

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Retreat Summary

Prepared by Anna Toledo

# March 15, 2016

CAMANO ISLAND STATE PARK & CAMA BEACH STATE PARK

**PRESENT:** Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes, Ruth Richards, Elsa Schwartz, Kestutis Tautvydas, David Thomson (via WebEx), Anthony Turpin, Stan Walsh, Frances Wood, Lori Clark County Lead – Island County Department of Natural Resources Manager (non-voting), Tim Lawrence, WSU Extension Island County (non-voting), Jill Wood representing Richard Hannold, Island County Commissioner (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff) **ABSENT:** Leal Dickson, Florian Graner, Todd Zackey

**FACILITATORS:** Ginny Broadhurst (NW Straits Commission), Caroline Gibson (NW Straits Foundation)

### **CAMANO ISLAND STATE PARK FIELD TRIP**

MRC members met at Camano Island State Park. Ruth and Lois explained and demonstrated the forage fish monitoring program.

### **WELCOME AND RETREAT OVERVIEW**

Frances and Anna provided a welcome and overview of the retreat agenda, and encouraged members to think broadly and creatively throughout the visioning and planning process.

### **Retreat Objectives**

MRC members will:

1. Interact and build relationships with other MRC members
2. Understand Northwest Straits Initiative goals
3. Identify 3-5 top priorities for MRC work
4. Identify projects to be considered for the 2016-2017 work plan
5. Take leadership on identified projects

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND VISION EXERCISE**

Participants were asked to pair with a partner, ask the two questions below, then introduce the partner to the group:

- What sparked your interest in working on the marine issues of Island County?
- If you had a magic wand, and could solve one problem with the marine issues in Island County, what would it be?

Answers were compiled to assist with the visioning process. Number in parentheses indicate repeated themes:

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## **Passions/Interests**

- Salmon (2)
- Local (3)
- Stormwater (2)
- Awareness / public relations (4)
- Expansion of Navy Base
- Restore tidal inundation
- Policy (3)
- Integration with marine vitality
- Citizen science (2)
- Basking shark
- Pollution
- Connection to water (4)
- Water quality, septic
- Birds
- Climate change (2)
- Public access

## **NORTHWEST STRAITS 101**

Ginny and Caroline provided an overview of the Northwest Straits Initiative, and their four environmental goals:

1. Shoreline restoration
2. Water quality
3. Marine species & habitat
4. Education & outreach

## **REFINE VISION**

Participants were asked to focus the vision on what the MRC might take on over the next few years.

### **Public education and outreach**

- Lots of opportunities are available
- Provides direct benefits
- Plan should be strategic
- Can involve more than signage
- Consider social media campaigns, with help from NW Straits Commission and Foundation
- Critical Areas Ordinance – current opportunity to weigh in

### **Determine next steps for each current monitoring project**

- Evaluate each monitoring project:
  - Should this monitoring continue?
  - Should monitoring be intermittent? (e.g. first 5 years, then once every 3 years)

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- Is there an established end date?
- What is the end goal?

## **Consider citizen science as a means to develop long-term datasets**

- Look to fill needs of regional efforts
- Explore connections to Near-Term Actions (NTAs)
  - Eelgrass
  - Sedimentation

## **Use monitoring projects as a tool to reach and engage the public**

- Have each monitoring project identify needs and opportunities for engaging the public

## **PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Participants were asked to identify project ideas for the MRC to consider pursuing.

### **Upcoming Opportunities**

- Oil spill prevention and preparedness – Max Gordon from Department of Ecology will be presenting to MRC in April on updating Geographic Response Plans
- Sea level rise – Island County will be a pilot community in a project by Washington Sea Grant to conduct sea level rise vulnerability assessments and identify adaptation strategies. The MRC can help involve and inform local government in the process.
- Involvement with NTAs – look at NTAs proposed by Island County, NWSC, and NWSF for areas to collaborate
- Regional kelp monitoring
- Ocean acidification outreach to elected officials – effort led by NWSC
- NWSF and NWSC staff can assist with developing MRC monitoring plans

### **New Project Ideas** (with designated contact and/ or lead on scoping)

- Soft (natural) shorelines – moving toward more work in relation to education and projects; incorporating information on SLR and storm surge (Elsa. Can reach out to Lisa Kaufman)
- Incorporate outreach and education into every MRC project (Florian, Frances)
- Outreach targeting local elected officials and department heads with information and briefings on marine issues of local import, and action by the MRC. MRC could present during IC DNR's regular agenda spot at the Commissioners' work session.
- Use MRC meeting and other forums for outreach
- Monitoring indicator species for OA (contact Lucas Hart, Ian Jefferds)
- Creosote inventory. Tony is coordinating with Chris Robertson (DNR) to develop a strategy. Chris will present to the MRC in May.
- Public outreach on stormwater
- Rain gardens
- Next restoration project: Review Lead Entity list of restoration projects; tidal inundation and or culvert replacement/ removal projects.

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- Pursue MPA designation at Smith and Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Florian)
- Clear cutting and effects on local watersheds (Barbara)
- Storm surge monitoring, like project in Padilla Bay (Kes – will talk to Eric Grossman/USGS)
- 3 min video on why kelp is important. Could be added to county kiosk.
- Crab pot strategy implementation (Ed H and Elsa) and #CatchMoreCrab social media campaign (Ginny is point of contact)

## WRAP UP AND NEXT STEPS

Participants were asked to research the project ideas they identified and prepare an estimated budget and general project goals and scope for the MRC to consider at the following meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The retreat adjourned at 5:00 pm.