

**Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee  
In Person Meeting  
6-8PM on May 7, 2024 at  
WSU Classroom (97 Oak Bay Rd)  
Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

Neil Harrington, Tribal  
 Heidi Eisenhour, *ex officio*, BoCC  
 Carol Hasse, *ex officio*, Port of Port Townsend  
 Brad Bebout, District 1  
 Timothy Behrenfeld, District 1 Alt  
 Jeff Taylor, District 2, NWS Rep  
 Brenda Johnson, District 2  
 Frank Handler, District 2 Alt  
 Sarah Fiske, District 3, NWS Alt  
 Joanie Hendricks, District 3  
 Tim Cross, District 3 Alt  
 Betsy Carlson, Envir/Conserv  
 Bryan DeCaterina, Env/Conserv Alt  
 Emily Buckner, Marine Science  
 Christopher Kelley, Marine Science Alt  
 Gordon King, Commercial  
 Troy McKelvey, Recreation  
 Roy Clark, Recreation Alt

**Absent:**

Judy Surber, City of Port Townsend  
 Janette Mestre, District 1

**Guest:**

Darby Flanagan-  
 Abalone Biologist

**Staff:**

Bob Simmons, WSU Staff  
 Katie Kowal, WSU Staff

Topic	Update or Issue	Decisions/Follow-Up	Responsibility
CALL TO ORDER GUEST INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Gordon King called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Introductions were made.	A quorum was present.	<b>All members – please send volunteer hours</b>
AMENDMENTS TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA  APPROVAL OF MINUTES	Jeff and Chris requested 10 minutes for a presentation  Sarah Fiske: Eric Berg mentioned that Judy & Nam played a part in the Jetty opening project. A ‘shout out’ to them.  Bob Simmons gave a ‘shout out’ to Sarah for carrying the load.	Gordon moved to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Bryan. Motion passed.	
PUBLIC COMMENT	No public comment		
<b>GUEST SPEAKER</b> Darby Flanagan- Abalone Biologist WDFW WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife	<b>Pinto Abalone Restoration in Washington State</b>  <b>Species Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gastropod mollusk or a Snail</li> <li>• Pinto Abalone are found from SW AK to Baja Mexico</li> <li>• Locally in the Straits of Juan de Fuca &amp; San Juan Islands</li> <li>• Can live up to 30 years</li> <li>• Prefer near shore, rocky reef habitat, close to kelp beds</li> <li>• Diet is Kelp and diatoms</li> <li>• Very important to the ecosystem.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcast spawners</li> <li>• Fertilization occurs outside of the body</li> <li>• Population is in active decline</li> </ul> <b>Historical Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pinto Abalone were an important food source for local first nations.</li> <li>• 1959 fishery est. in WA State (sport, not commercial)</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak take years were 1960-1990</li> <li>• 1980s took 400K Abalone from WA per year (number only counts the legal take)</li> <li>• Immeasurable numbers taken from poaching</li> <li>• 1990s Population decline in Northern range: WA &amp; Canada fisheries close</li> <li>• 1992 WA set up 10 index monitoring stations</li> <li>• 1998 WA designates PA as a state candidate Species of Concern</li> <li>• 1999 Canada lists PA as a threatened species</li> <li>• 2004 NOAA lists as Federal Species of Concern</li> <li>• 2009 PA increased to endangered species</li> <li>• 2019 WA State lists PA under State Endangered Species list</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Population Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97% decline from 1992 – 2017</li> <li>• They do not meet the presumed min. density for fertilization</li> <li>• Two years too late shutting down the abalone fisheries</li> <li>• Shell length is getting bigger meaning that the population is aging out</li> <li>• Reproductive collapse due to low adult densities</li> </ul> <p><b>Research/Recovery Program</b></p> <p>Goal is to create a self-sustaining network of reproductive population in WA</p> <p>WDFW + Puget Sound Restoration Fund + collaborators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working together to produce raise and outplant captive bred Abalone</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Abalone collection without harming them</li> <li>2. Place in a captive breeding program</li> <li>3. In Manchester, WA near Bremerton</li> <li>4. More than 55k Abalone outplanted in wild</li> <li>5. Representing over 250 genetically distinct families</li> <li>6. Other satellite facilities: Seattle Aquarium (full program) and PT Marine Science Center (storage only)</li> </ol> <p><b>Outplants</b></p> <p>WDF + PSRF established 36 sites in San Juan Islands since 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently outplanting mixed cohorts of 1yr &amp; 2yr Abalone</li> <li>• 2009 – 2016 tagged every individual Abalone</li> <li>• Species has a naturally high mortality             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 yr olds: 1% survival....is “good enough”</li> <li>○ 2 yr olds: 4% survival....is “good enough”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Reassess &amp; Replace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We stop outplanting to sites with 1<sup>st</sup> year observed less than 4 %</li> <li>• Continue to overseed exited sites to maintain densities and increase genetic diversity</li> <li>• Establish new sites</li> <li>• Last survey showed an increase in population             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2024 were 13</li> <li>○ 2017 were 12</li> <li>○ 23 if you include the perimeter surveys</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>In the Works</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New sites</li> <li>• Overseeding old sites</li> <li>• Expanding Pinto restoration in the Strait</li> <li>• New index stations</li> <li>• New hatchery on Marrowstone</li> </ul>		
--	---	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More collaboration and partnerships</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A:  <i>What age do they reproduce?</i>          5 years, 60—70mm shell size</p> <p><i>Any correlation with Seastar wasting disease?</i>          We aren't seeing evidence on Pinto Abalone. Not a large enough population.</p> <p><i>Are the outplanting sites spawning naturally?</i>          They have genetic data on all Abalone that are outplanted, they could take genetic samples, but they haven't done that. There isn't that much research being done on distribution of larval abalone.</p> <p><i>Is there anything similar happening in Canada?</i>          Yes, they have a restoration program. Minimum collaboration. They looked at genetic samples of Canadian ab pops.</p> <p><i>How do you induce spawning in captivity?</i>          Hormonal protein put into the water column</p> <p><i>Hatchery on Marrowstone?</i>          Small holding facility for wild Abalones. Eventually establish it to be a full-fledged hatchery facility</p> <p><i>How far south into Puget sound do they go?</i>          Coupeville ferry dock</p>		
<p>Port of PT UPDATES</p>	<p><b>Commissioner Carol Hasse</b></p> <p>JETTY GRAND OPENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event was great</li> <li>• Video camera is up &amp; running</li> </ul> <p>CURRENT PROJECTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairing breakwater at the Boat Haven</li> <li>• Working towards permitting to get the Stormwater system up and running.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Needs be done this year for funding and will wrap into the 'hopeful' Boatyard expansion out towards Sims way</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>JEFFERSON AIRPORT RURAL INDUSTRIAL PARK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing rehab of buildings at Point Hudson</li> </ul>		
<p>BoCC UPDATES</p>	<p><b>Commissioner Eisenhour</b></p> <p>STAFF TURNOVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At MRC</li> <li>• BoCC office: Boards &amp; Committees person is gone</li> </ul> <p>SHORELINE MASTER UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCD is experiencing an extraordinary workload surge right now</li> <li>• SMP is on backburner</li> <li>• Process expected to be completed by end of summer</li> </ul> <p>STRAIT ERN LIO          Heidi is co-chair          This week is the Puget Sound Partnerships Eco Partnership Coordination Board @ the Dungeness River Center</p> <p>Two panels on Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural issues             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Timing of developing the Legislative agenda</li> <li>○ Sometimes the urban issues get more air time than rural issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>If anyone is NOT interested in having their term renewed let Heidi know.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Trust Leaders are making a presentation on their climate change work *</li> </ul> <p><b>Pleasant Harbor Resort</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner Brotherton has been tracking it more</li> <li>Project is moving forward</li> <li>Platt permit applied for</li> <li>Notice in last week's paper</li> <li>Public comment until May 21<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>		
<p>RECENT MEETING REPORTS AND ISSUE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>NWSC Meeting (Jeff)</b> San Juan MRC Derelict Vessel Program rec'd 14 votes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the priorities of the consultants to discuss relationship between the foundation and the commission</li> <li>What is the initiative and where are we going now?</li> <li>They are doing interviews, some in the MRC may be contacted.</li> <li>Virtual presentation of results on 7/10</li> <li>Contact Caitlyn Blair at NW straits</li> </ul> <p><i>Fish Wars</i> is previewing on 5/11-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available for streaming</li> </ul> <p><b>Strait ERN (Bob)</b> 4/19 Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They discussed the upcoming Recovery Board meeting</li> <li>The Board rotates meeting locations around the Sound. Meeting comes in PT every 3 or 4 years, so this was a big opportunity.</li> <li>They will view the Elwha &amp; Dungeness River restoration efforts</li> <li>5/9/2024, 9:30 am -3:30 pm</li> <li>Public portion ends at 2:20pm</li> <li>Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Partnership between the Ecology &amp; the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the State Information Commission             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They are all working together to build resilient riparian systems</li> <li>Keeping temperatures as low as possible</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strategic Initiative             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinator of the event, Kara Cardinal is holding "Happy Hours" (with coffee).</li> <li>One is tomorrow morning and you can talk about funding opportunities available</li> <li>She will continue these monthly throughout the year.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES</p>	<p><b>MRC Staff Hiring Subcommittee (Bob)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bob announced the hiring of Katie Kowal as the new Coordinator for the MRC</li> <li>Katie was formerly the Water Quality Specialist at Clallam County</li> <li>Starts on Monday 5/13</li> <li>Katie introduced herself</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Youth Representative Discussion (Emily)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No one has applied yet</li> <li>She has emailed the position description to everyone so they can promote the position.</li> </ul>		

<p>CURRENT &amp; UPCOMING PROJECTS</p>	<p><b>Forage Fish Monitoring</b> (Dabob-Sarah)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did sampling last month</li> <li>• Troy mentioned his Black Bear sighting</li> </ul> <p><b>Education and Outreach</b> (Joanie)</p> <p>DIGGING FOR DINNER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of help from MRC folks</li> <li>• People might have stayed longer if it wasn't so windy</li> <li>• At least 40 people showed up</li> <li>• Several showed up that didn't register</li> </ul> <p>SEARCHING FOR SEAWEED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 5/10, Point Hudson</li> <li>• Event begins at noon (volunteers show up a few minutes ahead of time)</li> <li>• Very low, -3 tide</li> <li>• Event is full, 20 signups only 22 spots available</li> <li>• Need a collection permit for shellfish</li> </ul> <p>FJORD FEST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorial Day weekend, 25-26<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• 10 am - 6pm</li> <li>• Yelrick Field in Brinnon</li> <li>• Fairly large local event</li> <li>• Will need help—they need 3 people a day</li> <li>• Volunteers should contact Joannie</li> <li>• Joannie will send out an email to everyone.</li> </ul> <p>CATCH MORE CRABS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 26<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Discuss at June meeting</li> </ul> <p>SEA GRANT, MRC &amp; MARINE SCIENCE CENTER STAGE FOR WOODEN BOAT FESTIVAL (Betsy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sept 5, 6, 7 &amp; 8</li> <li>• Schedule is full, good speakers</li> <li>• Waiting for responses from people</li> <li>• Great turnout</li> <li>• Will need lots of help for that day</li> <li>• If anyone is clever with titles, they need help titles for presentations</li> <li>• She's been contacted by WDFW (Nam), they want to set up a table</li> <li>• Sea Grant is co-sponsoring with Marine Science Center</li> </ul> <p><b>Olympia Oysters</b> (Neil)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They had a successful shell spreading event</li> <li>• 2 yards of shell</li> </ul> <p>POPULATIONS SURVEY AT THE POWER LINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ We need volunteers</li> </ul> <p>BEACH WALK ON BROAD SPIT RD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ June 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>○ Assess Olympia oysters populations</li> </ul> <p>GREEN CRAB NOTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neil was with Chris from WDFW at Discovery Bay and caught 10 Green Crab in Discovery Bay</li> <li>• They were trapping them</li> <li>• 4 weeks ago they caught 6 females</li> </ul> <p><b>Kelp</b> (Emily)</p>		
--	---	--	--

	<p>Emily will update next month</p> <p><b>Eelgrass Buoys</b> (Troy-Gordon) Found all of the anchors and put buoys out</p> <p><b>Rain Gardens</b> (Bob) Rain Garden Workshop with Master Gardener Coordinator, Bridget Gregg</p> <p>OFFICIAL RAIN GARDEN TRAINING PROGRAM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hour Workshop on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Pope Building</li> <li>• Four modules are online to watch before the class, then they are certified</li> <li>• Group will go out and assess functionality of a rain garden</li> <li>• Learn the different options for becoming a mentor.</li> </ul> <p>This is Bob's last meeting, he is retiring in June</p> <p>Master Gardener Coordinator, Bridget Gregg is very interested in keeping the Rain Gardens program going. The program is not dependent on his presence.</p> <p><b>DEI Consultant Contract</b> (special agenda topic Jeff &amp; Chris)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kelp at North Beach is disappearing.</li> <li>• \$12k is available in the budget until the end of June.</li> <li>• A quality assurance plan needs to be written by the end of June</li> <li>• MRC has to vote tonight if the funds will be used. Depends on what they learn as Chris starts exploring what's available.</li> </ul> <p>NORTSHORE KELP AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area 1 &amp; Area 5 look stable –lower priority</li> <li>• Area 2 sparse area</li> <li>• Focusing on Area 3 (area west of sewage outfall pipe) &amp; 4 (sewage pipe)</li> </ul> <p>Changes since 2016 - 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showed map of aerial photography with infrared imagery provided by DNR</li> <li>• Marked decline in kelp density in areas 3 &amp; 4</li> <li>• Taken during same month from year to year</li> <li>• Haven't released 2023 data</li> </ul> <p>Satellite data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same density in 2016-17</li> <li>• Chris would like better data with higher resolution</li> <li>• Need a paid account for that</li> <li>• They contact Skywatch, a commercial satellite imagery company</li> </ul> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 km view goes all the way from Point Hudson to Beckett Point</li> <li>• \$750 per shot</li> <li>• Archived images are less expensive</li> <li>• They can get 3 years worth of data for \$5k, however, they aren't sure what's in the archive</li> <li>• Chris showed examples of resolution</li> </ul> <p>Funds would come out of two grant money projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6K ROV project supporting the students and</li> <li>• 12K for a sonar scan survey. It's grant money.</li> </ul>		
--	---	--	--

DRAFT

	<p>Chris was in touch with Jason Morgan re: diving for Crab pot project, they're not available until 2025.</p> <p>PROPOSAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask for \$7000 towards this project vote to approve getting the data from Skywatch</li> </ul> <p><b>Green Crab Molt Search Training</b> (Betsy) WA Sea Grant and WSU Molt Search program which also includes links to upcoming trainings throughout Puget Sound. <a href="https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/moltsearch/">https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/moltsearch/</a></p> <p><b>Registration for local trainings at PTMSC June 12, 4-6pm,</b> <a href="https://forms.gle/hRc84vUrJ2Eyf93m6">https://forms.gle/hRc84vUrJ2Eyf93m6</a></p> <p><b>Registration for Fiero June 15, 10am-12pm,</b> <a href="https://forms.gle/jQWyFsX7o9ZHN5hK7">https://forms.gle/jQWyFsX7o9ZHN5hK7</a></p> <p><b>Virtual training on June 18<sup>th</sup></b> Time TBD, information included on Main Link</p> <p><b>Molt Blitz</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Looking for European Green Crab over a larger area</li> </ul>	<p>Neil motioned to approve the draft of the DEI consultant contract. Betsy seconded the motion.</p> <p>Motion passed.</p>	
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>No public comment.</p>		
<p>MRC ROUND TABLE/ ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<p><b>Call For Future Agenda Topics/Speakers</b></p> <p><b>Roundtable</b> (Brenda)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fourth year of Jefferson Co. Pigeon Guillemot breeding and monitoring studies</b></li> <li>They have 15 volunteers, but need more.</li> <li>5 colonies to monitor</li> <li>Sit with binoculars</li> <li>Monitoring activity---identify the fish they are bringing to chicks; disturbances; population size</li> <li>Starts on June 1<sup>st</sup>, finishes in August</li> </ul>	<p>If you're interested, please email Brenda at <a href="mailto:bsjohnson1@icloud.com">bsjohnson1@icloud.com</a></p>	
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 8:02. Next meeting will be June 4th</p>	<p>Brenda moved to adjourn, seconded by Neil. Motion passed.</p>	