

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Katie Kowal, Water Resources Program Coordinator
Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee and WSU Extension

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT: UPDATE re: Marine Resources Committee (MRC) Annual Report

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) would like to provide an overview of the work done by the MRC in 2024 to the BOCC.

ANALYSIS:

As an annual check-in, two MRC Members and the MRC Coordinator would like to present the details of funding and projects worked on in 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

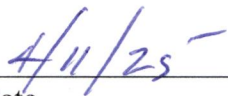
RECOMMENDATION:

Listen to staff presentation and provide feedback.

REVIEWED BY:

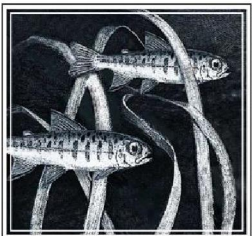


Mark McCauley, County Administrator



Date

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee



Jefferson County
**Marine
Resources
Committee**

2024 Annual Report to the
Board of County Commissioners
April 14, 2025

www.jeffersonmrc.org



Jefferson County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

MRC = Marine Resources Committee



**Northwest
Straits**
INITIATIVE



PUGET SOUND
PARTNERSHIP

Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee Members



Gordon King
Commercial Interest



Sarah Fisker
District 3; NWSC Commissioner Alt.



Neil Harrington
Tribal Rep



Jeff Taylor
District 2; NWSC Commissioner Rep.



Brenda Johnson
District 2; Chair



Emily Buckner
Marine Science Practitioner/Educator Rep.



Carol Hasse
Port of Port Townsend



Troy McKelvey
Recreation Rep, Vice Chair



Heidi Eisenhour
Jefferson MDC



Tim Cross
District 3



Tim Behrenfeld
District 1; Alternate



Frank Handler
District 2; Alternate



Roy Clark
Recreation Alternate



Betsy Carlson
Environmental/Conservation



Katie Kowal
MRC Lead Coordinator



Jon Waggoner
Marine Science/Practitioner/Educator Alt.



Bryan DeCaterina
Environmental/Conservation Alt.



Brad Bebout
District 1



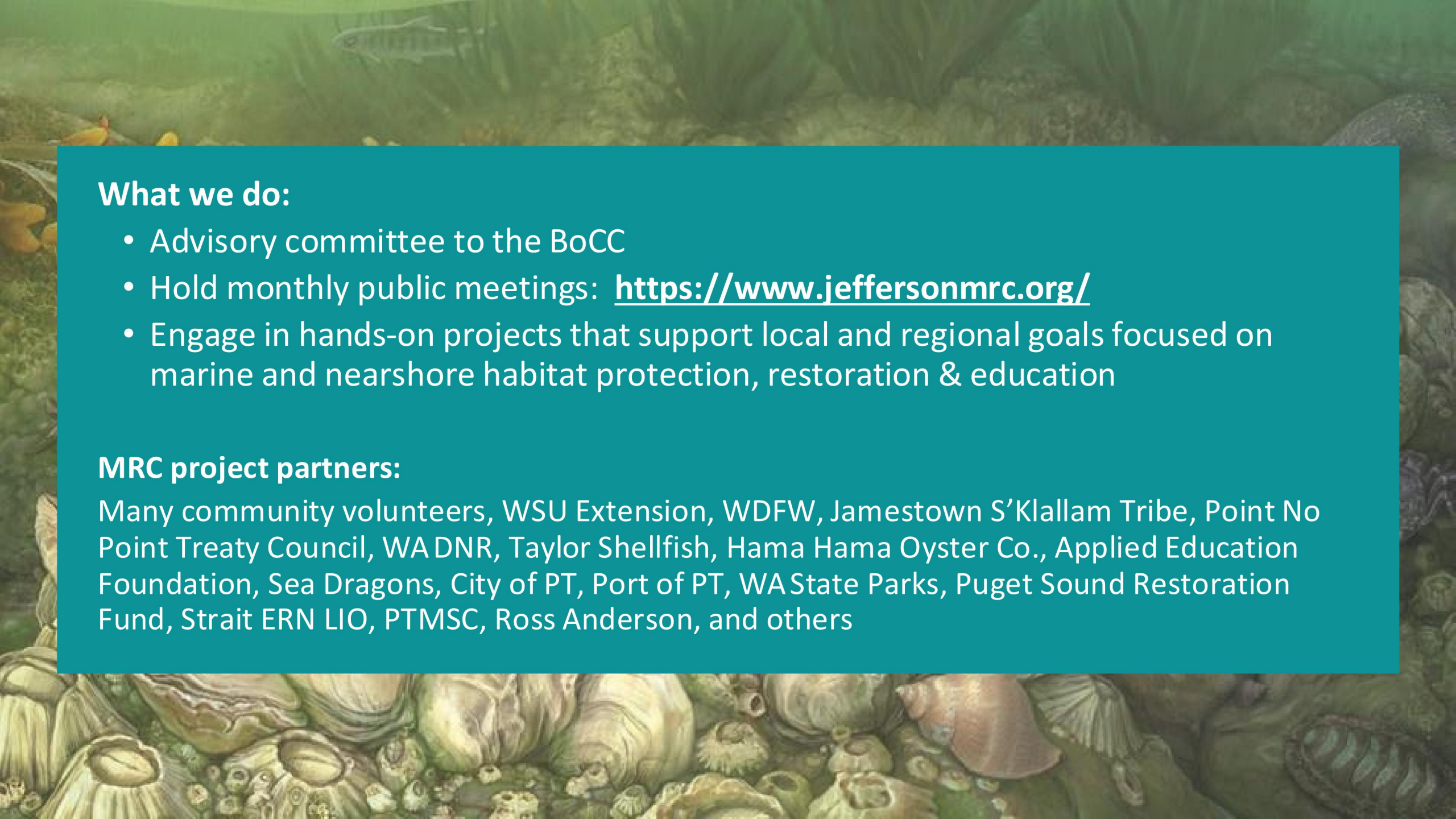
Janette Mestre
District 1



Akeyla Behrenfeld
Local Youth Representative

MRC Member Representatives (Current)

Tribal Rep (Jamestown S'Klallam)	Neil Harrington
Jefferson County Commissioner	Heidi Eisenhour (<i>ex officio</i>)
Local Govt (City of PT)	<i>Vacant</i>
Local Govt (Port of PT)	Carol Hasse
District 1; Alt.	Brad Bebout, Janette Mestre; Timothy Behrenfeld
District 2; Alt.	Jeff Taylor (NWSC rep), Brenda Johnson; Frank Handler
District 3; Alt.	Sarah Fisker (NWSC rep alt), <i>Vacant</i> ; Tim Cross
Marine Science Practitioner, Educator or Researcher; Alt.	Emily Buckner (Vice Chair); Jon Waggoner
Environmental/Conservation Interests; Alt.	Betsy Carlson (Chair); Bryan DeCaterina
Commercial Interests	Gordon King
Recreational Interests; Alt.	Troy McKelvey; Roy Clark
New in 2024! Local Youth; Alt.	Akeyla Behrenfeld; <i>Vacant</i>

The background of the slide is a detailed illustration of an underwater ecosystem. In the upper portion, a fish with vertical stripes swims through greenish water. Below, a rocky seabed is covered with various marine life, including large, light-colored oyster shells, smaller sea shells, and green, branching coral or seaweed. The overall tone is naturalistic and detailed.

What we do:

- Advisory committee to the BoCC
- Hold monthly public meetings: <https://www.jeffersonmrc.org/>
- Engage in hands-on projects that support local and regional goals focused on marine and nearshore habitat protection, restoration & education

MRC project partners:

Many community volunteers, WSU Extension, WDFW, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Point No Point Treaty Council, WA DNR, Taylor Shellfish, Hama Hama Oyster Co., Applied Education Foundation, Sea Dragons, City of PT, Port of PT, WA State Parks, Puget Sound Restoration Fund, Strait ERN LIO, PTMSC, Ross Anderson, and others

2024 MRC Funding

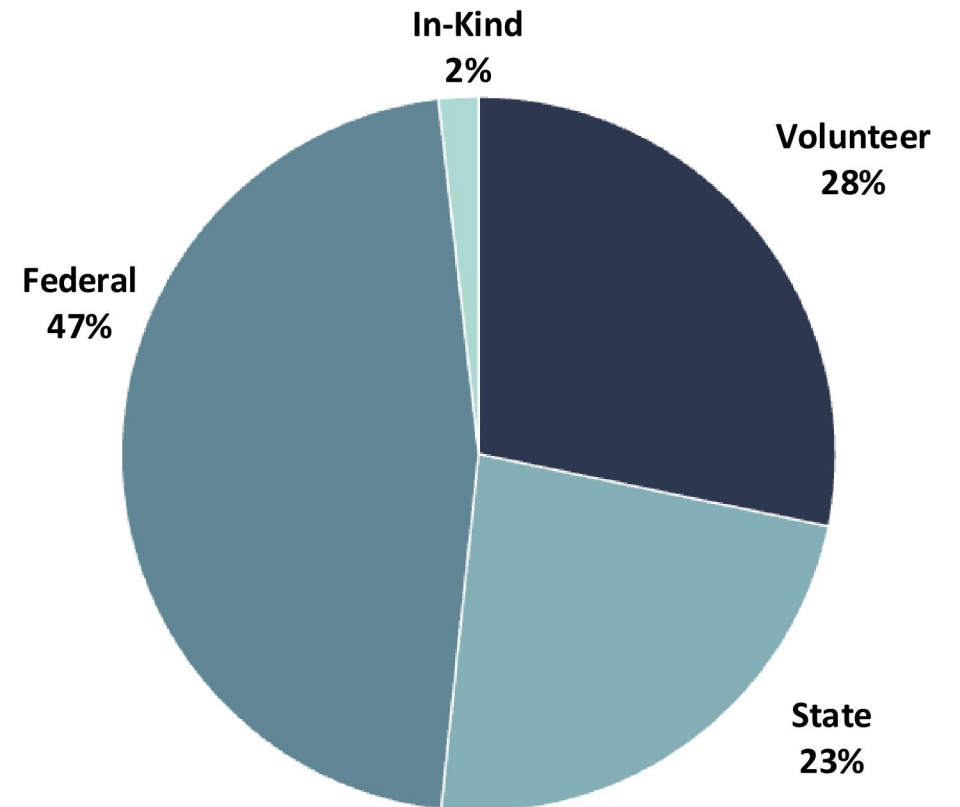
\$ 194,000 NW Straits Commission: WA State + EPA + NOAA funding (Jan-Dec 2024)

\$ 78,318 Volunteer time (2246 hours @ \$34.87/hr)

\$ 5,000 (est.) Community in-kind match (biologists, Taylor Shellfish, Port of PT)

\$277,318 = TOTAL VALUE

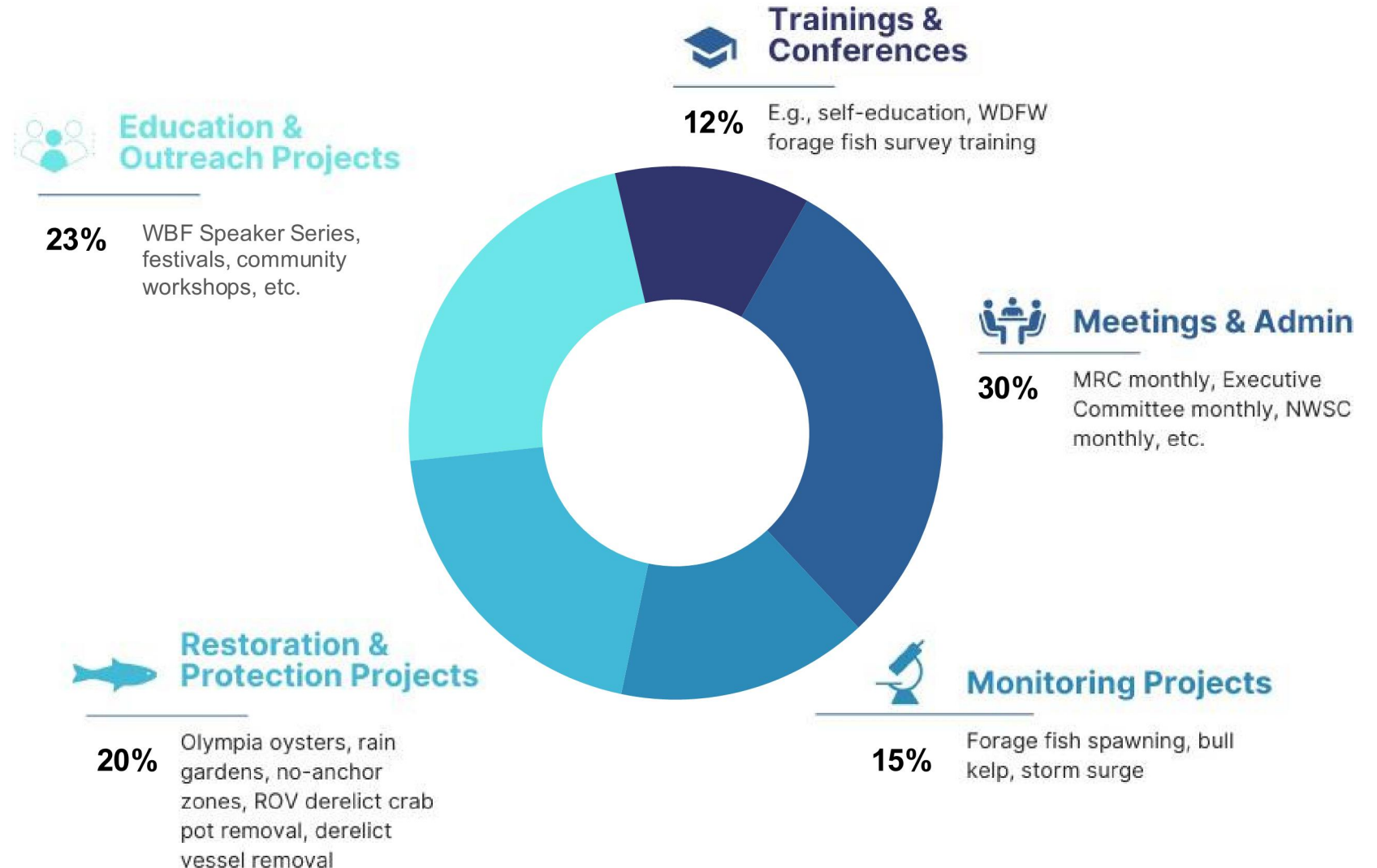
2024 Funding Breakdown



\$2,310,000 = Commission funds into Jefferson County since 1999

2024 Volunteer Hours By Activity

MRCmembers
(75%) and
community
volunteers (25%)
contributed **2246**
volunteer
hours in 2024



Community Science Monitoring

Bull kelp monitoring

- 1 site: East Bed, North Beach (9th yr)
- 3 surveys (July, Aug, Sept)
- Continue to see a healthy and dynamic bed
- Satellite Imagery summary report

Forage fish spawning surveys

- 2 sites: Dabob Bay (4th yr), Quilcene Marina (1st yr)
- 12 surveys at Dabob Bay
- Surf Smelt eggs (5) at Dabob Bay
- Sand lance eggs (39) at Dabob Bay

Storm surge monitoring

- 2 sites: Salmon Club & Chetzemoka Park
- 4 surveys (Sound IQ database)



Education & Outreach



1823 direct contacts

Educational Workshops

- Searching for Seaweed
- Digging for Dinner
- Crabbing 101
- Shoreline landowner outreach

Community Events

- Shrimpfest
- Wooden Boat Festival



Restoration & Protection

Eelgrass/shellfish protection no-anchor zones

- Regular maintenance at PH and PT
- 95% boater compliance at PT (14 days monitored)
- Presentation to Patty Murray July 2024

Olympia oyster restoration

- Lagoon site – 8th year, added shell
- Powerlines site – 10th year, added shell and monitored
- Broad Spit survey

Rain gardens

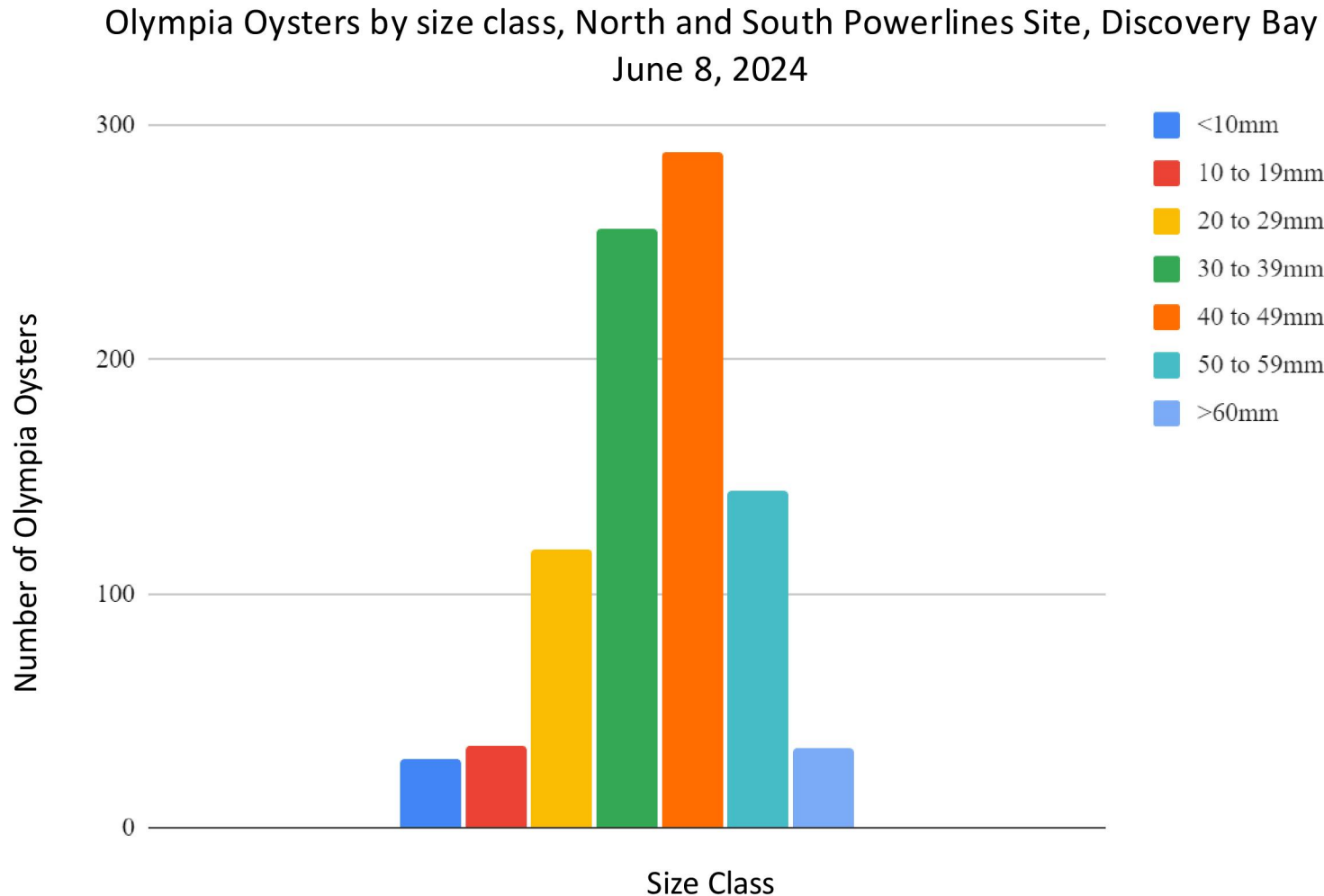
- 5 rain garden maintenance work parties
- 19 total rain gardens in Jefferson County
- Working with City of PT to pick up green waste

ROV derelict crab pot removal

- On pause for 2024

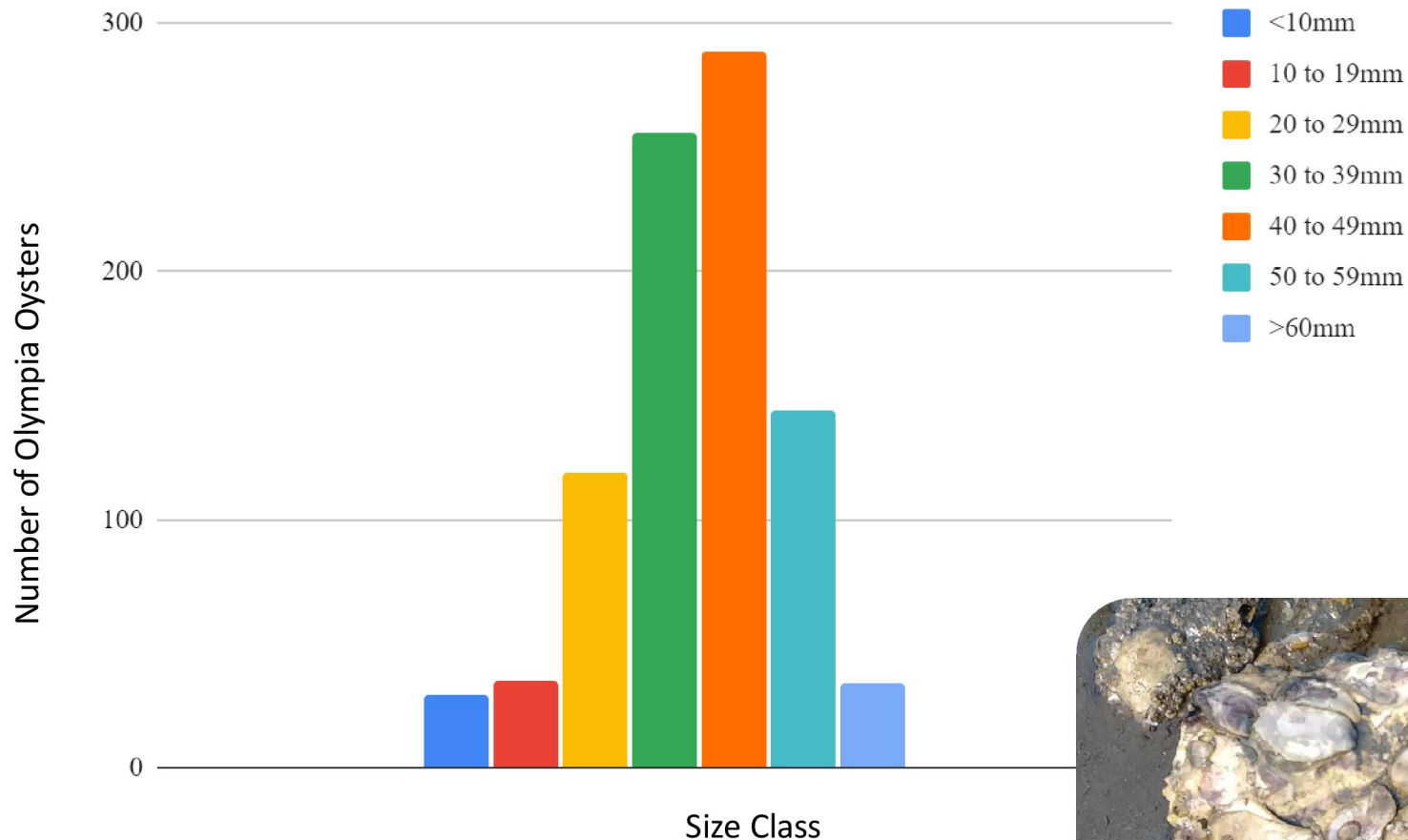


Olympia Oyster Restoration – North and South Powerlines Site



Olympia Oyster Restoration – North and South Powerlines Site

Olympia Oysters by size class, North and South Powerlines Site, Discovery Bay
June 8, 2024



Changes from 2023 to 2024:

- We counted ~10% less settled Oly's, but they averaged 10mm bigger
 - Suggests natural recruitment of Oly's is happening in DB
- We saw Oly's settling on 2023 Pacific oyster shell spread, will be surveyed July 2025
- We saw Oly's settling on Oly shell stacks at Lagoon site



2025 – Current Projects & Efforts

Continuing Existing Projects

- Forage fish spawning surveys, bull kelp monitoring, Olympia oyster restoration in Discovery Bay, eelgrass and shellfish protection no-anchor zones, rain garden maintenance, education and outreach, storm surge monitoring, ROV derelict crab pot removal in Killisut Harbor, DEI subcommittee

Developing New Projects/Efforts

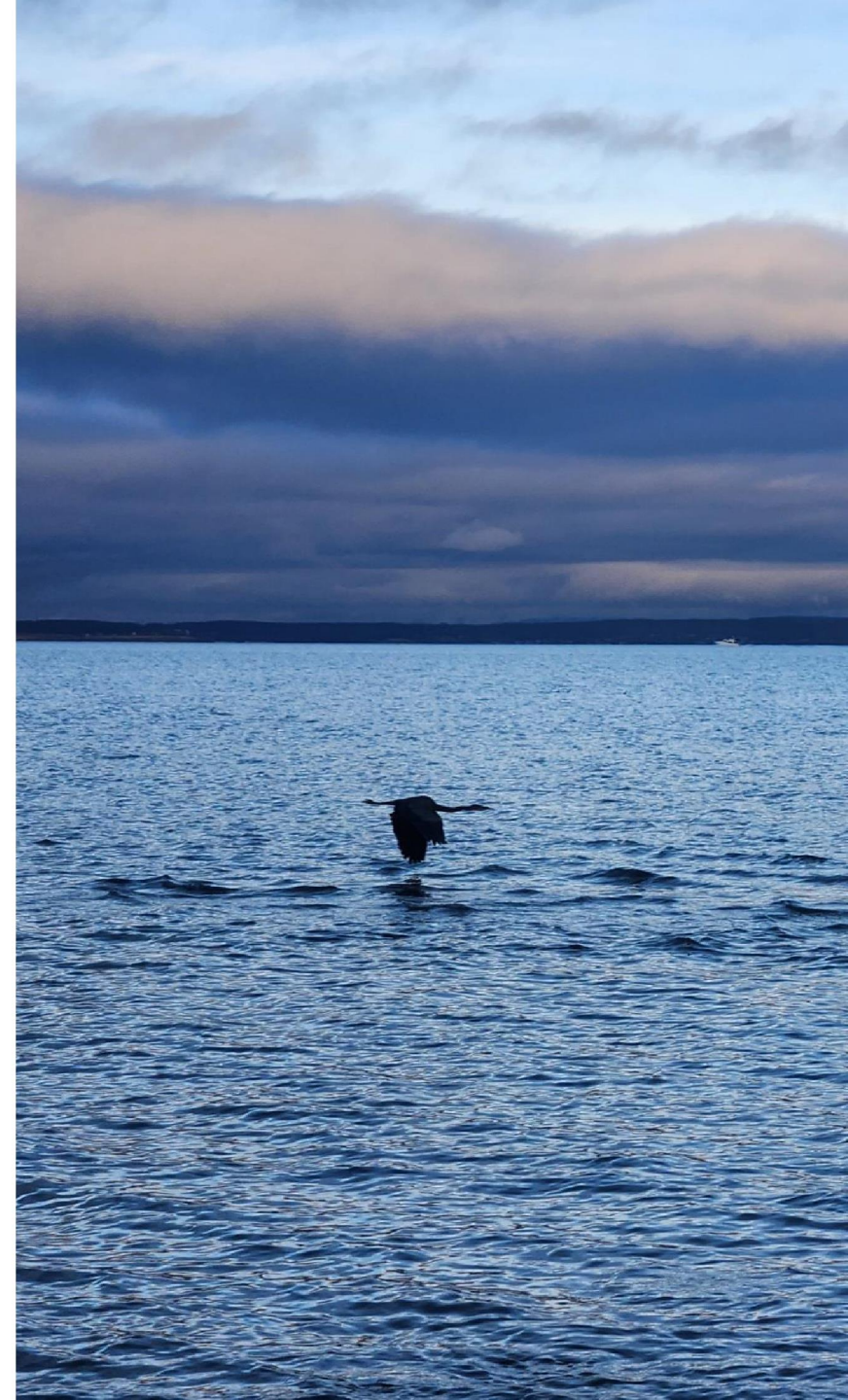
- Exploring Olympia oyster restoration in Killisut Harbor
- Recruiting volunteers to “adopt” rain gardens
- Derelict vessel removal subcommittee
- Marine Science Alley at WBF

Hiring part-time MRC support staff

- Goal to have position staffed by July 2025

Funding

- Federal and State funds (Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2025) – \$194,000
- Next 2-year funding cycle (Oct 2025 – Dec 2027) – up to \$199,000 per year



How can the MRC be of service?

Advisory and/or Projects

- County-wide assessments of kelp, eelgrass, restoration potential, etc.
- Restoring priority nearshore & marine habitats
- Public education on climate change/sea level rise and other local marine issues

Contact: jeff.co.mrc@gmail.com



Cory and Catska Ench

THANK YOU!



MRC members at the November 2024 MRC Conference in Everett, WA