Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program

2012 Report to the Legislature

Washington Department of FISH and WILDLIFE

Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program

The goal of the Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program is to understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.

Program Overview

Washington's coastal and ocean resources provide vital economic, recreation, transportation, and cultural benefits to coastal and state residents. Identifying and implementing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the unique conservation and management issues of Washington's outer coast requires utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders. To this end, citizen-based marine resources committees (MRCs) have proven to be an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, innovation, and wisdom of coastal residents.

MRCs are county-based, volunteer committees that identify, prioritize and implement local projects and activities and advise the county on marine resource issues. MRCs are composed of representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, local citizens, and economic, recreational and conservation interests. This model was first developed through the Northwest (NW) Straits Initiative in 1998, and continues to be a national example of effective regional collaboration.

The Washington State Legislature endorsed and funded the MRC model in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. As directed by RCW 36.125, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) created the Coastal MRC Program. The program provides support for the development, administration, and coordination of the coastal MRCs and their projects. All of the coastal counties, Clallam and Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum, have created unique MRCs and currently implement community-based projects.

Coastal MRC activities are guided by a set of interim program priorities, benchmarks, and a program goal statement that were developed by the Coastal MRC Work Group in 2009. These measurements were developed to ensure coordination among MRCs, and to provide accountability to WDFW and the legislature. The program priorities are to: 1) establish and maintain coastal MRCs, 2) complement existing efforts, 3) build partnerships, 4) utilize science, and 5) promote healthy communities and resources. The program benchmarks focus on the following broad categories: 1) marine habitats, 2) marine life, 3) marine and fresh water quality, 4) sound science, 5) education and outreach, and 6) coastal communities. The following pages summarize each of the MRC activities during 2012 with the respective benchmarks that their activities address.

Acknowledgements

This report summarizes the hard work of the Marine Resources Committees Program. We acknowledge the coordinators of MRCs in each county for their organization, vision, dedication, and facilitation skills. Coordinators include: Rich Osborne (University of Washington), Tami Pokorny (Jefferson County), Garrett Dalan (Grays Harbor County), Mike Johnson (Pacific Conservation District), Carrie Backman and assistant coordinator Donna Westlind (WSU Wahkiakum County Extension).

We acknowledge the continued support of the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDFW Region 6 Director Michele Culver continues to provide guidance in the development of the Coastal MRC Program.

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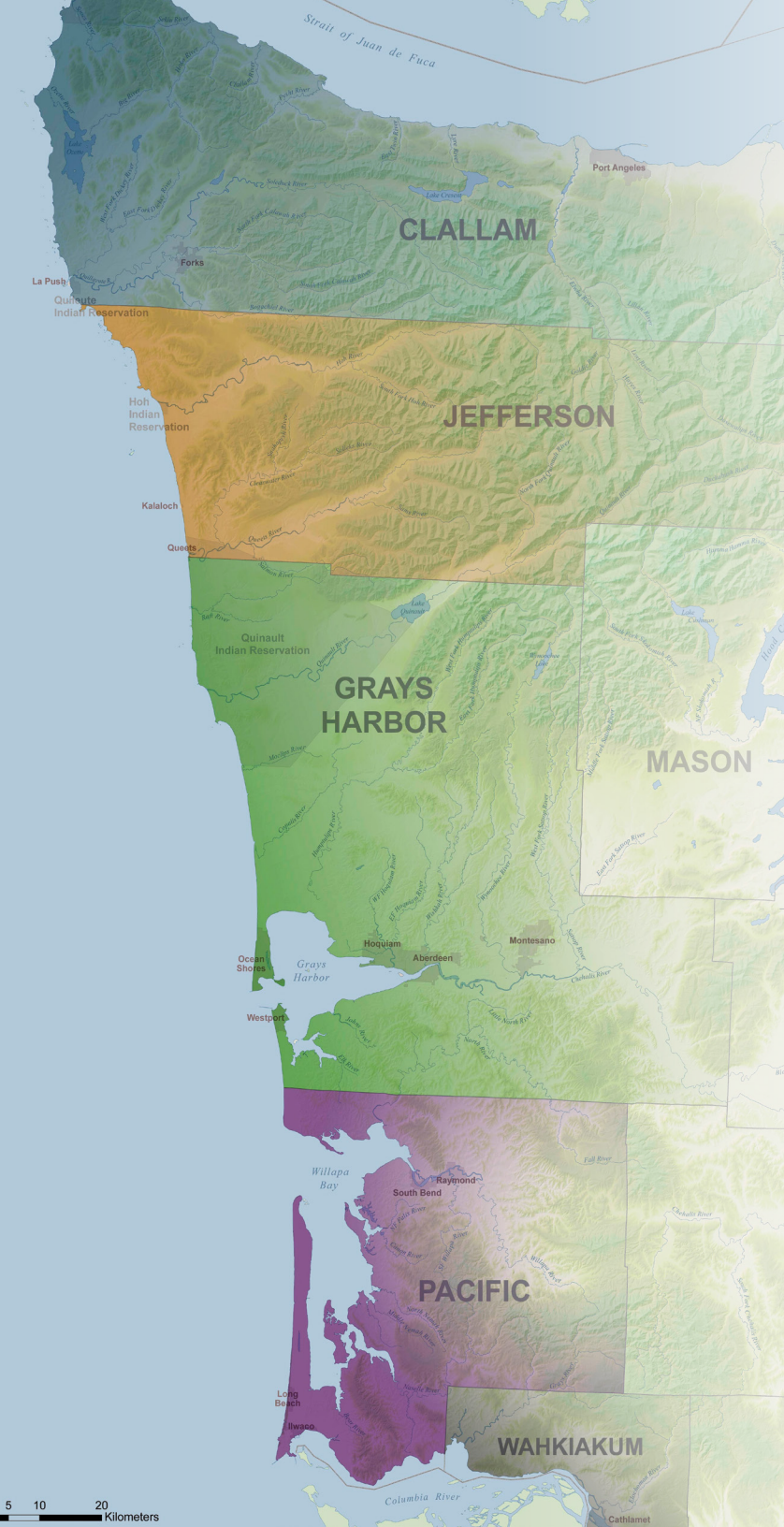
Front cover photography by Jenna Jewett: Facing South overlooking Fort Canby State Park and the Lower Columbia River entering the Pacific Ocean, WA

Back cover photography by Jenna Jewett: 1st beach, La Push, WA



Program Actions 2012

WDFW Responsibilities	Action
Allocate programmatic funding for MRC actvities and projects	• In 2012, WDFW awarded each county MRC $38,500 for Operational and Project activities, from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.
Assist MRCs to measure their activities against regional performance benchmarks	• Performance benchmarks were developed by the Coastal MRC Work Group in 2009 to account for MRC activities. • At the conclusion of each state fiscal year, MRCs are required to report annual actvities and projects.
Support the coordination of MRC projects to complement regional priorities	• WDFW reports monthly to the State Ocean Caucus, the group designated to oversee implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan. • Program staff continues to build awareness within WDFW and with other natural resource agencies regarding availability of MRC volunteers for marine resource projects on the coast. • MRCs report regularly on their activities to the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council to coordinate project actions. • At the 2011 Coastal MRC Summit, the MRCs identified a project of regional significance and combined funding to implement phase one of the Washington's Working Coast project in 2012.
Coordinate and promote interactions among Coastal MRCs and similar groups on issues of common interest	• WDFW and MRC representatives continue to provide briefings to County and State officials, the NW Straits Commission, the Washington Marine Debris Task Force, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Advisory Committee when appropriate. • At the 2012 NW Straits Conference, program staff and MRC representatives reported on the development and progress of coastal activities. This provided a venue to exchange project ideas, answer questions, and promote collaboration between Coastal MRCs and NW Straits MRCs. • WDFW continues to maintain a website dedicated to the Coastal MRC Program, providing updates and announcements for upcoming activities and current issues. • WDFW provided coordination and planning support for the 2012 Coastal MRC Summit.

North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee

Mission: The North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee will actively promote ecosystem resilience through understanding, conserving, and restoring our marine resources. This will be accomplished through research, education, community engagement and advocacy for our shared marine environment and the sustainability of its coastal communities.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NPC MRC

PHOTO COURTESY OF NPC MRC

Project Partners

- Clallam County
- Clallam and Jefferson County Schools
- Feiro Marine Life Center
- Jefferson County Environmental Health
- North Olympic Peninsula Skills Center
- Olympic Natural Resources Center
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Olympic National Park
- Sea Grant
- Seattle Aquarium
- WA Clean Coast Alliance

Committee Member	MRC Representation	Organization
Rich Osborne	Coordinator/Facilitator	University of Washington
Tami Pokorny	Government (Outreach Coordinator)	Jefferson County
Steve Allison	Government	Hoh Tribe
Katie Krueger	Government	Quileute Tribe
Jennifer Hagen	Government	Quileute Tribe
Micah McCarty	Government	Makah Tribe
Rod Fleck	Government	City of Forks
John Hunter	Education	Clallam County
Roy Morris	Education/Commercial Fishing	Clallam County
Vacant	Citizen	Clallam County
John Richmond	Citizen	Jefferson County
Jill Silver	Science	Jefferson County
Chiggers Stokes	Citizen	Jefferson County
Liam Antrim	Ex-Officio	Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
Kathy Steichen	Ex-Officio	Olympic National Park

Completed Actions 2012

Benchmark Addressed Benchmark Not Addressed

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education and Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	$20,000					■	■
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation	$1,600					■	■
The North Pacific Continuing Educational Partnership	$10,300					■	
Washington Coast Cleanup 2012: North Pacific Coast Area	$8,000	■	■	■		■	■
Gap Analysis - North Coast Forage Fish Protection in the Washington Coast Geographic Response Plan	$1,500	■			■		
Natural Resources Culminating Projects in Quillayute Valley School District	$3,200					■	
West End Natural Resource News	$5,600					■	■
Science Fair	$800					■	■
Assessing Washington's Working Coast	$6,000					■	■
Total Award	$77,000						

Project Highlight - NPC MRC Assessing Washington's Working Coast

- Culminated efforts of North Pacific Coast, Grays Harbor, and Pacific MRCs
- Completed first phase of project to assess the economic value of jobs and industry related to marine resources of the coast

Project Highlight - NPC MRC Science Fair

- Hosted 3rd annual community potluck and science fair to showcase local marine resource-related projects
- Event attracted local citizens, businesses, and the scientific community

Priority Actions for 2013

- Continued MRC representation and participation in the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
- Continuing educational partnerships to support the Essential Ocean Literacy Principles and the Essential Principles of Climate Change
- Data compilation and spatial analysis of marine debris patterns on the North Olympic Peninsula
- Annual cleanup of marine debris from the North Coast beaches
- Publication of The Whale Trail brochure to educate Clallam and Jefferson County citizens about migratory and resident marine mammal populations and where to view them
- Implementation of natural resources related Senior Culminating Projects
- West End Natural Resources newsletter
- Citizen science fair and barbeque

Grays Harbor County
MARINE
Resource Committee

Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee

Mission: The Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues, recommend remedial actions to local, state, and federal authorities, build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the Benchmarks of Performance as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GHC MRC

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Project Partners

- Grays Harbor County
- Grays Harbor County Schools
- Olympic Natural Resources Center
- Pacific Shellfish Insitute
- Quinault Indian Nation
- The Nature Conservancy
- WA Clean Coast Alliance
- WA Department of Natural Resources

Committee Member	MRC Representation	Organization
Garrett Dalan	Coordinator	Grays Harbor County
Eric Delvin	Conservation and Environment	The Nature Conservancy
Casey Dennehy	Recreation	Surfrider Foundation
Harv Lillegard	Economic	Olympia Master Builders
Joe Schumacker	Tribal Government	Quinault Indian Nation
Robin Leraas	Local Government	Port of Grays Harbor
Arthur "RD" Grunbaum	Local Citizen	Citizen
Ray Toste	Commercial Fishing	WA Dungeness Crab Fisherman's Association
Birdie Davenport	State Government	WA Department of Natural Resources
Lorena Maurer	Chair, Education	Citizen
Mark Plackett	Local Citizen	Ocean Shores Citizen
Alan Rammer	Citizen at Large	Citizen
Shad Kearse	Recreational Fishing	Citizen
Brady Engvall	Aquaculture	Brady's Oysters

Completed Actions 2012

Benchmark Addressed Benchmark Not Addressed

2012 Project	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education and Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	$20,000					■	■
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation	$1,000					■	■
Watershed Festival	$800					■	■
On-going Strategic Planning	$1,500					■	■
Classroom Participation and Field Trip Transportation	$3,225					■	
Marine Debris Project - Beach Cleanup Support	$3,400	■	■	■		■	■
Assessing Washington's Working Coast	$3,975					■	■
Logo Update	$400					■	■
Abandoned Gear Removal Project Support	$2,000	■	■		■	■	■
General Outreach and Education	$600					■	■
ESD Classroom Presentations	$600					■	■
30 day Single Site Water Quality Testing	$1,000			■	■		■
Total Award	$38,500						

Project Highlight - GHC MRC Abandoned Gear Removal

- Supported early phase of multi-partner abandoned gear removal project
- Funded two days of sidescan sonar surveys in the Grays Harbor Estuary
- 12 derelict nets identified

Project Highlight - GHC MRC Beach Cleanup

- Provided support and participated in the annual Earth Day beach cleanup
- 1,300 volunteers removed over 10 tons of debris

Priority Actions for 2013

- Continued MRC representation and participation in the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
- Annual cleanup of marine debris from Grays Harbor County beaches
- Support for completion of the derelict gear project, which will remove nets and pots in the Grays Harbor estuary and associated rivers
- Local marine resources workshop for teachers with follow up support for transportation and field trip expenses
- Support for public education of marine resources through classroom presentations, and a booth at the Chehalis Watershed Festival

Pacific County Marine Resources Committee

Mission: The Pacific County Marine Resource Committee serves as a steward for the marine and estuarine resources in our county by facilitating science based policies, research, and education that enhance the sustainability of the economy and ecology of our communities.

Project Partners

- Grass Roots Garbage Gang
- Key Environmental Solutions LLC
- Pacific Conservation District
- Pacific County
- Pacific County Schools
- Olympic Natural Resources Center
- Surfrider Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- WA Clean Coast Alliance
- Watershed Restoration Management

Committee Member	MRC Representation	Alternate
Mike Johnson	Coordinator/Facilitator	None
Mike Nordin	Local Government	Tim Crose
Doug Kess	Local Citizen	Open
Michael Spencer	Recreation	Open
Kathy Russ	Economic	Dan Todd
Tom Kollasch	Conservation and Environmental	Open
Kim Patten	Science	Key McMurry
Ray Gardner	Tribal Government	Open
Tim Morris	Aquaculture	Brian Sheldon
Dale Beasley	Commercial Fishing	Dwight Eager
Mike Cassinelli	Local Government	Open
Jackie Ferrier	State and Federal Government	Open
Steve Harbell	Education	Kathleen Sayce
Jim Neva	Ports	Mary DeLong
Open	Agriculture	Open

Completed Actions 2012

Benchmark Addressed Benchmark Not Addressed

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education and Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	$20,000					■	■
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation	$1,450					■	■
Beach Cleanup	$3,450	■	■	■		■	■
Willapa Bay Cleanup	$5,000	■	■	■		■	■
Stewards of Our Peninsula	$1,050					■	
Media Blitz	$1,200					■	■
Science Conference	$2,900				■	■	■
Website Development	$300					■	■
Assessing Washington's Working Coast	$3,150					■	■
Total Award	$38,500						

Project Highlight - PC MRC Coastal MRC Summit 2012

- **Hosted the 3rd Annual Coastal MRC Summit and Science Conference in Long Beach**
- **Surfrider Foundation and The Nature Conservancy provided funding for the events**

Project Highlight - PC MRC Marine Debris Cleanups

- **Funded and participated in three beach cleanups in 2012**
- **Provided support for a boat accessible cleanup in Willapa Bay**
- **1150 volunteers removed about 30 tons of debris**

Priority Actions for 2013

- Continued MRC representation and participation in the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
- Three annual cleanups of marine debris from Pacific County beaches (January, April, and June)
- Continued water-accessed cleanup of Willapa Bay
- Participation in the fourth annual Coastal MRC Summit
- Continue outreach to citizens and decision makers on marine issues

Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee

Mission: The Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues; recommend remedial actions to local, state, tribal, and federal authorities; and build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the interim "Benchmarks of Performance" as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group on January 7, 2009.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WC MRC

Project Partners

- Friends of Skamokawa
- Grays River Valley Center
- Town of Cathlamet
- Wahkiakum Port Districts 1 and 2
- Wahkiakum County
- Wahkiakum County Schools
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Public Ports Association
- WSU Wahkiakum County Extension

Committee Member	MRC Representation	Organization
Carrie Backman	Coordinator	WSU Wahkiakum County Extension
Donna Westlind	Assistant Coordinator	WSU Wahkiakum County Extension
George Wehrfritz	Local Government	Mayor, Town of Cathlamet
Abe York	Vice Chair	Wahkiakum Port District 1
Kayrene Gilbertsen	Local Government	Wahkiakum Port District 2
Carol Ervest	Local Resident	Citizen
Vacant	Local Resident	Citizen
George Exum	Environmental and Conservation	Citizen
Joel David	Scientific Expert	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Pat Frazier	Scientific Expert	WA Department of Fish and Wildife
Mike Backman	Chair, Economic	Commercial Fisherman
Mike Clark	Economic	Commercial Fisherman
Kent Martin	Economic	Commercial Fisherman
Andrew Emlen	Recreational	Columbia River Kayaking
Jeff Rooklidge	Environmental and Conservation	Wahkiakum School District
Jim Moten	Alternate - Environmental and Conservation	Naselle-Grays River Valley School District
Mark Whitaker	Alternate - Recreation	Citizen

Completed Actions 2012

Benchmark Addressed Benchmark Not Addressed

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education and Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	$20,000					■	■
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation	$1,250					■	■
Columbia River Fisheries Exhibit	$4,000					■	■
Fish Preservation Workshop	$288					■	■
Fish Hatchery Tours - Job Shadowing	$486		■			■	■
ADA Accessible Trail Completion and Invasive Species Information	$4,400				■	■	
Marine Resource Monitoring and Education	$3,050	■	■	■	■	■	■
Invasive Species Signage	$150					■	■
School District Field Trips	$2,753	■	■			■	■
Wahkiakum MRC Brochure	$1,311					■	■
Skamokawa Creek Dredging Assessment Outreach Survey	$812					■	■
Total Award	**$38,500**						

Project Highlight - WC MRC Columbia River Fisheries Exhibit

- **Supported the creation of a traveling exhibit and brochures depicting the history and culture of the Columbia River gillnetters**
- **Displayed exhibit at the River Life Interpretive Center in Skamokawa**

Project Highlight - WC MRC School District Field Trips

- **Supported Wahkiakum Schools in attending economic, cultural, and historical field trips related to marine ecosystems**
- **Students visited Young's Bay, the Columbia Maritime Museum, the Bonneville Dam Visitor's Center, and the Oregon Coast Aquarium**

Priority Actions for 2013

- Continued MRC representation at the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council
- Cathlamet Waterfront Visioning Conference featuring specialists in redeveloping historic waterfronts
- Development of a citizen science monitoring program to study seals and sea lions and their predation in the Lower Columbia River Estuary
- Support for the Phase 2 Dredging Assessment including surveys for Wahkiakum County rivers and venues for public input
- Support for local high school field trip transportation to engage students in learning about the Lower Columbia River Estuary
- Construction of a fish cleaning station at the Elochoman Slough Marina
- Support the creation and implementation of a Select Area Fisheries Enhancement study and business plan for local commercial fisheries
- Implementation of a Wahkiakum County MRC summit to highlight MRC activities and Lower Columbia River Estuary issues
- Conduct monthly water quality monitoring on the Columbia River using volunteers

For more information: Jenna Jewett • (360) 902-2658 • jenna.jewett@dfw.wa.gov • www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/

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