

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG



Minutes

Prepared by Anna Toledo

October 3, 2017

COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM B-102, COUNTY ANNEX, COUPEVILLE

PRESENT: Elsa Schwartz, Chair, presiding, Ed Adams, Barbara Bennett, Lois Farrington, Ed Halloran, Linda Rhodes, Ruth Richards, Kestutis Tautvydas, Dave Thompson (WebEx), Frances Wood, Lori Clark (WebEx) Island County DNR (non-voting), Tim Lawrence WSU Extension Island County (non-voting), Anna Toledo MRC Coordinator (staff)

ABSENT: Jill Johnson

VISITORS: Rich Childers (NWSC), Govinda Rosling (Guillemot Research Group), Dawn Spilsbury Pucci (Island County Lead Entity Salmon Recovery), Janet St. Clair (SWS), Sasha Horst (NWSC, on Webex), Emily Terao, Lynn Murphy, William Bell (Port of Coupeville), Caitlyn Connolly (Pigeon Guillemot Summer Intern, on WebEx)

CALL TO ORDER: Schwartz called the meeting to order at 3:33pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were done. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Wood moved to approve the agenda. Tautvydas seconded. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** Tautvydas moved to approve the September 5, 2017 minutes. Bennett seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter from the MRC was drafted thanking Dan Penttila for his assistance with the forage fish project. **ACTION: Richards moved to have the MRC send the thank-you letter to Dan Penttila. Wood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Recreational shellfish harvest has been closed on the west side of Whidbey, Penn Cove, and through much of the Saratoga Passage due to marine biotoxin. People are encouraged to check the WA Department of Health shellfish map for the most up-to-date information:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/maps/biotoxin/biotoxin.html>

Salmon Recovery Technical and Citizen Committee (SRTCC) Plan Update and Feedback: Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, Island County Lead Entity Coordinator for Salmon Recovery, presented on the Island County Salmon Recovery Plan Update.

Spilsbury Pucci reviewed the vision and goals of the plan update. A literature search was conducted to identify gaps and updated priorities. The draft goals and targets have been shared with the Board of Island County Commissioners, who have expressed support for the direction, and encouraged other citizen groups to provide feedback.

Spilsbury Pucci invited the MRC's feedback on the goals and targets presented, and any gaps identified. Discussion included:

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

- How do these priorities fit with the Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Program updates? During the last update, the restoration component was driven by the salmon recovery plan and project list, so Spilsbury Pucci anticipates being heavily involved in the process.
- Is there concern over dilution of genetic stock of wild salmon? Not much literature at this point to indicate Atlantic salmon can spawn successfully in our streams. Regulations are under realm of SMP. SRTCC projects are only conducted where there is landowner willingness.
- Ocean acidification will be mentioned in the narrative of the report, but it doesn't have a specific target.
- Ocean acidification could be categorized under storm water as in this region OA is more likely to be caused from nutrients in the water.
- Will boating be included as an impact or pressure? It didn't come up as an impact through the literature synthesis. Marinas are covered under overwater structures.
- Are we doing the right things to get to recovery? Hard to know for sure because of confounding factors.

2017 Pigeon Guillemot Report: Frances Wood, MRC Pigeon Guillemot Project Lead; Govinda Rosling, Pigeon Guillemot Regional Coordinator; and Caitlyn Connolly, 2017 Pigeon Guillemot Research Intern presented on the results from the 2017 pigeon guillemot survey. Presentation available online: <http://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/17800/2017-1003-2017-pigeon-guillemot-summary.pdf>

The pigeon guillemot survey is in its 13th year on Whidbey Island, and in recent years has expanded to Clallam County as well as South Sound. The Puget Sound Partnership is encouraging projects expansion to San Juan County and Jefferson County.

Govinda has been working with Island County and Clallam County surveys, with support from the MRC Opportunity Fund. The prey consumption from the 2017 surveys showed 65% gunnels in Sequim and 22% gunnels on Whidbey. Govinda has been visiting potential sites on Camano to expand the survey project.

Connolly monitored the burrows at Rolling Hills (Penn Cove) and Cliffside (West Whidbey) on alternating days from June-August.

The peak of prey deliveries at Rolling Hills occurred around mid-June. Prey consisted of 45% gunnel/prickleback, 10% sculpin, and 45% other, including perch and cod. The peak of prey deliveries at Cliffside occurred towards the end of the season, in early August. Prey consisted of 67% gunnel/prickleback and 33% other, including flatfish, sand lance, and perch. No deliveries of sculpin were recorded.

Cliffside had 6 active burrows, with 5 successful fledging events. Rolling Hills had 11 active burrows with 9 successful fledging events.

Discussion included:

- Nest location preference is varied. Some are located in derelict structures with lots of surrounding activity. Others are in calmer areas.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

- The survey does not track what adults feed on, as they typically feed in the water. It is assumed they have a similar diet to what they feed their young.
- May not be most effective indicator species. They are feeding far down on the food chain, so it may take a while for changes in the environment to exhibit in feeding changes.
- An indicator species should be well-monitored, and for pigeon guillemots, there are a lot of data, and a monitoring program is already established. Other indicator seabird species include: scoters, marbled murrelet, and rhinoceros auklet
- It is unknown where the birds go during the non-breeding season.

Island Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) Update (Clark): The ILIO will be soliciting Near Term Actions (NTAs) to include in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda. The submittal process has been streamlined this year. Clark is available to help the MRC develop an NTA if they have a project idea. It is important to get priority projects into the Action Agenda.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **Toledo** will distribute the deadlines and guidelines for NTA submittal.

BUSINESS ITEMS

MRC Retreat (Schwartz): The retreat date has been updated to Friday, November 17th. It will be held on Camano. Exact time and location to be determined soon.

ACTIONS/DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP

- **ACTION: Tautvydas moved to change the November meeting date to Friday, November 17. Adams seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Conference: Rich Childers shared that there will be a room setup during the conference to brainstorm and exchange ideas with others MRCs. The NWS decided rather than having a session on net pens at the conference, they will be organizing a 1-2 day forum to dedicate more time to the topic. More details to come.

Coordinator's Update (Toledo)

- MRC Conference: Toledo reminded members to register. The MRC is invited to conduct an Ignite presentation and have a conference display. If anybody is interested in giving the presentation or has ideas for the display, speak with Toledo.
- Membership:
 - There are currently three vacancies, which will remain open until filled. The application is available on the website: <http://www.islandcountymrc.org/media/1812/mrc-applicant-questionnaire-20151026.pdf>. The Board of County Commissioners is interested in including economic interest on the MRC. William Bell, Port of Coupeville Commissioner, has expressed interest in serving as a liaison between the Port and the MRC, but does not wish to seek for appointment at this time.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

- Terms ending in December 2017 include: Ed Adams, Ed Halloran, Ruth Richards, and Elsa Schwartz. Members should advise Toledo if they wish to seek reappointment.
- Farrington announced she is moving to Santa Fe at the end of the month, and is stepping off the MRC. She has enjoyed her time and will miss the people and work of the MRC and NWS. Schwartz thanked Farrington for all her work on the MRC.
- **SHARP workshop:** The NWSF in coordination with Snohomish and Island County MRCs is holding a free workshop for shoreline landowners on: Saturday, October 14, 2017: 9:30am-12:30pm. Lake Goodwin Community Club, Stanwood. Camano Island residents and other Island County residents are encouraged to attend.

NWSC GRANT REPORTS:

NWSC Grant Reports and Other Reports include information shared from written project updates submitted by project leads as well as any additional information shared during the meeting.

Elgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): Gregg Ridder is writing the report on the 2016 data and the 2017 data are being analyzed.

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

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): 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.

OTHER REPORTS:

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): 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 (Lawrence): Holding opening of higher educational center on October 9th. Students can now take courses from the Everett campus and attend classes at the Coupeville facility.

Additional updates:

European green crab: Tautvydas reported that one European green crab was picked up at Lagoon Point South last month. They have set 30 traps in the Lagoon Point marina and two lakes that are nearby.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Atlantic salmon: Adams reported that WDFW gave an update at the NWSC meeting. There were 305,000 adult fish close to harvest in the pen. Cooke Aquaculture managed to harvest 160,000. Tribes harvested about 50,000. Recreational fishers caught 2,000, which leaves about 93,000 fish unaccounted for. The failed pens have been taken apart. WDFW has issued health permits to allow Cooke Aquaculture to move juvenile salmon to an existing net pen off Bainbridge Island.

WDFW has a map on its website of where the salmon have been reported:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic_catch_map.php. Only one fish has been found with contents in its stomach.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Chair: No report

County Lead: No report.

County Commissioners: No report.

COMMUNITY COMMENT FORUM AND Q&A FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.