

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for November 15, 2016 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Richards/Farrington):

1 - We found surf smelt eggs at Cornet Bay! In case you have been out of the country or under a rock and haven't heard the news, smelt eggs were found just east of the restoration area on September 16. According to Dan Penttila, this is the first documentation of spawning in this location.

2 - Lois and Ruth were invited to join Lucas Hart, NWSC Marine Program Manager, in helping Clallam and Jefferson MRCs initiate their first forage fish surveys. We spent a morning on the beach in Sequim, reviewing the protocol, demonstrating our techniques and guiding the team in collecting and processing a sample. Nice folks over there on the Peninsula!

3 - WDFW will conduct a day of forage fish training on 11/15/16 at Padilla Bay. Anna has sent notification out already, but here's a reminder in case you know of anyone who would like to participate. Contact Anna about registration for that event. As an aside, I believe that WDFW is doing a good job of ensuring that the protocol is executed as uniformly as possible across all surveys. It is our goal to continue to work toward high-quality citizen science data-gathering.

4 - Elsa has agreed to help with forage fish surveys on Camano. She will join WDFW for training on 11/15, and Lois and I will work with her to transition responsibilities. We are very pleased to have her on our crew!

5 - November marks the one-year anniversary of sample-collection during this most recent iteration of our forage fish effort. Island County was one of the earliest participants in this project as it got off the ground in 2001. Recognition of the importance of forage fish in the ecosystem is growing, and the MRC's role in furthering this understanding is significant.

Shoreline Restoration: Cornet Bay and others (Richards): Will update at the meeting.

Pigeon Guillemot Survey (Wood): Although the pigeon guillemots are mostly gone to their winter feeding grounds, the coordinating team is busy planning for a new administer position, which is proposed for funding through the MRC Opportunity Fund applications for both Island and Clallam Counties, and Whidbey Audubon Society, with support from Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society.

We recently gave final approval for the article on our research which is scheduled to come out in the Winter issue of Northwest Naturalist.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission / Foundation:

Commission: See attached draft minutes from 11/4 meeting.

Foundation: No update.

Creosote Removal: Will update at the meeting.

Shoreline Armoring Reduction: Toledo is working with Island County Planning and Coastal Geologic Services to develop a response plan for handling requests for emergency bulkhead permits after large storm events.

WSU Extension: Will update on 2017 Island County Coastal Volunteer of the Year Award at the meeting.