

Project Updates for May 1, 2018 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): No updates.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): Talking about bull kelp is done! The latest presentations were at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (April 4) & at the Board of Island Commissioners' work session (April 18). Planning for the 2018 season is in full swing, with 2 beds near Camano & 5 beds near Whidbey considered for monitoring. Protocol training & equipment transfer for the Camano crews is provisionally set for this weekend (April 28 or 29). Training for Whidbey volunteers still to be established.

Other Reports

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): The kiosk at Libbey Beach Park that the MRC funded is now populated with information, including enlarged versions of WA DNR's bilingual (English & Korean) guidance for sustainable kelp and seaweed harvest & information about bull kelp as habitat. The kiosk also has a partner sign by DNR about the Aquatic Reserve & bull kelp beds (see photo below). Both signs give visitors good detailed information about this special offshore area of Island County.



Sound Water Stewards (Zupich):

- Sound Water Stewards has starting planning a 6-8 week Lyceum Series on South Whidbey for the Spring of 2019 in partnership with Goosefoot and Whidbey Watershed Stewards. The topics will feature the Salish Sea Ecosystem.
- SWS has sent out a survey to partner groups. This survey will help guide our strategic planning process. If anyone on the MRC that works with SWS volunteers and would like to take the survey let Kelly Zupich know.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No updates.