



**WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
SUMMARY**

Scheduled for: **January 6, 2022**
 Time: **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 Join Zoom Meeting: **Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85730030249>**
Meeting ID: 857 3003 0249
Passcode: 98225
One tap mobile: +1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

<i>We acknowledge the lands we're on today are the ancestral and current homelands of Indigenous Nations who have stewarded them since time immemorial. We respect their sovereignty, support their Treaty rights, their right to self-determination, and we honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. These Indigenous Nations include the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.</i>		
1.	5:00	Introductions and Determine Quorum
2.		January Agenda Action: Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.		Approval of December meeting summary Action: Review and approve summaries as final.
4.		Public Comment Period
5.	5:10	Future MRC meetings Action: Members discuss and approve frequency of in-person meetings.
6.	5:15	Prioritize Projects for CDS Funding Discussion: follow up via google form
7.	5:25	European Green Crab in Whatcom County: Allie Simpson, Northwest Straits Commission Outcome: Learn about the status of European Green Crab in Whatcom County and proper species identification.
8.	5:40	Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant amendments • Whatcom Kelp Data – Vital Signs
9.	6:00	MRC Partner Committee Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Sound Stewards (Eleanor and Alex) • WWIN (Speaker Series) – Austin/Eleanor Action: new speakers? • County Council • Port of Bellingham – Kurt B. • NWSC – Bob C.
10.	6:30	Adjourn

If you're not on our Northwest Straits Commission newsletter list, you can join here: <https://www.nwstraits.org/get-involved/join-the-mailing-list/>

In Attendance: Austin Rose, Eleanor Hines, Andrew Gamble, Bob Seaman, Alex, Mike MacKay, Bob Cecile, Heather Spore, Kurt Baumgarten, Beth Lorence, Dan Sulak, Councilman Ben Elenbaas

Other: John Covert, Elizabeth Kilanowski, Chris Brown, Jeff Whitty (NWSC), Allie Simpson (NWSC), Jana Turner (GSSC), Julie Hirsch (GSSC), Sasha Horst (NWSC), Michelle Deni Malouf, Leah Robison (NWSC), Alan Chapman, Kim Clarkin

Whatcom County boards, commissions, and advisory committees are currently following State Open Public Meetings Act amended requirements by holding all meetings remotely. Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are asked to contact the meeting facilitator at least 4 business days in advance.

1. **Introductions and Quorum:** Eleanor Hines began the meeting with the tribal acknowledgement and roundtable introductions.
2. **January Agenda:** The January agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of December meeting summary:** The December meeting summary was approved.
4. **Public Comment Period:** Elizabeth Kilanowski, Interim Director, Lummi Island Heritage Trust, shared information about the call for applicants for a new Executive Director of the Lummi Island Heritage Trust and encouraged meeting participants share the job announcement widely.
5. **Future MRC meetings:** The committee discussed the frequency of holding hybrid meetings versus zoom meetings. The MRC Executive Subcommittee, which meets monthly prior to the general MRC meeting, will determine the meeting format, with the intent to host a hybrid/in person meeting every quarter. The committee will not consider a hybrid/in person option until virus cases in the community are reduced.
6. **Prioritize projects for CDS funding:** Austin reviewed the list of projects identified by the MRC that could benefit from additional funding through a Congressional Directed Spending (CDS). Shovel read projects were prioritized. Austin will meet with Northwest Straits Commission staff in late January to determine next steps with managing the potential funding allocation.
7. **European Green Crab in Whatcom County:** Allie Simpson, Ecosystem Project Coordinator, Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC), shared the status of European Green Crab (EGC) in Whatcom County, why EGC is an issue, and how to identify the species. EGC is considered one of the world's most invasive species, with the potential to significantly alter the ecosystem it invades and industry reliant on that ecosystem. The issue was caught early in Whatcom County, where EGC have been found in Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay, Squalicum Harbor, and Lummi Bay. The Commission has focused trapping efforts (main goal = removal trapping) in Drayton Harbor, and the numbers of EGC trapped have decreased from 2020. Dakota creek was the biggest hot spot. To ensure no "hot spots" were missing from trapping efforts, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the NWSC conducted a grid survey across the entirety of Drayton Harbor. During the grid survey, education and outreach was provided to the community. Lummi Natural Resources leads a large collaborative effort with WDFW, WA Sea Grant, and, the NWSC to address the large number of EGC that have been captured in Lummi Sea Ponds. EGC are identified by 5 marginal teeth on each side of it eyes and a diamond shaped carapace, NOT necessarily by a green color.
What to do if you find a green crab? Take photos, mark the location and date, send an email with photos and location to simpson@nwstraits.org OR crabteam.uw.edu, and **leave the crab in place.**
8. **Project Update**
 - **Grant amendments:** Austin mentioned that there is a grant amendment to add projects for year 2 of the grant. In addition if there are any current projects that need to be amended Austin will be in communication with each project champion to discuss changes needed.
 - **Whatcom Kelp Data – Vital Sign**
9. **MRC Partner Committee Updates**
 - **North Sound Stewards:** Eleanor reminded the group that the North Sound Stewards is now housed under ReSources, though several MRC projects are still listed as volunteer opportunities for participants. A kick-off meeting for the 2022 participants will be held on January 11.
 - **WWIN:** Austin reminded the committee that planning is still underway for the Whatcom Marine Research Symposium which is scheduled to be held virtually on February 23. Registration information will be shared shortly.
 - **County Council:** no update
 - **Port of Bellingham:** The Little Squalicum Habitat Beach project is moving forward into permitting.
 - **NWSC:** Barbara Bennett with the Island County MRC is leading a Shoreline Master Plan Learning Group. MRC members interested in joining the group should contact Austin. Bob reminded the committee about the monthly

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climate change symposiums (next at January 20) hosted by the Commission, which are taking place of the annual MRC Conference.

10. Adjourn