

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Project Updates for the October 5, 2021 Meeting

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### **Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) Grant Reports**

**Outreach:** The Island County Marine Resources Committee 2021 Needs Assessment Overview was presented to and accepted by the Board of Island County Commissioners on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Overview has been posted on the [MRC website](#) and is now available for public access. A thank you with a copy of the Overview was sent to each person who was interviewed, and responses have been positive. Discussions about Current and Emerging issues and Actions for the MRC highlighted by the Needs Assessment are MRC agenda items in our October and November meetings.

**Hoypus Point:** Update at meeting

### **Cornet Bay Stewardship:**

1. The MRC is hosting a [volunteer event](#) with Whidbey Island Conservation District for vegetation maintenance at Cornet Bay. It will take place Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00pm. Due to COVID considerations, we are limiting participation to 10 volunteers. Please sign up here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/58ee131d2e384676b6d9404363044fb7>
2. Some of our planting was destroyed due to construction of the new pier. Overall, the new pier will have positive long-term effects on the area; the eelgrass beds offshore will have reduced impacts from dock shading, creosote will be removed, and the dock and finger piers will meet current standards and requirements for protecting nearshore habitat and species. The repair of our restoration area will be part of the contract, and this construction phase should be completed around February 2022. This is an opportunity to incorporate lessons learned about what types of plants thrive in that area.

### **Other Reports**

**Shore Friendly:** Update at meeting.

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

1. Mussel bagging: 36 total volunteers are being sought to help produce 500 bags of mussels from Penn Cove Shellfish for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife toxins monitoring, 6 to 8 volunteers for 2 shifts per day, Oct 18 to 21. After letting the mussels recover for a few weeks, the mussels are placed in cages that will be deployed at nearly 100 Puget Sound locations at 0.0' tide between Oct 27 and Nov 1, including Penn Cove and Naval Air Station (NAS) on Whidbey, and Maple Grove on Camano.
2. Sound Waters University will be held online and with field trips on February 5-6, 2022. Various subcommittees are being formed to cover all details of the event.
3. Toxic *Alexandrium* found on Camano: The SWS Sound Toxins team first reported [Alexandrium](#) in their weekly net tow at Camano Island State Park (CISP) on August 11. The numbers increased and peaked (so far) on September 1. The Washington Department of Health (WDOH) closed Saratoga Passage for shellfish harvesting before the peak. Butter clams are the source for WDOH analysis to reopen the shellfish harvesting. Sound Toxins is a Washington Sea Grant program, and our site is just one collection point and contributor to the WDOH process; many more factors are looked upon. This was a moment of satisfaction for the Camano SWS Sound Toxins team.
4. Beach Cleanups continued on Whidbey Island and Camano.
5. Training for new Stewards: Fall session began September 9<sup>th</sup>, and is being held each Thursday for 7 weeks.

**Island Local Integrating Organization:** Update at meeting.