

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Project Updates for August 1, 2017 Meeting

Eelgrass Monitoring: Eelgrass beds are being monitored, but with some delays because of equipment malfunction (mainly boat motors). Ken has been able to complete repairs. A conference call to discuss multi-beam sonar surveys in Island, Clallam, and Jefferson MRCs will be held July 27th.

Seining: A draft report has been developed analyzing the eight years of pre and post restoration data at Cornet Bay. Dawn Pucci is reviewing and finalizing the draft.

Kelp Monitoring: Kelp survey season is in full swing this summer, with our faithful volunteers working at all previously surveyed sites: Ben Ure Island (Cornet Bay), Hoypus Point, Polnell Point (Crescent Harbor), Lowell Point (Camano Island State Park), & Ebey's Landing. An on-line effort to capture casual sightings of kelp beds throughout the county was advertised in the June Sound Water Stewards newsletter & the Summer Shore Stewards newsletter. Gregg Ridder has kindly offered to fly & photograph the county's shorelines in late summer for kelp beds.

Smith & Minor Island Aquatic Reserve: Due to the persistent appearance of kelp & seaweed harvesters on SMIAR beaches, the harvest study & the intertidal study will be extended into the low tides of July. The welcome signs by WA Department of Natural Resources are nearly finished, & will be installed at beach accesses, hopefully before summer is over. Content on the information kiosk at Libbey Beach (Island County MRC co-sponsored the kiosk) will be rotated as the seasons turn. For example, the enlarged bi-lingual sustainable harvest brochure will be posted only during harvest season.

Island Local Integrating Organization: No updates.

WSU Extension: No updates.