

CLALLAM  COUNTY
MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: Monday, July 20, 2020

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Location: Zoom – the meeting agenda was reduced in scope and conducted online due to Covid-19

Minutes prepared by Helle Andersen

Members present:

P = Present E= Excused

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|----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| P Bob Vreeland | E Robert Knapp | P Arnold Schouten | P Tim Cochnauer | Makah Open Position |
| P Ann Soule | P Jeff Ward | P Mike Doherty | P Latrisha Suggs | LEKT Open Position |
| P Lyn Muench | P Alan Clark | P Ed Bowlby | Jesse Waknitz | T&R Open Position |

Alternates present:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| P Harold Kline | P Chris Burns | Lance Vail |
| P Ioana Bociu | | Navarra Carr |

Ex-Officio Members / MRC staff/Members of the Public Present

Alisa Taylor, Clallam MRC Fellow; Cathy Lear, Clallam MRC Coordinator; Dan Stahler, OPAS and resident; Nessa Goldman, resident; Helle Andersen, Clallam MRC Project Coordinator.

Call to Order/Introductions/ Changes to Agenda

None

Public Comment/Approval of Minutes

The June minutes were approved. Ann Soule asked the members if they also had heard that the Chinook run this year is really bad. She asked if it was caused by higher temperature. Tim Cochnauer stated that the temperature is higher but not high enough to form a “blob”; He suggested that the Chinook run may just be running late.

Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan

Dana Oster, NWSC Marine Program Manager, informed the members about the conservation and recovery plan which was published in May 2020. In NOAA’s Rockfish Recovery Plan kelp beds were identified as vital for young of the year. So in 2017 funding was provided to create a recovery plan for kelp and the NWSI was selected as the lead. In 2018-19 the team worked on understanding the science behind kelp and performed a gap analysis and in 2019-20 the team prioritized the knowledge gaps and created an action plan. Actions identified in the plan address six strategic goals: 1. Understand and reduce kelp stressors; 2. Deepen understanding of the value of kelp to Puget Sound ecosystems and integrate into management; 3. Describe kelp distribution and trends; 4. Designate kelp protected areas; 5. Restore kelp forests; and 6. Promote awareness, engagement, and action from user groups, tribes, the public, and decision-makers. The team also created a vision statement (quite long so not included here) and 17 tribes, state, federal and non-profit entities have signed on to the vision statement. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session. To a question on how the stressors will be addressed Dana said that right now more research is needed. Another question was about the commercial use of kelp. Dana informed the members that they have received a lot of feedback about kelp agriculture and a lot of support. Permits may be a complicated issue and kelp agriculture may not help with restoration of natural kelp beds. To a question of whether kelp has been or would be included on list of threatened and endangered species Dana said probably not.

Clallam MRC Kelp Monitoring Plan for 2020

Alan Clark, Jeff Ward and Alisa Taylor informed the members about their 2020 monitoring plan. Alan has identified an interested skipper with a boat to do motorized surveys in the Dungeness Bay area. The first year they will create a baseline including presence/absence of bull and giant kelp. Jeff said that they will use the first year as a pilot study to figure out the value of spatial mapping. They expect to cover a lot of ground. They will be using the newly acquired GoPro camera and the HOBO temperature sensors. Changes in the Strait of Juan de Fuca will probably be related to climate change. Alisa showed a compilation of kelp data for Clallam Bay collected by DNR during 27 years. The data shows big changes in the distribution of bull and giant kelp from year to year. Tim Cochnauer asked if the changes could be related to changes in substrate. Alan thought that may be a good possibility. Ann Soule asked about the peak time for kelp beds and Alan stated that in South Puget Sound the kelp beds become sparse by the end of August whereas the beds in the Strait are thick into September. Dana Oster pointed out the importance of providing the county with consistent data of the kelp beds to be included in future revision of the Shoreline Master Plan.

Educational Outreach to Boys & Girls Club

Helle Andersen informed the members about the educational outreach to 275 students at the Port Angeles Boys & Girls Club. SeaDoc Society has kindly donates 275 copies of the book Explore the Salish Sea; the Clallam MRC will augment the donation with an activity book, crayons etc. The members decided that the staff could spend up to \$2,000 on the outreach package. The members also discussed other educational outreach ideas under Covid-19 restrictions including purchase of microscopes.

NWSC Update

Alan Clark gave a brief summary of the NWSC meeting. The Executive Committee has postponed the joint executive committee meeting. All meetings will be held via WebEx due to COVID-19 guidance and the meetings will be reduced to 3 hours. Because of the three hour meetings the time for the MRC reports will be shorter (Katie will email a new reporting template to staff). The External Relations Committee is focused on enhancing the NWSC's partnership with local tribes. The Science Advisory Committee will have an in-person meeting in the San Juan Islands.

Activity Updates

Internship Program: Tim Cochnauer provided a brief summary of the smolt trap internships. The trap has been dismantled. The two interns along with Rebecca Paradis from LEKT and the two mentors performed a survey of the outfalls in the lower 1 mile of the creek. The survey included WQ measurements of the water discharged from the outfalls. The observations and WQ data have been given to the City of Port Angeles. The final field task will be a snorkel survey of the Dungeness River supervised by Chris Burns.

Pigeon Guillemot Surveys: Ed Bowlby informed the members that the pigeon guillemot surveys are going well. Alisa Taylor has received a short training online and is now entering the survey data into the database.

Forage Fish Surveys: Tim Cochnauer told the members that forage fish sampling is ongoing and up-to-date. In the last sample from Cline Spit there were more eggs than sand.

Crabber Outreach: Helle Andersen asked the members if the outreach effort to recreational crabbers should be continued or halted because of Covid-19 and the cessation in outreach through the NOAA Marine Debris Grant. The members supported carrying on with the outreach effort through retail stores and purchase the necessary supplies.

Climate Change Committee: Ann Soule told the members that Susanne Shull in collaboration with Clallam MRC are planning to offer a webinar in Sound IQ to county staff. Following a brief discussion it

was decided to reach out to City of Port Angeles and Sequim to see if their staff would be interested as well.

Good of the Order

Nessa Goldman, a school teacher and local resident, told the members about her plan to offer two teacher workshops focusing on “how to get kids to do outside field investigation.” She was hoping that members of Clallam MRC would be interested in participating in the 90 minute virtual workshops and share their research. The workshops are planned for last week of September and first week of October. Ed Bowlby and Tim Cochnauer expressed interest in the workshops. Nessa also asked if the Clallam MRC would be interested in funding the clock hours for the teachers. *The members decided that Helle Andersen should talk with Sasha Horst about this possibility.*

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.