



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

Protection Island Aquatic Reserve Implementation Committee Meeting Summary

Prepared by: David Schroeder & Jamie Kilgo

Wednesday May 18, 2016, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cape George Colony Club | 61 Cape George Road Drive

PARTICIPANTS: **Craig Wester** (Admiralty Audubon); **Anne Murphy & Andrew Palmer** (Jefferson MRC); **Torbin Blichfeld** (Sequim Bay Yacht Club); **Bob Boekelheide** (Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society); **Bob Steelquist** (local resident); **Penny Jensen** (Cape George); **Ross Anderson** (Cape George); **Megan Black** (Diamond Point); **Birdie Davenport, Helen Berry, Betty Bookheim, Jamie Kilgo, David Schroeder** (DNR).

1:00 p.m.

Introductions & Meeting Agenda

1:10 p.m.

Marine Vegetation Studies in the Protection Island Aquatic Reserve

Helen Berry, DNR Nearshore Scientist [presentation available upon request]

Presentation topics include:

1. What does 'marine vegetation' include?
2. Why did Bull kelp on Dallas Bank disappear?
3. How much...
 - nearshore habitat is there?
 - of each vegetation type?
 - over what depth range?
4. Summary of data from Nearshore Habitat Program

2:30 p.m.

Project Development and National Estuary Program Grant update

Birdie Davenport

Reviewed projects proposed at the November 2015 meeting with the objective of identifying potential citizen science projects. Work plan will be developed with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center.

There is a list on the back of the agenda that was passed around at the beginning of the meeting and Birdie led a discussion about which of the projects seemed most interesting to the committee. The projects that generated the most discussion included the monthly boat surveys, sea star wasting disease surveys, and land-based bird surveys. A water temperature study was also suggested.

There was mutual agreement amongst the group about the desire to begin a CSC for this reserve. The main question they wanted to know was: What do the researchers want to know? The committee is very interested to contributing scientifically relevant information to help protect this reserve.

For the bird surveys, it was mentioned that the marine sanctuary already has seabird protocols in place which will be very useful in producing the protocols for the CSC.

Discussion

Projects:

- *Sea star wasting disease surveys*: Simple project that people are interested in. Could have people record whether or not there was a sea star in their crab pot each time they pull them.
- *Monthly boat surveys*: Coordinate with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. They currently do several wildlife cruises throughout the spring, summer and fall. Could provide information or a script on the aquatic reserve to the naturalist on the cruises.
- *Land-based bird surveys*: Audubon Christmas Bird Count data is compiled and available. Audubon has boat transect data as well. Talk to Scott Pearson about Marbled murrelet.
- *NEW! Temperature surveys*: Help supplement current research and provide info on climate change.
- *Potential outreach events*:
 - Dungeness River Festival Sept. 23 - 24
 - July 4th parade around Diamond Point
 - Cape George Waterfront Festival, Aug. 27th (not open to the public, but may be a good venue to recruit volunteers from Cape George Community)
 - Wooden Boat Festival, Sept. 9-11
 - Talk with Boy Scouts for their environmental science badge

Comments:

- Need to consider what is realistic and feasible
- Coordinate with researchers doing pigeon guillemot surveys on Protection Island
 - is there any information that they need?
- Need to know from DNR and other agencies what information will be useful. Reevaluate projects based on management plan and agency needs.

2:30 p.m.

Partner updates

- Wildlife Cruises, specifically Roger @ Puget Sound Express
- Power Squad has ~140 members to reach out to
- Olympic Audubon Society is always looking for a DNR speaker

2:55 p.m.

Next Steps

- DNR will develop a work plan for the fiscal sponsor contract and is currently negotiating with PT Marine Science Center. It will be flexible so that we can make adjustments. There is currently about \$19,000 in the grant for Protection Island CSC
- Next meeting will most likely be late fall.
- An all-hands Citizen Stewardship Committee meeting in late fall early 2016.

3:00 p.m. Adjourn