

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Project Updates for August 6, 2019 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Forage Fish Monitoring: Eleven MRC volunteers attended the WDFW forage fish training held at the end of June. The new Whidbey volunteers met to discuss site locations, surveying logistics, equipment needs, and outreach opportunities. The volunteers are grouped into teams of 2-4 per site, and are excited to start collecting samples.

Outreach:

Art contest: Artwork and written answers from the winners of the “Discover Our Island Shores” art contest are on display in the Island County Commissioners’ office.

Crabber outreach: We conducted crabber outreach at the Captain Coupe boat launch in Coupeville and the Camano Island State Park boat launch. Five volunteers on Camano and four volunteers and one staff on Whidbey interacted with 87 crabbers.

Family Outdoor Discovery Day: Gwendolyn has developed a felt board of a marine ecosystem to engage children during Family Outdoor Discovery Day on Saturday, August 3.

Communications plan: The MRC has received funding through the NWSF Opportunity Fund to develop a communications plan. The MRC will conduct an audit of existing communications tools and strategies and identify gaps in the upcoming months. Following the audit, the MRC will work with a professional to develop a communications plan.

Film screenings: Film screenings of “Discover Our Island Shores” are scheduled for:

- Saturday, September 14, 1-2pm at Coupeville Library
- Saturday, September 28, 2-3pm at Oak Harbor Library

Sea level rise forums: We are planning a forum on sea level rise for September 21 and 28 (one forum on Whidbey; one on Camano). We are partnering with Washington Sea Grant to plan and implement the forums.

Creosote identification workshops: We have scheduled the creosote identification workshops with Chris Robertson from Washington Department of Natural Resources for:

- Saturday, October 12, 9-11am at Utsalady Ladies Aid
- Saturday, October 12, 2-4pm at Pacific Rim Institute

Other Reports

NW Straits Commission/Foundation (Schwartz): The meeting summary from the July 26 NWSC has been distributed to MRC members.

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Island County issued a Request for Proposals for consultants to conduct the Oak Harbor Marina restoration feasibility study. Consultant selection is expected to be complete in mid-August.

We had the opportunity to showcase to Governor Jay Inslee the restoration work at Cornet Bay and the incredible volunteer work and partnerships that made the project possible. Several partners and volunteers were present to help share the message.

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Photos from Governor Jay Inslee's visit. Courtesy of Anna Toledo, Scott Chase, and the Northwest Straits Foundation.

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