

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Project Updates for October 6, 2020 Meeting

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### **NWSC Grant Reports**

**Kelp Monitoring (Liss/Berthold):** From Linda Rhodes: The 2020 bull kelp monitoring season came to a close on September 16, when the Camano Island volunteers conducted a final survey of the Lowell Point bed. A total of ten full in-water surveys were conducted by three survey teams of four beds (Possession Point, Lowell Point, Polnell Point, Ebey's Landing). Surveys began in June, & were conducted approximately monthly. Bed areas were similar or slightly smaller than those measured in 2019, so there are no concerns about loss of bull kelp this year. This year, water temperatures in beds were lower than observed in previous years, & none approached the temperature threshold of concern of 17°C. A temperature logger system was used by three teams to collect subsurface temperatures as well as surface temperatures. Kelp crab were observed in three of the four beds, but not in frightening densities. A shorter grant report was submitted for FY20, but a full report for 2020 will be posted to the project website by the end of the calendar year. Here's a few images from the season.



*Clockwise from left: Harbor seal swimming in kelp (Lowell Point, photo by Jenny Roman), Possession Point bed in August (photo by Ron Beier), Kelp crab at home in the bed (photo by Linda Rhodes)*

**Hoypus Point (Hannam):** Hoypus Point has received funds from RCO and is moving forward with a final design for restoration. Currently, Blue Coast Engineering is working on agreements with subcontractors to include assistance with obtaining permits for construction, and an upland planting plan.

**Outreach Needs Assessment (Bennett):** Update at meeting.

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## **Other Reports**

**Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):** Restoration work will begin at [Seahorse Siesta](#) this month! This project, led by the Northwest Straits Foundation, involves the removal of a large barge and bulkhead from the base of a feeder bluff at a private community near Langley.

Congressman Rick Larsen will be visiting the Seahorse Siesta and Sunlight Shores restoration sites on October 7<sup>th</sup> to see a couple MRC projects and hear updates on the MRC's work.



*Shoreline armoring at Seahorse Siesta*

## **Sound Water Stewards (Chase):**

- 1) Volunteer Education Training second session starts Oct 1 and runs for 5 Thursdays in October, then formal training is complete.
- 2) SWS is participating in Orcatober, Orca Recovery Days, but at the moment we have few details to share except that we're partnering with MRC on an art contest.
- 3) Monthly member meetings resumed in Sept - via Zoom. Randy Berthold was the featured speaker.
- 4) Getting to the Water's Edge sales are going strong - over 1300 sold, with more retail outlets carrying it.
- 5) Our Education and Outreach Coordinator, Allie Hudec, is reaching out to teachers in South Whidbey schools to see if SWS can offer training and or resources/ideas to teachers on using our videos and more. This is being done in collaboration with the MRC.
- 6) We are working with multiple organizations to potentially start a "brand audit" beach clean-up program for the Salish Sea region. Please let us know if the MRC might want to be involved in these discussions.
- 7) We are currently looking for more Citizen Science opportunities for our volunteers.

**WSU Extension:** Update at meeting.