



MRC Members

Glen Alexander ("Alex")
Citizen-at-Large
Term 2: 01/21/2027

Rick Beauregard (NWSC rep)
Scientific
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Jace Cotton
City of Bellingham, Council

Jackie Dexter
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Mark Fairhart
Citizen-at-large
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kaylee Galloway
Designated, County Council

Alexi Guddal
Conservation/Environmental
Partial: 01/31/2026

Joe Hoats
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kathy Ketteridge (Vice-Chair)
Citizen-at-Large
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Elizabeth Lorence
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Mike MacKay (NWSC alt rep)
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2028

Avery Maverick
Recreational
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Paul Meyer
Conservation/Environmental
Term 1: 01/31/2029

Andrew Shelton (Chair)
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Mary Lou Steward
City of Blaine, Mayor

Colin Wahl
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2029

Vacancies

Recreational Interest

Nooksack Tribe Representative

Lummi Nation Representative

WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY | April 3, 2025 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Garden level conference room, Civic Annex Building, 322 N Commercial, Bellingham

HYBRID: ZOOM [LINK](#), Meeting ID: 829 8756 4534 | Passcode 868735

1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.

Time	Agenda Item	Lead	Action Y/N
1.	Introductions and Determine Quorum	Andrew	
2.	April 3 Agenda <i>Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.</i>	Andrew	Y
3.	Approval of March Meeting Summary <i>Review and approve summary as final.</i>		
4.	Community Updates <i>Community members attending the meeting who wish to address or update the Committee on MRC related matters will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak.</i>		
5.	5:15 Staff Updates: Presentation to County Council, 2025 OTGP grant amendment	Austin/ Dana	
6.	5:25 MRC Project Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPAR Intertidal Monitoring Beach Seine with Schools Olympia Oyster Vessel turn-in event Bull Kelp Monitoring 	Mark Mike Jackie Austin Dana	
7.	5:40 MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council Port of Bellingham City of Blaine Northwest Straits Commission 	Kaylee Kurt Mary Lou Rick	
8.	6:00 MRC Project Proposals <i>Review and discuss projects for 2025-2027 grant round</i>		
9.	~7:00 Adjourn		

In attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Mark Fairhart, Glen Alexander ("Alex"), Avery Maverick, Mike MacKay, Joe Hoats, Paul Meyer, Beth Lorence, Kaylee Galloway, Jackie Dexter

Others: Victoria (Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum, "GSSC"), Alan Chapman, Erica de la Rosa (Northwest Straits Foundation), Emily ?

Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are to contact MRC Staff at least 4 business days in advance.

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- 1) **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** MRC staff facilitated the meeting due to the absence of the MRC Chair and MRC Vice-Chair. The meeting began with the land acknowledgement and roundtable introductions. A quorum was present.
- 2) **April 3 Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- 3) **Approval of March Meeting Summary:** The March meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Community Updates:** Victoria mentioned that the GSSC has worked with 3 schools and 5 classrooms over the last couple of months. They have 400 hundred students scheduled for class instruction the rest of the school year. Volunteers are needed, especially for field trips.
- 5) **Staff Updates:**
 - **Presentation to County Council:** The MRC is scheduled to present to Council at the April 29. Staff requested members help, if available.
 - **2025 OTGP Grant Amendment:** The OTGP grant includes the Olympia oyster and Remote Beach Cleanup projects. The Remote Beach Cleanup project is being removed from the grant due to cost and lack of interest and capacity. Funds will be moved to the Olympia oyster task to support site assessment work in Drayton Harbor.
- 6) **MRC Project Updates:**
 - **CPAR Intertidal Monitoring:** Mark reminded the committee that the MRC agreed to continue the intertidal monitoring work at the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve during summer 25'. The survey dates have been set and were shared with the committee via e-mail. There are a couple of opportunities to run through the survey protocol with other groups in the region conducting similar surveys. Mark has learned that the data that has been collected so far at Cherry Point, has not been analyzed. The MRC should be thinking about why they wish to continue collecting that data. Staff have requested help from the Northwest Straits Commission Science Advisory Committee to identify a way to collect similar data that will have more immediate use to the scientific community.
 - **Beach Seine with Schools:** Beach Seine with Schools is in its 4th year. There will be three events again this at Boulevard Park. Schools have been selected, and the program will host 4th grade classrooms. Tribal speakers are scheduled for each event. Project leads improved the data sheet, giving students more room to draw specimens. The Salish Sea School is helping run a series of 3 stations with different activities. Pre and post event classroom sessions will also occur.
 - **Olympia oyster:** The Puget Sound Restoration Funds conducted a site assessment in Drayton Harbor on March 31. The survey team walked the southeastern to southwestern side of Drayton Harbor to look for suitable habitat and any indication of any native or previous restoration spots of Olympia oysters. A couple of locations with firm substrate along the southern edge of the bay. Several oysters were found just south of the Semiahmoo marina.
 - **Vessel turn-in event:** The Port of Bellingham (POB) is finalizing an interagency agreement with DNR. The POB will then be putting out a solicitation to identify a boat yard that can host the event. From there, we will select a date for the event, create a flyer, and advertise. MRC staff presented information about the event to the WRIA 1 Management Team. The event will likely happen in July or August.
 - **Bull Kelp Monitoring:** Low tide events this year are limited. Dana has set the survey schedule. If anyone is interested in helping, you must be able to self-rescue if you were to flip in the cold water, and that you can assist others if that were to happen. Free training is available.

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7) MRC Partner Committee Updates:

- **County Council:** The Council had a retreat in mid-March, and addressed their internal meeting procedures, discussed the development of more robust and community engaged policy process, and established Council and Council Member priorities. Kaylee encouraged the MRC to share their priorities with the Council. Council recently approved the docket, which is an annual process that enables them to initiate a planning process for certain code amendments. They are also in the process of reviewing and hopefully approving the countywide planning policies. Kaylee and Austin provided a presentation “Protecting the Salish Sea Through Science, Local Policy, and Community Engagement” as part of the Western Washington University College of the Environment/Salish Sea Institute Speaker Series. The presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).
- **Port of Bellingham:** *(update provided via e-mail)*
Whatcom Creek Estuary: The Port is under contract with Anchor QEA to design habitat enhancements for the nearshore area between W. Holly St. and Roeder Ave. The work will be coordinated with the larger waterway clean up and habitat work. The team is currently reaching out to tideland and adjacent property owners including the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, DNR and several private owners.

Little Squalicum Beach: The Port is out to bid for replacement of deteriorated stormwater conveyance and installation of treatment for the catchment area west of Seaview and in front of Mt. Baker Products. The project will also relocate the outfall off of the beach.

Vessel Turn-in Event: Port staff is working on the solicitation for a boatyard to do the work and I should have a draft for DNR review by the end of the week. Once boatyard selection is complete we will finalize the Inter Agency Agreement (IAA) between the Port and DNR.
- **City of Blaine:** A steering committee has been formed for development of the Marine, Economy, and Research Institute for Sustainability (MERIS). MERIS aims to elevate the community and region by connecting and leveraging existing resources, addressing important local, regional, and transboundary issues like water quality and habitat conservation. Cross border traffic, in which Blaine is so dependent on, is down 40 to 60%.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** No update.

8) MRC Project Proposals:

The MRC discussed their list of projects for the 2025-2027 NWSC funds. Projects include:

- Continuing bull kelp monitoring as is but see about adding in an “exploratory site” per year where if we come across a kelp bed that we don’t currently regularly map, we can at least note its existence and map its perimeter if we have the time.
- Synthesizing the MRC’s water quality data from N. Chuckanut Bay and developing a report with recommendations on actions to improve water quality in the bay.
- Forage fish surveys will continue at established sites.
- HABs will continue as is.
- Acquire cultch and permits for the Olympia oyster restoration project in Drayton Harbor.
- Beach Seine with Schools will continue as is

9) Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

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