

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for September 5, 2017 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington):

June-July results:

- Cornet Bay: One dead smelt egg was found at Station 4 at Cornet Bay on 6/9, which is the first instance of an egg found at this site. However, for findings to be counted as presence, at least 2 eggs must be found during the sampling.
- Ala Spit: 9 smelt eggs found on 7/21
- Camano Island State Park: 4 smelt eggs found on 7/28
- Maple Grove: 249 smelt eggs found on 6/26, 210 smelt eggs found on 7/28

We are adjusting the forage fish survey effort to make it more sustainable. Until we find a person on Camano who can conduct surveys there, sampling at Maple Grove and Camano Island State Park sites will be suspended, starting in October. On Whidbey, we will move to monthly sampling year-round at restoration sites Cornet Bay (3 beach stations) and Ala Spit (1 station). We will also sample monthly at index sites Glendale, Freeland Park, Long Point and Windjammer Park.

Many thanks to Dan Matlock for continuing to do south-end sampling, and to the volunteers who have given us help over the past two years.

Lucas Hart is coordinating a second conference call on Aug 29, 1:00, for WDFW and all MRCs with forage fish projects. The purpose is to provide a platform for MRC volunteers and others to ask questions and provide relevant insights.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): The breeding season is winding down and most of the birds have completed their breeding activity. Early summary reports indicate an average year for guillemot numbers and breeding activity, however not all data have been entered.

Over 70 volunteers participated this year along with our summer intern, Caitlyn Connolly. Caitlyn completed her survey work and has returned to Maine for her senior year of college. She will participate via Web Ex at the October MRC meeting.

We will present survey results to the MRC on October 3rd and hold our end-of-year potluck with volunteers on October 4th.

Outreach (Bennett): Proposals for in-field identification of IC MRC volunteers and public information on-site while IC MRC work is being done were both presented at the July meeting. Following MRC decisions, 3 sandwich boards have been purchased, and Beau Gaughran is coordinating drafts for content to be posted on the boards with Barbara and Anna.

Following up on a question about uses of citizen science data in peer reviewed journal publications, Bennett contacted COASST which is a strong model of best practices in citizen science. COASST reports that 7 peer reviewed journal articles have relied on COASST data. The entire list of documents using COASST data is on their website: <https://depts.washington.edu/coasst/news/news.html>

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In addition, the following articles address this question:

- The science of citizen science: Exploring barriers to use as a primary tool:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320716301951>
- The Invisible Prevalence of Citizen Science in Global Research: Migratory Birds and Climate Change:
<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0106508>
- Global change and local solutions: Tapping the unrealized potential of citizen science for biodiversity research: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320714004029>

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission / Foundation:

The Commission met on August 25 in Coupeville. Barbara Bennett presented on our education and outreach efforts. The meeting highlights will be distributed when available.

Creosote Removal (Turpin): No update

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