

## Project Updates for June 5, 2018 Meeting

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### **NWSC Grant Reports**

**Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards):** Dean Nelson is training to come on board as Camano's forage fish surveyor at our two sites there - Maple Grove, an index site, and Camano Island SP, a potential restoration site. He'll attend a WDFW training next week, along with Idonna Nelson and Mark Stamey. It'll be a big asset to have these three sharp minds furthering the MRC's forage fish survey goals.

Dean and Ruth were sampling at Maple Grove on Camano on May 24 and, for the first time in the 2+ years of the MRC's most recent surveying efforts, we were able to see a large number of smelt eggs in our sample with un-aided eyes. Maple Grove is our most productive site, by far, despite the bulkhead and 100% impacted uplands. Our samples are going to WDFW for microscopy now, so we won't know an exact count for some time, but we'll keep you posted.

From the south end, Dan Matlock reports the presence of surf smelt eggs at Freeland Park in the January sample from above the saltmarsh outfall pipe - a first for this location in this current round of MRC surveying. He notes that this beach station is in an area where the uplands are 100% impacted and 100% exposed to the sun. Dan Penttila had noted the year-round occurrence of smelt eggs at his sampling areas farthest south on Whidbey, so it's interesting that we are now finding them in winter both here and at Long Point.

**Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood):** Nearly 50 people attended the guillemot survey volunteer training on May 8th. We presented the new field card and changes to the protocol for 2018. These changes are a result of our new partnership with Dr. Sarah Converse of the USGS Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

The summer survey will begin on June 11th. We will be monitoring 28 colonies on Whidbey Island. Guillemot Appreciation Days will be held on June 22 and 23rd.

**Outreach (Bennett):** 2 Forums on Privately Owned Aging Shoring Structures were held 4/21 and 4/28 with a total attendance of 79. Evaluations from participants and from presenters (State and County) were positive. Both the presentations and the open time for discussions were reported to be valuable. It will be interesting to see if attendance at shoreline workshops and inquiries for permits reflect follow up by those who attended, though no system is in place to formally track those indicators.

Florian has released for MRC review, his educational video about sense of place in the Salish Sea tailored for school use.

Florian has also assembled all interview footage for the informational video for County use and will complete the video as his busy summer schedule allows.

A summary white paper of the status of the net pen issue in relation to Island County remains on the current work plan. While the recent State-wide ban of net pen farming of Atlantic Salmon resolves immediate issues, it leaves some questions for the coming update of the Shoreline Management Program. A draft of this paper will be prepared by Barbara in consultation with Tom Leschine.

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## **Other Reports**

**NW Straits Commission / Foundation (Schwartz):** The June NWSC meeting will be held on June 29, 10am-3pm in Island County (location TBA). Each MRC will present on a proposed project in the 2018-2019 grant year.

**Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):** Toledo will be coordinating the development of a video showcasing testimonies of landowners who have removed a bulkhead, moved their house, or conducted other Shore Friendly activities. Any suggestions for landowners to showcase are welcome! She is also coordinating the development of interpretative signage on beach processes at Barnum Point.

**Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett):** Update at meeting.