

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Project Updates for May 5, 2020 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring: Forage fish monitoring has been suspended due to COVID-19 precautions. We will continue to follow state and local guidelines on when to re-initiate surveys.

Whatcom MRC hosted a virtual presentation on forage fish by Lisa Hillier from WDFW. The recording of that presentation is available through the Whatcom MRC website:

<https://www.whatcomcountymrc.org/media/19295/hillier-presentation-doc.pdf>.

Outreach: Barb has drafted up a communications plan, which the communications sub-committee has provided feedback and edits for. Once final edits and formatting have been made, the final draft will be shared with the MRC for any additional feedback.

The MRC participated in a virtual town hall hosted by Commissioner St. Clair. Anna and Kelly shared about the history and goals of the MRC, and highlighted two projects – forage fish monitoring and crabber outreach.

Kelly and Anna have been partnering with Sound Waters University to offer a streaming version of “Discover Our Island Shores” to local students during Earth week (April 20-24). Students are also invited to participate in an art and essay contest. Top entries will be placed on the MRC website in May, and anyone can vote on their top entry for the People’s Choice Award.

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Feasibility: Blue Coast Engineering conducted site characterization at both sites, and met with project partners (MRC, NWSF, and WA State Parks) to discuss site opportunities and constraints. Project partners discussed which site to move into conceptual design. Due to constraints at Possession Point, primarily the need to protect an existing house and associated drainfield on the Parks property, Possession Point was not selected to move forward to conceptual design at this time. Opportunities for restoration at Possession Point will be discussed in the narrative of the feasibility report, and can be considered in the future.

Hoypus Point was selected as the site to move forward to conceptual design. Blue Coast will present about the draft feasibility study at the MRC June 2nd meeting, and the MRC will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

The NWSF has applied for funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program for the next phase of work at Hoypus Point, which would include design and permitting.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation:

- The MRC Conference has been postponed and will be rescheduled in 2021.
- The NWSF Opportunity Fund has been suspended indefinitely. Projects with unspent funds from FY20 will be cancelled, and there will not be a FY21 Opportunity Fund grant process. This does NOT affect the MRC’s annual funding through the NWSC.
- The NWSC is hosting a Virtual MRC Symposium for each MRC to share about their committee and highlight a couple projects.

Island Location Integrating Organization: Update at meeting.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee: Update at meeting.