



Progress Establishing Coastal Marine Resource Committees
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | 2009 Report to the Legislature

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Front cover photo: LaPush, Clallam County by Brie Van Cleve
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Acknowledgements | 4 |
| Summary | 5 |
| Background | 6 |
| The Northwest Straits Initiative | 7 |
| What are MRCs? | 8 |
| Washington’s Coastal MRC Program | 9 |
| Coastal MRC Program Priorities and Benchmarks | 12 |
| Coordination with the Northwest Straits Commission | 16 |
| Coordination with the State Ocean Caucus | 16 |
| County Activity | 18 |
| Coastal MRC Activity by Benchmark | 18 |
| Grays Harbor County | 19 |
| Jefferson County and Clallam County | 21 |
| Pacific County | 23 |
| Wahkiakum County | 24 |
| Conclusion | 25 |
| Appendix A: Coastal County Resolutions | 26 |
| Appendix B: Coastal MRC Program Outreach Materials | 35 |

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SUMMARY

MRCs are county-based, volunteer committees that carry out local projects and activities and advise the county on issues pertaining to marine resources. MRCs are composed of representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, local citizens, and economic, recreational and conservation interests. Through their activities and monthly meetings, MRCs coordinate diverse partners, support resourceful, action-oriented solutions, and provide a platform for education and outreach on local issues. MRCs promote effective regional collaboration and citizen involvement in marine resource protection, management, and restoration.

As directed by the Washington State Legislature, WDFW coordinates and supports MRCs in the five coastal counties through the Coastal MRC Program. Program staff provide grants to MRCs for MRC activities and projects, account for MRC activity and deliverables, ensure that MRC activity compliments regional priorities, and promote coordination and strategic partnerships among MRCs, agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and other local groups. The following accomplishments highlight coastal MRC activity over the past year:

- Establishment of MRCs in Jefferson, Clallam, Pacific, and Grays Harbor Counties by County resolution
- Initiation of water quality monitoring efforts in Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties
- Organization of a well-attended community workshop on marine spatial planning, an emerging process for comprehensive ocean resource management
- Enhancement of marine science education for grade school children at three north coast school districts through field trips to the Fiero Marine Life Science Center
- Increased direct connection of local residents to state agencies through MRC partnerships with, and representation on, the State Ocean Caucus
- Raised general awareness of marine and estuarine issues through MRC-sponsored newspaper publications and local radio interviews, presence at local festivals, and other outreach and communication activities

Guided by the Washington Ocean Action Plan, MRC activity will improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, protection and restoration, and management of marine habitats and species and compliment ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance coastal and ocean resources.

Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to coastal and state residents. Identifying and implementing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the unique conservation and management issues of Washington's outer coast requires utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders. Citizen-based Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) are an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, innovation, and wisdom of coastal residents to compliment ongoing efforts to restore, protect, and manage coastal marine resources.

The Nation's coasts have received increased attention in recent years. The U.S. Ocean and Pew Commissions focused national attention on the coasts in 2006. Washington State responded with the establishment of the Washington–British Columbia Coastal and Ocean Task Force, the Ocean Policy Work Group, and the State Ocean Caucus. The Ocean Policy Work Group completed their work with the publication of the Washington Ocean Action Plan in 2006 and the West Coast Governor's Agreement on Ocean Health was announced in 2008. On June 12, 2009 the Obama Administration established the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force to develop a national ocean policy and a framework to improve stewardship through effective coastal and marine spatial planning. On December 14, 2009 the Task Force released their Interim Framework on Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.¹

The Washington Ocean Action Plan details the status of coastal communities and ocean resources.² In addition to significant contributions to Washington's economy, coastal resources maintain cultural identities, sustain coastal economies and communities, and provide food and opportunities for enjoyment. Although the coastal environment is relatively healthy compared to the Puget Sound, invasive species, toxic algal blooms, coastal hazards, habitat loss, water quality, and land use issues increasingly threaten human health and safety, livelihoods, and the ecological resilience of the coastal environment. New threats include increasing coastal development, sea level rise and climate change, ocean energy production, and – for coastal communities – increasing unemployment and changing community population demographics. Washington's Ocean Action Plan also provides recommendations for improving protection and management of the state's ocean resources organized under six topics: marine resource stewardship, coastal vulnerabilities from marine sources, coastal pollution, ocean research and education, sustainable and resilient communities, and governance. Marine Resource Committees are highlighted in the Plan as a creative and useful governance mechanism.³

¹ For more information about the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans>

² The Ocean Policy Work Group. 2006. Washington's Ocean Action Plan: Enhancing Management of Washington State's Ocean and Outer Coasts: Volume 2: Final Report of the Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group. The Office of the Governor, Olympia, WA.

³ Ibid, page 113-162

In the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the Washington State Legislature endorsed the MRC approach to local marine resource management and stewardship in the five southern Puget Sound counties and five coastal counties.⁴ The legislature created a new program within Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to provide support for the development, administration, and coordination of coastal MRCs and MRC-sponsored projects that benefit coastal and marine resources. The Puget Sound Partnership was directed to facilitate the establishment of the five southern Puget Sound MRCs.

The MRC model was first developed through the Northwest Straits Initiative in 1998. This federally-funded program supports MRCs in the seven northern Puget Sound counties⁵ and has become a national example of effective regional collaboration and citizen involvement in marine resource protection, management, and restoration.

The Northwest Straits Initiative

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative is a creative and distinctly local approach to marine resource management. First developed in response to a proposal by the National Marine Sanctuary Program to establish a sanctuary in northern Puget Sound, U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Representative Jack Metcalf tasked a citizen panel, called the Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission and informally known as the “kitchen commission,” with developing an organic approach to marine resource stewardship.⁶

The Northwest Straits Initiative has evolved to consist of a Commission that acts as a board of directors to seven MRCs, overseeing and coordinating activity and providing resources and expertise. The 13-member Commission is composed of one representative from each MRC, one tribal representative appointed by the Secretary of Interior, and five gubernatorial appointees.⁷

The authorizing legislation required a blue ribbon panel evaluation of the Northwest Straits Initiative, its Commission, and seven MRCs after five years. In addition to glowing reviews by the panel chaired by Bill Ruckelshaus, the panel concluded that the Northwest Straits Initiative was so successful at locally directed, regionally coordinated marine conservation that the approach should be replicated in other geographic locations.⁸ Further, the panel encouraged the Northwest Straits Commission to engage in replication of the model while cautioning against overstressing the Commission staff and region of focus.

⁴ Substitute Senate Bill 6231 and Substitute House Bill 2049 are codified in the Revised Code of Washington title 36 chapter 125.

⁵ Northwest Straits MRCs include Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, Island, San Juan, Jefferson, and Clallam Counties.

⁶ Washington Sea Grant. 1998. Murray – Metcalf Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission: Report to the Convenors. Washington Sea Grant Program, University of Washington.

⁷ For more information about the Northwest Straits Initiative, visit: www.nwstraits.org.

⁸ Ruckelshaus et al. 2004. Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative: Five-Year Evaluation Report. Washington State University Extension and University of Washington. Page 25-26.

What are MRCs?

MRCs – on the coast and in Puget Sound – are county-based committees that carry out local projects and activities and advise the county on issues pertaining to marine resources. MRCs are created and defined by county resolution or ordinance. Counties determine operational procedures and appoint committee members. MRCs are required by statute to be broadly representative, but counties have the ability to further specify membership or committee focus according to the needs of the county, its citizenry, and marine resources.

Marine Resource Committees are composed of representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, local citizens, and economic, recreational and conservation interests. Each county-based MRC sets local resource priorities and, sponsors and oversees projects to address priorities. Through their activities and monthly meetings, MRCs coordinate diverse partners, support resourceful, action-oriented solutions, and provide a platform for education and outreach on local issues.

Recognizing the existence of a similar state program focused on salmon and watershed issues, the legislature authorized Salmon Recovery Lead Entities to act as an MRC for a county in lieu of creating a new entity if practical and desirable. The Lead Entity Program organizes citizen volunteers at the watershed scale around local salmon recovery projects.⁹ The focus of MRCs and Lead Entities is complementary, but different; however, especially in rural counties, significant volunteer membership overlap makes Lead Entity and MRC coordination advantageous.

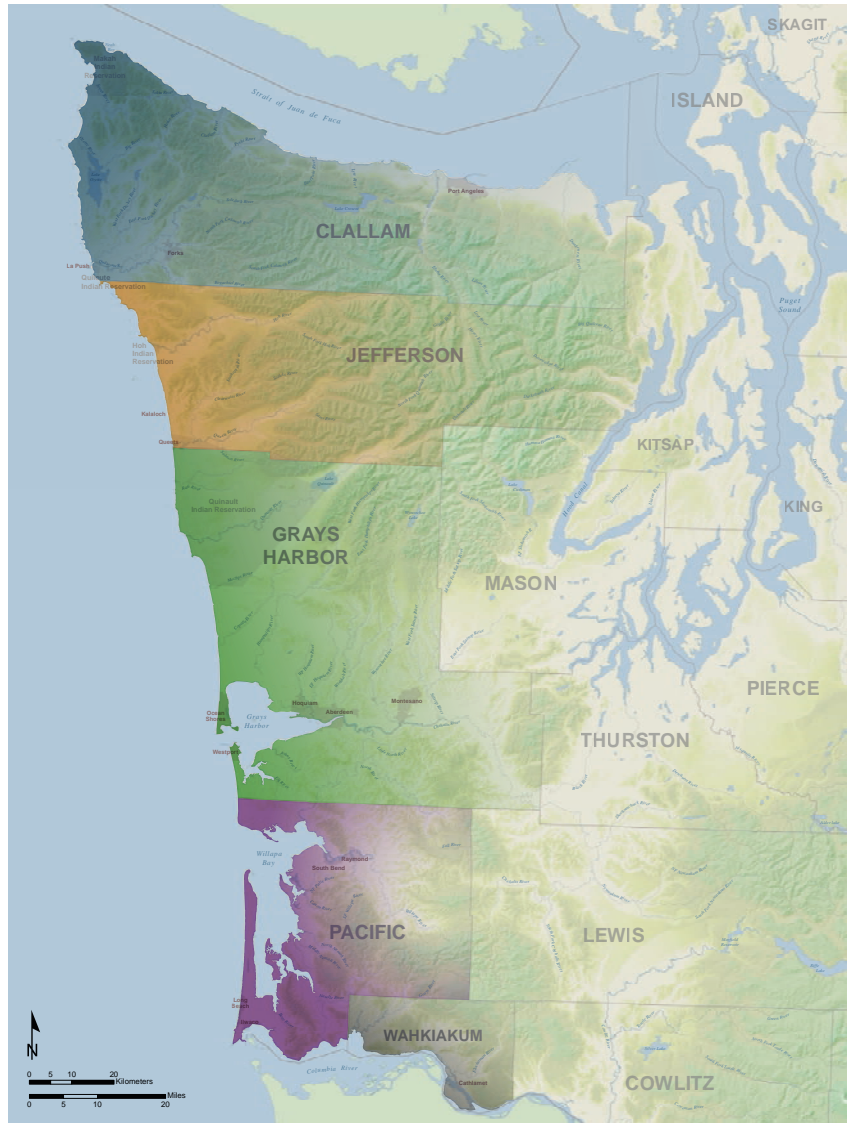
⁹ For more information about the Lead Entity Program, visit <http://www.rco.wa.gov/srfb/leadentities.htm>

WASHINGTON'S COASTAL MRC PROGRAM

The Coastal Marine Resource Committee Program was created within WDFW to implement 2007 and 2008 session law (SSB 6231 and SHB 2049) by providing support for the development, administration, and coordination of coastal MRCs and MRC-sponsored projects that benefit coastal marine resources (Map 1). The goal of the Coastal MRC Program is:

To understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

MRCs are still rapidly building their capacity and organization structure, but this calendar year has seen a significant increase in MRC activity and accomplishments. Table 1 summarizes planned Program budget for the State Fiscal Year 2009/2011 Biennium spending.



Map 1. Coastal MRC Counties are highlighted.

Table 1. Coastal MRC Program Budget

| | FY2010 (\$) | FY2011 (\$) | Biennium (\$) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Total funds minus administration | 232,388 | 232,388 | 464,775 |
| Total grant expenditures to MRCs | 185,000 | 200,000 | 385,000 |
| Total MRC Program staff expenditures | 47,388 | 32,388 | 79,775 |

¹⁰ Please see the sections on each MRC for a brief description of activities and projects.

Through the Coastal MRC Program, the Legislature directed WDFW to carry out the following tasks. Bullets under each task report actions carried out by WDFW to date.

Allocate programmatic funding for MRC activities and projects

Action: Counties and citizens requested coastal MRC funding to support a thorough and deliberate local process to consider whether to form an MRC. WDFW responded by making funds available to counties to support public meetings and other “exploratory” outreach activities in advance of formal MRC formation. Additional MRC project and administrative/coordination support is available to counties once an MRC is formed by county resolution.

Action: Allocate Program funds to MRCs to support coordination and projects. \$40,000 is available for each year of the 2009/2011 biennium to each county that has formed an MRC. A one-time grant of \$25,000 is available to counties for exploratory activities (described above).

WDFW allocated \$35,000 to Grays Harbor County (7/1/09 – 6/30/10) to support MRC activity.¹⁰

WDFW allocated \$40,000 to Clallam County (7/1/09 – 6/30/10) to support MRC activity in both Western Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

WDFW allocated \$40,000 to Pacific County (7/1/09 – 6/30/10) to support MRC activity.

WDFW allocated \$25,000 to Wahkiakum County (7/1/09 – 6/30/10) to support exploratory MRC activity.

Assist MRCs to measure their activities against regional performance benchmarks

Action: WDFW convened an ad hoc advisory committee called the Coastal MRC Work Group to develop performance benchmarks. Benchmarks are used in Table 2 to account for MRC activity.

Action: At the conclusion of each state fiscal year, MRCs are required to report on the year's activities and projects. Reports include evaluation of successes and challenges in order to improve future performance. Reports are available on request.

Support the coordination of MRC projects to complement regional priorities

Action: WDFW convened the Coastal MRC Work Group to articulate priority areas for Coastal MRC Program activity consistent with the Washington Ocean Action Plan. The program priorities guide MRC activity (see below).

Action: WDFW worked with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary through their management plan update process to include “Collaborative and Coordinated Management” as a strategic area of improvement which, in its current draft form, includes coordinating with MRCs on projects and outreach efforts.

Action: WDFW reports on MRC activity monthly to the State Ocean Caucus, the group charged with overseeing the implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan. Updates serve to highlight MRC activities, locally-identified issues or opportunities for state managers, and to inform MRC members of state activities on the coast.

Action: WDFW worked to facilitate participation of Grays Harbor County and Pacific County MRCs in the National Mussel Watch Program. Volunteers from each MRC will be trained in sampling protocols to collect mussels and other bivalves at three designated sites for evaluation of contaminants.

Action: Program staff continue to build awareness internal to WDFW and also with sister natural resource agencies regarding the availability of MRC volunteers for marine resource projects on the coast. Several agency activities have been identified that could benefit from volunteer labor (for example, supplementing WDFW's ability to protect Snowy Plover nests during critical periods and collection and disposal of derelict fishing nets and crab pots).

Coordinate the communication and promote interactions among Coastal MRCs, other similar groups, and with the Northwest Straits Commission on issues of common interest

Action: For the second year, WDFW was invited to attend the annual Northwest Straits Commission Training Conference to answer questions about MRC activity on the coast, exchange information, and promote collaboration between Coastal and Northwest Straits MRCs.

Action: WDFW continues to provide briefings on Coastal MRC activity to County Commissioners, Northwest Straits MRCs, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Committee as necessary.

Action: WDFW worked with the State Ocean Caucus to secure representation of MRCs on the Caucus.

Action: WDFW continues to maintain a website dedicated to the Coastal MRC Program with links to individual MRC websites where available and contact information to all county-based coordinators.

Action: Program staff designed and produced posters and a brochure to communicate to a broad audience the purpose of the Program, an introduction to MRCs, and how to get involved (Appendix 2).

Action: On a regular basis, Program staff provide updates to MRCs on the activities, successes, and challenges experienced by all MRCs to promote learning, collaboration between MRCs, and replication of good ideas and development of new ideas.

Action: WDFW provided planning, logistical, facilitation, and note taking support for an open public forum on marine spatial planning hosted by the Grays Harbor MRC and The Nature Conservancy. The all day event was attended by over 80 people from coastal and Puget Sound areas.

Coastal MRC Program Priorities and Benchmarks

In January 2009, the Coastal MRC Program staff held the last of four meetings of the Coastal MRC Work Group, an ad hoc advisory committee to the Coastal MRC Program. This group was tasked with articulating Program priorities and developing performance benchmarks to guide Coastal MRC activity and ensure coordination with other efforts and accountability to WDFW and ultimately the legislature. The Coastal MRC Work Group was broadly representative of the following coastal interests:

- **Citizens**, Lead Entities, and coastal salmon recovery and water quality partnerships/councils.
- **Governmental representatives** from the Makah, Quileute, Hoh Tribes, the Quinault Indian National, and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Federal representatives from the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. State representatives from Washington Department of Natural Resources, Puget Sound Partnership, and Fish and Wildlife. County representatives from Pacific, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson Counties, as well as City, Port, and Conservation District representatives.
- **Environmental and conservation interests** representatives from Surfrider Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Friends of Grays Harbor.
- **Industry representatives** from commercial and recreational fishing associations and private business.
- **University** extension program representatives.

Over a series of four meetings, the Coastal MRC Program Work Group developed a Program goal statement, articulated and agreed on Program priorities, and developed a series of performance benchmarks. Because the Coastal MRC Program Work Group anticipated the need to adjust and adapt the benchmarks and priority statements over time, the group agreed to use the term interim to describe benchmarks and priority statements. These interim benchmark and priority statements were adopted by consensus and will be upheld by the work group until they are amended by group decision in the future. Also, each MRC will need to develop its own local priorities and objectives. The programmatic benchmarks are not intended to restrict the ability of individual counties to carry out activities that may fall outside the existing benchmarks as long as they address the overarching Program goal.

The following priority statements are used to guide the development of the Coastal MRC Program and focus the work of coastal MRCs. These priorities – or operating principles – include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Establish MRCs | Establish coastal MRCs in order to provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities |
| | Ensure MRC and program accountability and alignment with regional priorities by measuring performance against program benchmarks |
| | Act in consult with tribal and state co-managers |
| | Ensure that local residents are selected and participate in MRCs |
| Complement existing efforts | Complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources |
| Build partnerships | Coordinate and communicate with MRCs, the Northwest Straits Commission, tribal and state co-managers, local, regional, federal, and other stakeholders and organizations about local and regional projects and issues |
| | Expand partnerships with tribal governments and continue to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties |
| | Communicate coastal issues to the Governor's office and the State Ocean Caucus |
| Utilize science | Conduct scientific investigations and monitoring efforts to fill key gaps in knowledge about valuable coastal species and habitats (e.g. ecosystem-based management) |
| | Monitor and assess impacts of coastal and marine development |
| Promote healthy communities and resources | Promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources |
| | Promote marine resource stewardship through community volunteer opportunities and public education efforts |
| | Promote coastal hazards awareness and community preparedness through education and outreach programs |
| | Support the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats, and marine populations to healthy and sustainable levels and prevent future state and federal species listings |
| | Conduct and implement strategic planning to identify marine resource related threats to and opportunities for sustainability |
| | Assess sources of and reduce marine and estuarine pollution and debris |

Performance benchmarks are used by the Coastal MRC Program to account for MRC activities and achievement in discrete but broad categories. Benchmarks developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program include:

1. **Marine Habitats:** Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:
 - a. enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
 - b. designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
 - c. surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
 - d. making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
 - e. understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices
2. **Marine Life:** Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:
 - a. maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further ESA listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
 - b. balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
 - c. identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
 - d. designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
 - e. making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery
3. **Marine and Fresh Water Quality:** Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:
 - a. conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
 - b. working to reduce the input of pollutants
 - c. promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
 - d. working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

4. **Sound Science:** Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:
 - a. utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
 - b. identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
 - c. promoting peer reviewed science
5. **Education and Outreach:** Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:
 - a. informing the public about threats to living resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
 - b. informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
 - c. coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
 - d. engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming
 - e. translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington's coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
 - f. expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
 - g. striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers
6. **Coastal Communities:** Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:
 - a. supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
 - b. supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
 - c. encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
 - d. engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
 - e. increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest

Coordination with the Northwest Straits Commission

The Northwest Straits (NWS) Commission has expressed solid support of the expansion of the MRC model and of development of MRCs on Washington's Coast. Commission members and Commission staff have attended Coastal MRC Work Group meetings and made themselves available to the Coastal MRC Program staff to field questions and convey lessons learned over the past decade. The Coastal MRC Program is stronger and more likely to produce successful outcomes as a result of the Commission's support.

The Northwest Straits Commission hosts an annual MRC training conference to provide an opportunity for MRCs to share ideas and coordinate approaches to marine conservation and protection. At its 2009 training conference (November 6-7, Bellingham), the Northwest Straits Commission invited Coastal MRC Program staff to attend and present a poster on the Coastal MRC Program and progress establishing MRCs on the coast. The NWS Commission and MRC members continue to be supportive of replication of the model and interested in progress made to date. The session provided an opportunity to build support and awareness for Coastal MRCs among Northwest Straits MRC members and document common interests in anticipation of future opportunities for coastal and Northwest Straits MRCs to collaborate on projects of mutual benefit. Program staff also gained a broader understanding of how the Commission and MRCs effectively and successfully interact on contract and programmatic issues.

An emerging opportunity for collaboration between NWS and Coastal MRCs is through the National Mussel Watch Program. This program run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is part of the longest running contaminant monitoring program in the U.S. coastal waters and has been tracking contaminants in mussels and other bivalves since 1986. Biannual mussel collection for testing has been supported by volunteers from the NWS MRCs in years past. Starting in February 2010, volunteers from the Pacific County and Grays Harbor County MRCs will take on responsibility for sampling the three designated coastal sites after receiving training in sampling protocol from a representative from the Snohomish County MRC. Samples collected will be shipped to labs for analysis for over 100 chemical contaminants and the results will contribute to the national database. This long-running dataset and volunteer training in rigorous sampling protocols could provide a foundation on which MRCs may choose to build additional water quality activities.

Coordination with the State Ocean Caucus

The State Ocean Caucus considers local involvement in coastal and ocean management issues, projects, and stewardship initiatives promoted by MRCs to be among its accomplishments. The State Ocean Caucus's predecessor organization, the Ocean Policy Work Group, recommended in its report, Washington Ocean Action Plan, replication of the NWS MRC model on the coast to improve

the existing governance structure in order to support improved marine resource management and protection.

The State Ocean Caucus continues to receive monthly briefings from Coastal MRC Program staff on MRC establishment progress and emerging issues and opportunities. Coordination between the State Ocean Caucus and MRCs has proved advantageous for all involved and has led to improved communication and collaboration such that at the State Ocean Caucus' two outreach events on the coast this year (June 1, 2009 in Forks and October 21, 2009 in Ilwaco), the State Ocean Caucus worked with local MRC members to determine topic areas of interest locally, advertise the meeting, and provide a local 'welcome' at the meeting.

In support of improved coordination between state agencies and local jurisdictions, groups, and citizens, the State Ocean Caucus recently issued a formal letter of invitation to Coastal MRCs to participate in regular State Ocean Caucus meetings. MRC Chairs are invited to represent MRC interests, to share updates on local MRC issues and activities, and to learn about state agency activities and communicate key items back to MRC members.

COUNTY ACTIVITY

WDFW has invited all five counties – Wahkiakum, Pacific, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Clallam – to develop MRCs. Following outreach efforts and a series of public scoping meetings in the five coastal counties, Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, and Pacific Counties have formed an MRC. Wahkiakum County is commencing MRC “exploratory” activities with funding WDFW designated to support county-based discussions, meetings, and outreach efforts necessary for County Commissioners and residents to decide whether an MRC should be formed. Should Wahkiakum County residents and Commissioners decide to form an MRC, additional funds are available to support MRC projects and administrative capacity.

Coastal MRC Activity by Benchmark

MRCs are still very new on the coast of Washington and have only recently been formalized by County action. In spite of challenges inherent in starting any new organization and endeavor, Coastal MRCs are achieving on-the-ground results through their initial activities and projects. To date, MRCs have been most active in the benchmark areas of Education and Outreach and Coastal Communities (Table 2). Projects anticipated in the coming months feature increased activity in Marine and Fresh Water Quality and Marine Life and Marine Habitats.

Table 2. MRC activity by benchmark noting primary and secondary contribution of projects (continues on page 19).

| Project/Activity by county | Coastal MRC Benchmarks | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
| Grays Harbor MRC | | | | | | |
| Water quality testing lab | | | | | | |
| Community workshops | | | | | | |
| Chehalis River Basin Drops of Water publication | | | | | | |
| MRC organization and scoping | | | | | | |
| Water quality monitoring and results reporting | | | | | | |
| Informational press releases and radio interviews | | | | | | |
| Jefferson/Clallam County MRC | | | | | | |
| Marine science field trips for gradeschoolers | | | | | | |
| MRC organization and scoping | | | | | | |
| Regular newsletters to interested citizens | | | | | | |
| WA Clean Coast Alliance trash pick up | | | | | | |

| Project/Activity by county | Coastal MRC Benchmarks | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | Marine Habitats | Marine Life | Marine and Fresh Water Quality | Sound Science | Education and Outreach | Coastal Communities |
| Pacific County MRC | | | | | | |
| MRC organization and scoping | | | | | | |
| Wahkiakum County | | | | | | |
| MRC organization and scoping | | | | | | |

Grays Harbor County

Grays Harbor County was the first county to initiate MRC activities and the first to form an MRC by county resolution (Appendix 1). After a very successful and well organized series of six exploratory MRC (E-MRC) meetings, Grays Harbor County E-MRC activities concluded in March, 2009 with the development of a report entitled A Recommendation for Establishing a Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee.¹¹ In this report the E-MRC documented their analysis of the state enabling legislation for MRCs, the accomplishments and experiences of other MRCs established under the Northwest Straits Commission, their vision, strategic directions, and implementation action plan for establishing an MRC, and recommended that an MRC be established. On March 16, 2009 an MRC was established by the County Commissioners, making Grays Harbor County MRC the first to form on the coast. Informed by the list of potential committee members provided in the E-MRC's report, County Commissioners invited a broad range of local individuals to fill representative positions on the Grays Harbor County MRC (Table 3).

Table 3. Grays Harbor County MRC Membership and Representation (continues on page 20).

| Member name | Organizations | MRC representation |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Garrett Dalan | Grays Harbor County | Coordinator |
| Bob Burkle | WDFW | Science Community |
| Don Harders | Tone Tree Oyster | Aquaculture |
| Francis Estalilla | Private citizen | Sport Fishing |
| Eric Delvin | The Nature Conservancy | Conservation |
| Harvey Lilligard | Olympia Master Builders | Economic |
| Joe Schumacker | Quinault Indian Nation | Local Tribal Government |
| Kathy Greer | Surfrider Foundation | Recreation |
| Lorena Marchant | Grays Harbor College | Education |

¹¹ Kliem and Holden. 2009. A Recommendation for Establishing a Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee. Prepared by the Grays Harbor County Exploratory Marine Resources Committee for the Grays Harbor County Board of County Commissioners. Available at http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/pub_svcs/MRC/background/mrc_report_resolution_4-13-09.pdf

| Member name | Organizations | MRC representation |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| R.D. Grunbaum | Friends of Grays Harbor | Conservation |
| Ray Toste | Washington Crab Fishers | Commercial Fishing |
| Roberta Davenport | Dept of Natural Resources | State Agency |
| Robin Leraas | Port of Grays Harbor | Local Government |

Grays Harbor MRC activities have focused on three topic areas: Water quality assessment and monitoring, community workshops, and education and outreach. Water quality assessment and monitoring activities have involved the collection of water samples at two sites in Grays Harbor (Figure 1). Samples are analyzed for bacteria, temperature, virus, pH, salinity, plankton, conductivity and other factors. To assist in accurate sample collection, the MRC has acquired a handheld multiparameter system for collecting a variety of water quality parameters. When available, results will be analyzed and made publically available. Future water quality activities will likely focus on involving more MRC members and citizen volunteers in the collection and analysis of water quality tests and sampling at the National Mussel Watch Program sites on the coast.



Figure 1. Grays Harbor County MRC sampling sites.

Grays Harbor MRC sponsored three very successful community workshops in State FY 2009 (Grays Harbor County Marine Forum, Aberdeen and Wave Amplification/Navigation Safety and Biological Sciences, both in Ilwaco, WA) with a combined attendance of 115 people. In the first half of State FY 2010, the MRC organized and sponsored, in coordination with The Nature Conservancy, one community workshop on marine spatial planning which was extremely well attended by more than 85 people including members of the public, sport and commercial

fishing, shellfish farming, recreation, tourism, higher education, and local, state, tribal, and federal governments. This workshop was entitled Washington Forum on Marine Spatial Planning and was held at the Grays Harbor College. The forum provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about an emerging ocean resource management technique called marine spatial planning, express their perspectives, and discuss challenges and opportunities presented by the recent national interest in marine spatial planning. Proceedings of the workshops are available on the Grays Harbor website. A summary of key points will be transmitted by the MRC to the Ocean Policy Task Force and the Council on Environmental Quality in response to the Obama Administration's recently released

Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

The MRC's outreach and education activities have included organization and staffing of a booth at the 4th Annual Chehalis Watershed Festival in Aberdeen entitled Marine Resource Tools and Oyster Shell Painting featuring an oyster painting activity staffed by MRC volunteers for kids (Figure 2). The MRC has also sponsored its second issue of Drops of Water to raise awareness about the MRC and solicit volunteers. Drops of Water is a bi-monthly publication distributed to newspaper readers throughout the Chehalis Watershed published by the Chehalis River Basin Council. Finally, the MRC partnered with Kathy Jacobsen of Educational Service District 113 to host an MRC logo competition among Mr. Roiko's 6th Grade class at Cosmopolis Elementary. Bailey Peterson's circular fish design was selected by the MRC to be used as the logo (Figure 3). As part of its ongoing activities, the MRC

PHOTO BY JANEL SPAULDING



Figure 2. Grays Harbor County Commissioner Terry Willis demonstrating watershed concepts with young stewards at the Chehalis Watershed Festival in September.



PHOTO BY GARRETT DALAN

Figure 3. Grays Harbor MRC logo surrounded by painted oyster shells at the Chehalis Watershed Festival in September.

also maintains both a website and a blog for communication and outreach.¹²

Winter/Spring 2010 MRC projects include continued water quality monitoring and assessment, activities promoting marine science education for school children both in the classroom and in the field, beach cleanups, and a community workshop featuring University of Washington's interactive ocean monitoring activities.

Jefferson County and Clallam County

After leading independent but coordinated exploratory processes involving eight public meetings and numerous briefings, Clallam and Jefferson County residents, Commissioners, and staff agreed to join

¹² Grays Harbor County MRC Website: http://www.co.grays-harbor.wa.us/info/pub_svcs/MRC/index.html

efforts into one MRC to cover both counties called the North Pacific Coast MRC. On September 8th and 15th the Jefferson and Clallam County Commissioners, respectively, passed a resolution to form a joint MRC. Both counties are currently working to finalize an Interlocal Agreement that will allow them to share funding and staff resources. Committee members have not yet been selected although Rich Osborne, Clallam County staff, has been hired to coordinate the MRC. Tami Pokorny, Jefferson County staff, who led the County's exploratory efforts will continue to act as Jefferson County's staff liaison.

Jefferson and Clallam Exploratory MRC activities included conducting a citizen interest survey and several outreach events in 2009. Jefferson and Clallam E-MRCs participated in the 2009 Washington Clean Coast Alliance/Coast Savers annual garbage clean up in April and supported data processing and reporting through the purchase of clip boards and datasheets for the event. The MRC also funded dumpster tipping fees to dispose of garbage collected at this event. In late spring, The E-MRCs organized and sponsored two field trips to the Fiero Marine Life Center for students at the Queets Clearwater, Quileute Valley, and Cape Flattery School Districts (Figure 4). The E-MRC was also pleased to host the State Ocean Caucus and provide introductory remarks at their June outreach meeting in Forks.



PHOTOS BY TAMI POKORNY

Figure 4. Students from the Queets Clearwater School District at the Fiero Marine Life Center, May 2009.

Finally a joint E-MRC community potluck was organized and hosted in Forks in order to generate public interest, provide information on coastal MRCs, and solicit input on projects. This event was attended by 50 people, including citizens from both counties, representatives from all area tribes,

two county commissioners, staff from the City of Forks, Feiro Marine Life Center, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Discovery Center. The most popular project ideas relate to marine science education for local school children and residents, specifically developing and supporting a marine science teacher training curriculum and program for local teachers. Other priority near-term projects include evaluate and enhance local recycling efforts, support the continuation of nearshore aerial kelp surveys in partnership with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, carrying out forage fish assessments at the Quileute and Hoh River estuaries, organizing and hosting a symposium on 'science of the North Coast' to gather cutting edge research about the unique North Coast environment and share research results and needs with regional experts and local citizens.

Both counties have the benefit of already being home to Northwest Straits MRCs. The existing MRCs are active and well supported by residents and County Commissioners. Existing MRCs are also very supportive of separate and coastal-focused MRCs in Western Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

Pacific County

After a series of four public exploratory meetings, Pacific County's Exploratory MRC committee directed the compilation of a report documenting potential MRC topical work areas, potential obstacles to MRC progress and strategies to ensure success, a preliminary work plan, and recommendations for an organizational framework. The report concluded that an MRC should be formed in Pacific County primarily to increase opportunities to voice local views to state authorities, improve the marine and estuarine environment, and secure program funding to build off of currently effective efforts to improve the marine and estuarine environment. Pacific County Commissioners passed a resolution forming a Pacific County MRC as a subcommittee of the existing Willapa Bay Water Resources Coordinating Council on October 13, 2009 (Table 4, next page). Mike Nordin, Pacific Conservation District, coordinated exploratory activities and, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pacific County, now coordinates the Pacific County MRC. Jim Neva, Port of Ilwaco, has been selected MRC Chair and Doug Kess, local citizen, Vice-Chair.

The Pacific County MRC has convened twice and has identified several likely activity areas for work in the winter/spring 2010 including water quality assessment, garbage cleanup on local beaches, initiating a volunteer Spartina watch program to prevent spread and recolonization of the remaining few Spartina plants in Willapa Bay, supporting enhanced marine science education in local schools, and hosting a series of community workshops on a variety of marine science subjects. The MRC coordinator collaborated with the State Ocean Caucus to help identify topics of local interest for the State Ocean Caucus's outreach meeting The Ocean and You in Ilwaco on October 21, 2009. At the event, the MRC coordinator gave a brief presentation about the MRC and welcomed participation from meeting attendees.

Table 4. Pacific County MRC Membership and Representation.

| Member name | Organizations | MRC representation |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Mike Nordin | Pacific Conservation District | Coordinator |
| Jim Neva | Port of Ilwaco | MRC Chair; Ports |
| Faith Taylor-Eldred Alternate: Mike DeSimone | Pacific County | Local Government |
| Doug Kess Alternate: Michael Spencer | Local Citizen | Local Citizens |
| Ross Barkhurst | Anglers Association | Recreational Groups |
| Cathy Russ | Economic Development Council | Economic Groups |
| Ammie Ammer | Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce | Conservation/ Environmental Groups |
| Kim Patton Alternate: Tom Kollacsh | Washington State University (WSU) Alternate: The Nature Conservancy | Scientific Community |
| Mike McGinniss Alternate: Ray Gardner | Shoalwater Tribe Alternate: Chinook Tribe | Tribal Governments |
| Tim Morris Alternate: Dave Nisbet | Oyster Aquaculture | Aquaculture |
| Dale Beasley, Alternate: Dwight Eager | Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association | Commercial Fishing |
| Will Greene | City of Ilwaco | Cities |
| Charlie Stenvall | US Fish and Wildlife Service | State/Federal Gov |
| Steve Harbell (WSU Ext.) | WSU, Pacific County Extension | Education |
| Sue Pattillo Alternate: Jim Goulter | Small Forest Land Owner Dairyman | Agriculture |

Wahkiakum County

Wahkiakum County has recently designated a coordinator, Carrie Kennedy, Washington State University Wahkiakum County Extension, to lead exploratory activities in the county. A series of exploratory public meetings will commence early in the new year. As in other coastal counties, the purpose of these meetings is to familiarize local organizations and citizens with the MRC model, explore projects and activities that could be accomplished through an MRC, and ultimately facilitate a local decision about whether to pursue forming an MRC. Two project areas of interest that have emerged already are removal of lost fishing gear and promotion of soft shoreline armoring techniques. Coastal MRC Program staff will support exploratory activities by attending meetings to present information about the program, other MRCs, and answer questions as they arise.

CONCLUSION

Now in its second full year of operation, the Coastal MRC Program is well established and enjoys strong support from coastal counties, federal and state natural resource agencies, citizens, and industry and conservation groups. These entities and the MRCs themselves are well aware that in tight budget times, relatively small grants to local MRCs are a cost effective way to ensure that marine resources are well managed, protected, and, where necessary, restored. Providing local groups with funding to support their top priorities sends a powerful message of trust and value in local communities. The carefully crafted parameters of the Coastal MRC Program provide assurance to WDFW and the Legislature that MRCs will contribute to improved stewardship of coastal resources. Through minimal funding for MRC coordinators, the Coastal MRC Program provides essential support to local jurisdictions to continue promoting conservation of marine resources. County-based MRC coordinators report good attendance at meetings and enthusiasm for the flexibility offered by the MRC model. In this way, MRCs provide a positive outlet for communities to contribute to making theirs a better place to live and work in the ways they choose.

Ongoing challenges include large geographic distances between communities. Attending monthly MRC meetings in-person often means driving an hour or more each way for MRC members. Conference calls, email correspondence, and rotating meeting locations make participation more feasible. The other prominent challenge is the slow pace of forming an MRC, allocating project funds, and carrying out projects. This pace is due to the need to secure buy-in at the local level through numerous outreach events and meetings as well as the logistical challenges of executing contractual agreements between WDFW and counties for carrying out MRC-defined deliverables. Both of these contributors to the slow pace are expected to improve with time and experience of all parties involved. Issues associated with merging or not merging local MRCs with Lead Entities have largely been resolved on a county-by-county basis. Only Pacific County has elected to establish the MRC as a subcommittee of an existing committee.

Future coastal MRC work is dependent on continued funding at or above the current level. MRCs are providing a vehicle for community visioning and consensus-building, supporting coastal resource-based communities, improving access to marine resources, filling science gaps, improving education, and preventing future resource degradation. MRCs also provide a direct connection between coastal residents and state policy and management related to ocean resources. WDFW is pleased to continue supporting the work of coastal counties and looks forward to working with citizens and local entities to continue building the Coastal MRC Program. In conclusion, Coastal MRCs provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities, help promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources, and complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources.

APPENDIX A: Coastal County Resolutions

Resolution No. 2009-14

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Grays Harbor Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the marine waters of Grays Harbor County represent an unparalleled resource of important environmental and economic value to the people of the region and the state for now and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to actively promote local protection and restoration of the County's marine resources by supporting research and education about these waters; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature adopted Chapter 36.125 of the Revised Code of Washington to allow counties to establish Marine Resource Committees to provide an ecosystem focus on the marine resources of Washington State's Pacific Coastline and to help mobilize science to focus on key priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Exploratory Marine Resources Committee, at the request of the Board, studied the formation of a Marine Resources Committee in Grays Harbor County, and has issued a positive recommendation to do so, including outlining a vision and developing work plans for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to protect the local marine environment and contribute to the overall protection of the marine environment of Washington State's Pacific Coastline by forming a Grays Harbor County Marine Resource Committee pursuant to Chapter 36.125 RCW; and

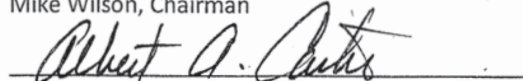
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners does hereby establish a Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee whose mission is to address local marine issues, recommend remedial actions to local, state, and federal authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the Benchmarks of Performance as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group on January 7, 2009, including specific tasks identified in "Exhibit A."

Approved and adopted this 16th day of March, 2009.

Grays Harbor County
Board of County Commissioners



Mike Wilson, Chairman



Albert A. Carter, Member



Terry L. Willis, Member

Attest:



Clerk of the Board

Exhibit A to Resolution No. 2009-14

Purpose of the Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee: To achieve the vision established in the report "A Recommendation for Establishing a Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee," dated March 2009.

Powers and Duties of the Marine Resources Committee: The Marine Resources Committee shall:

1. Advise the Board of County Commissioners about research, educational, and regulatory measure necessary to protect and restore the marine resources of the County.
2. Promote specific projects necessary to achieve the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the marine resources of the County.
3. Advise the Board of County Commissioners about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote conservation, protection, and restoration of marine habitats and resources.
4. Help assess marine resources problems and the need for preventative or corrective measures in concert with governmental, nongovernmental, tribal, recreational, and commercial interests.
5. Help identify implications, needs, and strategies associated with the sustaining marine species in and around the County, and do so in concert with the above-mentioned entities.
6. Coordinate with the State Ocean Caucus and the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology to promote the recommendations of the Washington Ocean Action Plan.
7. Reach out to the public and other key constituents on the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources
8. Report annually to the Board of County Commissioners on its activities and recommendations.

Membership of the Marine Resource Committee: There shall be fifteen (15) voting members of the Marine Resource Committee, selected by the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that the membership of the committee is balanced and representative. The voting members shall be at least one person from each of the following membership categories:

- Conservation/ Environmental Groups
- Recreational Groups
- Economic Groups
- Scientific Community
- Tribal Government

- Government
- Local Citizens
- Sport Fishing
- Commercial Fishing / Crabbing/Aquaculture
- State Agencies
- Education

Members shall serve staggered two-year terms. Marine Resources Committee members shall select a chair and by laws by majority vote.



RESOLUTION 78, 2009

RESOLUTION 50-09



ESTABLISHING THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE FOR WESTERN CLALLAM AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES

THE CLALLAM COUNTY AND JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS find as follows:

1. The Clallam and Jefferson Boards of County Commissioners recognize that the marine waters of the north Pacific coast represent an unparalleled resource of important environmental and economic value to the people of the region, and the tribal state and federal governments for now and future generations.
2. The Boards wish to actively promote local conservation, restoration, and improved understanding of the Counties' marine resources by supporting research and education about these waters.
3. The Washington State Legislature adopted Chapter 36.125 of the Revised Code of Washington to allow counties to establish Marine Resources Committees to provide an ecosystem focus on the responsible use of marine resources within Washington State's Pacific Coastline and to help mobilize science to focus on key priorities.
4. The Exploratory Marine Resources Committee, at the request of the Boards, studied the formation of a Marine Resources Committee in western Clallam and Jefferson Counties, including outlining a vision and developing work plans for projects, and has issued a positive recommendation for its formation.
5. The Exploratory Marine Resources Committee determined that it would serve the interests of both counties to work together to form a new Marine Resources Committee to represent the needs and interests of residents living in north Pacific coastal communities.
6. The Boards' desire to protect the local marine environment and contribute to the overall protection of the marine environment of Washington State's Pacific Coastline by forming a single Western Clallam and Jefferson Counties Marine Resources Committee pursuant to Chapter 36.125 RCW.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Clallam and Jefferson County Commissioners in consideration of the above findings of fact:

1. Hereby establishes a joint Western Clallam and Jefferson Counties Marine Resources Committee whose mission is to: address local marine issues; recommend remedial actions to local, state, tribal, and federal authorities; build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the interim "Benchmarks of Performance" as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group on January 7, 2009 including specific tasks identified in "Exhibit A."
2. Both counties reserve the right to divest of the organization and form independent Marine Resources Committees to represent their own interests on the western Olympic Peninsula.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this fifteenth day of September 2009

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BOARD OF JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.
Howard V. Doherty, Jr., Chair

David W. Sullivan 09/08/09
David W. Sullivan, Chair

Stephen P. Tharinger
Stephen P. Tharinger

Phil Johnson
Phil Johnson

Michael C. Chapman
Michael C. Chapman

John Austin
John Austin

ATTEST:

ATTEST:

Trish Holden
Trish Holden, CMC, Clerk of the Board

Erin Lundgren
Erin Lundgren, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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EXHIBIT A

Purpose: To understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the north Pacific coast of Washington in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

Powers and Duties:

1. Advise the Boards of County Commissioners about research, education, and regulatory measures necessary to protect and restore the marine resources of the Counties.
2. Promote specific projects to achieve the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the marine resources of the Counties.
3. Advise the Boards of County Commissioners about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote conservation, protection, and restoration of marine habitats and resources.
4. Help assess marine resources problems and the need for preventative or corrective measures in concert with governmental, nongovernmental, tribal, recreational, and commercial interests.
5. Help identify implications, needs, and strategies associated with sustaining marine species in and around the Counties, in concert with the above-mentioned entities.
6. Coordinate activities with the State Ocean Caucus and the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology to promote the recommendations of the *Washington Ocean Action Plan*.
7. Reach out to the public and other key constituents on the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources.
8. Report annually to the Boards of County Commissioners on its activities and recommendations.

Membership: There shall be up to 13 voting members selected by the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that the membership of the committee is balanced and representative. The voting members shall include seats for up to three local residents from Clallam County and up to three local residents from Jefferson County and one seat for each the following governments:

- Clallam County
- Jefferson County
- The City of Forks
- The Makah Tribe
- The Quileute Tribe
- The Hoh Tribe
- The Quinault Nation

The voting members shall, in total, include representation for each of the following categories:

- Conservation/Environmental Groups
- Recreational Groups
- Economic Groups
- Scientific Community

Non-voting seats shall include the following state and federal government agencies:

- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Olympic National Park
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Coast Guard

Members shall serve staggered two-year terms and select a chair and develop bylaws by majority vote.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PACIFIC COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION 2009 - 041

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PACIFIC COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Pacific County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that the marine waters of the Pacific County represent an unparalleled resource of important environmental and economic value to the people of the region and the state for now and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to actively promote local stewardship and restoration of the County's marine resources by supporting research and education about these waters; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature adopted Chapter 36.125 of the Revised Code of Washington to allow counties to establish Marine Resource Committees (MRC) to provide an ecosystem focus on marine resources of Washington State's Pacific Coastline and to help mobilize science to focus on key priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Exploratory Marine Committee, at the request of the Board, studied the formation of a Marine Resource Committee in Pacific County, and has issued a positive recommendation to do so, including outlining a vision and developing work plans for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to protect the local marine environment and contribute to the overall stewardship of the marine environment of Washington State's Pacific Coastline by forming a Pacific County Marine Resource Committee pursuant to Chapter 36.125 RCW; and

WHEREAS the Board wants to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the PCMRC; and

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Pacific County Board of County Commissioners does hereby establish a Pacific County Marine Resources Committee (PCMRC) for a period of two years from the date of this Resolution, whose mission is to address local marine issues, recommend remedial actions to local, state, and federal authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the Interim Benchmarks of Performance as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group, including specific tasks identified in "Exhibit A;" and

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED that the PCRMC shall provide written quarterly reports to the Board summarizing activities and accomplishments; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board will review the activities and accomplishments of the PCMRC prior to the two year sunset date and if warranted, extend the dissolution date of the PCMRC as necessary.

PASSED by the Board of Pacific County Commissioners in regular session at South Bend, Washington, by the following vote, then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage the 28th day of July, 2009;

3 YEA; 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; and 0 ABSENT


PACIFIC COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PACIFIC COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Jon Kaino, Chairman

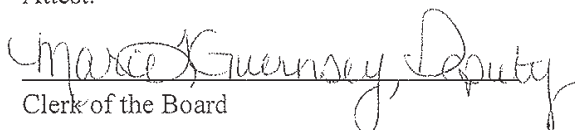


Norman B. Cuffel, Commissioner



Clay Harwood, Commissioner

Attest:



Marice Guernsey, Deputy
Clerk of the Board



David Burke, Prosecuting Attorney

Purpose of the Pacific County Marine Resources Committee: To achieve the vision established in the report “A Recommendation for Establishing a Pacific County Marine Resources Committee,” dated June 2009.

Powers and Duties of the Marine Resources Committee: The Marine Resources Committee shall:

1. Advise the Board of County Commissioners about research, educational, and regulatory measures necessary to promote the stewardship of marine resources of the County.
2. Promote specific projects necessary to achieve the stewardship, restoration, and enhancement of the marine resources of the County.
3. Advise the Board of County Commissioners about efforts that should be developed or encouraged to promote the stewardship, conservation, and restoration of marine habitats and resources.
4. Help assess marine resource problems and the need for preventative or corrective measures in concert with governmental, nongovernmental, tribal, recreational, and commercial interests.
5. Help identify implications, needs, and strategies associated with the sustaining marine species in and around the County, and do so in concert with the above-mentioned entities.
6. Coordinate with the State Ocean Caucus and the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology to promote the recommendations of the Washington Ocean Action Plan.
7. Reach out to the public and other key constituents on the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources.
8. Report quarterly to the Board of County Commissioners on its activities, recommendations and accomplishments.

Membership of the Marine Resources Committee: There shall be fourteen (14) voting members of the Marine Resources Committee, selected by the Board of County Commissioners to ensure that the membership of the committee is balanced and representative. The voting members shall be at least one person from each of the following membership categories:

- Conservation/Environmental Groups*
- Recreational Groups*
- Economic Groups*
- Scientific Community*
- Tribal Government*
- Local Government*
- Local Citizens*
- Aquaculture
- Agriculture
- Ports
- Cities
- Commercial Fishing
- Education
- State/Federal Agencies

*Representative groups mandated by law. Members shall serve three-year terms. Marine Resources Committee members shall select a chair and by laws by majority vote.



Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to coastal and state residents.

Identifying and implementing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the unique conservation and management issues of Washington's outer coast will require utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders.

Citizen-based Marine Resource Committees are an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, creativity, and wisdom of coastal residents to complement ongoing efforts to restore, protect, and manage coastal marine resources.



Kalaloch Beach, Jefferson County

For information on the program background, reports, updates and local coordinator contact information, please visit the Coastal MRC Program website at:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/>

or contact:

Brie Van Cleve
Coastal MRC Program Coordinator
(360) 902-2750
brie.vanclave@dfw.wa.gov



Coastal Marine Resource Committee Program

Local, science-based groups promote marine resource Stewardship - Management - Restoration



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Photos by: Brie Van Cleve Cover photo locations:
main photo & top middle: LaPush, Clallam County
top left & bottom right: Port of Ilwaco, Pacific County
bottom left: Kalaloch Beach, Jefferson County
top right: Highway 4, Wahkiakum County
bottom middle: Willapa Bay, Pacific County

Coastal Marine Resource Committees (MRCs)

Coastal MRC Program overview

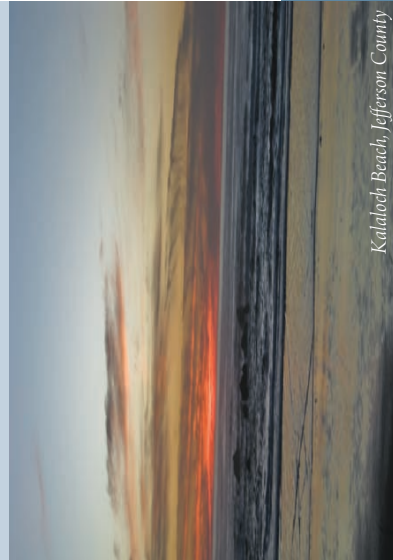
In their 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the Washington State Legislature endorsed the Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) approach to local marine resource management and stewardship in the five southern Puget Sound counties and five coastal counties.

A new program was created within Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide support for the development, administration, and coordination of coastal MRCs and MRC-sponsored projects that benefit coastal marine resources.

The Coastal MRC Program provides regional support for scientifically sound solutions generated by MRCs. The goal of the program is to *understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.*

As guided by the Washington Ocean Action Plan, MRC activity will improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, protection, and restoration, and management of marine habitats and species and complement ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance coastal and ocean resources.

Find statutory language in the Revised Code of Washington, Title 36, Chapter 125.



Kalaloch Beach, Jefferson County



Willapa Bay, Pacific County

What are MRCs & what do they do?

Marine Resource Committees are county-based, volunteer groups composed of tribal co-managers, fishermen, citizens, scientists, recreational, economic, and conservation interests, and government agencies that:

- Encourage community-based marine stewardship
- Conduct citizen-driven marine science
- Sponsor and oversee projects to meet local priorities
- Make science-based recommendations on marine management strategies
- Coordinate diverse partners and MRC members
- Offer education and learning opportunities to children and adults about marine resource science, conservation, and management
- Provide an effective, inexpensive, and non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for coastal communities and local marine resource issues
- Complement ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

This structure was first developed through the Northwest Straits Initiative in 1998. This federally-funded program supports MRCs in the seven northern Puget Sound counties and has become a national example of effective regional collaboration and citizen involvement in marine resource protection, management, and restoration.

Individual MRCs develop a work plan and projects tailored to address local marine resource needs. Examples of possible MRC projects include:

- Lost or derelict fishing gear surveys and removal
- Providing local schools with marine science field training and equipment
- Public workshops
- Invasive species identification training and monitoring
- Coastal hazards mapping
- Shoreline, vegetation, or deepwater fish surveys
- Shellfish surveys, testing, and monitoring
- Landowner education
- Creosote log inventory and removal
- Marine-resource based tourism and education

For more information about the Northwest Straits Initiative and northern Puget Sound MRCs, please visit www.nwstraits.org.



Coastal Marine Resource Committee Program

Local science-based groups promote marine resource Stewardship – Management – Restoration



Program overview

In their 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the Washington State Legislature endorsed the Marine Resource Committee (MRC) approach to local marine resource management and stewardship in the five southern Puget Sound counties and five coastal counties.

The Coastal MRC Program was then created under the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife with the goal to understand, steward and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

As guided by the Washington Ocean Action Plan, MRC activity will improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, protection, and restoration, and management of marine habitats and species and complement ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance coastal and ocean resources.

Citizen-based MRCs are a unique and effective mechanism to harness the dedication, creativity, and wisdom of coastal residents.

Find statutory language in the Revised Code of Washington, title 36, chapter 125.

Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to coastal and state residents.

What are MRCs?

Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) are county-based, volunteer groups composed of tribal co-managers, fishermen, citizens, scientists, recreational, economic, and conservation interests, and government agencies that:

- Encourage community-based marine stewardship
- Conduct citizen-driven marine science
- Sponsor and oversee projects to meet local priorities
- Make science-based recommendations on marine management strategies
- Coordinate diverse partners and MRC members
- Offer education and learning opportunities to children and adults about marine resource science, conservation, and management
- Provide an effective, inexpensive, and non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for coastal communities and local marine resource issues
- Complement ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative



The MRC structure was first developed through the Northwest Straits Initiative in 1998. This federally-funded program supports MRCs in the seven northern Puget Sound counties and has become a national example of effective regional collaboration and citizen involvement in marine resource protection, management, and restoration. For more information about the Northwest Straits Initiative and existing MRCs, please visit www.nwstraits.org.

Individual MRCs develop a work plan and projects tailored to address local marine resource needs.

Examples of possible MRC projects include:

- Lost or derelict fishing gear surveys and removal
- Providing local schools with marine science field training and equipment
- Public workshops
- Invasive species identification training and monitoring
- Coastal hazards mapping
- Shoreline, vegetation, or deepwater fish surveys
- Shellfish surveys, testing, and monitoring
- Landowner education
- Creosote log inventory and removal
- Marine-resource based tourism and education



Derelict fishing gear removal
Photo by Jeff Lane



Kalaloch Beach, Jefferson County
Photo by Brie Van Cleve

Want to get involved with your local MRC?

For information on the program background, reports, updates, county coordinator contact information and website, upcoming events in your area and more, visit our website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/> or contact:

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