

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Project Updates for August 7, 2018 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Eelgrass Monitoring (Tautvydas): We completed the underwater videography, as intended, of Holmes Harbor, Cornet Bay, and Monroe Landing. There was a problem with the battery for the Minnkota motor in Holmes Harbor, but it was resolved with a new battery and the Holmes Harbor survey was completed. Gregg will evaluate the data later this year and will send the raw data to his contact in WA DNR. Gregg completed the aerial photography of all the sites again, nothing unusual jumped out. Albert Foster completed his sonar monitoring in Cornet Bay and will be analyzing the data. Also, it looks like Albert will no longer work with our group after this summer because he is moving to Canada.

Kelp Monitoring (Rhodes): Field season is in full swing, with teams on both Whidbey & Camano Islands surveying up to 6 kelp beds. Some beds were measurable in late May & June, while others did not show at the surface until July. Monthly surveys will continue into September, & data is being submitted to Suzanne Shull at NW Straits Commission as soon as it is quality checked. We are also planning to collect aerial images of County's nearshore with Gregg Ridder in August or September to estimate the amount of shoreline with associated kelp beds.

Other Reports

Smith & Minor Islands Aquatic Reserve (Rhodes): There have been no updates from Dept. of Natural Resources since funding for the Citizen Stewardship Committees expired.

Sound Water Stewards (Zupich):

- Volunteers helped WDFW (Jennifer Lanksbury w/ Mussel Watch) bag mussels in June for a small scale study. WDFW placed caged mussels in several eelgrass beds in Puget Sound to test the theory that eelgrass helps reduce bacterial loads (including antibiotic resistant bacteria) in our nearshore waters.
- Camano Island volunteers have received training to start the Sound Toxins monitoring on Camano Island year-round. This monitoring program is designed to provide early warning of harmful algal bloom events in order to minimize both human health risks and economic losses to Puget Sound fisheries.
- Family Outdoor Discovery Day at Fort Casey State Park - SWS/Wa State Parks are inviting organizations from all over the area to provide an outdoor family friendly activity. August 25th, 11am-3pm.

WSU Extension (Lawrence): No updates.