



WSU EXTENSION
Jefferson County



JEFFERSON COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE 2022

BY THE NUMBERS

- **1,845** - volunteer hours contributed by MRC Members and community volunteers
- **27** - forage fish surveys at 3 beaches (Dabob Bay, Adelma Beach, and Fort Townsend State Park)
- **3** - kayak-based bull kelp surveys at North Beach
- **1** - new rain garden installed in Port Hadlock
- **5** - rain garden maintenance work parties across Port Townsend
- **95%** - boater compliance with the Port Townsend voluntary eelgrass protection no-anchor zone
- **3** - derelict crab pots removed from Adelma Beach
- **1,308** - direct contacts through various MRC presentations, workshops, and outreach events

ISSUE

East Jefferson County, where nearly 96% of the county's population resides, includes over 200 miles of shoreline that border the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet and Hood Canal. These surrounding waters are part of the greater Salish Sea, a biologically rich and diverse inland sea that has been cared for by the Indigenous peoples of the area for more than 10,000 years. However, over the last 150 years, the Salish Sea has become increasingly threatened by climate change and intensive development that has been altering our land and seascapes. Impacts include sea level rise, heat waves, ocean acidification, stormwater contamination, habitat degradation, and profound changes in watershed and wetland hydrology. The restoration and protection of East Jefferson County's marine and nearshore environments hinges upon a well-informed and engaged community of stewards, working in partnership with organizations at the local and regional levels.

RESPONSE

The Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) was created in 1999 and is one of seven county MRCs affiliated with the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. The MRC is an advisory group appointed by the Jefferson Board of County Commissioners and comprised largely of volunteers who represent different marine interests. In addition to serving the county in an advisory capacity, the MRC engages in hands-on restoration and monitoring as well as education outreach projects. The goal of the MRC is to promote an ethic of stewardship, support science-based projects, and work in partnership with local Tribes, agencies, organizations, and the broader community to restore and protect the marine and nearshore resources of East Jefferson County.

jeffersonmrc.org

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PARTNERS

Applied Education, Foundation, Coastal Sensing & Survey, Hama Hama Oyster Co., Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Local 20/20, Marine Resources Consultants, Marine Surveys & Assessments, Native Plant Salvage Foundation, Northwest Straits Initiative, Point No Point Treaty Council, Port of Port Townsend, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Port Townsend Maritime Discovery Schools, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Sea Dragons, Strait ERN LIO, Taylor Shellfish, WA Department of Ecology, WA Department of Natural Resources, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and more.

QUOTES

I was excited to join [the derelict crab pot removal] project in order to apply all the concepts I've been learning to a real-world problem. It was great to be part of a team, with so many moving parts, and immediately accomplish meaningful work."

IMPACTS

Between October 2021 and September 2022, MRC members and community volunteers logged 1,845 volunteer hours and leveraged \$4,866 of in-kind contributions. With these volunteer and in-kind contributions, along with state and federal grant funds, the MRC accomplished the following with its project partners:

- Conducted 27 forage fish surveys at 3 beaches (Dabob Bay, Adelma Beach, and Fort Townsend State Park), in partnership with the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, which maintains a statewide database of forage fish spawning beaches, and with the Point No Point Treaty Council.
- Completed 3 kayak-based bull kelp surveys at North Beach, with support from the NW Straits Initiative and WA Department of Natural Resources.
- Contracted an eelgrass survey along the Port Townsend waterfront as well as side scan sonar surveys for locating derelict crab pots in Discovery Bay.
- Expanded the South Discovery Bay Olympia oyster restoration area, now including 3 parcels, and in partnership with Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Taylor Shellfish, spread a total of 5 cubic yards of clean shell to provide substrate for Olympia oyster larvae to settle on.
- Maintained the Port Townsend and Port Hadlock voluntary no-anchor zones and monitored boater compliance along the Port Townsend waterfront (95%).
- Piloted a new project with the Sea Dragons, using an underwater ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to remove 3 derelict crab pots near Adelma Beach.
- Installed 1 new rain garden behind the Kivley Center in Port Hadlock and hosted 5 work parties to maintain established rain gardens across Port Townsend.
- Tabled 3 community festivals, including the Wooden Boat Festival, with locally relevant marine conservation messaging.
- Offered a shoreline landowner workshop in partnership with the NW Straits Foundation Shore Friendly program.
- Co-hosted a coupled presentation and hands-on activity focused on [Dungeness crab research](#) in partnership with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center.

Each of these projects engaged community members and partners, bringing us closer to better understanding, restoring, and protecting the marine and nearshore ecosystems of our region.