

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for January 3, 2017 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington): Below are recent results from forage fish sampling this fall. September seems to have been a relatively good month for Surf Smelt at our locations.

Restoration Sites:

- Ala Spit: Surf smelt at all three sites on 9/15 (that's a first for us)
- Camano Island State Park: Surf smelt at all three sites on 9/27 and again on 10/28 (also a first for us)
- Cornet Bay: In addition to the 9/15 surf smelt find at site #1, a few smelt eggs were found at site #1 on 9/30

Index Sites:

- Long Point: Smelt on 9/15, 10/26, 11/25; Sand lance on 11/25
- Maple Grove: Smelt on 9/27, 10/28, 11/23
- Windjammer: There was one surf smelt egg found at Windjammer on 11/11, but since it was just one it doesn't get counted as presence

We are dropping Sandy Point as an index site due to access issues, and are beginning the process of adding Glendale.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): No update.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): We are awaiting word on funding for a coordinator through the MRC Opportunity fund. With funding for our MRC and some additional funds for the Clallam County MRC plus funds from Whidbey Audubon we plan to create a position to help coordinate guillemot survey activities in both counties and to expand to Camano Island.

We are also waiting to hear if our poster abstract was accepted for the International Seabird Conference in February in Tacoma.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission / Foundation:

Commission (Adams): See attached meeting highlights from 12/9/16 NWSC meeting.

Foundation (Lenny Corin): The Foundation Board met on December 15th, in Port Townsend. On the agenda were the MRC applications for funding under the newly created MRC Opportunity Fund. Six of the MRC's applied for funding. There was \$53,500 available for projects. Several proposals were approved for funding, but several others raised questions. Caroline is following up with MRC staff and will report back to the Board. I expect that several additional proposals will receive funding approval at the February Board meeting.

We reviewed the latest budget information and it was good to see that the Foundation is healthy. Caroline has focused on raising funds for the Foundation's work, particularly those efforts in support of the MRC's. Our hope is that staff will have sufficient funding that is not tied to specific projects so that they can assist MRC's in their efforts to pursue projects.

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The Board is adding one new member, Simon Geerlofs. Simon has been associated with the Initiative for many years. He was previously a member of the Snohomish MRC. He just moved to Port Townsend from Seattle. We are looking forward to Simon's involvement on the Board in the future.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): No update.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction (Toledo): Lisa Kaufman and Toledo will be going on site visits with Kevin Aiken and Rich Carlson from US Fish & Wildlife Service's Puget Sound Coastal Program to Oak Harbor Marina and two community armor removal sites identified through the SHARP and Shore Friendly programs on January 4 to determine if the projects would be a good fit for an application through their grant program.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No update.