

Co: Clallam County
Grant Numbers:
SEANWS-2014-CICoCD-00007

Clallam Marine Resources Committee
2014 Annual Report



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Annual Report for the Clallam County Marine Resource Committee January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

This report summarizes the activities and progress of the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee during the 2014 calendar year.

Activities

Clallam County MRC activities for calendar year 2014 focused on administration; participation in MRC and NWSC meetings; training, outreach, and education; and specific projects related to the goals and objectives of the NWSC.

Prominent among MRC activities were outreach and education activities such as sponsoring oiled wildlife trainings; partnering in beach cleanups; and sponsoring 4 paid student internships.

The MRC partnered with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe to restore Olympia oysters in Sequim Bay; the MRC provided seed and a paid intern.

The committee accomplished the following in 2014:

- Conducted 10 regular MRC meetings.
- Participated in the annual MRC conference and the Salish Sea conference.
- Attended regularly scheduled NWSC meetings and conference calls.
- Hosted ten speakers at MRC meetings.
- Engaged in local festivals and parades with MRC activities and displays.
- Sponsored and coordinated workshops and local events.
- Sponsored student interns to coordinate beach cleanups, outreach events, an oil spill presentation, and restore and monitor Olympia oyster populations in Sequim Bay.
- Provided Olympia oyster seed to restore Olympia oyster populations in Sequim Bay.
- Conducted a gap analysis of marine debris removal along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- Partnered with local organizations to sponsor a cleanup of beaches along the western Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- Sponsored oil spill preparedness volunteer training.

Administration

Local: County staff and the MRC coordinator continued to provide support to the MRC. During this year, County staff organized monthly meetings, prepared agendas, meeting materials, minutes, and public notices for the monthly MRC meetings. Contact lists were also updated and maintained.

County staff worked with the Northwest Straits Commission to update the Clallam MRC web site.

County staff and the MRC coordinator assisted MRC members in the preparation of the FY 2015 work plan.

Participation in NWSC meetings and programs: MRC members attended NWSC meetings and conference calls held during the year. MRC members and staff also attended the annual NWSC training conference.

Training and education: During 2014 the committee invited speakers to regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Clallam MRC hosted 10 guest speakers, who presented a variety of topics:

Speaker	Topic
Paul Argites	Marine Debris Project
Todd Hass	Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment
Joan Drinkwin	NWSF Projects
Ed Chadd	Streamkeepers' Program Update
Suzanne Schull	Introducing Sound IQ
Jon Schmidt	Marine Debris Gap Analysis
Carolyn Gibson	Forage fish project
John Cambalik	Shoreline Armoring
Makah Natural Resources Staff	Makah Natural Resources
Sue Wolf	Sekiu Marine Visioning Project

Outreach

Dungeness River Festival: Clallam MRC had the opportunity to reach out to 2,750 people at the Dungeness River Festival. MRC members Bob Vreeland, Jeff Ward, Brad Collins, Lyn Muench, and MRC staff used live geoducks to communicate the importance of good habitat and clean water for healthy shellfish populations.



Lyn Muench and Deb Kucipeck with students



Kevin LoPiccolo and young visitor

Presentations and tables: MRC intern Sarah MacDougald coordinated speaker events for the general public. Sarah and MRC intern Emily Larson also staffed a table to directly reach out to nearshore visitors.



Sarah MacDougald visits with passersby



Emily Larson chats with visitors



Tori Cantelow shares the history of Olympia oysters

Olympia oyster restoration:

MRC members and MRC coordinator worked with NWSC staff, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe shellfish biologists, and Puget Sound Restoration Fund to restore Olympia oysters in Sequim Bay.

Restoration efforts were enhanced through the efforts of MRC intern Tori Cantelow, who worked with JKT shellfish biologists to monitor and restore the Olympia oyster populations. Tori also reached out to the local community by giving a series of presentations about the Olympia oyster’s history and current restoration efforts.



Jamestown S’Klallam Tribal Biologist Ralph Riccio and MRC intern Tori Cantelow monitor Olympia oyster populations

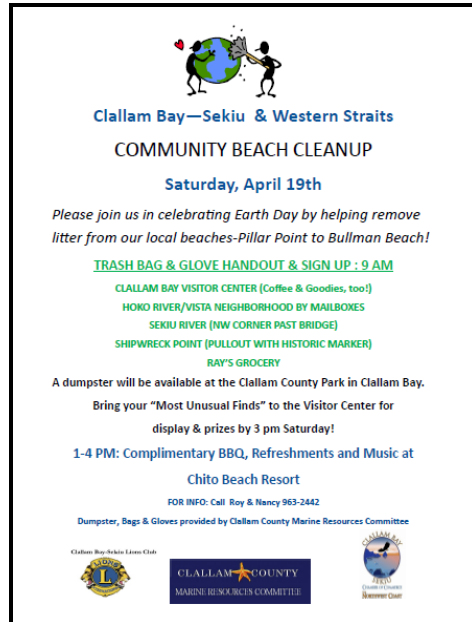
Marine Debris:

Gap Analysis: Clallam MRC contracted with CoastSavers to conduct a gap analysis to:

- Identify the existing beach clean up efforts along the Strait
- Identify any unmet goals of these groups
- Identify the beaches that still need to be cleaned
- Identify partners who can assist with cleaning beaches
- Develop and prioritize beaches that can be added to cleanup efforts
- Develop a map illustrating the beaches that are being cleaned and those that have the potential to be cleaned in future efforts.

April Beach Cleanup: Highly successful beach cleanups were conducted in celebration of Earth Day, in April. Through a partnership with Washington CoastSavers, maps of the beaches were posted on the CoastSavers web site. Clallam Bay-Sekiu coordinators felt that this effort resulted in increased volunteers sign-ups and additional beaches cleaned. 250 volunteer hours resulted in 1.7 tons of debris collected and disposed of. Clallam MRC funded the 20 cubic yard dumpster, garbage bags, and gloves.

Flyer Announcing the Clallam Bay-Sekiou & Western Straits Community Beach Cleanup:



Cleanup Photos courtesy of Donna Barr:



Signing up



It all flows downstream: cleaning up the road near the Strait

Photos from your erstwhile MRC coordinator:



Don Baker, Mike Duke, Karen Duke



Don Baker displays debris



Don Baker and Mike Duke

Unusual finds:



Frying pan and hammer



Sandy Tsaing with shorts

Summer Clean Ups: Coordinated by MRC interns Emily Larson and Sarah MacDougald, summer beach cleanups were held on July 5th and July 26. On July 5th, volunteers collected 120 pounds of garbage, highly variable in content and indicative of 4th of July fireworks celebrations. On July 26, volunteers collected 45 pounds of garbage, which mostly consisted of cigarette butts.



July 4th parade announcing the July 5th beach cleanup



July 5th cleanup

. Oil Spill Preparedness and Response

Hazwoper and oiled wildlife training: Clallam MRC hosted an 8-hour Hazwoper refresher training. About 75 people attended the training. Northwest Straits Foundation sponsored the oiled wildlife training, with MRC staff attending to on-site logistics. Class sizes for oiled wildlife training are limited to 25-30 people.

Community outreach: MRC intern Loretta Creasey coordinated a series of oil spill presentations and activities for the Sequim Boys and Girls club – a new audience for the MRC! In addition to Loretta, speakers included members of the US Coast Guard and educators from the North Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary. Interactive exercises provided the boys and girls with an idea of the effort involved in cleaning up a spill.



Loretta and her charges clean up spilled oil.