

Project Updates for April 16, 2019 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring (Toledo/Bennett): Forage fish sampling is on hold while we re-evaluate project sites and recruit additional volunteers. Barb, Kelly, Matt, and Anna have spoken with the NWS Foundation and Commission and WDFW to outline a plan. Monitoring will focus on restoration sites: Cornet Bay, Ala Spit (pending confirmation of monitoring plan schedule), Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. On Camano, we will discontinue sampling at Camano Island State Park, as the potential restoration was determined not to be feasible. Sampling will continue at Maple Grove, with the capacity to add an additional Camano site. We will work with NWS and WDFW to schedule a volunteer training in early summer.

Outreach (Bennett): The educational film developed by Florian, “Discover Our Island Shores” and the accompanying classroom activity have been distributed to local schools. Students are invited to participate in an art contest, and answer the question: “What will you do to make a positive impact on the Salish Sea?” Finalists’ artwork and written responses will be displayed on the MRC website in May. MRC members will select the awardees at the May meeting. A people’s choice award will also be given in each grade category.

Kelly designed a display on marine food webs, using photos and concepts presented in the “Discover Our Island Shores” film and classroom activity. The example food web and posters about the MRC are on display at the Coupeville library for the month of April. Be sure to check it out! The display can be used at other venues in the future.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The Northwest Straits Commission and Foundation had their annual retreat March 21-22. One recommendation from the retreat was for MRCs to look for a broad skill set in their members, not just those interested in science, but who also bring experience in other areas, such as graphic design or education.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): The Sunlight Shores planting party was a great success. Eighteen volunteers planted 1,336 plants, including 1,500 pieces of dunegrass and several other species, including coastal strawberries, beach pea, ocean spray, and Nootka rose. Island County and the Northwest Straits Foundation are submitting applications to continue Shore Friendly funding. Island County’s proposal would offer mini-grants to shoreline homeowners to remove or avoid hard armor.



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