



MRC Members

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

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

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

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

Andrew Shelton
Economic
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Mary Lou Steward
City of Blaine, Mayor

Colin Wahl
Scientific
Term 2: 01/31/2029

Vacancies

Recreational Interest (2)
Nooksack Tribe Representative
Lummi Nation Representative

WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY | August 7, 2025 5:00pm – 7:00pm 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		
2.	August 7 Agenda <i>Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.</i>		Y
3.	Approval of June 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.	MRC Conference Update	Caitlyn	
6.	Staff Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRC Chair election MRC member updates 2025-27 grant application updates/budget Culturally Responsive Elementary Science Teaching MRC Water Week event (September 13-21st)? Upcoming outreach events (Bellingham SeaFeast-September 27th) Discussion of fireworks at Birch Bay 	Austin/ Dana	Y
7.	MRC Project Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPAR Intertidal Monitoring and NWSC/SAC Meeting Bull Kelp Monitoring Vessel turn-in event HABs Olympia oyster Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Preservation 	Mark Dana Mark Rick Jackie Dana	
8.	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	
9.	Adjourn		

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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In Attendance: Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Mike MacKay, Glen Alexander “Alex”, Rick Beauregard, Alexi Guddal, Paul Meyer, Kaylee Galloway, Mary Lou Steward, Mark Fairhart

Others: Caitlyn Blair (NWSC), Laura Hanna

1. **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Austin began the meeting with roundtable introductions. A quorum was not established.
2. **August 7 Agenda:** Tabled. No quorum present.
3. **Approval of June Meeting Summary:** Tabled. No quorum present.
4. **Community Updates:** No community updates.
5. **MRC Conference Update:** Caitlyn Blair, Northwest Straits Commission, was available to answer questions about the annual MRC Conference coming up in November in Skagit County, in La Connor, at Maple Hall. Registration should be available next week via e-mail. Guest reservations will be available for the keynote dinner.
6. **Staff Updates:**
 - **MRC Chair election:** Staff addressed the need for a Committee Chair. Mark Fairhart will consider the position, but would prefer a co-chair. Mark will discuss further with staff and Kathy Ketteridge.
 - **MRC member updates:** Avery Maverick has resigned from the MRC, for personal reasons.
 - **2025-27 grant application updates/budget:** The FY2024 NOAA grant was awarded. The OTGP-2026 agreements that begin January 2026 can be executed for the full two-year period. The Puget Sound Partnership has been awarded their EPA funding, part of which is directed to the NWSC through an interagency agreement. No funding shortfalls in 2026-2027! The MRC grant has been re-submitted. Contact staff for proposals.
 - **Culturally Responsive Elementary Science Teaching (CREST):** A program that connects 4th and 5th grade school teachers with opportunities to do science out in the field to give them more experience with people in our county that have expertise in these areas. *Is the MRC interested in engaging any further like, for instance, being a guest speaker to these classrooms about topics that we have expertise in or potentially helping lead one of their field activities?* Alex and Alexi expressed interest.
 - **MRC Water Week event (September 13-21st):** *How does the MRC wish to participate?* The MRC will table at [Run with the Chums](#) on September 13. Alex, Mark, and Paul expressed interest in tabling.
 - **Upcoming outreach events (Bellingham SeaFeast- September 27th):** Alex, Paul, Austin and Dana can help table.
 - **Discussion of fireworks at Birch Bay:** Staff was contacted by a Birch Bay resident concerned about the excessive firework debris that is left on the beach after July 4. The committee discussed annual beach clean up events in partnership with other organizations, and helping create more awareness.
7. **MRC Project Updates:**
 - **CPAR Intertidal Monitoring and NWSC/SAC Meeting:** Mark reminded the committee of the proposal from DNR and ReSources for the MRC to take over the Cherry Point Intertidal surveys. The MRC piloted two monitoring days this summer. Mark is withdrawing his support for continuing the work in future years. This project began in 2013, with established protocols. Nothing has been done with the data over the course of over 10 years of monitoring. The protocols need to be refined to make the project provide useful information. What is the scientific question the MRC wants answered? There may be a university student interested in organizing and analyzing the data.
 - **Bull Kelp Monitoring:** No surveys have occurred yet due to weather.
 - **Vessel turn-in event:** 29 vessels were accepted into the program. 19 have been deconstructed. 6 vessels awaiting asbestos testing, 1 vessel on the way to the yard and may need waste pumped.

In the news:

[Proactive boat recycling saves Washington waterways and resources](#) King 5 | August 6, 2025

[Watch as a boat is dismantled in Bellingham as part of derelict vessel program](#) Bellingham Herald | August 6, 2025

 - **HABs:** Weekly routine monitoring is continuing. Virtually no Alexandrium in the water, which is our primary problem species up here. The toxin biotoxin levels in shellfish has been non-detect. There have been huge blooms of diatom species rhizoclenia, which, becomes a nuisance when it dies off.

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- **Olympia oyster:** The final report from the Puget Sound Restoration Funds Drayton Harbor site assessment was shared with the meeting packet. The plot areas will be established off Semiahmoo Spit and California Creek. A series of plots at different tidal elevations will be set up in both of those general regions, and then we will see what plots are most successful, based on putting out spat in the 1st year and monitoring. The plan is to then supplement the locations that we see success at in future years.
- **Wildcat Cove Eelgrass Preservation:** Members have helped the Northwest Straits Foundation interns at the boat launch at Wildcat Cove, and mentioned that an MRC presence is helpful. The July Commission meeting began at the boat launch, where MRC members and interns were able to explain the project. The last day for the interns is September 15.

8. MRC Partner Committee Updates:

- **County Council:** Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee was recently briefed on the [Future Shorelines Project – Climate Vulnerability Phase 2](#). It is eye opening to just understand the vulnerabilities that we have along our coastlines pertaining to sea level rise and erosion, and making sure that we're thinking about that as we think about future infrastructure investments, or, driving growth out to Birch Bay or other regions that are potentially climate vulnerable. It is a relevant body of work as the County continues to work on the Comprehensive Plan. There was a briefing on the [Climate Element](#) during the last Joint Council and Planning Commission. Council did move forward with a couple conservation easement program acquisitions. This body of work is in part funded by the conservation futures fund. So there has been and will continue to be discussions around whether there is a potential opportunity for generating more revenue this body of work is in part funded by the conservation futures fund.
- **Port of Bellingham:** Update was shared via e-mail. Whatcom Creek Estuary Habitat Improvements - the Port is working through 30% design and JARPA submittal. Stakeholder engagement is ongoing. Little Squalicum Beach Stormwater Treatment Project - the majority of stormwater infrastructure has been installed. Waiting on delivery of the treatment vault. The current project will include the installation of an interpretive sign describing the project and benefits of forage fish habitat. Work below OHWM is currently stopped due to the presence of both sand lance and surf smelt eggs on the beach.
- **City of Blaine:** The City is really focused on downtown revitalization and starting to head into union negotiations.
- **Northwest Straits Commission:** A draft letter of support was provided with the meeting materials. The letter supports the Commission to include a budget request in Ecology's 2026 state supplemental decision package. A committee approval will be conducted via e-mail.

9. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

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