

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)



## Minutes

Prepared by Kelly Zupich

# November 1, 2022

VIA ZOOM

**PRESENT:** Barbara Bennett, Chair, Jill Lipoti, Vice Chair, Scott Chase, Kes Tautvydas, Elsa Schwartz, Andi Kopit, Ken Collins, Kelly Zupich, MRC staff

**ABSENT:** Note if notified or un-notified - Ken Collins, (notified), Ed Halloran, (un-notified)

**VISITORS:** Jeff Whitty, NWSC, Sasha Horst, NWSC, Erica Bleke, State DNR, Kristine Vannoy, WSU Extension, Lauren Burch, IC Public Works, Sage Ince, Surface Water Quality, Clea Barenburg Surface Water Quality, Birdie Davenport, State DNR

**CALL TO ORDER:** Barbara called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Jill moved to approve the agenda. Scott seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Kes moved to approve the October 4, 2022, minutes. Jill seconded. The minutes were approved.

### TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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 Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

### LEADERSHIP REPORTS: Leadership Reports

- Barb attended the NWSC Meeting. Debra Lekanoff (WA State Legislature) spoke about Indigenous issues surrounding derelict vessels, green crab and other environmentally focused topics. Once message that Barb shared was "if the salmon are safe, we are safe".
- The MRC Executive Committee has been working towards planning a way to educate other departments. The intention is to give IC employees basic environmental information so that they can be more informed about environmental topics. Additionally, the MRC will be working to develop a white paper that focuses on Climate change, SLR, and coastal resiliency.
- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02284>  
<https://www.nwstraits.org/resource-library/>

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

[WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG](http://WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG)

## SMITH AND MINOR ISLAND AQUATIC RESERVE – Birdie Davenport

- Birdie Davenport wanted an opportunity to talk about the reserve and for coordinating monitoring and outreach.
- At 36,000 acres, this aquatic reserve is the largest of 9 in the state. It has been hard for the DNR to find a local group to host this work.
- Some of the research projects being conducted.
  - Kelp Harvest Outreach
  - Seattle University – Crustacean Biodiversity Survey
  - Seattle University Snorkel Survey – Professor Thomas Poole
  - Pinto Abalone Restoration
  - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/6716f9bab0a24ccd8e53771ccc9d297b>
  - Baseline Sediment Collection and Analysis

## MRC PROJECT REPORTS – Ken Collins

- Forage Fish:
  - Over 300 volunteer hours
  - WDFW training in Feb and July – 8 new certified volunteers
  - WDFW has a huge backlog for analysis, reducing time to result and making hard to adjust process due to breeding cycles
  - We gained consistency and stability in the process
  - Continue to improve our sampling
- Bull Kelp:
  - All beds from 2021 were fully surveyed in 2022
  - 20 volunteers reported over 400 hours
  - Beds located in Saratoga Passage are smaller than in previous years
  - Temperature logging for multiple depths was conducted at several sites

## COORDINATOR UPDATE

- The NWSC asked MRC's who are able to write a letter of recommendation for a change in how State funding for the MRC's is allocated. The MRC agreed to draft a letter and send out. Jill moved to approve the motion. Ken seconded. The motion was approved.
- Pacific Rim Institute would like for us to share educational messages that can be shared when they are educating, and they will provide messages that we can share. The Education Committee will focus on this.
- Navy Educational Classes are an option for us to be involved with.
- Derelict Vessel review process needs a volunteer. The MRC decided that Kelly will represent the MRC.