

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for June 4, 2019 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring: WDFW is hosting a training for forage fish volunteers on June 24. If you are interested in participating in the forage fish project and would like to attend the training, please contact Anna. We will be developing teams of volunteers assigned to specific beaches. Monthly monitoring will focus on restoration sites (pre and post-restoration): Cornet Bay, Ala Spit, Hidden Beach, and Seahorse Siesta. On Camano, sampling will continue at the Maple Grove index site.

Outreach:

Food webs display

In conjunction with the release of the “Discover Our Island Shores” video in local schools we developed a display for the Coupeville Library that focused on the marine food web that is featured in the film and classroom activity. We also included information about the MRC and the new film.

We wanted to find a way to engage people and make them think. We asked one question, “How are you connected to the food web?” On a table near the display we left notecards for viewers to leave their comments. Below the pictures we have included some of their comments. Library staff reported visitors engaging with the display. We plan to take this display to more locations over the next few months.



“I am connected to the food web because I eat food that is in the food web, not nothing but dangerous animals can eat me, meaning I am close to the top of the food chain.”

“I am connected to the food web because humans like me eat salmon, blue mussels, kelp/seaweed and more. That is how I am connected to the food web.” Ava 4th grade

“By water! We need to stop plastics from entering our waterways.”

“We eat shrimp.”

“I eat salmon! (Wild salmon)”

“I am at the top of it.”

“We are connected to the food web because we eat other animals such as chicken, cows, pigs, and lamb.” Adeline M.

“I eat plants.” Allison L.

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Art contest

We received 70 entries in the art contest that accompanied the “Discover Our Island Shores” film and classroom activity. MRC members as well as the general public voted on the top finalists from the three grade categories (4th, 5th, and 6th grades). The voting link open to the public drew 134 votes. Winners will be given a certificate and copy of the book “Explore the Salish Sea.”

Film screening

We are planning film screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores.” Possible venues include Sno-Isle libraries as well as the movie theater on the Navy base.

Crabber outreach

We will conduct opening day crabber outreach at the Coupeville boat launch and on Camano. Volunteers will provide crabbers with informational cards regarding best crabbing practices to avoid losing crab pots, and will also hand out free crab gauges and rot cord. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kelly Zupich on Whidbey or Scott Chase on Camano.

Forum

We have developed a survey to be sent to attendees of last year’s forum to help shape the offering for this year’s forum.

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The next NWSC meeting is Friday, May 31. The meeting summary will be distributed after the meeting.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): The Navy’s monitoring program reported discovering forage fish eggs along the entire 1,500 feet of restored shoreline at Maylor Point. A write-up was featured on the Puget Sound National Estuary Program blog: <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/2019/05/22/forage-fish-return-to-restored-shoreline-at-maylor-point/>.

We are working with the Northwest Straits Foundation and Washington Department of Natural Resources to schedule a date for a community meeting regarding the Hidden Beach nearshore restoration project to present the proposed project design.