

Summary

Meeting dates: June 14-15, 2019

Agenda item: Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) – (Briefing)

Presenter(s): Lucas Hart – NW Straits Commission
Don Hunger – NW Straits Foundation
Bob Sizemore, Puget Sound Shellfish Manager, Fish Program

Background summary:

In 1998 Congress authorized an initiative to establish the NW Straits Commission to address degradation of the marine environment on regional and local scales. The “bottom-up” structure of this initiative depends on grassroots consensus building and a focus on scientific methods to engage citizens in marine conservation, empower local communities to generate on-the-ground projects, share innovations between counties, and contribute to marine science knowledge. Seven county based Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) provide a structure for scientists, tribes, economic, recreational and environmental and at-large interests to build consensus driven marine and nearshore conservation and restoration projects. In 2002, the NW Straits Commission and MRCs were joined by the NW Straits Foundation. Together the NW Straits Commission, Foundation and MRCs are known as the NW Straits Initiative. This presentation will provide an overview of the NW Straits Initiative mission to promote healthy ecosystems and sustainable resources and their partnership with WDFW on vital projects such as forage fish monitoring, Olympia oyster restoration, pinto abalone restoration, derelict shellfish gear removal, and shellfish harvest education and outreach.

Policy issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

None, briefing only

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

None, briefing only

Action requested:

None, briefing only

Draft motion language:

None

Justification for Commission action:

N.A.

Communications Plan:

Agency web site, news releases
