

Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 2018 Annual Report



Prepared by
Clallam County Marine Resources Committee



About the Clallam MRC

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (Clallam MRC) was established by a resolution of Clallam County as a result of the 1998 Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative, which combines data-driven science with grassroots involvement by citizens in an effort to promote local solutions that protect and restore marine resources in Clallam County.



We work to discover collaborative ways to improve shellfish harvest areas, protect marine habitat, support salmon and forage fish recovery and explore resource management alternatives to reduce impacts on marine resources. We provide input to Clallam Board of Commissioners, when appropriate, to ensure the protection and restoration of marine resources. In addition to participating in a variety of environmental monitoring programs, we manage and support projects focused on removing marine debris, training citizens to safely respond to an oil spill, restoring Olympia oysters, and educating the community on emerging environmental issues. We also sponsor student interns to work on Clallam MRC projects to foster their interest in natural resource careers. As shown in the benchmark table below, our work includes a combination of activities that promote marine conservation education and outreach to the general public, projects to increase the understanding of the marine environment, projects that help restore natural shellfish populations, and projects that enable us to prepare for and respond to climate change and potential environmental accidents such as oil spills.

The Clallam MRC receives funding from US EPA through the Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC). The table below shows how the 2017-2018 MRC tasks supported the NWSC Benchmarks.

Clallam MRC Grant Tasks	NWSC Benchmarks				
	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine Water Quality	Science	Education and Outreach
Operations					
Educational Outreach					◆
Forage Fish Survey	◆	◆		◆	◆
Kelp Monitoring	◆	◆		◆	◆
Marine Debris	◆	◆			◆
Oil Spill Response	◆	◆	◆		◆
Olympia Oyster Restoration	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Pigeon Guillemot Survey	◆	◆		◆	◆
Shellfish Biotoxin Monitoring	◆	◆	◆		◆

Membership

The Clallam MRC is a balanced team of members comprised of local citizens representing commercial and sport fishers, conservation and environmental interests as well as tribes, cities, academia and other local governmental agencies.

Member	Interest/Representation
Current Members: September 2018	
Jeff Ward , Chair	Commissioner District I
Ed Bowlby, Vice-Chair	Academia
Alan Clark, NWSC Rep (May 2016 - current)	At-Large
Sissi Bruch, NWSC alternate	Port Angeles City Council
Lyn Muench	Commissioner District II
Mike Doherty	Commissioner District III
Jesse Waknitz	Port of Port Angeles
Pete Schroeder	Marine Related Recreation & Tourism
Ann Soule	Sequim City Council
Arnold Schouten	Development Community
Kathy Cooper	Marine Trades
Bob Vreeland	Conservation & Environmental Interests
Robert Knapp	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Mike McHenry	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Greig Arnold	Makah Tribe
Alternates	
Chris Burns	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Peggy McClure	Sequim City Council
Jim Moran	Port Angeles City Council
Ex-Officio Members	
Mary Ellen Winborn	Director, Clallam County Dept. Community Development
Chris Byrnes	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
Cathy Lear	CMRC Coordinator
Helle Andersen	CMRC Project Coordinator
Former Members: Served in 2017-18	
Brad Collins	Port Angeles City Council
Bob Campbell	Marine Related Recreation & Tourism

Operations

Goal: ✧ To carry out administrative functions in support of the mission, including work plan preparation, developing and preparing grant proposals, programmatic staff support, project monitoring and performance tracking, coordinating education and internship programs, grant writing, travel, planning, and participating in training opportunities.

Clallam MRC Meetings and Communication – The Clallam MRC met monthly to discuss project items and listen to educational presentations of invited guests. Clallam MRC staff prepared and distributed meeting agendas and minutes.

Grant Administration – Clallam MRC staff wrote regular progress reports, tracked and administered the budget, and ensured projects were supported and reaching their stated goals. The Clallam MRC was awarded the NWSF Opportunity Fund grant to support a longer-termed internship providing educational outreach to recreational crabbers in Clallam County and to support an intern working on the invasive green crab trapping and removal project with Jamestown S’Kallam Tribe. In addition, unspent fund from the 2017 Opportunity Fund supported another intern working with the Makah Tribe on their green crab removal project.

Website Maintenance – In 2018 the Clallam MRC website was transferred to a new and improved format. The website was updated regularly and contained information on past and upcoming meetings including meeting agendas and approved minutes, current and completed projects as well as current news (<http://www.clallamcountymrc.org/>).

Annual Workplan Development – The Clallam MRC developed a work plan to guide the work and priorities of the Clallam MRC for the 2017-2018 grant year.

Training – Clallam MRC members and staff were encouraged to participate in trainings relevant to the Clallam MRC’s goals and projects. Nine MRC members, alternates and staff attended the annual 2017 MRC conference. As in other years several members renewed their HAZWOPER and Arnold Schouten co-led the oiled wildlife training. Ed Bowlby led the pigeon guillemot survey training with several members participating.

Representation at NWSC Meetings – Alan Clark served as the Clallam MRC representative to the NWSC and Sissi Bruch served as the alternate. The Representative or Alternate attended the monthly meetings with the NWSC. Alan Clark and Jeff Ward (Clallam MRC Chair) participated in the annual NWSI retreat in La Connor.

Presentations to Local Government Officials: On March 6th Commissioner Mark Ozias read up a proclamation dedicating the month of March 2018 as Oiled Spill Preparedness Month. Jeff Ward received the proclamation and gave a short thank you speech.

Participation in Local Integrating Organization Meetings – As a member of the steering group Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator, attended the quarterly steering group meetings. In addition, Jeff Ward and Cathy Lear participated in the ERN/LIO quarterly meetings.

Education and Outreach

Goal: ✧ Successful engagement of the public, students, and citizen scientists in emerging water quality issues including ocean acidification, marine debris, and other water quality concerns within Clallam County that have the potential to adversely affect marine life.

Intern Program

Since 2010 Clallam MRC has provided paid internships to high school and college students to work with scientists and other professionals on current environmental projects. In 2018 the Clallam MRC expanded the intern program by offered five 80-hour paid internships and two longer-term internships. Four internships were funded through Northwest Straits Commission and three internships through Northwest Straits Foundation.

One intern monitored kelp beds as part of the Puget Sound wide kelp monitoring project led by NWSC, creating maps of three kelp beds in Freshwater and Clallam Bay. Two interns worked with the Makah and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, respectively, to trap and remove the invasive European green crab. In 2018 the Makah Tribe captured more than 1,000 green crabs on tribal land. Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe did exploratory trapping along the shores of Eastern Clallam County and luckily did not capture any green crabs. One intern continued the Clallam MRC stewardship efforts at West Elwha Beach, conducting numerous beach use and dog waste surveys and compiling the last three years surveys into a database. Two interns informed recreational crabbers about derelict gear and the proper deployment of crab pots during the 2018 crab season. They handed out 231 educational outreach kits to the public and local stores. One last intern worked on the pigeon guillemot survey project which involved 50 volunteers surveying breeding colonies at 16 locations in the eastern part of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The internships culminated at the Intern Celebration. During the public event the students presented their projects to more than 40 local residents at Feiro Marine Life Center.

The Peninsula Daily News posted an article about the intern program on May 4, 2018 <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/clallam-marine-resources-committee-offers-internships/>

Community Events

2017-2018 community events included:

- The Celebration of Science event on Port Angeles City Pier
- Ocean Science event at Clallam Bay
- Dungeness River Festival
- Workshop for shoreline landowners
- Earth Day and International Coastal Cleanup marine debris cleanup along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



Ocean Science Event at Clallam Bay

In June Clallam MRC partnered with the Olympia Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Clallam Bay School District to teach a one-day field and classroom event at Slip Point in Clallam Bay. Approximately 30 grade school students participated in the program and together with approximately 20 adults the students explored the intertidal during a super low tide. The Clallam MRC provided a [kelp guide](#) used by the students to identify the most common seaweeds.



Dungeness River Festival

At the 2018 festival the Clallam MRC booth was one of 20 booths staffed by local, state, federal, tribal and nonprofit entities active on the North Olympic Peninsula. The booths offered interactive nature exhibits and activities, as well as exhibits providing information on numerous environmental topics from the impacts of marine debris and failing septic systems to wildlife living in the Olympic National Park. The display at Clallam MRC's booth focused on the importance of good habitat and clean water for healthy shellfish populations. Live geoducks and Olympia and Pacific oysters provided a way to talk about water quality and other important aspects of marine habitats. The festival reached about 1,500 festival participants; an estimated 350 local residents came Thursday for the family and community evening and approximately 800 students in grades 3-5 enjoyed the festival the following day along with their teachers, chaperons and other residents which made up the remaining 350 participants.

The festival was featured in both Sequim Gazette and the Peninsula Daily News

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/entertainment/sequims-river-festival-celebrates-20-years/>

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/life/photo-feting-20-years-of-river-education/>



What's Next?

Clallam MRC will continue to conduct educational outreach through the intern program, Ocean Science events, speaker series, workshops, and participation in the Dungeness River Festival.

Marine Debris

Goal: ✧ Respond to the continued issue of marine debris accumulation on local beaches through an expanded network of partners and volunteers.



In 2018 Clallam MRC participated in two marine debris cleanup events.

On Earth Day Clallam MRC in partnership with CoastSavers organized the cleanup efforts along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Earth Day cleanup effort was a success - 183 volunteers participated in the beach cleanup along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Marine debris was removed from at least 19 beaches and Peabody Creek in Port Angeles. An estimated 2,119 lbs. of debris was removed.

In the fall Clallam MRC in partnership with CoastSavers organized the International Coastal Cleanup effort along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. During the event 66 volunteers removed about 460 lbs. of marine debris eleven beaches.

In 2018 Clallam MRC joined the Washington Clean Coast Alliance Steering Committee. The alliance is the sponsor of the Washington CoastSavers program.

Accomplishments

- ✧ More than 249 local citizens and students participated in marine debris removal along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- ✧ More than 2,500 lbs. of marine debris was removed.
- ✧ On Earth Day marine debris was removed from at least 19 beaches along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and during the ICC event 11 beaches were cleaned-up.

What's Next?

Clallam MRC will continue to partner with Washington CoastSavers and other organizations to organize and conduct marine debris removal events.

Oil Spill Response

- Goal:** ✧ Partner with federal, state and non-profit organizations to offer annual oil spill response trainings to local citizens.
- ✧ Integrate forage fish beach spawning assessments into shoreline protection and restoration projects in Clallam County.

In 2018 Clallam MRC coordinated or hosted four educational outreach events focusing on oil spill preparedness. The events included:

- February 10th 8-hour HAZWOPER training
- March 14th oil spill webinar
- March 24th oiled wildlife rescue class focusing on search and capture
- March 31st oiled wildlife rescue class focusing on basic intake and stabilization.

Three of the four events took place in March which prompted the MRC to declare the month of March as “Oil Spill Preparedness Month.” The Clallam County Commissioners signed a [proclamation](#) in support of the Oil Spill Preparedness Month.

Annual HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response) certification is a requirement for participation in an oil spill response. The participants learned about safety & health, use of personal protective equipment, site characterization and the organization of an oiled wildlife response including the set-up of the rehabilitation center.



Accomplishments

- ✧ 33 volunteers received the HAZWOPER certification in 2018.
- ✧ 29 volunteers participated in the oiled wildlife trainings in 2018.
- ✧ Since 2010 more than 500 volunteers have received HAZWOPER training and more than 360 volunteers have received oiled wildlife training.

What's Next?

Clallam MRC will continue to collaborate with its partners to offer annual HAZWOPER and oiled wildlife trainings.

Forage Fish Monitoring

Goals: ✧ Provide a better understanding of the forage fish populations within the Salish Sea by performing citizen science monitoring and raising awareness about the ecological importance of forage fish.

Accomplishments

- ✧ Conducted 3 monthly surveys at two WDFW index sites and 9 surveys at a new index site.
- ✧ Conducted 9 monthly surveys at two restoration sites on Ediz Hook and 9 monthly surveys at two restoration sites on Elwha Beach.
- ✧ Documented surf smelt spawning at Cline Spit and surf smelt, sand lance and rock sole spawning at different locations along Ediz Hook.
- ✧ Documented surf smelt spawning at Pitship Point and Dungeness Bluff during the annual WDFW intensive sampling.



In 2018 Clallam MRC continued collaborating with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife on the forage fish spawning project. Monthly samples were collected at two index sites - Pitship Point adjacent to John Wayne Marina and at a public beach near Old Town east of Dungeness River – for three months before the effort was switch to sampling at Cline Spit.

The sampling effort also continued at the two restoration sites on Ediz Hook and at the two restoration sites east of Elwha River mouth. After nine month the effort was discontinued but with the intent to initiate the effort again in spring 2019.

In July 2018 Clallam MRC participated in the intensive annual sampling event conducted by WDFW. The CMRC members conducted sampling at 10 beaches between Old Town near Sequim and Crescent Beach west of Port Angeles.

All forage fish samples were submitted to Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for laboratory analysis.

What's Next?

The Clallam MRC will continue to monitor forage fish at numerous sites along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and participate in the intensive annual sampling event to better understand this important component to the marine food web.

Olympia Oyster Restoration

Goal: ✧ Restore 2 acres of sustainable Olympia oyster habitat in Sequim Bay.



In 2012 Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe partnered with Clallam MRC and Puget Sound Restoration Fund to restore Olympia oysters on one acre of their tidelands in Blyn on Sequim Bay. Between 2012 and 2014 more than 755,000 Olympia oyster seed were planted on the tidelands. In 2014 half an acre of tidelands were added to the restoration effort making the total restoration site 1.5 acres.

In 2018, the Olympia oyster bed was observed to cover an area of 1.5 acres. However, approximately 0.5 acre was outside the designated restoration site so the restoration effort will continue until the whole designated site supports Olympia oysters.

In May 2018 the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe proposed to restore Olympia oysters on a parcel of tidelands that they lease from WA Department of Natural Resources at the head of Sequim Bay. The site is approximately 700 ft. east of the current restoration site and covers an area of $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. In summer of 2018 more than 100 Olympia oyster seed bags were spread at the new restoration site.

In fall 2018 Clallam MRC installed two test plots at USFWS Dawley Road property in Sequim Bay. The plots will be assessed in spring 2019 for survival and growth.

Accomplishments

- ✧ In 2018 the Olympia oyster bed at the head of Sequim Bay covered an area of 1.5 acres.
- ✧ Restoration effort was initiated at a new site at the head of the bay which cover an area $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. More than 100 seeded bags were spread at the site.
- ✧ The suitability of the USFWS Dawley Road property is being explored with the establishment of two test plots.

What's Next?

Clallam MRC and its partners will continue to monitor and enhance the two Olympia oyster restoration site at the head of Sequim Bay. If the assessment of the two test plots at Dawley Road is promising restoration efforts will be initiated at the site.

Kelp Monitoring

Goal: ✧ Monitor the size and density of kelp canopies during low-tide events between July and September and develop a georeferenced database of kelp abundance and distribution that can be incorporated into the Sound IQ database and used by Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



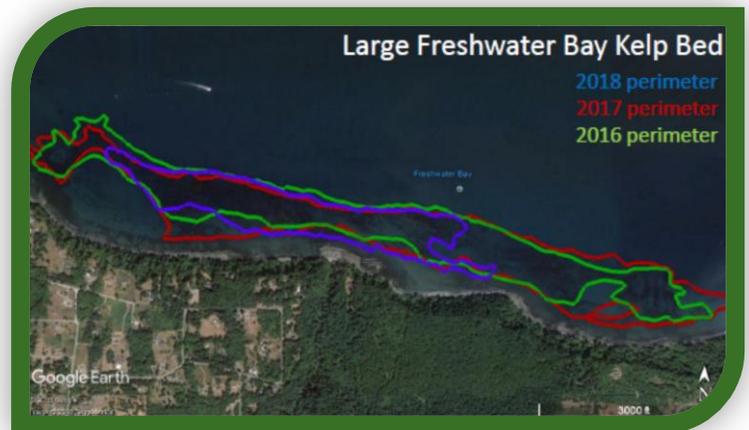
In 2015 Clallam MRC joined the NWSC kelp monitoring project and the effort was continued in 2018 by conducting surveys at the two kelp beds in Freshwater Bay and the kelp bed in Clallam Bay.

Clallam MRC conducted one survey of the kelp bed in Clallam Bay and one survey each of the two beds in Freshwater Bay. Three maps of the kelp beds were made based on the GPS information for comparison to previous year's maps.

The maps were submitted to the NWSC along with other survey information such as water temperature, visibility, and kelp composition. The survey data will be incorporated into the NWSC SoundIQ database and shared with WDNR.

Accomplishments

- ✧ Conducted one survey of the small and large kelp beds in Freshwater Bay.
- ✧ Conducted one survey of the bed in Clallam Bay.
- ✧ Submitted three maps to NWSC.



What's Next?

The Clallam MRC will continue monitoring the kelp beds in Freshwater Bay and Clallam Bay.

Pigeon Guillemot

Goal: ✧ Monitor pigeon guillemots nesting success and foraging behavior in Clallam County.

The pigeon guillemot is considered an indicator species of nearshore health, since it feeds primarily on forage fish such as gunnells and pricklebacks and other small marine creatures it catches by diving beneath the surfaces.

In 2016 Clallam MRC initiated pigeon guillemot breeding surveys in collaboration of Island MRC and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society. Pigeon Guillemots lay eggs in the early summer, and by end of June the birds are busy providing fish for the juveniles in the burrows. In 2018 the effort expanded to 16 separate colonies along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Fifty volunteers surveyed the colonies once a week for one hour between June and September.



Accomplishments

- ✧ Partnered with Island MRC and Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.
- ✧ Organized a team of 50 volunteers.
- ✧ Surveyed 16 pigeon guillemot colonies throughout the summer months.
- ✧ The data was incorporated into Island MRC database and made available to the public at
- ✧ <http://pigeonguillemotdata.org/clallam/2018/>



What's Next?

Clallam MRC will continue monitoring the 16 colonies in Clallam County and looking into the possibility of expanding the effort in 2019.

On the Horizon

In addition to the continuation and development of existing projects as highlighted throughout this report, the Clallam MRC is looking forward to focusing on the following new projects in 2018-19.

Crab Pot Removal in Sequim Bay

Through the NOAA Marine Debris Grant the Northwest Straits Foundation, in collaboration with Natural Resources Consultants and the Jefferson and Clallam County Marine Resources Committees, has been funded to conduct a three-year derelict crab pot removal project supplemented with a targeted recreational crabber outreach campaign. The project will eliminate the immediate and potential harm caused by derelict crab pots currently in the water, and prevent the re-accumulation of derelict crab pots through a targeted recreational crabber outreach campaign. The project will commence in spring 2019.



Near Term Action Projects

In 2019 Clallam MRC will collaborate on two Near Term Action (NTA) projects focusing on oil spill preparedness and restoration and improved public access till two urban streams in Port Angeles.

The WSU Snohomish County Extension will lead a project to develop a volunteer oil spill assessment and response program. Three Clallam MRC members will participate in the stakeholder panel tasked with developing the program.

The non-profit organization Futurewise will lead a GreenLink watershed planning and prioritization project. The project will develop green infrastructure recommendations for Port Angeles' creeks through a watershed plan. The plan will focus community priorities for these creeks, current creek and watershed conditions and compile a list of policies and green infrastructure. Two MRC members and staff will participate in the project.

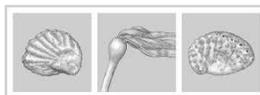


Partners

Through the years Clallam MRC has collaborated with numerous partners. The logos below list the organizations and agencies Clallam MRC partnered with in 2018.



Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe



PUGET SOUND RESTORATION FUND

