

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee**

**5-Year Strategic Plan**

**2019 through 2024**



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**Jeff Ward, Chair**  
**Commissioner District 1**

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**Lyn Muench**  
**Commissioner District II**

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**Mike Doherty**  
**Commissioner District III**

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**Greig Arnold**  
**Makah Tribe**

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**Mike McHenry**  
**Elwha Tribe**

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**Robert Knapp**  
**Jamestown-S'Klallam Tribe**

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**Sissi Bruch**  
**City of Port Angeles**

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**Jesse Wankitz**  
**Port of Port Angeles**

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**Ann Soule**  
**Sequim City Council**

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**Ed Bowlby**  
**Academic Community**

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**Arnold Schouten**  
**Development Community**

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**Bob Vreeland**  
**Conservation/Environmental Community**

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**Pete Schroeder**  
**Marine Recreation**

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**Vacant**  
**Marine Trades**

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**Alan Clark**  
**At-Large Member**

# **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) is a volunteer organization that was established as an advisory committee in 1999 by the Clallam County Board of Commissioners (hereafter referred to as County Commissioners) through Resolution 58-1999 (Attachment 1) for the purpose of addressing marine issues in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, recommending remedial actions to local authorities, fostering awareness of these issues, and gaining local support for the remedial actions. The CCMRC and six other organizations representing the citizens of Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties bordering the Salish Sea (collectively known as the Northwest Straits) were established in accordance with the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative (Northwest Straits Initiative).

This initiative was authorized by congress in 1998 following the recommendations of a blue ribbon committee created by U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Representative Jack Metcalf (Murray-Metcalf Commission). A description of the authorities, authorizations, and history of the CCMRC and the Northwest Straits Initiative is provided in Attachment 2.

**To fulfill its charter, the CCMRC prepares a five-year strategic plan that guides our activities and measures our success. The following is the Five Year Strategic Plan for 2019 through 2024.**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

CCMRC's vision is a healthy marine ecosystem for future generations.

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS**

CCMRC's mission is to develop projects that achieve the following goals:

- Goal 1: Protect and restore marine ecosystems
- Goal 2: Use science to support decision-making
- Goal 3: Promote environmental stewardship.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

### **Bottom-Up, Place-Based Thinking Gets Things Done**

The CCMRC provides a forum to discuss challenges, explore ideas and solutions, and mobilize the local community to ensure the marine resources of Clallam County are available now and in the future. Ideas generated at a local, stakeholder level create a sense of ownership and shared commitment that promotes success and provides a positive example of how to conserve and restore the resources of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

### **Partnerships are Essential**

Federal, state, and local entities as well as treaty tribes face an ongoing struggle to do more with less. The CCMRC realizes that forging strong partnerships are an essential part of our success. By leveraging financial and human resources, creating programs and projects that meet the needs of different groups, and working collaboratively with our existing and future partners, the CCMRC can continue to serve the citizens of Clallam County.

## **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

### **Education and Engagement Should be a Component of Every Project**

Membership of the CCMRC is varied and encompasses many perspectives, but members realize that our most important job involves public education and engagement. Thus, whenever possible, the CCMRC incorporates hands-on opportunities for students, citizen scientists, and members of the public into our programs and projects. By doing so the CCMRC provides an opportunity for those interested in careers in science or education to learn by doing, and for citizens of Clallam County to gain a better understanding and appreciation of our regional marine resources and their needs.

### **Sound Science Increases Certainty in Decision-Making**

Some of the CCMRC projects involve the collection of scientific data that can be used to assess changes to the marine environment, reduce uncertainty, and support environmental decision-making. Information can also be used to better understand the potential impacts, tradeoffs, and risks of one action compared with another. For projects that involve data collection, the CCMRC commits to following scientifically accepted protocols developed collaboratively with local, state, and federal partners. Results from these efforts are disseminated to project partners, stakeholders, and the public in a way that is understandable and useful for decision-making.

### **Decision-Making Must Include Environmental, Socioeconomic, and Cultural Components**

The makeup of the CCMRC includes representatives from local and regional governments, treaty tribes, and members representing economic development, marine trades, marine recreation, academia, conservation, and environmental interests. This diverse membership provides different perspectives that add value to CCMRC's advisory role to the County Commissioners and promotes the design and implementation of projects that reflect socioeconomic and cultural perspectives while protecting and sustaining the marine resources of Clallam County.

### **Guiding Principles Summary**

The guiding principles discussed above are incorporated into all of our work, and remind us that the best decisions are reached when 1) local people are involved at the beginning, 2) effective partnerships are created and sustained, 3) numerous opportunities are available for learning and participation, and 4) reliable information is obtained to assess the environmental, social, and cultural aspects of our environment.

## **KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

Since its creation in 1999, the CCMRC has worked collaboratively with a variety of groups and organizations to support our goals and increase public awareness of marine resource issues. We have partnered with numerous entities including Peninsula College, Olympic Outer Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Feiro Marine Life Center, our three treaty tribe members, and the local chapters of Surfrider Foundation and Audubon, to name a few. A complete list of partnerships and collaborations that have been developed by the CCMRC since its inception is provided in Attachment 3.

In partnership with the six other MRCs, we also leverage project funding, share ideas, discuss lessons learned, and develop integrated projects that maximize results. In a world where funding for environmental restoration protection is scarce and competitive, the development of partnerships that extend funding and share skills, knowledge, and resources is vitally important.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**CCMRC STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS**

Understanding the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats to an organization is an essential part of any strategic plan.

**Strengths**

Our primary strengths include the technical expertise of our members, our positive presence in Clallam County for nearly two decades, our past successes, and our organizational structure that promotes effective stakeholder representation and encourages collaborative engagement. Going forward, it is essential that we continue to recruit and retain effective members, liaisons, and volunteers, to maintain our excellent reputation in Clallam County, and to raise the overall visibility of our organization to attract new volunteers and ensure future success.

**Challenges**

The challenges we face are typical of many local volunteer organizations: too many things to do and not enough time, money, and staff to do them. The CCMRC is hampered by limited time to conduct business, given the monthly meeting format and the other duties and responsibilities each member has outside of the committee. During 2019-2024, we will continue to look for ways to leverage funds, engage members, and use the committee and subcommittee structure allowed in our bylaws to spread the work among members, alternates, and volunteers so more can get done.

**Opportunities**

Given the high level of interest in environmental protection and sustainability within Clallam County and at the regional and national scale, we see many opportunities in the next five years. Community-based decision-making and stewardship is an attractive form of governance, regardless of political affiliation.

Organizations that are experienced in engaging citizens in projects addressing ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural concerns will become increasingly important. Locally based organizations like the CCMRC offer low overheads and access to members with years of diverse experience and technical skills. They represent the best bargain available with regards to investments in environmental protection, restoration, and sustainability. In the coming years, the CCMRC will continue to provide well-reasoned input to the County Commissioners on important marine issues facing the Salish Sea.

**Threats**

Threats to the CCMRC include the increase in competition for scarce funds, restrictive matching fund requirements for some grants, and the potential for CCMRC members to become discouraged by the “do more with less” approach that is becoming a common practice in environmental restoration and protection. It is also important to realize that issues facing the Salish Sea continue to grow in number, complexity, and severity. The need to set priorities and limits means that some number of important actions won’t be possible.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**Summary of CCMRC Strengths, Challenges , Opportunities and Threats**

<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long-term presence in Clallam Co.</li><li>• Wide, varied representation.</li><li>• Many success stories.</li><li>• Local and regional support.</li><li>• Great relationships with NWSC, NWSF, and other partners.</li><li>• Members bring wealth of experience and expertise.</li></ul>	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased focus on ecosystem health, services, and sustainability.</li><li>• Growing support for community-based projects and guidance.</li><li>• Advantage to partnering with other advisory groups that can address ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural needs.</li></ul>
<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not always possible to make measurable impact due to funding and staff constraints.</li><li>• Committee members have other outside commitments that influence ability to contribute.</li><li>• Meeting only monthly can make it hard to get things done efficiently.</li></ul>	<p><b>THREATS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding mechanisms are changing and will become much more competitive.</li><li>• Matching fund requirements will become more prevalent.</li><li>• “Do more with less” mentality can create discouragement.</li></ul>

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

## **ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE LONG-TERM GOALS**

### **GOAL 1: Protect and Restore Nearshore Ecosystems**



Nearshore ecosystems are subject to a variety of natural and anthropogenic stressors that affect both the quality of the environment and the ability of the ecological systems to persist through time. These fragile ecosystems are adversely affected by legacy actions (e.g., shoreline modification, armoring, nearshore development) and new stressors, like the presence of invasive species or the effects of climate change that may significantly alter or adversely affect existing nearshore resources. In support of Goal 1, the CCMRC will focus on projects and activities that restore nearshore ecosystems and native species, protect existing resources from further harm, and mitigate the effects of climate change or other environmental stressors.

We view recent success stories, such as the Makah Tribe's investment in science and technology to better understand the risk of increased oil transport along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Elwha Klallam Tribe's advocacy and leadership leading to the removal of the Elwha River dams, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's pocket estuary restoration work at Washington Harbor, and the restoration work at the site of the former Three Crabs Restaurant by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, as examples of what can be done when local agencies and entities work together.

### **Approach**

The CCMRC promotes and supports projects that ensure that the marine resources of Clallam County are protected and sustained for future generations. Future projects will be locally focused, and will reflect regional and national priorities and concerns whenever possible. CCMRC projects will continue to provide examples of how to balance marine resource protection and sustainability with socioeconomic and cultural needs. Public participation, education, and outreach will be an important component of all projects.

# Clallam County Marine Resources Committee

## 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)

### Activities

Based on available funding, activities that may be considered during 2019-2024 include:

#### **Native Species Restoration**

During 2019-2024, the CCMRC will continue to look for opportunities to restore native species to nearshore areas. This work will build on the successful collaboration with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to restore native Olympia oysters to suitable areas within and adjacent to Sequim Bay, and will involve assessment of new restoration sites or partnerships that will enable additional acres of tideland to support this species. The CCMRC may also initiate new partnerships that enable restoration of other species in nearshore areas of Clallam County.

#### **Oil Spill Preparedness Training**

Training citizens to safely provide support to professional oil spill response groups has been a focus of the CCMRC for many years. Currently, the Strait of Juan de Fuca is heavily utilized for the marine transport of hydrocarbons, and many believe it is a matter of when not if the next oil spill will occur. Clallam County residents also remember the December 21, 1985 Arco Anchorage oil spill that released over 200,000 gallons of crude oil into Port Angeles Harbor and killed scores of birds, fish, and marine mammals. That spill, and others that have occurred before and since, have demonstrated the need for trained citizen-responders to safely assist in response actions. In the coming years, the CCMRC will continue to work closely with federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide annual Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPR) and oiled wildlife rescue and care training. These courses have been very popular with our local citizens, and we intend to continue and expand them as needed in 2019-2024.

#### **Derelict Gear and Marine Debris Removal**

Derelict or lost nets and crab pots can continue to “fish” for extended periods, adversely affecting fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and birds. Programs supported by federal and state resource agencies and administered through both the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) have enabled removal of large amounts of derelict nets and crab pots from the Salish Sea.

In past years, the CCMRC has focused primarily on activities that reduce the number of derelict crab pots in Sequim Bay, Dungeness Bay, and Port Angeles Harbor. Our work has included both targeted removal efforts and public outreach to reduce future recreational crabbing pot losses. The CCMRC has also worked closely with key partners to support marine debris removal along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the use of standardized protocols to describe and weigh the collected debris. During 2019-2024, the CCMRC will continue derelict gear removal efforts, and support other programs that raise public awareness of the issue. We will also consider expanding our existing programs to address other marine debris-related issues (e.g., presence of microplastics and the use of environmentally friendly material choices for marine construction).

#### **Protection of Nearshore Ecosystems**

One of the keys to ensuring a sustainable marine environment is the responsible use and development of nearshore ecosystems. Bulkheads and other forms of shoreline armoring designed to protect property from storm damage and erosion also creates significant adverse impacts to

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

nearshore ecosystems by acting as a barrier to natural sediment transport and changing important beach characteristics. Although permitting and mitigation strategies have improved over the years, conservation and protection of shorelines is the most effective tool for ensuring healthy ecosystems and keeping people out of harm’s way. Besides providing input to the County Commissioners with regard to proposed nearshore development projects, the CCMRC will continue to work closely with agencies, treaty tribes, real estate brokers, and private citizens to provide support and guidance on how to best apply habitat-sensitive methods to provide protection from storm damage and erosion and how to mitigate effects to nearshore ecosystems from climate change, ocean acidification, and sea level rise. The overarching goal of these activities is to ensure the safety of people and the protection of nearshore marine resources in Clallam County.

**Key Collaborations**

Key collaborations to achieve Goal 1 include continued partnerships with the existing network of supporters and volunteers that have played a role in CCMRC’s success in protecting and restoring nearshore eco systems. Today our partners include the NWSC, NWSF, state and federal resource agencies, and treaty tribes. In the future when appropriate CCMRC will enlist other partners listed in Attachment 3.

**Measures of Success**

The Measures of Success of Goal 1 projects to be conducted during 2019-2024 period are presented in Table 1 below. Specific metrics will be developed during preparation of the CCMRC annual work plan to be presented to NWSC, NWSF, or in grant proposals to state and federal agencies when appropriate.

**Table 1.** General Measures of Success for Goal 1 Activities

Activity	Measure of Success Metric
Native species restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area planted (acres)</li> <li>• Species density over time</li> </ul>
Oil spill preparedness training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of volunteers trained/year</li> <li>• Number of repeat versus new volunteers trained</li> </ul>
Derelict gear and marine debris removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity of crab pots or nets removed</li> <li>• Weight and type of marine debris collected</li> <li>• Number of volunteers involved (if applicable)</li> </ul>
Shoreline landowner engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of attendees at outreach events</li> <li>• Number of specific actions to reduce ecosystem impacts or mitigate climate change</li> </ul>

## Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)

### GOAL 2: Use Science to Support Decision-Making

One of the most important elements of the scientific process is the collection of high quality data. CCMRC is in a unique position to provide quality data that can be used to support decision-making given the experience and interests of its members and volunteers.



Over the past decade, the CCMRC has increased its environmental data collection activities to include surveys of marine birds, forage fish, and macroalgae (kelp). We have also resumed marine biotoxin surveys during the spring and summer in the western Strait of Juan de Fuca to ensure the safety of recreational clam diggers. We will continue to support efforts by state and federal agencies and the Jamestown, Elwha, and Makah tribes to assess the threat posed by the presence of invasive European green crab.

All surveys require trained volunteers to follow standardized protocols to ensure scientific integrity and data defensibility. During 2019-2024, the CCMRC plans to continue the existing data collection activities and to expand them geographically, if possible, to better understand trends and reduce uncertainty.

Just as important we are beginning to explore new technologies that will expand our knowledge of nearshore flora and fauna and support decision-making. These technologies may include drones, autonomous sampling and detection devices, or devices that can be easily deployed from small boats or kayaks to assess marine resources.

### Approach

The CCMRC will continue to look for opportunities to engage citizens in projects involving environmental data collection that can be used to assess baseline conditions, monitor change, and support decision-making. Data collection activities may include surveys of seabirds, fish, and macroalgae, marine biotoxin sampling, and invasive species monitoring. These projects will encourage local citizen science, provide opportunities for student interns, raise the visibility of the CCMRC and the Northwest Straits Initiative with the objective of promoting environmental awareness and good stewardship. While implementing these programs CCMRC will engage with local and regional environmental scientists and professionals to assess the feasibility of new technologies to quantify environmental resources, with an emphasis on inexpensive systems that can be used by citizen scientists and interns in nearshore settings.

## **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

### **Activities**

Based on available funding the following activities will be considered during 2019-2024 period:

#### **Pigeon Guillemot Surveys**

Over the past three years, the CCMRC has expanded the pigeon guillemot surveys in Clallam County from a handful of sites and a few volunteers to a comprehensive network of monitoring sites and volunteers extending from the Miller Peninsula west to Freshwater Bay. Collected data is checked for accuracy, and then entered into a publicly accessible database for use in status and trends assessments.

We expect to continue and potentially expand this program during 2019-2024 if our volunteer pool remains engaged and sufficient funds are available to support the effort.

#### **Forage Fish Monitoring**

In partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the CCMRC has provided monthly sampling of local beaches to determine forage fish egg presence and species composition. Given the importance of forage fish in the food web of the Salish Sea, our work provides information from locations that are not routinely sampled by state personnel. Sampling areas have included John Wayne Marina, Jamestown Beach, Dungeness Bay, the mouth of the Elwha River, and Ediz Hook. Trained CCMRC members have also assisted with a larger forage fish monitoring effort by WDFW in the spring to increase the number of sampling sites along the Strait and contribute to the understanding of these important species. We will continue forage fish monitoring during 2019-2024.

#### **Kelp Monitoring**

CCMRC members and student interns will continue the kelp monitoring program established in partnership with the NWSC and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in 2016. Although we expect our work will focus primarily in existing beds in Freshwater and Clallam Bays, sampling locations may be revised based on guidance from the WDNR and NWSC.

#### **Marine Biotoxin Sampling**

For many years, members of the CCMRC collected marine biotoxin samples from beaches west of Port Angeles to ensure their safety for use by recreational clam diggers. This work was ended a few years ago when the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) and the Clallam County Department of Health (CCDOH) staff took over sampling responsibilities. However, in 2017, due to budget cutbacks, the CCMRC was asked to reinstate the biotoxin monitoring program. In response, the CCMRC has conducted monthly biotoxin monitoring during the spring and summer months at Pillar Point west of Port Angeles, and will continue to monitor this site in collaboration with WDOH and CCDOH if funding remains available. By ensuring that systematic sampling will continue to occur at this location, the CCMRC enables county and state resource agencies to make the beach available for safe public harvest. We will also consider expanding this work to other beaches in collaboration with our existing partners if possible.

#### **Invasive Species Monitoring**

The presence of European green crab at nearshore locations in Clallam County has precipitated a

## **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

multi- agency monitoring program within the Salish Sea. Scientists from federal and state resource agencies, universities, NGOs, and treaty tribes have developed standardized protocols for trapping and assessing green crab sex and size class. The resulting programs have included both CCMRC and public support. During 2019-2024, CCMRC will continue partnering with our treaty tribe partners, Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR) personnel, students, and volunteers to assess the spatial extent and impact of this invasive species, if the problem persists. We also expect this collaborative effort to be a useful model in the event other invasive or exotic species are found in our nearshore environments.

### **Innovative Data Collection Technologies**

During 2019-2024, the CCMRC will explore whether established or emerging data collection technologies can be integrated into local citizen science programs to enhance our ability to collect relevant environmental information. Examples of candidate technologies include drones, autonomous sampling systems, and small boat or kayak-based technologies that can provide imagery showing the presence or absence of seagrass, algae, or other environmental features.

The CCMRC will invite local experts in technologies of interest to present at meetings, discuss the use of technologies with other MRCs, and engage local and regional resource managers to better understand their use of innovative tools. Emphasis will be placed on low-cost systems that are user friendly, yet able to collect scientifically defensible information. The CCMRC will also engage with local and regional environmental scientists and professionals to assess the feasibility of new technologies to quantify environmental resources, with an emphasis on inexpensive systems that can be used by citizen scientists and interns in nearshore settings

### **Key Collaborations and Partnerships**

Key partners in our environmental monitoring work include the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (pigeon guillemot), the DNWR (invasive species), WDFW (forage fish), the NWSC (kelp), CCDOH and the WDOH (marine biotoxin), and the Makah, Elwha, and Jamestown Tribes. We expect this list to grow, especially if we are able to use new technologies in environmental data collection.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**Measures of Success**

General measures of success associated with work conducted during 2019-2024 to support Goal 2 are presented in Table 2. Specific metrics will be developed in annual work plans to the NWSC, NWSF, or in grant proposals.

**Table 2.** General Measures of Success for Goal 2 Activities

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Measure of Success Metric</b>
Environmental monitoring, including invasive species sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of stations or sites visited</li> <li>• Number of volunteers involved and volunteer hours per year</li> </ul>
Marine biotoxin sampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acres of beach classified as Open or Closed to recreational clamming according to safety parameters</li> <li>• Number of volunteers involved and volunteer hours per year</li> </ul>
Innovative data collection technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High detection precision and accuracy for intended use</li> <li>• Low cost</li> <li>• Ease of use</li> </ul>

## Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)

### GOAL 3: Promote Environmental Stewardship

Promoting environmental stewardship is a primary CCMRC responsibility and a key part of achieving our mission to protect and restore the near shore marine resources. One of the most effective means of accomplishing this goal is through educating and engaging the citizens and students of Clallam County in our programs.

Education enables the participants to understand environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural issues and tradeoffs; engagement fosters ownership and promotes good stewardship of the abundance of natural resources along the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

What follows is a description of the key activities we hope to pursue in 2019-2024 in support of our MRC's mission and the overall mission of the Northwest Straits Initiative.



#### Approach

Our approach to promoting environmental stewardship through education and engagement is to study the issues and challenges we face in Clallam County, endeavor to present all sides of the story, and involve our citizens in the process of protecting and restoring their marine environments in a manner consistent with the intent of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative.

In addition, we want to expand our education and engagement activities by taking advantage of environmental work occurring in our area. Within the next 2 to 7 years, there are already three significant projects that involve marine restoration projects: the Port Angeles Harbor cleanup, the Rayonier site clean-up, and a creek restoration/planning effort in Port Angeles. We anticipate that this list will continue to grow

During 2019-2024, we intend to augment the promotion of environmental stewardship objectives by

- Looking for new ways of reaching a larger audience by exploring communication and social media options that are now available
- Raising the visibility of the CCMRC and Northwest Straits Initiative in our community and helping citizens understand the value of the organizations and their role in the protection and restoration of marine resources
- Establishing partnerships with the local schools (elementary, middle, and high schools, and alternative education organizations)
- Strengthening the partnership with Peninsula College to involve more student and faculty participation.

## **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

### **Activities**

Based on available funding, activities that will be pursued during 2019-2024 may include:

#### **Advise Clallam County Board of Commissioners**

The CCMRC functions as an advisory body to the County Commissioners. Because our membership comprises local citizens representing commercial and sport fishers, conservation and environmental interests, treaty tribes, urban and rural communities, academia, and various local agencies and businesses, we provide a unique perspective on marine resource issues and a wealth of knowledge and experience.

We will continue to provide advice and input to the County Commissioners, when appropriate. This input may be in the form of public testimony, presentations, written recommendations, position papers, or any other form requested by the County Commissioners.

#### **Citizen Engagement Opportunities**

The CCMRC will continue to actively participate in local outreach events, e.g., the annual Dungeness River Festival and the “Celebration of Science” events.

An effort will be made to increase our collaboration with our partners to sponsor scientific symposia and educational speaker engagement on the Olympic Peninsula. One such program is now being developed to increase awareness of the derelict gear cleanup and introduce new residents to sustainable crabbing practices.

#### **Student Internship and Citizen Science Program**

One of the defining characteristics of the CCMRC within the Northwest Straits Initiative is our robust student internship program. By involving students working towards environmental science and technology degrees in our programs and projects, we provide valuable real-world experience and mentorship from our members. Over the years, students have participated in many of the data collection activities described in Goal 2, and learned effective outreach techniques through public presentations of their work.

A complimentary component of our outreach is to provide opportunities for local people to participate in environmental data collection activities. Engagement with local citizens fosters environmental stewardship and also raises the visibility of our MRC and the work of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

The internship program will continue and the 2019 internships are already being developed. Our efforts to build partnerships with local residents will be expanded through offering citizens opportunities to participate in various programs and nearshore restoration efforts.

#### **Education and Outreach**

The focus of our education and outreach programs will continue to focus on providing citizens with examples of good stewardship and creating opportunities to learn and explore the implications of emerging issues. Two of our current educational outreach programs HAZWOPER and Crabber Outreach efforts will continue with efforts to increase their effectiveness when needed.

## **Clallam County Marine Resources Committee 5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

An increased effort will be made to support and facilitate forums that educate the public on emerging issues and challenges that directly affect Clallam County. An active effort will be made to explore the ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural implications of crude oil transport through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and to engage the public in these discussions.

Participating in “celebration of science” events that explore issues and challenges related to the Strait and the Salish Sea. We are also exploring the possibilities of sponsoring forums on climate change and its impact on our nearshore environment, and events that raise awareness of declining southern resident killer whale populations in local waters, and discuss response actions that will protect this endangered species.

Enhance and expand our interaction with Peninsula College to involve more student participation in all our projects and enhance their scientific education through classroom presentations or other appropriate interactions.

Establish a relationship with the local school districts and explore the integration of CCMRC projects and experts in educational activities for elementary, middle, and high school students. This may include the existing videography studios that could participate in the development of a video to document some of CCMRC projects, the student leadership program or science classroom conversations on environmental stewardship, and summer science clubs in which students get to collect and analyze environmental data.

### **Key Collaborations**

Key collaborations will include local and regional resource managers from federal and state agencies, treaty tribes, universities, NGOs, and the staff of both NWSC and NWSF. We will also continue to partner with Peninsula College and the Feiro Marine Science Center to support our intern program and facilitate public meetings or symposia. We will begin exploring ways to interact with the school district and the local schools to help us include students in our projects and to help bring us into the classroom to teach and encourage students on our marine resources.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**Measures of Success**

General measures of success associated with work conducted during 2019-2024 to support Goal 3 are presented in Table 3. As noted above, specific metrics will be developed in annual work plans to the Commission or in grant proposals.

**Table 3.** General Measures of Success for Goal 3 Activities

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Measure of Success Metric</b>
Advice to Board of Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner feedback on advice and engagement</li> </ul>
Internship and Citizen Science Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of interns funded</li> <li>• Intern feedback on experience on overall experience and mentoring</li> <li>• Number of volunteers involved and volunteer hours per year</li> </ul>
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public feedback on content and quality of presentations and forums</li> <li>• Public response to specific outreach events, e.g., crabber outreach-type events</li> <li>• Number of outreach and education events involving local school districts</li> <li>• Number of students that participated in CCMRC classroom discussions or projects.</li> </ul>

ADDMMENDMENT: 1

BEFORE THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
Establishing a Clallam County	)	
Marine Resources Committee	)	
As Provided For Under the	)	RESOLUTION NO. <u>5</u> , 1999
Northwest Straits Commission	)	

THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FINDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The marine waters adjacent to Clallam County represent a resource of significant environmental, cultural and economic value to the people of the region for this and future generations.
2. The nearshore marine areas represent critical nursery grounds and migration areas for almost all commercially valuable living marine resources, including shellfish and many finfish.
3. In recent years, commercial and sports marine resources have generally been in decline.
4. Clallam County's marine coastline adjacent to the Pacific Ocean is protected by a National Marine Sanctuary which has an advisory board which includes representatives of geographically appropriate federal, state, local, and tribal entities.
5. It is appropriate to provide a mechanism for coordinating and continuing endeavors to protect natural marine habitats and fish and wildlife populations within the waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, which are not included in the Pacific Coast Marine Sanctuary
6. The Northwest Straits Commission was established on October 1, 1998 to provide an inter-county coordination and communication mechanism to assist efforts focusing on the marine resources of the Northwest Straits, from Cape Flattery in Clallam County to Blaine in Whatcom County.
7. Issues of tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, fishery co-management authority and responsibility and other jurisdictional responsibilities exist within and around the geographical boundaries of the Northwest Straits Commission program.
8. Counties may participate in the Northwest Straits Commission process by establishing Marine Resources Committees.
9. Marine Resources Committees are the structure by which counties can qualify to receive financial assistance and technical expertise from the Northwest Straits Commission and/or participating entities, for local government use in carrying out the scientific research, education, and planning functions required to appropriately and effectively address marine resource issues in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FINDINGS, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners does hereby resolve to:

- I. Establish the Clallam County Marine Resources Committee as an advisory committee to the County Commissioners regarding issues related to the marine resources of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and its bays, estuaries and inlets within the borders of Clallam County.
- II. The Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues related to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, recommend remedial actions to local authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the Benchmarks for Performance as established in the August 20, 1998 Report to the Convenors by the Murray-Metcalf Northwest Straits Citizens Advisory Commission, including specific tasks as identified in "Exhibit A" (attached).
- III. Where relevant, the Marine Resources Committee shall make all reasonable efforts to coordinate with other resource planning projects, agencies, committees, councils, and tribal and non-tribal entities.
- IV. The Marine Resources Committee shall consist of 13 members. Seven shall be appointed by the Board of Clallam County Commissioners. The Sequim and Port Angeles City Councils, Port of Port Angeles Commission, Makah, Lower Elwha Klallam, and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Councils shall each appoint one member.
- V. Marine Resources Committee members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners shall include not less than one person from: a.) each of the three Commissioner Districts, b.) the Clallam Bay-Seki community, c.) commercial fishers, d.) sport fishers, e.) conservation/environmental interests, f.) the academic community.
- VI. Appointees shall be recruited by public announcements, plus active solicitation of interest from persons with relevant scientific expertise and constructive knowledge.
- VII. Appointments to the committee shall be for two, three, and four year terms to establish a revolving membership serving four year terms.
- VIII. Members of the Marine Resources Committee shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for documented expenses at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.
- IX. A member of the staff of the Clallam County Planning Division shall be designated to provide staff support in a non-voting, *ex officio* capacity. The Quileute Tribal Council and other federal, state, local

and tribal government entities may also designate staff or liaisons to assist the work of the Marine Resources Committee in a non-voting , *ex officio* capacity.

X. The Marine Resources Committee shall continue until its charter is rescinded by official resolution of the Board of Clallam County Commissioners.

XI. Funding for the Marine Resources Committee during 1999 shall be contingent on receiving a start-up stipend of \$ IO,000 from the Northwest Straits Commission.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Carole Y. Boardman, Chair



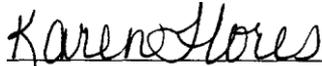


Martha M. Ireland

No+ Present

Howard V. Doherty , Jr.

ATTEST :



Karen Flores, Clerk of the Board

cc: Community Development  
Board file  
minutes

**Exhibit A** ■■■

**GOALS OF MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEES CONSISTENT WITH THE BENCHMARKS FOR PERFORMANCE FOR THE NORTHWEST STRAITS ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

- Encourage strong county participation in Marine Resources Committees (MRCs).
- Consistent with a scientifically-based regional system of Marine Protected Area (MPAs), identify local candidate sites and urge their inclusion at the appropriate level.
- Help insure a net gain in highly ecologically productive nearshore, inter tidal, and estuarine habitat within the county, as well as no significant loss of existing, high-value habitat. Work with State (the Puget Sound Action Team and resource agencies) tribes, and local authorities (especially local planning departments) to help map, assess, and protect nearshore habitat and prevent harm from upland activities through local and state ordinances and shoreline plans.
- Help insure a net reduction in shellfish harvest areas within the county closed due to contamination.
- Contribute to measurable increases in factors supporting bottom fish recovery (such as rockfish) - including numbers of fish of broodstock size and age, average fish size, and abundance of prey species - as well as sufficient amounts and quality of protected habitat.
- Contribute to increases in other key marine indicator species (including those identified in the 1997 West report on Puget Sound marine resources).
- Use and contribute to a scientific data pool on marine resources (for example, through the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program - PSAMP), including a scientific baseline, common protocols, unified GIS, and sharing of ecosystem assessments and research.

**SPECIFIC TASKS:**

- Help assess marine resources and problems in concert with governmental agencies, tribes and other entities.
- Help identify local implications, needs, and strategies associated with the recovery of Puget Sound salmon under the Federal Endangered Species Act in concert with governmental agencies, tribes and other entities.
- Work with the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program and other programs to enhance the scientific baseline and monitoring of the marine environment in the Northwest Straits.
- Identify current actions and the need for additional measures.
- Prioritize actions.
- Work closely with county leadership to implement local marine conservation and restoration initiatives.
- Coordinate with the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.
- Reach out to the public and other key constituencies on such issues as the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources and how MPAs can play an important role in habitat and resource protection.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

The Marine Resources Committee members shall be selected by county commissions and councils to ensure that the committee is represented by:

- Relevant scientific expertise;
- Balanced representation from:
  - Local government (especially planning staff from counties and cities with marine shorelines);
  - Affected economic interests (such as port, commercial fishers);
  - Affected recreational interests (such as sport fishers);
  - Conservation and environmental interests;
- Tribes. Each recognized tribe with a reservation in the county shall be offered a seat on the MRC. The representative is to be appointed by their respective tribal authority;
- Constructive and knowledgeable individuals.

The chair of the MRC shall be selected by a majority of the MRC membership. MRC members shall, by consensus, select one representative to serve on the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**ATTACHMENT 2: AUTHORITIES, AUTHORIZATIONS, AND HISTORY**

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (CCMRC) was established by the Clallam County Board of Commissioners through resolution 58-1999 (Attachment 1) as an advisory committee to the County Commissioners with the specific purpose of addressing marine issues in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, recommending remedial actions to local authorities, and fostering awareness of these issues and local support for the remedial actions. This committee, and six others representing the citizens of Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties (collectively known as the Northwest Straits), was established in accordance with the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative (Northwest Straits Initiative), which was authorized by Congress in 1998 following the recommendations of a blue ribbon committee created in 1997 by U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Representative Jack Metcalf (Murray-Metcalf Commission). After evaluating a variety of options for protecting the marine resources of the Northwest Straits, including a national marine sanctuary, the blue ribbon committee concluded that a bottom-up, citizen-driven restoration process was a better alternative than a top-down program managed from Washington D.C. Celebrating its 20th year in 2018, the Northwest Straits Initiative is a nationally recognized model for marine conservation and protection.

The CCMRC is composed of 15 members representing the three Clallam County Commissioners; the Makah, Elwha, and Jamestown S’Klallam Tribes; the cities of Port Angeles and Sequim; and the Port of Port Angeles. In addition, we have members representing the academic, marine recreation, conservation and development communities, marine trades, and an at-large position. The CCMRC receives base funding from the Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) and support from the Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF) and other sources. We also work collaboratively with the other six MRCs to address regional issues and leverage funds.

The NWSC manages the Northwest Straits Initiative and acts as a board of directors to the MRCs. The NWSC is composed of 13 members, including one member from each MRC, five commission members appointed by the governor of Washington State to provide technical advice or stakeholder perspective, and one tribal representative appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The position of Commission Chairman rotates annually between the gubernatorial appointees and MRC representatives. Decisions are made by consensus.

The NWSF is a non-profit organization that secures funding for education, restoration, and scientific projects. It is a separate but complementary body with its own management structure, bylaws, and board of directors. The NWSF has traditionally worked closely with the seven MRCs and Commission to provide technical guidance and funding that advances the goals and objectives of the Northwest Straits Initiative.

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

**ATTACHMENT 3: KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
City of Port Angeles (Port Angeles)	<a href="http://www.cityofpa.us/">http://www.cityofpa.us/</a>
City of Sequim (Sequim)	<a href="http://www.sequimwa.gov/">http://www.sequimwa.gov/</a>
Clallam County Department of Environmental Health (CCDOEH)	<a href="http://www.clallam.net/hhs/environmentalhealth/index.html">http://www.clallam.net/hhs/environmentalhealth/index.html</a>
Clallam Economic Development Council (CEDC)	<a href="http://www.clallam.org">http://www.clallam.org</a>
Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)	<a href="http://depts.washington.edu/coasst/">http://depts.washington.edu/coasst/</a>
Coastal Watershed Institute (CWI)	<a href="http://www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org">http://www.coastalwatershedinstitute.org</a>
Dungeness River Audubon Center (DRAC)	<a href="http://www.dungenessrivercenter.org">http://www.dungenessrivercenter.org</a>
Feiro Marine Life Center (Feiro)	<a href="http://feiomarinelifecenter.org">http://feiomarinelifecenter.org</a>
Fish and Wildlife (WSDFW)	<a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/">https://wdfw.wa.gov/</a>
Focus Wildlife	<a href="https://www.focuswildlife.org/">https://www.focuswildlife.org/</a>
Island Marine Resources Committee (IMRC)	<a href="https://www.islandcountymrc.org/">https://www.islandcountymrc.org/</a>
Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe (JKT)	<a href="http://www.jamestowntribe.org/">http://www.jamestowntribe.org/</a>
Jefferson County MRC (JCMRC)	<a href="http://www.jeffersonmrc.org">http://www.jeffersonmrc.org</a>
Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe (LEKT)	<a href="http://www.elwha.org/">http://www.elwha.org/</a>
Makah Tribe	<a href="http://www.makah.com/">http://www.makah.com/</a>
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	<a href="http://www.noaa.gov/">http://www.noaa.gov/</a>
Natural Resources (WSDNR)	<a href="https://www.dnr.wa.gov/">https://www.dnr.wa.gov/</a>
North Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (NOPMS)	<a href="http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov">http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov</a>
North Pacific Coast MRC (NPCMRC)	<a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/county_northpacific.html">http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/county_northpacific.html</a>
Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)	<a href="http://www.nwstraits.org">http://www.nwstraits.org</a>
Northwest Straits Foundation (NWSF)	<a href="http://www.nwstraits.org">http://www.nwstraits.org</a>
Olympic Climate Action	<a href="https://olyclimate.org/">https://olyclimate.org/</a>

**Clallam County Marine Resources Committee  
5-Year Strategic Plan (2019 through 2024)**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society (OPAS)	<a href="http://olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org/">http://olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org/</a>
Olympic Peninsula Chapter (Surfrider)	<a href="https://olympicpeninsula.surfrider.org/">https://olympicpeninsula.surfrider.org/</a>
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)	<a href="http://www.pnl.gov">http://www.pnl.gov</a>
Peninsula College (PC)	<a href="http://www.pencol.edu/">http://www.pencol.edu/</a>
Port of Port Angeles (Port)	<a href="http://www.portofpa.com/">http://www.portofpa.com/</a>
Puget Sound Anglers	<a href="https://www.psanopc.org/">https://www.psanopc.org/</a>
Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)	<a href="http://www.psp.wa.gov/">http://www.psp.wa.gov/</a>
Puget Sound Restoration Fund	<a href="https://restorationfund.org/">https://restorationfund.org/</a>
Region 10 (EPA)	<a href="https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-10-pacific-northwest">https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-10-pacific-northwest</a>
United States Coast Guard	<a href="https://www.uscg.mil/">https://www.uscg.mil/</a>
United States Geological Survey (USGS)	<a href="http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/">http://www.usgs.gov/aboutusgs/</a>
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region10.html">http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region10.html</a>
Washington Coast Savers (WCS)	<a href="http://www.coastsavers.org/">http://www.coastsavers.org/</a>