

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

September 3, 2024

WHIDBEY/HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Jill Lipoti, Chair, Kelly Webb, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Barbara Bennett, Paul Ben McElwain, Kes Tautvydas, Greg Easton, Kirk Larsen, Patrick Havel, Kelly Webb, Jeff Wheeler, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

ABSENT: Note if notified or un-notified – Melanie Bacon, un-notified, Jennifer Schmitz, notified

VISITORS: James Watson, WICD, Zavas-Silva, Surface Water Quality, Dana Oster, NWSC, Clea Barenburg, Salmon Recovery,

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** August 6, 2024, minutes approved

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A Coupeville teacher reached out asking if we could help with some science classes. Staff will meet with them to see if it is something the MRC can take on.
- Sound Waters University has requested that MRC Staff provide a couple presentations at their event in February.

BULL KELP UPDATE: Carter Webb

- This season's weather has been mild enough that no surveys have had to be cancelled or rescheduled.
- Volunteers have surveyed 170 acres in August.
- Possession and Ebey's sites have shown a decrease in density.
- Sargassum seaweed (non-native) is present at the Possession kelp bed. We may ask volunteers to record more info on this seaweed next year.
- We piloted two new pieces of equipment this season. Garmin Striker GPS (contour maps) & EcoSense 300A YSI (salinity, conductivity, & temp)

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COMP PLAN UPDATES:

- The team has turned in comments on all the elements of the Island County Comprehensive Plan.
- The Climate Element is being drafted by the consultant hired by Island County.
- The MRC will be invited to some of the discussions about the Climate Element.

NWSC UPDATES:

- Social Science seminar Oct 2nd – How to measure the human impact of our projects.

FORAGE FISH UPDATES:

- Kirk will work with Camano volunteers to identify a new location to survey on Camano.
- Can we make this project more wholistic and utilize volunteers more while they are on the beach.
- The team has met with Don Hunger to talk about getting support to potentially expand this program.

Meeting Adjourned 5:58pm