

CLALLAM MRC MEETING AGENDA

November 20, 2023
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting



Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

Passcode: 12345

For more information about the MRC, please contact Rebecca Mahan at (360) 417-2322

5:30 Welcome by Chair Tim Cochnauer

5:35 Call To Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

5:40 Public Comment / Approval of Minutes

Approval October minutes.

5:45 Announcements

- Oiled Wildlife First Response / 24hr HAZWOPER February 13th & 14th 2024 at Red Cedar Hall, Blyn, WA. Registration information to follow.
- Annual Workplan in draft – send comments to Rebecca Mahan

5:50 NWSC Update

NWSC monthly meeting – Alan Clark

- 2023 NWSC Conference November 3-4 2023 Attendee takeaways (2 minutes each)

6:15 Advisory Role

- Subcommittee status – Tim Cochnauer and Ann Soule

6:25 Field Project Updates

- *Olympia Oyster – Chris Burns*
- *Pigeon Guillemot – Ed Bowlby*
- *Forage Fish – Tim Cochnauer*
- *Elwha Beach Stewardship – Helle Andersen*
- *Kelp surveys – Jeff Ward & Alan Clark*
- *Shellfish Biotoxins – Bob Vreeland*
- *Sound Toxins – Nancy Stephanz*
- *Pinto Abalone – Jeff Ward & Alan Clark*

2023 Meetings

January 23
February 27
March 20

April 17
May 15
June 26

July 17
August 21
September 18

October 16
November 20
December 18

6:35 Education/Outreach

- Coasters – Ann Soule
- New Displays – Ann Soule
 - Project posters – hope to have other MRC projects to graphic designer in January.
- Future Presentations:
 - The Blob (for public) – Ed Bowlby and others - need a Champion to form a subcommittee
 - Aquaculture (MRC only at first) LaTrisha Suggs – Proposes to have Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Jim Parsons, Aquaculture Manager Present. (tentatively scheduled for January 2024)
 - Ann Stafford – Proposes to have Dr. Catherine Copass (Olympic Forest Coalition) give presentation about Clallam County forest stands, their ecological connections, impact on climate change

6:40 Other Updates/New Topics

- Update on CMRC Part-time Administrative Assistant – Rebecca Mahan
- Update Orca Day Beach Clean-up – Rebecca Mahan
- Rescue Tug letter – Mike Doherty
- Review of Department of Ecology’s oil spill and wildlife rescue program – Ed Bowlby and Chris Burns - Still open?
- Adopt a beach for CoastSavers?
- Marine Renewable Energy Update – Lance Vail

6:50 Good of the Order

6:55 Public Comment

7:00 Adjourn

Clallam County DCD is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MRC

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85314804485?pwd=N3dMbHRyL3l5TnpKNGtVSGtWYk5VQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 1480 4485

Passcode: 12345

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,85314804485#,,,,*12345# US (Tacoma)

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2023 Meetings

January 23	April 17	July 17	October 16
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October 2023 Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Monday, October 16, 2023

Time: 5:30-7:20 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Ed Bowlby (Academic Community), Chris Burns (Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Tim Cochnauer (Community at Large; Chair), Mike Doherty (District 3), Allyce Miller (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Lyn Muench (District 2), Arnold Schouten (Development Community), Ann Soule (District 2), Ann Stafford (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment), Jeff Ward (District 1)

Others present: Rebekah Brooks (Rebekah Brooks Contracting), Cathy Lear (CC), Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Megan Juran (Washington CoastSavers), Amelia Kalagher (Jefferson County MRC Intern), Leah Robison (NWSC), Alisa Taylor (CC MRC Volunteer)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Lyn Muench moved to approve the Alternative Agenda; Ann Soule seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment / Approval of September Minutes

There were no public comments. ***Bob Vreeland moved to approve the September CC MRC minutes, with several clarifications from Ann Soule. Mike Doherty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

CoastSavers Presentation

CoastSavers Coordinator Megan Juran presented on Washington CoastSavers, a program of the Washington Clean Coast Alliance that has been dedicated to keeping the state's beaches clean of marine debris since 2007. Their Steering Committee members include Washington State Parks, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Washington Surfrider, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Lions Club International, the Grassroots Garbage Gang, and Discover Your Northwest. Annual cleanup registration sites are supported by tribal nations and local organizations. On the April 2023 Washington Coast Earth Day Cleanup, 783 volunteers collected 14,350 pounds of debris; on the 5th of July 2023 Central and South Coast Cleanup, 641 volunteers collected 50,260 pounds of firework debris; and on the September 2023 International Coastal Cleanup, 499 volunteers collected over 2,000 pounds of debris.

Challenges of annual events include adverse weather conditions, changes in participation, and being able to respond adequately to the needs of various locations. To try to have a more constant presence on Strait beaches, CoastSavers was starting a program that allows locals to adopt a beach in Clallam County so those beaches can be responded to when the need arises. Adopt a Beach program support needs include signage, disposal, and promotion. Megan explained that CoastSavers was still in the beginning phase of figuring out what the Adopt a Beach program will look like, but she anticipated that commitment would involve going out at annual cleanup times and when big storm events occur, responding to local concerns and reports, and helping to haul debris. The group discussed trash disposal, protocols for hazardous waste (Dept of Ecology is involved), and recycling options. Ed Bowlby suggested a partnership with the University of Washington's Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team.

Announcements

- Orca Day Beach Cleanup: Rebecca Mahan announced that the Clallam Conservation District (CCD) reached out to her about a beach cleanup at the West Elwha/Place Road Levee on 10/26 from 10 AM to 12 PM. That is also the same day as the next forage fish sampling, so the CCD asked the CC MRC to give a presentation on the importance of forage fish.
- 2023 NWSC Conference: The conference is scheduled for 11/3-11/4 in Port Townsend. Registration is now closed. Lyn Muench asked whether any sessions could still be attended; *Leah Robison said she would confirm this, but that space had been tight. *Rebecca will put together a list of attendees that includes which days people will be attending.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. The last meeting was held in person on 9/29/23. Updates included remarks from Commissioner Melanie Bacon, who is working with the Island County MRC on climate change issues; an associated white paper that *Alan will send to Rebecca for distribution; and decision for the expansion of the Roberts Bank Terminal in British Columbia despite studies showing negative impacts. More information can be found on the NWSC website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://www.nwstraits.org/).

Advisory Role

- Ann Soule explained that in response to the discussion during the September CC MRC meeting regarding the response of the Committee to the Elwha Power Plant timber sale, a subcommittee would be formed to develop a process for similar decisions that would be consistent with CC MRC bylaws and tribal guidance. Jeff Ward has created a five-step proposal and was willing to be on the subcommittee. The Exec recommended subcommittee representation from the county, cities, tribes, and the development community. *Volunteers included Jeff Ward (for county), Chris Burns (for tribes), and Alan Clark (NWSC). *Ann will send out an overview of the Exec's vision of the subcommittee for distribution to the CC MRC.
- Clallam MRC and Power Plant Timber Sale: Ann Stafford led discussion on reconsidering a letter in opposition to the Elwha Power Plant timber sale based on the priority of climate change for the CC MRC. Discussion followed on economic and climate impacts, the role of the CC MRC as an advisory body and in terms of community engagement, and the need for a consistent process the CC MRC should follow and include in future strategic plans.

Field Project Updates

Olympia Oyster

Chris Burns reported that the permits were finally in place. He has acquired 2,000 bags of oyster shell, with 2,000 more bags coming. The restriction of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) permit will not allow the shell to be placed until 7/1/24, but Chris is going to look into whether the timeline can be moved up.

Pigeon Guillemot

Ed Bowlby said that Mary Sue Brancato finished entering the field data from the project forms into the WDFW database. Ed is wrapping up the QA/QC for 2023 data.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer said that monthly sampling was ongoing. He was interested to see the results for Cline Spit; his guess was that it was three times higher than they had ever seen there.

Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen was continuing the beach surveys. She reached out to four local educators, who have all written letters in support of keeping the portable toilets.

Kelp Surveys

Alan Clark announced that Alisa Taylor reformatted the kelp page on the CC MRC website. There will be a kelp session at the NWSC Conference. The Puget Sound Restoration Fund has also conducted surveys; Alan would like to combine all of the data.

Shellfish Biotoxins

Bob Vreeland did his last survey at Pillar Point on 9/27. The surveys will stop for the winter due to high tides. Chris Burns reported Strait closures on shellfish and * offered to help with data entry and access.

Sound Toxins

Nancy Stephanz was not present for an update.

Education/Outreach

Coasters

Ann Soule said that more coasters were available for distribution. She was working with Alisa Taylor to develop three more designs for 2024. Megan Juran commented from a citizen's perspective that the coasters were very cool.

New Displays

Ann Soule noted that the new retractable display looked fantastic. Three of the project posters were completed for kelp, forage fish, and Olympia oysters; there are three more posters still to come.

Recent Festivals

Rebecca Mahan reported that the Dungeness River Festival was well attended with over 800 students and teachers and was a lot of fun. Stream Fest was last weekend; the CC MRC booth had 65-75 visitors.

Future Presentations

- The Blob (for public): Ed Bowlby said he needed some help to put the presentation together. He announced an upcoming presentation from Ian Miller on sea level rise; *he will forward the information to Rebecca Mahan for distribution.

- Aquaculture (CC MRC only at first): Rebecca Mahan has been in touch with Jim Parsons with the Northwest Aquaculture Alliance, who said he would be happy to present. The group preferred a January presentation if possible.

Other Updates/New Topics

Maritime Heritage Program

Mike Doherty said that the Maritime Heritage Program gave presentations in Port Angeles and Forks. They were looking for partners and more participation; Mike distributed an informative pamphlet.

Rescue Tug

Analyses results showed that rescue tugs avoid oil spill risks. Seven sites were studied, and Roche Harbor would impact the most risk. A bill in the legislature is forthcoming.

Review of Department of Ecology's Oil Spill and Wildlife Rescue Program

Ed Bowlby was unable to make it to the in-person training but suggested considering jointly sponsoring a training for local MRCs. *Rebecca Mahan said she would find out when the trainer was available and if the Jefferson County MRC would be interested; there is some funding available for two trainings per year. *Ed Bowlby and Chris Burns offered to help.

Good of the Order

- Rebecca Mahan announced that the Board of County Commissioners approved a part-time assistant for the CC MRC, which could be ready to post by next week.
- The group asked Amelia Kalagher if the Jefferson County MRC would be interested in a joint meeting on occasion.
- Tim Cochnauer said there was a city in Denmark that burned trash for power, which was so successful that they needed to bring garbage in from outside the city.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Action Items:

****Leah Robison said she would confirm session attendance at the NWSC Conference.***

****Rebecca Mahan will put together a list of NWSC Conference attendees that includes which days people will be attending.***

****Alan Clark will send a climate change white paper to Rebecca Mahan for distribution.***

****Jeff Ward, Chris Burns, and Alan Clark volunteered to participate in the Advisory Role subcommittee.***

****Ann Soule will send out an overview of the Advisory Role subcommittee for distribution to members.***

****Chris Burns offered to help with shellfish biotoxin data entry and access.***

****Ed Bowlby will forward the information on Ian Miller's presentation to Rebecca Mahan for distribution.***

****Rebecca Mahan said she would find out when the oil spill trainer was available and if the Jefferson County MRC would be interested.***

****Ed Bowlby and Chris Burns offered to help with an oil spill training event.***

