

Project Updates for March 6, 2018 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Eelgrass Monitoring: Underwater video data and Albert foster's sonar data from 2017 are being analyzed by team members and should be completed sometime in April. Gregg R. won't be around to give a report to MRC in April, but will be able to do so in June. As usual, the final report will be available by Sept. 2018.

The eelgrass team met on March 1. For 2018, Gregg will continue to conduct aerial photography. Albert and other volunteers will conduct sonar at 4 sites: Cornet Bay, Monroe Landing, Holmes Harbor, and Seahorse Siesta. The sonar survey will include an underwater camera to verify eelgrass presence. The eelgrass team would like feedback from the MRC on the usefulness of their data to assist with future project planning.

Kelp Monitoring: This time of year is dominated by presentations about the project & its results. One presentation was given at the Sound Water Stewards' monthly meeting (Jan. 22), & there was a bull kelp session at Sound Waters University attended by 32 people (Feb. 3). An abstract for an oral presentation at WA Dept. of Natural Resource's kelp session at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in April has been accepted. The project's page on the MRC website has been updated to include results from 2017 (including more underwater videos!). And, naturally, recruitment & planning for training for the 2018 season is underway.

Other Reports

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve: State funding for the Aquatic Reserves is under review, & there is currently no support for the SMIAR citizen stewardship committee, so meetings have been suspended. However, the official welcome signs designed & produced by WA Dept. of Natural Resources have been installed or ready to be installed at the access points along the west side of Whidbey Island.

Sound Water Stewards:

- MRC Projects needing volunteers will be invited to the SWS Volunteer Opportunities Fair.
When: April 23rd, 2018 10:00am -12:00pm Where: Coupeville Recreation Hall
- Camano SWS will start a regular beach clean-up at Iverson Spit in April. Whidbey will focus on recruiting volunteers to help Stinger Anderson with WSU's clean-up efforts.
- We are currently in conversation with multiple groups that are using the Beach Watcher/SWS Intertidal Bio-Monitoring Protocol to combine our data sets, share resources, and work to get our data available online.

WSU Extension: No updates.