

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for March 7, 2017 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Eelgrass (Tautvydas): Analysis of the underwater videography, aerial photography, and Sonar Biobase data mapping has been completed. The eelgrass sites to be monitored in 2017 have been identified. They are Cornet Bay, Monroe Landing, Freeland Park, Waterman property, Barge Beach (Langley), Windjammer park in Oak Harbor, Barnum Point (Port Susan on Camano), as well as sites to be mapped by sonar that are not possible to do by underwater videography (Dugualla Bay, Ala Spit, Utsalady Bay on Camano).

All members are committed to data acquisition in 2017. However, it is not clear how we will carry on the work in the following years. Funding for 2017 should consider equipment upgrades (cameras with higher resolution and issues with the Minkota overheating). Future work will require some modifications.

Gregg Ridder will present his year-end report in April to IC MRC when various issues arising and future plans will be discussed.

Seining (Tautvydas): Dawn Pucci, Jim Somers, Kes Tautvydas, Kurt Buchanan, and Jamie Hartley spent a few hours Feb. 15 evaluating the possibility of deploying a fyke net across the entrance to the Dugualla pocket estuary and seining inside the estuary. We discovered after trying to deploy the net that it would not work for various reasons and that seining in the estuary is not possible with our current equipment. We would need to use two boats and pocket nets to do it properly. Thus the consensus of our group was not to pursue seining in the Dugualla estuary this year.

Kelp (Rhodes): No updates.

Outreach (Bennett): Florian and Barbara are conducting interviews for the Island County MRC video to be posted at the Planning Department. Florian will edit the content.

Barbara submitted Outreach Needs Assessment summary which was distributed by email in mid-February.

Elsa has submitted sample fact sheets to be considered during the planning discussion in March.

Outreach activities in process: Interviews on-site for projects to be included in the video, fact sheets for each project, display and ways to identify ourselves for PR when on the beach.

Other Reports

Smith and Minor Island Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): No update

Island Local Integrating Organization (Bennett): No update

Sound Water Stewards (Farrington): No update

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No update