



MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE SUMMARY

March 7, 2019

In Attendance: Eleanor Hines (Chair), Kristin Murray (Co-Chair), Austin Rose (Staff), Robin Klein (Staff), Bob Seaman, Bob Cecile, Atina Casas, Glen "Alex" Alexander, Kurt Baumgarten, Ryan McLaughlin, Rud Browne (County Council), Dana Oster

Others: Brooke Love (WWU), Stu Currier, Cheryl Lovets Niles, Jennie Tuckerman, Heather Conkerton, Hannah Gabrielson, Ciara Kimball, EJ Tilt, Erika Mazza, Annalee McBrady, Hal Woodward, Ryan Walls, Eric Stratton, Tim Breyse, Audrey Long, Chanel Long Tanner Delger, McKinley Kellogg, Kristen Chamberlain, Molly Harding, Rachel Arnold, Lilya Jaeren, Alice Sigurdson, Leslie Sigurdson

- 1) **Introductions:** Eleanor began the meeting with roundtable introductions.
- 2) **March Agenda:** Agenda was not approved due to lack of a quorum.
- 3) **February Meeting Summary:** A quorum was not present and will be presented at next meeting.
- 4) **Public Comment Period**
- 5) **Pinto Abalone Status Review**—Population Threats and Opportunities for Input. A presentation was given by Henry Carson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with additional information provided by Josh Bouma, Puget Sound Restoration Fund. A question and answer period followed the presentation.

The presentation covered the following:

- a) **History overview**

They are a shallow water species, which makes them vulnerable to harvest. The shells have been used as inlays in musical instruments, jewelry, and clothing. Sitka Alaska down through southern California. Data collection did not start until the late '70s. In the 80s they estimated that about 40,000 were being harvested recreationally, just in the San Juan Islands. In the 90s British Columbia noticed declining stocks and closed both recreational and commercial fisheries. At that time Fish and Wildlife set up more formal survey data.
- b) **Population status**

Male and female Pinto abalone need to be physically close together in order to spawn. They have been found in areas from Little Patos to Pt. Townsend. They can live 15-30 years, but there has been a 97% decline in populations. They are sexually mature at 3 to 5 years. It was observed, of 16,000 juveniles put out, that after one year there was a 10% survival rate, with 3.5% of reproductive size. Populations will not be able to recover without human intervention.
- c) **Recovery program**

Abalone hatchery in Manchester in Kitsap County. Collection is made for brood stock in the San Juans. They raise them to about 2 years in the hatchery and tag some. They are then taken to various locations. Department of Fish and Wildlife is partnering with Puget Sound Restoration Fund and are looking for more partners to build support for long-term recovery.
- d) **Status review process**

There will be a final public hearing in April. At that point they will close the public comment and take the public comments, peer review, and turn the preliminary report into a final report. At this point, the recommendation would be to list the Pinto abalone as endangered. That will be up to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to make the final call.

6) Western Washington University Student Presentations—Students from Dr. Love’s Marine Conservation class presented their project proposals, developed with the help of various MRC members. There were 7 presentations.

- 1) Surf smelt egg mortality in Fidalgo Bay
- 2) Stormwater solutions
- 3) Social Media to increase awareness of the MRC
- 4) Forage fish education and outreach via mail postcard
- 5) Oyster Substrate types effectiveness and cost
- 6) Monitoring water quality in Chuckanut Bay (citizen science and sensor based)
- 7) Olympia oyster plan to streamline monitoring. Create field guide and training video for volunteers

7) Adjourn--Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm