmitt, Mike Stoner
Alternates attending: Kirby Johnson, Mike Sato
Support: Doug Dobyns
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Duane Fagergren opened the meeting at 10:10 am followed by introductions. Daryl Williams welcomed the group to the Tulalip tribal center.

The minutes of the April 26 meeting in Whatcom County were approved as written. It was noted that Harlan James has now been appointed as the alternate for Terry Williams.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Paul Dinnel reported on the May meeting which included discussions of the design of the MRC grants for the next round, the Northwest Straits Initiative logo policy and a report on the Derelict Gear project, which are all on the agenda for this meeting. A brief discussion of the MEHP grants followed with the recommendation that the commission not apply this year. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher updated the commission on current projects including the first commission newsletter due out in June, rescheduling of communications workshops for the end of June, fact sheets being developed and the commission web site. **Fundraising Committee**, chair, Gary Wood noted that Mike Stoner has agreed to participate in fundraising activities. **Technical Committee**, chair, Andrea Copping updated commissioners on the USGS involvement in the PSNRP process. There was no report of the **Tribal Committee**.

During public comment, Kirby Johnson of Snohomish MRC noted that he and Bruce Higgins recently gave a tour of the underwater park in Edmonds.

Terry Williams introduced and welcomed Billy Frank, chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Jeff Koenings, director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Billy Frank discussed the importance of our natural resources and the co-management process, stressing the need to work together to bring focus to the region and funding for important projects. He also noted that education is an important ongoing process. Jeff Koenings discussed the value of establishing and fostering partnerships. The Department is at the point of developing conservation plans for specific species. He noted the unique skills and abilities of the commission, including access to potential funding for projects that is unavailable to the Department.

The derelict gear project final work plan was distributed, with an overview of the tasks. Tom Cowan updated the commission on progress, including general information about a net cleanup planned in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources. A technical committee is now being formed for development of the protocols, and a meeting to develop the outreach strategy will take place on May 30.

The Year Four Action Grants were discussed, and a memo distributed to MRC representatives regarding the grant structure for future grants. An electronic copy of the memo and draft list will be sent to each MRC, and MRCs are requested to provide feedback and input by July 30.

The Administrative/Planning Strategic Planning retreat was discussed briefly, noting the various future scenarios envisioned by the committee. Due to lack of time, further discussion of this retreat will take place at the June 28 commission meeting.

Tom Cowan provided a draft copy of a logo policy developed by the Administrative/Planning Committee with a request for review and comments from Commissioners before the June 28 meeting. Pending any changes, the policy is expected to be adopted at that meeting.

Doug Dobyns, tribal liaison to the Commission, provided a report of his activities, including participation in an environmental policy meeting, a meeting of the NWIFC and several MRC meetings. A tribal workshop was held on May 14 with participants from several tribes.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** had a presentation on Orca Pass by Kathy Fletcher; have been making progress on their web site; will be featured in a press release from WA Department of Health on their shellfish monitoring efforts. **Island MRC** co-sponsored the Penn Cove Water Festival; had a presentation by Liam Antrim of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; is developing a Shoreline Best Management Practices Manual; continues to work with WDFW on the forage fish project. **Jefferson MRC** had a presentation from the Department of Natural Resources on geoduck management; MRC administration has been moved to the WSU Cooperative Extension area; is doing site selection for their Olympia Oyster reintroduction project. **San Juan MRC** received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for their forage fish project; completed the 2001 Bottomfish Recovery Program Biological Assessment Pre-final report; is discussing the potential of an Executive Director or Coordinator. **Skagit MRC** had a presentation from Greg Bargmann of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on groundfish management; held a public meeting on their Rocky Reef Marine Reserve project seeking fisher/diver input and introducing the derelict gear project; planted about 20,000 oysters in Fidalgo Bay; sent information to property owners about the upcoming Samish Island Rapid Shoreline Inventory. **Snohomish MRC** had a presentation by the Noxious Weed Control Board on spartina; made a presentation to the County Council; has scheduled three Beach Expos for the summer season. **Whatcom MRC** formulated its mission statement and objectives; discussed MPAs and the MRC approach to them; is moving forward with planning for the next Marine Summit.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on June 28 at the Boeing Activity Center in Everett. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by June 14.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Boeing Activity Center, Everett
June 28, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics

Members attending: Paul Dinnel, Gary Wood, Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Anne Murphy, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren, Amy Kraham (alt.), Joe Schmitt
Members absent: Kevin Ranker, Mike Stoner, Andrea Copping, Buck Meloy
Alternates attending: Kirby Johnson, Mike Sato
Support: Doug Dobyms
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst

Duane Fagergren, chair, opened the meeting at 10:10 am followed by introductions. Kirk Thomson, the Environmental Director at Boeing welcomed the group to the Boeing facility and gave an overview of company and employee actions to reduce environmental impact.

The minutes of the May 23 meeting at the Tulalip Tribal Center were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee**, chair, Paul Dinnel noted that all topics from the committee would be covered on the Commission agenda, with the exception of the committee's approval to co-sponsor the San Juan MRC Bottomfish Recovery Program poster. **Education Committee**, chair, Kathy Fletcher handed out preliminary copies of the first Commission newsletter, distributed a questionnaire for the fall MRC Training Conference, noted that the Press Workshops offered by the Education Committee were a success and encouraged MRCs to use the updated Commission web site. **Fundraising Committee**, chair, Gary Wood mentioned that there is a meeting of all parties involved in the Forage Fish project on July 8. **Technical Committee**, chair, Andrea Copping provided a written report which included updates on the PSNERP project, the derelict gear project, action grants and benchmark tracking. There was no report of the **Tribal Committee**.

Tom Cowan updated the Commission on the Derelict Gear Removal Project. The draft protocols are now ready, and the first meeting of the technical committee will take place in July. A kickoff event on June 20 was a great success, with agency and media coverage. Twenty thousand dollars from the regional project budget was requested for additional funding to the project coordinator, Natural Resources Consultants (NRC) for additional outreach and education tasks. It was moved and approved by consensus to designate \$20,000 from the regional project budget to augment the NRC outreach and education task. Commissioners requested that a financial report be provided at the July meeting.

Year Four Action Grants were discussed, and a handout provided with a list of example projects. MRCs are requested to provide any additional feedback and suggestions for the list in the next month in order to follow this process in the next grant cycle.

The Commission Logo Policy was reviewed, with a discussion of the identity of MRCs and their connection to the Commission. It was moved and approved to adopt the logo policy as written.

Sasha Horst informed the Commission about the recent Press Workshops offered by the Education Committee. Especially helpful were Mary Getchell of the Puget Sound Action Team and Jeff Shaw of the Northwest Indian

Fisheries Commission, as well as local media representatives. Handouts are available to those who were unable to attend.

During public comment, Mike Sato of Skagit MRC introduced Mary Masters, a newly appointed San Juan MRC member from Orcas Island.

Paul Dinnel presented a draft letter to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommending the adoption of the Preferred Alternative 1 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Aquatic Reserve program. After discussion, it was agreed that additional language should be added to encourage DNR to review their leasing program; simplify the application process for Aquatic Reserves; standardize terminology between state agencies; and specifically incorporate tribal participation in any designation process. Paul Dinnel agreed to incorporate these suggestions and forward an updated draft for review on Monday, July 1. Commissioners are requested to forward any comments by Wednesday, July 3 in order to incorporate them and send the letter to meet the July 8 comment deadline.

The proposed Orca Pass Stewardship Area resolution was discussed, with each MRC representative describing the responses of their MRC to the proposed resolution. Concerns were raised regarding both tribal support of the proposal and future management issues. Terry Williams presented several issues critical to tribal support, and suggested continued dialog with tribes before moving forward with the resolution. It was noted that discussion of these issues is important to the Commission, and that further discussion is time well spent. No action was taken.

Tim Smith of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) updated the Commission on several projects, including WDFW's participation in the Derelict Gear Removal Project and the state budget process including specific allocations to each program area.

A compilation of Performance Benchmark progress was distributed to each Commissioner. With the Year Three report currently underway and a strategic plan for the Commission in progress, MRCs are requested to review these benchmarks and provide any additional information with any supporting documents. Tom Cowan will forward the Benchmark Reports to MRCs electronically, along with a description of the expectations for the MRCs.

Doug Dobyns provided an update regarding his recent activities. Doug will be presenting information about tribal Usual & Accustomed fishing areas to the Whatcom MRC on July 11 at the Water Resources office in Bellingham. Although he will not be regularly attending MRC meetings, he is available to other MRCs at their request. Per Doug's request, an article is to be distributed to Commissioners regarding "History and Application of the Wilderness Concept".

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** discussed shellfish issues in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and rising PSP levels (beaches have now been closed due to a rapid increase in PSP toxins); discussed vacancies on the MRC and a replacement alternate to the Commission; and discussed the proposed Orca Pass resolution. **Island MRC** is designing a new logo, has surveyed and mapped Camano Island shoreline hardening, is hiring a new administrative assistant and has completed a draft report of the forage fish survey. **Jefferson MRC** has a new county lead staff person, found one site suitable for Olympia Oyster seeding, had a presentation on "Limiting Factors Analysis for Jefferson County Salmon". **San Juan MRC** discussed the Year Four Action Grant process, will begin Phase II of the Forage Fish inventory, continues to hold regular meetings for the Bottomfish Recovery Program. **Skagit MRC** discussed future restoration projects on March Point, reviewed MRC grants and budgets, completed an "outfalls of concern" inventory of March Point, is conducting a Rapid Shoreline Inventory on Samish Island beaches and gathered baseline data on the oysters planted in Fidalgo Bay. **Snohomish MRC** held a workshop for MRC members and County staff, held the first of three summer Beach Expos, hired an intern for their Dungeness Crab Stewardship Program and discussed the proposed Orca Pass Resolution. **Whatcom MRC** had a presentation on the Orca Pass proposal, is evaluating a proposed resolution to the County Council to ban net pens, is exploring connections with the Drayton Harbor Shellfish District and has partnered with the City of Bellingham for a creosote removal project.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on July 26 at the Lopez Islander in San Juan County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by July 15.

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Lopez Islander, San Juan County
July 26, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Gary Wood, Kent Scudder, Anne Murphy, Kathy Fletcher, Duane Fagergren, Amy Kraham (alt.), Joe Schmitt, Kevin Ranker
Members absent: Terry Williams, Mike Stoner, Buck Meloy
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Rachelle Hein

Duane Fagergren, chair, opened the meeting at 11:15am followed by introductions and adjustments to the agenda to include Kate Smukler and San Juan County Commissioner Rhea Miller. Rhea Miller welcomed everyone to the San Juan Islands and Lopez Island.

The minutes of the June 28 meeting at Boeing Activity Center were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. There was no meeting of the Administrative/Planning Committee. Education Committee, chair, Kathy Fletcher received useful feedback for planning the fall training conference and requested final suggestions for topics/speakers/materials. The Initiative newsletter has been sent to MRCs for distribution. There was no report of the Fundraising Committee. There was no report of the Technical Committee. There was no meeting of the Tribal Committee. Tom Cowan updated the Commission on the status of the tribal liaison, noting that the current scope of work has been completed and that a scope of work for the next six months is being developed, including ideas for MRC/tribal partnerships on specific on-the-ground projects.

San Juan County Commissioner Rhea Miller presented information on the Orca Pass International Marine Stewardship Area and encouraged the Commission to continue to be involved in the process. She noted that there is significant interest in this bottom up approach and hopes that the Commission will actively support establishing the Stewardship Area.

Kate Smukler, a former intern with the Commission, provided an update on her activities with the National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center in Washington, DC. She is currently working on inventorying existing marine protected areas throughout the nation.

During public comment, Rachelle Hein from Senator Patty Murray's office provided an update on funding for the Commission. David Roberts of the Washington Department of Natural Resources noted that the Department is actively involved with the Commission on the Derelict Gear project, and described the current effort by the Department to reacquire tidelands.

Tom Cowan provided an overview of the current Commission budget, as compiled by Terry Stevens. An updated Derelict Fishing Gear Project budget was provided, listing NOAA grant funds and non-federal matching funds.

Tom Cowan updated Commissioners on the status of Year Two Action Grants and Administrative Grants and noted that all reports and billing for these must be done immediately to ensure payment as the Year Two budget officially closed on June 30. Year Four Action Grants were discussed, and a schedule provided for the grant process. Discussion followed regarding the grant review process, and it was agreed

that the upcoming Request for Proposals should clearly detail each aspect of the process.

The Resort at Ludlow Bay in Jefferson County was proposed and approved as the location for the MRC Training Conference in October. It was agreed that the August and October locations should be switched to ensure rotation of the meetings throughout all seven counties. Therefore, the August 23 Commission meeting will be held in Skagit County, and the October meeting and conference will be in Jefferson County.

The Performance Benchmark review was discussed and a deadline of August 15 set for feedback from MRCs. A mid-term report is planned as a product of this exercise, which is expected to help provide guidance for the remaining years of the Initiative.

The Derelict Fishing Gear Project is moving forward, with a Technical Committee meeting scheduled for August 1. The draft protocols have been developed. Publication of the final protocols by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will likely be later than August 31, 2002. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has been identified as a potential funding source for this project. MRC representatives confirmed that MRCs are not seeking funding individually, and all are in favor of pursuing regional funding for the project through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Gary Wood described a recent coordination meeting of the forage fish inventory project, which included participants from six MRCs, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), tribes and funding agencies. Several Commissioners shared successful outreach strategies used by their MRC in the forage fish project.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. Clallam MRC continues to sample for PSP; had a presentation from the Sol Duc hatchery manager from WDFW; discussed locations for Olympia Oyster reintroduction; co-sponsored a newspaper insert on nearshore efforts; is preparing to publish their MRC web site. Island MRC hired a new administrative assistant for the MRC; received media coverage from the Whidbey News-Times and South Whidbey Record on derelict fishing gear; completed a comprehensive report on the forage fish project; held a business meeting of the MRC to review and assign projects. Jefferson MRC has a new county lead staff; have identified several sites for seeding of Olympia Oysters; has outlined a final plan for the Habitat Stewardship project; discussed their role in a proposed pier/conveyor belt project. San Juan MRC released a Request for Proposals for the next Action Grant; had a slide presentation by MRC member Peter Fromm on topside use of waters; had a presentation on Seafloor Mapping and Habitat Studies, which is relevant to the Bottomfish Recovery Program. Skagit MRC co-sponsored an invasive Spartina removal on July 13; completed a Rapid Shoreline Inventory at the end of June; provided a tour of the Fidalgo Bay native oyster restoration site to Nature Conservancy and NOAA representatives; is completing a first draft of the Phase II Rocky Reef Marine Reserves Report. Snohomish MRC conducted their first beach expo of the summer in June; hired an intern for the Dungeness Crab Stewardship project; has identified sites for forage fish surveys to be done in fall/winter; is testing survey protocols for their shoreline inventory project. Whatcom MRC drafted a resolution for the Whatcom County Council prohibiting salmon net-pens; had a presentation by Harlan James (Lummi representative) and Doug Dobyns on tribal Usual & Accustomed fishing areas; is successfully locating and removing creosote logs in partnership with the City of Bellingham;

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on August 23 at a location to be announced in Skagit County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by August 12.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Swinomish Spiritual Center, La Conner
August 23, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Duane Fagergren, Amy Kraham (alt.), Anne Murphy, Kevin Ranker, Kent Scudder, Terry Williams, Gary Wood, Jacques White (alt.)
Members absent: Kathy Fletcher, Buck Meloy, Joe Schmitt, Mike Stoner
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Terry Stevens, Rachelle Hein, Doug Dobyns

Duane Fagergren, chair, opened the meeting at 10:10, with thanks to Paul Dinnel of Skagit MRC for refreshments. Larry Campbell of the Swinomish Tribe welcomed the group and thanked the Commission for the work being done.

The minutes of the July 26 meeting at the Lopez Islander were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee chair Paul Dinnel** reported on the August meeting which included discussions regarding the commission's role in forage fish coordination, the mid-term report to be developed from the benchmark inputs, Commission representation at the upcoming MEHP science meeting and at the NOAA Strategic Planning Workshop. **Education Committee** Anne Murphy, in Kathy Fletcher's absence, reported on the planning for the fall training conference, web site updates and the upcoming newsletter scheduled to be completed in December. **Fundraising Committee chair Gary Wood** reported on the possibility of future funding of the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. **Technical Committee chair Andrea Copping** plans to put together a group in mid-September to discuss the MPA benchmark including interpretation and measuring success. Several Commissioners and other individuals were nominated to participate in the meeting. **Tribal Committee chair Terry Williams** reported that the Groundfish Management plan review is progressing among the tribes, and local/regional plans will be developed next.

The Ecosystem Project Fund was discussed, with brainstorming of ideas for projects. Several ideas were listed, and Tom Cowan will send a memo to Commissioners requesting any additional ideas along with supporting information.

During public comment, Dave Anderson of Whidbey Island commented on the current Navy Low Frequency Active sonar project and inquired about potential impact in Puget Sound.

The Commission was updated on the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project. Michelle McConnell has been subcontracted to implement the outreach and education components of the project. Local information has been requested from MRC members designated as contacts for the project. Michelle will forward the information to MRC chairs as well. The project was recently highlighted on a national NPR radio program. A set of draft protocols have been developed, and a Request for Qualifications and Quotations is in progress for removal operations, which are expected to take place in September and October. A gear location database has been developed by Natural Resources Consultants, which includes gear location information from Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Administrative matters included a request from Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team for co-sponsorship of the Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Research Conference. It was moved and approved by consensus to contribute \$1000 to co-sponsor the research conference. David Gordon of Washington Sea Grant was suggested to provide professional writing services for a Northwest Straits Initiative mid-term report. After discussion, it was moved and approved to dedicate \$5000 of Ecosystem funds to hire David Gordon through an agreement with Sea Grant for writing of a mid-term report.

Eric Eisenhardt, scientific coordinator for the San Juan Bottomfish Recovery Program provided a research update. Current projects include a home range study of Copper Rockfish, Baseline Dive Surveys and a Fishing Activity Study. Information was presented on the home range study, which is intended to answer the question of how small is too small for a bottomfish reserve site to be effective.

Anne Murphy presented the proposed agenda for the Fall MRC Training Conference, developed by the Education Committee from MRC comments and suggestions. A morning session on tribal perspectives is planned, and tribal participants will be invited to discuss current projects. Senator Patty Murray will be invited as a luncheon speaker. Discussion followed regarding the focus of the afternoon session. The Education Committee will continue to develop the agenda based on MRC and Commissioner comments.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** discussed a traveling road show to highlight accomplishments; had their monthly meeting hosted by the Elwha Klallam tribe, including a tour of the hatchery operations and in-depth look at the tribes dam removal perspectives; re-appointed the chair and vice-chair for three-year terms; discussed Year 4 Action Grant projects. **Island MRC** had a presentation on restoration of the Port of Langley Waterfront; submitted a SRFB Round Four Draft proposal for Oak Harbor shoreline projects; received their National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant; renewed the Intertidal Consulting MRC executive director contract with the county. **Jefferson MRC** completed their first Olympia Oyster seeding in lower Discovery Bay; surveyed and found good habitat for a future oyster seeding in September; enlisted student involvement and are planning a presentation to the Quilcene High School Shellfish Club; are planning technical meetings for their Priority Habitat Stewardship project; is working with the Nearshore Technical team to develop a Limiting Factors Analysis for salmonids. **San Juan MRC** discussed the next Action Grant and made decisions for use of MRC support monies (UW ROV, MPA outreach and MRC Coordinator staff position); adopted its Ground Fish Strategic Plan; provided maps of beaches surveyed for forage fish; have an interim MRC chair while Jim Slocomb is out for the next two months. **Skagit MRC** had a presentation on Nature Conservancy's estuarine/marine activities and discussed possibilities for future partnerships; surveyed 3 of the 8 candidate Bottomfish Reserve sites this summer; continued derelict fishing gear efforts with a request for information on gear location published in Northwest Dive News; is completing a draft report on the Samish Island RSI to be presented at the October MRC meeting; is preparing a draft final report on Native Oyster restoration. **Snohomish MRC** held their monthly meeting at Kayak Point County Park and discussed potential nearshore restoration opportunities; received a report from the Banksaver project manager from the Stillaguamish on native vegetation for nearshore habitat enhancement; is preparing the first draft of the Dungeness Crab Stewardship plan with an anticipated completion date of February 2003. **Whatcom MRC** is working on two upcoming educational events (the MRC Marine Summit and the annual Salmon Summit, sponsored by the Nooksack Recovery Team); had a presentation by Gary Wood on the Forage Fish Project; discussed funding for tribal participation at MRC meetings; put out RFPs for the development of educational materials/community outreach strategies/events and a data management project to determine how best to format, utilize and expand on the currently available marine data.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on September 27 at a location to be announced in Island County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by September 13.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Service Alternatives Building, Coupeville
September 27, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Duane Fagergren, Amy Kraham (alt.), Anne Murphy, Mike Stoner, Gary Wood, Jacques White (alt.), Kirby Johnson (alt.), Joe Schmitt, Dave Anderson
Members absent: Kathy Fletcher, Buck Meloy, Kevin Ranker, Kent Scudder, Terry Williams
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Rachelle Hein, Doug Dobyns

Duane Fagergren, chair, opened the meeting at 10:15 with a welcome to new governor-appointed commissioner Dave Anderson. Coupeville mayor Nancy Conard welcomed the group to Coupeville and thanked the Commission and MRCs for their work.

The minutes of the August 23 meeting at the Swinomish Spiritual Center were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee chair Paul Dinnel** reported on the September meeting at which a process for deciding on ecosystem projects was discussed. **Education Committee chair Kathy Fletcher** was absent. Sasha Horst reported that Kate Smukler's report on Marine Protected Areas is now available on the Commission web site and that the committee is working on the fall conference, which will be discussed later in the agenda. **Fundraising Committee chair Gary Wood** reported on a Salmon Recovery Funding Board programmatic report regarding funding for regional, non-lead-entity projects. There was general agreement to draft a proposal for the next year of derelict fishing gear removal to submit in the next month, as well as continue investigating other funding sources. **Technical Committee chair Andrea Copping** reported on the meeting to discuss the Marine Protected Areas benchmark. A list of examples and non-examples of marine protected areas was created. A proposal for next steps was developed, including an inventory of marine protected areas, identifying gaps and creating a model ordinance. A work plan is to be developed on the benchmark. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**.

Jon Neel and Dale Jensen of the Department of Ecology, Spills Program provided information about the rescue tug stationed at Neah Bay. There will be a harbor safety meeting with the Coast Guard on October 9 to discuss plans for \$1.6 million federal funding for spill prevention. Dave Anderson has been identified as the Commission representative to attend the meeting. Jon Neel and Dale Jensen also reported on an advisory committee that has convened to develop comprehensive, up to date contingency plan rules for spill preparedness. Members of the local Marine Resources Committees and the Commission are encouraged to participate, and a meeting schedule is available from Jon Neel.

The Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project is continuing with a contract now in place for additional removal of gear scheduled for October. Locations of gear are now being verified in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. Outreach materials are being printed, and the hotline and web site at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be functioning soon for reporting gear.

During public comment, Tom Campbell, chair of the Island MRC, noted that he was pleased to see Dave Anderson appointed to the Commission.

Tom Cowan noted that a letter of intent for Year Four Action Grants is due from each MRC by Monday, September 30. There was agreement that Tom Cowan should send a letter to Senator Patty Murray thanking her for her efforts to ensure funding for the Northwest Straits Initiative. Gary Wood requested a letter of support from the Commission for the Beach Watcher program. The comment period is open for scoping a supplemental environmental impact statement for removal of the Elwha dams. Andrea Copping agreed to draft and circulate a comment letter from the Commission indicating that there was inadequate study of the impact of dam removal on nearshore habitats.

Regional, ecosystem projects were discussed. The Administrative/Planning Committee recommended a set of criteria for evaluation of projects and the Commission agreed with the recommendation. There was general agreement that \$40,000 should be designated for the next phase of derelict fishing gear removal, and that the Administrative/Planning Committee should review the remaining projects using the criteria developed and provide recommendations for projects to the Commission at the next meeting.

Sasha Horst provided an update on the fall training conference October 25-26, including logistical information. MRC leads will be provided with a list of registered participants to ensure an accurate head count. The Education Committee will meet on Monday, September 30 to finalize the agenda.

Doug Dobyns, tribal liaison, reported on recent discussions involving the Orca Pass resolution and his recent trip to Alaska. A copy of the Alaska Marine Protected Area plan is available by request. Doug is currently participating on the Island MRC technical committee.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** has developed an outreach display with information on derelict fishing gear, forage fish and Olympia oysters; is working on their Action Grant proposal; is looking into the effect of herbicide use by Department of Transportation on the nearshore. **Island MRC** submitted a project proposal to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; is drafting a resolution for the Board of County Commissioners regarding use of forage fish data; will present to Whidbey Audubon on derelict fishing gear on October 10; is developing a new MRC logo and updating their web site. **Jefferson MRC** had a successful community Olympia oyster planting in Discovery Bay, resulting in positive responses from shoreline property owners who wish to participate; developed a matrix for their Habitat Stewardship Project and held their first technical meeting to identify limiting factors and restoration opportunities in Quilcene Bay. **San Juan MRC** has been working on Bottomfish Recovery Program Sign Improvements and outreach, held subcommittee meetings to select grant proposals for the Year Four Action grant and to plan for MRC outreach and MPA workshop meetings on all of the islands. **Skagit MRC** is in the process of reviewing their draft report for Phase II of the Rocky Reef Marine Reserves project; is collecting information about derelict gear locations to include in the regional database; will have a summary presentation on their Rapid Shoreline Inventory at their October meeting. **Snohomish MRC** held a boat tour for elected officials on September 18 with all County Councilmembers attending; had approximately 420 people participate in their Beach Expos this summer; will have a presentation by Sound Transit regarding potential enhancement mitigation sites on October 16. **Whatcom MRC** has been finalizing their letter of intent for the Year Four Action Grant; made their first formal presentation to the County Council's Natural Resources Committee; coordinated and will present during the nearshore session at the October 17 Salmon Summit; will host a Marine Summit on November 1.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on October 25 at the Resort at Ludlow Bay in Port Ludlow, Jefferson County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by October 10.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Resort at Ludlow Bay, Port Ludlow
October 25, 2002
Decisions and Future Agenda Topics**

Members attending: Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Duane Fagergren, Buck Meloy, Anne Murphy, Mike Stoner, Gary Wood, Kathy Fletcher, Kent Scudder, Joe Schmitt, Dave Anderson, Terry Williams
Members absent: Kevin Ranker
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Doug Dobyens, Terry Stevens

Duane Fagergren, chair, opened the meeting at 12:10. Jefferson County Commissioner Richard Wojt welcomed the group to Port Ludlow and thanked the Commission and MRCs for their work.

The minutes of the September 27 meeting at the Service Alternatives building in Coupeville were approved as written.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee chair Paul Dinnel** provided an update on discussions from the October 14th meeting. Several of the topics appear elsewhere on the agenda, including ecosystem projects, the derelict fishing gear project and MRC grants. **Education Committee chair Kathy Fletcher** welcomed everyone to Port Ludlow and the annual training conference. **Technical Committee chair Andrea Copping** reported that all seven MRCs are on track for the next round of grant funding. Full proposals are due at the end of October, and the reviewer selection process will start in the next few weeks. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**. There was no meeting of the **Fundraising Committee**.

Dave Anderson reported to the Commission on his attendance at the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee meeting on October 9. It was recommended that each MRC send a letter supporting funding the Neah Bay tug for oil spill prevention.

During public comment, Larry Mays of the Hood Canal Coalition presented information about the Fred Hill mining expansion project, which will impact nearshore areas of Jefferson County. It was recommended that he make a presentation to the Jefferson MRC on the project.

Tom Cowan updated the Commission on the Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Project. A six-day removal effort has been completed, and information is now being compiled on the amount of gear collected. The focus of this effort was on net material, with mainly gill net recovered. It is expected that the protocols developed will go through another draft process and be in final form by the November Commission meeting.

Terry Stevens provided a budget status report for the Northwest Straits federal grants, including Years 2, 3, and 4, as well as the status of the Derelict Gear grant. Copies of the budget status report were distributed to Commission members.

Regional, ecosystem projects were discussed, with recommendations brought by the Administrative/Planning Committee. Funding was recommended to produce a scope of work for an economic analysis to be complete by mid-January. It was moved and approved by consensus to use the recommendations provided as a rough draft of the regional funds budget, authority is given to the A/P Committee to proceed on the recommended projects and report back at the November meeting.

Doug Dobyms, tribal liaison, has provided a quarterly report to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He noted that he has used most of the time allotted for his position. He attended meetings of the Skagit and Whatcom MRCs, as well as the Salmon Summit in Bellingham and participated in the Island MRC nearshore project ranking.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** had a presentation from Brian Winters, Department of Natural Resources lead for the Elwha Dam project; worked on their letter of intent for year four funding. **Island MRC** had a presentation from Jacques White on Rapid Shoreline Inventory; is preparing a proposal for a US Fish & Wildlife grant for private landowner stewardship; is working on a logo for the MRC; made presentations at several events including the Salmon Summit, Audubon Society and Salmon Forum. **Jefferson MRC** is developing signage for the Olympia Oyster Restoration project; held a technical review workshop for their Habitat Stewardship Project; had a presentation from the Northwest Watershed Institute; intends to fund a staff coordinator for the MRC. **San Juan MRC** worked extensively on their year four grant proposal; had a presentation from Restoring the Estuary and Ecosystem of Deer Harbor; continues forage fish sampling, with a new smelt site found on Waldron Island – the first site found on the island; will hold their next meeting on Waldron Island. **Skagit MRC** is preparing final reports on the Fidalgo Bay Oyster Seeding, Samish Island RSI, and Rocky Reef Marine Reserves Phase II; continue to compile information on derelict fishing gear locations in Skagit County. **Snohomish MRC** revisited MRC projects with the County Council; had a presentation on Nearshore Processes and Soft shore Protection; appointed Dawn Lawrence as a new member and reappointed three members; hired a contractor for shoreline inventory; will train forage fish volunteers on October 30. **Whatcom MRC** hosted the nearshore session of the Salmon Summit on October 17; made a presentation to the Whatcom County Council; are exploring partnership opportunities for addressing shellfish issues in Drayton Harbor and Portage Bay.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be on November 22 at a location to be determined in Clallam County. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by November 11.



NORTHWEST STRAITS
marine conservation initiative

**Northwest Straits Commission Meeting
Railroad Bridge Park, Audubon Center
Sequim, Clallam County
November 22, 2002, 10:00am-3:30pm**

Members attending: Kent Scudder, Kathy Fletcher, Buck Meloy, Andrea Copping, Paul Dinnel, Anne Murphy, Gary Wood, Joe Schmitt, Dave Anderson
Members absent: Kevin Ranker, Terry Williams, Duane Fagergren, Mike Stoner
Staff: Tom Cowan, Sasha Horst
Support: Doug Dobyns

Paul Dinnel, vice-chair, opened the meeting at 10:15 with introductions. Steve Tharinger, Clallam County Commissioner, welcomed the group to Sequim and noted his appreciation for the bottom-up approach of the Initiative. As a member of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, he also appreciates the collaborative nature of the Initiative.

The minutes of the October 25 meeting at the Resort at Ludlow Bay were approved as written. The 2003 proposed meeting dates were approved with the exception of the March date. The March meeting date will be changed if there is a conflict with the Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Research Conference.

Committee chairs provided their monthly reports. **Administrative/Planning Committee chair Paul Dinnel** reported on the meeting held on November 14. Regional ecosystem projects and Commissioner re-appointments were discussed. **Education Committee chair Kathy Fletcher** highlighted the evaluations from the October training conference and requested feedback and suggestions for the next newsletter to be completed in January. The education committee will meet in December to evaluate other outreach projects. There was no report of the **Fundraising Committee**. **Technical Committee chair Andrea Copping** noted that MRC grant applications are being reviewed. A workshop on grant writing is possible if there is MRC interest in doing so. A questionnaire on the MPA benchmark has been sent to MRCs for response in order to guide the efforts being undertaken at the Commission level. There was no meeting of the **Tribal Committee**.

Doug Dobyns, tribal liaison, reported on impressions from the training conference among the tribes and current projects. Doug is now involved in the forage fish survey project and the Whatcom Marine Summit, and will attend a tribal MPA meeting in December. The next steps for the liaison position are being discussed. The contract with Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will end in December.

The agenda was adjusted due to time. Tom Cowan will send an email to commissioners on recommendations for regional, ecosystem projects.

Jim Kramer and Carol MacIlroy presented information about the Shared Salmon Strategy to develop a recovery plan for salmon in Puget Sound that meets the needs of fish and people. Andrea Copping, Technical

Committee chair, will be the primary representative for the Commission in this effort. Several members of the Commission expressed interest in meeting with the Shared Strategy staff in the next month to discuss interface with Commission efforts.

There was no public comment.

Jeff June of Natural Resources Consultants, project manager for the Derelict Fishing Gear project, reported on progress. The test removals were successful and helped to refine the protocols. Tim Smith, Special Assistant to the Director, officially represented Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at the meeting. He distributed the final Derelict Fishing Gear Removal Guidelines, which will be published in the near future in accordance with Senate Bill 6313. Smith also read a letter from Director Jeff Koenings in which the collaborative efforts of many people and agencies recognized.

David Welch of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans described a project to track the movement of fish. The project would cover the area from Baja to Alaska for a variety of species. A request was made that the Commission send a letter supporting the project to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada.

MRC representatives summarized their current MRC activities. **Clallam MRC** discussed shellfish monitoring in Port Angeles Harbor; approved the final draft of their Year Four Grant proposal; reviewed and discussed the MPA benchmark questionnaire. There was no report of the **Island MRC**. **Jefferson MRC** is designing signage for the Olympia Oyster project and have enlisted high school volunteers to write an educational newspaper insert; have targeted three areas for stewardship projects; presented the Anchor Safe Zone concept to the Port Townsend City Council and the Port Commission, and will present to the Yacht Club in December. **San Juan MRC** held a meeting on Waldron Island which drew nearly half the island's population; had a presentation on the derelict fishing gear project; have sampled 621 beaches overall for forage fish spawning sites. **Skagit MRC** is printing their Phase II Rocky Reef Bottomfish report; gave a presentation to the Puget Sound Council and will brief the County Council in early December; surveyed Olympia Oysters planted last summer, which are doing well. **Snohomish MRC** received outside funding for Dungeness crab and forage fish outreach efforts; held a public outreach meeting on the Marine Shoreline Inventory project; held volunteer training for forage fish surveying in October. **Whatcom MRC** had a presentation on the derelict fishing gear project; discussed planning for the January Marine Summit; finalized their Year Four Grant application; discussed the October Salmon Summit and are planning to organize the nearshore component next year.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm in order to hold a Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation meeting. The next meeting will be on January 24 at a location to be determined in Friday Harbor. Meeting topics should be suggested to Commission staff by January 7.