

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for March 5, 2019 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Bennett): With thanks to Ruth for her leadership of this project since 2016 and volunteers on both islands, this project has collected samples monthly from six Whidbey and two Camano sites, and has begun to build a team of samplers. Next steps this year will be to 1) confer with the Northwest Straits and WDFW about sites of importance and options for frequency of sampling; 2) consider ways to increase capacity for sampling and engage more residents in this project (students, beach communities); and 3) recruit, train and organize volunteers to put plans into action.

Outreach (Bennett): Following plans organized with local school systems, the new film developed by Florian Graner "Discover Our Island Shores" will be used with curriculum about the marine food web for local elementary students this spring. The film follows a harbor seal around the waters of Island County and the Salish Sea to teach students about local marine habitats and species, and instill a sense of place. To complete deliverables in the current grant cycle ending September 2019, a forum will be scheduled for the spring/summer to focus on aging shoreline structures that are privately owned and sea level rise in collaboration with the Shore Friendly program; quarterly newsletters will continue - next due March 2019; and the monitoring inventory will continue to be updated.

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): The eelgrass team will be meeting on March 1st. Further updates at meeting.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): Rhodes participated in the bull kelp restoration workshop organized by the NWSC.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The Northwest Straits Initiative retreat is scheduled for March 21-22.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): The Sunlight Shores planting party is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 9:30am-12:30pm. There will be a potluck following the planting party. MRC members are encouraged to participate and invite others!

Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett): Update at meeting.

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): The Citizen Stewardship Committee has not been meeting due to a lack of funding support.

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

Sound Water Stewards (Zupich): Update at meeting.

WSU Extension: No updates.