

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

Project Updates for December 1, 2020 Meeting

NWSC Grant Reports

Kelp Monitoring (Liss/Berthold): No updates.

Hoypus Point (Hannam): The Northwest Straits Foundation has a signed agreement with RCO for final design for restoration at Hoypus Point. They have contracted with Blue Coast Engineering to complete the design. A kick-off meeting will be scheduled in December.

Seining/Eelgrass (Tautvydas): Seining at Cornet Bay has been canceled for 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but is expected to begin in January 2022. Ann Prusha is working with the eelgrass team to develop the eelgrass storymap.

Other Reports

Shoreline Restoration and Armor Removal (Toledo): Restoration work is underway at Seahorse Siesta. Dawn Spilsbury Pucci took some [drone footage](#) of the project so far. The Northwest Straits Foundation is requesting a cost increase from RCO due to an increased amount of material with potential creosote contamination than originally estimated. Lisa Kaufman has been working hard to ensure this project can continue through to completion despite this hiccup.



Seahorse Siesta Restoration: Left: Material from old barge. Credit: Lisa Kaufman. Right: Material being removed. Credit: Anna Toledo.

Sound Water Stewards (Chase):

- 1) The Sound Water Stewards class of 2020 “graduated” on October 29th.
- 2) The Education Committee is up and running; their primary purpose is to develop and vet new programming. At this time, they are launching a couple of projects and have completed a couple as well.
- 3) SWS are planning to offer at least one First Day (of the year) Hike for the Parks. These guided hikes are very popular at Whidbey State Park on January 1 annually. This year, each hike will be limited to 5 guests and 2 guides.
- 4) The Art and Biology Program went so well that some of the kids told their teacher about it, and the South Whidbey Schools reached out to see if SWS would do a distance learning video for them. SWS will be reaching out to schools on Camano, Coupeville, and North Whidbey as well to see if they would like to use the videos, after some work is done on them.

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WWW.ISLANDCOUNTYMRC.ORG

5) SWS are launching a new Stewardship Committee to round out the Education and Citizen Science Committees, and are looking for committee members from both islands.

The Stewardship Committee will be responsible for creating, vetting, researching, and maintaining Stewardship programs, partner programs, events, and projects. It is also responsible for finding, staffing, and managing volunteers for the programs and making sure reports and paperwork are completed to demonstrate our programs' impacts. The Stewardship Committee will work alongside the Education and Citizen Science Committees to make this happen. The goal is to have four new Stewardship programs/projects for volunteers to participate in by the end of the first year. They are halfway there with a new Beach Clean-Up program and the Monofilament Line Collection program already in place.

6) At their annual meeting on Nov.17th, SWS elected four new Board members: Kris Holley, Scott Chase, Paul Belanger, and Joe Cunningham.

7) At the annual meeting, it was reported that over 2,100 copies of Getting to the Water's Edge have been sold. 10,994 volunteer hours have been reported, at a value of \$297,677.

WSU Extension (Lawrence/Ritzman): Update at meeting.