Clallam County Marine Resources Committee

Strategic Plan

2009 through 2013

Doug Morrill, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Chair

Lynn Muench, Commissioner District II

Andrew Shogren, Commissioner District I, Vice Chair

Joe Schmitt, Commissioner District III

Randy Johnson, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Ed Bowlby, Academic Community

Vince Cook, Makah Tribe

Arnold Schouten, Development Community

Nathan West, City of Port Angeles

XXXX, Conservation/Environmental Community

XXXX, City of Sequim

XXXX, Sport Fishers

Brooks Hollern, Commercial Fishers

Jim McEntire, Port of Port Angeles

XXXX, Community of Clallam Bay and Sekiu

Clallam Marine Resources Committee Strategic Plan
(2009 through 2013)

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee was established by the Clallam County Board of Commissioners through their resolution 58-1999 as an advisory committee to the Board of Commissioners, and with the specific purpose of addressing marine issues in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, recommending remedial actions to local authorities, building awareness of these issues and local support for these remedial actions in accordance with the Benchmarks for Performance as established in the August 20, 1998 Report to the Conveners of the Murray-Metcalf Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission.

Mission – To protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of Clallam County* along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use.

Vision –The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee will guide policy decisions and become a national leader in nearshore restoration and protection, by the use of sound science, local, state, tribal, federal, and private expertise. The citizens of Clallam County will be empowered by the information they receive from the MRC's public outreach about the nearshore marine environment. Clallam County will have a vibrant, multifaceted, and sustainable economy that also has low impact to the environment. The MRC will help maintain a high quality of life (i.e., fish resources, nearshore habitat, water quality) via an updated Shoreline Master Program that includes regulation and enforcement.

LONG TERM GOALS:

1) **Ecosystems** –
   - Marine Habitats: Protect and restore marine, coastal and nearshore habitats, prevent loss and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas.
   - Marine Life: Protect and restore marine populations to healthy, sustainable levels.
   - Marine Water Quality: Protect and improve marine water quality, and restore the health of our marine waters.
2) **Science** – Collect high quality data and promote its use and dissemination.
3) **Public Awareness, Education, and Involvement** – Promote stewardship and understanding of Northwest Straits' marine resources through education and outreach.
4) **Coordination –** plan, implement, protect, restore and conduct water quality actions in concert with local and regional groups.

* Wherever "Clallam County" appears it refers to the county's geographic boundaries, and includes the numerous governmental bodies included therein.

NEAR TERM OBJECTIVES:

Ecosystems –

Marine Habitats:

- Maintain an active and open relationship with the public and other key constituencies on such issues as marine habitat and healthy marine resources.
- Help ensure a net gain in highly ecologically productive nearshore, intertidal and estuarine habitat within the county, as well as no significant loss of existing, high-value habitats.
- Using established research protocols assess local forage fish (herring, sand lance, surf smelt) habitat and populations and make recommendations for habitat preservation.
- Assist State and Tribal efforts to reduce risk to water quality and habitat from marine vessel traffic.
- Continue monitoring Elwha nearshore.

Marine Life:

- Maintain an active and open relationship with the public and other key constituencies on such issues as marine habitat and healthy marine resources.
- Using established research protocols assess local forage fish (herring, sand lance, surf smelt) habitat and populations and make recommendations for habitat preservation.
- Attain a measurable increase in ground fish (rockfish and ling cod) recovery.
- Identify the role of the Clallam County MRC in salmon recovery programs.
- Attain a measurable increase in other key marine indicator species.
- Continue monitoring Elwha nearshore.

Marine Water Quality:

- Maintain an active and open relationship with the public and other key constituencies on such issues as marine habitat and healthy marine resources.
- Protect and reopen closed shellfish harvest areas, including support for implementing the Clallam County On-site Septic Management Plan.
- Monitor marine water quality changes as a result of Elwha River dam removals.
- Assist State and local efforts to improve stormwater management.
- Assist State and local efforts to clean up and restore Port Angeles harbor.
- Support State and local efforts to close or remediate landfill sites.
- Assist State and Tribal efforts to reduce risk to water quality and habitat from marine vessel traffic.

Science –

- Using established research protocols assess local forage fish (herring, sand lance, surf smelt) habitat and populations and make recommendations for habitat preservation.
- Work with other entities to enhance scientific baseline data for the marine environment of the Northwest Straits.
- Monitor changes as a result of Elwha River dam removals.
- Support related entities that educate and involve Clallam County residents, students, and visitors.
- Provide information or facilitate technical assistance to citizens or organizations with a need for marine science data, protection, restoration, or analysis.

Public Awareness, Education, and Involvement –

- Acknowledge the value of local citizenry as a resource for current and historical conditions of resources and work to involve the public in the creation and implementation of future actions affecting those resources.
- Support related entities that educate and involve Clallam County residents, students, and visitors.
- Support and participate in awareness-enhancing events.

Coordination –

- Work closely with local groups to implement local marine conservation and restoration initiatives.
- Work closely with Tribes, and State and Federal agencies to implement protection, restoration, and water quality actions, and species recovery plans.
- Work closely with non-governmental organizations to implement protection, restoration, and water quality actions and species recovery plans.
- Acknowledge the value of local citizenry as a resource for current and historical conditions of resources and work to involve the public in the creation and implementation of future actions affecting those resources.
- Use local knowledge to define data gaps, research and management priorities for federally listed species and their critical habitat.
- Partner with regional and state managers to add local steward expertise for wise future resource and habitat management.
- Ensure continued active participation from members of MRC.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation Work Plan (Matrix A):

- Objective (see above)
- NWSC Benchmarks
- Tasks
- Description of Tasks
- Sub-Task (specific action)
- Sub-Task Element
- Why is this important?
  - √ Existing problems
  - √ Potential threats
- Timeline
- Funding Sources
- Element Schedule
- Fits Puget Sound Partnership Priority Strait Action Area Strategies

Work Plan Schedule (Matrix B)

Matrix A (Implementation Plan) and Matrix B (Work Plan Schedule) to be provided by July 31, 2009.

DRAFT!! Matrix A - Clallam Marine Resources Committee Implementation Work Plan (09-11) DRAFT! WORKING DOCUMENT (updated 06/11/2010)														
Near Term Objective	NWSC Benchmarks	Task	Project Leader(s)	Description of Task	Priority	Sub-Task (Specific Action)	Sub-Task Element	Why is this important?		Timeline	Funded?	POTENTIAL, suggeste, or existing Partners / Affiliates	Element Schedule	Fits which PSP Priority Strait Action Area Strategies?
								Existing Problem	Potential Threat					
ECOSYSTEMS	MARINE HABITATS	Elwha nearshore restoration	**Doug Morrill & Anne Shaffer**	Reverse loss of Angeles Point shoreline	1			erosion on Angeles Point shoreline caused by sediment starvation in Elwha drift cell (LEKT); sedient starvation withon the Elwha drift cell (CWI)	loss of traditional shellfishing areas for LEKT? Continued degradation of nearshore habitat function for ecysystem and community (CWI)			DNR, CWI, LEKT, WDFW, USGS		
		Elwha nearshore restoration	**Anne Shaffer**	Develop and implement Elwha nearshore restoration plan	1			Ecosystem of Elwha drift cell degraded due to sediment starvation and habitat alteration	continued loss of habitat function,	ongoing	nople request	CWI, Clallam County (SMP, NOLT, ENC, WDFW, LEKT?		
		Elwha nearshore restoration	**Doug Morrill & Anne Shaffer**	"A Frame" site restoration, Phase 3	1							CWI, LEKT, City of PA, WDNR, WSU Beach Watchers		
		Washington Harbor restoration	**Jeff Ward & Randy Johnson**	Implement JKST designed culvert replacement project to improve hydrological connection between the northern portion of the harbor and the Strait	1			north and south bays are connected by two culverts that restrict water flow and fish passage.		Design work is underway and will be completed by 12/10. Construction will most likely occur in 2011 or 2012.	Design work is funded. Enough funding is in hand (JST) to provide a modest match for a construction grant.	JKST, City of Sequim, N. Oly. Salmon Coalition		
		Pysht estuary restoration	**Doug Morrill**	connects the lower floodplain with its historic floodplain while safeguarding cultural resources	2							Merrill & Ring, LEKT, NOPLE		
		Protect and Restore Marine Populations		Improve Shellfish Harvest Areas		Creosote log and pilings	WDNR creosote wood removal from Dungeness Bay shorelines	Existing shellfish harvest areas are being negatively impacted by poor water quality from creosote logs and pilings : IMPACTS FISH TOO	Invasive Japanese oyster drill and continuing over harvest	Initiate within 09-11 biennium		USFWS, WDNR, WSU Beach Watchers		
		Protect and Restore Marine Populations	Lyn Muench liason to CWWG	Improve Shellfish Harvest Areas		Repair or replace failing septic systems	Expand the Shorebank funding program into Clallam County	Existing shelfish harvest areas are closed due to high bacteria levels	Human population and associated development increases along shorelines	Initiate within 09-11 biennium		Clallam Co. HHS / Enviro. Health, Sequim / Dungeness Clean Water Work Group		
		Protect and Restore Marine Populations		Improve Shellfish Harvest Areas		Shellfish resource enhancement	Outplant manilla clams geoducks to increase the population density	Historical overharvest: GEODUCKS YES. MANILAS NOT NATIVE, NOT OVERHARVESTED. OK TO PLANT FOR COMMENRCIAL / RECREATIONAL HARVEST.				WDFW, LEKT, JKST, Makah, WSU Beach Watchers		
		Macroalgae & Eelgrass Monitoring / Mapping	**Anne Shaffer, Doug Morrill**		1	continue defining eelgrass and macroalgae distribution along Elwha and comparative drift cells	map macrovegetation, work with local citizens for wise management of vegetated habitats							

Near Term Objective	NWSC Benchmarks	Task	Project Leader(s)	Description of Task	Priority	Sub-Task (Specific Action)	Sub-Task Element	Why is this important?		Timeline	Funded?	POTENTIAL, suggeste, or existing Partners / Affiliates	Element Schedule	Fits which PSP Priority Strait Action Area Strategies?
								Existing Problem	Potential Threat					
ECOSYSTEMS	MARINE LIFE	Crab pot removal in Dungeness and Sequim Bays	**Don Hatler, Lyn Muench, Jeff Ward, Don Baker**		**1**	mapping		many crab pots are lost in these bays, mostly from recreational sources?	Each lost pot can kill up to 22 crabs per year before they finally degrade enough to no longer capture them.		no			
						removal					no			
						prevention					no	WDFW, N. Oly. Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers, WSU Beach Watchers		
					3	Olympia oyster reintroduction		Native Olympia oysters have been extirpated due to over harvest.				WDFW, N. Oly. Chapter of Puget Sound Anglers, WSU Beach Watchers		
					3	Shellfish quantity and diversity monitoring	Encourage WDFW to conduct beach surveys	No comprehensive monitoring program currently exists				WDFW, WSU Beach Watchers		
			Doug Morrill		**1**	Shellfish quality monitoring by WDOH					yes	LEKT, WDOH		
			Paul Blake, Arnold Schouten		**1**	Beach Cleanups					yes	WSU Beach Watchers, Crescent Lions Club, Clallam Bay / Sekiu Chamber of Commerce, City of Port Angeles		
	MARINE H20 QUALITY	Port Angeles Landfill	**Arnold Schouten**	Leachate monitoring / comparison study							no	WDOE, Dry Creek Coalition, WSU Beach Watchers		
		Port Angeles Landfill?	**Nathan West**	removal of fill material within a given distance of the ordinary high water mark & proper disposal upland or elsewhere?							no	City of Port Angeles, WDOE		
		Warm Beach dump	**Makah Tribal representative?**	removal of fill material within a given distance of the ordinary high water mark & proper disposal upland or elsewhere? Construction of a transfer station, reuse trading area, LID demonstration site, native ethno-medicinal gardens.								Makah Tribe, WDOE, PSP		I would delete this tiem-I don't know where it came from and don't even know if it is still a priority for the Makah Tribe? Jas
		Groundwater Contamination Monitoring	**Andrew Shogren**		**1**	contract with Clallam Co. HHS/ Enviro. Health to monitor wells in Dungeness watershed for pollutants						Clallam Co. HHS/ Enviro. Health		

Near Term Objective	NWSC Benchmarks	Task	Project Leader(s)	Description of Task	Priority	Sub-Task (Specific Action)	Sub-Task Element	Why is this important?		Timeline	Funded?	POTENTIAL, suggeste, or existing Partners / Affiliates	Element Schedule	Fits which PSP Priority Strait Action Area Strategies?
								Existing Problem	Potential Threat					
SCIENCE	SOUND SCIENCE	Monitor nearshore marine habitats	**Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Anne Shaffer**	Continue to coordinate Elw	1	Elwha dam removal monitoring	work with citizens, PC, CWI, and LEKT to continue defining restoration response and opportunities	Little current information on marine habitat function	Loss opportunity for nearshore restoration associated with upcoming dam removal if don't define priority habitats and restoration opportunities	continue with 09-11 biennium		CWI, Clallam MRC		
		Elwha nearshore consortium annual workshop	**Anne Shaffer, Matt Beirne**	sponsor public portion of nearshore consortium annual meeting	2						CWI, MRC co-sponsored	CWI, Clallam MRC, Peninsula College/WWU,/LEKT/DNR		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Jeff Ward**	Use historic & contemporary marine data sets, including MESA, SeaDoc Society, DNR, & Audubon C.B.C. to identify causes of marine population declines in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and recommend restorative actions to County Commissioners.	1	Sediment Analysis						WDNR, Peninsula College		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Lyn Muench**		2	Marine Bird population study	Dungeness River Audubon Center data analysis	Local data not copared with regional data to determine how wide spread marine bird declines are		May 2010-June 2011		Dungeness River Audubon Center		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Lyn Muench**		2	Marine Bird population study	Dungeness River Audubon Center bird counts	current monitoring limited to Christams; Elwha drift ceel not covered		May 2010-June 2011		Dungeness River Audubon Center		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Lyn Muench**		2	Marine Bird population study	SeaDoc Society data sharing and integration	we don't have data, or they haven't been analyzed to determine how wide spread or localized marine bird declines are.		summer/fall 2010?		UC Davis SeaDoc Society		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Anne Shaffer, Ed Bowlby?**		2	Marine Bird population study	COASST monitoring in central Strait			May 2010-June 2011	MRC	University of Washington, OCNMS		
		Shoreline Master Program updates resource (advisory, facilitation, community awareness.)	**Jeff Ward**	share data and outreach with City of Sequim								City of Sequim		
		Shoreline Master Program updates resource (advisory, facilitation, community awareness.)	**Nathan West**	share data and outreach with City of Port Angeles								City of Port Angeles		
		Shoreline Master Program updates resource (advisory, facilitation, community awareness.)	**Paul Blake**	share data and outreach with Clallam Bay / Sekiu community.								Clallam Bay / Sekiu Chamber of Commerce		
		Shoreline Master Program updates resource (advisory, facilitation, community awareness.)	**Cathy Lear**	share data and outreach with Clallam County										

Near Term Objective	NWSC Benchmarks	Task	Project Leader(s)	Description of Task	Priority	Sub-Task (Specific Action)	Sub-Task Element	Why is this important?		Timeline	Funded?	POTENTIAL, suggeste, or existing Partners / Affiliates	Element Schedule	Fits which PSP Priority Strait Action Area Strategies?
								Existing Problem	Potential Threat					
PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION, & INVOLVEMENT	EDUCATION & OUTREACH	Feiro Marine Life Center elementary school education	**Nathan West**		1							Feiro Marine Life Center, City of Port Angeles		
		HAZWOPER & Oiled Wildlife ongoing certification	**Arnold Schouten**		1							USCG, WDOE Spills Prgm., WDFW		
		Marine Ecosystems Analysis Program (MESA)	**Lyn Muench**		2	Marine Bird population outreach		Public knowledge ofmarine bird declines limited;results of dam removal on marine birds unknown	Failure to support marine bird protections and restoration			DRAC, City of Sequim, City of Port Angeles, Clallam County, WSU Beach Watchers, Sierra Club chapter		
		Festivals	**Lyn Muench**		2			Limited public understanding of marine importance, problems	Failure to support important marine blife and habitat protections and restoration	year-round	yes-mainly volunteer time and materials	NOLT,DRAC,other event sponsors		
		Local workshops and consortia- Marine Shoreline Landowner workshops, Low Impact Development workshops.			1							Elwha Nearshore Consortium, CWI, Peninsula College, WSU Beach Watchers		
		Puget Sound Partnership- Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network membership?			3							PSP		
		Update display board and other outreach materials			3									
		Public speakers and meeting notice			3									
COORDINATION		Shoreline Master Program updates liaison	**Bob Vreeland**		1							various jurisdictions		