



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

Prepared by: Jamie Kilgo

Monday, July 27, 2015, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Gardiner Community Center | 980 Old Gardiner Road

PARTICIPANTS: **David Gluckman** (Admiralty Audubon); **Cheryl Lowe** (Jefferson MRC); **Torbin Blichfeld** (Sequim Bay Yacht Club, North Olympic Power Co.); **Jennifer Brown-Scott** (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Protection Island NWR); **Anna Bachmann** (Jefferson County Public Health); **Megan Black** (Diamond Point); **Marty Bluewater** (Protection Island Resident); **Bob Boekelheide** (Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society); **Joan and Chuck Hommel** (Cape George resident); **Penny Jensen** (Cape George Harbor Master); **Bob Steelquist** (Local resident and retired Olympic Coast National Sanctuary); **Alex Storvick** (Puget SoundCorps); **Birdie Davenport, Betty Bookheim, Jamie Kilgo, Bill House** (Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources).

2:00 p.m.

Introduction & Role of the Committee

Birdie Davenport, Aquatic Reserves Program Manager

The Implementation Committee advises on developing and prioritizing management actions based on the management plan. The committee also offers advice on how the reserves program can get these things done. Other reserves have 'stewardship committees' that assist in implementation and complete citizen science projects. We propose having the stewardship committee as a subcommittee of this group. Both implementation and stewardship would be rolled into one meeting with implementation in the first hour and stewardship in the second.

Discussion & Comments

- Suggest 2 meetings per year, winter works best.
- The reserves program is applying for a grant to support aquatic reserve stewardship committees. Money can be directed to a stewardship committee if there is a local fiscal sponsor that can house the funds.

2:30 p.m.

Aquatic Reserve Program Updates

Puget SoundCorps (PSC) Updates

- *Intertidal ephemeral sediment sampling*: July 2014 on Thompson and Travis Spit to establish a baseline for comparison in case of an oil spill.
 - **Q**: Could the outfall near Travis Spit be sampled?
 - **A**: The ephemeral sediment sampling is intertidal and sampling at the outfall would involve subtidal sediment sampling. This outfall is also outside the reserve.

- *SeagrassNet*: Quarterly surveys on Thompson Spit.
 - Comment that this site was chosen because it is one of the few locations where *Z. marina* is found at 0ft. Most *Z. marina* in the reserve is subtidal.
 - Eelgrass is a good water quality and nutrient input indicator and a good proxy for ecosystem condition.
 - Suggestion for large scale eelgrass monitoring. The DNR Nearshore group monitors eelgrass throughout Puget Sound.
- *Monthly forage fish beach spawning surveys*. New surf smelt spawning documented on Protection Island in February 2015. Spawning occurs mostly between May and July. Results are included in the WDFW online forage fish database: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/projects/marine_beach_spawning/
 - *Q*: Are there programmatic linkages between forage fish beach spawn surveys and herring surveys. Also question about open water forage fish surveys.
 - *A*: US Fish & Wildlife currently have remote cameras on Protection Island and are trying to identify the fish Pigeon Guillemots are returning to their nests with. There may be some overlap with forage fish and herring work.
 - *A*: Nearshore seining has been completed for the past 5 year at a site near the reserve as part of Elwha restoration monitoring. Suggest looking into this data set.
 - *A*: Herring surveys are completed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- *Monthly marine debris removal*: Approximately 755 lbs of marine debris removed in 2014/2015.

DNR Updates

- *Eelgrass & ocean acidification*: pH and dissolved oxygen loggers may be installed near the SeagrassNet site to monitor localized effect of eelgrass on ocean acidification.
- *Derelict fishing gear removal*: The Aquatic Reserves program wrote a letter of support for Northwest Straits derelict fishing gear removal grant funding and help to fund deepwater net removal using ROVs. Northwest Straits has removed 13 gillnets and 11 crab pots from the reserve since 2002.
 - Question about good multi-beam data of the reserve [Have located single-beam data from the 60s and we are continuing to look into this.]
- *Lease applications*: Current applications can be viewed on: www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ShellfishAquaticLeasing/Pages/aqr_aquatic_land_leasing_shoreline
- *Mussel Watch*: There will be another round of mussel watch monitoring in the winter of 2015/16. The new candidate sites are part of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program. No cages are located in Protection Island Aquatic Reserve. There is the potential to sponsor additional cages at the cost of \$2900/per cage.
- *Wayfinder signs*: Have ordered two 15x18" signs and one 25x30". Proposed locations: Diamond Point boat ramp, Cape George, Travis Spit and John Wayne marina. [Sign at Diamond Point was installed in the week after the meeting. Thank you to Megan Black and the Boy Scouts.]
- *Data sharing*: Opportunity to create an online data viewer and mapping application with DNR, PSC, citizen and partner data.

3:15 p.m.

Implementation Planning

[Began to discuss the management actions previously prioritized by the Implementation Committee. We did not get very far in the discussion, but did identify the best approach and next steps.]

- Research focused on the disappearance of extensive bull kelp beds throughout Dallas Bank was identified as a priority. Discussed several theories on why bull kelp has declined around Protection Island. Need to determine what data currently exists.
- Discussed feasibility of bull kelp restoration.
- Discussed the best approach for narrowing the list of management actions. Refer to 'Next Steps'.

Citizen Science Potential Projects

[Summary of proposed citizen science projects discussed throughout the meeting.]

- Suggestion for regular boat surveys through to document birds, kelp distribution etc.
- Request for an online species list that can be edited by citizens.
- Invasive European green crab monitoring.
- The Marine Resources Committee (MRC) is involved in eelgrass monitoring and if there is a citizen science project they could help mobilize volunteers.
- There volunteers in Port Townsend trained in the forage fish beach spawning protocol.
- Kelp monitoring via kayak using the protocols developed by the MRCs.

4:45 p.m.

Next Steps

- The Aquatic Reserves Program will simplify the prioritized management action list and describe progress made. Committee will supply feedback via email detailing if they still agree with the prioritized actions and proposed projects. Committee can provide additional suggestions. We will develop a more specific criteria to determine which projects are feasible.
- The Aquatic Reserve Program will continue to work on grant funding for a stewardship committee and work with the committee to develop citizen science projects.
- The next meeting will be November 16th. Cape George was suggested as a possible location. Will send out an email verifying the time and location a month before the meeting.

4:00 p.m. Adjourn