

The San Juan County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is looking to diversify its membership, especially with representation from across the county.



The MRC would like to recruit candidates with a background in any of the following areas:

- Tourism
- Ports or marinas
- Shoreline development and or planning
- Commercial fishing

It is also important that individuals are keen to take an active role in:

- Learning about marine conservation
- Participating in science-based research
- Contributing to informed policy recommendations

The MRC is a voluntary citizen advisory group to County government, established in 1996, and is managed through the County's Department of Environmental Stewardship's Marine Resources Program. Its purpose is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the Salish Sea to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use.

The core activities of the Committee members include:

- Recommend actions to the San Juan County Council and San Juan County Department of Environmental Stewardship
- Get hands-on experience planning and implementing marine conservation projects, (e.g. eelgrass habitat protection monitoring, [Marine Stewardship Area Plan](#), False Bay monitoring)
- Participating in education and outreach efforts to reduce impacts of [boats on whales](#) and other marine habitats, recreational crabber education, and impacts of plastic on the marine environment with the [Plastic Free Salish Sea](#) initiative
- [Oil spill prevention](#) and [derelict vessel prevention](#) efforts

Members will be appointed to fill the two partial positions currently open and will have the opportunity to remain for an additional two four-year terms if they wish. The commitment includes:

- Attending a monthly meeting on the first Thursday of every month from 9:00 am – 12:00pm. Meetings are currently virtual, with a quarterly in-person meeting.
- Attending an annual retreat of one full day (normally takes the place of November or December meeting).
- Volunteering for a minimum of 10 hours a month including attending virtual meetings, developing and reviewing documents, and optional in-person fieldwork.

To apply, please contact Sam Whitridge for a copy of the committee application (samw@sanjuanco.com). Applications will be open until the position is filled.