

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Elise Adams

November 4, 2025

VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Jill Lipoti**, Chair, **Kelly Webb**, Vice-Chair, **PaulBen McElwain**, **Andi Kopit**, **Kirk Larsen**, **Ken Collins**, **Scott Chase**, **Greg Easton**, **Patrick Havel**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Barbara Bennett**, **Joshua Berkowitz**, **Melanie Bacon**, IC Commissioner ex-officio, **Florian Graner**, Technical Advisor, **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff

ABSENT: **Jennifer Schmitz**, Island County ex-officio

VISITORS: **Carlie Miller**, IC Surface Water Quality, **Kelly Zupich**, IC Shore Friendly Coordinator, **Renee Zavas-Silva**, IC Surface Water Quality, **Jessica Reed**, IC Salmon Recovery and CFF Coordinator, **Quinn Farr**, IC Pollution Identification Coordinator and Beach and Shellfish Lead, **Maddy Buehrer**, Whidbey Conservation District Natural Resource Planner, **Fran Horvath**, **Eileen Bates**, Senior Abalone Biologist Puget Sound Restoration Fund, **Elsa Schwartz**, Deputy Director Puget Sound Restoration Fund, **Katie Sowul**, Abalone Biologist WDFW

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** The agenda approval was made by Kelly Webb, seconded by Ken Collins. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Minutes from October was made by Josh Berkowitz, seconded by Scott Chase, and approved unanimously.

TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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.

ART & CULTURE: Highlighting musical artist and environmental advocate, Jon Batiste, and his new song "Petrichor," reflecting how we all come together to make the world a better place.

PRESENTATION: Dr. Eileen Bates, Senior Abalone Biologist with Puget Sound Restoration Fund, presented "Pinto Abalone restoration in Washington State"

LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

Island County DEI consultant report will be brought to the November 5th Board of County Commissioners work session for discussion. An overview of the discussion will be documented and brought to the MRC.

MRC voted to change the term "spokesman" to "spokesperson" in the "MRC Roles and Responsibilities" document, and change "decisions" to "recommendations" in the "MRC

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Committee Member Expectations” document. A motion to approve the changes was made by Barbara Bennett, seconded by Greg Easton, and approved unanimously.

POSITION OVERVIEW FOR 2026:

Position descriptions were distributed prior to the November 4th meeting. MRC Positions for 2026 are open for nominations and all nominations should be submitted to Elise by December 15th. MRC members who are interested in nominating themselves or their colleague for a position can do so and can send nominations to Elise. 2026 positions include Chair, Vice-Chair, NWSC Representative, LIO Representative, and SRTCC Representative. Elise is awaiting the BOCC DEI consultant report for LIO and SRTCC representative term clarification. We are hoping to have a better understanding of organization and terms by the MRC January Meeting and the new position discussion.

NWSC CONFERENCE UPDATES:

- Look for an email from Caitlyn Blair with final conference information.
- Please send Elise your final hotel folio/invoice for reimbursement after the Conference is over. Elise will reach out the following week as a reminder.
- Retreat date overview – let Elise know if there are any dates that definitely don’t work.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Whidbey Camano Land Trust Holiday Open House – December 10th

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.