

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Project Updates for May 7, 2019 Meeting

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### **NWSC Grant Reports**

**Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas):** The eelgrass team plans to do the underwater videography in Cornet Bay sometime between June 20 and 22.

**Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes):** NW Straits Commission hosted a workshop for MRC bull kelp monitoring at the Port Townsend Maritime Center on April 18th. Island County was represented by Vernon Brisley, Gregg Ridder, & Linda Rhodes. The program was a blend of presentations on bull kelp biology, survey technologies, & results from both citizen science & WA Department of Natural Resources surveys. It was a useful & informative workshop, & well timed before the field season begins.



### **Other Reports**

**Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes):** No news to report.

**Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee (Pucci/Kukuk):** Update at meeting.

**Sound Water Stewards (Zupich):** Update at meeting.

**WSU Extension:** Update at meeting.

**Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett):** Report on a noteworthy meeting 4/17

#### INTRODUCTION:

This report is about an important meeting held last month between the County Commissioners, the Island County Local Integrating Organization (ILIO) and Strategic Leads from the Puget Sound Partnership.

This report also is taking this opportunity to provide an overview of the ILIO and its relationship to important funding for marine resource stewardship in Island County and to note that the MRC holds a seat on ILIO.

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## OVERVIEW:

Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is a Washington State entity charged to restore Puget Sound. PSP develops a work plan for the entire estuary of Puget Sound and is the conduit for funding to local projects that support the overall plan from a variety of organizations.

Among a variety of sources, PSP receives funds from the National Estuary Program (NEP) which emphasize several categories of importance to the PSP work plan including Habitat, Stormwater, and Shellfish.

ILIO is a formal link between the County and PSP's work plan. In line with PSP's work plan, the ILIO identifies locally-specific issues, prioritizes local issues in line with the County's unique needs, and works with local entities to develop projects from concept to full proposals to address each.

Local proposals for funding, once fully developed, are called Near Term Actions (NTAs) and ILIO is charged to rank its NTAs and submit them to PSP's Strategic Initiatives Advisory Team (SIAT), for funding consideration.

This system is intended to leverage the local perspective of LIOs across the region for restoration on a multi-jurisdictional scale.

## PROBLEM:

In the FY 2018-2022 NEP funding cycle NONE of the NTAs from rural west-side geographies of the Salish Sea, the Strait, Hood Canal, Island and San Juan LIOs, were funded with regional allocation funds. This situation creates a significant loss of opportunity to protect/ restore important habitat in the Puget Sound western geographic area.

## ILIO RESPONSE:

After learning of these funding decisions, the ILIO collected ILIO comments on this process and outcome and communicated these in writing to SAIT. Strategic Initiative Leads came to Island County to discuss these concerns.

## ILIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 4/17/19:

On 4/17/19, ILIO Joint Executive and Technical Committee met with Strategic Initiatives Leads to better understand the SIAT's review process and selections, discuss concerns and make specific recommendations.