

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for June 6, 2017 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington): Lois and Ruth participated in a forage fish all-MRC phone call initiated by Lucas Hart, NWSC, and including Phill Dionne and staff from WDFW. Questions about survey purpose and duration, how to improve communication between WDFW and MRCs, how our data contributes to spawning beach protection, and how surveys help us better understand restoration effectiveness and no-net-loss were fielded. This call format will be continued, probably quarterly, for all forage fish survey leads. We believe it improves data quality among the seven MRCs, and improves communication with WDFW.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): We recently hired Govinda Rosling as the Island/Clallam Counties guillemot survey coordinator. She has been working with the Clallam County survey coordinators as well as researching guillemot survey potential on Camano Island. On May 24 she, assisted by Ann Casey, conducted an informational meeting on Camino Island and presented the guillemot survey to about 25 people. For our Whidbey Island survey, we recently hired an intern to continue in-depth research here. Caitlyn Connolly, a former Oak Harbor high school graduate who has just finished her junior year in college, will join us in that capacity. On May 24 we held our volunteer training session here on Whidbey. We are now conducting on-beach training for new volunteers and assigning volunteers to colonies. The guillemot survey begins the week of June 12 and will continue 10 to 12 weeks or until the birds depart their breeding colonies.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission / Foundation:

Commission (Adams): No update.

Foundation (Corin): No update.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): No update

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Richards):

Cornet Bay: We had a small, but efficient weeding session at the Phase 2 area on May 17th. One new volunteer from the Skagit Salish Sea Stewards class along with a grad student from UW assisted. The grad student will be helping with the vegetation monitoring this summer, including writing the report. Dates for weeding are attached; additional annual monitoring dates will be announced soon.

Vegetation Monitoring Workshop will be held on June 3rd at Bowman Bay. Those interested in assisting with weeding, watering, and monitoring at Cornet Bay should consider attending. This workshop will provide an introduction to identifying the native versus invasive plants, assessing plant health, and estimating coverage in riparian plantings so we can measure the survival rates. Those interested in attending should contact Lisa Kaufman at NWSF or call Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group at 360-336-0172.

Tom Slocum from the Conservation District will complete the final elevation surveys required by the Department of Ecology for the Phase One area this summer.

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Seahorse Siesta Barge and Bulkhead Removal: NWSF received word from US Fish & Wildlife Service that we will be awarded \$50,000 from the Puget Sound Coastal Program to assist with the removal of the barge and bulkhead. This, in addition to the pending SRFB funding gets us closer to full funding (a bit more is still needed).

Sunlight Shores Bulkhead Removal: Presented the project to SRFB citizens' committee and technical advisory committee. The project seemed to be well received. We are hoping to add this site for possible beach seining. More details to come.

Maylor Point Armor Removal: Still waiting on permits to be finalized. Funding is in place, but construction will be planned for summer 2018.

Shoreline Armor Reduction Program: NWSF is looking for a couple MRC members to assist with the next phase of the program. We will be working on direct communication with landowners identified in the last phase as having higher levels of feasibility for armor removal. Funds are also available for more site visits and a workshop or targeted meetings for key communities. New outreach materials are being developed.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee (Thomson): No updates.