



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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December 29, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Van De Wege
Chair, Senate Agriculture, Water,
Natural Resources, and Parks
212 John A. Cherberg Building
Post Office Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Mike Chapman
Chair, House Rural Development,
Natural Resources, and Parks
437A Legislative Building
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chairpersons Van De Wege and Chapman:

I am writing to provide you with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's annual report regarding the Coastal Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) Program. The Department is required to submit an annual report (per RCW 36.125.060) summarizing the actions taken each year by Coastal MRCs and prioritized recommendations for future actions.

MRCs are county-based, volunteer committees that carry out local projects and advise the county on marine resource issues. MRCs are composed of representatives from the local and tribal governments, scientific community, local citizens, and economic, recreational, and conservation interests.

The Washington State Legislature endorsed and funded the MRC model in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. As directed by RCW 36.125, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife created the Coastal MRC program as distinct from the Puget Sound MRCs. The Coastal program provides support for the development, administration, and coordination of the coastal MRCs and their projects. All of the coastal counties (Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum) have created unique MRCs and currently implement community-based projects.

MRC program benchmarks focus on the following broad categories: 1) marine habitats, 2) marine life, 3) marine and fresh water quality, 4) sound science, 5) education, and 6) coastal communities. The attached report summarizes each of the MRC activities during 2020 with the respective benchmarks that their activities address.

If you have any questions about this report to the legislature, please do not hesitate to contact Tom McBride, WDFW Legislative Director, at (360) 480-1472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly Susewind".

Kelly Susewind
Director

cc: JT Austin, Governor's Office



Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program 2020 Report to the Legislature



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

December 2020

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Acknowledgments

This report summarizes the hard work of the Coastal Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) Program. We acknowledge the coordinators of MRCs in each county for their organization, vision, dedication and facilitation skills. Coordinators include: Tami Pokorny (Jefferson County), Kristina Hollatz (Grays Harbor County), Courtney Hagain (Pacific County Conservation District), and Carrie Backman and assistant coordinator Donna Westlind (WSU Wahkiakum County Extension).

We acknowledge the continued support of the Washington State Legislature and of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. WDFW Region Six Director Larry Phillips, along with WDFW staff involved in fiscal, budgets, and contracts, Janice Jackson and Tiffany Hicks, are also acknowledged for their help and support in making the Coastal MRC Program run smoothly. We would also like to recognize that sections of this report were originally written by F. Brie Van Cleve and Jenna Jewett in prior Reports to the Legislature.

2020 Report to the Legislature

Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program
December 2020

By Amy Spoon
Coastal MRC Program Coordinator Habitat Program

Cover Photography by Linda Smith

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Washington 98501

Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program

The goal of the Coastal Marine Resources Committees Program is to understand, steward, and restore the marine and estuarine ecological processes of the Washington coast in support of the ecosystem health, sustainable marine resource-based livelihoods, cultural integrity, and coastal communities.



Program Overview

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 requires utilizing the available knowledge and creative approaches of coastal citizens and leaders. Citizen-based Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) are an effective mechanism to harness the dedication, innovation, and wisdom of coastal residents.

MRCs are county-based, volunteer committees that carry out local projects and activities and advise counties on marine resource issues. MRCs are composed of representatives from the scientific community, local and tribal governments, local citizens, and economic, recreational, and conservation interests.

The Washington State Legislature endorsed and funded the MRC model in the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. As directed by RCW 36.125, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) created the Coastal MRC program. The program provides support for the development, administration, and coordination of the coastal MRCs and their projects. All of the coastal counties (Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Pacific, and Wahkiakum) have created unique MRCs and currently implement community-based projects.

Coastal MRC activities are guided by a set of interim program priorities, benchmarks, and a program goal statement that were developed by the Coastal MRC workgroup in 2009. These measurements were developed to ensure coordination among MRCs, and to provide accountability to WDFW and the Legislature. The program priorities are to: 1) establish and maintain coastal MRCs, 2) complement existing efforts, 3) build participation, 4) utilize science, and 5) promote healthy communities and resources. The program benchmarks focus on the following broad categories: 1) marine habitats, 2) marine life, 3) marine and fresh water quality, 4) sound science, 5) education, and 6) coastal communities. The following pages summarize each of the MRC activities during 2020 with the respective benchmarks that their activities address.

Program Actions

Allocate programmatic funding for MRC activities and projects

- In 2019, WDFW awarded each county MRC \$77,000 for operational and project activities, for the 2019-2021 biennium (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021).

Assist MRCs to measure their activities against regional performance benchmarks

Performance benchmarks were developed by the Coastal MRC work group in 2009 to account for MRC activity.

- At the conclusion of each state fiscal year, MRCs are required to report annual activities and projects.

Support the coordination of MRC projects to complement regional priorities

- WDFW reports monthly to the State Ocean Caucus, the group designated to oversee implementation of the Washington Ocean Action Plan.
- Program staff continues to build awareness within WDFW and with other natural resource agencies regarding availability of MRC volunteers for marine resource projects on the coast.
- MRCs report regularly on their activities to the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council to coordinate project actions.

Coordinate and promote interaction among Coastal MRCs, other similar groups on issues of common interest

- WDFW and MRC representatives continue to provide briefings to county and state officials, the Northwest Straits Commission, the Washington Marine Debris Task Force, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council when appropriate.
- WDFW continues to maintain a website dedicated to the Coastal MRC program providing updates and announcements for upcoming activities with links to current individual MRC websites that contain contact information for county-based coordinators.

North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee

Mission: The North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee will actively promote ecosystem resilience through understanding, conserving, and restoring our marine resources. This will be accomplished through research, education, community engagement and advocacy for our shared marine environment and the sustainability of its coastal communities.



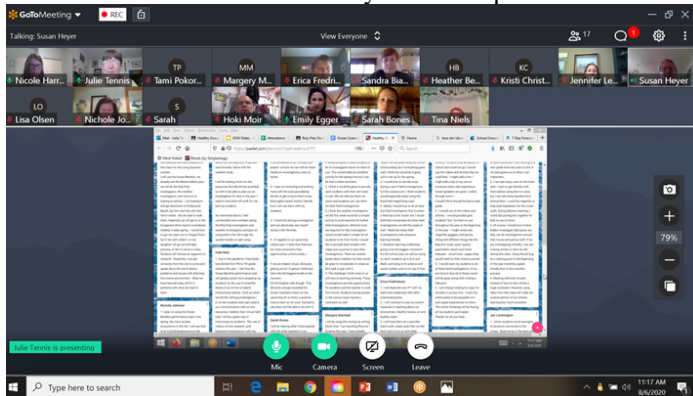
2020 North Pacific Coast MRC Members: Jill Silver, Rod Fleck, Jennifer Hagen, John Hunter, Katherine Krueger, Alice Ryan, Riley Smith, Helle Andersen, and JulieAnn Koehlinger.

Coordinator: Tami Pokorny.

Program Highlight: Pacific Education Institute - Ocean Science Workshop

On August 4th, 2020, sixteen teachers from seven school districts gathered together remotely for the first online version of the annual Ocean Science Workshop presented by educators Nicole Harris, from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and Julie Tennis, from Pacific Education Institute. Each year, OSW workshops train teachers in a new marine science curriculum that they can share with their students. Normally the workshops are hands-on and field-based. This year's pandemic restrictions meant the teachers would be learning from home and their students likely would be too. Fortunately, the curriculum is versatile and can also be used in person. This project was funded by a NPC MRC grant.

Below Photo Credit: Tami Pakorny Screen captures of online Workshop



“Thank you again for the work you both do. Every summer, these are my favorite classes.”

“My favorite parts were the investigations. They got me involved and I can see how to use them with my students.”

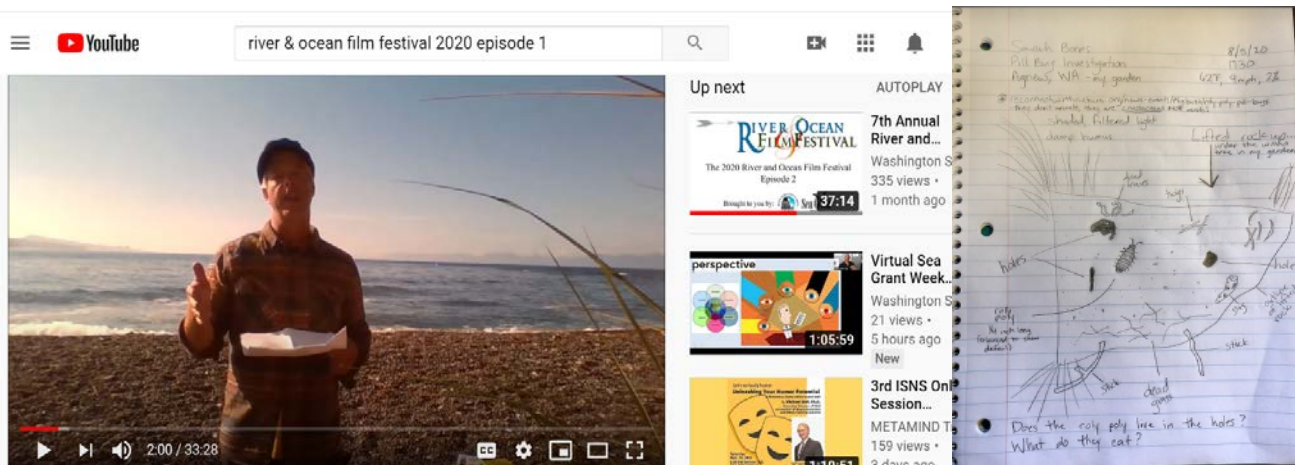
—2020 OSW participants

Table 1: 2020 North Pacific Coast MRC Project by Benchmark

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education & Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	\$20,000						
University of Washington – Origin and Erosion of Rialto Beach and Terrace: Implications for Ongoing Geological Hazards	\$11,000						
CoastSavers: Coordination of Coast wide Beachs Cleanups/Outreach	\$6,300						
Forks RainFest Events and Activities	\$9,000						
Pacific Education Institute - Ocean Science Workshop	\$5,021						
Western Washington University – Predation of invasive European Green Crab by river otters on	\$20,250						
Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) – Spatial and temporal patterns of bacterial gill	\$16,000						

2020 Project Partners: UW COASST, Washington CoastSavers, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Jefferson County, Forks Chamber of Commerce, City of Forks, Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Hoh Tribe, Quileute Tribal School, PEI, UW ONRC, UW Sea Grant, UW Engineering/Geology, Clallam County 10,000 Years Institute, Forks High School, Coast Salmon Partnership, Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition, John’s Beachcombing Museum, North Pacific Coast Lead Entity, WDFW, Washington State Department of Ecology, Olympic National Park, Rainforest Council for the Arts, Global Ocean Health, Forks Forkestra, Forks Middle School, Surfrider Foundation, TNC, Other MRCs, WCMAC, additional volunteers.

(Left) River and ocean film festival screen capture, Ian Miller (Right) Illustration by student, Sarah Bones.



Grays Harbor County Marine Resources Committee



Grays Harbor County
MARINE
Resource Committee

Mission: The mission of the Grays Harbor County MRC is to understand, steward, and restore the natural function and economic vitality of the marine resources in Grays Harbor County for all citizens through research, action, and outreach and education.

2020 Grays Harbor County MRC Members: Sarah Bisson (Chair), Kyle Deerkop (Vice - Chair), Lorena Maurer, Al Carter, Arthur "RD" Grunbaum, Garrett Dalan, Kevin Decker, Amy Spoon, and Molly Bold.

Coordinator: Kristina Hollatz

Program Highlight: Grays Harbor Stream Team Outreach

Funding from the coastal MRC program worked to increase community involvement and environmental stewardship of local streams and estuaries in the lower Chehalis Watershed of Grays Harbor.

The Grays Harbor Stream Team created a Tide Pool Virtual Tour. This presentation will soon be available on the Grays Harbor MRC website and is posted on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/8R8m7q8ldzE>. Before schools shut down the Virtual Tide Pool Presentation was shown to students at Beacon Elementary with very positive responses.

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left is the YouTube logo and a search bar. The video player itself shows a close-up of a crab in a tide pool. A red progress bar is visible at the bottom of the video frame, with a timestamp of 6:30 / 14:27. To the right of the video is a blue PowerPoint title slide with the text "All About Tide Pools" and "Grays Harbor Stream Team" below it. Below the video player, the video title "Tide Pool Tour" is displayed, along with "39 views • May 19, 2020". There are icons for likes (0), dislikes (0), share, save, and a menu. At the bottom left is the channel name "Grays Harbor Stream Team" with a small logo, and at the bottom right is a red "SUBSCRIBE" button.

YouTube clip of virtual tour, as well as Title slide for PowerPoint presentation.

Table 2: 2020 Grays Harbor County MRC Project by Benchmark

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education & Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	\$20,000						
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation (WCMAC)	\$360						
CoastSavers Beach Cleanup	\$8,332						
Storm Water Workshop	\$500						
Grays Harbor Stream Team Outreach	\$5,000						

2020 Project Partners: Coastsavers, PEI, Montesano School District, Quinault Indian Nation, Aberdeen School District, Lake Quinault School District, WSU Extension, and Washington Sea Grant



With funding through the MRC, in 2020, the following beaches were cleaned in Grays Harbor County: Moclips Beach, Pacific Beach, Copalis Beach, Seabrook, Ocean City State Park, Chance a La Mer, Twin Harbors State Park, and Grayland Beach State Park. During the 2020 5th of July Cleanup, over 120,000 pounds of trash were collected from the Grays Harbor beaches. During the 2020 International Coastal Cleanup, over 4,000 pounds of trash were collected from Grays Harbor beaches. Photo Credit: James Roubal



Pacific County Marine Resources Committee



Mission: The Pacific County Marine Resources Committee serves as a steward for the marine and estuarine resources in our county by facilitating science based policies, research, and education that enhance the sustainability of the economy and ecology of our communities.

2020 Pacific County MRC Members: Ed Darcher, Doug Kess, Tim Crose, Ann Skelton, Tom Kollash, Mike Nordin, Michael Spencer, Tom Kollasch, Kevin Decker, Kim Patten, Larissa Ritzman, Richard Ashley, Brian Sheldon, Dale Beasley, Mike Cassinelli, Kathleen Sayce, Warren Cowell, Annie Brown, Kevin Decker, Key McMurray, Mary DeLong, Allen Lebovitz, Dwight Eager, and Lauren Baurenschmidt.
Coordinator: Courtney Hagain.

Program Highlight: International Coastal Cleanup

Washington CoastSavers and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will be coordinating their 9th cleanup on the entire outer coast of Washington State and more. The goal of this project is to engage citizens in Pacific County and remove debris from the coastal beaches before winter storms breakup or disperse it.

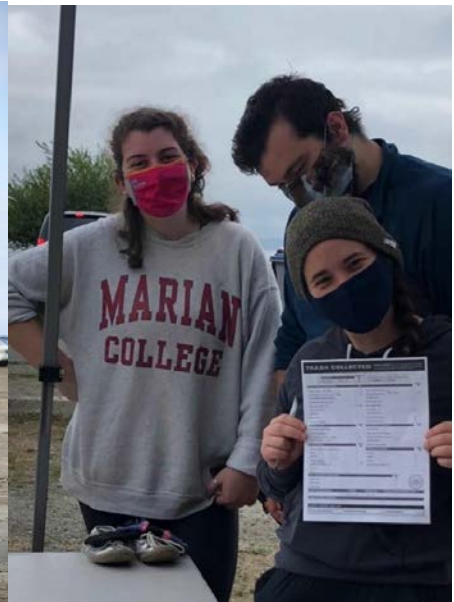


Table 3: 2020 Pacific County MRC Project by Benchmark

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education & Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	\$20,000						
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation (WCMAC)	\$270						
International Coastal Cleanup	\$1,752						
Sea Resources Salmon Education Specialist	\$9,128						
Sea Resources Hatchery Operations Assistant	\$12,320						

2020 Project Partners: GrassRoots Garbage Gang, Sea Resources, Port of the Peninsula, CoastSavers, Pacific County Drainage District, PEI, Paul Leback, Chris Jabobsen, Pat Schenk, Pacific County Vegetation Management, City of Raymond, Willapa Valley, Ocean Beach, and Pacific County School Districts.



Work completed as Pacific County MRC assisted Sea Resources in the ongoing efforts to revitalize and restore the Historic Chinook Hatchery.

Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee



Mission: The Wahkiakum County Marine Resources Committee's mission is to address local marine issues; recommend remedial actions to local, state, tribal, and federal authorities; and build local awareness of the issues and support for remedies consistent with the interim "Benchmarks of Performance" as adopted by the Coastal MRC Work Group on January 7, 2009.

2020 Wahkiakum County MRC Members: Todd Souvenir (Chairman), Jim Culbertson (Vice- Chairman), Carol Ervest, Terry Ostling, Mike Backman, Sol Mertz, Terina Davis, Paula Culbertson, and Dale Jacobson.
Coordinator: Carrie Backman. **Asst. Coordinator:** Donna Westlind

Program Highlight: Fish Hatchery Transportation and Gear

The Wahkiakum High School fisheries class is raising 15,000 to 20,000 fish each year at the Beaver Creek fish hatchery in Cathlamet, WA under the supervision of fish hatchery personnel. The students visited the hatchery every week, before the COVID-19 pandemic, to perform a variety of tasks that are associated but not limited to stream assessment, fish anatomy, fish reproduction, and employability in the fisheries field. They tested the quality of the water while practicing sound science. The students are learning life skills by experiencing and gaining knowledge from hatchery personnel; the importance of fish quality and how to handle fish; and how to test water quality and how important it is to raising fish.

Photo Credit: Kyle Hurley



Table 4: 2020 Wahkiakum County MRC Project by Benchmark

Project Name	MRC Award	Marine Habitats	Marine Life	Marine and Fresh Water Quality	Sound Science	Education & Outreach	Coastal Communities
MRC Coordination and Operations	\$20,000						
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council Representation (WCMAC)	\$500						
Fish Preservation Workshops	\$1640						
Port District #1 Viewing Deck	\$16,000						
Fish Hatchery Job Shadowing	\$4,500						
Fish Hatchery Transportation/Gear	\$4,128						
Marine Science Education Field Trips	\$3,170						
County Line Park Over-Look Deck Repair Project	\$4,732						

2020 Project Partners: Wahkiakum School District, Cowlitz -Wahkiakum Conservation District, WSU Wahkiakum Extension, Town of Cathlamet, Wahkiakum Port Dist. #1, Wahkiakum Port Dist. #2, Wahkiakum Chamber of Commerce, SW Washington Workforce, The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, Wahkiakum 4-H.



High school students brooming a fish hatchery raceway, feeding coho, and cleaning up the pond. Photo Credit: Darin Hamilton

MRC Summit

The 2020 annual Coastal Marine Resources Committee Summit was hosted by the Pacific MRC in an online format on October 15th-17th, 2020.

Annually for the last ten years, the coastal MRCs have convened for an in-person MRC Summit that offers a venue to cover emerging marine issues, share lessons learned and to help build lasting relationships. Due to restrictions and concerns surrounding COVID, the coastal MRC community opted to hold the Summit virtually. Typically, a local field trip or tour to share a MRC related issue or project is scheduled, but this was canceled for 2020.

The complete 2020 MRC Summit agenda, including presentation recordings and slideshows can be viewed below, as well as found here: <https://wacoastalnetwork.com/2020coastalmrcsummit/>

2020 Coastal Marine Resources Committee Summit Agenda

Hosted by Pacific County MRC via ZOOM

Thursday, October 15: Agenda

- 3:00 – 3:10 P.M. – Tech Introduction and Housekeeping
- 3:10 – 3:20 P.M. – Welcome from the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
- 3:20 – 3:40 P.M. – [Pacific County MRC](#) Coordinator Updates (no slideshow)
- 3:40 – 4:00 P.M. – [Grays Harbor County MRC](#) Coordinator Updates (no slideshow)
- 4:00 – 4:20 P.M. – [Wahkiakum County MRC](#) Coordinator Updates
- 4:20 – 4:40 P.M. – [North Pacific Coast MRC](#) Coordinator Updates
- 4:40 – 5:10 P.M. – Larry Phillips, Region 6 Director of WDFW, Program Updates
- 5:10 – 6:00 P.M. – Social hour and continued discussion

Day 1 of the 2020 Coastal MRC Summit was not recorded.

Friday, October 16: Agenda

- 3:00 – 3:10 P.M. – Welcome and Tech Review
- 3:10 – 3:50 P.M. – Julia Sanders and Aaron Chen (Global Ocean Health, Stantec) – Twin Harbors Sediment Study:
- 3:50 – 4:30 P.M. – Mara Zimmerman (Coast Salmon Partnership) – WA Coast Restoration and Resilience Initiative (WCRR)
- 4:30 – 5:10 P.M. – Tom Rudolph (Pew Charitable Trusts) – Sea Floor Mining
- 5:10 – 6:00 P.M. – Social hour and continued discussion

Saturday, October 17: Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:10 A.M. – Welcome and Tech Review
- 10:10 – 11:00 A.M. – Brian Atwater (USGS) – Ghost Forests and Historic Tsunami Research
- 11:00 A.M. – 11:50 P.M. – Yvonne deReynier (NOAA) – Ecosystem Based Management
- 12:00 P.M. – 12:50 P.M. – Emily Grason (Washington Sea Grant) – European Green Crab
- 12:50 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. – closing

Catching ^[up on] European Green Crabs on the Washington Coast
Emily Grason, Ph.D. | egrason@uw.edu

Twin Harbors Sediment Intro
A joint project of Global Ocean Health/National Fisheries Conservation Center and Stantec
MRC Summit: October 16th 2020, Julia Sanders



Priority Actions for 2021

The following are identified priority actions for 2019:

- Continued MRC representation and participation in the Washington Coastal Advisory Council (WCMAC)
- Prioritize networking to get notices out for Requests for Proposals
- Increase MRC networks, encourage MRC collaboration, and find new areas where MRCs can develop coast wide projects
- Adapt to pandemic restrictions including on-line meetings
- Filling vacant MRC Board openings as soon as possible
- Community involvement and active stewardship
- Funding diverse and valuable projects
- Continue to provide support and funding for riparian enhancement projects
- Continue to provide seafood industry/jobs preservation workshops to the public with trained WSU Food Safety Volunteers
- Identify or create a WA coast marine environment downloadable high school curriculum
- Expand involvement in the Forks ROV Club trainings, facilities, and competition to new student populations
- Continue to partner with local agencies to meet their monitoring and restoration goals in the marine environment while providing important workforce skill development
- Support involvement, operations, and activities of the Wahkiakum 4H Robotics Club
- Continue the Grays Harbor MRC Speaker Series by developing new and exciting topics
- Coordinate educational field trips for high school and elementary students
- Continue to partner with local agencies to meet their monitoring and restoration goals while providing important workforce skill development
- Continue to support and fund opportunities for local students to experience hands-on marine education
- Collaborate with other MRCs and find new areas where MRCs can develop joint projects.
- Support existing projects and, as needed, adjust them to meet pandemic restrictions. For example, CoastSavers may shift to a biochar project since North Coast beaches are closed to organized cleanups. The 2020 River & Ocean film festival was held online, but we hope it can (also) be an in-person event.
- Continue to explore better options for managing human and pet waste at beach trail parking areas
- Continue partnerships with educational institutions to expand research into coast resources
- Add to, and update, NPC MRC Transit Center MRC display
- Enhance Jefferson County's NPC MRC website
- NPC MRC Story Map

Coastal MRC Program Priorities

The following priority statements or operating principles, developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group, are used to guide the development of the Coastal MRC Program and focus the work of the coastal MRCs.

Establish MRCs

- Establish coastal MRCs in order to provide a non-regulatory mechanism to discuss and develop solutions for issues facing coastal resources and communities
- Ensure MRC and program accountability and alignment with regional priorities by measuring performance against program benchmarks
- Act in consult with tribal and state co-managers
- Ensure that local residents are selected and participate in MRCs

Complement Existing Efforts

- Complement and support ongoing efforts to improve scientific knowledge, public understanding, conservation and restoration, and management of marine resources

Build Partnerships

- Coordinate and communicate with MRCs, the Northwest Straits Commission, tribal and state co-managers, local, regional, federal, and other stakeholders and organizations about local and regional projects and issues
- Expand partnerships with tribal governments and continue to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties

Utilize Science

- Conduct scientific investigations and monitoring efforts to fill key gaps in knowledge about valuable coastal species and habitats (e.g. ecosystem-based management)
- Monitor and assess impacts of coastal and marine development

Promote Healthy Communities and Resources

- Promote healthy coastal communities through improved infrastructure and sustainable practices relating to marine resources
- Promote marine resources stewardship through community volunteer opportunities and public education efforts
- Promote coastal hazards awareness and community preparedness through education and outreach programs
- Support the conservation and restoration of coastal habitats and marine populations to healthy and sustainable levels and prevent future state and federal species listings
- Conduct and implement strategic planning to identify marine resource-related threats to and opportunities for sustainability
- Assess sources of and reduce marine and estuarine pollution and debris

Coastal MRC Program Benchmarks

Performance benchmarks are used by the Coastal MRC Program to account for MRC activities and achievement in discrete but broad categories.

Marine Habitats: Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:

- Enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
- Designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
- Surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
- Making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
- Understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices

Marine Life: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- Maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
- Balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
- Identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
- Designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- Making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery

Marine and Fresh Water Quality: Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:

- Conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
- Working to reduce the input of pollutants
- Promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
- Working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

Sound Science: Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:

- Utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis, and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
- Identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
- Promoting peer-reviewed science

Education and Outreach: Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:

- Informing the public about threats to living marine resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm, especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
- Informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
- Coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
- Engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming
- Translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington’s coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
- Expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- Striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers

Coastal Communities: Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:

- Supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
- Supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
- Encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
- Engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
- Increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest

