



June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, June 26, 2023

Time: 5:30-7:00 PM

Location: Zoom hybrid meeting

Minutes Prepared by Rebekah Brooks

Members present: Helle Andersen (Marine Related Recreation and Tourism Alternate), Alan Clark (Community at Large Representative; Vice Chair; Northwest Straits Commission [NWSC]), Mike Doherty (District 3), Robert Knapp (Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe), Arnold Schouten (Development Community Representative), Ann Soule (District 2), Justin Stapleton (Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe), Nancy Stephanz (Ecology Alternate), LaTrisha Suggs (City of Port Angeles), Lance Vail (District 1 Alternate), Bob Vreeland (Conservation and Environment Representative)

Others present: Rebecca Mahan (CC Habitat Biologist; CC Marine Resources Committee [MRC] Coordinator), Alisa Taylor (Former CC MRC Intern)

Call to Order / Introductions / Changes to Agenda

Nancy Stephanz asked to include an update on the Sound Toxins project. Tim Cochnauer added it to the agenda under “Project Updates.” Rebecca Mahan added an additional announcement under “Announcements.”

Public Comment / Approval of May Minutes

Nancy Stephanz made a clarification to the Biotoxins project list under the section on **NWSC Request for Proposals for 2023-2025**. **Mike Doherty moved to accept the minutes with that change; Helle Andersen seconded. The minutes were accepted with that change.**

Announcements

Educational Display Subcommittee Members Needed

Rebecca Mahan announced that there was an Educational Display Subcommittee; it is open for others to join. She reminded the group to mark their calendars for the Dungeness River Festival, which is scheduled for 9/22/23, and Forever Streamfest, scheduled for 10/14/23. She added that the NWSC asked the MRCs to present on one of their projects at the NWSC Conference, which will be held at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center on 11/3/23-11/4/23. This can include a 15-minute slide-show presentation, contributing to a combined slide show, hosting a table, and/or submitting a poster. All are optional. A response is required by 8/30/23. Nancy Stephanz suggested that the same poster could be used for the festivals and the conference. *Ann Soule volunteered to participate in the Educational Display Subcommittee. Mike Doherty announced Sekiu Fun Days, which will be on the weekend of 7/4/23. A presentation on the history of Clallam Bay and Sekiu will be held at the Sekiu Schoolhouse on 7/8/23 at 7:30 PM, prior to the fireworks display. Ann Soule added that the Sunsets West Co-op in Clallam Bay handed out some of the CC MRC coasters, which were well received.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave an update on NWSC news. The Commission has returned to in-person meetings on alternate months; the last one was held on Lopez Island. The Executive Committee is looking at NWSC structure and how the Commission comes together, which has been in a state of flux ever since the pandemic. The NWSC has capacity funding from state and federal sources. There is a new NWS coordinator, who is establishing structure on communication efforts. Lucas Hart is putting together a Memorandum of Understanding for the two NWS organizations. The meeting also included a summary of the Kelp Plan. While local kelp beds seem to be doing well, many are diminishing and disappearing farther south. There was also discussion on transboundary issues; to that end, the San Juan MRC has drafted letter in support of a rescue tug in Sydney Harbor or Roche Harbor. Alan suggested that the CC MRC may want to consider signing it, along with County representatives. Mike Doherty proposed inviting the San Juan MRC to present their research on the rescue tug and vessel traffic in the Strait. *Mike Doherty offered to help Alan with efforts for a community event on the rescue tug and associated issues. The 2023 NWSC Conference will be held on 11/3/2023-11/4/2023 in Port Townsend. More information can be found on the NWSC website: [Northwest Straits Commission | Marine Conservation in Washington \(nwstraits.org\)](https://www.nwstraits.org).

Arnold Schouten added an announcement on marine pollution. With the rise in waterfowl hunting, there has also been an increase in plastic shotgun wads washing up on beaches. In response, Surfrider started a program that allows citizens to report locations where the shotgun wads are retrieved as marine debris. Arnold encouraged the CC MRC to become involved in the reporting project. More information can be found at [San Francisco — Shotgun Wad Watcher \(surfrider.org\)](https://www.surfrider.org).

NWSC Request for Proposals for 2023-2025

Rebecca Mahan announced that the Request for Proposals (RFP) had been submitted to the NWSC Science Committee. Sasha Horst will respond after the RFP is reviewed.

Project Updates

GPS/GoPro

Alan Clark said that Alisa Taylor has been helping with research into replacing the CC MRC GoPro. The CC MRC had a GoPro 8, but now that model has been replaced by newer models. The batteries, waterproof case, and other accessories are not interchangeable. The newer models are designed to interface with the latest technology. Tim Cochauer proposed purchasing extra batteries with the GoPro that Alan and Alisa decide on. *The order request will be sent to Rebecca Mahan when the decision is made.

Olympia Oyster

Robert Knapp said that Chris Burns was still working on the permitting for the shell placement. Rebecca Mahan added that Chris had found another lead on acquiring shell.

Pigeon Guillemot

Ed Bowlby was not present for an update, but several Committee members reported seeing pigeon guillemots.

Education and Outreach: Coasters

Ann Soule gave an update. Another set of coasters were ordered in three new designs: Olympia oyster, bull kelp, and Dungeness crab. She also sourced a new company that is less expensive and better quality than the previous company used. The backs of the coasters include a QR code that will take viewers to more information on the CC MRC website, including facts about the creatures featured, the associated

CC MRC projects, and the CC MRC itself. Ann is looking for some experts on the species to help write some succinct informational paragraphs; *Alan Clark offered to help with the bull kelp; *Bob Vreeland and Lance Vail volunteered to help with the crab. Ann anticipated having 7,500 coasters in hand before the July CC MRC meeting and encouraged everyone to pick up bundles for distribution. Rebecca Mahan will have a sign-out sheet in her office that will include intended drop-off locations. Tim Cochnauer reminded the group to keep some coasters for handing out at the upcoming festivals.

Nancy Stephanz stated that she had seen an announcement in the Peninsula Daily news for this CC MRC meeting.

No one reported attending the European Green Crab molt training.

Forage Fish

Tim Cochnauer announced that sampling was collected for May and June. There were over 400 eggs collected at Cline Spit in May, but none found at Ediz Hook or Elwha Beach, which was typical. The June samples have not been processed yet.

Elwha Beach Stewardship

Helle Andersen and Tim Cochnauer conducted their first surveys at Elwha Beach. Helle replaced the dog waste bags and set up a random schedule for six surveys through September. Helle observed 41 people and three dogs; Tim saw 11 people and three dogs. *Rebecca Mahan will order more dog waste bags.

Kelp Surveys

Alan Clark announced that the surveys would be starting a little later this year. The survey dates will be selected for low tide days in July and August.

Biotoxins: Sound Toxins

Nancy Stephanz said that Sound Toxins surveys were scheduled to start on Monday, 7/17/23. A representative from the Port Townsend team will be coming out to help the Port Angeles surveys get started. Nancy shared some information about harmful algal blooms found in Alaska with real-time data gathered from boat tow equipment.

Biotoxins: Shellfish

Bob Vreeland reported that everywhere east of the Lyre River was closed for paralytic shellfish poisoning. Pillar Point is still open; Bob sampled there last week.

Good of the Order

Rebecca Mahan will be on vacation 7/18/23-7/26/23.

Public Comments

Mike Doherty asked whether the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe would like a letter of support for their beach nourishment work at Ediz Hook. Rebecca Mahan confirmed that the Tribe had been conducting a beach nourishment project on the south side of the Hook, but they had run out of project funds. Mike advocated for supporting the work if it was productive. Alan Clark said that the NWSC had not been able to get reauthorization. The bill will probably be submitted by Representative Larsen or Kilmer but is not anticipated to pass until there is a democratic majority. Funding for the NWSC will come from congressionally directed spending funds in the interim.

Adjournment

Chair Tim Cochnauer adjourned the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Action Items:

****Ann Soule volunteered to participate in the Educational Display Subcommittee.***

****Mike Doherty offered to help Alan Clark with efforts for a community event on the rescue tug and associated issues.***

****Alan Clark will send the order request for a GoPro/GPS to Rebecca Mahan.***

****Alan Clark offered to help with the bull kelp information on the CC MRC website; *Bob Vreeland and Lance Vail volunteered to help with the crab information.***

****Rebecca Mahan will order more dog waste bags.***