



## Quiet Sound Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022

v.2/23/22 Final

### Action Items

Category	What	Who	By When
Budget	Add a vessel traffic analysis for a slowdown as a line item	QS Staff	April LC Mtg
Budget	Gather information on federal, state and tribal ESA grants	QS Staff and LC	End of Feb
Budget	Begin planning for state budget outreach by engaging with state agencies on timeline and non-state entities for coordinated outreach effort	QS Staff	Meet with PSP and WA Recreation and Conservation Office by end of Feb
Budget	Funding Strategy	QS Staff	April LC Mtg
Projects	Convene Vessels & Incentives Workgroup 1st	WG leads and QS staff	Plan now, meet early March
Workgroups	Invite to Vessels & Incentives Workgroup: ECHO, US Navy, Green Marine, NRDC	WG leads and QS staff	End of Feb
Workgroups	Invite Donna Spalding, CLIA	Mike Moore	
Workgroups	Finalize other WG members, send membership list to LC	WG leads and QS staff	End of Feb
Workgroups	Meeting schedule for WGs	WG leads and QS staff	End of Feb
LC	Finalize meeting dates for 2022	Angel	Done
Communications	Share the QS Press Release (request comms people)	QS Staff	Done

Acronyms: QS - Quiet Sound, WG - Work Group, LC - Leadership Committee

### Agenda

Contact Quiet Sound: Rachel Aronson, Program Director  
[rachel@maritimeblue.org](mailto:rachel@maritimeblue.org), 360-218-2307

# QUIET SOUND

## Land & water acknowledgment - Kate Snider

“As we begin, I would like us all to honor - that we are located on – and this work is all about – lands and waters inhabited and loved and cared for since time immemorial by the indigenous tribal communities that continue to love and care for these lands and waters and their sacred resident Orca whales, called – kah-wahd in the Makah language – and calk-call-a-heyth in the La-shoot-seed language. May we hold this awareness in all that we do.”

## Orca moment - Lynne Barre

- NOAA Fisheries ESA 5 year review  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/2021-southern-resident-killer-whales-orcinus-orca-5-year-review-summary-and>
- Species in the Spotlight Priority Action Plan 2021-2025  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/species-spotlight-priority-actions-2021-2025-southern-resident-killer-whale>

## Shared behaviors for Leadership Committee meetings - Kate Snider

- Please use inclusive language (no inside jokes) – lets arrive fresh and focused on the work at hand
- Please Arrive on time and review the agenda and materials in advance
- In the meeting, please minimize multitasking – stay present
- Make space for everyone to participate – listen well with an open mind
- Contribute – but prepare before you talk...be concise, stay on point
- And zoom behaviors!
  - Please mute when you are not talking.
  - Please use the “raise hand” function in zoom when you would like to talk
  - We will be using the zoom chat function throughout the meeting – feel free to type questions, comments, or suggestions in the chat
  - I recommend that you keep your zoom screen on “gallery view” and keep the chat window open and active as well.
- We will not be recording these meetings. Quiet Sound staff will be taking summary notes, which will be made available publicly.

## Introductions

- Kate Snider, Principal and Founder of Floyd|Snider environmental consulting firm - Kate has been involved in facilitating and helping to steward the development of Quiet Sound since the Planning Team began to meet in 2019. She will assist in facilitating the Quiet Sound Leadership Committee meetings for this first year that Quiet Sound is operational.
- Rachel Aronson, Quiet Sound Program Director, Washington Maritime Blue - Rachel joined the team August 2021 and brings a background in environmental mediation and facilitation
- Angel Menchaca, Operations Manager for Quiet Sound and Washington Maritime Blue - Angel will assist with the operations and administrative side of the Quiet Sound work

Contact Quiet Sound: Rachel Aronson, Program Director  
[rachel@maritimeblue.org](mailto:rachel@maritimeblue.org), 360-218-2307

# QUIET SOUND

- Caitlin O'Morchoe, Graduate Fellow, Washington Maritime Blue - Caitlin will support the Quiet Sound work
- Joshua Berger, President/CEO of Washington Maritime Blue - Joshua participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and will continue to bring his knowledge and connections in the maritime innovation field to chair the Innovation & Vessel Quieting Work Group
- Lynne Barre, Branch Chief, Protected Resources Division, NOAA Fisheries - Lynne coordinates the Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery effort in the Puget Sound. She participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and will co-chair the Monitoring Whales & Vessel Noise Work Group and the Evaluation & Adaptive Management Work Group
- Grace Ferrara, Natural Resource Management Specialist, NOAA Fisheries - Grace works on Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, primarily regarding vessel impacts, and will attend Leadership Committee meetings in place of Lynne March-May
- Todd Hass, Special Assistant to the Director, Puget Sound Partnership - Todd works on projects related to Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery and was lead for the Vessel Working Group in Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force. Todd participated in the initial planning process of Quiet Sound and will co-chair the Monitoring Whales & Vessel Noise Work Group and the Evaluation & Adaptive Management Work Group
- Kevin Bartoy, Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Program Manager, WA State Ferries - Kevin was involved with Governor Inslee's Orca Task Force, participated in the initial planning process of Quiet Sound and will chair the Whale Notification System to Vessels Work Group
- Kathleen Hurley, Sr. Environmental Program Manager, Port of Seattle - The Port of Seattle participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound
- Mike Moore, Vice President at Pacific Merchant Shipping Association - Mike participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and will co-chair the Vessel Operations & Incentives Work Group. Mike serves as a connection to the vessel operators that will be invited to participate in Quiet Sound
- Patrick Gallagher, Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound - Patrick will co-chair the Vessel Operations & Incentives Work Group.
- John Veentjer, Past Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and current Chair of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee - John participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and is Patrick's alternate in attending Leadership Committee meetings
- Laird Hail, Director of Puget Sound Traffic Services, US Coast Guard - Laird participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and will continue to maintain an advisory role prioritizing vessel safety on the water in relation to Quiet Sound
- Randy Lumper, Puget Sound Policy Analyst for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - Randy represents the 20 treaty tribes participating in NWIFC
- Cecilia Gobin, Conservation Policy Analyst for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - Cecilia is Randy's alternate in attending Leadership Committee meetings

# QUIET SOUND

- Regan Nelson, Senior Advocate, Oceans Program, Marine Mammal Protection Project at the Natural Resources Defense Council - Regan leads NRDC's federal and international policy work on vessel noise reduction
- Nora Nickum, Ocean Policy Manager at Seattle Aquarium - Orca recovery is a top priority at Seattle Aquarium. Nora helped lead the consultant group that facilitated the Gov's Orca Task Force and she will help lead the Monitoring Whales & Vessel Noise work group during the first quarter of this year
- Haley Kennard, Natural Resource Policy Analyst for the Makah Tribe - Haley participated in the initial planning process for Quiet Sound and will continue to represent the Makah Tribe on the Leadership Committee
- Not in attendance today - Carol Reamer and Councilman Chad Bowechop from the Makah Tribe, and Jason Jordan from the Port of Tacoma

## Operating Procedures key reminders

- Please review the Quiet Sound Operating Procedures provided in your meeting materials

## Proposed 2022 projects - Rachel Aronson

- Project 1: Improve and support the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS)
  - Connect WRAS to WA-based whale sightings networks to increase the amount of real-time, location-specific Southern Resident Killer Whale observations available to vessel operators south of the San Juan Islands
  - This project will focus on visual sightings. Other types of sightings (acoustic and infrared) may be included in the future
- Project 2: Trial slowdown area or other vessel operations recommendations
  - Designate a specific area in Washington waters to trial a slowdown area and ask vessel operators to participate during the fall/winter months. Monitor by measuring vessel speed and noise before, during and after.
  - ECHO has found success with a reduction in noise in their slowdown areas
  - Special care will need to be taken to ensure the decisions regarding this project are informed by science and the constraints of vessel operators
  - The LC offered feedback that this project should include AIS data analysis, and that there are a lot of questions to work out in the Vessel Operations and Incentives Workgroup before moving ahead
- Project 3: Hydrophone gap analysis
  - The Port of Seattle is conducting a study of underwater noise sensing capacities in WA waters to identify any improvements needed to the existing hydrophone network
  - Quiet Sound will provide input on how this study can be useful for our goals
- Project 4: Support Oceans Initiative hydrophone study
  - Quiet Sound will provide funds to the research organization, Oceans Initiative, to expand their hydrophone deployment and analysis

# QUIET SOUND

- We were able to pursue this opportunity because of funding via the Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Project 5: Support new technologies
  - Quiet Sound will support a tech challenge run by the Navy's Northwest Tech Bridge for a whale sensing system for underway vessels
- The Quiet Sound Leadership Committee and staff should consider how we make this work visible and invite the public to participate when appropriate

## Budget overview and funding needs - Rachel Aronson

- Quiet Sound is halfway through our current fiscal year (June '21 - June '22) and we are on budget
- For next fiscal year (June '22 - June '23) we have some committed dollars but will need more resources. We are ready to apply for grants and foundation funding, and will need assistance from the Leadership Committee to fill out the funding - if you have any ideas/spare billionaires in your pocket let us know!
- Quiet Sound will need an additional staff member, a full time Quiet Sound Project Manager, to handle the proposed projects
- The Leadership Committee discussed the following relating to the budget:
  - What is our funding strategy?
    - We seek a balance of local, state, federal, and philanthropy dollars so that we're not too reliant on any one source
    - In the short-term (next 6 mo.), we'd like to add philanthropy dollars
    - In the long-term, we'd like to explore the possibility of federal funding that could support operations as well as projects
  - There are NOAA and state ESA grant programs that could be a good fit for Quiet Sound, both for specific projects and operational funding
  - We will need to start thinking about the next biennial state legislature cycle
  - Quiet Sound could consider avenues for individual donations
  - Tribes have a charitable donations fund, which is usually a grant process, that could provide projects-based funding for Quiet Sound
  - When considering how your organization can support Quiet Sound in pursuing federal dollars, remember that support and education are different than lobbying
  - The group discussed working towards a WA state legislature ask for the next biennium

## Work Group convening and early goals

- Quiet Sound staff will resend the spreadsheet showing the Work Group membership after more participants are confirmed around beginning of March
- The Vessel Operations & Incentives Work Group will use maritime expertise to propose voluntary measures for large commercial vessels to reduce acoustic and physical threats to SRKWs.
  - This group will be very active regarding the proposed 2022 projects
  - Organizations to be added to this group: ECHO, US Navy, Green Marine, NRDC

# QUIET SOUND

- The Evaluation & Adaptive Management Work Group will use the best available science to evaluate program effectiveness and provide recommendations for operational improvements for SRKW objectives and consistency with tribal treaty rights.
  - This group will not convene immediately
- The Monitoring Whales & Vessel Noise Work Group will advise on Quiet Sound initiatives that need expertise in underwater acoustics, whale tracking, and whale and vessel noise.
  - Nora will be temporary co-chair with Todd while Lynne is out
  - Potential future sub-group could focus on sightings and WRAS to involve the sightings networks, there is also a work group operating with OCNMS with all the same players
- The Innovation & Vessel Quieting Work Group will engage in research, development, and implementation/commercialization of technologies to address vessel quieting and whale sensing.
  - Possibly add the Coast Guard Inspections team to this Work Group
  - This work group is concerned with vessel quieting technologies as well as innovation that relates to whale sensing, etc.
- The Whale Notification System to Vessels Work Group will promote the distribution of real-time sightings of Southern Resident Killer Whales to commercial mariners.

## General Business:

- Not all Leadership Committee members can access the same online option for file sharing. Quiet Sound staff will continue to send documents with both a Google Drive link and a PDF attached to an email and we will look into a SharePoint option
- Leadership Committee members should coordinate with Rachel and Angel if their organization would like to promote Quiet Sound

## Future meeting dates

- Tuesday, April 19th, 9am-12pm
- Tuesday, July 19th, 9am-12pm
- Tuesday, October 18, 9am-12pm