

Andrew Shelton

MRC Applicant

**- Bachelor of Arts, History Minor,
Colorado State University**

**- Associate Member, Whatcom
Working Waterfront Coalition**

2019 to present

**- Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fisher,
2006-2016**

**- Board Member, Kulshan Carbon
Trust**

3 March 2024

Marine Resource Committee
Municipality of Whatcom County
311 Grand Ave
Bellingham WA 98225



Executive Satpal & MRC Leadership,

Thank you for considering my application to join the MRC in the Economic At-Large position. My interest in the committee stems from a deep and abiding love for the ocean which began during my childhood swimming, capsizing sailboats and chasing crabs on the tide flats on Bainbridge Island. It turned into a 10 year career commercial fishing in various fisheries in Alaska including 10 years in Bristol Bay harvesting salmon and one unfortunate season in the Bering Sea crabbing. I have since retired from the industry but chose to settle in Bellingham to pursue the recreational opportunities here as well as stay connected with the maritime community.

When people ask me what my favorite part of the fishing was, my answer was always the same: the people. I have never met a group of kinder, smarter, independent and more hardworking folks in my life. Seeing those people's livelihoods and the maritime way of life threatened by climate change, pollution and overfishing is deeply saddening but I am not one to sit on the sidelines. To that end I joined the Working Waterfront Coalition in 2019 as an associate member and now serve on their Government Relations team.

My time with the WWC has been wonderful but I know full well that we need to balance the commercial and conservation sides of the equation if the next generations are to enjoy the Salish Sea to the same degree that we do now. We held the Fish and Wildlife Biologists who regulated the fisheries in Alaska in high regard because they balanced the near-term economic interests with the long-term health of the fisheries. The MRC's approach of blending science, boots-on-the-ground projects and education is appealing to me as it allows our electeds to strive for the same balance.

Thank you for your consideration and please reach out with any other questions

Andrew Shelton

