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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 04-091

RELATING TO THE SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE;  
ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 2.800 SNOHOMISH COUNTY CODE

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council recognizes that the marine waters of Snohomish County represent an unparalleled resource of enormous environmental and economic value to the people of the region for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Commission was established by Congress on October 1, 1998, to provide an ecosystem focus on the marine resources of the Northwest Straits, to help mobilize science to focus on key priorities and to guide and provide resources to county marine resources advisory committees; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Straits Commission determined that county-based marine resources advisory committees provide an effective foundation of scientifically sound, locally supported marine conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council established the Marine Resources Advisory Committee by Ordinance 99-080 to further its efforts to protect the local marine environment and contribute to the protection of the marine environment of the Northwest Straits; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Resources Advisory Committee is a broadly representative body that includes individuals with relevant experience or scientific expertise and has made substantial progress in identifying and addressing local marine resource issues; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Resources Advisory Committee has effectively represented Snohomish County as a member of the Northwest Straits Commission, which is composed of five members appointed by the Washington State Governor, one tribal member appointed by the United States Secretary of the Interior, and one member from each of the seven participating counties, including Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan, Island, Jefferson, and Clallam; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 a nationally recognized independent panel of experts evaluated the performance of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative and concluded that it is a successful experiment in community-based marine conservation that should be reauthorized by Congress, funded at higher levels, and replicated in other regions of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 99-080 will be repealed on September 22, 2004 and the Council wishes to reauthorize and continue the Marine Resources Advisory Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:

Section 1. A new Chapter 2.800 is added to Snohomish County Code to read:

#### Chapter 2.800

#### MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sections:

- 2.800.010 Advisory committee established.
- 2.800.020 Purpose.
- 2.800.030 Duties and responsibilities.
- 2.800.040 Membership.
- 2.800.050 Terms.
- 2.800.060 Vacancies.

**2.800.010 Advisory committee established.** The Snohomish county marine resources advisory committee is hereby established as an advisory body to the county council and executive.

**2.800.020 Purpose.** The purpose of the marine resources advisory committee is to address local marine issues and recommend remedial actions to the council, executive and, where requested by the council or executive, to other local governmental entities and tribes, guided by sound science and the needs of the marine ecosystem.

**2.800.030 Duties and responsibilities.**

(1) The marine resources advisory committee shall serve in an advisory role to the county council and executive on one or more of the following matters, as requested:

- (a) Achieving a net gain in highly ecologically productive nearshore, inter-tidal and estuarine habitat within the county, as well as preventing significant loss of existing, high-value habitat;
- (b) Achieving a net reduction in the number of shellfish harvest areas within the county closed due to contamination;
- (c) Contributing to measurable increases in factors supporting bottom fish recovery (such as rockfish), including numbers of fish of broodstock size and age, average fish size, and abundance of prey species, as well as sufficient amounts and quality of protected habitat;
- (d) Contributing to increases in other key marine indicator species;
- (e) Identifying the local implications, needs and possible strategies associated with the recovery of Puget Sound salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act in concert with federal, state and local governmental entities and tribes;
- (f) Identifying and recommending local candidate sites for designation as marine protection areas (MPAs), consistent with a scientifically-based regional system of MPAs;
- (g) Building public awareness on such issues as the link between healthy marine habitat and healthy resources and how MPAs can play an important role in habitat and resource protection;
- (h) Working with the federal, state and local governmental entities and tribes to help map, assess, and protect nearshore habitat and prevent harm from upland and shoreline activities through local and state regulations and planning efforts;
- (i) Creating and maintaining a scientific database on marine resources, including a scientific baseline, common protocols, a unified geographic information system (GIS) and shared ecosystem assessments and research;
- (j) Providing assistance to federal, state and local governmental entities and tribes in assessing the status of marine resources and factors of their decline;
- (k) Identifying, prioritizing and recommending current and future remedial measures;
- (l) Working with local government leaders to implement local marine conservation and restoration initiatives; and
- (m) Coordinating with the Northwest Straits Commission on marine ecosystem objectives.

(2) The marine resources advisory committee shall report annually to the county council and executive on its activities and progress in achieving its goals.

**2.800.040 Membership.**

(1) Chapter 2.03 SCC shall govern membership on the marine resources advisory committee, provided that candidates for appointment may be recommended by the executive or individual councilmembers, subject to appointment by the county council. The marine resources advisory committee shall annually elect a chairperson by simple majority vote. The marine resources advisory committee shall establish bylaws and a regular meeting schedule. The county executive may provide staff support to the committee to the extent that the executive deems appropriate.

(2) The marine resources advisory committee shall be composed of no more than eleven members with balanced representation from individuals with relevant experience or scientific expertise representing:

- (a) local governments;
- (b) affected economic interests;
- (c) recreational, conservation or environmental interests; and
- (d) local tribal governments.

**2.800.050 Terms.** Members from even-numbered positions shall have an initial term of two years and terms of three years thereafter. All other positions shall have an initial term of three years and terms of three years thereafter. A member shall not serve more than three consecutive terms on the committee.

**2.800.060 Vacancies.** A vacancy occurring as a result of an expired term shall be filled as provided by Chapter 2.03 SCC. Vacancies occurring for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office shall be filled by appointment of the county council for the duration of the unexpired term of the office being filled.

Section 2. Transition. Notwithstanding the provisions of SCC 2.800.040 and 2.800.050, the initial members of the marine resources advisory committee established pursuant to chapter 2.800 SCC shall be those members of the marine resources advisory committee established pursuant to Amended Ordinance 99-080 who are serving on the date of enactment of this ordinance. The length of their initial terms as members of the marine resources advisory committee established pursuant to chapter 2.800 SCC shall be the same as the terms to which they were appointed under Amended Ordinance 99-080. Such initial members shall not serve more than three consecutive terms, including terms served as members of the marine resources advisory committee established pursuant to Amended Ordinance 99-080.

Section 3. Repealer. The marine resources advisory committee is not intended to be a permanent board or committee of the county. Therefore, Snohomish County Code Chapter 2.800, consisting of sections 2.800.010, 020, 030, 040, 050 and 060, enacted by Section 1 of this ordinance is repealed on the date five (5) years following enactment of this ordinance.

PASSED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of Sept., 2004.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Snohomish County, Washington

[Signature]  
Vice Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Asst. Clerk of the Council

- APPROVED
- VETOED
- EMERGENCY

DATE:

9/22/04  
[Signature]  
County Executive

ATTEST:

[Signature]

GARY WEIKEL  
Deputy Executive

Approved as to form only:

[Signature] 7/8/04  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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