



**MRC Members**

Glen Alexander (“Alex”)  
Citizen-at-Large  
Term 2: 01/21/2027

Rick Beauregard (Vice-Chair)  
Scientific  
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Jace Cotton  
City of Bellingham, Council

Jackie Dexter  
Economic  
Term 1: 01/31/2027

Mark Fairhart  
Citizen-at-large  
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kaylee Galloway  
Designated, County Council

Joe Hoats  
Economic  
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Kathy Ketteridge  
Citizen-at-Large  
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Elizabeth Lorence  
Conservation/Environmental  
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Mike MacKay  
Scientific  
Term 2: 01/31/2028

Avery Maverick  
Recreational  
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Andrew Shelton  
Economic  
Term 1: 01/31/2028

Heather Spore (Chair)  
Scientific  
Term 1: 01/31/2025

Mary Lou Steward  
City of Blaine, Mayor

Dan Sulak  
Recreational  
Term 1: 01/31/2026

Colin Wahl  
Conservation/Environmental  
Term 1: 01/31/2025

**\* VACANCY \***

Conservation/Environmental

**WHATCOM MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING SUMMARY | November 7, 2024 5:00pm – 7:00pm**  
**ZOOM [LINK](#), Meeting ID: 848 5509 7034 | Passcode 280586**  
**1-253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)**

*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 Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe.*

1.		<b>Introductions and Determine Quorum</b>
2.		<b>November 7 Agenda</b>
		<b>Action:</b> Modify and approve agenda as needed. New business can be added if necessary.
3.	5:00	<b>Approval of October Meeting Summary</b>
		<b>Action:</b> Review and approve summary as final.
4.		<b>Community Updates</b>
		<b>Objective:</b> Community members attending the meeting who wish to address or update the Committee on Committee related matters will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak.
5.	5:15	<b>Vessel Turn-In Event Planning:</b> Dana Oster, Marine Program Manager, Northwest Straits Commission
6.	5:45	<b>European Green Crab Update:</b> Leah Skare and Allie Simpson, Ecosystem Projects Northwest Straits Commission
7.	6:00	<b>Vibrio Update:</b> Elizabeth Lorence, Illness Prevention Coordinator, WA State Department of Health
8.	6:20	<b>MRC Partner Committee Updates:</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Council</li> <li>• Port of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Bellingham</li> <li>• City of Blaine</li> <li>• Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC)</li> </ul>
9.	6:40	<b>Staff Updates:</b> Member expectations, December MRC meeting
		<b>Objective:</b> Provide staff with opportunity to relay information and updates to the full MRC.
10.	~7:00	<b>Adjourn</b>

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 5th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, HYBRID. Please check out the [MRC calendar](#) for meeting dates and formats.

*Community members who require special assistance to participate in a committee meeting are to contact MRC Staff at least 4 business days in advance.*

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**In Attendance:** Austin Rose (staff), Dana Flerchinger (staff), Glen Alexander “Alex”, Mark Fairhart, Kaylee Galloway, Avery Maverick, Beth Lorence, Mike MacKay, Heather Spore, Jackie Dexter, Kurt Baumgarten, Colin Wahl, Andrew Shelton, Dan Sulak.

**Others:** Lisa Jensen (Garden of the Salish Sea Curriculum- GSSC), Julie Hirsh (GSSC), Allie Simpson (NWSC), Leah Skare (NWSC), Dana Oster (NWSC), Alexi Guddal (Whatcom Conservation District-WCD), Alan Chapman, Cheryl Lovato Niles (WWIN)

- 1) **Introductions and Determine Quorum:** Austin began the meeting with the land acknowledgment and roundtable introductions as Heather and Rick were travelling and unable to chair the meeting. A quorum was established.
- 2) **November 7th Agenda:** The November agenda was approved.
- 3) **October Meeting Summary:** The October meeting summary was approved.
- 4) **Community Updates:**
  - Lisa Jensen with GSSC mentioned that there will be community beach clean-up in Blaine on November 17<sup>th</sup>. She also shared that the GSSC is actively recruiting for interns at the high school and college level to support field work (specifically the HABs project) and outreach and education opportunities.
  - Glen (Alex) Alexander shared an update about his participation in the NWSI DEI efforts. An IdeazBoard was shared for members to contribute answers to the following questions: What does DEI look like to you?, What roadblocks do we have to increase DEI?, and What resources do we need to increase DEI?
- 5) **Vessel Turn-In Event Planning:** Dana Oster shared a presentation about the Northwest Straits Commission’s efforts around derelict vessel removal and vessel turn-in events. Vessel turn in events were piloted in San Juan and Skagit Counties in 2024. The cost associated with the San Juan vessel turn in event was \$60,000 (about \$4,300 per vessel). The metrics for Skagit County haven’t been finalized yet, but 49 vessels were turned in with an estimated cost of \$200,000. Kurt Baumgarten indicated that the Port of Bellingham (POB) would be a willing partner for a vessel turn in event in Whatcom County. MRC members including Andrew, Mark, Colin, Mike, and Jackie are interested in contributing to this potential event as it continues to develop. Dana Oster mentioned that the biggest ask from the MRC on this event would be community outreach (talking to marinas, finding places to hang flyers, conducting additional outreach in the local community).
- 6) **European Green Crab Update:** Leah Skare and Allie Simpson with the NWSC provided an update on European Green Crab (EGC) trapping and outreach efforts in Whatcom County. In Drayton Harbor in 2024, 535 EGC were captured. The NWSC will be continuing to have conversations with the MRC to determine their role in long-term management of EGC. You can report EGC sightings here: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/egc>, view regional data here: <https://wdfw-egc-hub-wdfw.hub.arcgis.com>, and get involved as a volunteer here: <https://wsg.washington.edu/crabteam/moltsearch/>. The MRC could look into increasing outreach efforts/mailers. Mark Fairhart recommended forming a subcommittee to address this topic in a smaller group setting.
- 7) **Vibrio Update:** Beth Lorence with the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) shared an update on the 2024 Vibrio and biotoxin season. Beth reported that in 2024 there was only 1 commercial closure for vibrio in Whatcom County and that there were overall lower than average illness numbers.
- 8) **MRC Partner Updates**
  - **County Council:** Councilwoman Galloway shared that the County Executive delivered budget recommendations to council and council held 2 days of work sessions to go through each of the budget

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requests. Kaylee mentioned that it was a tough budget season and council is having to maintain, if not reduce, certain programs. Council is also reviewing code amendments in the land use planning code around allowable and prohibited uses in heavy impact industry zoned areas (within the cities UGA) and is considering an update on local project review guidelines (have critical area review before application for permits to expedite the permit process). Council also had a robust conversation around the Lummi Island Ferry to address needs around services, the environment, infrastructure, etc and passed a resolution to investigate using a diesel hybrid vessel that holds 20 cars (would hold less vehicles than before in hopes of reducing impacts to the marine environment and maintaining some of the existing infrastructure).

- **Port of Bellingham:** No update other than input on the vessel turn in discussion.
- **City of Bellingham:** No Update
- **City of Blaine:** No Update
- **NWSC:** The NWSC did not meet in October, but the NWSI Conference will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The next commission meeting will be held in December.

## 9) Staff Updates

- Austin mentioned that the executive committee met and expressed the need for the MRC to review member expectations, especially in terms of meeting attendance, communication, and project participation. The MRC will continue more open discussions about this topic moving forward.
- Austin also mentioned that the December meeting will be a working potluck where the MRC will continue discussion about project priorities for the 2025-2027 grant cycle.
- Avery Maverick mentioned that the MRC might want to voice an opinion on the Port of Bellingham's (POB) draft budget cuts that would eliminate a proposed project to build a new dock and floating breakwater in Fairhaven to create a more accessible, safe, and spacious launch area. This update would include and ADA ramp, adaptive kayak access, and more to address serious community needs. Contacts to email in support of this project continuing forward include:
  - [bobbyb@portofbellingham.com](mailto:bobbyb@portofbellingham.com)
  - [kenb@portofbellingham.com](mailto:kenb@portofbellingham.com)
  - [michaels@portofbellingham.com](mailto:michaels@portofbellingham.com)
  - [robf@portofbellingham.com](mailto:robf@portofbellingham.com)

## 10) Adjourn: Meeting adjourned around 7PM