

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Meeting
6-8PM on March 4, 2025
Hybrid Meeting
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Troy McKelvey, Recreation
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWSC Rep
 Brenda Johnson, District 2
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt
 Sarah Fiskken, District 3, NWSC Alt
 Neil Harrington, Tribal
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv
 Akelya Behrenfeld, Local Youth Representative

Absent:

Roy Clark, Recreation Alt
 Carol Hasse, ex officio, Port of Port Townsend
 Heidi Eisenhour, ex officio, BoCC
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science
 Gordon King, Commercial
 Janette Mestre, District 1

Via Zoom

Brad Bebout, District 1

Guest Speaker:

Northwest Maritime: Blue Schools & MRC Overlaps

Simona Clausnitzer
 School Programs Manager, Northwest Maritime

Staff: Katie Kowal – Water Resources Program Coordinator
 Jefferson County MRC/WSU Extension

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Betsy Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	All members – please send volunteer hours to Katie.
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Amendments to / Approval of Agenda No amendments to Agenda Amendments to / Approval of Minutes Bryan DeCaterina was present at February 7, 2025 meeting. He was not listed as present on the February minutes.	Neil moved to approve the agenda. Sarah seconded. Motion passed. Jeff moved to approve the February minutes w/ amendments. Seconded by Akeyla. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	None		
GUEST SPEAKER Simona Clausnitzer NORTHWEST MARITIME: BLUE SCHOOLS & MRC OVERLAPS	Northwest Maritime: Blue Schools & MRC Overlaps Overview: EXPLORE: SPARK INTEREST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ages, mostly middle school. Expose students to new career paths and skills PREP: BUILD INTEREST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer term Deepen Skills, get industry recognized certifications LAUNCH: PURSUE INTEREST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career immersion, internships, volunteer positions PATHWAYS IN THIS PROGRESSION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Construction Trades Vessel Operations Marine Science EXPLORE: MARITIME DISCOVERY PROGRAM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are out on water from 1-8 days On water & off-shore activities like navigation, basic marine science 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting them excited about this environment & Maritime <p>OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS ON <i>SCHOONER ZODIAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellingham – San Juan Islands • 3-4 days, 6th – 12th graders • Marine Science Pathway • Maritime Skills Pathway <p>PREP:</p> <p>MARITIME CAREER IMMERSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job readiness program for youth furthest from opportunities. Learn trades and vessel operations on water. • Two cohorts that come through for 12 weeks at a time. <p>PORT TOWNSEND MARITIME ACADEMY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership of NW Maritime & West Sound Tech Skills Center • Tuition free half-day public school program for Highschool Juniors & Seniors. • Students attend every morning for the entire school year. • Learn vessel operations and some trades. <p>LAUNCH:</p> <p>INTERNSHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplace experiences with local businesses • Mentorships with local tradespeople <p>BLUE SCHOOLS ORGANIZING THEORY</p> <p>Blue School is a theory that the best path to connecting a diverse workforce to maritime opportunities is to connect building career skills, with environmental restoration, in the students' own communities, then use the experiences of the sea to ignite the imagination of students and families alike.</p> <p>RESTORATION COMPONENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local • Meaningful contribution to conservation and/or rigorous science • Potential to involve vessel operations/trades so we can teach through the lens of conservation • Could be multiple things <p>GRAPHIC: Transformative Maritime Experiences happen when Community, Workforce and Environment come together.</p> <p>CASE STUDY: BILLION OYSTER PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY City project with students from NYC • 150 million live oysters restored • 2.8 million pounds of shells collected • 20,000 NYC students engaged • Partnership with public school called Harbor schools <p>Examples of various pathways for students in this school project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welding/fabrication-weld the underwater cages • Professional Diving: diving to put oysters in water • Marine Affairs: learning policy impacts & connections <p>NW Maritime is looking to do that here with their three pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Construction Trades • Vessel Operations • Marine Science <p>LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT:</p> <p>EXPLORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • large number of students • short period of time, • new to Maritime • classroom based? <p>PREP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • med/low number of students • developing maritime skills, • Long (school year/two months) • In the field restoration? <p>LAUNCH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low number of students • developing maritime skills through their placements • In the field restoration? 		
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	<p>WHAT HAVE THEY FIGURED OUT?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential PSRF / Olympia Oyster collaboration • Other projects/species to consider? • MRC initiative where they could contribute in a meaningful way for students? <p>Simona asked if the MRC had ideas or thoughts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah asked what they are doing with PSRF. • Simona said they are in the beginning phases of talking with them. Hoping to do something with Olympia Oysters. • Jeff asked about using high school students to operate vehicles on the water with the ROV crab pots project and the challenges with insurance. How do they handle that? • Simona said there is a whole team of people that handle the insurance. Abby said PTMA runs through their insurance and they have a company that specializes in putting insureds on the water. Other CT programs outside of them cannot put students on the water since their insurance doesn't cover it. • Tim said that's the stumbling block. He talked with woodshop teacher, Karl, and there might be an interesting tie in...possibilities re: the Robotics ROV project. • Neil: two people are missing tonight...Emily, the co-chair who works for PSRF & Gordon, who works for Taylor Shellfish. There could be some synergy with the Olympia Oyster project. The current Jefferson County project doesn't use a hatchery...it's just habitat enhancement. We set out shell, but it's a good learning opportunity. Very episodic, lots of work all at once, monitoring. • Abby: our Workplace Experience Manager recently began talking with Taylor Shellfish about having students placed there. Student transportation is a limitation that we run into. They spoke with Emily early on, when they thought they would have one keystone species to restore. • They determined that 75 kids is too many to be in a restoration site. They realized they would need to be flexible in the level of involvement in a restoration project. They may adjust those class size numbers on certain days. • Betsy: How does MTDS interface with the Blue Schools? • Abby: Port Townsend is a Maritime Discovery School, every 7th grader comes to them. The curriculum points towards Maritime at every grade level. • Jeff mentioned that Clallam County is doing Elwha restoration with 50 students. • Brenda: Where does your funding come from? • Simona: Various sources, we have a fund-raising department that works with donors, and a grant writing dept. Some schools pay to attend, local schools pay less, but schools that charge tuition pay more, so that helps to offset. • Besty: Do you talk about the impact of boating on the environment? Sound, waste, derelict vessels, etc..? • Abby: There are boating education programs, but they are more in the adult programs. • Simona/Abby: They dig into climate change a bit, but not specifically boating impacts. There may be an opportunity to discuss in the PTMA program where they attend every day. • Tim Cross said in the NY example there were social issues & policies. He mentioned that it's so important to deal with the human aspect of things as well as the vocational. • Simona says they are hoping to do that as they work in the community, but she doesn't believe that the Maritime Center is focused on policy. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim C: Sport fishing and shell fishing is big part of marine trades. Do you focus on that? • Simona/Abby: We don't do a lot of fishing education or fisheries management. They just had their first adult fishing education class. It sold out. There was a lot of demand. • Neil: Looking at our project list. Rain Gardens as an interface of land and sea, stormwater? That could be a good way to engage students. • Simona/Abby: We've thought a lot about Rain Gardens. But they are really looking for a vessel operations project. • Neil: What about Eelgrass buoys? • Simona: There is a seasonality, things needs to happen during the school year. • Neil: We install in Spring and pull out in September. That could be a project for someone interested. • Abby: She was thinking of the buoys project a few months ago and was wondering if their high school students could be checking on that. It could be an opportunity. • Katie: How regularly are you looking to partner with another organization? Is there a certain number of hours needed? • Abby: It's not a matter of hours; it's more a period of time. Like a year, or something we can count on for the curriculum. • Brenda: Skagit MRC has a program called Kids on the Beach Possibly 8th graders? It brings a lot of awareness to these kids. She suggests they may want to look it up, they might mesh with them. • Sarah suggested that they look at all of the MRCs to see the type of projects they're doing. • Frank Handler: Just a brainstorm, focus on the aspects of boating, technology, marine science and conservation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What about a project that ties in robotics and started monitoring the health of the new Point Hudson jetty and critters that live there. Do it over time and then could publish it. • Tim: A study of water quality in the marinas is very relevant especially with number of boats in the water. Seems directly related to boats. • Jeff: Whatcom County had a project surveying the shorelines and seeing how they're changing. • Bryan thinks they paid Herrera to do consulting and surveying. • Tim: Monitoring derelict boats seems very applicable. • Betsy– there's an app called MyCoast. You input the coordinates and a picture and you can report directly to DNR about derelict vessels. • Brenda: Our MRC has a watch list of boats. This is the second year of our list, and no one is formally checking on those vessels. This could be a good way to know where they are. We should talk to you more about this. • Frank asked Katie to send Simona a copy of the minutes. 		
<p>PORT of PT UPDATES</p>	<p>Port of PT UPDATES (Commissioner Carol Hasse) Commissioner Haase was absent.</p>		
<p>BoCC UPDATE</p>	<p>BoCC UPDATE (Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour) Commissioner Eisenhour was absent.</p>		

<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p>NWSC MEETING UPDATE (Jeff)</p> <p>New Conflict of Interest policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being prepped for proposal. • Not a different policy, just more detailed. <p>Scientific advisory committee will do consulting on specific projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They want one from each MRC (no more than one). • MRC's can apply for one of their scientists to sit in to help form a new project. • One project per MRC <p>NWSC Strategic Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed strengths, weakness, threats <p>Puget Sound Day on the Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 29th: May 2nd • Washington DC • Attendees pay their own expenses <p>DEI update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEI Knowledge base is available now • Jeff thinks it's accessible from their website <p>CITY OF PT (SMP) (Members who attended)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsy asked if anyone went to the meeting. • Jeff said it was hijacked by one person. He found it interesting when he asked about the Port moving into the wetlands. It was • He said the argument is that the wetlands are not real (artificially being fed): we made it, so we can take it away. What they got from Ecology is authorization to divert the water and then it will dry up. • This is freshwater runoff coming down the hill. • Jeff said that it seems like if artificially being fed isn't right, then artificially diverting it isn't right either. • Not only is it a functioning wetland, but it's a good rain garden. • Neil: Are they going to fill in the entire marsh? • Jeff doesn't know how far they will go. • Betsy mentioned that in the last meeting Carol Haase said there was some litigation on what they did on the South Jetty. • Neil asked what is their time frame for updating the SMP? • The overall answer from the group was March • Betsy said the next SMP review is March 12th • Jeff said the city is talking now about extending the water wall. 		
<p>DISCUSSION ADVISORY ROLE OF JCMRC (Betsy)</p>	<p>ADVISORY ROLE OF JCMRC (Betsy)</p> <p>Betsy noted that our role here as an MRC is as an advisory to the County Commissioners all things marine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She wanted to make sure everyone understands the role and how we function together. <p>Questions to ask as we move forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we just doing projects or what is our advisory role (which is initially why this MRC committee was formed). • Everyone agreed that this is a question that should wait for Heidi. Can revisit at the next meeting, but Betsy will "plant the seed now." <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda: Our by-laws give a background of how this committee is set up. As with all the MRC's there was template for doing this. We're supposed to be tuned in to emerging issues as well as long-time existing ones. We should be providing advice, even when we're not asked for it. This leaves a bit wide open space for operating and advising the Commissioners. • Betsy: Which is why we have a diversity of roles from all parts of the county. diverse roles. At least on the East side. • Tim: Some of the Commissioners may be lacking in experience and there is a lot of talent in the MRC that can help them. • Betsy: They have to be experts in everything. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah: They've come to us before when they want advice. • Neil mentioned that he doesn't know if there are things they should be asking for advice on and the MRC just doesn't know about it. • Brenda: Usually, it's on an urgent basis. • Frank: This came up years ago and we had the same discussion. We had an example of how we responded. It's in the by-laws. We're here as a resource for the commissioners, and if there is a proactive issue, we'll step up to the plate. The majority of our work is projects. • Betsy: What does everyone think of "keeping our ears open" when we're in our community roles. The Commissioners are only three people, and they cover a huge range of issues. With our marine resources' focus, we can bring issues to them. • Tim C: He remembers bringing up the Black Point development in Brinnon. • Sarah: That is Greg Brotherton's district. • Brenda: We need to do our due diligence on that resort development and then invite Greg Brotherton to come to the committee. There's a lot to digest about that project (reading, letters, lawsuits). • Neil: It feels like a "zombie project". It keeps coming back. Need to look at the environmental impacts statement. • Brenda: Things the MRC might be concerned about are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effects of logging from two years ago ○ Water Quality Monitoring. Barbara Moore Lewis went to the meetings with the water quality consultant. They were going to design the water quality AFTER the development went in. Red Flag! That's something the MRC could bring up and get more information. ○ The Outfall in PT is the other issue. ○ We had the committee and then disbanded because we thought we had full cooperation with the PT. • Neil brought up these future agenda items... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage Treatment plan... • Status of Black Point in Brinnon? • Jeff: wetlands in the Port. • Betsy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do we stay on top of these things? ○ How do we want to bring that information in? • Neil & Frank: Getting a speaker is a start • Bryan said now is the time to discuss, with a "swift pace" • Brenda suggested next month. 		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p>Administrative Updates (Katie)</p> <p>MARINE SHELL COLLECTION/OUTREACH ACTIVITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use these at tabling events • Bryan has vials of eggs that kids love looking at • Brenda: on our website, under Education & Outreach, there's a photo of a board with shells glued to it. • Bryan said that Nam is an expert algae presser • Green crabs in acrylic <p>PRESENTATION TO BOCC IN APRIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need 1-3 members to give a presentation at the County Commissioners' meeting in April. Date is not set yet. • Brenda: Can we recycle a PP presentation from past years? They worked hard to craft the language in the slides. • Betsy, Neil, and Bryan volunteered. • Neil thinks there is a slide for at least every project 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda has never presented but she is willing to go. • Katie: it's a general overview of the MRC <p>2025-27 MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE GRANT TIMELINE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie reviewed this document with projects, their dates and the grant funding amounts/dates/deadlines. <p>2025 PROJECT INFORMATION FORM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed this form and will send the PDF as a separate file in emails to project leads. • First draft due from Leads Fri 3/28/2025 • Discuss projects as a group at the April meeting. <p>Brenda: Do we want to hold back a little bit of funding to support things like hiring a consultant, or people to analyze things if needed?</p> <p>Katie: If we're at the point of hiring a consultant, it needs to be called a project and a project lead needs to direct it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other MRCs have them identified as projects. • We would need a clear idea of the type of project we would need the hire, and the specific deliverables we need. • We would have a month/3 weeks to get a first draft on paper. • Katie will send to project leads <p>Katie noted that any time we spend over \$10k we're required to go through a bid process with the County and that is a lot of work. Something to keep in mind as we work on projects going forward.</p>		
<p>GRANT PROJECT UPDATES</p>	<p>FORAGE FISH (Dabob, Quilcene Marina - Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampled last month in Quilcene & Dabob and got it all done in one day. • They process the samples and she takes them to WDFW. • Tim C: you also distribute the results which is very helpful. • March sampling dates are not scheduled yet. <p>OLYMPIA OYSTERS (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittee meeting • April 1 spread shell that was dumped off the boat in Winter • Dates in the future for potential population survey--July 12 • Aiming to spread shell in the lagoons...maybe make a <i>Beach Watchers</i> field trip... in late April or early May. • Katie asked him about Saturday, May 3rd. • They put out 1500 bags of shell this winter, WDFW said they have some funding for restoration, and they need to spend it by June 30th. They will spread approx. another 1000 bags before June 30. This is out in the power lines. • They can spread 34 yards. • Their permit expires in July, so they'll be working on an Eelgrass survey in that area. They must renew their permit this winter • Talk to DFWW about Killisut Harbor, the next steps are to spread shell, Oysters. Mystery Bay could be a good next step. • Brenda suggested inviting Glen Gately to give a talk to JCMRC about the small tributaries coming into Snow and Salmon Creeks and the sediment flow. He is from the Conservation District. <p>BULL KELP MONITORING (Katie for Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre kick off check in meeting for Kelp monitoring • NWSC is doing a kayak safety class if you want to do the monitoring via kayak. Katie will check if the training is required annually. <p>EELGRASS BUOYS (Troy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan did some survey work. They will get back out in April. Bryan mentioned they're proposing putting another buoy in front of the Bayview restaurant. One of the only areas in the PT waterfront has healthy eelgrass beds. • Katie said that she is very close to submitting a JARPA permit which allows them to have their buoys out there. <p>RAIN GARDENS (Katie for Janette)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last weekend they had 3 out of 5 people make it to the work party. Great photos. Got the Taylor – Clay garden all cleaned up. Lee Bebout is willing to steward the garden. • Janette will be asking for help with a planting day next month. She has new plants that will need to go in the ground. 		

	<p>ROV CRAB POTS (Jeff, Tim) Tim is approved by the school district to go on the ROV boat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had been working with the school district to confirm that if he is on the boat as an MRC member, that takes the liability off of the school. <p>Jeff: ROV's are having a bit a moment,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDFW reported to the legislature and gave JCMRC a shout out, for our community based derelict vessel removal. • Skagit is thinking of upgrading. • Jason Morgan is buying 2 more ROVS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now there are problems not overloading WDFW in permitting. • Permit requests are in now for this year's work. • Killisut Harbor, sonar survey done by the NWS Foundation this year. • The Navy is ok with us working over there. • Ben Griner, the contractor, he is still willing to work on project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year they will have a Sonar on board. They should be able to find pots faster. • Is there any way to buy gear? He's been hearing that the maintenance is very expensive. • Katie said there should be a subcommittee meeting soon re: permits and RFP for bid process. <p>STORM SURGE JEFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>EDUCATION & OUTREACH (Sarah, Brenda, Betsy)</p> <p>Searching for Seaweed Friday, April 4th 2:00 pm Point Hudson</p> <p>Catch More Crab June 25th</p> <p>Digging for Dinner No date yet Camille Speck is very busy. She'll get back to Sarah by mid-March with a date</p> <p>POTENTIALS:</p> <p>Shrimp Fest June 21st in Brinnon Free event 9 am – 10 pm Booths from 9am -5pm Street dance/party that evening Volunteers?</p> <p>UPDATING CALENDAR ON WEBSITE (Katie)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input on listing dates on events that we are hosting, not tabling. • Tabling vs. hosting • Brenda said that it would be helpful to have the events listed (like the ones that Neil discussed earlier). Days that people could volunteer. • Katie said she would start putting everything on the main events calendar on the website. <p>WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL (Betsy) Sept 5, 6 & 7</p> <p>SPEAKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to potential speakers • Don't want to miss important individuals <p>TOPICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a balance between nerdy science and other things. • Betsy distributed a list and asked everyone to review. • Are topics missing? • Some topics are missing speakers 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there overlapping speakers? • Reviewed specific speakers and other items for overlapping speakers <p>Highlights of ideas for speakers and topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife and marine mammals are the biggest topics • Derelict Vessels: An important topic, having it in the program will raise awareness • Effect of Hood Canal Bridge on Salmon Migration • Emily Bishop, get her to speak. • Keeping Shellfish Safe – shellfish toxins program. Tracie Barry. • Plankton tows – the Bebout's will talk about that. • Forage Fish • Keep microscopes up all day • Betsy asked who would be a good speaker for Tides and Currents, basic Oceanography 101 <p>OTHER MRC PROJECTS</p> <p>SHORELINE LANDOWNER OUTREACH (Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates <p>KELP SUBCOMMITTEE (Brad)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelp subgroup going forward will be the same, they will just keep doing traditional kelp surveys as in the past. No new Kelp project will be submitted in the next grant cycle due to lack of consensus on direction of a new project. • He will continue to develop DIY instrumentation he thinks would be useful. • Betsy said that Kelp is such an important project and maybe we can enhance and improve what we're doing to give us more information. <p>DEI UPDATES (Katie for Emily)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New contract signed, continuing funding work • There is approx. 11 hours left of work with her, through Sept 30th • Neil asked if our meetings be different in terms of the structure? • Brenda: yes • Neil: How might that look? Let's think about it. • Betsy noted that there are things the MRC is required to do. • There was discussion on things required in a meeting (minutes, adjournment, etc.) • Katie said she will get the bylaws up on the website soon for review. 		
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>Public Comments None</p>		
<p>MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<p>Future Agenda Topics / Speaker Suggestion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Point Project Brinnon • Outfall Sewage Master Plan • Wetlands in the Port • Glen Gately, Conservation District to give a talk <p>EVENTS: Lecture – Ocean Nomads: The Albatrosses. Wheeler Theater Fort Worden State Park Peter Harrison Free talk March 30th 3 – 4 pm</p>		
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:55. Next meeting will be April 1st</p>	<p>Brenda moved to adjourn, seconded by Neil. Motion passed.</p>	