



## Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee Open House

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Skamakowa Grange

In attendance: Doug Kess, Pacific Co. MRC Board Member, Mike Nordin, Pacific Co. MRC Coordinator, Kitty Speranza, The Inn At Crippen Creek Farm, Carol Ervest, Wahkiakum Co. MRC Board Member, Carrie Kennedy, Wahkiakum Co. MRC Coordinator, Bill Chamberlain, Skamokawa Grange, Kayrene Gilbertsen, Wahkiakum County Commissioner, Joel David, USFWS, Julia Butler Hansen Refuge, Linda Gerlach, Wahkiakum Co. Chamber, Rick Nelson, The Wahkiakum County Eagle, Kathleen Morgain, Twin Gables Bed and Breakfast, Amy Ammer, Columbia River Estuary, Lisa Marsyla, Wahkiakum County Commissioner, Judy and George Wilde, Kent Martin, commercial fisherman

Meeting facilitated by John Kliem and Debbie Holden.

## AGENDA

- **Learn about Marine Resource Committees**
  - » Speaker Carrie Kennedy, Wahkiakum County MRC Coordinator
  - » Speaker Jenna Norman, Washington State Coastal MRC Coordinator
    - Please visit the Coastal MRC website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/index.html>
  - » Speaker Mike Nordin, Pacific County MRC Coordinator
- **Identify what Wahkiakum County would like to accomplish through its MRC**
  - » Group brainstorming
- **Identify how to get people involved in the Wahkiakum County MRC**
  - » Group brainstorming

## Marine Resource Committees

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. **Citizen-based Marine Resource Committees (MRCs)** are an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, creativity, and wisdom of coastal residents to compliment ongoing efforts to restore, protect, and manage coastal marine resources.

### Program Priorities

Coastal MRC Program priorities are intended to guide the development of the Coastal MRC Program and focus the work of coastal MRCs. These priorities – or operating principles – were developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group and include:

#### Establish MRCs

- Establish coastal MRCs in order to provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities
- Ensure MRC and program accountability and alignment with regional priorities by measuring performance against program benchmarks
- Act in consult with tribal and state co-managers
- Ensure that local residents are selected and participate in MRCs

#### Complement existing efforts

- Complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

#### Build partnerships

- Coordinate and communicate with MRCs, the Northwest Straits Commission, tribal and state co-managers, local, regional, federal, and other stakeholders and organizations about local and regional projects and issues
- Expand partnerships with tribal governments and continue to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- Communicate coastal issues to the Governor's office and the State Ocean Caucus

## **Utilize science**

- Conduct scientific investigations and monitoring efforts to fill key gaps in knowledge about valuable coastal species and habitats (e.g. ecosystem-based management)
- Monitor and assess impacts of coastal and marine development

## **Promote healthy communities and resources**

- Promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources
- Promote marine resource stewardship through community volunteer opportunities and public education efforts
- Promote coastal hazards awareness and community preparedness through education and outreach programs
- Support the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats, and marine populations to healthy and sustainable levels and prevent future state and federal species listings
- Conduct and implement strategic planning to identify marine resource related threats to and opportunities for sustainability
- Assess sources of and reduce marine and estuarine pollution and debris

## Performance Benchmarks

Performance benchmarks will be used to measure MRC activities and achievement in discrete, but broad categories. Benchmarks developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group include:

### **Marine Habitats**

Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:

- enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
- designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
- surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
- understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices

### **Marine Life**

Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further ESA listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
- balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
- identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
- designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery

### **Marine and Fresh Water Quality**

Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:

- conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
- working to reduce the input of pollutants
- promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
- working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

### **Sound Science**

Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:

- utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
- identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
- promoting peer reviewed science

### **Education and Outreach**

Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:

- informing the public about threats to living resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
- informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
- coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
- engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming
- translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington's coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
- expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers

### **Coastal Communities**

Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:

- supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
- supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
- encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
- engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
- increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest

## Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee

Carrie Kennedy, WSU Extension

### What are Marine Resource Committees (MRCs)?

Funded by the state legislature and administered by WDFW, they are county-based committees that carry out local projects and activities and advise the county on issues pertaining to marine resources. MRCs are created and defined by county resolution or ordinance. Counties determine operational procedures and appoint committee members. MRCs are required by statute to be broadly representative, but counties have the ability to further specify membership or committee focus according to the needs of the county, its citizenry, and marine resources.

### Background on Washington State's Coastal MRC Program

In their 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the Washington State Legislature endorsed the MRC approach to local marine resource management and stewardship in the five southern Puget Sound counties and five coastal counties. A new program was created within Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide support for the development, administration, and coordination of coastal MRCs and MRC-sponsored projects that benefit coastal marine resources.

Coastal counties – Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum – and their citizens formed MRCs to create non-regulatory mechanisms for communities to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities.

As guided by the Washington Ocean Action Plan, MRC activity will improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, protection and restoration, and management of marine habitats and species and compliment ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance coastal and ocean resources.

### Background on Wahkiakum County MRC:

- Established September 2010 after exploratory meetings and review over 2009-2010.
- Wahkiakum County designated Carrie Kennedy, WSU Wahkiakum County Extension, as coordinator for the MRC
- \$20,000 available for local projects; funded at least through the 2011 biennium (June 30, 2010)

### Examples of Projects from Other Counties:

- Beach cleanup volunteer events
- Lost/abandoned fishing gear removal
- Estuary or marine-related school field trips
- Water quality assessment and monitoring
- Community workshops on Marine Spatial Planning
- Volunteer Spartina weed watch in Willapa Bay

# FOCUS QUESTION

**What projects would you like to accomplish with the newly formed Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee?**

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## MRC ORGANIZATION & OUTREACH

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- Solicit a Good Board
- Have a Representative at the Washington State Ocean Caucus
- Develop a Traveling Display
- Have a MRC Exhibit at the County Fair

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## FISHERMEN PROMOTION

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- Fishermen's Education (help people understand commercial fishing)
- Promotion of Local Seafood
- Marine Education Program for Public
- Local Science Writing – Stories
- Basic Boat Safety
- Processing of Local Seafood (Commercial and Recreational)
- Northern Pike Minnow Derby

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## MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES

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- Survey and Control Invasive Species
- Control Milfoil
- Control Knotweed
- Restoration of Skamokawa Creek – CD
- Cleaning Boat Bottoms Before and after Water Use

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## WE WANT CLEAN-UP

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- Marine Debris Removal

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## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MARINE RESOURCES IN OUR COUNTY

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- Explain Economic Returns from Local Salmon Resources

## INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION

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- Water / Soil GPS Education Program for Schools
- Involve High School Students in Salmon Education (Hatchery)
- Promote 4-H Natural Resource Projects
- Marine Articles for Newspaper by High School Students
- Gravel Incubator Boxes

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION ON WATER QUALITY

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- Field Trip – Aegerters Manure Sanitation
- Clean-Up of Tidegates and Channels
- Biosolids – Education Seminar

# IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS

### Marine Resources Committee Stakeholders

RCW 36.125.020 provides for marine resources committee membership as follows:

(3)(a) Participating county legislative authorities must select members of the marine resources committee, ensuring balanced representation from: Local government; local residents; scientific experts; affected economic interests; affected recreational interests; and environmental and conservation interests. Additionally, participating county legislative authorities must invite tribal representatives to participate in the marine resources committee.

The group identified people and organization who could be invited to volunteer as Board Members.

Stakeholder Category	Suggested Stakeholder
Governmental Agencies	USFWS, Joel David WDNR, Monica Schumacher WDFW, Pat Frasier BOCC, Lisa Marsyla 4-County Fishing Coalition
Fishermen	Mike Backman Kent Martin Troy Blix Chris Doumit Mike Clark

<b>Stakeholder Category</b>	<b>Suggested Stakeholder</b>
Economic Interests	Port 1 Port 2 Chamber – LEPC
Conservation Interests	Conservation District – Darren Houpt Diking District
Recreational Interests	Mark Whitacre Andrew Emlen
Citizens	Carol Ervest David Walstrom Carol Carver George Exum
Scientists	Rob Stockhouse Thea Pyle CREST (Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce)
School	Kyle Herly Jeff Rookidge Jim Houten Debbie Denny
Forestry / Agriculture	Tony Aggritor Dan Kaufer Austin Burkhalter Fred Johnson

## FOLLOW-UP AND NEXT STEPS

Carrie Kennedy will work with County Commissioners to personally invite stakeholders to volunteer as Board Members of the MRC. Once the Board is established, the MRC will begin working on projects.