

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Project Updates for October 3, 2017 Meeting

Eelgrass Monitoring: Gregg Ridder is writing the report on the 2016 data and the 2017 data are being analyzed.

Seining: The final report of the 8 years of seining at Cornet Bay has been completed and is available.

Kelp Monitoring: The bull kelp survey season wrapped up in mid-September, with the last daytime zero-foot tide on September 18th. We collected > 5,000 aerial images of Island County shoreline (visible light plus near infra-red), & conducted boat-based surveys of six beds across the county this year. We are madly working on the MRC report, which is due the end of September.

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve: WA Dept. of Natural Resources has completed the welcome sign for Libbey Beach, which should be installed this fall. Reports on the macroalgae utilization/harvest study & the intertidal macroalgae assessment are being written. Instead of exploring research ideas, the future focus will be on outreach & education. A publication modeled after *The Methow Naturalist* is suggested, & Steve Ellis is helping to lead that effort.

WSU Extension: No updates.