

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for July 7, 2020 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring: The forage fish teams have been able to restart sampling efforts. Three new volunteers are shadowing Matt and Michael at Hidden Beach to assist with monitoring there. Sampling at Cornet Bay will resume in July as volunteer activity is allowed to resume this month. Sampling at Seahorse Siesta is on hold during the summer because the substrate is only suitable for sand lance which spawn in November-February.

Outreach:

Outreach and Communications Plan: The Outreach and Communications Plan was presented, in summary, to the Northwest Straits Commission on 6/26/20 and the [link for the entire plan](#) was provided. The meeting also included many themes related to Outreach and Communication including the need to interface with target audiences and sustain relationships with policy and funding relationships. The meeting also devoted an hour to discussion facilitated by the private contractor working on the NWS communication plan. Our work was complementary and well received.

Next steps will begin in July:

- review and affirm messages and themes proposed in the IC MRC Communication and Outreach Plan for use in the coming year;
- identify projects to develop into materials for the coming 2020-21 Work Plan;
- draft Needs Assessment questions and a timeline.

Art contest: The MRC and SWS are hosting an art contest for students in Island County entering grades 2-7. Students are invited to submit original artwork depicting a Salish Sea animal of their own design, and name their newly design species. Entries are due by Friday, July 17. More information is available [here](#).

Crabber outreach: Scott has assembled packets for recreational crabbers with informational handouts, escape cord, and crab gauges. On Camano these packets are available at the Camano Annex. On Whidbey, Anna will be setting out materials on a table outside the Island County DNR office on Mondays in July from 9am-12pm. Information about the packets was shared in the [Crab Cracker](#) and [Stanwood Camano News](#).

Hoypus Point and Possession Point Feasibility: Blue Coast finalized the Hoypus Point and Possession Point feasibility study, which includes a conceptual design for restoration at Hoypus Point. The Northwest Straits Foundation has applied for funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) for the next phases of work at Hoypus Point, which would include design, permitting, and construction. The SRTCC ranked Hoypus as the top SRFB proposal. Final approval will occur in September. The NWSF was invited to submit a full proposal to the ESRP Small Grants program.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation: Update at meeting.

Island Location Integrating Organization: Puget Sound Partnership has updated its vital signs. Check out the vibrant presentation of the wheel of indicators for Puget Sound recovery: <https://vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/>

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The ILIO is focusing on updating its Vital Signs and 2022 Action Agenda (AA) while maintaining close alignment with PSP Implementation Strategies (IS). Alignment is critical to winning funding and is used to incorporate and influence programs and policies. The EPA would like to see the 2022 AA utilize IS integrating regional priorities, local context and human well-being (HWB). Additionally, the EPA would like to see ongoing programs more closely aligned to the IS at all levels of government.

Over the coming months the LIO will be working on Vital Signs that reflect this County's unique priorities not only for communication with funding sources and the broader community but also for values of the community and especially property owners critical to developing "political will" to advance the next tier of shoreline restoration and conservation projects in this county. The LIO may use a "structured decision-making" approach which would start with community values and work from there to vital signs. This may be the right tool to target political will essential for the next phase of Puget Sound Recovery in this county.

Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee: Update at meeting.