

# ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## Project Updates for March 3, 2020 Meeting

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### **NWSC Grant Reports**

**Kelp Monitoring (Liss/Berthold):** Update at meeting.

**Seining (Tautvydas):** Four years after we finished 8 years of beach seining at Cornet Bay, as part of the Cornet Bay Shoreline Restoration Project, we again started a 2 year seining program at Cornet Bay as a follow up to see if there are now significant changes to the juvenile salmon population as well as other fishes that reside in this estuary. This effort was started by Jason Morgan, Marine Projects Manager of the Northwest Straits Foundation and Dawn Pucci on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Jason provided the seining net as well as the other equipment and the permit for 2020, required for collecting salmonids. Jason is our team lead for this year, but next year we will be on our own and will need to pay for the permit, cost of publishing the results and miscellaneous expenses. Seining is done at Cornet approximately every two weeks, depending on tides and schedules, from January to June and at the same 10 sites on the beach as in the past. We have also seined on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and Feb. 21. Next seining session will be on Monday March 2. After the first session in January, Dawn was able to retrieve our original net and equipment which were stored in Ken Urstad's (deceased) garage. Now Dawn is the keeper of the net and equipment. In January very few fish were caught, mostly pinks but also some chinook juveniles. Two weeks later, we caught a few hundred pinks and again several chinook salmon. Feb. 21 the catch was lower but still significant. This was expected early in the season since numbers of juvenile salmon usually peak in April. The catches included the usual sculpins and a few smelt. One unusual catch was a hooded nudibranch which had ingested a juvenile pink, most likely accidentally while in the net. Weather wasn't bad, although we got a bit wet on the first two mornings and some of us got a bit wet even without rain. Turn out of volunteers was excellent on all three sessions, mostly from returning seiners, although on the first day we had an additional half dozen newcomers. Each day we had more than the minimum 7-8 volunteers.

**Hoypus Point and Possession Point Feasibility (Toledo/Hannam):** Blue Coast Engineering was the consultant selected to work on this feasibility project. A meeting was held with representatives from Blue Coast, Northwest Straits Foundation, State Parks, and MRC to review the two sites and project timeline. Lisa Kaufman (NWSF) has submitted a proposal to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for permitting and design at Hoypus Point to help move that project forward, pending information from the feasibility study. The proposal can also be withdrawn if the results from the feasibility recommend a different timing or approach to the project.

### **Other Reports**

**Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo):** Island County is developing the details of a Shore Friendly mini-grant program which will provide mini-grants to shoreline homeowners to take actions to remove hard armoring or prevent the installation of new hard armoring (including native vegetation, drainage improvements, soft shore protection, and moving/raising houses). Mini-grant amounts will range from \$500-\$5,000, and are not designed to cover the entire cost of a project, but to provide some financial incentive to help a shoreline homeowner take actions that benefit habitat as well as protect the property. The County is hoping to start accepting mini-grant applications in late March.

Island County is also partnering with the Northwest Straits Foundation on complementary Shore Friendly work. One element of that work is organizing a Shore Friendly workshop for County Planners in the spring.

**Sound Water Stewards (Chase):** Update at meeting.

**WSU Extension:** Update at meeting.