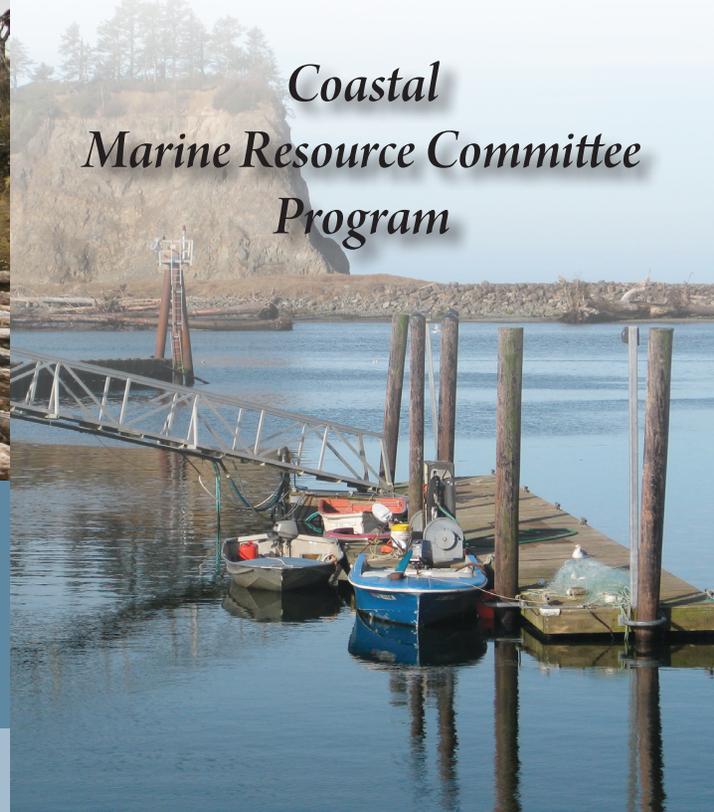


Coastal Marine Resource Committee Program

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 will require utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders.

Citizen-based Marine Resource Committees 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.



For information on the program background, reports, updates and local coordinator contact information, please visit the Coastal MRC Program website at:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc/>

or contact:

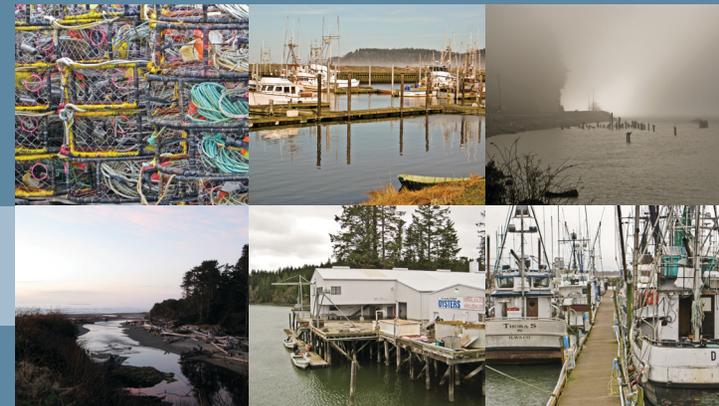
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Local, science-based groups promote marine resource
Stewardship - Management - Restoration

Washington Department of
Fish and Wildlife



Photos by: Brie Van Cleve Cover photo locations:
main photo & top middle: LaPush, Clallam County
top left & bottom right: Port of Ilwaco, Pacific County
bottom left: Kalaloch Beach, Jefferson County
top right: Highway 4, Wahkiakum County
bottom middle: Willapa Bay, Pacific County



Coastal MRC Program overview

In their 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions, the Washington State Legislature endorsed the Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) 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.

The Coastal MRC Program provides regional support for scientifically sound solutions generated by MRCs. The goal of the 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.*

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.

Find statutory language in the Revised Code of Washington, Title 36, Chapter 125.

What are MRCs & what do they do?

Marine Resource Committees are county-based, volunteer groups composed of tribal co-managers, fishermen, citizens, scientists, recreational, economic, and conservation interests, and government agencies that:

- Encourage community-based marine stewardship
- Conduct citizen-driven marine science
- Sponsor and oversee projects to meet local priorities
- Make science-based recommendations on marine management strategies
- Coordinate diverse partners and MRC members
- Offer education and learning opportunities to children and adults about marine resource science, conservation, and management
- Provide an effective, inexpensive, and non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for coastal communities and local marine resource issues
- Compliment ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

This structure was first developed through the Northwest Straits Initiative in 1998. This federally-funded program supports MRCs in the seven northern Puget Sound counties and has become a national example of effective regional collaboration and citizen involvement in marine resource protection, management, and restoration.



Willapa Bay, Pacific County

Individual MRCs develop a work plan and projects tailored to address local marine resource needs. Examples of possible MRC projects include:

- Lost or derelict fishing gear surveys and removal
- Providing local schools with marine science field training and equipment
- Public workshops
- Invasive species identification training and monitoring
- Coastal hazards mapping
- Shoreline, vegetation, or deepwater fish surveys
- Shellfish surveys, testing, and monitoring
- Landowner education
- Creosote log inventory and removal
- Marine-resource based tourism and education