

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Jon Hutchings
Director



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TO: The Honorable Jack Louws, County Executive
THROUGH: Jon Hutchings, Director *Handwritten initials*
FROM: Gary S. Stoyka, Natural Resources Manager *Handwritten initials*
Austin Rose, Planner I
RE: Marine Resources Committee appointment recommendations
DATE: February 11, 2019

RECEIVED
FEB 13 2019
JACK LOUWS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

There are currently two vacancies on the Marine Resources Committee (MRC). Applicant positions include: a Conservation/Environmental interest, and an Economic interest. The Executive's Office forwarded three applications for the MRC to review which included: one application from Ms. Rachel Arnold to fulfill a Conservation-Environmental interest position, one from Ms. Natalie Coleman to fulfill a Scientific interest position, and one from Mr. Colin Wahl to fulfill a Conservation-Environmental interest position. A recommendation was requested from the Executive's Office for the most appropriate applicants on file for the open positions.

The MRC recommends the appointment of Ms. Rachel Arnold to represent a Conservation-Environmental interest to the MRC. Ms. Arnold has experience with researching the population dynamics of forage fishes of the Salish Sea and outreach activities with the local community related to marine conservation. The MRC is currently conducting forage fish spawning surveys within Whatcom County and hoping to expand that project as more knowledge and volunteer capacity is available to the MRC. Ms. Arnold's commitment to conservation of the marine environment, education and outreach, and monitoring projects are important assets to the committee. *ok. 41*

Mr. Wahl and Ms. Coleman are not recommended to join the committee at this time due to lack of experience that would be complementary to MRC work. Those applicants will be contacted to discuss their interest in the MRC, and it is hoped they will consider serving on a subcommittee to gain experience with projects the MRC pursues.

The MRC does not have a recommendation for a candidate to fill the open Economic interest position at this time. The position will continue to be advertised on the MRC website and it is hoped that a suitable candidate will be identified as more applications are submitted and reviewed.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact Austin Rose at extension 6286