

1 marinerresources.res9/21/99

2 PROPOSED BY: COUNCIL
3 SPONSORED BY: CONSENT
4 INTRODUCTION DATE: 9/28/99
5

6 RESOLUTION NO. 99-047

7
8 AMENDING RESOLUTION 99-023, ESTABLISHING A WHATCOM COUNTY
9 MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEE AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE
10 NORTHWEST STRAITS COMMISSION
11

12 WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council recognizes that the marine waters of
13 Whatcom County represent an unparalleled resource of enormous environmental and
14 economic value to the people of the region for this and future generations; and
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16 WHEREAS, despite the considerable research and regulatory efforts, previous
17 efforts have failed to adequately protect natural habitats and fish and wildlife populations
18 within these waters; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Commission was established on October 1,
21 1998, to provide an ecosystem focus on the marine resources of the Northwest Straits, to
22 help mobilize science to focus on key priorities, and to guide and provide resources to
23 county Marine Resources Committees; and
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25 WHEREAS, active county participation in a regionally coordinated program is the
26 best available tool to ensure counties in the Northwest Straits area are constructively
27 engaged in effective marine conservation areas; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Commission and/or participating entities may
30 provide financial assistance and technical expertise to participating local governments to
31 use for planning, revision of city and county ordinances, and scientific studies; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council desires to establish a Marine Resources
34 Committee to protect and enhance the local marine environment and contribute to the
35 protection of the marine environment of the Northwest Straits; and
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WHEREAS, the marine environment is an essential element in the recovery of threatened and endangered salmon species.

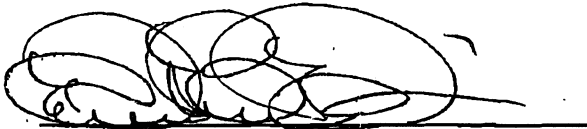
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that a Marine Resources Committee is hereby established as outlined in Exhibit A to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mission and tasks of the Marine Resources Committee are as outlined in Exhibit B to this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Marine Resources Committee shall establish a link with other efforts within the county to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, especially as they apply to threatened and/or endangered salmon species, including but not limited to planning under ESHB 2514 and HB 2496.

APPROVED this 28th day of September, 1999.

ATTEST:



Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY,
WASHINGTON



Marlene Dawson, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor

EXHIBIT A

Committee – Established. There is hereby established the Whatcom County Marine Resource Committee as provided for under the Northwest Straits Commission.

Purpose. The Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee will address local marine issues and recommend remedial action to local authorities. The Committee will build local awareness of issues, and gather 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.

Committee Members. The Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee shall be comprised of 19 members. The Committee shall have representation from the following sectors: 3 members with relevant scientific expertise; 3 members to be elected officials, (1 each from the County, Blaine, and Bellingham); 3 members with an economic interest (Provided that commercial fishing is represented); 2 members with recreational interests (Provided that sport fishers are represented); 3 members with conservation and environmental interests; and 3 members who shall be constructive and knowledgeable citizens. In addition, each recognized tribe shall be offered a seat on the Committee, with the representative to be appointed by the respective tribal authority.

Ex officio members. Ex officio members shall be appointed from Planning and/or Public Works staff of the County, Blaine, and Bellingham. The Committee may appoint additional ex officio members as necessary.

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

EXHIBIT B**MISSION OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY MARINE RESOURCE COMMITTEE:**

- ~ Encourage county-wide participation in the Whatcom County Marine Resource Committee.
- ~ Identify local candidate sites and urge their inclusion at the appropriate level, consistent with a scientifically based regional system of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)
- ~ Help ensure a net gain in highly ecologically productive near-shore, 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 planning departments) to help map, assess, and protect near-shore habitat and prevent harm from upland activities through local and state ordinances and shoreline plans.
- ~ Help ensure a net reduction in the closure of county shellfish harvest areas due to contamination.
- ~ Contribute to measurable increases in salmon recovery (including numbers of fish of brood stock size and age, average fish size, and abundance of prey species), as well as sufficient amounts and quality of protected habitat.
- ~ Contribute to measurable increases in 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 increase 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 and prioritize current actions and the need for additional measures.
- ~ Work closely with county leadership to implement local marine conservation and restoration initiatives.
- ~ Coordinate with the Northwest Straits Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.
- ~ Provide reports at least semi-annually to the Northwest Straits Commission that describe the status of projects and activities.
- ~ Reach out to the public and other key constituencies on such issues as the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources and how MPA's can play an important role in habitat and resource protection.
- ~ Assist in establishing a working relationship with the government and citizens of British Columbia to enact similar actions within marine areas that fall under their jurisdiction.